

RIVEREAST

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CCC Swan Song... The RHAM High School girls' varsity volleyball team won the CCC title Nov. 4 – finishing the season with a 22-0 record. It was the last CCC title for the seven seniors on the team. From left are, first row, Lauren Duke and Katie Dorman; second row, Allie Welch, Anna Barry, Alana Hruska, Katie Shea and Kate Grabowski.

Belldown Hub Passes By Just 30 Votes

by Elizabeth Regan

East Hampton voters narrowly approved the construction of an \$18.98 million municipal complex on the eastern end of Route 66 as they weighed higher taxes against the need to update the town's aging infrastructure.

The referendum question yielded 1,766 'yes' votes and 1,736 'no' votes.

The plan for the municipal complex on 5.4 acres of the Edgewater Hill mixed-use development has evolved since February. That's when the Town Council selected a site for the proposed municipal complex, picked a project manager and appointed a building committee.

An audience gathered at East Hampton High School to hear the referendum results roared in applause when moderator Red McKinney read the tally.

Outgoing Republican Town Council Chairwoman Patience Anderson, who did not run for re-election, let out her own whoop when she heard the news.

"I'm just very excited for the town of East Hampton," she said Wednesday. "It's a great victory and we can finally put to rest 30-plus years of looking for a solution. I'm extremely proud of the council for making this a priority and working together to find the best result."

While moderator Red McKinney initially said the 30-vote margin was close enough to force a recount, a review of state election law by town staff revealed a recount was not warranted.

A recount is triggered when the margin is within 20 votes or 0.5 percent of the total vote, according to state statute. In this case, a half of one percent is equal to 18 votes. The actual difference of 30 votes exceeds both those thresholds.

But while the audience in the gymnasium immediately following the election was resoundingly supportive of the project, the results prove a much more mixed reception from the wider community.

The finance board in August approved the project by a vote of 4-2, with Republicans Janine Jiantonio and Alannah Coshov voting against the motion. Less than a month later, town councilors voted 5-1 to approve a resolution and set dates for the town meeting and referendum. The lone nay vote came from Republican Ted Hintz Jr.

The \$18.98 million, 33,400-square-foot hub would cost a taxpayer with a home assessed at

See **Belldown Hub** page 2

Saint Clements Denied by Zoning Commission

by Elizabeth Regan

A belated attempt to bring the Port-Hampton Marina Club into compliance with zoning regulations was thwarted last week when the East Hampton Planning and Development Commission denied Saint Clements' request for a commercial zoning designation.

The application was a response to increased oversight by local, regional and state officials after a June 25 fire interrupted a wedding being held in a 7,788-square-foot clubhouse that had been permitted as a storage facility. The marina is located at 49 Oakum Dock Rd. in East Hampton, while the rest of the Saint Clements facility falls on the Portland side of the border.

A handful of Oakum Dock Road residents at a Nov. 1 public hearing, which had been continued from Oct. 4, alleged the fire brought to light a pattern of contempt for rules and regulations on the part of Saint Clements.

Oakum Dock resident William Grady put it this way: "The bottom line is, this applicant doesn't like to follow the rules."

Saint Clements Castle and Marina is owned by the Roncalli Institute, which encompasses numerous commercial entities, nonprofit organizations and trusts. Its chairman is Edward Doherty, who has said he was trained at Holy Apostles College and Seminary in Cromwell.

Oakum Dock neighbor Christopher Martel said Doherty has shown "complete disregard for everybody and everything" except himself. "This guy is a snake in the grass," Martel

said.

The commission voted 6-1 to deny the zone change application, with the sole opposition vote coming from seated alternate Michael Kowalczyk.

The motion did not include any reasons for denial and there was no discussion.

Doherty did not return a call for comment.

In July, the East Hampton Building, Planning and Zoning Department and Chatham Health District told Doherty and Roncalli Institute President Daniel Loos to stop holding banquets on the property until the necessary permits and licenses had been approved.

That's when Loos came through with an application to change the 4.96-acre site from a residential zone to commercial. While the property was grandfathered into the current residential zone as a marina, the requested change would give the business more flexibility to hold non-marina-related events such as wedding receptions on the premises.

Saint Clements attorney Kenneth Slater of Halloran and Sage told commissioners last month "hundreds" of banquet events had been held at the site with no complaints before the fire.

Slater argued that using the site to hold waterfront ceremonies and receptions is more "compatible" and environmentally-conscious than refurbishing boats there, which is the type of use allowed under the site's grandfathered status.

Slater also said the zone change application is in keeping with the fact that the Saint Clements Castle side of the property in Portland is in a designated business zone.

In 2010, the Town of East Hampton paid Doherty – through Saint Clements Marina LLC – \$673,000 for the rights to use two wells on the property as part of a public water system that has not yet come to fruition. The town also paid to remove several buildings within the sanitary radius and to remediate contaminated soil.

Planning and Zoning Official Jeremy DeCarli noted in a Nov. 1 memo to the commission that the public water supply easement agreement precludes construction or improvements in the easement area and its protective radius. He also said industrial marina uses like storing, fixing and painting boats is not allowed under the terms of the easement agreement.

Slater responded at the public hearing that the easement agreement is not the Planning and Zoning Commission's concern when it comes to a zone change.

He said site-specific details would be addressed through the special permit process that would follow the zone change.

If the Water Pollution Control Authority has concerns then, he said, "we can cross that bridge when we get there."

Another memo from DeCarli, prepared before the hearing opened in October, said the change "does not appear to be entirely consistent" with the town's Plan of Conservation and

Development.

"Although the POCD suggests allowing modest expansion of commercial areas, this property lies wholly surrounded by residential land in East Hampton and is not along a major road," DeCarli wrote.

A Sept. 12 memo from Public Works Director Dean Michelson informed commissioners that the public works department was not in favor of the zone change because large vehicles and increased volume of small vehicles could result in unsafe road conditions.

"Unfortunately, past experiences with St. Clements have not resulted in compliance with Town of East Hampton regulations, but more circumventing and disregarding them," Michelson wrote.

Slater argued traffic would be using the main entrance in Portland, not Oakum Dock Road. He said the commission could put the provision in writing as a condition of the special permit.

Neighbor Lenny Pinaud said traffic was "substantially more significant" over the past year than it had been in the past.

Pinaud also pointed to several nearby properties currently owned by Doherty. He said approving the requested zone change would make it more difficult to deny other requests for commercial zoning in the area.

"The potential to change the entire bottom of our road exists if he's allowed to change this

See **Saint Clements** page 2



Outgoing Town Council Chairwoman Patience Anderson was all smiles as Town Manager Michael Maniscalco sent text message updates to those who were not in attendance Tuesday night when it was announced the \$18.98 million municipal hub project had been approved by voters.

Belltown Hub cont. from Front Page

\$200,000 roughly \$220 per year, based on average annual grand list growth of 0.50 percent.

The debt would not come due until 2022. Debt from the town's portion of the \$52 million high school renovation project is also being paid off. The last payment is scheduled for 2038.

The new building will include all departments in the current town hall and the Middletown Avenue annex, as well as the police department and the Board of Education offices.

Resident Dennis Banning, a construction worker, went to the polls Tuesday in opposition to the project.

Estimating the project at more than \$565 per square foot based on the size of the building and its total cost, Banning said the town is paying too much.

"You can build it easily for half that," he said.

Banning also objected to the owner of the surrounding Edgewater Hill mixed-use development acting as project manager for the municipal hub.

Developers Steve and Lisa Motto donated the town a 5.4-acre parcel within their 59-acre Edgewater Hills development on Route 66. They also offered to serve as the town's project managers for a 4 percent cut of the total project cost.

"He says he's giving us the land for free as long as he gets 4 percent of the overall cost," Banning said. "Then they turned it into this Taj Mahal of \$18.9 million. I just think the whole thing is wrong."

The Mottos' proposal won out over seven other submissions in a competitive bidding process to find the location for the new facility. The request for proposals asked applicants to submit properties that were at least 2.75 acres for the town hall and 2 acres for the police department.

The parcel submitted by the Mottos was owned at the time by George and Mary Loos, who had given the Mottos the right of first refusal and who joined the Mottos in submitting the proposal.

Town Manager Michael Maniscalco said this

week that the process of transferring the property to the Mottos began the morning after the election.

Maniscalco said the cost of the municipal complex should not be compared to a typical office project because expenses are driven by the specialized needs of the police department, which make up as much as 80 percent of the total project price tag.

He cited large costs, like making the building hurricane-proof and installing separate ventilation systems in each holding cell. He also cited smaller costs that add up, like suicide-proof coat hooks that go for \$100 each.

"It is a specialized public safety facility that has specialized costs associated with it," Maniscalco said.

He said the Mottos have worked on police substations and the project architects, Amenta Emma of Hartford, have designed numerous police stations.

According to a conceptual rendering, the proposed two-story, roman brick town hall is separated into two sections by a transparent vestibule. It is flanked on one side by a police department and on the other by a community room. The colonial revival-inspired facade is dominated by brick, metal and glass. A solar array will double as the canopy for a parking area for police cruisers.

Kyle Dostaler, chairman of the Chatham Party, said after the election results came in that the new council needs to be wary of cost overruns as the project moves forward.

