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East Hampton residents and town officials gathered at the East Hampton High School gym as votes were tallied Tuesday night. Shown here from left are Democrat Kevin Reich and Republicans Ted Hintz Jr., Melissa Engel and Mark Philhower. Reich, Hintz and Philhower were elected to the now Democrat-controlled Town Council Tuesday.

Chatham Party Gets Shut Out

by Elizabeth Bowling

East Hampton's Election Day results were shocking – not a single Chatham Party candidate was elected for any office.

The Chatham Party, which controlled the Town Council the past two years, came up short in every office, leaving the seven-person Town Council to be Democrat-controlled – four Democrats to three Republicans.

Twenty residents utilized the newly established same-day voter registration, bringing the total voter turnout Tuesday in East Hampton to 3,269, or approximately 39 percent of registered voters, according to the registrar of voters.

Democrat Kevin Reich, running for office for the first time, took the cake with 1,510 votes for a seat on the Town Council.

A “very pleased” Reich said Tuesday night, “It’s evident that the citizens have spoken and they’re looking for a change.”

He added that he thinks the newly-elected members will “work extremely well together.”

Democrat incumbent Barbara Moore earned the second-highest number of votes for Town Council with 1,237 and said she, too, was “pleased.”

Moore, who also serves as the Democratic Town Committee chairwoman, said, “We worked so hard to get this vote – to get this win.”

Once the results were in, Moore could be seen shaking hands with the Republican Town

Committee Chairman Mike Rose, and hugging Republican Town Council incumbent Ted Hintz Jr., who earned 1,182 votes to solidify his re-election.

Hintz said, “The townspeople have spoken. Now it is time to truly move the town forward.”

Along the same lines of forward motion, Rose said, “I think the election results show that the town wants to move forward in a positive and cooperative manner.”

He furthered, “I think the divisiveness of the past three to four years is over and I know our party will be working with the Democratic Party and the remaining Chatham Party members for the betterment of the town.”

Joining Reich, Moore and Hintz on the Town Council are Democratic incumbent George Pfaffenbach, who was re-elected with 1,094 votes, and Democrat Philip Visintainer, who earned 1,128 votes.

Republicans Patience Anderson, with 1,148 votes, and Mark Philhower, with 1,124 votes, will round off the council.

Anderson, who unsuccessfully ran for Town Council in 2011, said Tuesday she was “so excited.” She said she’s looking forward to “getting to work on a long-term vision for this town.”

At the new council’s organizational meeting Wednesday night, the members unanimously elected Moore chairwoman, and Reich

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Schuster Squeaks By Hodge, Ford

by Melissa Roberto

Election Day was a nail-biter this year in Colchester, with much focus on the three-way race for the first selectman’s seat between Republican incumbent Gregg Schuster, Democrat Jim Ford and former first selectwoman Linda Hodge, who founded the new Colchester Independent Party earlier this year and ran on its ticket.

In the end, Schuster won his third straight term in the town’s top office, though results prove the race was a tight one.

This year, 3,438 ballots were cast, including 144 absentee ballots and 10 voters that took advantage of same-day voter registration, which was a new option at Connecticut polls this year. The total turnout represented 34 percent of the town’s registered voters, which Town Clerk Nancy Bray said was a “good turnout for Colchester.”

Schuster grabbed the first selectman’s seat with 1,200 votes, just 74 votes more than Hodge’s 1,126 and 105 votes over Ford’s 1,095. In a written statement, Schuster said he is “truly honored” to have been re-elected.

“I’m humbled by the faith everyone has placed in me and I look forward to continuing to serve the town,” Schuster said.

Schuster also thanked Hodge and Ford for a “well-fought campaign” and said “the town appreciates all that they have done.” At a Repub-

lican Town Committee (RTC) gathering at Toyo Hibachi and Asian Fusion after the results were tallied, Schuster thanked his family, especially his wife, Faith, for supporting him.

Of her and the CIP slate’s campaigning, Hodge said the team “worked as hard as we could,” and despite her loss for the top office, she added the turnout for the CIP candidates was “very well,” adding she was thrilled three of the six were elected seats.

“Given the fact that four months ago we didn’t exist, I think that’s pretty amazing,” she said.

Ford stayed positive on Wednesday following his loss. He said he had sent congratulatory remarks to Schuster, and respects “the decision of the people.” Additionally, Ford said he “had a lot of fun” during the campaign.

“I think it was a new effort for me,” Ford said. “I haven’t run for this type of office before. Unfortunately, it didn’t turn out the way I hoped but I met a lot of people and I enjoyed doing it.”

The slim margins continued on in the race of the Board of Selectmen – and due to multiple candidates coming up just a few votes short of victory, a recount will be conducted next week for the entire slate of selectmen candidates, Bray confirmed Thursday.

