Residents Campaign To Keep Sidewalks

by Elizabeth Regan

It was standing-room-only at a public hear-
ing in Hartford last week on how to spend $3
million set aside for the repair and replacement
of sidewalks in the town center.

The hearing was held at the Portland Public
Library as a way to gauge resident reaction to
ideas about repairing sidewalk issues on another
section after Cross Street. Another
plan would involve either removing or repairing
sidewalks on Freestone Avenue behind Saint Mary Church, and possibly
on another section after Cross Street. Another
option would be doing nothing to those areas
at all.

Replacing both sides was described as an
impossible given budgetary constraints.

“A million dollars is great – should be pretty
easy to spend – but we probably need $3 or $4
million to do the sidewalks we really want to
take on,” Herron said.

A review of sidewalks in a half-mile radius
of the town’s schools identified areas for
“a direct action plan by Gov. Dannel Malloy. As such, it remains
unknown how much financial aid Colchester
will receive from the

By Board of Selectmen member Rosemary Coyle,
ready for what comes next – but, according to
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News Bulletin
Serving Amston, Andover, Cobalt, Colchester, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough, Middle Haddam and Portland

Congratulations, Ann!... Longtime East Hampton volunteer Ann McLaughlin
received kudos from the Town Council this week in the form of a proclamation
praising her for her significant contributions to the community. McLaughlin created
the Yellow Ribbon Welcome Home program to honor local service members upon
their return from overseas and coordinates the town’s Wreaths Across America
activities. She is chairman of the local Commission on Aging and has served as a
member of the local Housing Authority since 2008.

Colchester Senior Center Plans at Standstill

by Julianna Roche

With the land purchased for a new and im-
proved Colchester Senior Center, the town is
ready for what comes next – but, according to
Board of Selectmen member Rosemary Coyle,
that won’t be too much until a state budget is set in
place.

While the state Senate, according to CT News
Junkie, voted 33-3 early Thursday morning on
a $41.34 billion, two-year budget, as of press
time the spending package had yet to be ap-
proved by the state House, let alone signed off
on by Gov. Dannel Malloy. As such, it remains
unknown how much financial aid Colchester
and other municipalities will receive from the
state.

That uncertainty is putting the senior cen-
ter project on hold.

Coyle explained that without that “financial
piece”, moving ahead with establishing a new
building committee to start planning the new
center’s design “is not really fair” to the pub-
lic.

“If you set up a building committee, people
expect you to hire an architect, design [the new
building] and move forward,” she said – but
added none of that can happen until impacts of
potential state budget cuts to municipal fund-
ning are known. “We have a responsibility to do
it right – to present it to the town with all the
pieces, so when they vote on it, they can make
an informed decision.”

After considering 11 other properties, the
town paid $90,000 for a 1.5-acre piece of land
which sits on Lebanon Avenue directly behind
Town Hall, closing on the property this spring.
Coyle explained that once the state budget cri-
sis is settled, the next step would be for town
officials to discuss a financial plan and estab-
lish a building committee, which would be re-
sponsible for overseeing the architectural de-
sign of the new senior center.

The committee’s finalized plans would then
go to referendum, giving residents the oppor-
tunity to vote in support or against moving the
project forward.

“In town there’s been tremendous bipartisan
support [for a new senior center] and that’s how
you move a project forward – by working to-
gether,” Coyle said. “I think everybody’s anx-
iousof starting a building committee, but we have
to be prudent and have all the pieces before
[doing that].”

Senior Center Director Patty Watts agreed,
adding that during the Colchester Chapter of
the AARP’s annual Meet the Candidates forum
this week, seeing plans for a new senior center
come to fruition “seemed to be at the top of
everyone’s [all of the candidates’] platform.”

The director furthered that despite those
gains being at a standstill with the state budget cri-
sis, support for the new facility still has “a lot
of momentum politically and throughout the
community … which is very, very exciting.”

The existing senior center, located at 95 Nor-
wich Ave., “is being used pretty much to ca-
pacity these days, which is wonderful in some
aspects, but presents challenges in others,”
Watts said, adding that the current senior cen-
ter – which is 126 years old and 5,600 square
feet – has approximately 1,070 registered mem-
bers to date.