All five Chatham Party candidates running for the council were defeated.

"People are very concerned that there's going to be a lot of cost overruns. Hopefully [the council members] listen to the Mottos, the finance director and whatever good advice they're given. Don't ignore it, like they have in the past," Dostaler said.

Maniscalco described the process so far as open, transparent and guided by highly skilled professionals.

"I think if you build off a solid foundation like that, you won't have cost overruns," Maniscalco said.

Saint Clements cont. from Front Page

zoning now," Pinaud said. "Once commercial is there, there's nothing to stop it from continuing."

Oakum Dock Road resident William Grady submitted a petition signed by seven neighbors opposing the zone change. According to state statute, a petition signed by 20 percent or more of the landowners of lots within 500 feet in all directions requires the commission to approve the zone change by a two-thirds majority instead of a simple majority.

Grady reiterated the types of businesses that could be approved via a special permit in a commercial zone, such as hotels, motels, inns, restaurants, and hospitals. He went on to put a special emphasis on "active adult, congregate and senior housing."

"If the opportunity to obtain approval for these uses exists, based on what I know and have seen of the applicant, I can assure you it will occur," Grady said.

A review of the assessor's database indicate there are four properties listing Doherty or one of his business ventures as owner: 9 Middle Haddam Rd., 3 Old Depot Hill Rd., 40 Oakum Dock Rd. and 33 Oakum Dock Rd.

An anonymous complaint on file in the East Hampton Building, Planning and Zoning office shows unpermitted activity related to the site was brought to the department's attention in August 2016. The complaint alleged a neighboring property on 40 Oakum Dock Rd. was being advertised for overnight accommodations and that banquet events were being held at 49 Oakum Dock Road.

A cease-and-desist order regarding the use of 40 Oakum Dock as a boarding house was sent by DeCarli in October 2016. It was lifted the following month after DeCarli was assured the cottage was no longer being used or marketed as a commercial venture.

One new homeowner on Oakum Dock Road told commissioners during the Nov. 1 public hearing he had seen members of a wedding party using the back deck of the cottage as recently as a couple weeks ago.

DeCarli said early this week that while his typical procedure is to investigate written complaints only, he would follow up on allegations that the cottage was still being rented out to overnight guests.

On Tuesday, Loos informed DeCarli in an email that the people gathered at the cottage were Doherty's "close friends who were at his house for a couple hours" prior to a wedding at

Saint Clements Castle.

"This will happen from time to time," Loos said. "As you may know, Father Doherty has many friends and he enjoys entertaining them."

Loos said the guests did not spend the night and no money was exchanged.

Oakum Dock neighbor Nicole Bernier told commissioners she was shocked to hear the site wasn't zoned, permitted or licensed to hold banquets and special events.

"I have to get a permit to change my kitchen, which nobody sees and nobody is affected by," she said. "I feel like if you guys say 'okay, we can make it commercial,' then it's rewarding bad behavior."

Others, like Susan Grady, said the bad behavior would be continuing if the activity hadn't been caught.

"If a fire had not occurred several months ago, this illegal business would have undoubtedly continued," she said. "I am convinced of that."

The fire was ruled accidental last month by the East Hampton fire marshal's office. Investigators found the blaze likely emanated from an unattended propane cooker being used on the back deck to boil water.

An investigation by the state Fire and Explosives Investigation Unit is ongoing.

Planning and Zoning Commission member Ray Zatorski on Monday explained to the *Riverest* why he made a motion to deny the application instead of making a motion to approve it.

"Typically with motions, if you go to make a positive motion, you have to give a reason," he said. "You do not have to give a reason to say no."

Speaking for himself, he said he felt the zone change application was not appropriate "at this time."

"Things may change in the future. Somebody may come in with something. That's a different application," he said.

DeCarli said the owners of 49 Oakum Dock Rd. can apply for a zone change again in one year.

According to state statute, the applicant or any party aggrieved by the commission's vote can appeal to the state Superior Court within 15 days from the date the decision was published in the newspaper. The legal notice is included in today's *Riverest*.

Loos declined to comment on the decision.

Shilosky Re-Elected Colchester First Selectman

by Julianna Roche

The first selectman seat will rest in Republican hands for another two years, after incumbent Art Shilosky was re-elected to a second term Tuesday.

Shilosky – who was also cross-endorsed by the Democratic party – had been running unopposed throughout the race until just a few weeks before Election Day, when Colchester Independent Party (CIP) candidate James McNair announced on social media he would be running as a write-in candidate “to give voters a choice.”

Shilosky collected 2,412 votes to McNair’s 218 – and actually drew more support from Democrat voters (1,231) than Republican (1,181). Of the 2,905 total voters who showed up Tuesday, 275 residents did not cast a vote for either candidate.

“The purpose of me doing it was just to give people a chance to say something,” McNair said Wednesday, adding that while he was “a little sad” all the CIP candidates who ran in this year’s election lost, himself included, “the question now, is where does the CIP go in the future?”

According to Town Clerk Gayle Furman, approximately 26 percent of Colchester’s 11,138 registered voters cast ballots Tuesday, which was slightly less than in the 2015 election, where 30 percent of registered voters came out to the polls.

Rejoining the Board of Selectmen are incumbent Republicans Denise Mizla (1,408 votes) and Stan Soby (1,696), and incumbent Democratic Rosemary Coyle (1,497). Fellow Democrat James Ford, who garnered 1,307 votes, will also take a seat on the board – for a second time, having served for four years in the past. CIP candidate David Gesiak was the only candidate who lost, collecting 892 votes.

Republican Town Committee Chairman Brenden Healy (who also beat out Democrat incumbent John Ringo by 58 votes for treasurer)

said this week that overall, the Republicans were “very excited” about “another successful election.”

“The team worked very hard knocking on doors and talking to voters, listening to issues that were important to them,” he furthered. “And the voters responded [to that].”

Democratic Town Committee Chairman Don Kennedy said the election left the Democrats with “mixed feelings,” as “it went good, [but] it didn’t go great.”

“I do think it was a good night for the town [and] there are some good people from both parties who were elected,” he furthered. “That’s always key.”

Kennedy added that Ringo being defeated was a loss for the town, and noted that in addition to serving as treasurer for the past two, he had also been on the Board of Finance for 16 years.

“He’s been a good public servant to Colchester,” he said.

On the finance board side, incumbent Republicans Andrea Migliaccio and Roberta Lepore each won another term, with 1,368 and 1,446 votes, respectively. Both Michael Hayes, a Democrat, and CIP member Deanna Bouchard fell short of acquiring a seat, collecting 1,306 and 805 votes, respectively.

Filling the vacancy for the two-year seat, meanwhile, is Democrat Michael Egan, who won 1,381 votes over CIP member Tearice Peters, who collected 944.

Egan, who previously served on the Board of Education for nine years, stated Wednesday that he felt “humbled” by the win and is “looking forward to work across party lines” and “working together for the betterment of the town.”

“There’s going to be a learning curve,” he added, regarding the role switch to a different board. “I’m going to at first try to learn as much as I possibly can [and] then do what I can to

contribute.”

Four out of five candidates who ran for the Board of Education – including Democrats Mary Bylone (1,636 votes), Amy Cahill Domeika (1,748), and incumbent Republican Mitchell Koziol (1,740), and Republican Christopher McGlynn (1,685) – will take seats, while Democrat Nilda Negron was the sole losing candidate, acquiring 1,518 votes.

Three of five candidates who ran for the Board of Assessment Appeals – including Democrats Denise Turner and Andrew Cournoyer, who garnered 1,423 and 1,146 votes respectively, and Republican David Anderson (1,222) – landed seats on the board, while CIP candidates Kerri Gesiak (623) and Joyce Maine (639) lost out to their opponents.

* * *

In addition to electing first selectman and other various board members this week, voters also had the opportunity to vote on six questions regarding proposed changes to the town charter – which serves as the town’s foundational document, outlining the roles and responsibilities of elected and appointed officials, and providing the framework for how the municipal government should operate. While state statute requires towns to revisit their charters at least once every 10 years, towns have the option to review it every year.

Of the six charges, only two passed: the making of general grammatical amendments and clarifications to the charter, and the making of changes to the annual budget meeting and updating the approval of financial matters.

According to Charter Revision Commission (CRC) Chairman Gregg LePage, updating financial matters would include lowering the thresholds to reconvene for an annual budget meeting, closing loopholes on borrowing to ensure that all borrowing agreements above the threshold go to a town meeting, adding an emer-

gency contingency for public safety, requiring that the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance approve transfers between adopted town department budgets, and requiring a town meeting for any appropriations above 2 percent of a department’s budget.

For example, if the public works development had a \$1 million dollar budget, an appropriation would have to equal more than \$20,000 in order to require a town meeting.

The other four changes failed; they included eliminating the treasurer position, changing the town clerk and tax collector positions from elected to appointed, and changing the term length of first selectman, and members of the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, and Board of Assessment Appeals to four year terms. (Currently, some positions such as the first selectman spot are two-year terms, while other boards are six years.)

LePage explained that he was “happy” regarding two of the questions passing, as “those were the two that we [the CRC] really wanted to go through because it will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of town hall, as well as the boards and commissions.”

