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Catherine Gaudinski, left, Barbara Murray and Joe La Bella look over the results of Tuesday's municipal elections in Marlborough. All three candidates secured positions in town. Residents reelected Bill Black as First Selectman for the next four years.

Black Takes Marlborough, In a Landslide

by Sarah McCoy

Marlborough residents have spoken. Loudly.

Democrat Bill Black will remain the town's First Selectman after winning Tuesday's election by a count of 1,123-464 over Republican candidate Ken Hjulstrom.

The election results "validate the work that's been done in the last 18 months," Black said. "It assures me that we are heading in the right direction."

Democrat Joe La Bella, who received 1,035 votes, and Republican Riva Clark, with 519, will join Black on the Board of Selectmen (BOS). La Bella, who works as a lawyer, was appointed to the BOS last August and ran for his first elected term this year. Clark, who lost her bid to serve on the Board of Assessment Appeals, will make her Marlborough political debut as a member of the BOS.

"I don't want to be a politician," Clark said, after learning her fate. "I want to be a good public servant. I am happy to have the opportunity to learn under Bill and I'm hoping he and Joe are willing to be a teacher as I learn the position."

With the election complete, it is back to the grindstone for Black. And number one on his list: making the sewer system a reality. Currently the town is waiting to receive bid packets back from potential

contractors. Those bid documents are due back by Nov. 16. Afterwards Black, Planning and Land Use Director Peter Hughes, and the Water Pollution Control Authority will review the estimates and grant the bid awards. Construction is still expected early next year.

Both Black and Clark expressed a desire to see the town undertake a charter revision process to update the 22-year old document that guides the town. Black said he would like to discuss the possibility of expanding the membership of the Board of Selectmen and also shift from minimum representation on boards and commissions to a bare majority set-up. This would mean, for instance, that on a seven-member board, a maximum of four could serve from one party instead of a maximum of six.

As for Hjulstrom, he issued a statement offering congratulations to Black, La Bella and Clark, and thanking "the people who placed their trust in me." He also said, "I still see myself and all the residents of Marlborough as winners because I know that Bill will serve them well."

In the other municipal elections, Democrat Beth Petroni received the most votes for the Board of Finance, 1,074. She will serve with fellow Democrats Daniel McMahon, who collected 1,009 votes, and

Evelyn Godbout, 881 votes. Republican Board of Finance Chairman Catherine Gaudinski was also reelected with 869 votes. She beat out Democrat Amy Traversa, who received 846 votes, and Republican incumbent Michael Quincy, who received 830 votes.

Republican Louise Concodello will serve her fourth term on the Marlborough Board of Education. She received the highest total of school board votes, with 856. Also elected were Democrats Betty O'Brien, with 802 votes, John O'Toole, with 771 votes, and Corinne Chappelle, with 673 votes, as well as Republican Ruth Kelly, who received 782 votes.

Since Republican Board of Education candidate Poppy Sun's vote total, 654, was within 20 votes of Chappelle's, there will be a mandatory recount of the votes to ensure their validity. Town Clerk Nancy Dickson said the recounts would most likely be held next Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 13.

There will also be a recount of the RHAM Board of Education votes, as all four candidates finished within 52 votes of one another. As it currently stands, Democrat-endorsed Joe Farrell will serve with Republican incumbent Michael Turner. Farrell received 792 votes, Turner

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745, Republican incumbent Al Covino 741, and Democrat Russ West 740.

Republican incumbents John Larensen, with 815 votes, and Robert Gaudinski, with 755 votes, were elected to another term on the Planning Commission. They beat Democratic candidates Dorothy Nowsch and Joseph Schling, who both received 707 votes.

Republican Wendy Nichols will serve as Planning Commission Alternate. She ran unopposed. Democrat Judith Denberg beat out Clark for the Board of Assessment Appeals by a vote of 770-712.

However, Denberg lost her attempt to serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Instead, Republicans Chris Lawson, who previously served as an alternate on the board, and Robert Jackson, an incumbent, will serve for the coming four years.

Democrat George O'Brien will continue to serve as an alternate to the ZBA. He ran unopposed.

Republican Kevin Asklar finished with highest amount of votes for the Zoning Commission, 971. Democrat Todd Barry, 939 votes, beat out fellow Democrat Water Jones, 819 votes,

Hebron Republicans Gain Control of Board of Selectmen

by Sarah McCoy

It's déjà vu all over again in Hebron.

Two years ago, incumbent Scot Kauffman sought reelection to the Board of Selectmen (BOS). At the time there were three candidates and two vacancies. Democrat Mark Stuart and Republican David Schoolcraft, neither of whom were on the board at the time, won the election, and Kauffman was left out.

This year it's Karen Strid's turn. She was the only incumbent, out of four candidates, seeking reelection for one of three vacancies on the BOS. On Tuesday night, her campaign came up short.

Republican Gayle Mulligan was the top vote-getter in Hebron, with 1,227 votes. She will be joined on the Board of Selectmen by Democrat Brian O'Connell, 1,160 votes, and Jeff Watt, 1,121 votes. Strid finished with 844 votes.

"I think it's a situation of people looking for a change," Schoolcraft, also chairman of the Republican Town Committee, said. "Certainly all of the candidates were strong. Incumbency is the main difference I see."

Democratic Town Committee Chairman Bill Rudis didn't exactly see things in the same light. Both he and Strid believe that the results are tainted after a scathing letter from Hebron resident and registered Republican Robert Warner appeared as an insert in last week's *Riverast News Bulletin*.

"Personally, I think it had some effect on the community," Rudis said of the letter. "Prior to that both parties had run a forthright campaign which spoke to the issues of Hebron and the values and background of the candidates. Now, I just don't know what to attribute the votes to."

Strid said she was surprised by the vote but relishes the opportunity "to grow in other areas and explore new things." She does not plan on serving on a town board or commission in the near future.

"I think Hebron is in for a rough four years given the inexperience on the Board of Selectmen and having the Board of Finance at a three/three split," said Strid of Hebron's future. Schoolcraft and Stuart are the senior-most members on the BOS, each having two years experience.

"It certainly helps to have background info on issues," Schoolcraft said. "In that sense, we will miss Karen and Vicki [Avelis] on the board. However, we, as a Board of Selectmen, will just have to spend more time becoming familiar with the issues that go back some years. There is certainly no need to panic with the capable individuals who have been elected to lead this town."