She added use of the current space has been
“maximized,” noting that on average, the se-
nior center hosts 150 to 200 programs each
month and offers approximately 1,000 bus rides.

Watts has also explained that in the next 10
years, 40 percent of Colchester’s total popula-
tion will be 55 or older – and that she doesn’t
expect that level of senior growth to slow any-
time soon.

“We’re very excited of the prospect of a new,
modern facility to accommodate all the growth,”
she said. She said the senior center has “gar-
ned a reputation regionally of having fun and
See Senior Center page 2

See Sidewalks page 2
East Hampton Man Charged with Pointing Gun on B-Ball Court

by Elizabeth Regan

An East Hampton man was arrested earlier this month on a host of charges after allegedly interrupting a pickup basketball game at Sears Park by pointing a handgun at the head of an 18-year-old player.

Jason Canterbury, 34, was charged with first-degree threatening, first-degree reckless endangerment and second-degree breach of peace on Oct. 11.

According to an arrest warrant affidavit by Elizabeth Regan

* * *

The alleged victim told police Canterbury came to the police department, sat in the lobby, and handed his gun to a juvenile who allegedly started the fight.

The juvenile who allegedly started the fight was under 16 years old, according to the affidavit.

The juvenile and two adults eventually got back in the Volkswagen and headed north out of the park.

Police said Canterbury came to the police department at around 8:50 p.m. on Oct. 11 and presented a .40 caliber handgun to officers.

The officer said the man was demanding to discuss possible supplemental cuts to the RHAM budget ended before it even began.

by Lauren Yaworsky

The committee is looking to discuss possible supplemental cuts to the RHAM budget ended before it even began.

By the end of May, RHAM Board of Education Chairman Danny Holtsclaw said last week that the hearing, originally scheduled for this past Monday, was canceled after legislative leaders in Hartford reached a consensus on a state budget last Thursday.

This Thursday, the Hartford Courant reported that the state senate voted 33-3 in favor of a $4 billion bipartisan state budget. As of press time Thursday, the state House of Representatives had not voted.

If passed by the House, the state budget will go to Gov. Dannel P. Malloy. During an Oct. 17 RHAM Board of Education meeting, Superintendent of Schools Patricia Law proposed a supplemental budget plan that included eliminating ten teacher positions and cutting all middle school sports and six high school sports.

After the presentation, students, parents and faculty approached the education board with concerns over the proposed reductions. Many pleaded with the district to rethink the cuts.

The now-cancelled RHAM education board hearing was initially set up for the education board to get additional public input and have further discussion on the cuts proposed by Law.

Holtsclaw said. Once the hearing was adjourned, school board members were scheduled to enter into a special meeting to address whether or not they wanted to send a supplemental budget to referendum.

Unfortunately, Holtsclaw said Tuesday, since a state budget has not been finalized and no details have been released, “having a hearing or meeting on the budget without knowing the full breadth of the new consensus would be unproductive.”

The education board will “certainly convene when we have more clarity on the state’s budget,” he added.

Hebron Board of Finance Chairman Mal Leichter said the local finance board had nothing to do with the meeting getting canceled.

Leichter said he believes the regional school board likely decided it was “not the right time” to discuss sending a supplemental budget to referendum, since towns currently don’t know what funds may or may not be coming from the state.

Leichter has spearheaded an effort, with the help of the school board, selectmen and town staff, to circulate a budget reduction letter to all of Hebron. Leichter said the letter will inform residents of the town’s financial status, as well as how town officials are and will continue to fiscally manage Hebron.

Leichter said Wednesday the letter will address the fact that changes due to the state budget are “not a one year issue” but rather, “an ongoing issue.” Since the town doesn’t have any answers, he said the letter is a “look out [because] this is coming.”

How to fiscally manage will be decided at the special budget meeting scheduled for Oct. 19.

Leichter said this week it will depend on when the state budget is sent to Malloy’s desk and what the governor does with it.

