

RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

Serving Amston, Andover, Cobalt, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough, Middle Haddam, Portland, Colchester and Salem

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**Homecoming Gardening...Fifth-grade students return to Gilead Hill School in Hebron help weed the Butterfly Garden in the school's courtyard. Kathy Veronesi needed help to weed in the gardens and she needed volunteers to help with this effort. Eight students returned to the school to help her with this project. They worked for two hours after school to clean up the courtyard and Veronesi provided the pizza. Pictured are Catie LoBianco, Ashley Loto, Christy Luddy, Katie Shea, Taryn Schreindorfer, Christine Bieri, Veronesi, Julia Turo and Bridget Varnum.**

## Daily, Nichols, Bennett Seek Senate Seat

by Claire Michalewicz

Democrat Eileen Daily and Republican Neil Nichols have their differences, but they agree job creation and economy are the two biggest issues facing the state.

Daily and Nichols, along with Green Party candidate Colin Bennett, are vying for the seat for the state's 33rd Senate District, which covers Colchester, East Hampton and Portland, as well as nine other towns. Daily has held the seat for the past 18 years.

Daily, a Westbrook resident, said she hopes to continue serving the district, and thinks her experience will help her. Nichols, of Essex, said he's running because he feels the state government has been spending too much money, and passing legislation that hurts job creation.

With taxes and operating costs lower in other states, Nichols said, businesses had been leaving the state for years. He said the only thing the government can do to create jobs is to ease taxes on businesses so they're better able to hire employees. As an example, Nichols said, Connecticut charges businesses 347 separate taxes

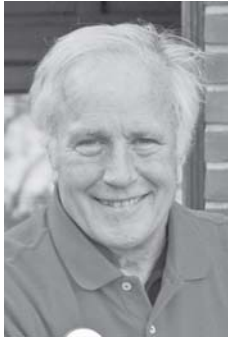
and fees, and 200 of these combined only produce \$22 million annually for the state. Cutting these fees would make it easier to business owners to deal with the government, without significantly reducing state revenue, he said.

"Our hold on the businesspeople is tenuous at best," he said. Making the state friendlier to businesses, he said, would help improve the economy and create more jobs. "Small businesses are the engines that drive our economy."

Nichols said it was actually his opponent who inspired him to run, when he read an editorial Daily wrote for a local newspaper. In Daily's editorial, he said, she explained that the state government had no choice but to run a deficit. Nichols said the legislature hadn't cut spending by as much as they could have, and that frustrated him.

"It doesn't matter if it was never done before," Nichols said. "It's got to be done." His wife, Alison, told him she knew he wanted to

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Nichols

## Republican Sawyer Takes on Democrat Webb

by Lindsay Fetzner

State Representative Pam Sawyer, R-Bolton, and Democrat Jeanne Webb will face off next Tuesday, Nov. 2, in the race for representative of the 55th assembly district.

First elected in 1992, Sawyer is currently serving her ninth term, representing the towns of Andover, Bolton, Hebron and Marlborough.

Sawyer is a member of the legislature's Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, the Appropriations Committee, and the Transportation Committee. A former science teacher, she was also a member of the Bolton Board of Education from 1981-93.

This election season, Sawyer said there are two big factors that contribute to her platform: streamlining state government and making Connecticut business friendly.

"The legislature has been deemed the least business friendly in the country by *Expansion*



Sawyer

Management magazine," Sawyer pointed out. "To me, that is so telling."

Sawyer said she has tried for years to get the legislature to look at each and every bill from a business point of view, "and that has not happened."

Going forward, Sawyer said that a jobs-impact statement should be required for each proposed bill the legislature puts out, which "makes [the legislators] responsible," she said.

The state, Sawyer said, needs more job opportunities and has to be appealing for new businesses. Between taxes and fees, Sawyer said it costs a new business about \$1,000 to open its doors, which she said, is "backward."

"A new business should only pay a dollar for each of the fees and taxes for the first three years," she said, in an effort to allow new businesses to grow.

Sawyer also suggested that the state consider joint permits, which would combine, for ex-



Webb

ample, land use and wetland permits, "so people can get in and get out."

Many state government jobs, such as engineers and architects, Sawyer said, should also be in the private sector, to serve as a boost.

Sawyer drew attention to the almost \$7 billion budget deficit over the next two years. Connecticut, she said, is almost bankrupt and is borrowing to pay the bills for the rest of the year. The state needs to get "very serious" about how they are going to handle the financial crisis, Sawyer said.

For five years, Sawyer said she has voted 'No' on the budget. The state, she said, used the surpluses and did not plan for the "lean years." Sawyer said the state should only use surpluses for one-time expenditures, such as a roof on a school, as opposed to starting new programs that will need staff and ongoing maintenance.

Having a new grandson, Sawyer said, is one thing that has added to her concern for the state's future.

"I look at his future in Connecticut," Sawyer said, "and if we don't do something drastic, there is no reason for him to stay."

Sawyer pointed out that Connecticut has the lowest number of 18- to 34-year-olds in the

country. The state, she said, is educating them, but as soon as they graduate, that population leaves the state.

"We need to turn the job market around for you, your children and your parents so they stay here," she said.

"We have to tackle state government and we have to shrink it."

Sawyer said one aspect that sets her apart from Webb is the fact that she has "the deepest financial understanding of Connecticut's crisis."

"I know what we're doing wrong in making Connecticut the least business friendly," she said. "And, I know how much red ink there is and I have a plan to turn it around."

If elected to her 10th term, Sawyer said it will be important for her to be in the community and to "hear and take the pulse of what's going on." Otherwise, Sawyer said, she would be doing a disservice "by just going to Hartford and shutting the door."

Webb, also a Bolton resident, has over 30 years of experience in municipal government.

Webb's most recent position, from 2006-10, was director of development and planning for the town of East Hartford. Previous to that role, Webb served for three years as the economic

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## Senate cont. from Front Page

run for office, and Nichols soon set to work preparing for his campaign.

"It's gonna take somebody effectively instilling in the legislature a need to change the attitude toward business," Nichols said.

"He hasn't been there," Daily said in response to Nichols' criticisms. She explained that when the recession hit, the legislature cut spending and borrowed money to cover costs. Daily said part of the problem the legislature faced in previous years was that the governor did not always have the same goals. For example, she said, Gov. M. Jodi Rell vetoed a bill that would have increased taxes on only the wealthiest people in the state.

With a new administration, Daily said, she expected more cooperation between the governor and the assembly and senate. "We have done as much as humanly possible and I think we'll be able to do more with a new administration," Daily said.

Nichols said he likes and respects Daily, but pointed out that she had been in office for 18 years – "a long time." Nichols said he believes in term limits, so people don't make politics their career, and so the government would have a constant supply of new people with new ideas.

But Daily said those nine terms of experience have given her the skills and knowledge she'll need to tackle important issues. Because of the economy, she said, "I think my experience is a critical issue in this campaign. We need someone with that much experience, not a rookie."

Even after 18 years, Daily said, she "more than enjoys" her work. "The great satisfaction," she said, "is in being able to help people." In addition, she said, she enjoys creating policy, and notes that "the theater of politics is always fun to watch."

If elected for another term, Daily said her main goals would be economic ones.

"We're not as badly affected in this district as in many districts, but that doesn't stop them from worrying," Daily said. She said Connecticut's economy has remained "some-

what stable" during the recession, though many of her constituents knew other people who had lost jobs and were concerned that it would happen to them to.

Daily said she also wanted to look at state expenditures, noting that there was an overlap between many state departments. Programs that don't work, she said, could be cut or combined with others. She said agencies needed to improve their communication, since some of them worked toward similar goals. The lack of communication could create problems, she said, explaining that last session, the Senate passed legislation that allow the Department of Revenue Service and Department of Economic Community Development to exchange important financial information with each other. Further streamlining communication, she said, would help the government be more efficient.

"I'm so excited to get to that work that we've been trying to get to for years," she added.

Nichols's economic goals include cutting spending about 15 percent, but without cutting any necessary services. To do this, he said, the government should look at state programs and see which ones work and which don't. Struggling programs, he said, could be cut or combined with others, to cut spending and improve services. Nichols said towns and the state should decrease their dependence on bonds to cover expenses. Bonding should be used for infrastructure and building projects, he said, not for paying debts.

Something else Nichols would like to see is improved accountability and transparency in the state government. All towns in the state are required to follow set accounting practices and make information available to the public, Nichols said, and he feels the state should follow the same regulations.

As Senate chair of the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee, Daily said finances and economic policies are always her major focus. But if she's elected again, she said, she has other goals she wants to work toward in her next term.

Daily said she wants to focus on improving

the state's vocational education program, which she called "the stepchild of the education system." These schools are important in training skilled workers for the future, she said, and she'd like the state government to look at improving them. In addition, she said, community colleges need more attention and support, since they provide affordable education to people already in the workforce, or to those who otherwise wouldn't be able to afford higher education.

Another priority, she said, is the environment, noting that her district has "incredible natural resources" like the Connecticut River, and residents are concerned about protecting them. Similarly, she said, she wants to continue with the open space campaign that she helped start. Since land prices are currently low, she said, it's a good time to buy more land and designate them as open spaces.

Nichols explained that helping other people has always been a major focus in his life. Some of his volunteer work, he said, includes serving on the board of a ministry that helps women transition back into the working world after being released from prison, and volunteering with Americares to provide free home repairs to low-income homeowners.

"Giving back is my main motivation," Nichols said. "I believe we should all give back to our communities and where we came from."

Currently employed as a financial consultant, Nichols has previously worked as an airline pilot and union official, and was a captain in the U.S. Air Force.

One of Nichols' first steps in his campaign was to visit town halls and selectmen throughout the district, as well as local businesses, to see what their concerns were.

"I'm a person that believes in community, and community strategy," he said. Most voters, he said, told them they were concerned about jobs, spending and the economy.

"It's gonna take somebody effectively instilling in the legislature a need to change the atti-

tude toward business," Nichols said.

Daily and Nichols both said they were optimistic as they looked toward Election Day, though Daily noted "I always think you don't know until you count the votes."

Daily said she's worked hard over the years to bring improvements to her district. "I'm not so bigheaded as to think nobody could have done it, but I know what I did," she said.

Daily and Nichols aren't voters' only choices in this race. Bennett did not respond to interview requests, but according to his campaign website, the Westbrook resident "is running on a platform of environmental protection, education, and election reform." Bennett is a graduate student at Southern Connecticut State University, according to his website, [ct.greens.org/candidates/bennett\\_senate2010](http://ct.greens.org/candidates/bennett_senate2010).

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Residents in Colchester, East Hampton and Portland can also vote for a host of other state candidates. Running for governor are Republican Tom Foley, Democrat Dan Malloy and Independent Thomas Marsh; for U.S. Senate, Republican Linda McMahon, Democrat Richard Blumenthal, Independent Warren Mosler and Connecticut For Lieberman member John Mertens; for attorney general, Republican Martha Dean, Democrat George Jepsen and Green Party candidate Stephen Fournier; and for secretary of state, Republican Jerry Farrell Jr., Democrat Denise Merrill, Independent Michael Telesca, Green Party candidate S. Michael DeRosa and Libertarian Ken Mosher.

Also, for comptroller, Republican Jack Orchulli, Democrat Kevin Lembo, Independent Hugh Dolan, Green Party candidate Colin Bennett and Libertarian Joshua Katz; and for treasurer, Republican Jeff Wright, Democrat Denise Nappier, Independent Andrew Grant White and Green Party candidate S. David Bue.

Full stories on the U.S. Congress, state House of Representatives and probate court races impacting Colchester, East Hampton and Portland appear elsewhere in this week's *Rivereast*.

## State Rep cont. from Front Page

development director in Rocky Hill.

She also spent a number of years in the city of Hartford, working as a senior project manager in the Office of Property Acquisition and Disposition, a senior project manager for the redevelopment agency, a bureau chief of the Department of Transportation and a transportation coordinator for the Department of Public Works.

Webb said one of the reasons she decided to run was because she was frustrated that she couldn't do her job at the local level.

"There is so much inaction of the legislature that nothing is getting done," Webb said.

"I felt like I couldn't get my job done and people weren't looking in the right places to start the economy back up."

As a result, Webb said she is bringing her experience in local government to the table, to try and secure the position.

In her career, Webb said she has been a collaborator, and is "used to bringing everybody around the table" to get full input for decision making. And, as an analyst, Webb said she likes to have all the facts and figures before making a decision.

One large part of Webb's platform is focusing on new technology. Connecticut, she said, has never been a production state, but has always built the means of production, such as machines and technology. Webb said the state needs to focus on how to grow this field.

Webb said another part of her platform,

which she has been very strong on, is creating jobs and hiring locally. When this is done, Webb said the money comes back into the economy more than once. Webb suggested local business preference contracting, and not only at the local level.

In an effort to increase jobs, Webb said the state needs to be very flexible with small businesses, especially those with less than 100 employees. Quick access to capital and local sourcing of goods, Webb said, would also be helpful to small businesses. In addition, Webb suggested removing barriers and tax structures that impede businesses from starting up.

Webb pointed out that her knowledge-base differs greatly from Sawyer's, due to her experience in areas such as infrastructure development, construction, project management and planning. The contracting procedure, she said, is something she knows "from the bottom up."

Having a firm understanding of the contracting procedures, and being an environmentalist, Webb said technology or industry parks that don't look like the "traditional boxes" could be an option. The key, she said, is designing the parks so they fit into the community environment.

One specific area the two candidates have different views on in terms of revenue is bringing tolls into the state. Sawyer said the cost alone to set the tolls up is very expensive, and putting them in would be "pushing ourselves backward," she said.