With Mulligan and Watt joining Schoolcraft on the BOS, the party majority switches back to the Republicans after a two-year Democratic

for the final spot on the commission.

Nickolos Daniolos, Republican, will serve as an alternate to the Zoning Commission. He ran unopposed.

Familiar faces will remain in Town Hall as Town Clerk Nancy Dickson, Treasurer Robert Hannon, and Tax Collector Barbara Murray all ran successful campaigns. All three are Republicans and ran unopposed.

Based on state statute, the results of last Tuesday's election will become effective next Tuesday. A total of 1,609 voters cast their ballot in Marlborough. This represents 40 percent of the eligible voters in town. Town Clerk Nancy Dickson said a typical municipal election draws between 60 and 70 percent of voters.

This was also the first time in Marlborough that voters had an opportunity to utilize the new optical scanning voting machines. First Selectman Bill Black said he had gotten a mix of both positive and negative feedback.

"Some felt that the lighting needed to be improved in the Community Room. Others needed more instruction on the process," he said. "These are things we'll look to rectify next time around."

majority. The members of the BOS will meet on Nov. 20 at Old Town Hall to elect a chairman and vice-chairman.

On the Board of Finance, Republican Dan Larson received the most votes with 1,122. He will be joined on the finance board by incumbents Mike Hazel, Republican, and Donna Ferree, unaffiliated and endorsed by the Democratic Town Committee. Hazel and Ferree received 1,012 and 974 votes, respectively. Terrence Piggott, 804 votes, and Donna Sepia-Carlin, 770 votes, saw their bids fall short.

Newcomer Brian O'Reilly was the top vote-getter in the local Board of Education (BOE) race with 1,160 votes. He is interested in looking into full-day kindergarten options and keeping class sizes small while keeping a watchful eye on the budget. Incumbents Mark Allaben, Republican, and Jane Tedford Dube, Democrat, earned the next highest votes with 1,094 and 1,086, respectively. Democrat Stephanie Raymond will round out the BOE. She received 1,081 votes. Republican Valerie Watt, who finished with 1,052 votes, was not elected to the school board.

The two incumbents on the RHAM Board of Education, Democrat Maryanne Leichter and Republican Thomas Tremont, will return for the next four years. They received 899 and 858 votes, respectively, which topped Democratic candidate Lorraine Davey's 852 votes, and the 794 votes received by Republican Brenda Casoni. Since Tremont and Davey's vote totals were so close, the town will conduct a recount next Wednesday, Nov. 14, to validate the totals.

Incumbents Lewis Hinman, Republican, and Frank Zitkus, Democrat, will serve the town as members of the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC). There were two candidates and two vacancies. Elected as alternates to the PZC are Democrat Bruce Raymond and Republican Robert Davis.

Cathleen Murphy, Democrat, will return to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). She received 1,136 votes. Also elected was Cynthia Grinnell, who previously served as an alternate to the ZBA. Republican Jon Lesisko saw his bid for the ZBA fall short by 6 votes. He finished with 896 votes to Grinnell's 902. Similar to the local Board of Education, the Zoning Board of Appeals votes will also be recounted next Wednesday to ensure accuracy.

Alternates to the ZBA are Anthony Novak and Donald Masters, both Democrats.

Of the 5,967 eligible voters in town, 1,799 cast ballots in Tuesday's municipal election. This is down slightly from two years ago when 1,864 voters turned out to the polls and significantly down from 2003, when over 2,700 voted.

Portland Adds a New Republican to the Board of Selectmen

by Michael McCoy

It seems that Portland has maintained the status quo, with Susan Bransfield's second straight unopposed election to the position of First Selectman and the retention of a 5-2 Democratic majority on the Board of Selectmen.

In fact, the only change to the current Board of Selectmen is Republican Scott Adamsons losing his spot to newcomer Republican Carl Chudzik.

Bransfield, who was once again running unopposed for First Selectman, took 1,730 votes in Tuesday's municipal elections. Next to her, Democrat Brian Flood garnered the most votes with 1,191. Mark Finkelstein came in next with 1,180 votes, while Kathleen Richards drew 1,141 votes. Rounding out the Democrats was Sharon Peters Gibala, who received 978 votes.

John H. Anderson was the highest Republican vote-getter, taking 1,068 votes, and Carl Chudzik drew 1,016. Of Board of Selectmen candidates, only Republicans Adamsons and Mitch Kogut failed to be elected, bringing in 859 and 826 votes respectively.

In the Board of Education (BOE) race, Republican Mark Bucheri was elected to fill out the remaining two years of a vacancy he assumed last year. He received 1,417 votes, and the next highest vote-getter was Democrat Christopher Phelps with 1,122 votes. MaryAnne Rode, also a Democrat, was re-elected, with 1,102 votes. Republican Christopher Bongo took 1,024 votes, securing him another term on the board. The only unsuccessful bid for the BOE came from the only newcomer, Brenna Kosicki, who garnered 888 votes.

Democrats Mary H. Flood and Richard P. Murphy were reelected with 1,219 and 1,139 votes respectively. Republican newcomer Peter Castelli also won his election bid, taking 1,005 votes. Republican Michael Kirchberger, who also ran, brought in 815 votes.

Republican Kurt Peterson bested his Democrat opponent Gloria Gdovin by a vote of 1,077 to 958, securing a spot on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Democrat Ben Srb also won a ZBA spot, for which he ran unopposed, bringing in 1,593 votes. Srb's new term begins in 2008.

Longtime Town Clerk, Democrat Bernadette Dillon, who ran unopposed but was endorsed by both parties, was also reelected, with 2,058 votes.

Bruce Tyler served as moderator of the election, a service he has provided to the town off and on for the past five years. Tyler was helped by about 30 volunteers in overseeing election operations in the library's Mary Flood Room on Tuesday.

When asked mid-day Tuesday how people were adapting to the new voting system, Tyler responded, "It's great.... it's going very smoothly."

As is always the case, voter perspectives Tuesday were varied. "I voted Republican mostly...I think we need a balance on the Board of Selectmen," remarked one voter exiting the polls.