The content of the letter will be reworded based on the most updated information from Hebron’s elected officials in Hartford, Leichter said.

Senior Center cont. from Front Page different, innovative programs. "We want to keep them fresh and fun, relevant, and educative to help enrich the lives of those folks 55 and up [and] we feel like a new facility will enable us to do more of that," Watts explained.

Watts explained that having a larger facility would also allow for a Senior Center to host community-wide events—which due to lack of indoor space and parking constraints in the current building—is difficult or nearly impossible.

"I like the idea of the public coming into the senior center and getting used to the things we have going on because every positive exposure to senior services works further to educate the public on how vital we are to the community," she said. "I can’t wait to see what happens and we are only seeing the beginning."
Fourteen town council candidates are vying for seven open seats on the East Hampton Town Council. Residents will be asked to cast their votes for five candidates as they choose from five Democrats, four Republicans and five members of the Chatham Party.

Matthew BENNETT, 35, is a new face on the East Hampton political scene who said he brings a fresh perspective.

“Because we have taken a Band-Aid approach to our infrastructure for so long we are now faced with major expenditures like the newly-renovated high school and a new municipal building. All these cost money. It becomes the job of your elected officials to be sure that money is spent wisely,” she said.

Tim Feegel, 50, said deep family roots in the hamlet have fostered his passion for the town’s future. He is now known as the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments.

He owns an HVAC contracting company.

“I am running for another term on the Town Council because in the face of economic turmoil – locally, statewide and nationally – our town needs a conservative voice. I have always been that voice and I will continue to be so,” he said.

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The municipal election will be held Tuesday, Nov. 7 from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the high school gymnasium.
Eight Vying for Six Slots on Board of Selectmen

by Elizabeth Regan

Eight candidates for the Board of Selectmen, evenly split between Democrats and Republicans, are vying for six open seats.

Buzzwords like economic development and infrastructure improvements dominate campaign rhetoric. One candidate said government can better adapt to changing times, but another said situation threatens the amount of funding the town will receive over the coming years.

Meet the Democrats

Lou Pear, 69, is a retired educator. He and his wife have two children and two grandchildren.

“I feel fortunate that my children had a positive educational and community experience growing up in Portland,” the 64-year resident said.

In addition to teaching for 17 years and serving as a principal for 18 years, Pear was assistant executive director at the Connecticut Association of Schools and served as its director of Unifed Sports.

“Now that I am retired, I have more time to give back to my community,” he said. “I feel I could put my life skills and experience to good use as a Portland community leader. I look forward to assisting in the long-range plan of conservation and economic development, while at the same time being mindful of my fiscal responsibility to Portland’s residents,” he said.

Pear is co-chairman of the Air Line Trail Steering Committee and a member of the Clean Water Task Force. He has served as a Boy Scout, president of his former high school’s baseball club.

He cited economic development opportunities, such as the revitalization of the former Elmcrest Hospital property, and in-state infrastructure decisions as key issues facing the upcoming board.

Incumbent Ben Srb, 42, is as lifelong resident who feels it is important for all citizens to give back to the community.

“Due to my commitments I am unable to be a volunteer firefighter, but I feel this is the next best way to contribute to Portland,” he said.

Before being elected as a selectman in 2015, he served seven years on the Board of Election.

He was on the Zoning Board of Appeals for 12 years, many as chairman.

“A key issue to Portland and the state of Connecticut is fiscal responsibility,” he said. “My years of experience in managing my own businesses have made me realize the importance of a balanced budget.”

He cited the need to work on a sustainable water/sewer plan as one of the most pressing issues selectmen will have to address in the coming term.

Describing himself as a candidate who is “not afraid to stand up for what is right,” Srb said he will work to ensure that people can afford to stay in the great town of Portland.

Jonathan K. Tripp, 49, is an incumbent who was appointed to replace Brian Flood earlier this year. Elected to his first term on the Board of Education in 2015, he left the position in May to take over Flood’s seat.

He is a data network consultant with AT&T.