"I want more people coming into the state to buy stuff, not less," Sawyer said. "I don't agree with tolls."

Webb, on the other hand, said the state should consider tolls as a means to raise revenue.

"People go to Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine through Connecticut," she said. In addition, Webb pointed out that it costs \$11 to enter into New York City, and said that New York residents drive through Connecticut too.

"We can capture some of that for our infrastructure cost," she said. "I think we could do it in a positive, smart way."

Overall, Webb said she is pleased there are two candidates for the position because "it has been so long." Webb said Sawyer has not had many opponents throughout her incumbency. (Sawyer's last opponent was Hebron selectman Mark Stuart in 2006.)

"That's what democracy is all about," Webb said, "getting the issues out, talking about the issues and listening to people. Win or lose, that's the most important part of the race."

\* \* \*

Voters can also vote for gubernatorial candidates, Republican Tom Foley, Democrat Dan Malloy or Independent Thomas Marsh; lieutenant governor, Independent Cicero Booker Jr., Republican Mark Boughton or Democrat Nancy Wyman; attorney general, Republican Martha Dean, Green Party candidate Stephen Fournier or Democrat George Jepsen; secretary of state, Green Party candidate S. Michael

DeRosa, Republican Jerry Farrell, Jr., Democrat Denise Merrill, Libertarian Ken Mosher or Independent Michael Telesca; comptroller, Green Party candidate Colin Bennett, Independent Hugh Dolan, Libertarian Joshua Katz, Democrat Kevin Lembo or Republican Jack Orchulli; treasurer, Green Party candidate S. David Bue, Democrat Denise Nappier, Independent Andrew Grant White or Republican Jeff Wright; U.S. Senate, Democrat Richard Blumenthal, Republican Linda McMahon, Connecticut For Lieberman John Mertens or Independent Warren Mosler.

For U.S. Congress, Andover and Hebron residents can also vote for Republican Janet Peckinpaugh, Democrat Joe Courtney or Green Party candidate G. Scott Deshefy. Residents can also vote for Republican Sean Sullivan or Democrat Edith Prague in the state Senate race; and Republican Elaine Camposeo or Democrat Michael Darby for judge of probate for the Greater Manchester Probate District. Full stories about these three races appear elsewhere in this issue.

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Voting in Andover will take place at the Town Office Building, 17 School Rd. In Hebron, voting will take place at the Town Office Building, 15 Gilead St. And in Marlborough, voters can cast their votes at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School, 25 School Dr. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

*From the Editor's Desk*

# Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Well, it's almost here.

By this point next week, candidates will most likely know if all their hard work over the last several months paid off. (I say "most likely" because – as Al Gore knows too well – elections aren't always decided on Election Day.) There are important races all around the country, and here in Connecticut it is no exception.

And as I've done in past years, allow me to take a little time to encourage people to get out there and vote next Tuesday. The polls are open for 14 hours – 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. – and, even with filling in those bubble sheets, the voting process shouldn't take more than five minutes. So really, take a little bit of time, swing by your local polling station, and so your part to help shape the state's – and the nation's – future.

Speaking of Election Day, the past week saw an interesting controversy quickly brew over just what people could wear to the polls next Tuesday. Last Friday, Secretary of State Susan Bysiewicz's spokesman, Av Harris, said local election officials had asked Bysiewicz's office what to do if people show up to vote next Tuesday wearing World Wrestling Entertainment T-shirts. Linda McMahon is of course the former head of WWE, and some officials were apparently wondering if wearing wrestling-related garb would violate state law, which prohibits political campaigning within 75 feet of a polling place.

Harris said, if there were complaints at polling places, they would be handled on a case-by-case basis. He said moderators would have permission to ask someone wearing a WWE-emblazoned T-shirt to cover it up, if the moderator sees fit.

Republicans not surprisingly had a field day with this, with state Republican Party Chairman Chris Healy – in a statement thoughtfully titled "Bysiewicz Loses Mind – labeling it a "ridiculous act of voter intimidation."

McMahon's wife, Vince McMahon, went one step further, filing suit Tuesday against Bysiewicz's office. The suit states that Bysiewicz's directive threatens to violate McMahon's "right to vote and his rights of free speech and expression."

In a statement, McMahon further added that the "directive that allows poll workers to refuse registered voters wearing WWE merchandise the right to vote is a flagrant act of censorship and discrimination."

Late Tuesday, Bysiewicz issued a statement attempting to clarify everything. "In past elections, this office has consistently recommended that voters wearing t-shirts bearing the likeness or campaign logo of candidates, be asked to button their jackets when other voters have complained," she stated. However, she also said "it is the position of this office that simply wearing WWE apparel at the

polls, including apparel with the trade name or logo of the WWE or the name or photograph of any WWE entertainer that does not display the name or photograph of Linda McMahon, U.S. Senate candidate, or the name or logo of Ms. McMahon's campaign does not trigger a violation of" state statute.

As of my writing of this Tuesday night, I don't know if Bysiewicz's statement will wind up cooling Vince McMahon's jets. I do think the whole thing is rather silly. Harris really touched the whole thing off with what he said last Friday. What he should've said is what Bysiewicz's statement Tuesday said – that a simple wrestling T-shirt is no big deal. I can't imagine anyone legitimately feeling that, say, a Stone Cold Steve Austin shirt or Hulkamania tights (hey, why not?) would sway someone to vote for McMahon.

\* \* \*

Wednesday night, the World Series started and yes, the Giants – with Colchester's own Ron Wotus – made it, taking on the Texas Rangers. I'm happy to report both the NLCS and the ALCS went the way I wanted them to, with the Phillies and the Yankees sufficiently vanquished. From a TV ratings point of view, this probably won't have the same appeal of a Philadelphia-New York matchup, but from a baseball fan's point of view, a matchup between the Giants, which haven't won a championship since 1954 (when they were still in New York), and the Rangers, which haven't won a championship since, well, ever, is exciting.

Plus, both teams seem like good groups of guys. I was particularly impressed by the Rangers, when they celebrated winning the pennant last Friday. One of the traditions in baseball is, when you win a division title or pennant or championship, happily dousing your teammates with bottle after bottle of champagne. Well, Texas' star player, Josh Hamilton, has a history of substance abuse, so when the Rangers celebrated, they doused each other with ginger ale.

I found that a classy move; there are 24 other guys on the team, and yet they all decided to forego the champagne tradition for the sake of one man (granted, one of the highest-profile guys on the team). It showed a real team spirit and sense of camaraderie.

At the end of the day, I'm still rooting for the Giants. But no matter what happens, it looks like this is going to be a fun World Series.

\* \* \*

I'll end with a joke that a friend of mine shared recently. Question: How many hipsters does it take to change a light bulb? Answer: It's a really obscure number. You've probably never heard of it.

\* \* \*

See you next week.

# Prague, Sullivan Squaring Off for State Senate Seat

by Lindsay Fetzner

In the fight for the 19th district state Senate seat, it is Republican Sean Sullivan, a 26-year Navy veteran, who is taking on Edith Prague, D-Columbia, for the position she has held for the past 16 years.

Since 1994, Prague has represented Andover, Bozrah, Columbia, Hebron, Franklin, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Montville, Norwich and Sprague.

Previous to the Senate, Prague served for eight years in the state House of Representatives, where she said she was an advocate for tough drunk-driving laws. Prague was also commissioner of the now-defunct state Department on Aging.

Serving as commissioner, Prague established a statewide health insurance program called CHOICES, that offers counseling to seniors. Prague also assisted in creating the first assisted living facilities statewide.

Currently, Prague is the Senate chair of the labor and public employees committee, co-chair of the select committee on aging and is a member of both the appropriations and public health committees. Prague's professional experience also includes the role of teacher and medical social worker.

In choosing who should represent the district, Prague said, "the voters have a decided, clear choice."

Prague said she is a supporter of working men and women, as well as the seniors, and will continue this support if re-elected.

"I have always been a strong advocate for the seniors," she said, drawing attention to an eight-year position in the public health field, where she helped the seniors with their respective issues. And, as part of her platform, Prague said, "I will continue to be the strongest advocate for the seniors in our legislation."

Binding arbitration, prevailing wage and in-school suspension are areas that Prague also supports. She said Sullivan wants to "do away with binding arbitration, do away with prevailing wage and do away with all state mandates including in-school suspension."

Prague said "the working men and women created the wealth in this state. I will protect their wages and their benefits and their retire-



Prague

ment."

These same people, Prague said, work not only for the big corporations, but also for the small businesses as well.

"I would never let anybody put in a bill to reduce the minimum wage," she said. "I would never allow anybody to get a bill out of my committee that would in any way harm [those working] men and women."

Prague said it is prevailing wage that gives working people a "decent wage."

On the topic of in-school suspension, Prague said it "certainly keeps the kids off the street." And, it is binding arbitration that keeps "the schools going." When there wasn't binding arbitration, Prague said, teachers went out on strike, creating chaos for students and a lack of ongoing stability.

"I would not support doing away with binding arbitration," she said.

Drawing on her 16-year experience as a state senator, and the state of the economy, Prague said it is important to have someone in Hartford who knows where the appropriate cuts can be made, and not to go in and "slash, slash, slash."

"I'm very different from Sean," Prague said. "I am very much a people person and he is more or less a systems person."

Although Prague ran unopposed in the last election, Prague said she has had opponents before, such as Republicans Catherine Marx in 2004 and Matthew Daly in 2006.

And, this year has not proved much different in terms of her campaign.

"It's a typical campaign," she said. "I'm going door-to-door and getting a good response from people."

Prague's opponent, Sullivan, is a Ledyard resident, currently serving a term on his local Town Council. He also practices law with the Norwich-based firm, Brown Jacobson P.C.

Sullivan retired from the Navy in 2006 after a 26-year career in the submarine force. In 2005, as commander of the naval submarine base in Groton, Sullivan said he took part in an effort that saved the base from being closed. He also commanded the USS Jefferson City submarine, was a liaison officer to the U.S. Congress and



Sullivan

served during the first Gulf War.

In 2008, Sullivan also ran unsuccessfully against Joe Courtney, D-Second District, a race he said he does not regret. Witnessing the problems occurring on the local level, Sullivan said, is what prompted him to run for the Senate seat, as the problems in Connecticut are "more acute."

Creating a state budget that "makes sense," addressing state mandates and increasing electricity generation are core components to Sullivan's platform.

The first thing the state needs, Sullivan said, is a state budget that lives within its means and doesn't rely on borrowing. Living within the state's means, Sullivan said, equates to bringing spending down.

On the topic of in-school suspension, Sullivan said, "Why have staff baby-sit the kids?" He added, "Maybe it makes sense in Hartford, but it doesn't necessary make sense in most of our smaller towns."

Sullivan also addressed the prevailing wage law threshold of \$100,000, which he said was last adjusted in 1973, and has not been adjusted for inflation over the years. He pointed out that \$100,000 in 1973 does not have the same value as it does today, and should be addressed.

As for binding arbitration, Sullivan said the state needs a "common-sense reform." With arbitration, Sullivan said, the arbitrator has two choices, and is unable to fashion "some sort of reasonable compromise."

"Give arbitrators the ability to split the amount," Sullivan suggested.

Sullivan said he strongly disagrees with Prague's belief that, if binding arbitration were eliminated, teachers would go on strike and that the children would suffer.

"It's not like [binding arbitration] is the only thing keeping them [at school]," Sullivan said. "They are professionals. They want to teach."

Because electricity costs in Connecticut are so high, Sullivan said the state needs to produce more electricity as a means to keep costs down. Nuclear power, he said, is safe, clear and economical.

Sullivan said that, overall, his campaigning has elicited a lot of positive responses. He pointed out that in addition to knocking on Republicans' doors, he is also approaching those of the Democrats, which he said is something not all candidates do. Sullivan said it is important that people consider who is right for fixing the "budget challenge" because the job

they are faced with, he said, "is not going to be easy."

"In general, changing out the people who are in Hartford is a good thing," Sullivan said. "If we re-elect all the same people, what makes us think anything different is going to happen?"

And, what's been happening for the last couple years, Sullivan said, "is a disaster for the state."

"If you like where we are, go ahead and vote for the person who got you there," he said. "And if you don't like where we are, vote for someone new."

Voters in Andover and Hebron can also vote for a host of other state candidates. Running for governor are Republican Tom Foley, Democrat Dan Malloy and Independent Thomas Marsh; for U.S. Senate, Republican Linda McMahon, Democrat Richard Blumenthal, Independent Warren Mosler and Connecticut For Lieberman member John Mertens; for attorney general, Republican Martha Dean, Democrat George Jepsen and Green Party candidate Stephen Fournier; and for secretary of state, Republican Jerry Farrell Jr., Democrat Denise Merrill, Independent Michael Telesca, Green Party candidate S. Michael DeRosa and Libertarian Ken Mosher.

Also, for comptroller, Republican Jack Orchulli, Democrat Kevin Lembo, Independent Hugh Dolan, Green Party candidate Colin Bennett and Libertarian Joshua Katz; and for treasurer, Republican Jeff Wright, Democrat Denise Nappier, Independent Andrew Grant White and Green Party candidate S. David Bue.

For U.S. Congress, Andover and Hebron residents can also vote for Republican Janet Peckinpugh, Democrat Joe Courtney or Green Party candidate G. Scott Deshefy. And for state representative in the 55th district, residents can vote for Republican Pamela Sawyer or Democrat Jeanne Webb. In Andover only, residents can also vote for the Greater Manchester Probate District judge candidates, Republican Elaine Camposeo or Democrat Michael Darby. (Peter Alter, the current probate judge for the Glastonbury-Hebron Probate District, of which Hebron will be a part of, is running unopposed.)