Resident Ken Kearns did more or less the opposite. "I voted for all Democrats except John Anderson," he said, adding that Anderson was a family friend. "I'm a liberal to the left of everything."

Another resident, Joan Hughes, found herself somewhere in the middle: "I'm all over the map; I voted for Democrats, and I voted for

Republicans."

As for the new voting system, voter Harry Hetrick said, "I think it's a lot easier."

Alisa Amendola agreed, saying, "It's easier," and said the instructional video playing at the library when she cast her ballot "was helpful," as were the volunteers that were available.

"I like it," resident Sal Pitruzzello said about the new machine, elaborating that it forces the voter to look harder at the ballot. However, revealing a fondness for the previous system, he said, "I hope they don't get rid of the old machines until this system proves out."

Voter turnout was down a bit from the municipal election two years ago. Of 5,879 eligible voters, 2,073 came out to the polls, yielding a 35 percent turn out. In 2005, 37 percent of voters participated.

After the votes were counted, Chudzik said he was "tired," but "not surprised" by the results. He added, though, "I'm delighted" and credited "his friends and family especially" with helping him win. "We all worked hard; I couldn't have done it alone," he said. Chudzik did, however, lament the fact that more of his Republican colleagues were not voted into office.

"Right now, I'm going to go to as many Board of Selectmen meetings as possible to get up to speed," Chudzik said. "I see Portland going in a positive direction."

Adamsons said Chudzik "is a good guy, and he has been campaigning his butt off." He added, "He's basically been running three full-time jobs," alluding to Chudzik's family, business, and the campaign.

As for himself, Adamsons said "It always sucks losing." He chalked his loss up to a minimal time spent campaigning, as he has a house full of young children. As for a future municipal campaign, given party, occupational, and family issues all aligned properly, he said, "I would definitely consider it."

Rode, a BOE veteran, said, "I'm obviously thrilled that I was reelected, and I'm pleased to have all our incumbents coming back"

Praising the volunteers that helped voters through the Election Day process, Bransfield said, "The election workers did a tremendous job." Bransfield added that, while the transition to a new voting system went relatively smoothly, "voters missed the curtain," saying that some found the new method leant less privacy to the process.

"I am very pleased with the election results," Bransfield said, making special note of the performance of the Democratic candidates. She added, "I welcome our new Republican Carl Chudzik, as well as our veteran John Anderson.

Republican Town Committee Chair Cindy Varricchio said, "You always hope you'll do better," and added, "We continue to put up qualified candidates."

Giving a vote of confidence to the newly elected Chudzik, Varricchio said, "Carl is one of the hardest working people I have ever known. He's energetic; he's tenacious, and his enthusiasm is contagious. It was a joy to watch [he and his family] all work together. He earned it."

Dillon will swear in candidates during a 7 p.m. ceremony Tuesday, Nov. 20, at the Portland Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave.

East Hampton Chatham Party Loses Control of Council

by Michael McCoy

East Hampton voters Tuesday decided they wanted a change. Again.

Two years after sweeping the Chatham Party into the Town Council, East Hampton decided to split things up three ways.

The top two vote-getters this year were Republican incumbents Melissa Engel and Bill Devine, who received 1,597 and 1,518 votes respectively. Democrats Christopher Goff and John Tuttle also won election, with 1,308 votes each. Chatham Party incumbent Scott Minnick scored 1,259 votes, while Chatham Party newcomer Susan Weintraub was elected with 1,201 votes. And, with 1,239 votes, Republican Thomas Cordeiro returned to the Town Council after a two-year absence.

Kyle Dostaler and Alison Walck, two Chatham Party members of the Town Council, failed to win reelection. Chatham Party member Patience Anderson also failed to win a seat on the council, as did Democrats Terry Concannon, Alan Hurst and Matthew Walton and Republican Ted Hintz Jr.

Only 19 votes separated Concannon from Weintraub, which prompted Democratic Town Committee Chair Barbara Moore to call for a recount, which she estimated the town clerk would perform today.

Assuming the numbers stand, though, Tuesday's election would shift the 5-2 Chatham Party majority on the Town Council to a 3-2-2 Republican to Chatham Party to Democrat distribution.

Also as a result of Tuesday's election, Moore will return to the Board of Finance (BOF) after an unsuccessful Town Council bid two years ago. Moore was the BOF's highest vote-getter, with 1,928. Fellow Democrat George Pfaffenbach also returned to the finance board, securing 1,756 votes. Republican incumbent Judy Isele's 1,665 were also enough to earn her another term on the board. Losing candidates included Republicans Sal Nucifora and Eric Peterson and Democrat Dan Olson.

The Board of Education (BOE) race was split right down the middle, as Republican Sheila Wall took the most votes with 1,776. Right behind her was Democrat current Vice Chairman Michael Vasquenza with 1,772. Democrat Debra Robinson claimed 1,700 votes, while Republican Don Coolican rounded out the winners with 1,683 votes. Losing candidates in the school board race were Democrats Kimberley Fontaine and Jill Simko and Republicans Daniel DiStefano and Sharon Lawson.

Other races included Democrat Brendan Flannery's besting Republican Darin Hurne for a Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) term that will begin this year, by a vote of 1,904-1,430. As for the ZBA term beginning next year, Democrat Charles Nichols beat Republican Linda Dart by a vote of 1,950 to 1,319.

Democrat Andy Tierney won a term on the Midstate Regional Planning Agency after beating his Republican opponent, Maria Peplau 1,950 to 1,319.

Dave Simko reprised his role as election moderator, something he has done for 15 years or so. Simko seemed quite impressed with the new voting system, stressing how easy it is and,

he said, "it forces people to read the ballot." Overall, he said of the new machines, "This is just the way to go."

Simko did identify one virtue that distinguished the old machines. "The old ones were foolproof," Simko said, adding that, if a voter attempted to vote for too many spots, the machine would simply not allow it. However, with the new system, a voter will not know they have made a mistake until they feed their ballot to the machine and it alerts them of an error.

Simko and his team of Election Day workers were at the high school from 4:30 a.m. until after 10 p.m. He said the largest rushes of people came at 6 a.m., 1 p.m., and, especially, around 6 p.m. But, he said, the flow was steady throughout the day, and said, "There was never a time when nobody was here."

Looking forward to one year from now, Simko said, "The presidential [election] should be a breeze because most people will have been through it."