Tripp said one of the key issues facing the board is development consistent with the town’s Plan of Conservation and Development, most notably on the former Elmcrest Hospital property and the riverfront.

He said he would like to continue efforts to reclaim the riverfront on Brownstone Avenue “by removing blighted tanks using a $750,000 grant already obtained by the town.”

Tripp is serving his thirteenth year as president of the former vice chairman of the Route 17 Recreational Complex Steering Committee. He served three years on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

“I love serving the residents of Portland and look forward continuing that service to help keep Portland moving forward,” he said. “I believe I have the background and experience necessary to have a positive impact on the decisions facing our community. I have a proven track record of dedicating myself to doing the required work and conducting myself in a professional, constructive, and collaborative manner in order to get the best results for Portland.”

Ralph Zampano, 55, has been on the Parks and Recreation Commission for twelve years, serving as chairman for nine of them.

Employed as a senior technical project manager, he has also coached youth sports.

“The task to build a town park began 12 years ago and I remain committed to it. This experience exposed me to processes in town government that I found intriguing and made me realize that I can make a difference,” he said.

Zampano pointed to continued educational excellence as one of Portland’s top priorities, as well as the completion of the Route 17 Town Park and Elmcrest project.

“I have strong track record of dedicating myself to doing the required work and conducting myself in a professional, constructive, and collaborative manner in order to get the best results for Portland,” he said.

Lavoy served in the Air Force as a medical officer, but he said is particularly concerned about the potential for inflation and the burden of the state budget.

“Working with that commission has been the accomplishment of a lifetime for me,” he said.

He cited the development of the Route 17 recreation park and the Air Line Trail, continued economic development, sustainable budgets, appropriate water and sewer rates, and the repat of sidewalks and roads as other issues facing the new board.

“I’m prepared to take on a larger role, and for a seat on the Board of Selectmen brings the potential for me to contribute to my community in a greater way, helping to shape a positive future for the community,” he said.

Incumbent Michael Pelton, 55, has served a total of two terms as a selectman and two terms on the school board.

He owns the Portland-based Inner Circle Family Martial Arts and Inner Circle Nutrition, Business Consulting. He has lived in Portland since 2008, where his three children attend school.

“People want to live in a town that is family-friendly, business-friendly and has great schools, and I think the next few years will see us improve in all three,” he said.

“The Elmcrest property and other development in town will improve our tax base and make us more business-friendly if we do it right. The Route 17 Park and other infrastructure needs will keep

Meet the Republicans

Kitch Breun Czernicki, 69, is running for reelection. She was appointed to take the seat held by the late Carl Chudzik, who died in March 2016.

Czernicki was a member of the Wethersfield Town Council from 1997-05, serving as mayor from 2001-03. She moved to Portland in 2006.

“Run our town well and it is the most exciting time in Portland in my 23 years as a resident,” she said.

She cited education as a key concern for the upcoming board.

“Along with educational excellence, there is a need to fund and infrastructure improvement as key priorities,” he said.

At the same time, development of the Route 17 Town Park and Elmcrest needs to move swiftly as they are vital to the town’s growth and future. We must keep these projects moving forward,” he said.

“Roads ahead will be bumpy but it is the most exciting time in Portland in my 23 years as a resident,” she said.

Lavoy said one of the key concerns for the coming term revolves around the uncertain state budget situation and the likelihood that municipal aid from the state will continue to decline in the coming years as the state struggles with projected deficits.

“We still don’t know the full depth of these reductions, but once known, how we respond and adapt will impact the future of our community for years to come,” he said.

The only town plan proposed thus far [was] to send out supplemental tax bills, without regard for the heavy burden this will place on our taxpayers,” he said.

He cited the development of the Route 17 recreation park and the Air Line Trail, continued economic development, sustainable budgets, appropriate water and sewer rates, and the repat of sidewalks and roads as other issues facing the new board.

“Working with that commission has been the accomplishment of a lifetime for me,” he said.

He said is particularly concerned about the impact of the state budget on Portland, the successful development of the Branford Place project at the former Elmcrest Hospital site, the continued redevelopment of the riverfront, over-all economic development and infrastructure improvements.