He furthered that he was “not completely surprised” by the results “based on some of the feedback” he had heard from residents in town leading up to the election. However, he was “a little surprised” there weren’t more voters in favor of “establishing a consistent four-year term for elected officials.”

In regards to the questions of the appointments tax collector and town clerk, LePage explained “it went down in a grand fashion similar to 10 years ago.

“It does not appear that the residents want to delegate the right to appoint these officials to the Board of Selectmen as they do for other department heads such as the assessor [and] director of public works,” he said.

Midwest Pastor Finds Welcoming Home in Colchester

by Julianna Roche

Sitting in a navy-blue diamond patterned chair in her brightly decorated office at Colchester Federated Church (CFC), the bubbly, blonde-haired 33-year-old Rev. Lauren Lorincz – who has served as the congregation’s pastor since May – explained that 25 years ago, she vividly recalls standing in her hometown church’s parking lot following a Christmas Eve mass and telling her parents she would one day become a minister.

“I was asked with my sister and mother to read scripture [during] the service and I was so nervous, so I thought if I’m going to do this well and feel comfortable, I’m going to memorize it,” Lorincz said, explaining that as soon as she had finished reading the passage – Isaiah 9:2-7 – she felt “this warmth and light” and “I thought, this is what I’m supposed to do.”

Originally from Wadsworth, Ohio, Lorincz grew up in the United Church of Christ (UCC), and graduated magna cum laude from Elon University in N.C., with a bachelor’s degree in history and a minor in religious studies, before heading to Andover Newton Theological School, where she obtained her Master of Divinity degree.

She became ordained at age 25 – and was the youngest person in her seminary class.

“In seminary, there were a lot of second-career students so I was in classes with people

my parents’ age,” Lorincz recalled, adding, “It was a great mix though because we learned from each other.”

Prior to her move in Colchester this spring, the young minister explained she also served as a solo pastor of a UCC congregation in Lexington, Mass., for six years.

When it came time for a change, she interviewed at churches across the country – and it wasn’t until she stumbled upon the small New England town of Colchester that she found a new place to call home.

“The moment I interviewed here, I knew this was it,” she said. “I had such a warm feeling from the search committee. It was like talking to old friends.”

Once hired, Lorincz said her first priority was to update the church’s website to help better “streamline its message” and “get the word out.”

“I had expected people to maybe be a little hesitant, but people have been really supportive,” she said. “I’m a millennial [so] for me there’s a comfort with technology that maybe some older ministers don’t have, so I took it upon myself to redesign the website.”

The pastor furthered that “religion in our country has really changed and we can’t always expect people are going to come find us. Sometimes we have to go make the effort and put ourselves out there.”

For example, Lorincz said that she posts sermons on the church’s Facebook page and on her personal blog, “so if someone is out, or a member is sick and can’t come to church, they can still catch the sermon.”

Lorincz also explained that she believes in ensuring the congregation is “welcoming of everyone” and that congregation members – both new and old – feel comfortable “asking questions” of their faith as modern society changes.

“It’s up to each generation to keep engaging [with] and interpreting these sacred stories” of the Bible, Lorincz said. “Jesus was a teacher and constantly engaging [with other people’s] questions. He didn’t turn anybody away and neither do we... I think it’s important to be open-minded.”

“I think for younger folks, for a long time, the church has been viewed as anti-everything it feels like – anti-women, anti-LGBTQ, anti-environmental ... that’s not true here,” she furthered. “We welcome everyone. We have families of all makeups and backgrounds – whether it’s single parents [or] two dads.”

* * *

For more information about CFC or Lorincz, visit colchesterfederatedchurch.org or [facebook.com/colchesterfederatedchurch](https://www.facebook.com/colchesterfederatedchurch).



Originally from the Midwest, the Rev. Lauren Lorincz, 33, found a new home serving as pastor for the Colchester Federated Church in May this year.

Mostly Democrats Elected to RHAM Board

by Lauren Yandow

Democrats dominated when it came to the RHAM Board of Education elections on Tuesday – as the party represented four of the five members elected to the regional school board.

From Hebron, newcomers Robert Schadtle and Kathleen Goodwin joined incumbent Joseph O'Connor in getting elected, while from Marlborough, Democrat Jean L.P. Wilson, also a newcomer, was elected.

Marlborough resident Judy Benson-Clarke, the school board's current chairwoman, was the lone Republican elected Tuesday.

Hebron

All three Democrats elected to represent Hebron on the RHAM Board of Education will bring a “positive outlook and years of experience,” said Hebron Democratic Town Committee Chairman Ted Bromley. “They are dedicated individuals who will work hard to move the region in a positive direction,” he added.

While Hebron Republicans cleaned up in terms of the town boards and commissions – a related story appears on page 17 – they were shut out when it came to RHAM, as incumbents Rich Jacobsen and Bruce Olmstead, and would-

be newcomer Keith Petit, were all defeated.

Or at least, that's how it appears at the moment. With just 17 votes separating O'Connor and Olmstead, the *Rivereast* learned at press time Thursday, a recount of the Hebron winners will be done next week.

Hebron Republican Town Committee Chairwoman Catherine Marx speculated Tuesday's defeat of the Republican incumbents may have had something to do with this past spring's school budget. After voters rejected the proposed 2017-18 regional school budget, the RHAM school board sent to referendum an even higher spending proposal – which was soundly defeated. Marx wondered if that whole matter left a sour taste in the mouths of voters.

“Hebron spends [a] tremendous amount of money on [the] RHAM system, and there's a tremendous amount of work to be done on that board to regain the confidence of the voters,” she said.

Schadtle was elected to the regional school board with 952 votes. “I am very excited that the Hebron community has elected me to represent them,” said Schadtle. “I look forward to

bringing a new outlook and working together for the good of our schools,” he said.

Goodwin, who earned a seat with 929 votes, said as a newcomer she is “honored and humbled” to be elected by the Hebron community.

“I am committed to representing [Hebron's] interests by doing what I can to continue the excellent reputation the RHAM schools have,” she said.

In addition, Goodwin said she will “support the educators who have worked hard to establish this reputation and who care for and educate our children.”

O'Connor said Wednesday he is “very grateful” town residents continue to put their trust in him. “I am looking forward to working with the newly elected members and the rest of the board as we have a lot of work to complete,” he said.

Marlborough

“I wish the best to those who have been elected to represent our communities on this and other town boards and commissions,” said Marlborough Republican Town Committee

Chairman Ken Hjulstrom. Volunteerism and dedication is often “under-appreciated,” he added.

Hjulstrom added he is “pleased” to see Benson-Clarke reelected to the regional school board because her experience is a “very valuable asset.”

Benson-Clarke, who collected 920 votes on Tuesday, said being re-elected is an “honor” and she is thankful to everyone who voted for her.

“I am excited to be part of the Strategic Planning Committee, that is designing a road map for RHAM's future,” she said.

Benson-Clarke said she is looking forward to continuing the work of providing students with a “world class education” and enriching experiences, which she said include school clubs and sports.

As the RHAM designee to the Connecticut Association for Boards of Education, Benson-Clarke said she plans to increase advocacy by working with the association.

Wilson received 710 votes to join the RHAM board from Marlborough.

Bransfield Wins Eighth Term in Portland

by Elizabeth Regan

Eight-term First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield and the Democrats carried this year's election in Portland as they secured majorities on the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education.

Bransfield bested 30-year-old Robert Taylor, a paralegal and law school student, as well as reliable third-party contender Lambros Lambrinides. Taylor brought in 31 percent of the vote while Lambrinides earned 5 percent, according to unofficial results from the Secretary of the State.

Voter turnout came in at 37.76 percent, based on numbers provided by Town Clerk Ryan Curley. That's 2,363 residents, out of 6,258 registered voters, who cast ballots on Tuesday.

“I'm very grateful to the voters of Portland for allowing me to serve another term,” Bransfield said. “I love my job and I look forward to working on the many projects we have initiated and seeing them through to completion.”

Taylor said the results of the first selectman race were expected. The bright spot from his perspective was the number of voters who “were paying attention” to the race.

“It was good seeing we had more than 2,000 people come out to vote,” Taylor said.

Statewide voter turnout was 29.61 percent, based on unofficial totals from the Secretary of the State as of Thursday morning.

“The important thing was getting people out to vote and voicing their opinion,” Taylor said.

“If people don't actively go out and do those things, the system doesn't work. The priority is making sure things work.”

He attributed Bransfield's win to general competence and a lack of controversy.

“On the whole, you can't say she's doing a terrible job,” he said.

Lambrinides suggested Bransfield continues to win based on “the women's vote” and “blind following” from Democrats.

He said fear keeps more people from voting for him.

Lambrinides is a retired Pratt & Whitney employee who also worked in his family's 70-year-old sign business. He has been a candidate in every election since he started the American Independent Party in 2011. He was a write-in candidate in 2009.

“The real problem is people don't like the third party, in many cases. We know it's a two-party system, basically, and some people are just scared,” he said.

He was noncommittal when asked what the future holds for his continued candidacy.