Stories about all three of these races appear elsewhere in this week's *Rivereast*.

Voting in Andover will take place at the Town Office Building, 17 School Rd. In Hebron, voting will take place at Hebron Elementary School, 92 Church St. Polls in both towns will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

# Hebron Selectmen Consider Upping Bid Threshold

by Lindsay Fetzner

In an effort to cut down on the number of times the town has to take purchases out to bid, Hebron officials last week discussed increasing the threshold for bids to \$20,000, from the \$5,000 it currently is.

The Board of Selectmen (BOS), Board of Finance (BOF) and town officials discussed raising the threshold at last Thursday's meeting of the BOS.

The present policy has a threshold of \$5,000 for formal bids. Finance Director Lisa Hancock provided board members with a draft of a revised purchasing policy. It has been eight years since there were any revisions, as the present purchasing policy was adopted in 2002.

The draft states that the purchasing manual provides the various departments with a guide that the town staff can follow to requisition goods and services, which follows the principals of the town's purchasing procedure. But, Hancock said, in the revised document, "the biggest point is the threshold."

For purchases that are between \$1,001 and

\$3,000, the draft states that only one telephone, e-mail, fax or written quote from the department is needed. For items costing between \$3,001 and \$10,000, a minimum of three written, fax, telephone or e-mail quotes are required. And, for purchases ranging from \$10,001 to \$19,999, a minimum of three written price quotations must be obtained, which also include fax quotes, according to the draft.

For any purchases over \$20,000, the town would follow the formal bid procedures, using either the town manager or finance office for further assistance.

BOF Chairman Mike Hazel agreed that there is "a lot of opportunity to streamline" the current policy the town has in place.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that, upon assuming her post in town, she noticed the figures in the policy were fairly low.

Hancock said towns "can't get much for under \$5,000 these days," and the low threshold requires a lot more bids to take place. More bids, Hancock said, equates to costs associated

with advertising and staff time as well. Hancock also noted that other surrounding communities have "much higher" thresholds. According to the draft, a \$20,000 threshold for formal bids is a "common dollar value used by municipalities."

The formal bidding process can delay a project several weeks, Hancock said, and essentially slows down the process of accomplishing the project.

"[A higher threshold] will really cut out a lot of bids we have to do now that are under \$20,000," Hancock said, adding that getting quotes are much easier than going out for formal bid.

Another benefit, she said, will be for "the little guys." Projects in town may become more attractive to smaller businesses that may not have wanted to go through all of the paperwork associated with the formal bidding process.

"Twenty thousand will make things a lot better," Hancock said.

Hazel asked Hancock how much of a com-

mitment it would be to train the department heads on the new policy, as well as anyone else involved in the process.

Hancock said she envisioned holding training classes once the final document was decided upon.

"The commitment is there to make sure they are adequately trained," Hancock said.

In addition to raising the threshold, the draft also addressed other changes to the current purchasing policy. Examples of such topics include the travel reimbursement policy, procedures for using the town credit card and the identification of employees who may authorize purchases in each specific department, among others.

The boards and officials decided to refer the policy draft to a workshop in the near future, where the policy could be discussed in further detail.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the BOS is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 4, at 7:30 p.m., in the Town Office Building.

# East Hampton Town Hall Annex on the Move

by Claire Michalewicz

The Town Council voted Tuesday to draw up plans for moving the departments in the Town Hall Annex into a medical office building at the corner of Routes 16 and 66.

The building, at 240 Middletown Ave., is owned by Jeffrey Palmer, an optometrist. The Chatham Health District also leases space in the building.

Connecticut Light & Power, which owns the annex building the town is currently using, decided earlier this year not to renew the town's lease, as it wants the space back. In their search for a new facility, the town also looked at the Goff House, and an empty industrial building on Skinner Street.

Technically, Interim Town Manager Bob Drewry said, the town's lease on the CL&P building expires this Sunday, Oct. 31, but he hopes the town offices can remain there until the Palmer building is ready. He said he expects the renovations and move to take about two months.

Drewry said the Parks and Recreation Department and facilities manager's office would move into the lower floor of the building, while Social Services, Youth and Family Services and the town's food bank would take the upper floor.

An advantage of the building is that the second floor is accessible from the rear, offering privacy for people using the food bank and social services, Drewry said. The building offers 33 parking spaces, he said.

Drewry said he took the annex staff on a tour

of the Palmer building, and said they were all happy with the facility, which offers more space than they have now.

Director of Finance Jeff Jylkka explained that Palmer was seeking a seven-year lease, but was willing to do all the necessary construction work for free. He said the rent for the 2011-12 fiscal year (the first full year of the lease) would be \$44,000. Currently, the town pays about \$55,000 a year for the annex space, Jylkka said.

In addition, Jylkka said the costs of moving and setting up necessary phone and Internet connections would cost about \$21,000.

Council members Sue Weintraub and Chris Goff both asked Drewry to explore the possibility of subletting the offices, in case the town found another facility before the seven-year lease had expired.

Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel said it was "troublesome" to her that the town was renting a facility again, rather than buying one. But, she said, "we are also under tremendous pressure for time."

"All I care about is that we're moving," she said.

The council's decision to pursue a lease with Palmer drew applause from residents in the audience, many of whom had previously spoken out against moving the annex offices into the Goff House.

\* \* \*

The upcoming referendum on Ordinance 109, which establishes the police chief's posi-

tion, was another major discussion item of the evening.

"I'm gonna assume next week's vote is gonna overturn the ordinance," Weintraub said. She asked Drewry if he had plans in place for returning Police Chief Matthew Reimondo to his position if his job was reinstated.

"I have been planning," Drewry responded. "I will not break the law. I will not go against the town's ordinances."

Engel told Weintraub she was "not quite as positive" that the ordinance would be overturned. After resident Angela Sarahina said she did not feel comfortable with Red McKinney as a moderator for the meeting because of the way she said he handled a previous town meeting, Engel and Drewry agreed that Town Clerk Sandra Wieleba would be on hand throughout the day to assist McKinney.

\* \* \*

At the meeting, council member Thom Cordeiro renewed discussion of a noise ordinance, which the council had started discussing in the spring. Cordeiro provided the council with copies of the ordinances from Tolland and Brookfield, two towns with similar populations to East Hampton.

"I would like the town to begin to acknowledge the need for a noise ordinance," he said, explaining that he thought the town could work out an ordinance that would be fair to both those producing the noise, and those who live nearby.

## East Hampton Charter Changes, Police Chief Position Also Up to Voters

by Claire Michalewicz

When residents head to the polls next week, in addition to voting on the various political candidates, they'll also be faced with two different ballot questions – one dealing with proposed changes to the town charter, and the other on the possible elimination of the town's police chief position.

The Charter Revision Commission presented its proposed changes to the Town Council in May, and the council agreed to send it to referendum on Nov. 2.

Although the charter revision includes several changes, voters will only answer one question, to approve or reject the changes as a whole.

Among the largest of the changes to the charter is a move to four-year staggered Town Council terms, beginning with the next municipal election in 2011, to allow more continuity on the council between elections. Also, voters will now be able to vote for as many candidates in a municipal election as there are vacant seats.

The changes also schedule a Town Council meeting for the day after a municipal election, so the council can appoint a chair and vice-chair, and begin work immediately.

Under the changes, the council would review the Town Manager's performance annually.

The changes also allow bonds under \$15,000 to be approved by the Council instead of at a town meeting, so that the Department of Pub-

lic Works can finish projects more efficiently.

Under the changes, when someone vacates an elected position, that person's political party will appoint that person's successor, unless the person was unaffiliated, in which case the Town Council will appoint a successor.

The charter changes also combine the planning commission and zoning commission into one body, to reflect the makeup of the actual commission; change the sections concerning the election of the town clerk and tax collector because these are now appointed positions; and change the regulations for approving any additional appropriations.

The proposed revisions also feature language that has been rewritten to be gender-neutral. The Charter Revision Commission also rewrote the section of the charter concerning petitions to enact or overrule ordinances to make the language easier to understand, but did not make any substantive changes to this section. The proposed charter also states that a commission should review and possibly revise the charter at least every 10 years.

\* \* \*

A second referendum, on the question of whether East Hampton should have a police chief, will be held on a separate ballot in the high school cafeteria. East Hampton voters will proceed to the cafeteria after voting in the gym-

nasium, while those who live outside town but are eligible to vote in the referendum because they own property in town can vote in the auditorium. Voters will have to have their identification checked a second time to vote in the referendum.

The ballot question, which the Town Council approved last week, is "Shall the Town of East Hampton approve the amendments to Chapter 109 of the Town Ordinances which would abolish the position of Chief of Police and restructure the Police Department?"

On Sept. 28, the Town Council approved the changes to the ordinance, which shifted the chief's duties to a lieutenant. This followed the controversial layoff of Police Chief Matt Reimondo in June by then-Town Manager Jeffery O'Keefe.

A 'yes' vote would approve the revision, while a 'no' vote would keep the police chief position in the town's ordinances.

\* \* \*

As for the political races, there are several residents can vote in next Tuesday. Running for governor are Republican Tom Foley, Democrat Dan Malloy and Independent Thomas Marsh; for U.S. Senate, Republican Linda McMahon, Democrat Richard Blumenthal, Independent Warren Mosler and Connecticut For Lieberman

The ordinance, he said, would "give residents in affected areas peace of mind."

The council also discussed the town's employee handbook, and agreed to make several changes before adopting it. Weintraub suggested consulting with the Council on Human Rights and Opportunities to ask about what personal information can and cannot be obtained through a Freedom of Information (FOI) request. In addition, Drewry said he would seek advice from town's IT consultant about the handbook's document retention policy.

The council had discussed the handbook, which Human Resources Coordinator Lisa Seymour drafted with the assistance of the town's labor attorney, Mark Sommaruga, at several previous meetings.

Also at the meeting, Parks and Recreation Director Ruth Plummer discussed the Small Town Economic Assistance Program grant the town had recently received, which will be used to extend the Airline Trail across Watrous Street and into the municipal parking lot on Main Street in the village center. The trail would use an existing bridge over Pocotopaug Creek, Plummer said, though accessible switchbacks on both sides of Watrous Street would have to be installed. Plummer said the project would require about \$40,000 from the town to complete, to be used in conjunction with the \$200,000 grant.

member John Mertens; for attorney general, Republican Martha Dean, Democrat George Jepsen and Green Party candidate Stephen Fournier; for secretary of state, Republican Jerry Farrell Jr., Democrat Denise Merrill, Independent Michael Telesca, Green Party candidate S. Michael DeRosa and Libertarian Ken Mosher;

for comptroller, Republican Jack Orchulli, Democrat Kevin Lembo, Independent Hugh Dolan, Green Party candidate Colin Bennett and Libertarian Joshua Katz; and for treasurer, Republican Jeff Wright, Democrat Denise Nappier, Independent Andrew Grant White and Green Party candidate S. David Bue.

For U.S. Congress, residents can also vote for Republican Janet Peckinpugh, Democrat Joe Courtney or Green Party candidate G. Scott Deshefy. For state Senate, they will choose between Republican Neil Nichols, Democrat Eileen Daily and Green Party candidate Colin Bennett. For state representative, voters can choose Republican Earle Roberts or Democrat Gail Hamm. Full stories about all three of these races appear elsewhere in this week's *Rivereast*.

\* \* \*

Polls will be open Tuesday, Nov. 2, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m., at East Hampton High School, 15 North Maple St.

## Arrests Made in Portland Boat Burglaries

by Claire Michalewicz

Portland police arrested three men last week in connection with a series of burglaries at two marinas in Portland. The arrests were the culmination of a month-long investigation, Officer Michael Fitzpatrick said.

Ross M. Bartlett, 19, and Hunter R. Clark, 20, both of 56 Barton Hill Rd., East Hampton, and Christopher E. Stuart, 44, of 82 Main St., East Hampton, were served warrants and taken into custody last Thursday, Oct. 21. The three were held on bond overnight and presented at Middletown Superior Court the following day. All three were released and are due back in court to enter pleas next week.

Last month, Portland police had caught Bartlett and Clark leaving a marina with stolen items, and were able to obtain confessions from them. Fitzpatrick explained that three men had been stealing power tools and cables from the boats and selling them for their copper content. Some of the items had been pawned in New Britain, Fitzpatrick said, and

the three were also suspected of selling 1,100 pounds of copper in Bristol.

State police from Troop F in Westbrook also participated in the investigation, Fitzpatrick said, and the three men were also charged in connection with burglaries at a marina in Essex.

Bartlett was charged with two counts of fourth-degree larceny, one count of fifth-degree larceny, three counts of third-degree criminal trespass and three counts of criminal mischief, Fitzpatrick said. He is due back in court to enter a plea on Tuesday, Nov. 2.

Clark was charged with two counts of fourth-degree larceny, two counts of fifth-degree larceny, and four counts of third-degree criminal trespass, Fitzpatrick said. Clark is due in court on Friday, Nov. 5.

Stuart was charged with conspiracy to commit fourth-degree larceny, fourth-degree larceny, and two counts of third-degree criminal trespass. Stuart is scheduled to return to court on Thursday, Nov. 4.

# Broder Challenging Orange in State Rep Race

by Katy Nally

Colchester voters will have their chance next Tuesday to choose between current state Rep. Democrat Linda Orange or Republican attorney Joe Broder to represent them in the 48th District, which includes Colchester and East Haddam.

Orange has held the title since 1996 and hasn't had a challenger in eight years.