Resident Cornelius Jay said the new voting machine "was a lot easier than I expected." Another voter seemed elated by the change and said, "I love it...the new system is perfect."

As for how residents approached the election: "I split" the ticket, said Teri Prestash. Similarly, Robert Korpinen said, "I mixed them up," while George Tourville, who identified himself as a "longtime Republican," said he voted "straight Republican."

As for the new system, Tourville said, "I liked it [but] I prefer the old way," adding that he subscribes to an "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" philosophy." However, yielding to the times, he figured, "Technology is here, and you've got to go with it."

And Sharon Lawson, a Board of Education candidate, "I voted for the people I think will do the absolute best job."

Just after the results were announced, Goff said of the Town Council election results, "I'm very happy; I look forward to it." He added, though, that he "had no idea how this was going to go."

As to the way the Town Council was split Tuesday, Goff said, "I think it's a great mix. A lot of good discussions are going to be going on."

Tuttle said he's "obviously pleased and grateful to the voters. ... I'm excited to get started. I feel that the people on the council can put their political allegiances aside and make some progress."

Cordeiro said the campaign "was a lot of work," and said he hoped to "change what has taken place over the last two years."

He said he was "absolutely surprised" with the results, and added Republicans will "now have the ability to affect positive change." He said he has never been a member of a majority on a council before.

Cordeiro also said he hoped for unity. "It was an ugly campaign at some points," he said. "I hope the parties are willing to come together."

Though Weintraub succeeded in her first Town Council bid, she seemed melancholy Tuesday night. "I'm surprised that the Chatham Party's effort going to door-to-door didn't get



John Tuttle casts his vote Tuesday morning. Tuttle wound up winning election to the Town Council.

more of our candidates elected," she said.

Praising the work of her party, Weintraub continued, "I am new to campaigning and the political process. ... The Chatham Party has raised the bar very high. They put in a very solid foundation for us to build on."

Weintraub also seemed to look forward to a united effort, adding, "I look forward to working with the Town Council as a team with a new town manager."

As for Dostaler, he said, "The bar has been raised by the previous Town Council," and challenged the new Republican-controlled council to live up to the Chatham Party's progress.

Dostaler also pointed to the Chatham Party's comparable performance with the longstanding Republicans and Democrats in town. "All of the Chatham Party candidates got over a thousand votes."

Dostaler also promised that he would continue to be a presence in town. "I'll still be attending Town Council meetings," he said. "Our only special interest continues to be the town."

The newly reelected Minnick admitted he "was hoping to see the Chatham Party come back as a majority," and said he "was expecting at least three [to get elected]. ... Two years ago, we got 70 percent of the vote."

Despite the loss of three seats, Minnick promised, "We're not going anywhere; we're not a flash in the pan."

Welcoming the new level of diversity on the Town Council, Minnick said, "We would have been happy with the five seats again, but I'm happy there's three parties." Also, he added, "It will change dynamics; now there's two minority representations."

When asked if the odd Town Council split

surprised her, Engel said, "No," but said her receiving the most votes among council candidates was a "pleasant surprise."

Wall certainly seemed surprised by the number of votes she attracted, saying, "I thought I might squeeze in."

As for the general results of the election, Wall said, "You know, if you look at who got in, these are people who have been in town for a long time: Scott Minnick, Melissa Engel, Chris Goff. I think that might be part of it."

As for her own campaign, Wall said, "I ran on common sense and dedication. Maybe that had something to with it."

Pfaffenbach said he wasn't surprised by his successful campaign, and partly chalked it up to serving on the board previously. As for the first line of business, Pfaffenbach expressed concern over communication with the town. "It amazes me that people go to vote on the budget when they don't know what the needs of the town are," he said.

"I would say that we're pleased," commented Democratic Town Chair Barbara Moore. "We got two seats on the Town Council; we're taking a step in the right direction." In regards to the odd council distribution, Moore said, "I think the town now will get healthy opinions from more than one group."

Overall, voter turnout was on par with that of two years ago, the last time East Hampton voted for municipal offices. This year, 3,670 of the town's 7,776 eligible voters came to the polls, yielding a 47 percent voter turnout, the same percentage that participated in 2005.

During an organizational meeting the night after the election, the Town Council unanimously voted Engel and Cordeiro as the new chairman and vice chairman respectively.

Colchester Democrats Dominate on Election Day

by Jim Salemi

Linda Riley Hodge was elected by a narrow margin as first selectman last Tuesday, beating out rival Diana Norton Giles after an unofficial return of 2,102-1,926 – a difference of 176 votes.

Hodge said she was “excited” about her new position.

“The campaign was a journey of a lifetime – I never did anything like that before. I’d like to thank my supporters and the community at large. The best part of this is people are willing to talk and speak openly about the issues that are important to them,” she said, referring to conversations she’s had with residents while going door-to-door during her campaign.

“Colchester has really nice people,” she added. “I look forward to working with them, and it’s an honor being elected by them.”

Hodge stayed at home while elections officials counted votes, and celebrated later at the Polish Club.

Giles, on the other hand, was at Town Hall Tuesday night after the polls closed to hear the results read off by elections officials. She stared straight ahead, flanked by her husband and stepson for support.

Giles was disappointed by the defeat, but took it in stride.

“I think there will always be a hurdle [for Republicans] to win in Colchester because Colchester is a Democratic town,” she said. “We gave it our all and talked the issues that were important to us.”

Giles said that she as well as others who did not secure seats this election will still stay involved with the issues.

“Tomorrow [Wednesday] there is a Zoning

meeting about adding residential to business parks,” she said. “I will be there to talk on that. Smart growth is something I’ve talked about [during my campaign].”

In other races, Republican Stan Soby, currently serving as First Selectman, won a seat on the Board of Selectmen, as did Democrat incumbent John Malsbenden and Democrat newcomer Rosemary Coyle, beating out Republican Gregg Schuster and incumbent Republican Greg Cordova.

Three seats on the Board of Selectmen were up for reelection, with five candidates vying for seats.

Soby garnered the most votes of all candidates in contested races with 2,535 total votes, followed by Malsbenden with 2,183 votes then Coyle, who received 2,094 votes. Cordova received 1,739 votes and Schuster 2,535.