“I am healthy. There are no medical problems. I'm not on any prescription drugs,” he said. “I stay reasonably fit. I watch my diet: no high fat, no fried foods. So that's it. In two years, we'll see what happens.”

Recounts in Two Races

The Democrats saw victory for each of four candidates on the Board of Selectmen: Incumbents James Tripp and Ben Srb and newcom-

ers Louis Pear and Ralph Zampano. They are joined by Republican incumbent Michael Pelton and newcomer Rick Sharr.

Srb beat out Republican Tim Lavoy by just 19 votes. According to state statute, that's too close to call. The law directs election officials to conduct a recount when the margin is within 20 votes.

Town Clerk Ryan Curley said the recount will be held today at 9 a.m. at the Portland Town Hall.

Srb has served two years as a selectman, seven on the school board and 12 on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Lavoy is in the middle of his first term on the Board of Education.

Bransfield described the new board as a wealth of talent, experience and service to the community. She said she looks forward to working with them on high profile projects such as the Air Line Trail, proposed Brainerd Place development on the old Elmcrest Hospital property, and the Route 17 recreation park.

She also pointed to redevelopment on the riverfront. Selectmen have been meeting in executive session for over a year to discuss the purchase of a 5.28-acre former petroleum storage and distribution site on Brownstone Avenue. A \$750,000 grant to clean up the site was awarded in June 2016.

She said the outgoing selectmen had not made a decision to proceed with the purchase, but that she would be bringing the idea to the

new board.

Bransfield expressed gratitude for selectmen who won't be returning. Fred Knous and Kathy Richards chose not to run again, while Kitch Breen Czernicki did not win her bid for re-election.

Four full-term seats on the Board of Education were evenly split between Democrats and Republicans. Incumbent Democrats Sharon Peters and Christopher Darby were joined by Republicans Eric Peterson, a newcomer, and David Murphy, an incumbent.

Democrat Meg Scata ran unopposed to fill a two-year vacancy on the school board.

A recount will also be conducted on the Board of Education, where seven votes separate Murphy from defeated Republican Angela Hammond. There are 15 votes separating Hammond from Democrat Victor Rivera.

The newly-elected officials will join school board Chairwoman MaryAnne Rode, a Democrat, and Tim Lavoy, a Republican. If results hold, there will be a 4-3 Democratic majority.

Winners also include: Board of Assessment Appeals: Democrats John Dillon and Thomas Malecky, Republican Peter Castelli; Zoning Board of Appeals five-year term beginning 2017: John B. Sterry; Zoning Board of Appeals five-year term beginning 2018: Rose Aletta; Zoning Board of Appeals for a two-year vacancy: Kenneth Kearns; and Zoning Board of Appeals for a one-year vacancy: Rose Aletta.

Portland Man Dead in Hit-and-Run

by Elizabeth Regan

A Saturday night hit-and-run crash left a Middletown man dead after the moped he was driving on the Arrigoni Bridge was struck from behind by an Audi, according to police.

Portland Police Department Lt. Ron Milardo said the call came in at 10:52 p.m. The driver of the scooter, Daquan Moore, 22, was taken to Middlesex Memorial Hospital and was pronounced dead a short time later.

Police said they believe two vehicles were racing each other over the bridge when Moore was hit.

A witness who was walking over the bridge at the time saw a vehicle driving at a high

rate of speed before the screeching of brakes and a loud crash could be heard, according to Milardo.

Police are now looking for a late model, light colored Audi. No information was available about the other car alleged to have been racing.

The Middletown Police Department Traffic Division reconstruction team is aiding in the investigation, police said.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Portland Police Department at 860-342-6780 or Middletown Police Department at 860-347-2541.

East Hampton Man Charged with Operating Drug Factory

by Elizabeth Regan

East Hampton Police Tuesday arrested an East Hampton man on charges of operating a drug factory from his Lakeview Street home.

Michael Philhower, 28, of 8 Lakeview St., was taken into custody after they executed a search warrant on the premises, according to a press release.

Philhower is the son of recently re-elected Town Council member Mark Philhower. The elder Philhower described his son as a drug addict when confirming the relationship this



Michael Philhower

week.

Police said they found approximately 40 potted marijuana plants, more than a pound of processed marijuana, smaller amounts of narcotics and other controlled substances without a prescription.

Cultivation equipment seized at the scene included watering systems, grow lamps, growing tents and plant drying equipment, according to police.

Michael Philhower was charged with sale of illegal drugs, operating a drug factory, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of cocaine, possession with intent to sell and possession of a controlled substance.

He was released on a \$10,000 bond pending a Nov. 21 court appearance at Middlesex Superior Court.

The investigation is ongoing, police said.

Brainerd Place Plans Unveiled in Portland

by Elizabeth Regan

A Planning and Zoning Commission public hearing on the site plan for the redeveloped Elmcrest Hospital property was a period of calm after two years of stormy negotiations between the town and the developer.

The Nov. 2 hearing was continued to Nov. 16 to allow land use department staff and consultants more time to gather information on the proposal.

The Brainerd Place site plan unveiled by Danbury-based developer Dan Bertram features 108,510 square feet of commercial space – including the restoration of three federally-recognized historic houses – and 240 apartments. A tax abatement agreement signed in the spring will save Bertram about \$3.6 million in property taxes over 14 years.

The Brainerd Place project will generate about \$489,000 in building permit fees throughout the two-phase construction process, according to land use department estimates.

Since Bertram arrived on the scene in 2015, the project has gone through multiple iterations. In late 2015, it looked like it would include 75,000 square feet of commercial space, 238 units and would preserve only the 1852 Brainerd House. Bertram was also asking for a full seven-year, 100 percent tax abatement.

There were times Bertram threatened to walk away and times he threatened to build as many as 532 housing units under the state's affordable housing statute.

But tentative cooperation from players like the Economic Development Commission and Historical Society – as well as vehement opposition from some members of the Board of Selectmen, most notably Ben Srb – paved the way for compromise.

"I think it's going to be a beautiful project," Bertram said during last week's public hearing.

Steven Sullivan, vice president of the engineering firm CCA LLC, said the main entrance to the 15-acre site will be about 160 feet northwest of the current entrance on Marlborough Street. Engineers will be requesting a traffic light there as part of the traffic mitigation plan they will be presenting to the state Department of Transportation.

There is a Main Street entrance accessible by a right turn in/right turn out driveway adjacent to the gas station, according to Sullivan; he said two emergency driveways on Perry Avenue would be available to first responders only.

A traffic study conducted by the engineering firm VHB found the site would generate 620 new trips during peak weekday hours and 765 new trips during Saturday peak hours.

There would be 10-12 trips per minute during the peak period. VHB traffic engineer Charlie Baker said that's about half of the amount of traffic projected when the site was the subject of a special permit application back in 2009 under a different developer. The old plan, which tanked during the recession, had 149,127 square feet of commercial space and 82 housing units.

Baker said the engineers are proposing to widen Main Street on the east side of the road by about four feet and then to restripe the road to provide a southbound, left-turn lane onto

Marlborough Street so turning vehicles don't block traffic onto the bridge.

To address concerns about pedestrians crossing Marlborough Street, the engineers recommend installing a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon where the channelized right-turn lane from northbound Main Street feeds into Marlborough Street.

The authors of the study said "research indicates that the flashing display typically improves visibility of pedestrians and increases driver yielding behavior."

Planning and Zoning Commission Bruce Tyler asked for data supporting the beacon's effectiveness before the next meeting.

"It's a basic concern of ours that people be able to get across Marlborough safely," he said. "We're going to harp on it."

The commercial space in the site plan, none of which has been officially secured, assumes 41,500 square feet of general office space, 38,750 for a grocery store, 8,607 square feet of general retail space, a 13,225 square foot pharmacy with drive-through, a 3,281 square foot coffee shop with drive-through and a 3,147 square foot restaurant.

Bertram said he is in talks with CVS as the pharmacy tenant. He also said the coffee shop has been designed with a tenant like Starbucks in mind.

Architectural renderings by Alain Munkittrick of Munkittrick Associates, Paul Harris of Cole Harris Associates and the Texas-based firm of Humphreys and Partners Architects show buildings with vertical siding as well as brick- and brownstone-vener.

The introduction to the architectural plans described the 1852 Brainerd House and 1884 Sage House as "anchors to the village green and as historic touchstones between the existing town and the new development."

The Brainerd House will be renovated as a clubhouse for the apartment complex and the Sage House is slated for use as an upscale restaurant, according to officials.

The Sage House was designed to seat 94 people inside a high-end, first-floor restaurant and to include 600 square feet of outdoor space once the building's rear addition is knocked down, the architects said.

The 1830 Hart-Jarvis House is slated to be moved and restored by a nonprofit organization still in its formative stages. The nonprofit endeavor is being spearheaded by Economic Development Chairman and grassroots activist Elwin Guild.

It is not yet known how the Hart-Jarvis House will ultimately be used, Guild has said.

The historic house is included in the site plan on the southwest corner of the property along Main Street, where it will face out onto town-owned property adjacent to a self-storage facility.

"Here it will reside prominently at the crest of the hill, re-oriented with the classical portico facing west, creating a more visible presence to Main Street and to drivers crossing the bridge over the Connecticut River," the architects wrote.