Broder considers himself the "underdog" and even changed his cell phone ring tone to the *Rocky* theme song, "Gonna Fly Now."

While the state is predicted to face a \$3.26 billion deficit for the next fiscal year, the two candidates agree the next budget cycle will require difficult decisions. Broder claims current legislators like Orange haven't done enough to balance the state's deficit. Orange defends her record and said the legislature did make reductions to programs last year, including Medicaid, and merged departments.

"The Republicans are crying about spending, spending, spending," Orange said, adding that the state has been cutting back and gave the example of state employees taking furlough days last year. She also said revenue is coming in to the state. According to an April 30 news release from the Office of Policy and Management and the Office of Fiscal Analysis, the state will have a projected total revenue of about \$17.4 million for the next fiscal year in its general fund reserve.

Still, Broder maintained the legislature's cuts "apparently aren't enough," because the lawmakers "spent more money than they cut."

Orange said Connecticut's financial state isn't unique, as "the whole nation is feeling it." She added that the economic condition "didn't happen overnight."

She said the economy will begin to recover once jobs are created, and added, "It's up to business, and not the government, to hire." Orange also said Connecticut businesses pay less



**Broder**

for manufacturing jobs than surrounding states.

Broder considers himself a "fiscal hawk" and said "the state can't do all the things it's been doing. ... We're trying to help everyone with their problems."

Orange said the state needs to "be careful" to not start "taking from our most vulnerable" when making cuts. She noted food pantries across the state are seeing increases in their users.

"There's people at food pantries who never thought they'd be there," she said. "The government is there to help people to a certain extent."

Broder, on the other hand, cited his quote from stationary he had when he held Orange's position from 1981-83. "Government cannot be all things to all people," Broder began. "Priorities must be established, and we must differentiate between what is necessary and what is merely desirable."

He said balancing next year's budget is "going to require cutbacks across the board" and would include asking legislators to take a 10 percent pay cut. He noted "this would not save very much money, but it would demonstrate leadership."

If elected, Broder said he recognized he might not be able to do everything to make his constituents happy, until the state comes out of its "financial hole." He said this attitude could make him a one-term legislator, but he said balancing the budget "needs to be done for the state."

"You just have to have somebody who can say 'No' when the money's not there," he said.

Orange, however, said, "my promise has always been, 'I will work as hard as I can for the towns and the individuals.' ... The people are the best part of the job."

During her tenure in the House, Orange said she "chased" grants for Colchester's sewer and



**Orange**

water lines, which, she said, will ultimately help the town's economic development.

She said working on this project required negotiation skills and for her to cross party lines.

"I worked well with a Republican administration," she said. "I'm proud of my service and I'm proud of my record."

Orange said she also fought off an asphalt plant that was proposed to be built on Old Hartford Road. At the time, Orange said, there was "more opposition than support" within the legislature to her stance against the plant. However, Orange said she "acted as a lobbyist" for the district and "worked with my colleagues" so the plant would not come to Colchester.

The Democrat incumbent also worked to keep a probate court in Colchester when the state began its redistricting last year. Orange said she voted against the proposal until Colchester was guaranteed a satellite court within the Windham district, so residents would have a court closer to home. (The state's original redistricting proposal featured Colchester in the Glastonbury district.)

Orange said because of her record of helping constituents, "the people have a trust in me."

"Whether I'm for or against a piece of legislation, I take into mind their concerns," she said.

Broder comes to this election as a former attorney. If elected, Broder said he would focus on cutting the state deficit and beginning next year's budget at zero.

"I feel I can make these tough decisions," he said. "You need people who aren't going to run from a fight."

His ideas on how to cut spending range from selling Bradley Airport, to consolidating the state House and Senate to create a structure like Nebraska's unicameral legislature.

"I don't know if the state is making money on Bradley and I don't know why the state has to be in the airport business," he said.

Broder also advocates consolidating administrations for the state's four regional state universities, but keeping the chancellor, and merging state departments and commissions that deal with similar matters, such as children and fami-

lies.

Despite his many ideas on where to slash spending, Broder mentioned three areas that, he said, should be the last to see budget reductions – public education, public safety and services for the elderly.

Colchester residents will be able to cast votes for either Broder or Orange at one of the three polling places: District 1 is Town Hall, located at 127 Norwich Ave., District 2 is the Abundant Life of the Assemblies of God church, located at 85 Skinner Rd., and District 3 is Bacon Academy, located at 611 Norwich Ave.

Voters in Colchester can also vote for a host of other state candidates. Running for governor are Republican Tom Foley, Democrat Dan Malloy and Independent Thomas Marsh; for U.S. Senate, Republican Linda McMahon, Democrat Richard Blumenthal, Independent Warren Mosler and Connecticut For Lieberman member John Mertens; for attorney general, Republican Martha Dean, Democrat George Jepsen and Green Party candidate Stephen Fournier; for secretary of state, Republican Jerry Farrell Jr., Democrat Denise Merrill, Independent Michael Telesca, Green Party candidate S. Michael DeRosa and Libertarian Ken Mosher;

for comptroller, Republican Jack Orchulli, Democrat Kevin Lembo, Independent Hugh Dolan, Green Party candidate Colin Bennett and Libertarian Joshua Katz; and for treasurer, Republican Jeff Wright, Democrat Denise Nappier, Independent Andrew Grant White and Green Party candidate S. David Bue.

For U.S. Congress, Colchester residents can also vote for Republican Janet Peckinpugh, Democrat Joe Courtney or Green Party candidate G. Scott Deshefy. Colchester residents can also vote for Republican Neil Nichols, Democrat Eileen Daily or Green Party candidate Colin Bennett in the state Senate race.

Full stories about these races appear elsewhere in this issue.

Democrat John McGrath is running unopposed in the race for judge of probate.

## Colchester Farmers Propose Establishing Agriculture Commission

by Katy Nally

Last week's selectmen meeting was attended mostly by resident farmers and others in support of a new initiative to create an Agriculture Commission in town.

After hearing from a local farmer, and a member of the New London County Farm Bureau, the Board of Selectmen (BOS) agreed other boards and commissions should first be made aware of the new initiative before any action is taken. Then town counsel would draft the language of an ordinance and a town meeting will be scheduled for the public to vote on the proposal.

Chris Bourque, a Colchester farmer who raises grass-fed cattle, and Wayne Budney, president of the New London County Farm Bureau, wanted the BOS to act on the ordinance that night. But, First Selectman Gregg Schuster promised them, "this will come back to the Board of Selectmen. ... This will not die."

Bourque asked if there was a timeframe attached to ordinance process and Schuster said

there would probably be a February town meeting, where residents would vote on several proposed ordinances.

Schuster said having the town's counsel draft ordinances one at a time is not cost effective, so he would probably send out others along with the proposal for the Agriculture Commission.

According to Bourque, the commission would provide information and education, agricultural support, conflict resolution and economic opportunities for the town.

"I'm coming before you to ask you to take another step in the direction to make Colchester more viable," Bourque told selectmen.

Budney added that the commission would "give farmers a place to go for help."

Selectmen entered into the record three letters written in support of creating an Agricultural Commission, and the chairman of Open Space Advisory Committee, Nick Norton, endorsed the initiative, adding, "Farmers are one of the most important contributors of open space

to our town."

Farmers, Budney agreed, "are the landscapers of our open space."

There was some discussion about whether or not the Agriculture Commission would impede on other boards' or commissions' jurisdictions, but Bourque noted, the Agriculture Commission would be strictly advisory and not regulatory.

Selectwoman Rosemary Coyle, the liaison to Open Space, said "it looks like it could mesh really well."

Schuster mentioned the commission would also have to be looked at from a Planning and Zoning Commission standpoint.

Selectman Stan Soby added, "It's worth taking time to build consensus."

If the Agriculture Commission were to take shape, Bourque said it would comprise "diverse" members. He said several would probably be farmers, but others could include business owners or engineers.

Diversity, he said, "is to the benefit of everybody. ... Input from the entire community is important."

In proposing the Agriculture Commission, Bourque said he looked to other Connecticut communities that have done the same.

So far there are about a dozen towns across the state that have Agriculture Commissions, Bourque said, including Sterling, Franklin, Thompson and Canterbury.

"We're not trying to reinvent the wheel," Bourque added. "We're trying to bring the wheel to roll into Colchester."

After hearing from Bourque and Budney, Schuster said the BOS would work to begin the Agriculture Commission "as quickly as possible," and the approximately 30 people in support of the proposal applauded.

The next regularly scheduled BOS meeting will be Thursday, Nov. 4, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall.

## Colchester Police News

10/24: Kathleen Elizabeth Richters, 24, of 28 Howard Ave., Southington, was charged with DUI and failure to drive in proper lane, State Police said.

10/24: Troop K is investigating a residential burglary that occurred on Cato Corner Road, sometime between Saturday, Oct. 23, and Sunday, Oct. 24. Copper piping was removed from the home, State Police said. Anyone with more information is asked to contact Troop K at 860-537-7500.

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## Marlborough Police News

10/22: State Police investigated a complaint of an unresponsive person in the driver's seat of a motor vehicle parked in a lot. Robert Welch, 23, of 12 Wood Acres St., Amston, was later charged for possession of narcotics, possession of drug paraphernalia, DUI and interfering with a police officer, State Police said.

## Police Investigate Colchester Business Burglaries

State Police are investigating three commercial burglaries that were all reported on Tuesday, Oct. 19.

According to Trooper First Class Catherine Billian, Perfect Tan, located in the CVS plaza on South Main Street, was broken into at approximately 12:45 a.m. on Oct. 19. Because the case is under investigation, Billian could not say what was stolen from the business, but she mentioned the perpetrators forced their way into the business.

Billian has asked that anyone with more information about the case call her at Troop K, 860-537-7500.

The other two burglaries occurred at the Learning Emporium and Maria's Pizza, which are both located at 744 Middletown Rd., State Police said. Anyone with more information about these two cases is also asked to contact Troop K at 860-537-7500.

Billian said the three burglaries are "possibly" related.

# Roberts Challenging Hamm for State Rep

by Claire Michalewicz

On Nov. 2, East Hampton voters will cast their ballots for state representative for the 34th District, which includes all of East Hampton and a large part of southern Middletown.

Democratic incumbent Gail Hamm, an attorney and East Hampton resident, is hoping to be re-elected for her seventh term. Her challenger, Republican Earle Roberts, of Middletown, said he's running because he feels the current legislature hasn't been doing enough to cut spending and help businesses succeed.

"My opponent has had 12 years to make an example," Roberts said. "It's time for a change."

Roberts said when he speaks to voters in East Hampton and Middletown, they say they're concerned about jobs, and worried they'll no longer be able to afford to live in Connecticut. That recent graduates and other young people are having trouble finding jobs, Roberts said, "is beyond frightening to me."

Roberts said the state was losing manufacturing businesses at a rate of one percent a year, and from his 32 years of experience in industry, he understands what those business owners need to thrive. To bring businesses to Connecticut, and help those that are here succeed, Roberts said he wants to cut unnecessary fees and regulations and streamline government agencies so businesses can navigate it better.

Hamm also said jobs are a top priority, and has similar ideas to help create more of them. Hamm pointed out that not only does the state need more jobs, but the jobs need to pay enough so young people can afford to live in Connecticut. She said she wants to look at some of the state's economic development agencies, and see if they can be streamlined and made more effi-



Hamm

cient. Another important goal is to help foster start-up businesses, especially those that provide green jobs and those in biotechnology, she said.

But, she said, policies like this require money, and at present, most of the state's revenue streams have slowed. Hamm is optimistic that the economy will turn around, though. And she said that despite the critiques that the legislature wasn't doing enough, she's confident the state is taking necessary actions to weather the economy.

"We took very aggressive action last year," she said, pointing to tax credits for businesses. "The question is how do we do more? That's what we're going to talk about."

Hamm said she would like to see a decreased reliance on bonding, but explained that since the state had used up its "rainy day" fund and its federal stimulus money, it had to rely on loans to keep programs afloat. Connecticut has successfully handled previous recessions in the same way, Hamm said, paying money back quickly once the economy rebounds.

One of the problems the legislature has faced, Hamm said, was that the governor was not always working for the same goals. She said she hoped a new governor would be able to negotiate with the assembly and come up with shared priorities and goals.

But Roberts thinks he'd bring a different perspective to the legislature, and would help the government cut spending even more than they did last year. A tool-and-die maker and Navy veteran, Roberts has served on the Middletown Common Council and the South Fire District. He said his experience with



Roberts

Middletown's government has given him a background in cutting expenditures without destroying services.

Roberts said he wants audits of all state expenditures, so voters can see exactly where money is going. After reviewing the budgets of departments and programs, Roberts said he's confident the legislature could cut spending about 10 to 20 percent in many departments, without cutting essential services.

"I am not out to destroy public service," he said, explaining that many people relied on state programs, and he didn't want to take away their safety net. "I am out to simply streamline it."

To save further costs, Roberts is also interested in consolidating and regionalizing services between towns throughout the state. As an example, he pointed to the agreement between the Middletown and Portland police departments, in which Portland uses Middletown's detectives. Another beneficial agreement between neighboring towns, he said, could be a cooperative agreement between Parks and Recreation departments, since some towns have more parks and green spaces than others.

"As long as we start tightening our belts, it'll get better," he added, explaining that the economic situation was reversible, as long as the government took more drastic action.

Roberts said he would like to instate term limits for representatives, and cut the stipends legislators receive. "The government was not designed to be a job," he said. He would also like to see the stipends legislators receive cut, to prevent politicians from giving up their careers and staying in office for years. "To me, leadership starts at the top and you lead as an example."