Asked if he thought the reason for garnering the most votes of all candidates was a vote of approval by residents for his performance as interim first selectman, Soby said he hoped so.

“I hope it was because the people approved of my administration, and not because of my position on the ballot,” he joked, as his party took the top row on the ballot.

Soby has been serving as First Selectman since former First Selectman Jenny Contois resigned in February to take a job as district manager for U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney.

Soby said he appreciated everyone’s vote and he would work as hard as he did as First Selectman.

“I look forward to working on the board and helping [Hodge] with transitions. It’s important there is a smooth transition and continuity,” he

said.

While Soby received the most votes in a challenged race, Democratic Town Clerk Nancy Bray, who ran unchallenged, received the most votes overall, with an unofficial total of 3,140 votes.

In the Board of Education race, five candidates ran for three available seats.

Unaffiliated newcomer Timothy Lamp, running on the Democratic ticket, incumbent Democrat John Mazarella and incumbent Democrat Michael Egan all won seats, beating out Republican newcomers Robert Wilson and Jean Judd Walsh.

Lamp received the most votes overall, with 2,243. Mazarella, who currently serves as vice chairman of the board, received 2,209 and Egan 2,196. Wilson received 1,942 votes and Walsh 1,833 votes.

For the town treasurer race, Democratic incumbent Jon Sandberg beat out Republican challenger Brenden Healy by a vote of 2,100-1,746.

Incumbents Ronald Goldstein, a Republican, and Democrat Brian Smith ran uncontested for two seats open on the Board of Finance. Goldstein received 2,492 votes and Smith 2,345.

For the race for Tax Collector, Democrat Tricia Coblentz beat out Republican challenger James Grady by a vote of 2,017-1,791.

Republican incumbent David Anderson and Democratic newcomer Nancy Riella were seated on the Board of Assessment Appeals in a four-way race for that board, beating Republican newcomer Ihor Rudko and Democratic newcomer Tearice Peters. Riella received 2,356

votes and Anderson received 1,947 votes. Rudko received 1,561 votes and Peters 1,647.

Tuesday’s election marked the first time that voters cast ballots at precincts. The town was divided into three districts to ease waiting time at the polls and to take advantage of a grant program made available by the state Secretary of the State office which provided optical scan machines to towns for free, provided they set up districts.

In District 1, Hodge received 904 votes and Giles 807, including absentee ballots. District 1 is comprised of the town borough, New London Road, McDonald Road, Old Hartford Road and their side streets. Voters in this district cast their ballots at Town Hall.

In District 2, which includes the greater Westchester area, including Middletown Road (Route 16) and the side roads, Hodge garnered 687 votes and Giles 568 votes. The polling place for District 2 was the Company 2 firehouse on Route 149.

District 3 was the only district Giles carried, receiving 468 votes to Hodge’s 430. District 3 includes Norwich Avenue, Elm Street, Lebanon Avenue, Windham Avenue and their side roads. Bacon Academy High School was the polling place for District 3.

Out of 4,023 registered voters in District 1, 1,725 turned out to the polls to cast votes. In District 2, 1,266 voters out of 2,985 registered voters turned out to the polls and in District 3, 1,904 out of 2,219 total registered voters came out to cast ballots.

Overall, voter turnout was 4,023 out of 9,227 registered voters, or a voter turnout of approximately 44 percent.

Plans for Lakeside Orchard in Marlborough Withdrawn

by Sarah McCoy

The apple might not fall far from the tree, but a group of Marlborough residents are hoping it falls far away from Lake Terramuggus.

The landowner of 17 Old Cider Mill Ln. has withdrawn plans for a controversial lakeside orchard after residents and the Marlborough Conservation Commission questioned its location. Revised plans are expected to come before the commission at its Monday, Dec. 3 meeting.

Joseph Sanford, owner of the property, filed an application with the town this summer proposing to build an orchard of apple, blueberry, and raspberry trees on his 2.28-acre parcel.

A public hearing on the matter began at the Sept. 10 Conservation Commission meeting and was continued to Monday, Nov. 5. However, regulations require that public hearings must be closed within 70 days after being opened, giving Sanford and his team of experts until Tuesday, Nov. 20, to make their case. With time running out, Chris Ferraro, landscape architect for the project, opted to withdraw the plans and resubmit them in time for next month’s meeting.

“In all honesty, I wish we could get a gauge of the commission members,” Ferraro said after withdrawing the plans. “Are we still fighting an uphill battle or are we moving in an approval direction? We will continue to work with town staff and present to you our best plans, I hope in December, because we still believe in this project.”

The journey to Monday night’s meeting has been a long and treacherous one that began almost a year and a half ago when Sanford’s neighbors noticed heavy digging, filling, and clearing out of his property. As a resident of the Lake District, Sanford’s actions were in violation of the strict regulations put in place to protect the lake. When the Land Use Department got word of Sanford’s actions they placed two cease and desist orders on the property and demanded a formal application be filed with the town.

Last summer, plans were submitted and currently sit before the Conservation Commission. The only approval needed by Sanford to begin construction of his personal orchard.

The plans, which include fruit tree plantings, a stonewall and a gazebo, came before the commission at its Aug. 6 meeting. And, in response to the Conservation Commission’s concerns expressed at both that meeting and the Sept. 10 meeting, Sanford and his development team changed the plans for 17 Old Cider Mill Ln. significantly. These changes include a completely organic approach to treating the fruit trees, using a piece of Sanford’s land as mitigation between the orchard and the lake, and a relocation of wetlands to increase the buffer zone directly along the lake.

The project’s evolution over the last three months is one reason for Conservation Commission chairman Don Hautman’s recommen-

dation for the withdrawal of the plans. “Major changes in the application should not be made during the public hearing,” he told Ferraro at Monday’s meeting. “The proposal, as it stands now, holds little resemblance to the application initially put forth. It would be my recommendation that you withdraw the application and start all over again when you’re ready.”

This was not the response Ferraro had hoped to hear. After a brief recess to confer with his client (who was not present at the meeting), Ferraro, with obvious disappointment, followed Hautman’s recommendations and promised to be back.

A half dozen residents attended Monday’s meeting to voice their concern over the proposed project. Citing fear for the future of the lake and Sanford’s inability to follow the guidelines of the town, the six residents asked for the Conservation Commission to deny the application before them.