The architectural plan retains prominent magnolia, spruce and ginkgo trees, as well as a "magnificent" 48-inch beech tree and a 60-inch



An architectural rendering unveiled last week as part of the site plan for the proposed Brainerd Place development on the site of the former Elmcrest Hospital property shows a 78,000-square-foot building designed for retail space on the first floor and offices on the second floor.

oak tree.

The retail and office building was designed to reflect a 19th century mill or industrial building, according to the architects. They said the coffee shop design was inspired by the Brainerd House's historic carriage house, which will be knocked down for the project.

Project manager and landscape architect Nicholas Yuschak of the engineering firm CCA LLC said islands will be built around the beech and oak trees to protect their root systems.

The renderings show the apartment complex will be made up of two buildings facing each other. The front building will have three floors of apartments and a lower level parking area, while the second building will have four levels of apartments and a lower level parking area.

The buildings are situated on a downward slope from Marlborough Street, according to Harris. That means the roof line is the same, despite the difference in floors.

The highest elevations would be visible from Perry Avenue; the lowest elevations would be visible from Marlborough Street "to respect the existing scale along the street."

Sullivan said the plan includes green space throughout the site. A prominent green near the Brainerd House will include a gazebo, with courtyards and sitting areas near the Sage House, coffee shop and retail/office building.

The site plan includes several waiver requests in areas including setbacks, landscaping and striping for fire lines. Notably, it also requests that only 20 percent of the total commercial construction be complete before approving 42 percent of the apartments for occupancy.

Zoning regulations require 50 percent of the commercial construction to be move-in ready before a certificate of occupancy can be issued for the residential portion.

Tyler expressed dissatisfaction with the request.

"We're real interested in having the residential and commercial properties develop at about the same pace. And 40/20 doesn't sound like

the same pace," Tyler said.

But Bertram said "less-than-ideal economic conditions" require flexibility in drawing tenants. Filling the smaller commercial buildings in front – like the pharmacy, coffee shop and restaurant – will "set the stage" for filling the larger office/retail building in the back, he said.

Tyler told Bertram he believes the commission is in favor of flexibility, but not at the requested ratio.

"When you come back, we're going to continue to bother you about that," Tyler said.

The public's comments at the hearing were dominated by Perry Avenue residents concerned about the development's effect on their neighborhood.

James Casillo said the apartment buildings would not only loom over his street, but would be visible from Route 66 and from the Arrigoni Bridge.

"They're going to be the twin towers of Portland," he said. "And I'm not sure that this quaint little town is ready for such a big facade right there when you come into town."

Neighbor Karen Mazza addressed safety concerns when she spoke about the need for concessions from the developer to help keep neighborhood children safe, like a sidewalk on the odd-numbered side of the street and signage to warn drivers they can't enter the site from Perry Avenue.

The even-numbered side of Perry Avenue will be demolished under Bertram's plan. All but one of the homes are owned by entities associated with the venture.

Upper-octogenarian Donald Markham is the sole holdout.

Elmcrest property owner Fred Hassan said last year he is sure he will be able to come to an agreement with Markham.

Markham, when asked last week by the *Rivereast* where his next home will be, pointed to the heavens. He was sitting next to Hassan at the time. Neither man commented on the status of negotiations.

After Tuesday, East Hampton Council Majority Up in the Air

by Elizabeth Regan

Voters on Tuesday gave East Hampton Democrats at least one more seat on the Town Council, but it remains unclear if the party will be able to wrest the majority of Republican hands.

A recount of the council results was triggered because of a 12-vote difference between Republican Tim Feegel and Democrat Alan Hurst.

Feegel, with 1,315 votes, was the last of four Republicans to win a seat on the council based on unofficial results. Hurst's 1,303 votes were not enough to secure his place at the table.

But state statute directs election officials to conduct a recount when the margin is within 20 votes or 0.5 percent of the total vote.

Town Clerk Sandi Wieleba said this week that the recount has been tentatively set for Monday. State statute requires the recount to be held within five business days of the election.

If initial results remain unchanged – or don't change too much – the Republicans will have a 4-3 majority.

If Hurst ends up with more votes than Feegel in the recount, the balance of power will swing to the Democrats.

Meanwhile, the Chatham Party was decisively shut out in a continued departure from its early success. None of the candidates – five for the council and one for the Board of Education – won a seat.

The third party won a council majority in its first election just months after it was formed in 2005 and again in 2011.

Voter turnout was 41 percent, according to Republican Registrar of Voters Lori Wilcox. The percentage of registered voters making it to the polls in the last three municipal elections was 37 in 2015, 38 in 2013 and 41 in 2011.

The candidate vote tallies announced in the high school gym immediately following the election were noticeably lower than the figures submitted the next day to the Secretary of the State. Wieleba said that's because some ballots, which had write-in sections filled in, were kicked into an auxiliary bin and not included in the initial totals.

The highest vote-getter was Kevin Reich, an incumbent Democrat, who eclipsed the next-highest-vote-getter, fellow incumbent Democrat James "Pete" Brown, by 222 votes.

Incumbent Republican Melissa Engel was next in line after Reich and Brown, earning more votes than any other member of the tentative majority. The majority council member with the most votes is typically-elected chairman by the rest of the councilors.

Incumbent Republicans Mark Philhower and Josh Piteo are joined by Democrat Dean Markham, an outgoing member of the finance board, to round out the new council.

Engel said after the results were announced Tuesday night that she was thrilled with the outcome.

"The last two years, there's been a lot of progress made, even during some divisive times. And that speaks to the tenacity of the Republican Party," she said.

The new council's priority going forward must be on finding an affordable way to solve the town's water problems, according to Engel. That involves fixing water quality issues and making the resource more available as a way to lure new business to town, she said.

"We need to investigate a lot of things, because I don't want to put it on the backs of taxpayers," Engel added. "It was the primary goal

of both parties running, so I'm sure we'll have a cooperative effort like we did with the town hall to move forward and try to find a solution."

Voters narrowly approved the construction of an \$18.98 million municipal complex, including a town hall, police department and Board of Education offices, in a referendum question on Tuesday's ballot. It passed by 30 votes.

Kevin Reich, who could be looking at a chairmanship in the unlikely event that the recount changes the election, said he was pleased his party was able to gain a seat.

"We're looking forward to working with our Republican friends to move the community forward," he said.

He touted the voters' approval of the municipal hub.

"It's one of the larger turnouts for a general, off-year election," he said. "We certainly offered [voters] the opportunity to share their thoughts, and they did."

Kyle Dostaler, Chatham Party chairman and a candidate for the Town Council, said he thought his party would make a slightly better showing on Tuesday.

"But it is what it is," he conceded.

Democrats on the Board of Education gained a seat to strengthen their majority to six members. Incumbent Chairman Christopher Goff, Lori Caldwell, Jeffrey Carlson and Amanda Amtmanis were elected Tuesday for four year terms. They join Joanne Barmasse, who was elected in 2015, and Lois Villa, who was appointed this year to replace former chairman Kenneth Barber.

Villa's bid for a four-year term on the school board was unsuccessful, so she returns to her

seat to finish out the final two years of Barber's term.

Outgoing Republican finance board chairman Marc Lambert moved over to the school board to join the other Republicans, Erika Bonaccorso and Jarod Bushey, whose terms expire in 2019.

The Board of Finance candidates to win the most votes were Democrats, but the Republicans were able to retain their 5-2 majority. Those elected were Democrats Ted Turner and Barbara Moore, along with Republicans Richard Brown and incumbent Alannah Coshov. They join three Republicans whose terms end in 2019: Janine Jiantonio, Layne Bridget McLellan and Michael Rose.

Moore has served a total of 16 years on the finance board and council, including a stint as council chairman. She said she is happy to be back on the finance board again.

"It's been 20 years since I started this," she said. "I appreciate that, being elected again."

The rest of the race results are: Board of Assessment Appeals: Democrats Jack Solomon and Carol Williams, Republican Maria Peplau; Zoning Board of Appeals five-year term beginning 2018: Brian Spack; Zoning Board of Appeals alternates: Bob Hines, George Pfaffenbach and Joe Carbonell.

A recount will also be held in the race for a Zoning Board of Appeals five-year term to begin this year. Eight votes separate winner Charles Nichols, a Democrat, from Margaret Jacobson, a Republican.

On Wednesday night, the newly-elected officials with comfortable margins of victory were sworn into office during an evening ceremony in the East Hampton High School T-Bell.

Marlborough Republicans Dominate Race for Open Seats

by Julianna Roche

It was nearly a clean sweep for Marlborough Republicans this week, as 18 of the party's 19 running candidates snagged open seats across various boards and commissions on Election Day, with Democrats taking just five of the 24 total open positions.

The votes for the Board of Education and Planning Commission, however, will be recounted next Tuesday, Nov. 14 at Marlborough Elementary School. The recount was triggered in both cases because less than 20 votes separated the losing candidate from the winner.

This year's election also resulted in the successful passage of two revisions to the town charter – which included moving the annual budget vote from the town meeting to an all-day referendum beginning with the next fiscal year and allowing for automatic charter review intervals every 10 years.