Roberts said he's running for office because he wants to give back to his community, his state and his country. Volunteering and giving back, he said, are "what we all should be about." Some of Roberts' other passions are the outdoors and protecting the environment. Roberts

said he was instrumental in creating the Middletown Recycling Task Force, and would always work to preserve green spaces.

"To me, how we treat the earth is the biggest of all issues," he said, explaining that the state needed to increase its efforts to educate people about recycling and decreasing their consumption.

Hamm, who has held the seat since 1998, said she enjoys her work and would like to continue serving people in her district.

"I think I'm a strong advocate for the voters of the district," Hamm said. "I'm just doing my work." Hamm said East Hampton and Middletown residents often call her for help, and solving their problems is rewarding.

The ongoing political controversy in East Hampton has also inspired some of Hamm's goals for the next term. Hamm said she feels voters have lost their faith in local politicians, and she wants to see a provision for recalling local elected officials.

"I want to see if we can get taxpayers to have a voice when officials have run amuck," she said. Hamm also wants to review state statute 7-278, which outlines the dismissal of a police chief, and establish whether fiscal issues are considered "just cause."

Another priority, Hamm said, is education. If she's elected for another term, she said she wants to focus on closing the state's achievement gap between high- and low-income students – the highest such gap in the country.

Both candidates said they're looking forward to the upcoming election, and are confident that the state's economic problems will be solved.

"We have to keep faith and be steady and take action," Hamm said.

Roberts stressed that while financial times are difficult, he's confident that the state's economy will turn around. "It's not a doomsday mentality," he said. "You can still fix it."

"I want to get into Hartford and work until we get something done," he added.

# Experience vs. 'Fresh Face' in State Rep Race

by Claire Michalewicz

One boasts 20 years of experience, while the other says she's a new face with new ideas. On Tuesday, Democratic incumbent Jim O'Rourke and Republican Christie Carpino are facing off in the election for representative for the 32nd Assembly District, which includes Portland, Cromwell and part of Middletown. O'Rourke was first elected to the seat in 1990.

"Twenty years is far too long for anybody," Carpino said. After a few terms in office, she said, legislators sometimes lose touch with their constituents. "I'm a firm believer that the general assembly should be made up of your peers."

"People are genuinely tired of people with the same ideas and excuses," she said. "I will be a fresh face with new ideas."

The Democrats have had a supermajority in the assembly for decades, Carpino said, and she feels a better balance between the two parties would allow for a better exchange of ideas.

But O'Rourke said that even after 20 years in office, he wants to stay in his position because he enjoys his work, and feels he has a track record of helping his district.

"I've got a lot of experience," he said. "I know I'm bringing something to the table."

"I think people know that I'm a positive person that gets things done," he added.

Both candidates agree that improving the economy and bringing more jobs to the state should be a major focus in the next term.

Carpino said she feels the current assembly has not been doing enough to make the state friendlier to businesses. In the future, she said, she'd like to see the governor work as an ambassador for the legislature, going to businesses



Carpino

and recruiting them. To attract them, she said, she'd like to lower utility taxes and make state agencies easier to navigate. Having more businesses in the state would increase state revenues and decrease the tax burden on individuals, she said.

The state's many economic development offices and agencies could be consolidated, Carpino said, so redundancies are eliminated and business owners will have to go to only one agency to address all their needs. She said the state should evaluate its programs to see whether they're achieving their goals, and eliminate the ones that aren't succeeding.

Carpino said her experience in the private sector has taught her to justify every decision she makes, and prove that expenses are worth it. The government, she said, should be held to that same level of accountability. Carpino lives in Cromwell, and works as a trial attorney for MetLife, representing clients in their insurance claims.

O'Rourke's plan to bring jobs to the state is to focus on clean energy, and jobs in the technical sector. This focus is twofold, he explained. Not only does he want consumers to have more choices and lower rates, but he wants to see the state focus on clean energy. Generating green power in the state, he said, would help the environment, and create jobs. O'Rourke pointed out that the state had been using manufacturing jobs over the years, and an increased focus on green technology could help bring them back.

Carpino said she's been enjoying meeting people in her district, and called the support she's received from Republicans, Democrats



O'Rourke

and independents "overwhelming." The support, she said, has grown continuously since she started campaigning in the spring, and since defeating Portland selectman Carl Chudzick in the Republican primary in August.

Many people she's spoken to have been pleasantly surprised to see a candidate going door-to-door to listen to their concerns, Carpino said, and she wants to continue doing that if she's elected.

Carpino explained that she'd set up periodic office hours in Portland, Cromwell and Middletown, so her constituents could come and have informal conversations about their concerns, and the issues they want the government to address.

"I'm not a politician," she said. "I'm one of their peers running for state office."

O'Rourke said that over his years in the assembly, he has gained valuable experience in handling finances and instituting new policies. O'Rourke said next year's budget would have to be trimmed back, and to do that, legislators need to look at state services and prioritize them. But O'Rourke said the vast majority of state programs are "very important," and he doesn't want to see them eliminated altogether. O'Rourke said he was proud of the fact that the state didn't have to cut state aid to towns, so schools and municipal services didn't suffer.

"We kept our commitment to cities and towns," he said. O'Rourke said a recession was the worst time to lay employees off, or to take away the safety net of social programs, and the state had to borrow money to keep these programs available for the people who need them. The recession, he said, is a global problem, and one that Connecticut lawmakers can't fix on their own.

Still, O'Rourke said he's confident the economy will turn around, and that the state had been handling its money well. In last year's budget, he said, the legislature was able to cut \$1 billion in spending. "We'll certainly be on

track to do that again this time." He said he thinks the economy is starting to improve, citing increased sales tax revenues as a sign that more jobs will start to open up in the state.

In his 10 terms in office, O'Rourke said, he's been instrumental in bringing state aid to smaller towns, not just to cities. His proudest accomplishment, he said, was the Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) which has funded projects like the Main Street Streetscape, the Brownstone Avenue extension and Riverfront Park, and new signs directing people to the quarries. The grants, he said, had been "a great boon, not just to Portland, but in Cromwell as well."

Over the years, O'Rourke said, he's had the opportunity to work with many people, who have worked with him on projects and offered their support.

"I've met so many people," he said. "I feel like I'm part of a team."

Both candidates said they were optimistic as they looked to the election, and thanked the residents of the district who had been offering their support.

"I've always been able to fix things," O'Rourke said. "That's a track record that's very solid. I think I've made a difference, a positive difference."

"Regardless of the outcome, I know that I have definitely made an impact on constituents," she said. Carpino said she hopes voters in her district come to hold their next representative, whoever it may be, to the standards of accessibility and accountability that she promised to them.

"People have definitely appreciated the honesty," she said. "I'm not gonna make a promise I can't keep."

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Polls will be open Tuesday, Nov. 2, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m., at the Portland Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave.

# Kinsella Facing Berkenstock in Race for Probate Judge

by Claire Michalewicz

On Tuesday, voters in four towns will choose the new probate judge for the brand-new Probate District 14. Democrat Stephen Kinsella, the current judge in Portland, is running against Republican Jennifer Berkenstock, an East Hampton attorney, for the new position.



**Berkenstock**

Both candidates say they're qualified because of their years of probate experience, one as a lawyer and one as a judge.

The new probate includes East Hampton, Marlborough, Portland and East Haddam. At present, all four towns have their own probate court, but the courts will be consolidated on Jan. 5. The new court will be housed in the current Marlborough court.

Kinsella has been serving as Portland's probate judge since 2007, and has also been filling in for Marlborough's judge since earlier this year. In August, he defeated East Hampton attorney Kenneth Barber in the Democratic primary. Previously, he said, he worked as a city attorney in Hartford.

For Kinsella, public service is a family tradition – his father, grandfather and uncle all served as mayors of Hartford. For him, being a probate judge isn't political, but just something he enjoys doing to help people.

When Kinsella took control of the Portland probate court three years ago, the court was one of the worst in the state, he said. The previous judge had left his files unorganized, and had

left paperwork from his private law practice mixed among the probate files. Kinsella said he and his secretary spent months getting the court organized and operational.

"I turned Portland into a model court," he said. "I know I can do this for the new district."

"Being a judge and being an attorney is completely different," Kinsella added, explaining that he's the only candidate with previous experience as a judge.

Berkenstock, meanwhile, has over 15 years of experience as a lawyer, she said, and she's dedicated almost all of it to doing probate work – handling wills, estate planning and helping make legal decisions for those who can't make their own. Most of the time, she said, people came to her when they were going through a crisis, whether from a medical emergency or a death in the family.

"I work with people who are in vulnerable situations," she said. "I really like to use my background and my skills to try to help them."

What people look for in a probate judge, Berkenstock said, is someone who "gets the job done, but in a way that they feel they're being listened to."

"Really, my background is the perfect background for a probate judge because I've done all that," she said. She said she feels her resume alone would be enough to show people that she's qualified without going through the political process, but added that she's enjoying



**Kinsella**

her campaign.

Berkenstock opened her law firm earlier this year, after taking a break for a few years to raise her son. She said that while she enjoys owning her law practice, she plans to shut it down if she's elected, so she can focus fully on the judgeship.

During her campaign, Berkenstock said, she's been trying to get to as many houses in all four towns as she can, in order to speak to voters and get their input on what they'd like from a judge. "It's been a really good experience," she said.

Berkenstock said many people in the district have told her that the paperwork the probate courts use is confusing. If elected, Berkenstock said, she hopes to serve on a statewide probate committee to see if the forms can be simplified.

"That's not the way the probate court should be," she said. "It should be easy. One of the things I love is that people can go in and use the court themselves."

Kinsella said he's also been trying to meet as many people as he can, though an ankle injury has left him unable to do any door-to-door campaigning. But, he said, he's been attending events in all four towns, and has had the opportunity to meet voters throughout the district.

Kinsella said many residents don't have a good understanding of what probate courts do. But once he starts talking to them, he explained, they often ask him questions about wills and other probate issues, and Kinsella said he's happy to offer them the advice.

Kinsella said he hoped to keep the "small-town ambience" of the probate court. He said he's had the opportunity to fill in for judges at larger courts, and said they can be more intimi-

dating than smaller ones like Portland or Marlborough.

For Kinsella, his favorite part of his job is having the opportunity to help people. Some of the most rewarding cases he handles in his court are adoptions, he said, though he enjoys working on other cases because he likes helping people solve their problems.

Most of the time, he said, people leave his court happy, and they often leave his court smiling. "It doesn't happen every single day, but 99 days out of 100," they leave happy, he said.

But Kinsella said he's optimistic; throughout his campaign, he said, he's seen support from people of all political affiliations, in all four towns. If he doesn't win, Kinsella said, he's not yet sure what he would like to do, though he noted that he's been receiving offers from law firms.

"I've worked with a lot of new people," he said. "Hopefully I'll keep up those relationships whether I win or lose."

"I've met so many nice people," she said, adding that Republicans, Democrats and independents from all four towns have been offering their support. Even in East Hampton, where she's lived for over 20 years, she's had the opportunity to meet many new people, she said.

Berkenstock and Kinsella both said they were happy as they looked toward Election Day, and said their campaigns have been successful.

"I'll definitely be pleased with the experience no matter what the outcome," Berkenstock said, adding that from the support she's seen, she's feeling confident about the upcoming vote.

"Don't forget to vote on Nov. 2," Kinsella said. If elected, he said, "I'll continue to work hard and I hope to make the court work."

## Many Candidates Running for State, US Office

by Claire Michalewicz

It's not a municipal election year, but when Portland residents head to the polls next Tuesday, they'll still have a host of other races to vote in as well.

Running for governor are Republican Tom Foley, Democrat Dan Malloy and Independent Thomas Marsh; for U.S. Senate, Republican Linda McMahon, Democrat Richard Blumenthal, Independent Warren Mosler and Connecticut For Lieberman member John Mertens; for attorney general, Republican Martha Dean, Democrat George Jepsen and Green Party candidate Stephen Fournier; for secretary of state, Republican Jerry Farrell Jr., Democrat Denise Merrill, Independent Michael Telesca, Green Party candidate S. Michael DeRosa and Libertarian Ken Mosher.

Also, for comptroller, Republican Jack Orchulli, Democrat Kevin Lembo, Independent Hugh Dolan, Green Party candidate Colin Bennett and Libertarian Joshua Katz; and for treasurer, Republican Jeff Wright, Democrat Denise Nappier, Independent Andrew Grant White and Green Party candidate S. David Bue.

Portland residents can also vote for Republican Christie Carpino or Democrat James O'Rourke for state representative; Republican Jennifer Berkenstock or Democrat Stephen Kinsella for judge of probate; and Republican Neil Nichols, Democrat Eileen Daily or Green Party candidate Colin Bennett for state Senate. Full stories about these three races appear elsewhere in this issue.

Also, while the rest of the *Rivereast* towns

are in the Second Congressional District, Portland is in the First Congressional District, meaning voters will choose between incumbent Democrat John Larson, Republican Ann Brickley, Green Party candidate Kenneth Krayseske and Socialist Action candidate Christopher Hutchinson.

Larson, from East Hartford, has held the Congressional seat since 1998. He said the main problems facing the state and the country are jobs and the economy, and he and his fellow representatives had plans to address them in the next term.

The recovery, he said, has "been slower than what we would have liked." But Larson said he was confident Congress was on the right track, explaining that in the previous term, the Recovery Act had kept the economy from going into a double-dip recession, or even a depression.

"Our goal is to make a new America," he said. "I understand that people are angry and frustrated." Larson said voters should remember that President Barack Obama had inherited the struggling economy from his predecessor, and that there was still more work to do.