“This is the only lake we have,” resident Jane Boston said. “It is worth everything to us and I don’t want to experiment with it.”

Boston presented the Commission and those in attendance with a study conducted by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and the University of Connecticut in 1999. The study showed the economic impact of Lake District property if the water quality deteriorated to a point where recreational activities were prohibited. Results indicated that

property values could plummet by almost 43 percent if both fishing and swimming were banned from the lake.

Boston also questioned who would be responsible for paying for regular testing of the water in front of Sanford’s property to ensure the orchard wasn’t negatively affecting the lake, if the project was approved. She questioned how Sanford planned to keep deer out of his property, and also wondered why he couldn’t move this orchard anywhere else in town.

“With the money he’s paying you,” Boston said to Sanford’s four-member expert and legal team at Monday’s meeting, “why doesn’t he instead buy another piece of land and build his orchard somewhere else in town? Finding the best solution for everyone means taking it away from the lake front.”

Resident Cliff Dennis expressed concerns over the water required to irrigate the proposed orchard. He reported seven wells, including his own, having dried up since last February. “I am very concerned about the well for this property hitting water, my water, my neighbor’s water, the water for the whole town, to support this orchard,” he said.

Boston, Dennis, and their fellow opponents to the plan, don’t have to worry, at least for the next month. The cease and desist orders are still intact and no formal applications have been filed as of press time.

Portland Police News

10/31 — A 16-year-old male was arrested on charges of second-degree assault and conspiracy to commit sixth-degree larceny, police say.

10/31 — A 17-year-old male was arrested on charges of second-degree assault and sixth-degree larceny, police say.

11/2 — Pasquale Sanseverino, 33, of 72 Shalley St., New Britain, was charged with sixth-degree larceny and illegal use of a credit card, Portland Police report.

TV Program Turns Colchester Whiz Kid Into Celebrity

by Jim Salemi

It's been nearly a month since three-year-old Adrian Aivaliotis appeared on the national newsmagazine *20/20*. And he's turned into the quite the local celebrity.

"Everyone's been so nice and say how much they enjoyed the program and articles," Adrian's mother, Carrie Aivaliotis, said last Tuesday, Oct. 30. "Everything's been positive. He's recognized here and there. People recognize him when we go to Stop and Shop or Harry's."

Adrian appeared on the Oct. 12 episode of *20/20*, in a segment dealing with whiz kids. It seemed to be a fitting installment for Adrian to appear on; at only three years old, he knows the capital of every state and nation on the globe.

Producers at *20/20* scoured the Internet, including the web site YouTube.com, for gifted kids or "kid phenoms." (YouTube.com is a web site where people can upload personal videos for the whole world to watch.)

Carrie and her husband Manny uploaded a video of their son showing off his geography skills so that family overseas can see Adrian's remarkable abilities.

"Manny has a brother in Switzerland and his family is from Greece. We put it on YouTube so they could see it," she said.

An unintended viewer of the video, a *20/20* producer, also saw Adrian's remarkable abilities and invited the family to New York to appear on the show.

"They sent a car for us and brought us to the city," Carrie said. "Once there, they brought us to Central Park for a picnic. It was so nice. [20/20 reporter] Bill Ritter spent about a half-hour with Adrian, making him laugh and playing with him."

Reporters playing with children they are about to interview on camera is a tactic used to get the child comfortable with the interviewer so the child is more at ease when taping. But, Carrie recalled, "Adrian was having so much fun, he didn't want to do the interview."

Adrian's parents discovered his talent when he was 2, after he began hounding his mother about where his grandparents lived. So she showed him on the map, and while she was at it, she read off the capitals of those states.

"I figured while we're at it, why not try to learn something," she said.

Adrian picked up on those capitals right away, so Carrie decided to move on to other states.



Adrian Aivaliotis and his mom, Carrie.

"I did what I could off the top of my head and had to look up some of them myself," she said.

One day, when Adrian was about two-and-a-half years old, Carrie told her husband after he arrived home from work that she ran out of state capitals – Adrian had mastered them all.

"Teach him more," was Manny's response, Carrie said. So she and Adrian moved on to other countries.

Besides learning all he can about geography, Adrian enjoys interactive computer games, playing outside and visiting the Kid City museum in Middletown.

He also enjoys going to his preschool in Salem and visiting his grandparents. He recently started watching videos in foreign languages such as Spanish and French.

Carrie (VanCamp) Aivaliotis was born in Glastonbury and grew up in Colchester, and is a stay-at-home mom. She graduated from UConn with a degree in psychology. Manny grew up in Marlborough (his parents own Marlborough Pizza.) He is a graduate of Lafayette College in Easton, PA. He is employed as a computer programmer at Lexicon, a web hosting company in Colchester, and he plays poker semi-professionally.

Strid Issues Statement

Karen Strid issued a statement to the *RiverEast* addressing the letter written by Robert Warner. The statement is as follows:

For the Record:

Last Friday in the *RiverEast* a very spiteful and bitter man, Republican Robert Warner, wrote a letter about me that was filled with accusations that were not true and I would like the opportunity to set the record straight. I really thought that we, as a town, had grown through the times of nasty letters in the *RiverEast*, but in one afternoon Mr. Warner had revived all the ugliness of that time. I have put in a tremendous amount of time volunteering to make our community a better place and I do not want my name identified as a liar. My sister sent me this quote by Maya Angelou, "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." That insert in the *RiverEast* was very hurtful for me and my family. It is people like Mr. Warner who make volunteerism a fading art. No one will ever be interested in stepping forward, dedicating countless hours of valuable family time only to be treated in this manner.

These are the facts as they actually occurred:

"She is in the town office building every day and has taken over control of the day to day operations"

Day to day operations are under the total control of the Town Manager. As Chairman, Ms. Strid is available to address the needs and concerns of residents and makes herself available to the town staff on a daily basis.

"You may have read in the newspapers recently of the selectmen's lackluster review of the Town Manager's performance, in which it was noted the he was getting his direction from Strid, instead of the entire Board of Selectmen, as mandated."

For the first time, the Town Manager's performance review was done in open session and video taped for all to observe. The full context of Warner's statement had to do with enhancing communication between the selectmen and Town Manager. It was simply a discussion as to whether or not all communication should be funneled through the Chairman.