“Moving forward, one of the key concerns for the upcoming board is the impact of the state budget on Portland, the successful development of the Branford Place project at the former Elmcrest Hospital site, the continued redevelopment of the riverfront, overall economic development and infrastructure improvements. It’s important for our town to continue to grow and improve infrastructure while still maintaining our small town character,” he said.

Sharr has served in town for 44 years.

Sharr is a current member of the Greater Hartford Board of Realtors and managing partner of the CVS plaza in Colchester. He is a member and past board member of the Connecticut Food Association Hall of Fame and the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce, as well as a charter member and past board member of the Colchester Business Association. He is also a member of the Portland Exchange Club Board of Directors.

He is a former Boy Scout, Eagle Scout and troop leader.

The municipal election will be held Tuesday, Nov. 7, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Portland Middle School, 93 High St.
Taylor, Lambrinides Challenge Bransfield for Top Seat

**by Elizabeth Regan**

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield is seeking her eighth term in office amid competition by Elizabeth Regan, the American Independent Party candidate from Republican and Independent candidates. Bransfield said, she is running in order to see several projects through to completion, including development of the former Elmcrest Hospital property, construction of the Air Line Trail, and infrastructure improvements.

Running on the Republican ballot is new- comer Chris Aker. On the Democratic ballot is the American Independent Party candidate

**The Republican**

Chris Aker, 51, is seeking political office for the first time. A former police officer, he ran for the police desk in town, then ran for the Board of Education. He is currently serving his first year as the Board of Education's executive director.

Aker and his wife have lived in Hebron for 12 years. Aker has been a major role in their children's education. He said, "I always know who has a good agenda for the children, and I don't feel like I am doing my part in it." Aker is running for a second term in the Board of Education because he knows and values the important role that personal accountability and the part of parents and caregivers plays in raising and protecting children.

**The Democrat**

"Overall we have a great slate of candidates," said Susan Bransfield, 42, a five-time winner of the Democrat Town Committee. "Each candidate brings a unique expertise."

Among those candidates is his wife, Elizabeth Regan, 42, a former police officer and a candidate for first selectman. Regan is running for the first time in office and is seeking a second term in the Board of Education. She is running because she believes she can contribute through "thoughtful" dialogue while allowing her experience to "facilitate issues as they arise."

If elected, Aker said his professional experi- ence would "greatly assist" his role as a member of the Board of Education, because he knows and values the important role that personal accountability and the part of parents and caregivers play in raising and protecting children.

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**by Lauren Yarrow**

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**The Democrat**

"Overall we have a great slate of candidates," said Susan Bransfield, 42, a five-time winner of the Democrat Town Committee. "Each candidate brings a unique expertise."

Among those candidates is his wife, Elizabeth Regan, 42, a former police officer and a candidate for first selectman. Regan is running for the first time in office and is seeking a second term in the Board of Education. She is running because she believes she can contribute through "thoughtful" dialogue while allowing her experience to "facilitate issues as they arise."

If elected, Aker said his professional experi- ence would "greatly assist" his role as a member of the Board of Education, because he knows and values the important role that personal accountability and the part of parents and caregivers play in raising and protecting children.
The Republicans

Incumbent Susan Leser, who has lived in town for 30 years, is a certified teacher in the state of Connecticut and has served on the Board of Finance for 12 years.

Leser also said that if re-elected she wants to “ensure that the needs of all residents are represented when setting a budget, and subse- quently the mill rate.”

“Taxes have been rising significantly, which is problematic for many residents [and] it is crucial to balance the needs of all sectors of Marlborough, while keeping tax increases to a minimum,” she added. “It is the power of the people, the Ballots and boards, that can help the Board of Finance do its job.”

The Democrat

A newcomer to town politics and retired teacher, Debbie Bourbeau has resided in Marlborough for 42 years and taught for 35. Bourbeau explained she has been “very involved in town, attending many meetings and budget meetings, and always having questions, or thoughts, or ideas.”