First Selectwoman Amy Traversa said this week she was "very pleased" that there was overwhelming support in favor of the two changes and "thrilled" at the 32 percent voter turnout.

Republican Town Committee (RTC) Chairman Ken Hjulstrom also expressed contentment this week over this year's race, explaining that he felt "very proud" of all the candidates who ran on the Republican ticket.

"I greatly appreciate the support they received

from the voters of Marlborough," he furthered. "It is apparent to me that Marlborough's voters appreciated the experience and dedication of the Republican candidates, most of whom were seasoned incumbents."

Hjulstrom said it's time for the winners to get to work representing the interests of the community.

"As we move Marlborough forward, building on our town's recent economic development, excellent school systems and fiscally responsible budgets, these newly elected officials will ensure that Marlborough continues to move in a positive direction," Hjulstrom said.

For the Board of Finance, Republican incumbent Susan Leser and former alternate Midge Denno garnered 866 and 713 votes, respectively, while Democrat candidate Deb Bourbeau collected 694.

Republicans Bob Cindric and Liz Gorgoglione took the two vacant alternate finance board seats, with 869 and 936 votes, respectively.

For the Board of Education, the two incumbents on the Republican ticket, Sue Rapelye and unaffiliated Wes Skorski, garnered enough support to win two of the four open seats, with 796 and 766 votes, respectively.

In the first race up for a recount, Democrat newcomers Logan Tyler and Michelle Padilla

appeared to be the winners of the third and fourth seats with 640 votes and 619 votes, respectively. Democrat Julie Revaz lost, collecting 609 votes.

According to state statute, a recount is triggered when the margin is within 20 votes.

Padilla, who is also the Democratic Town Committee (DTC) chairwoman, said Thursday the party had "a lot of newcomers" and while many candidates "were disappointed we lost, we're looking forward to what the future will bring."

Traversa, a Democrat, expressed gratitude for "the people who step forward to run" for office, particularly newcomers.

"If you've never done it, it's a really scary thing to do, not knowing whether people would vote for you or not," she said. "I'm looking forward to working with everyone elected and hoping to find open spots for those who ran and weren't elected to serve the town in other ways. There are a lot of commissions that still desperately need people."

Republicans also took over the two open seats on the Board of Assessment Appeals, with David Morganson collecting 770 votes and John Varney winning 798, while Democrat Bill Lardi lost out with 663 votes.

On the Planning Commission – which will also be recounted next week – Democrat Laura

Hart collected 756 votes, while Republicans Larry Pryor and Brendon Monstream won the other two seats with 692 and 930 votes. Democrat Chris French was the sole losing candidate with 683 votes. Democrat Matt Wilson garnered 885 votes to take the alternate seat.

Republican candidates also dominated the Zoning Commission, with Mark Merritt collecting 867 votes, and Eric Colantonio and Susan McFarland earning 723 votes apiece. The three Democrat candidates lost out – with Judith Denberg collecting 498 votes, Donna Koropatkin with 525, and Wade DeCesare with 437. Republican David Fisher took the alternate spot with 903 votes.

On the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), Democrat Matt Wilson (673 votes) and Republicans Corinne Machowski (742) and Eric Kelly (712) won the three vacant positions, with Democrat candidates John Grasso (653) and Linda Estabrook (613) losing out.

Republican Joseph Weber (888 votes) and write-in Green Party candidate Robert Barstow (4) won the ZBA alternate seats.

For the RHAM Board of Education, Republican Judy Benson-Clarke and Democrat Jean Wilson collected 920 and 710 votes to win the two positions, while Republican Larry Pryor lost out with 673 votes.

Hebron Republicans Clean Up in Elections

by Lauren Yandow

The Hebron Republicans cleaned up at the polls on Tuesday, as all of the GOP candidates running for town boards and commissions won their seats.

“It was a clean election where the candidates were able to articulate their talents and expertise,” said Hebron Republican Town Committee Chairwoman Catherine Marx.

The Republican slate, she said, “worked hard to get elected and I expect a good balance [of] governance and stewardship of Hebron.”

The party, she added, was led by strong incumbents who worked with new candidates to “communicate with voters their vision for Hebron and how they can contribute.”

The only arena Republicans did not fare well in on Tuesday was the RHAM Board of Education race, as they were totally shut out. A full story about the RHAM election appears on page 26.

The overall top vote-getter in town, however, was a Democrat, longtime town clerk Carla A. Pomprowicz, who was cross-endorsed and ran unopposed, and collected 1,893 votes.

Board of Selectmen

With 1,246 votes, Republican Daniel Larson will continue to serve on the Board of Selectmen. “Now that the elections are over, it is time for everyone to put the parties aside and work as a team to continue to make Hebron the great community that so many people call home,” said Larson, who is the board’s current chairman.

Larson said the Board of Selectmen, along with other town boards, has initiated many projects, and he hopes “to continue this forward

progress for the betterment of our great town.”

Elected to the board was newcomer Democrat John B. Collins. By working to make Hebron “the best place it can be,” Collins said he hopes to bring business to downtown, and said he wants to help shape downtown into a “walkable, charming place.”

In addition, Collins said he wants to see home values increase, the public school system to continue to improve, and solar power expand in town. “Hebron is an unpolished gem with unlimited potential,” he said.

Board of Education

Democrat Erica Bromley said she is “thrilled” to have been re-elected to the Hebron Board of Education. Bromley, the current school board chairwoman, received 1,159 votes.

Bromley said she is happy for the opportunity to continue working to support Hebron Public Schools’ “strong, successful, and innovative” system.

“I appreciate all of those who came out to vote,” she said – and also offered her congratulations to fellow Democrat Heather Petit and Republican Chris Aker, who were also elected to the school board. She said the newcomers will “no doubt bring new knowledge and excitement to the board.”

Aker, who collected 1,139 votes, said his initial reaction to winning “was a sense of joy and appreciation.” As election results rolled in, and it became clear the night was largely going the GOP’s way, the Republican candidates and committee shared a “collective sense of happiness and gratitude for the support of Hebron’s

voters,” he added.

Aker said he is excited to get started as a member of the education board and is looking forward to working with the superintendent and school personnel to do what is in the “best interest” of the town’s children.

“I am so thankful to have the opportunity to work with the [school] board and continue their good work,” said Petit, who received 1,060 votes. “I hope to keep open communication with families [and] help make the best decisions for our town, schools and children.”

Looking forward, Petit said she will work to improve school climate through social and emotional learning, empower teachers and parents, and increase opportunities for children through student leadership.

Board of Finance

With 1,273 votes, Republican Peter Kasper will continue serving on the Board of Finance. Joining him on the board will be fellow Republican Diane Del Rosso, who received 1,194 votes

Democrat Malcolm Leichter, the board’s current chairman, was elected to a fourth term, with 1,001 votes. He said all the votes he casts in his next four years on the board “will be made in the best interests of the town and taxpayers of Hebron.”

“All cities and towns in Connecticut will face difficult financial times in the years ahead,” added Leichter. As a finance board member, “I will work diligently with my peers and the administration to make the difficult decisions that will need to be made.”

East Hampton Police News

10/20: Patrick Doane, 37, of 207 Penfield Hill Rd., Portland was issued a summons for misuse of plates, operating under suspension and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, East Hampton Police said.

10/23: Carl Spring, 70, of 267 Shuttle Meadow, New Britain was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle with an expired license and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, police said.

Also, from Oct. 23-29, officers responded to 12 medical calls, two motor vehicle crashes and eight alarms, and made 26 traffic stops.

Portland Police News

10/24: John Foster, 30, of 1503 Portland Cobalt Rd., was charged with second-degree breach of peace, Portland Police said.

10/27: Michael Ellis, 52, of 94 Airline Ave., was charged with second-degree threatening and second-degree breach of peace, police said.

10/31: Myles Bymes, 20, of 41 Like Blvd., East Hampton, was charged with sixth-degree larceny and possession of less than half an ounce of marijuana, police said.

Colchester Police News

10/31: Colchester Police said at approximately 9:08 p.m., a 15-year-old juvenile reported being attacked by another female around 5 p.m. The victim alleged that she sustained minor injuries after her hair was pulled and she was punched and knocked to the ground, which broke her eyeglasses. The case remains under investigation.

10/31: State Police said Alan Hopper, 30, of 31 Parker St., Manchester, was arrested and charged with breach of peace, third-degree assault, and first-degree reckless endangerment.

11/2: Colchester Police said Albert Perkins,

31, of 311 Norwich Ave., was arrested and charged with first-degree criminal trespass and breach of peace.

11/3: State Police said Wayne Mohrlein, 37, of 136 Elm St., was arrested and charged with violation of a protective order.

11/3: Colchester Police said Alan P. Marshall, 41, of 27 Rudden Ln., was arrested and charged with second-degree threatening.

11/4: State Police said Sherry E. Whitney, 46, of 11A Commerce St., Portland, was arrested and charged with second-degree failure

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Congratulations to the Houston Astros for winning the World Series in a thrilling seven games. The victory came a little over a week ago, so now baseball is entering what’s commonly known as “hot stove” season. This year, to kick things off, a slew of manager hires were announced immediately following the Fall Classic.