"Now it's time to roll up our sleeves and do more," Larson said. "That's what I've done all of my life in politics, and before I was in politics, and that's what I'll continue to do."

Brickley, an engineer from Wethersfield, said she was running because she feels Larson and his colleagues are taking the country "in the

wrong direction."

"I have skills that can help get us back on track," Brickley said. She said she doesn't feel the stimulus plan has been working, and thinks the government has been spending too much.

The lack of jobs is a huge problem, Brickley said, both in her district and throughout the country. She said instead of having the government create jobs, politicians should focus on easing taxes, fees and mandates on businesses, so they're in a better position to hire more workers.

"Congressman Larson's been there for a long time," Brickley said. She said she feels that after being in office for so long, Larson was "becoming part of the problem."

"People don't feel they're being listened to," she said.

Krayseske, who lives in Hartford and works at a law firm, said he would like to see military spending cut by 70 percent, and troops withdrawn from Iraq and Afghanistan. In addition, he said, he thinks the government should put forward a "massive" stimulus package to help the economy improve, and create more jobs.

To tackle the challenges of global warming, Krayseske said, he wants to see emissions reduced, and a carbon tax instated to help meet that goal. In addition, Krayseske said that urban centers are the most environmentally sustainable place to live, and he would like federal money to rehabilitate cities to attract more people from the suburbs.

But his real reason for running, Krayseske said, was because he feels third-party candidates are treated unfairly.

"I think we've broken barriers where some exist as far as third-party candidates go," he said, pointing out that Larson and Brickley agreed to have debates with him and Hutchinson.

Krayseske said there was still more work to do, and noted that many media outlets had been leaving him and Hutchinson out of discussion of the race.

"We have to get over our prejudices and get over this political bigotry," he said. "Many voices are not represented in our system."

Hutchinson did not return a call for comment, but according to his campaign website, [votesocialistaction.org](http://votesocialistaction.org), he's an art teacher in Hartford, a political cartoonist, and a longtime antiwar activist. His party is "campaigning in support of a mass united movement of working people to fight for our common needs," his website says. Republicans and Democrats, the website says, are both "representatives of the ruling rich," not workers.

"We call for placing the biggest banks and corporations under public ownership through democratic workers committees. This will allow working people to organize the economy in the interests of human need," the website says.

Polls will be open from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 2, at the Portland Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave.



# When Life Gives You Lemons, Rent Vans in Marlborough

by Katy Nally

The Enterprise of wheelchair van rentals, as Premier Accessible Van Rental owner Arron Frankum puts it, is based in Marlborough, and celebrated its one year anniversary this month.

Premier Accessible Van Rental rents Dodge Van Caravans, equipped with Braun foldout Entervans, to area residents who need wheelchair-accessible transportation. Frankum began the operation in Connecticut a year ago, and is looking to create a network of rentals that spans from Hartford, to Springfield, to Boston, to Providence. He also brings vans to New York City.

With Premier Accessible Van Rental, an area wheelchair-bound resident was able to attend a funeral service for the day and an 11-year-old and his mother were able to travel around while their own handicap-accessible van was undergoing repairs. The Marlborough Health Center has also used Frankum's vans.

"I provide a valuable and viable service for the community," Frankum said.

For \$139 per day, Premier Accessible Vans will rent its Caravans, and provide pickup and delivery, to anywhere in the greater Hartford region, including where the *RiverEast* covers. Frankum is working to set up satellite offices in Boston or New York City and rentals are available to and from those cities. Frankum will also send his vans to Bradley Airport to pickup individuals for \$50, in addition to the full-day rental.

While there are other options for renting wheelchair-accessible vans, Frankum said with Premier Accessible Van Rental, "I think you get a little more bang for your buck."

He noted his business rents on the weekends and provides pickup and delivery. Most other options for wheelchair vans specialize in sales and service, and not rentals, he said.

Frankum, who is in a wheelchair himself, said he got the idea to create Premier Acces-

sible Van Rental when he was undergoing medical treatment in Boston three years ago. Several months prior, Frankum was in a car accident in Connecticut. While driving at night, Frankum swerved to avoid hitting a deer and crashed his car, he said. The next thing he remembered, he said, was waking up in the hospital where doctors told him he wouldn't be able to walk.

At the time of the accident, Lieutenant Frankum was working as a deputy director of intelligence in Navy Warfare Development Command on the naval base in Newport, RI. In 1999, Frankum served two deployments in the Middle East during the first Gulf War and he later served in Saudi Arabia from 2005-06.

All that time serving in the Navy, "and a deer does you in," he said.

But Frankum maintains his positive outlook. "Making lemonade is what I'm doing," he said.

As Frankum recovered at a rehabilitation facility in Boston, he said he noticed "there wasn't a viable way for me to get around except for mass transportation." And so Premier Accessible Van Rental was born.

"It really would have been nice to have something like this when I was in Boston," he said.

When he returned home to Texas, Frankum set up the operation there first, and then later brought it to Connecticut.

While Frankum currently has four vans, he said he's looking to expand, and perhaps work in conjunction with other businesses like funeral homes, personal injury attorneys and doctors' offices. He is also looking to purchase a larger vehicle that holds up to 14 passengers.

In Texas, Frankum said he was able to grow the business "real quick" from three to 10 vans. Now, his wheelchair-accessible vans are available in San Antonio, Austin and Dallas.

If the Connecticut operation were to expand,



Pictured above is Arron Frankum, owner of Premier Accessible Van Rental in Marlborough, next to one of his Dodge Caravans with a Braun foldout Entervan. His business caters to area residents who are wheelchair-bound and brings vans to New York City and Boston.

Frankum said he would be able to charge less for each rental.

As a first-time business owner, Frankum said "my biggest problem is ignorance." He pointed to his stack of how-to books that have so far guided him through the creation of Premier Accessible Van Rental.

"I'm creating a local market," Frankum

added. "It's all trial by fire."

But Frankum must be doing something right, because, so far, "everybody seems to like it," he said.

For more information about Premier Accessible Van Rental, visit [premiervanrental.com](http://premiervanrental.com), or call Frankum at 860-986-7718.

## Beckett, Cassano Vie for Open Senate Seat

by Katy Nally

After serving Marlborough for eight years, Democratic state Senator Mary Ann Handley is retiring at the end of the year, and now two candidates are vying for her spot in the legislature — Republican Stewart "Chip" Beckett and Democrat Steve Cassano.



Beckett

Cassano is the former mayor of Manchester and Beckett owns and operates his own veterinary practice in Glastonbury.

The Fourth Senatorial District includes Marlborough, Glastonbury, Manchester and Bolton.

Both candidates are currently part of the state's Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) and have similar ideas about making operations more efficient at the state level.

"I think we can streamline our way out of these problems," Beckett said, referring to the state's projected \$3.26 billion deficit for the next fiscal year.

For example, Beckett noted, there are several state departments and commissions that deal with child services, and the state could combine the programs and create "a single point of access" for residents.

Currently, he said, "It's not structured in a way to help citizens."

Cassano agreed, saying, "My big thing is to change the way things are done. ... Our setup is archaic."

Cassano said the state should provide permit applications and other forms online, as a way to simplify processes. Beckett agreed, adding Connecticut's state government should be ranked first or second in the nation for using the Internet as a way to post and accept forms, instead of its current status at 38th.

Beckett said as a business owner, he's hit with "a variety of nickel-and-dime taxes and forms," as well as license renewals, several times each year.

With all the forms and licenses requested by different agencies, Beckett noted, "I don't think anybody works in conjunction with everything else."

As a state, he added, "we're very business-unfriendly."

Cassano, who is currently chairman of the CRCOG Foundation, said the state needs to look at streamlining not only operations, but also how it distributes grants. Cassano said the state should seek grants that cater to multiple agencies like the Department of Transportation and the Department of Environmental Protection, and they should be awarded to regions, as opposed to towns.

Many systems like roads and maintenance "shouldn't stop at town lines," he said. "We have to start looking at the big picture."

But when it comes to education, the two candidates don't share all the same perspectives.

"I do and I don't agree with [Cassano]," Beckett said.

Beckett received his bachelor's degree and his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Perdue University and recalled, as a student, he was already ahead of the game in his undergraduate chemistry class because of his schooling at Glastonbury High School.

"We have an excellent education system," he said.

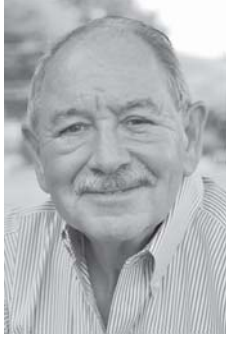
However, Beckett added that the traditional path of graduating from a high school and then moving on to study at a four-year college is not for everyone.

"It leaves a big part of the population out," Beckett said. "We need different measures to reach them."

Tech schools, Beckett said, should not be regarded as "a refuge for the substandard." He added, perhaps the place for some 18-year-olds is on the "factory floor."

Beckett also mentioned there are "social issues," such as the lack of parental involvement and physical activity, and security risks at school, which can impede the education of some students.

Cassano, a former professor of sociology at Manchester Community College for 27 years, said Connecticut's public education system is under-funded, and added, "the state *does* have



Cassano

the obligation to fund education adequately."

"There was nothing better in my life than teaching at MCC," he said. "It was a wonderful way to get to know Connecticut."

Cassano said "it's outrageous" that 67 percent of Marlborough's overall budget was allocated for education this year. He said this wouldn't have been the case if "the state was paying its fair share of ECS [Education Cost Sharing] funding."

A goal set in the 1970s for the state to fund 50 percent of ECS still hasn't been met, Cassano said.

"Currently, we are failing miserably, ranking last, with the highest achievement gap in the United States," Cassano said in one of his campaign flyers.

He cited the fact that 70 percent of students at Manchester Community College, and 50 percent at the University of Connecticut, need to take remedial courses.

"We're not preparing people well for college," Cassano stressed.

Beckett, on the other hand, said "I think we have an achievement gap, but we don't have an excellence deficiency. ... We need to embrace the success we have."

Beckett comes to this election as majority leader on the Glastonbury Town Council and a member of the Glastonbury Chamber of Commerce.

He is the current president for the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association and worked as a county delegate on the Connecticut Farm Bureau Convention from 2002-04.

"Chip knows how imperative it is to be 'business friendly' in order to continue to be a healthy, vital, and desirable community," one of Beckett's campaign flyers reads.

Beckett said his experience in owning his own business qualifies him to work as a state senator. The business "teaches you how to live within a budget's parameters," and "deal with adversity," he said.

Business people, Beckett continued, "like to make a deal," so he would have no problem negotiating in the legislature.

Beckett said, if elected, he would look to go from a "business unfriendly state" to creating "an environment where people want to invest."

Cassano said his 14 years as the mayor of Manchester qualify him to work as a state

senator.

As a mayor, Cassano continued, "you learn to make tough decisions."

During his time in Manchester, Cassano noted he brought in Buckland Hills Mall as a source of economic development, as well as three industrial parks. Also, he said, in his 14-year tenure, taxes in Manchester only increased by 1.2 percent.

"I did a balanced budget," Cassano said, adding he learned "if you want to add something, you have to cut something."

Lastly, Cassano said he would have no problem working with other legislators, because "I know pretty much everyone in that Senate, because I'm there all the time."

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Voters in Marlborough can also vote for a host of other state candidates. Running for governor are Republican Tom Foley, Democrat Dan Malloy and Independent Thomas Marsh; for U.S. Senate, Republican Linda McMahon, Democrat Richard Blumenthal, Independent Warren Mosler and Connecticut For Lieberman member John Mertens; for attorney general, Republican Martha Dean, Democrat George Jepsen and Green Party candidate Stephen Fournier; and for secretary of state, Republican Jerry Farrell Jr., Democrat Denise Merrill, Independent Michael Telesca, Green Party candidate S. Michael DeRosa and Libertarian Ken Mosher.

Also, for comptroller, Republican Jack Orchulli, Democrat Kevin Lembo, Independent Hugh Dolan, Green Party candidate Colin Bennett and Libertarian Joshua Katz; and for treasurer, Republican Jeff Wright, Democrat Denise Nappier, Independent Andrew Grant White and Green Party candidate S. David Bue.

For U.S. Congress, residents can also vote for Republican Janet Peckinpugh, Democrat Joe Courtney or Green Party candidate G. Scott Deshefy; for state Senate, Republican Stewart "Chip" Beckett or Democrat Steven Cassano; and for judge of probate, Republican Jennifer Berkenstock or Democrat Stephen Kinsella. Full stories about these three races appear elsewhere in this issue.

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Polls will be open from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 2, in the community room at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School, 25 School Dr.

# Camposeo, Darby Vie for New Probate District

by Lindsay Fetzner

On Tuesday, Nov. 2, voters will choose between Elaine Camposeo and Michael Darby for judge of the new Greater Manchester Probate District.

The newly-elected probate judge will serve the towns of Andover, Bolton, Columbia and Manchester. Camposeo is currently judge of the Andover Probate District, which covers Andover, Bolton and Columbia. The district is merging with the Manchester court after the election; the current judge of that court, John Cooney, is retiring.

Although Camposeo fell to Darby in the Aug. 10 primary for the Democratic candidacy, the Republicans unanimously nominated her at the May 6 Republican Judge of Probate Convention. As a result, Camposeo is able to appear on the Republican line on Tuesday's ballot.

Overall, Darby received a total of 1,915 votes in August, while Camposeo received 1,807 votes.

Both Darby and Camposeo currently practice law in the town of Manchester.

After graduating from law school, Darby joined the Phelon, FitzGerald and Wood law firm on Main Street, where he still practices today, marking over 28 years in the field.