“I think the current finance board is an excel- lent group of people to work with, listening to you [and] understanding your perspectives,” she added, noting that as separate questions, voters have the option to vote differently on each position.

The other main point I believe is that the positions being appointed would take away from the democratic process and the citizen’s right to choose,” Furman said. “I’m a strong believer that the people should be able to choose their officials because we do run by state stat- utes.”

Voting for the 2017 election will be held Tuesday, Nov. 7.
by Lauren Yandow

Three candidates with a common desire to remain fiscally frugal while maintaining the town’s safety and charm are campaigning for two open slots on the Board of Selectmen.

Longtime selectmen Dan Larson is running on the Republican ballot, while newcomers Marc Rubera and John Collins are running on the Democratic ballot.

Dan Larson, 62, is running for his third term on the board; currently he serves as chairman. Larson, an electrical contractor, said he and his wife, Pat, have been involved in the town since moving to Hebron in 1978. Together the couple have two children and four grandchildren. “This is my home,” he said. “I have a responsibility to both my home and my neighbors, to help maintain Hebron as a vibrant community.”

I am up for that challenge,” he said. Former state Rep. Gayle Mulligan, who formerly served with Larson on the Hebron Board of Selectmen, said Larson has “proven experience in town leadership and his unwavering commitment to public service are for the betterment of Hebron.”

In 1980, Larson joined the town’s fire department and rose up through the ranks to the position of chief, he said. As the town’s deputy fire marshal, he remains involved with the organization today.

Larson has served as an elected member of the Board of Tax Review (now the Board of Assessment Appeals), Board of Finance and as President of the Amston Lake Association. As a commander of the Hartford Police Patrol Division, Rubera said he made budgets, schedules and dealt with community problems. “Experience will be a great asset,” to the selectmen board, especially during these tough fiscal times, he said.

Rubera said “it disturbs” him that politicians “never seek ideas beyond their own.” If elected, he hopes to change that, with a creed of inclusion he lives by. “I don’t care what nationality you are or how much money you make,” he said. “I’m coming to help you the best I can.”

Too often these days, he said, people tend to be too closed-minded – and that’s not good for the community.

“Too often these days, people tend to be too closed-minded – and that’s not good for the community. In today’s climate I think we’ve stopped listening to each other and stopped accepting any ideas,” he said. “We kind of live in a place where we only feel comfortable with people who agree with us.”

Another newcomer to the board would be John Collins, a 58-year-old scientist and entrepreneur who has a Ph.D. in soil chemistry, who said he wants “to help Hebron become a more livable and connected community.”

Collins said he feels his “talents are best suited to serve as a selectman,” because, with a tight budget, selectmen must be the economic ambassadors of the town. In addition, he said “selectmen can provide leadership on education and finance.”

Collins is a graduate of the University of Connecticut and spent two years volunteering in the Peace Corps in Nepal. He spent his early career consulting on environmental cleanup technologies before starting an Internet business concerned with environmental compliance, and then a green technology company, which developed ways to clean up toxic chemicals, he said.

I have lived it and I believe in it,” he added.

My current venture is a real estate company that buys distressed real estate and renovates houses,” he said. Collins said his seeking a seat on the Board of Selectmen as a way to give back to his community. “I am good at taking an idea and bringing it to market,” he said. “Hebron needs to be marketed to the surrounding region and businesses and I can convey how great a place Hebron is because I have lived it and I believe in it,” he added.

Collins and his wife, Nancy, moved to Hebron 15 years ago. Together the couple has two sons, who are both RHAM High School graduates.

Collins said Hebron schools are the “gems of our community,” and that with their “standing and reputation” are the “main economic driver” in town.

If elected, Collins said he would also work with the Town Center Project to bring “commerce and rustic charm to our downtown.” In addition, he would work to strengthen Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) capabilities in the schools.

The town “must find a way to reduce the mill rate and taxes,” he said. Hebron continues to provide excellent services to seniors, but we also must find reasons and services to keep parents in town whose children have graduated, he added.