"After the Selectmen promised Hebron citizens in 2004 that the Peters House would be preserved as a historic property once purchased, they betrayed Hebronians by placing the historic house on the market earlier this year.The Town Manager, of course, to this day is carrying out the wishes of Strid to sell off what will become a prime piece of property once the East Street park is developed"

The Peters house was purchased in 2004 by a prior Republican-led Board of Selectmen. The current Board of Selectmen voted 4 to 1 to sell the property. The final decision will be determined by the residents late in the year at Town Meeting.

"Second Resident Trooper..... The cost of this frivolity is tremendous, for when the bill is tallied up with salary, benefits, patrol vehicle, and police equipment, the estimated cost approaches \$130,000 annually!"

The second resident trooper was approved unanimously by the Board of Selectmen. The cost of the second trooper is \$86,000 a year. Salary, benefits, vehicle, equipment and backup coverage in case of illness or vacation is covered by the state.

"Last year, she directed the Town Manager to have the Chairman of the 300th Celebration committee removed. Also, she had the Emergency Management Officer fired last year"

Robert Warner was asked to step down as chair because 300th Committee members approached the selectmen and Town Manager concerning his lack of leadership. In their frustration, members were willing to walk away from the committee if Warner remained as chair. The committee was rejuvenated under the leadership of Peter Moon and with enhanced communications to the public spearheaded by Ron Winter. The Emergency Management Officer was reassigned to the Assistant Emergency Manager's position due to his professional responsibilities at Connecticut's Office of Emergency Management.

"She blatantly lied to the public at the town budget public hearing....including saying there was a state mandate to include the town seal on the street signs, when in fact they mandated only the height of the lettering."

The federal law mandates that signs must be replaced if towns plan to continue to receive emergency management funds.

"In September, Strid arranged to have a cookout at her home for the town's senior citizens, with free hot dogs and hamburgers..... It sounds benign, except for the fact that our Senior Van was used to transport the seniors to and from her home"

This is a blatant falsehood. More than a year ago Ms. Strid initiated monthly meetings with the seniors to improve communication on senior issues. The September meeting was at Strid's home at her expense and seniors were transported to Ms. Strid's home via private vehicles driven by Judith Podell, Bebe Dudley, Fred Dudley and Ms. Strid.

Karen Strid

East Hampton Water System Fails to Impress Voters

by Michael McCoy

After more than a year of concentrated efforts and \$1.58 million in preliminary costs, the proposed water system was voted down Tuesday night by a vote of 1,997 to 1,463.

The \$28.5 million water system proposal represented years of work, specifically in the 14-month period since the state issued a consent order to the town, due to contamination and insufficient water capacity.

Much debate on the project had ensued since July, when the Town Council voted 6-1 to go forward with the system. Many in town however, had supported a \$51 million variation, which would cover virtually the entire town. According to Water Pollution Control Authority Public Utilities Administrator Vincent Susco, the only difference between the two plans was about \$23 million worth of pipe.

The next month, the council authorized the town engineers to hire a public relations firm to educate residents on the particulars of the proposal. However, early last month, the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) vetoed some of the intended informational materials, resulting in the firm changing its approach. Part of the informational campaign did, however, include three informational sessions held during an eight-day stretch in late October.

According to Susco, the system would have served an estimated 5,300 people and would have been paid for over a 20-year period.

"I voted yes," said Teri Prestash, "because I think it's necessary." Similarly, Eleanor Nettleton said, "I voted for it; I think it's a fair plan."

However, Cornelius Jay said, "I think it's ridiculous," and proposed, "If they are willing to pay for my sewer, I'll pay for their water."

George Tourville said, "I voted yes," point-

ing out that some sort of system was necessary, though he added, "I don't think it's the right one."

Board of Education candidate Sharon Lawson said, "I voted yes. I think we need to move this forward."

After the results came in Tuesday night, newly elected Town Council member Christopher Goff said, "I am surprised about the water...It's back to the drawing board I guess."

Kyle Dostaler, who was voted off the Town Council Tuesday, asserted, "The fact remains that something needs to be done. It needs to be financially feasible for the town. It needs to get more information out there. It needs to get better information out there."

When asked if he was surprised that the proposal failed, Dostaler said, "I thought it would be closer."

Councilman Scott Minnick placed much of the blame on Baldwin Media, the firm was hired by the town to get information to the voters. "I was extremely disappointed in the publicity," he said.

"It was short notice...fine...that was not my beef," he said. "Two little announcements with meeting times at the bottom [in the *RiverEast*]? I'm not surprised it failed. ... I fault [Baldwin]."

However, Minnick said, "I was just happy that we got it to vote. That water system kind of floundered previous to us."

He also seemed confident that the state would not come down too hard on the town. "As long as we're moving forward, we're showing the state that we're serious about complying with the consent order," Minnick said.

Minnick also seemed confident that the new council would rise to the task of getting a water system passed. "It's something we've got to get done, so we'll get it done," said Minnick.

RiverEast Addresses Insert in Last Week's Issue

The chairman of the Hebron Democratic Town Committee Chairperson Bill Rudis criticized the *RiverEast* this week for running an insert in last week's issue that slammed Board of Selectmen Chairwoman Karen Strid mere days before the municipal elections.

The insert, written and paid for by resident Robert Warner, attacked Strid on several points, and even accused her of violating campaign finance law. In a letter to the editor sent to the *RiverEast* this week, Rudis said he felt the newspaper "breached [its] own news industry's ethics standards" by running the insert, and that the paper "chose to ignore the ethical standard of fair play, and failed or determined not to contact Hebron candidate Karen Strid and did not offer her a fair and unbiased opportunity to provide factual response to the distortions penned by a partisan individual from this community before the election on November 6, 2007."

The full text of Rudis' letter can be seen this week on page 2.

RiverEast editor Mike Thompson apologized for the incident, and said he indeed never saw Warner's letter before its insertion in last week's paper. Thompson said that Warner, a former *RiverEast* employee, dealt directly with the press room when he submitted the insert, bypassing not just him but the newspaper's advertising department as

well.

Thompson said that had the advertising director, publisher or he himself seen Warner's letter, it would not have been published, as they would have recognized it as, Thompson said, "blatantly unfair."