The Manchester resident also served as the Manchester town attorney for a total of 16 years, which he described as "a very worthwhile experience." He also maintained the law practice during his tenure as town attorney, which ranged from 1991 to 2007.

Much of Darby's work at the law firm, he said, has gravitated toward servicing the legal needs of the elderly. Matters such as traditional estate planning, wills, trusts and more specifically, helping people qualify for Medicaid, Darby said, have brought him to the probate courts over the years. All of the work, Darby said, has been "gratifying."

Darby also noted that he is one of the founding directors and officers of the Connecticut Chapter of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys.

"I have had so much experience as an advocate for 28 years," Darby said. "I have represented literally thousands of clients in front of many, many probate judges and courts."

The idea of being able to apply his hands-on experience and knowledge to the probate court, Darby said, is appealing.



**Camposeo**

"It really is kind of exciting for me to look and say I can take all of this experience and practical knowledge I've acquired representing my clients, and now apply it as a judge for the entire community," Darby said. "It's another whole level of service."

And, Darby said, he thinks people are "ready for a change." With the reorganization of the courts, Darby said he thinks the idea of a new judge with a fresh perspective is "appealing to a lot of voters."

"I'm excited and ready to do this job," he said. "If I could start tomorrow, I would."

If elected, Darby said the probate court will become his "top priority." He said he will dedicate as much time as it needs "to do the job and do the job well." If that means full time, Darby said, the court will receive his full-time attention, "no question about it."

Due to the probate court reconfiguration, Darby said he recognizes the long, narrow district along the Route 6 corridor. Because Manchester and Columbia are essentially on opposite ends, Darby said it would be helpful for Columbia and Andover residents to be able to bring some of the probate matters into Columbia. Darby said he will use his "very best efforts" to establish some office hours for routine matters in Columbia, which he said is "only fair." If office hours are not an option, Darby said he will try to do informal seminars on the role of the probate courts and what services it provides in each community once or twice a year, at least initially.

Going door to door as part of his campaign, Darby said, has been one of the more "pleasant parts." He said he has enjoyed meeting people face to face, and plans on continuing to knock on doors in the communities that comprise the probate district.

Overall, Darby said, "it's been a very, very positive experience, and a very challenging experience, because it's a lot of work."

As the current judge of the Andover Probate District, Camposeo services the towns of Andover, Bolton and Columbia, a position she has held for 20 years. Since November 1990, Camposeo has been elected to office five consecutive times. Each term was for a period of four years.

Camposeo, a Bolton resident, has also served in the past as the acting judge in several other



**Darby**

probate courts, among them Manchester, Hebron, Ellington and Glastonbury. Camposeo said she was the acting judge in some communities for an extended period of time, up to one year's time.

In 1989, Camposeo began practicing law in Manchester. Sixteen years ago, she formed her law practice, the Law Office of Attorney Elaine Camposeo, which is situated on Center Street.

If elected, Camposeo said she has pledged to close her law firm and become a full-time probate judge. Due to the merging with Manchester, the court, she said, is no longer a part-time endeavor.

Camposeo also noted that she has been asked by the probate court administration to conduct a training session for the newly-elected judges. The session will cover the area of descendent estates. When a person passes away, Camposeo said the descendents often have estates that need to be processed so financial bills can be paid, and the remaining assets given.

"About 49 percent of probate cases in the state are descendent estates," she said. "It's really what moves the court."

Camposeo added she will conduct the training session regardless of whether she is elected probate judge next week.

Throughout her campaign, Camposeo said her belief that the probate court judge position is "non-political" has been confirmed. She said she has found that although there are many registered voters in all four towns affiliated with a party, they have told Camposeo that they "vote the person and not the party." This, Camposeo said, is very encouraging.

"I think that's what the probate position is all about," she said. "It's about the person and not the party."

Camposeo said overall, the campaigning has been going well, and she has not come across any challenges.

"The days are very busy," she said, "but it's a good busy."

Walking door to door in all of the four towns, meeting residents, and greeting those people who have never interfaced with the probate court before, are some of the aspects of the campaign Camposeo said she has enjoyed the most.

"It's been an interesting period of time," she said. "But, it's given me that opportunity to just simply go out into the community and meet the individuals, personally, all of September and all of October. It has really been a gift."

Due to the reconfiguration of the courts, Camposeo said she would consider holding hearings in other towns for individuals who may not be able to travel to Manchester. Years ago,

Camposeo said, she traveled to either Andover or Columbia on evenings that hours were scheduled, and met with people upon arrangement.

Looking ahead, Camposeo said, "It's really being ready on day one." Camposeo said it is important to the individuals seeking services in the probate court to have a seamless transition.

"Whatever services they are looking for the court to provide," she said, "I can do it."

And, Camposeo pointed out, if she is elected, "there will be no learning curve."

Although the merging of the probate courts in the state will become effective on Jan. 5, 2011, Camposeo said her district will be moving into the Manchester Probate Court office shortly after the general election. Cooney and Camposeo will share the responsibilities of each of their respective courts until Cooney's retirement at the end of this year.

\* \* \*

Voters in Andover can also vote for a host of other state candidates. Running for governor are Republican Tom Foley, Democrat Dan Malloy and Independent Thomas Marsh; for U.S. Senate, Republican Linda McMahon, Democrat Richard Blumenthal, Independent Warren Mosler and Connecticut For Lieberman member John Mertens; for attorney general, Republican Martha Dean, Democrat George Jepsen and Green Party candidate Stephen Fournier; for secretary of state, Republican Jerry Farrell Jr., Democrat Denise Merrill, Independent Michael Telesca, Green Party candidate S. Michael DeRosa and Libertarian Ken Mosher.

Also, for comptroller, Republican Jack Orchulli, Democrat Kevin Lembo, Independent Hugh Dolan, Green Party candidate Colin Bennett and Libertarian Joshua Katz; and for treasurer, Republican Jeff Wright, Democrat Denise Nappier, Independent Andrew Grant White and Green Party candidate S. David Bue.

For U.S. Congress, Andover residents can also vote for Republican Janet Peckinpaugh, Democrat Joe Courtney or Green Party candidate G. Scott Deshefy. For state representative of the 55th District, residents can vote for Republican Pam Sawyer or Democrat Jeanne Webb. And, for state Senator of the 19th District, voters can choose either Republican Sean Sullivan or Democrat Edith Prague. Full stories about these three races appear elsewhere in this issue.

\* \* \*

Polls will be open from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. at the Town Office Building, 17 School Rd.

# Courtney Facing Two Challengers for Congress

by Katy Nally

Democrat Joe Courtney, who has represented the Second Congressional District since he was elected in 2006, will take on two challengers on Nov. 2 – Republican Janet Peckinpaugh and Green Party candidate Scott Deshefy.



**Courtney**

The Second District includes 65 towns, including the *Rivereast* towns of Andover, Hebron, Colchester, Marlborough and East Hampton, but not Portland.

Depending on which candidate you ask, the three in the running differ on issues like fixing the economy and health care. (Deshefy said he thinks Peckinpaugh's and Courtney's platforms are closely aligned. "The Republicans and Democrats have really become one party in the past 30 to 40 years," he said.)

Courtney said he and Peckinpaugh split on the outlook of the state's and nation's economy. Courtney said he was surprised to hear Peckinpaugh say at a debate last week that Connecticut's economy was "going down the tubes." According to Courtney, who called himself an optimist, Connecticut still has a "great future," as long as the state keeps "fighting back."

Peckinpaugh said she would like to lower the corporate tax rate to about 21-23 percent, if elected, "to encourage new businesses to open their doors."

She said Congress shouldn't have adjourned for office without voting on the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act (more commonly referred to as the Bush tax cuts), which are set to expire on Dec. 31. Because they were left untouched by the current administration, Peckinpaugh said "any working American will incur a tax increase."

"In this economy, that's not a good thing," she said.

Peckinpaugh stressed the need for businesses to be made aware as to what type of taxes and fees might be "coming down the pike."

"Big corporations are sitting on capital and not hiring, because of their uncertainty of taxes," she said.

Peckinpaugh had other ideas on how to jumpstart the economy, like contracting some federal government jobs so services like lawn cutting wouldn't be federally funded.

Similarly, Deshefy said he supported tax incentives for small businesses, because they employ between 70 and 75 percent of the population. Specifically, Deshefy said he would look to place a carbon levy on larger corporations that pollute and the funds would provide tax reductions for business that don't pollute. He noted this is a working model in British Columbia.

"I've spent 26 years of my life enforcing regu-

lations for the DEP, and a fine is the only thing that works," Deshefy said.

Besides tax breaks, Deshefy said creating a Business Alliance for Local Living Economies (BALLE) system would bring jobs into the state. BALLE aims to create a network between independent business, green energy, local agriculture and zero-waste manufacturing.

Also, Deshefy said, weaning the U.S. off foreign oil would spawn green jobs.

"The more we get off foreign oil, and the more we regionalize our energy, it's going to keep that money in the U.S.," he said.

"If I'm in Congress, the economy won't go crashing into the hillside; the Green Party and I will land it safely on the Hudson," he said.

Courtney, on the other hand, defended his record and cited how he brought jobs to southeast Connecticut through shipbuilding, and helped farmers pick up the price of milk when he co-chaired the Congressional Dairy Caucus. He also touched on his support for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, saying 40 percent of funds provided tax relief, and other funds were invested in public infrastructure in Connecticut.

This month, Courtney announced he had secured a contract with the U.S. Navy, to have Electric Boat in Groton build its submarines.

"I'm going to continue that work that I think has made a big impact for businesses in New London County," Courtney said.

The congressman said he'll continue to watch over Electric Boat and look for other opportunities.

"I love eastern Connecticut; I've lived here my whole life. I think I have a much deeper grasp of what it takes to continue programs to turn around the economy," Courtney said. "I provide a strong voice for Connecticut."

Courtney is the sole Connecticut congressman to sit on the House Armed Services Committee and he is a member of the Seapower and Expeditionary Forces Subcommittee.

As co-chair for the Congressional Dairy Caucus, Courtney advocated for reevaluating the "current dairy support system" in the summer of 2009, according to a press release.

As a result, Courtney said he was able to restore the plummeting price of milk and help area dairy farmers who "are an important part of our communities' heritage."

Also, Courtney said, the nationwide economic downturn "didn't start Jan. 1, 2009." He said in the 1990s, a pay-as-you-go system was created for budgeting in Washington, but in 2002, that legislation expired and was not renewed by George W. Bush. Courtney said "there was a method to the madness" because



**Deshefy**

Bush instituted tax cuts soon after, in 2003.

Unlike Peckinpaugh, Courtney said he was against reinstating the Bush tax cuts.

The three candidates also take different stances on health care.

Courtney said he "absolutely" stands by his vote to support the universal health care bill that passed through Congress this year.

While there was controversy surrounding the health care law, Courtney stressed there were beneficial aspects of the legislation, including keeping children on parents' insurance until they turn 26 and not allowing insurance companies to deny coverage because of a pre-existing condition.

Courtney noted some constituents who use TRICARE, a military health care plan, were disappointed the bill that passed this year did not allow children to stay on their parents' TRICARE insurance until age 26. He said this aspect of the health care law was lost as it went through the House and Senate, but, he stated "there's no final word on legislation."

Deshefy and Peckinpaugh, however, said the health care law will not benefit enough Americans.

Deshefy said the current law gives power to insurance and pharmaceutical companies and doesn't do enough for citizens. Regarding the two points Courtney made, Deshefy said insurance companies can just increase rates for people with pre-existing conditions, or children who are on their parents' plan until they're 26.

Deshefy advocated creating a single-payer health care system like Medicare, which includes all citizens in a pool and administrative costs total 3 percent.

He noted that the U.S. is ranked 37th globally by the World Health Organization in terms of its health care system, as opposed to France's single-payer system, which is ranked No. 1.

Lastly, Deshefy said, there's no way to enforce health care insurance upon the public. He hypothesized young people would probably not sign up for the plan, remain uninsured, and cause health care rates to increase for older citizens.

Peckinpaugh agreed with Deshefy that the new system is a faulty one, but instead of a single-payer system, she said consumers should be able to purchase health care coverage like they buy car or home insurance.

"Yes we need health reform and we need to be able to take care of our neediest," Peckinpaugh said, "but not on the backs of everybody."

Peckinpaugh said the health care law will probably help fewer than 15 percent of Americans and aspects like tort reform and crossing



**Peckinpaugh**

state lines to purchase insurance was not addressed well enough.

Furthermore, Peckinpaugh pegged Connecticut as a state that never needed a universal plan in the first place, because of the state's HUSKY plan, which provides health care for low-income uninsured families.

Peckinpaugh also noted that the bill was passed in a partisan way.

"Never in our history have we done anything at a social level in a partisan way," she said, adding, some legislators had not read the entire bill before voting on it.

The three candidates' views are as different as their backgrounds.

Deshefy, a Lebanon resident, said "I'm an ecologist and a biologist," adding his expertise is needed in Washington.

"If you can't keep up with science, you're a national liability in Congress," he said.

For 26 years Deshefy worked for the state Department of Environmental Protection and "supervised enforcement and environmental clean-up programs pertaining to underground storage of petroleum..." his website, [deshefyforcongress.org](http://deshefyforcongress.org), reads.

Deshefy was the first Green Party candidate to run for the Second Congressional District in the state's history, and secured his place on this year's ballot when he ran against Courtney in 2008.

Peckinpaugh, an Essex resident, is a former television news anchor for WTNH-TV Channel 8 in New Haven.

"As a journalist, I investigated the issues and learned about them in depth, which is exactly what a congressperson has to do," she said.