If elected, Collins said he would work to increase home values to reduce the mill rate and help bring more commercial development to town. In addition, he said as a selectmen he would put in effort to complete the Village Green. These actions will “provide tax relief to everyone,” he said. “It will also make us a stronger community.”

The municipal elections take place Tuesday, Nov. 7, from 6 a.m. – 8 p.m., at Hebron Elementary School, 92 Church St.
McNair Joins First Selectman Race

by Juliana Roche

United Kingdom, Art Shilosky, a Republican elected first selectman in 2015, was run- ning unopposed for re-election.

This Wednesday however, Colchester Inde- pendent Party (CIP) candidate James McNair announced on social media via “Keeping It All in Colchester” Facebook page, that he would be running as a write-in candidate on the ballot.

“My announcing is a response to many people in our town saying that they didn’t feel they were being un- franchised,” McNair said Thursday, adding that several residents voiced their “frustration” at “the thought that they didn’t have a choice” with their vote.

“The Democrats cross-endorsed Art [Shilosky] and not only did they offer [to do that], but the Republicans accepted it,” he con- tinued. “This is really not about party labels anymore… it’s not a matter of me winning or losing, even though if I do win, I think I’m amply qualified to do the job… it’s about phi- losophy.”

McNair explained that in addition to the finan- cial challenges posed by the current lack of a state budget, if reelected, he feels the board needs to focus on economic development and ensuring a wide variety of residential and hous- ing options for “people [as they] move through various phases of life.”

“A vibrant business service and retail com- munity are vital to our future,” he said, adding that the board thus far, has been able to “bal- ance both local independently-owned busi- nesses and those known regionally and nation- ally,” and he hopes to continue to do so.

Shilosky also added that he is looking forward to seeing the completion of a new senior center — as he believes it “will be critical” to have a “larger, more suitable” building for townpeople as the senior population continues to grow.

“We also need to look for even more oppor- tunities to bring people together, in ways that they find meaningful to participate in communi- ty life,” he said. “I look forward to having another opportunity to work collaboratively with other selectmen and boards to discern the path ahead for Colchester and bring us to our de- sired goals.”

The Democrats

Incumbent Rosemary Coyle, 70, is a retired teacher and past president of the Connecticut Education Association who has served on the Board of Selectmen for 10 years and the Board of Education for 11 years. As a member of the Conservation Commission, Board of Education, the Ethics Commission and Board of Selectmen since 1984, Coyle explained that “it’s about phi- losophy,” and she furthered that she has learned “every decision must be based on data and process” — a lesson applicable if elected to the Board of Selectmen.

“Experience, [and] learning to do more with less, will support me in evolving issues brought before the Board of Selectmen,” she said. “As in my job, those decisions will be in the best interest of the residents of Colchester.”

Ford explained he felt running for the board a second time would allow him “to continue to be involved in Colchester” and offer “years of experience in government and infrastructure for the benefit of the town.”

This experience, [and] learning to do more with less, will support me in evolving issues brought before the Board of Selectmen,” he said. “As in my job, those decisions will be in the best interest of the residents of Colchester.”

Ford said he expects the two major chal- lenges the board faces are “navigating the fi- nancial crisis at the state level” and reorganiz- ing the town tax structure.

“Our tax structure in Colchester continues to place a burden on residential taxes,” he ex- plained. “We need to expand our commercial development base to stabilize taxes and con- tinue to provide services our town enjoys.”

Ford explained by doing so, the town will be in “a better position” to do so, as well as “provide additional revenue for the programs we need.”

The CIP Member

CIP member David Gesiak, 46, a local con- tractor who owns David Gesiak, LLC, served on the Planning and Zoning Commission from 2013 until July of this year, when the Board of

Selectmen unanimously voted to remove him from the commission for allegedly encourag- ing and abetting the evasion of rightful prop- erty taxes.

As a result, Gesiak filed a lawsuit, which became his second pending suit against the town; the first made late this spring under his claim that his personal property had been im- properly taxed in 2016. He is expected in court for that first lawsuit filed on Oct 31.

Gesiak said views “restoring public trust” in the Board of Selectmen as both inspiration for him to run for election, as well as the biggest challenge the board faces.