In Boston, that meant Alex Cora was officially announced as the new manager of the Red Sox.

Cora was a big-league player up until fairly recently – but he was never what you’d call a superstar. He spent parts of 14 seasons in the big leagues, but was mostly a bench player for the last half of those years. His career batting average is a very ho-hum .243, with a grand total of 35 home runs over those 14 seasons.

But now that he’s a manager, he could take Boston on a run of five straight world championships.

One of the more interesting things about baseball is that success as a player doesn’t necessarily translate into success as a coach or as a manager. The inverse of that is true as well; some of baseball’s all-time great managers were pretty lousy big league ballplayers.

Two of the winningest managers in recent history, Bobby Cox and Tony La Russa, are great examples. Cox, who led the Atlanta Braves on a remarkable run of 14 division titles in 15 years, had spent all of two seasons as a big-league ballplayer, with the Yankees in the late ‘60s. His batting average was a wholly unremarkable .225.

La Russa, meanwhile, led his teams to three world championships – one by the Oakland Athletics in 1989, and two by the St. Louis Cardinals in 2006 and 2011. In addition he was named his league’s Manager of the Year on four separate occasions.

As a player, though, La Russa spent parts of seven seasons in the big leagues from 1963-73. He was largely a bench player during that

Leichter added that his “guiding light will be to maintain a solid financial platform for our great town,” while working to maintain high-quality education and services for residents and taxpayers.

“I encourage Hebron taxpayers to help [the finance board] do our jobs by participating in town government and providing feedback as we weave our way through the unknown waters ahead,” said Leichter.

* * *

With 1,110 votes, Republican Philip LoBianco was elected to the Board of Assessment Appeals. Democrat Peter Byram was also elected to the assessment appeals board with 1,000 votes.

With 1,718 votes, unaffiliated Jeffrey Cormier, who was running on the Republican ticket, was the top vote-getter among all contested candidates and easily gained a seat on the Planning and Zoning Commission. He is currently an alternate on the commission.

Republican Natalie Wood was re-elected to Planning and Zoning, with 1,151 votes. Also a Republican, Devon Garner joins the board with 913 votes. With 970 votes, Republican Joseph Colletti was elected as a Planning and Zoning Commission alternate.

Joining the Zoning Board of Appeals: Republican Michael McCormack with 1,215 votes; Republican Martin Halloran with 1,044 votes; Democrat Anthony Novak with 989 votes. With 1,335 votes, Republican Jim Petrozza will serve as Zoning Board of Appeals alternate.

time, compiling a career total of just 132 games. He hit just .199 over those games. Hardly the stuff of legend. But as a manager, he has the third-most wins of all managers in baseball’s storied history. Pretty amazing.

The last two times my beloved Mets have made the World Series, they’ve been skipped by guys whose stats as a player were underwhelming. The 2000 Mets were managed by Bobby Valentine, who had spent nine seasons in the big leagues, with four different teams, putting together a .260 average with 12 home runs during that time.

And in 2015, Terry Collins managed the Mets back to another pennant. Collins spent 10 years in the Dodgers and Pirates organizations – but never one cracked the big-league club.

Of course, over the years there have been plenty of guys who had big success as players and went on to huge success as a manager. Joe Torre springs to mind; before he helmed the Yankees during their remarkable run of world championships in the late ‘90s, Torre had enjoyed a 17-year playing career, batting .297 and compiling 2,342 hits during that span.

But history has proven that a winning manager didn’t necessarily need to be a winning player. Somebody who frankly stinks as a ballplayer – and perhaps doesn’t even make the Major Leagues – can lead a team straight to the Fall Classic. Why is this? I’m not sure. Perhaps spending more time on the bench as a player than on the field allows you to soak up the knowledge of others, to become a true student of the game.

I’m sure there are better explanations for this by those with more knowledge of the game than me. But for now, all I can think of is that old adage: “Those who can, do; those who can’t, teach.”

* * *

See you next week.

Obituaries

Colchester

Robert O. Magoon

The Good Lord took Robert Orcutt Magoon, 59, of Colchester, home Saturday, Oct. 21, after a lengthy illness. Bob left this life at peace from Hartford Hospital with his beloved wife Susan of 32 years and adored daughter Katherine by his side. He was born and raised in Milford, the son of Marjorie (Orcutt) and Stanton Magoon. Bob graduated from Foran High School in Milford, Class of 1975, and later attended Sacred Heart University in Bridgeport.



He is survived by his sister Cheryl Plaster (Mary), Windsor, and brother Tom (Shelia), Vernon, and sister-in-law Ellen DeLeo (Paul), Bonita Springs Fla. Bob was predeceased by his youngest sister Patricia Govoni (Peter), Glastonbury, nephew Scott and dear to him brother-in-law Brian Murphy.

In his early years, Bob split his time between his Milford home/boat on the Long Island Sound in his youth with close friend Rob Prostko, the family farm in Williamstown, Vt., and summering at his grandparents' family camps throughout Maine, with special fondness for the China Lake area. Precious farm and camping memories were shared with his nieces and nephews Kristen Govoni, Carolyn Zimmer, John Plaster, Jim Plaster, and Kim (Magoon) Zikus.

After marrying Susan (Raabe) they lived in Vermont on the family farm, then moved to St. Johnsbury, and onto the Newport, Vt., area, living on Derby Pond, enjoying the simple life rural living had to offer and building a lifelong friendships with the Abbots.

In 1999, they were blessed with the love of their lives Kate. Bob and Susan grew a successful computer networking business which they operated while raising their daughter together. When she was ready for grade school they made the move back to Connecticut to be closer to family.

Bob loved the outdoors, spending every moment possible with his family camping, boating, fishing, and his greatest love of all snowmobiling. He enjoyed hiking and running each of his beloved dogs through the endless fields of the rural countryside, made complete with a good long sit by the brook savoring life to the fullest.

His easygoing personality and sweet laughter allowed him to make lasting friends with so many who stayed dear to him though far apart later in life. Although his life was curtailed by his battle to overcome cancer, he found strength and purpose to go the distance in supporting his daughter through to her recent graduation from high school, and his wife in her deepening faith that will carry his family forward without him.

His life was celebrated with a funeral Mass, led by Father Michael Phillipino and Deacon Ben LoCasto, Saturday, Oct. 28, at Church of the Holy Family in Hebron, with burial in Vermont.

Amston

Pamela Angelique Gordon

Pamela Angelique (Giacomozzi) Gordon, beloved wife of Lawrence "Larry" Gordon, passed away Thursday evening, Nov. 2, after a three year-long battle with Lyme disease and ALS. Born Sept. 21, 1956, in Weymouth, Mass., she was the daughter of the late Peter and Mary (Iovanna) Giacomozzi.



In addition to her loving husband of 37 years, she leaves three stepchildren and their spouses, Tina and Ralph Potvin of Plymouth, Mass., and Lori and William "Billy" Falter and Lawrence and Tracey Gordon, all of Wilmington, Mass.; seven grandchildren, Brian and Brooke Potvin, Kayla and Billy Falter and Lawrence, Elizabeth and Julia Gordon; five sisters, Teresa Freedom and Denise Carnahan, both of East Hampton, Mary Larson of California, Lisa Giacomozzi of Maine and Linda Giacomozzi of Waltham, Mass.; four nieces and a nephew, Michelle Kramer, Jennifer Carlstron, Lea Brown, Christina Weston and Philip Kramer; six grand-nephews; and numerous extended family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the ALS Association, Connecticut Chapter, 4 Oxford Rd., Unit E4, Milford, CT 06460 (alsa.org); the American Lyme Disease Foundation, P.O. Box 466, Lyme, CT 06371 (aldf.com); or to Voice for Joanie, 5 Glenwood Rd., New Milford, CT 06776 (voiceforjoanie.org).

Care of private arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Margaret L. Cable

Margaret L. (Chaput) Cable, 78, of Colchester, formerly of New London, widow of the late John K. Cable, passed away peacefully Thursday, Nov. 2, surrounded by her loving family. Born Jan. 29, 1939, in Windsor Locks, she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Margaret (Hunter) Chaput.



She was a 1957 graduate of New London High School. Ever devoted to her family, she raised her children first before returning to school to pursue her passion to become a nurse. She worked as an LPN for 18 years at Lawrence & Memorial Hospital before her retirement. In her spare time, Margaret was an avid reader and enjoyed crossword and jumble puzzles. She also loved to cook, and was particularly well-known for her skills in cake decorating.

Survivors include three daughters, Kathryn Holowaty and her husband Nicholas of East Hartford, Patricia Sullivan of San Diego, Calif., and Susan Sullivan of Uncasville; two stepdaughters, April Woodard and her husband Derek of Uncasville and Veronica Arroyo of Uncasville; six grandchildren, Matthew Frates, Joshua and Vanessa Burton, Marcus and Jamie Sullivan and Makaila Kowalsky; two great-granddaughters, Nora and Ruby; and numerous extended family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, and in honor of many family and friends who have battled cancer, donations in her memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22478, Oklahoma City, OK 73123 (cancer.org).