"I deeply apologize to Karen and the entire Democratic Town Committee for what happened," Thompson said. "As the former Hebron reporter for the *RiverEast*, I've known Karen for years, and I assure her there was absolutely no malice intended on my part, or on the part of anyone at the *RiverEast*."

RiverEast publisher Jim Hallas said, "The incident showed a loophole in our checks procedure – a loophole which has now been closed. In the future, production personnel will be required to clear inserted material with the ad director, editor or publisher before it is placed in the newspaper."

Hallas added, "Had the insert been placed two weeks before the election, it would not have been an issue from my standpoint, as it would have allowed a final week for a response. The fact that Strid did not have an opportunity to respond to this late-election attack was extremely unfair. Though it was not intentional on our part, it is still very regrettable — and, I think those who know us will recognize, very much out of character for *RiverEast*."

Obituaries

Marlborough

Helen M. Brodell

Helen M. Brodell, 96, passed away on Monday, Oct. 29, at Marlborough Health Care. She was born on Feb. 5, 1911 in Ossining, NY, to her parents Edna and Charles Woop. Her family later moved to Farmingdale, NY, where her father established his transportation business. After graduating from Farmingdale High School she married Frank Brodell in 1933 and remained his loving wife for 61 years until his passing in 1994. After raising their own family in Farmingdale, Helen and Frank moved to Florida and enjoyed many wonderful years of relaxation and sunshine. In 1988 they returned north to live with their son Robert and his wife Cheryl in Marlborough.

Helen was a loving and devoted mother, to her family and to all she knew. She was a lifetime homemaker, enjoying cooking, baking, knitting, and socializing with her friends and neighbors. Helen was also an animal lover and always sought out pets to nurture. When in Marlborough she joined the Marlborough Congregational Church and became part of the Dorcas Society. She was also a member of the Marlborough Seniors group.

She is survived by her son, Robert Brodell and his wife, Cheryl of Marlborough; and her son, Ronald Brodell and his wife Barbara, of Hereford, AZ; her grandsons, Scott and Christopher Brodell; granddaughter, Karen Stanek and her husband Michael; along with a great-grandson, Christopher Stanek and numerous cousins that she remained fond of.

A memorial service will be held for Helen at the Marlborough Congregational Church, South Main St., Marlborough at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 10, after which she will be interred in the Marlborough Century Cemetery located across from the church. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to The Marlborough Congregational Church, P.O. Box 57, Marlborough, CT 06447. The Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton has care of arrangements. To leave online condolences or for directions visit www.spencerfuneralhome.com.

Andover

Lillian Kandrak Gasper

Lillian Kandrak Gasper, 57, of Andover, wife of Andrew F. Gasper, Jr., and cherished mother of Andrew E. and Heather M. Gasper, passed peacefully on Friday, Nov. 2, after a courageous month-long struggle. Born on March 18, 1950, in Bridgeport, Lillian was raised by her mother Thelma Brannigan, in the Bridgeport area, and went on to spend her adult life in Andover. Along with her mother, she also leaves behind two sisters: Debra Kandrak and Gale Mesaros. Gale's children – Kelly, Amy and Daniel; her beloved Aunt Hazel and children; her cousin Fred Luongo, his wife Lynn, and their daughters; her mother-in-law Jean Gasper, Jean's husband Brian Minalga; her German Shepherd Kiki; and an endless number of friends.

Lillian will be remembered most for her boundless energy, healing touch, and love of life. She spent 25 years caring for others as an R.N. Lillian began her nursing career at Manchester Memorial Hospital. She then moved on to work as an occupational and home-care nurse for Connor and Connor and the VNA in Glastonbury. Recently, Lillian became the school nurse for Bolton Middle School. Lillian continually reinvented herself; she was always searching for new adventures and friends. She was a member of the Appalachian Mountain Club, the Shoreline Sailing Club, Connecticut Riverfront Recapture Rowing, the Mount Laurel Ski Club, the Town of Andover Board of Appeals, and the Democratic Town Committee. Lillian was a life-long learner; she recently graduated Magna Cum Laude from Eastern Connecticut State University with a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and taught courses at several community colleges.

She was an avid outdoor enthusiast, and looked forward to her many trips out west. Lillian loved to participate in the Bolder Boulder, a 10K road race in Boulder, CO. She enjoyed bird-watching, and was particularly fond of the great blue herons that nested at her pond behind her home. Her home in Andover was her sanctuary, where she continually remodeled, entertained guests, tended to her herb gardens, and walked in the woods. There will be a memorial service for Lillian at the Andover Congregational Church, Route 6, on Saturday, Nov. 10, at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Project C.U.R.E. at: 10377 E. Geddes Avenue, Centennial, CO 80112. Ph: 303-792-0729 or www.projectcure.org.

Colchester

Louise Schoen-Montgomery

Louise Schoen-Montgomery, 50, of Colchester, is resting peacefully as of Saturday, Nov. 3. With all our love, may she rest in peace, beloved daughter, loving mother, grandmother and wife. She leaves her husband John, her mother and father Janice and Rudolph Schoen of Glastonbury, her daughter Charmaine Dellaripa of Vernon, beloved granddaughter her sunshine Lianna Creedon, her sister Denise Kristoff of Maine, nephews James and Shawn Kristoff and many cousins, aunts, uncles and all her special friends.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Thursday, Nov. 8, at St. Paul Church, Glastonbury. Burial followed in Holy Cross Cemetery, Glastonbury. Friends called Wednesday at the Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to an educational fund for her granddaughter Lianna, c/o Rudolph Schoen, 2305 New London Tpke., South Glastonbury, CT 06073.

Colchester

Dorothy Colson

Dorothy Colson, 87, of Colchester, passed away on Sunday, Nov. 4, in Colchester. She was born on Feb. 11, 1920 in Miami, FL, daughter of the late James and Mary Morehead Colson.

Surviving is a son, James Colson of Hebron; two brothers, Charlie Colson and James Colson; three sisters, Thelma, Barbara and Coretha, all of Miami, FL; two grandchildren, Jason and Darleen; one great-grandson, Lenear; and a host of nieces and nephews.

Memorial service will be held Saturday, Nov. 10, at 10 a.m. at the Belmont Funeral Home, 144 South Main St., Colchester. There are no calling hours.