After leaving broadcasting, Peckinpaugh began her own video production business, which, she said, is "currently on hold," during the campaign.

Peckinpaugh noted, "I'm not a politician, and I never intended to be."

Peckinpaugh is currently on the boards of the Girl Scouts of Connecticut, the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame, the Hartford Art School and the Margreta Stage Company, according to her website, [peckinpaughforcongress.com](http://peckinpaughforcongress.com).

Courtney, a Vernon resident, was elected to his current position in 2006, but also ran for the position in 2002 and lost to Republican Rob Simmons. (He did not run in 2004.)

Currently, Courtney is a member of the House Education and Labor Committee and worked to "combat rising tuition costs," according to his website, [courtney.house.gov](http://courtney.house.gov). (Courtney also has a campaign website, [joecourtney.com](http://joecourtney.com).)

Before coming to Washington, Courtney served as a state representative from 1987-94, when he was House chairman for both the public health and human services committees.

"I get up and prove myself everyday," Courtney said. "I demonstrate that the work I'm doing impacts the people of eastern Connecticut."

## Obituaries

### East Hampton

#### William Carl Myers

William Carl Myers, 67, of East Hampton, husband of Anna (Conrath) Myers, died Saturday, Oct. 23, at Yale New Haven Hospital. Born April 23, 1943 in Grafton, PA, he was the son of Irene (Kushner) Myers and the late William Kie Myers.

William retired in 1999 from Pratt & Whitney where he worked as a first piece inspector. He was a member of the Colchester Bible Baptist Church, and enjoyed golf, fishing and woodworking. He was a loving father and grandfather and enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren.

Besides his wife Anna, he is survived by his mother, Irene (Kushner) Myers of Pennsylvania; his son, William J. Myers and his wife Leah of Portland; his daughter, Carla Coomer and her husband Tim of Pennsylvania; two brothers, Timothy Myers of Pennsylvania and Frederick Myers of Pennsylvania; five grandchildren, Madeline Myers, Samantha Myers, Ashley Coomer, Jennifer Coomer and Daniel Coomer.

Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home on Wednesday, Oct. 27. A funeral procession left the Spencer Funeral Home and was followed by burial in the Swedish Cemetery in Portland. There was a memorial service that evening in the Colchester Bible Baptist Church, 38 Chestnut Hill Rd., Colchester. A reception followed the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Colchester Bible Baptist Church, 38 Chestnut Hill Rd., Colchester, CT 06415.

To leave online condolences, visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

### East Hampton

#### Adolph Sirois

Adolph Sirois, 70, of East Hampton, beloved husband of Laurence (Bouchard) Sirois, died Sunday, Oct. 24, at Middlesex Hospital. Born May 8, 1940 in St. Anne, New Brunswick, Canada, he was the son of the late Barthy and Emma (Martin) Sirois.

Adolph worked as a self-employed construction supervisor and lived in East Hampton for over 30 years. He was a very active communicant of St. Patrick Church in East Hampton and was a member and past grand knight of the Knights of Columbus Council at St. Patrick Church.

Besides his wife Laurence, Adolph is survived by his son, Claude Sirois and his wife Cathy of East Hampton; two daughters, Lynda Zawisza and her husband Dan of East Haddam, Carol Zesk and her husband William of East Hampton; six brothers and six sisters, all of Canada; and six grandchildren, Amanda, Nicole, Brian, Sarah, Emily and Ryan.

The funeral procession will leave the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, today, Friday, Oct. 29 at 9:15 a.m., followed by the funeral liturgy at 10 a.m. in St. Patrick Church, East Hampton. Burial will follow in St. Patrick Cemetery.

Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home on Thursday evening.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the St. Patrick Church Renovation Fund, P.O. Box 177, East Hampton, CT 06424.

To leave online condolences, visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

## Portland Police News

10/21: Christopher Stuart, 44, of 82 Main St., East Hampton, was charged with conspiracy to commit fourth-degree larceny, fourth-degree larceny, fifth-degree larceny, and two counts of third-degree criminal trespass, Portland Police said.

10/21: Hunter Clark, 20, of 56 Barton Hill Rd., East Hampton, was charged with first-degree criminal mischief, two counts of fourth-degree larceny, two counts of fifth-degree larceny, and four counts of third-degree criminal trespass, police said.

10/21: Ross Bartlett, 19, of 56 Barton Hill Rd., East Hampton, was charged with first-degree criminal mischief, two counts of fourth-degree larceny, fifth-degree larceny, and three counts of third-degree criminal trespass, police said.

10/21: Thomas Debaise, 20, of 19 Christians Crossing, Durham, was charged with first-degree reckless endangerment, tampering with a motor vehicle without permission, and unsafe movement from a stop, police said.

### Colchester

#### Hazel Jane Shurtleff

Hazel Jane Shurtleff, 76, of Colchester and formerly of Windsor Locks, East Windsor and Old Saybrook, beloved wife of Donald, passed away Saturday morning, Oct. 23, at Hartford Hospital. Born May 31, 1934 in Fredericton Junction, New Brunswick, Canada, she was a daughter of the late William and Marion (Smith) Ball.

Mrs. Shurtleff had worked in sales as well as in realty for many years before her retirement. She was active in Lions International and had served as a Cabinet Member. Mrs. Shurtleff was also a member of the Auxiliaries of both the American Legion and VFW.

In addition to her loving husband of 55 years, she is survived by two children, John of Denver, CO, and Donald of Old Saybrook; four grandchildren, Michael, David and Christian Shurtleff and Erica Balboni; three siblings, Geraldine Ball and Willis Ball, both of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, and James Ball of St. John, NB, Canada; and numerous extended family members and friends.

She was predeceased by her daughter, Gerri Ann Balboni, late of Enfield; and a sister, Joanne MacDonald, late of New Brunswick.

A memorial service was held Thursday, Oct. 28, at the Westchester Congregational Church, at the corner of Route 149 and Cemetery Road in Colchester. Rev. Karl G. Ostberg officiated. Committal at the Old Saybrook Congregational Memorial Garden was private.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Westchester Congregational Church, 95 Cemetery Rd., Colchester, CT 06415 or to Lions Clubs International Foundation, 300 W. 22nd St., Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842.

The family would like to extend their most sincere gratitude to the staff of the Medical Intensive Care and Palliative Care Units at Hartford Hospital for the superb care and concern shown to them as well as Hazel during her hospitalization.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.

For online condolences, visit [www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

### Colchester

#### John E. Collins

John E. Collins, 49, of Colchester, died unexpectedly on Saturday, Oct. 23 at his home. Born in Hartford on June 24, 1961 he was the son of the late Edward and Patricia (LaCaprucia) Collins.

John grew up in East Hartford and was a graduate of George J. Penney High School, Class of 1979. He resided in East Hartford for many years before going to Las Vegas, NV where he lived for over 10 years prior to moving to Colchester two years ago.

John enjoyed the ocean and was an avid fan of both the New York Yankees and New York Giants.

John is survived by his sister, Kathie Collins-Voiland; and her two children, Matthew E. Voiland and Mia P. Voiland, all of Colchester. He also leaves his three cats, Fredo, Precious, and Thumper; along with several aunts, uncles, cousins, and close friends.

A memorial Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Wednesday, Oct 27 at the Church of the Holy Family in Hebron. A private burial will be held at the convenience of the family. There were no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Protectors of Animals, 144 Main St., East Hartford, CT 06118-3239.

The D'Esopo-East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter St., East Hartford has been entrusted with the care of the funeral arrangements.

For online expressions of sympathy to the family visit [www.desopo.com](http://www.desopo.com).

## East Hampton Police News

10/14: James M. Brennan, 36, of 20 Barbara Ave., was arrested for DUI, failure to drive right and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, East Hampton Police said.

10/14: Joseph J. Pistilli, 53, of 19 Sunset Dr., was issued a ticket for speeding and operating a motor vehicle without insurance, police said.

10/15: Elizabeth Warzecha, 19, and Patrick Callis, 19, both of 24 Old Marlborough Rd., were arrested. Warzecha was charged with disorderly conduct, possession of alcohol by a minor and possession of drug paraphernalia, police said. Callis was arrested for disorderly conduct, possession of alcohol by a minor, interfering with an officer and possession of drug paraphernalia, police said.

10/17: Thomas Whitehead, 53, of 100 Clark Hill Rd., was arrested for DUI, following too closely and passing in a no passing zone, police said.

### Colchester

#### Andrew Salewych

Andrew "Andy" R. Salewych, 71, of Windsor Locks and formerly of Colchester, passed away on Sunday, Oct. 24, at home. Andy was born Nov. 6, 1938, in the Ukraine. He was the son of the late George and Hedwig Salewych.

Andy served in the United States Army Reserves and worked for AAA Aircraft Supply for many years and later for NAPA Auto Parts in both Windsor Locks and Colchester stores.

Andy is survived by his two children, Michael Salewych of Wethersfield and Cynthia Salewych of Suffield. Andy is also survived by three grandchildren, Steven Cabral of Florida, Angela Cabral of Vermont and Taylor Reynolds of Colchester; and two great-grandchildren.

Relatives and friends joined the family Thursday, Oct. 28, for a funeral service at the Windsor Locks Funeral Home. Burial will be held at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, Connecticut Chapter, 538 Preston Ave., Meriden, CT 06450.

For online expressions of sympathy or directions visit [www.windsorlocksfuneralhome.com](http://www.windsorlocksfuneralhome.com).

### Marlborough

#### James E. Eckels

James E. Eckels, 83, of Marlborough, beloved husband of Armenta J. (Sidoner) Eckels, died Monday, Oct. 25, at his home. Born Nov. 9, 1926, in Washington, IA. He was the son of the late Merle and Ethel (Larson) Eckels.

He had lived in Simsbury for most of his life before moving to Bluffton, SC and then Marlborough. James was retired from the Travelers Insurance Company, where he had worked as a service manager for the property and casualty department. He served his country in the U.S. Army during WWII.

Besides his wife, he is survived by a son, James M. Eckels and his wife Kathleen of Colchester, and a daughter, Jan Sousa and her husband David of Hebron; a sister, Virginia Bauer of Ohio; and three grandchildren, Jessica Sousa, Mark Sousa and Christopher Eckels.

Funeral services will be private at the convenience of the family. The Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, has care of the arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Middlesex Hospital Hospice and Palliative Care Program, 55 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

To leave online condolences, visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).



## Two Injured After Crash In Front of Hebron School

by Lindsay Fetzner

Two LifeStar helicopters touched down on the Hebron Elementary School soccer field last Friday morning, after a two-car accident in front of the school seriously injured two people, State Police and town officials said.

Shortly before 9:30 a.m. Oct. 22, State Police said, Robert Russo Jr., 23, of Colchester, was driving southbound on Route 85 in a 1999 Chevy Malibu when he drifted over the yellow lines and into the path of a 2004 GMC 2500 pick-up truck heading northbound. The pickup was being driven by Parker Moon, 45, also of Colchester.

Both Russo and his passenger, Lauren Picard, 30, of Vernon, received "incapacitating" injuries, State Police said. Russo suffered injuries to his legs and pelvic region, as well as multiple lacerations, and was transported by LifeStar to Hartford Hospital, State Police said. Picard was flown via the second LifeStar to St. Francis Hospital, with injuries to an arm, both of her legs and multiple head lacerations, according to State Police.

Moon's injuries were listed by State Police as "non-incapacitating." He was transported by Hebron Ambulance to Backus Hospital for complaints of pain in his back and neck, State Police said.

Both vehicles sustained major front-end damage, State Police said.

"There was very heavy damage," Blais said of the pick-up and car.

The Hebron Fire Department received the

### East Hampton

#### Margurita Fournier

Margurita "Rita" Fournier, 72 of East Hampton, formerly of East Haddam, lost a brief and valiant battle to cancer on Saturday evening, Oct. 23, at Masonic Care in Wallingford. Born May 11, 1937, with her twin sister, Mary, who passed shortly after birth, she was the daughter of the late Thomas D. and Lucille A. (Balzano) Colagiovanni.

She was a fabulous mother and a devoted grandmother and friend. She worked for many years at Monsanto before going to Quality Name Plate from where she retired. In her younger years she could be found selling candy and soda out of the back of her station wagon to raise money for the East Haddam Little League. She was heavily involved in fundraising for the American Legion Post 156 ballfield night game lights by serving hot dogs and pouring beers with a smile. When she was not spending time with her family and friends around the dinner table, she could be found with her cousins, her granddaughters, or her son playing with the "Indians. She enjoyed a real good scary movie or tapping her toes at a country concert with her girls.

She is survived by her sons, Thomas Fournier and John Fournier, both of East Haddam, David Fournier of Norwich and daughter and son-in-law, Susan and David Clare of East Hampton. The true light of her life were her grandchildren, Elizabeth Fournier of Haddam, Jordana Fournier of East Hampton, Samantha Fournier of Columbia, John Paul Fournier of East Haddam, and Jamie Fournier of Middletown. Recent additions to the family were her great-grandchildren Mason Fournier of East Haddam, and Aubrey Butler of Columbia. She will be greatly missed by her sister-in-life and partner-in-crime, Vada Turner of Colchester, along with her husband Paul.

Our family would especially like to thank Kim Brennan and all the hospice nurses who helped with her battle, without whom we never would have been able to make it through.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. today, Oct. 29, at St. Bridget's Church in Moodus, followed by a graveside service in St. Bridget's Cemetery, Moodus.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude's Hospital for all of Rita's "little people," whom she was so devoted to helping.

To leave an online condolence or tribute, visit [www.swanfuneralhomeoldsaybrook.com](http://www.swanfuneralhomeoldsaybrook.com).