Care of private arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Hebron

Edward J. Bona

Edward J. Bona, 64, of Hebron, peacefully left this earth Monday, Nov. 6, to be reunited with the love of his life, his predeceased wife Patricia C. Bona, after a long and heroic battle with heart disease.



Born Jan. 22, 1953, in Hartford, he was son of the late John P. Bona and Eleanor (Gazza) Bona. He was raised in Glastonbury on the family farm, Hemlock Hill Farm. Ed was a very talented diesel technician and worked for Cummins Metro Power prior to his early retirement. He was an avid bowler, and a member of the Westbrook Elks Club. In his spare time he enjoyed restoring tractors and old cars, and going to car shows with his 1955 Thunderbird convertible, and his 1969 Mach 1 Mustang. He loved taking his grandkids for tractor rides, spending time with his family, building puzzles, playing computer games and going to the gym in his spare time.

Ed had a green thumb and enjoyed gardening, and produced a delicious crop of apples and pears every year. Ed loved traveling with his two girls, and grandchildren. Family was everything to him, including his black pug Boo, whom he simply adored. Ed looked forward to annual trips to New Hampshire, and summer trips to the beach. Ed also enjoyed his trips to the casino, "a good way to spend a rainy day" is what he liked to say. Though he enjoyed these casual casino trips, he was sure to pass along his very frugal, Italian ways to his daughters.

Ed is survived by his two daughters and their significant others, Kimberly A. Bona and Bud Meyers of Coventry, and Kristina C. Bona and Trevor Delaware of Andover. Ed and his daughters had a special, one-of-a-kind bond that was a true treasure. He also leaves behind the two greatest joys of his life other than his girls, his precious grandkids, Eddie Jax and Olivia Love. He is survived by his two brothers and their wives, Louis Bona and Toni St. Hilaire-Bona of Manchester and John and Karen Bona of Glastonbury. Ed leaves behind many nieces and nephews and many, many friends. He was a special man who touched many hearts.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Saturday, Nov. 11, at noon, in St. Paul Church, 2577 Main St., Glastonbury. Burial will follow in St. Augustine Cemetery, South Glastonbury. Friends may call at the Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury, today, Nov. 10, from 4-7 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Heart Association, 5 Brookside Dr., Wallingford, CT 06492.

For online condolences, visit mulryanfh.com.

Colchester

Delores Alice Rich

July 25, 1929 – October 31, 2017

With great sadness the family of Delores A. Rich, 88, of Alameda, Calif., formerly of Colchester, announces her passing on Tuesday, Oct. 31, after a long illness.



Delores will be lovingly remembered by her four children: Karen L. McNamara, of Norwalk, Iowa, Donna J. Stewart of Moorpark, Calif. CTOCM (SW/NAC), Kenneth M. Rich, USN (RET) of Springfield, Va., and Dwayne A. Rich, of Alameda, Calif.

She leaves 13 adored grandchildren: Daniel J. McNamara of Snoqualmie, Wash., Donald A. McNamara of Algonquin, Ill., James J. Stewart of North Hollywood, Calif., John K. Stewart of Sherman Oaks, Calif., Karl M. Rich of Marietta, Ohio, Garrett P. Rich of Marietta, Ohio, Kelsey M. Rich of Findlay, Ohio, Ian C. Shores of Alexandria, Va., Kara A. Shores of Mackenbach, Germany, Leslie J.H. Rich of Placerville, Calif., Joshua M. Rich of Colorado Springs, Colo., Rachel R. Rich of Lakeport, Calif., and Michael H. Langton of Alameda, Calif.

Delores also enjoyed her 14 great-grandchildren: Kade T. McNamara, Kyla R. McNamara, Dylan J. Stewart, Ainsley J. Stewart, Virginia J. Stewart, Grant P. Rich, Xander M. Rich (deceased), Violet E. Rich, Cora C. Shores, Elijah A. Crawford, Hayley J. Holzer, Elona P. Ponce, Madison C. Rich, and Beckett M. Rich.

She is survived by sons-in-law G. Thomas McNamara and Kenneth R. Stewart and daughters-in-law Patricia A. Rich and Vicki B. Rich, all of whom she dearly loved.

Delores was predeceased by her late husband, ETCS (SS) Donald L. Rich (RET).

Delores was born "Dolores Josephine Felciano" in Hartford to the late Josephine and Manual Felciano of Colchester. She was the eldest of eight children. Her siblings are Franklin Felciano, Mary Carli, Marjorie Carli, James Felciano, Ronald Felciano, Richard Felciano and Thomas Felciano.

While in high school at Bacon Academy, Colchester, Delores chose to use her Catholic Confirmation name, "Alice," and change the spelling of her first name. She married at age 20 and traveled throughout the USA as a busy Navy wife. Her family came to Alameda, Calif., when the Navy transferred Donald to the Alameda Naval Air Station in 1968. After his retirement, the family elected to stay in Alameda as they so enjoyed the Bay Area and their many friends.

Delores retired after 22 years working at Kaiser Permanente in Oakland, Calif., as an accounts receivable specialist. She was a member of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, played the accordion, loved country music, rides in the country with Donald on a Harley Davidson, joyous family holidays, trips to Reno and a winning bingo card.

Delores maintained relationships with her large family and numerous friends in her home state of Connecticut, enjoying many trips home, including attending her 50th high school reunion at Bacon Academy.

The families would also like to thank Silvia Villaseñor, who took care of Delores for four years and became her trusted friend. The families would also like to thank the medical personnel at Kaiser Permanente and Hospice for making her later years comfortable.

A celebration of her life will be held in Colchester in the spring of 2018.

Hebron

Jacqueline Spaulding

Jacqueline (Jackie) Welch Spaulding, 79, of Hebron, died Saturday, Nov. 4, at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford. She was born April 14, 1938, in Morrisville, Vt., to Edward and Charlotte (Hill) Welch.



She attended Peoples Academy High School in Morrisville, Vt., and graduated from Forsyth Dental School in Boston, Mass. She worked as a dental hygienist for several years before starting a family. Jackie was an active member of Trinity Covenant Church in Manchester, where she worked for many years as finance secretary. She will be remembered for the cards and meals with which she blessed so many people. On Aug. 22, 1959, she married Reginald Spaulding, her loving husband of 58 years.

Jackie was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend, and she will be deeply missed by all who knew her. Her legacy of selflessly serving others and devotion to the Lord have been an inspiration to so many.

She is survived by her husband Reg; son Kevin Spaulding (Debbie); daughter Pam Olsen (Dave); grandchildren Daniel Spaulding (Callie), Kristen Fairbaugh (Josh), Allison Church (Greg), Kim Dansin (Hunter), Erik Olsen, Kristina Olsen, Jakob Olsen, Thomas Olsen and Jenny Olsen; great-grandchildren Miles Spaulding, Ellie Spaulding, Judah Fairbaugh and Theo Fairbaugh; sister Char Kunej (Rich) and brother Fran Welch (Barb).

Calling hours will be 4-6 p.m. today, Nov. 10, at Holmes-Watson Funeral Home, 400 Main St., Manchester. A memorial service will be held Saturday, Nov. 11, at Trinity Covenant Church, 302 Hackmatack St., Manchester, at 10 a.m. Private burial will be in Pleasant View Cemetery in Morrisville, Vt.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Trinity Covenant Church's Samaritan Fund.

Marlborough

Antoinette Cannata

Antoinette (Aparo) Cannata, 87, of Glastonbury, passed away on November 4, 2017, at Hartford Hospital. Antoinette was born March 20, 1930, in New Britain, and was the daughter of the late Alfred and Lillian (Coco) Aparo. She lived most of her life in Glastonbury and the last three years in Marlborough. Antoinette was predeceased by her husband of 55 years, John C. Cannata, who died April 28, 2009.



She graduated from New Britain High School and attended Central Connecticut State University. Antoinette was employed as an administrative assistant at CBT/Fleet Bank for many years before retiring in 1995. Antoinette leaves behind her beloved son, John Cannata of Marlborough; her brother Ronald Aparo and his wife Patricia of Denton, Texas; her niece Karen Aparo of Orlando, Fla.; nephew Roger Aparo of Orlando, Fla.; and sister-in-law Beverly Aparo of Florida. In addition, she leaves several cousins and family friends.

Beside her husband and parents, Antoinette was predeceased by her brothers, Philip Aparo (1993) of St. Cloud, Fla., and Robert Aparo (2014) of Glastonbury. There are no calling hours.

Relatives and friends are invited to join the family, before the mass of Christian Burial for Antoinette, which will be celebrated today, Nov. 10, at 11 a.m., at Saint Dunstan Church, 1345 Manchester Rd., Glastonbury. Burial will follow in Holy Cross Cemetery, 1318 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury.

Antoinette would like to thank her good friends, Joyce Schultz, Jackie Greer, Mike Muller and her beloved cousins, Joanne and Dave Wierbicki, and Diane Grasso, for all their kindness and affection throughout the years. The family of Antoinette would like to thank the Team at Hartford Hospital; especially Christina, Katrina, Pat and Amy for their exceptional care and compassion.

Memorial donations, in Antoinette's name, may be made to: The Connecticut Children's Medical Center Foundation, 282 Washington St., Hartford, CT 06106.

For online condolences, visit mulryanfh.com.