“I’m hearing from many that the Board of Selectmen has lost touch with all voters,” he said. “They seem to just focus and listen to those waiting to pass all budgets. I understand the needs of all citizens of Colchester. As a busi- nessman, I know to look at all sides of an issue to come to a reasonable and fair decision.”

“The time has come for change,” Gesiak said. “Many incumbents have been in office too long. They see themselves as representing the town rather than the people.”

He furthered that while the town charter “makes it clear” the first selectmen “shall be responsible to the townspeople,” and the Board of Selectmen “shall be responsible to the administration of town government,” he feels the present board does not and the current first selectman “account- able.”

* * *

Colchester

For the election Tuesday, Nov. 7.

Cars Broken Into in Colchester

Several vehicles were broken into in town last weekend, Colchester Police said. By 7:30 a.m., they received a report of several vehicles bro- ken into on Bulkeley Hill Road, Fuls Circle, Shoolie Place, and Davidson Road. Police said approximately six unlocked vehicles were en- tered, with one vehicle’s window broken, and several items taken.

Police said a homeowner in the area cap- tured a suspect attempting to gain en- try to her vehicle in the driveway and, are also asking residents living in the area who have video surveillance “the footage to ob- tain an image of the suspect’s face and con- tact Troop K at 860-465-5400.”

Portland Police News

10/19: George Grills, 49, of Spencer Court, East Hartford, was charged with criminal vio- lation of a restraining order. Portland Police said.

10/19: William Goodnight, 33, of 6 Traverse St., Middletown, was charged with evad- ing responsibility.

10/22: David Thomas, 21, of 54 Gospel Ln., East Hartford, was charged with criminal vio- lation of a restraining order. Portland Police said.

10/20: Colchester Police said Bruce Steininger, 30, of 61 Stimp St., Willimantic, was arrested and charged with sixth-degree larceny.

Colchester Police News

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Marlborough Police News

10/19: State Police said Tyechea L. Hunden, 28, of East Hartford, was charged with disorderly conduct.

10/19: William Goodnight, 33, of 6 Traverse St., Middletown, was charged with evading responsibility.

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In her absence remains the memory of a profoundly strong, wildly creative and undeniably loving spirit: Estelle Reilly of Old Saybrook.

Estelle Estelle was a daughter of the late Alice Barbour, and her sister Phyllis Huggett of North Caldwell, N.J., and many aunts and uncles and cousins in New York, New Jersey, Long Island and Florida.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Obituaries

ELEANOR T. REILLY

Eleanor T. Reilly, 90, of Old Saybrook, passed away peacefully on Sept. 18, 2017.

Eleanor graduated from the State University of Iowa in 1939 and taught in public school in Woodstock, Vt., for 25 years. She later became a homemaker, raising three boys, and taking excellent care of her husband. As a widower, she moved to her mother's footsteps at Apple Rehab in Middletown. There are no calling hours and burial will be private.

Estelle Estelle was an artist and inspired several generations of fellow artists within the family. Her creative eye and in-

Stephen Marc Smith

Stephen Marc Smith, 64, of East Hampton, died Saturday, Oct. 21, at home surrounded by his loving family in their home on March 10, 1953, to the late Jack and Shirley Smith.

He was a graduate of Pulaski High School and Colgate University. He was employed for many years by the General Electric Company, working in various roles that ranged from being a mechanic to being an engineer.

Stephen was survived by his loving wife and son Ben and Matthew, his brother and sister-in-law, Stewart and Laura Smith and niece of Pound Ridge, N.Y., and his mother-in-law Edith Prague of East Hampton. He leaves his sisters-in-law Anne D. and Jeanne S. and brother-in-law, Dr. Tim Buckley for his kind and compassionate care of Stephen. The family would like to extend a special thank you to the Elizabeth Setzer: 2000

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the East Hampton Public Library. For more information, directions, or to sign the guestbook for Stephen Smith, visit online at mulryanfh.com. For online condolences, visit stevehamptonfuneralhomeinc.com.