As of Tuesday, Republican incumbent Stan

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Dozens of signs dotted the entryway to Colchester Town Hall on Tuesday for this year’s municipal election. There were 3,438 ballots cast, for a 34 percent turnout rate.

Chatham Party cont. from Front Page

vice chair.
The first regularly scheduled meeting of the new Town Council is Tuesday, Nov. 12, at 6:30 p.m. at East Hampton Town Hall.

But with 15 candidates running for seven seats on the council, some were bound to not make the cut.

The closest to making it was the council's incumbent chairwoman, Chatham Party member Sue Weintraub, who collected 1,072 votes.

Weintraub said Wednesday that she was both surprised and disappointed.

"I was surprised because [the Chatham Party] ran 16 excellent candidates and we were running on our record," she said. "I was very disappointed in the [voter] turnout."

Regarding the change in Town Council leadership, Weintraub said, "I look forward to a high level of governance from the Democrats and Republicans than previously because we've raised the bar very high."

She also stressed that the Chatham Party isn't over, as there are four Chatham Party members currently serving on the boards of education and finance.

In a concluding remark, the former council chairwoman said, "God bless East Hampton."

Other Chatham members who did not make the council were incumbents Kyle Dostaler (910 votes), Derek Johnson (861), and Glenn Suprono (784), who served as vice chair the past two years. Angela Sarahina, also a Chatham Party member, earned 714 votes but did not make the cut.

Dostaler, who also serves as the Chatham Party chairman, said Wednesday the overall results were "certainly disappointing. But I appreciate the support that we had from the residents and my hope is that the town moves forward and that our council and boards get on the tasks for governing well."

The remaining candidates who did not win a seat on the council were: Democrat Thomas O'Brien (854 votes), and Republicans Ray Zatorski (883) and Jarod Bushey (828).

Differing from the Town Council race, Republicans won the majority of open seats on the school board, starting with the only incumbent candidate Josh Piteo, who earned 1,290 votes.

Other Republicans added to the Board of Education were Emily Fahle (with 1,158 votes)

and Debra Devin (1,110). Rounding out the board were Democrats Steven Kelley (1,129) and Christopher Goff, who collected 1,401 votes – the most of any Board of Education candidate.

Regarding being the youngest member of the Board of Education, Kelley, 19, said, "It feels really good," and added, "It's a great learning experience for me. It's so crucial for young people to be involved in their communities."

Kelley said, "The next four years are going to be a very crucial time for the Board of Education in particular because of the Common Core."

Those that didn't earn seats on the Board of Education include Republicans Maria Peplau (who collected 1,037 votes) and Karen Lee (1,034); Democrats Jeffrey Carlson (1,082), Karen Terry (1,065) and Rosarius Leonardi (779); and Chathams Elizabeth Whitty (1,004), Kelly McLaughlin (916), Joelyn Leon (828) and Peter Levy (797).

Looking at the Board of Finance race, the Democrats and Republicans earned two seats each. Democrat Dean Markham had the most votes (1,386), followed by Republicans Don Coolican – who will be ending his term on the Board of Education early to take on his new role – and Lori Wilcox, who collected 1,282 and 1,244 votes, respectively. The fourth and final open seat on the finance board went to Democrat Alan Hurst (1,215 votes).

The seven candidates that were not elected to the finance board were: Republicans Marc Lambert (with 1,181 votes) and Sal Nucifora (922); Democrats Mark Vickery (1,190) and Jack Solomon (967); and Chatham Party members Patricia Gauthier (877), Paul Hoffman (772) and Scott Sanicki (747).

The Board of Assessment Appeals welcomes Republicans Linda Ursin (1,118 votes) and Gil Danaher (1,078), and Democrat Linda May (1,033).

Incumbent Chatham Party candidate Barbara Suprono (900 votes) was not re-elected. Fellow Chatham Party member John E. Hines Jr. (895) was also not elected, nor was Democrat Lynn Spadoreia (913).

Democrat Charles Nichols (1,189 votes) took the single open seat for the 2013 term on the Zoning Board of Appeals and Republican Don Martin (1,133) was re-elected for the single



A group of dedicated Republican candidates pose for a photo on Election Day. Republicans and Democrats won big in Belltown Tuesday, and celebrated their victories together that night at Angelico's Lake House.

open seat for the 2014 term on the same board.

Republican Dorene Nablo (975 votes) and Chatham Lois McCutcheon (835) were not elected to the ZBA 2013 term. Similarly, Democrat Brian Spack (1,018) and Chatham Carolyn Beamer (795) missed election to the ZBA 2014 term.

Elected to the ZBA alternates were Republicans Margaret Jacobson (1,573 votes) and Melinda Powell (1,575), and Democrat Robert Hines (1,403). That left out Republican Darin Hurne (1,348) and Democrat Thomas Keegan (1,393).

The Democrats and Republicans stayed nearly even on each board – with Republicans ultimately earning 13 seats total and Democrats earning 11.

The two winning parties joined forces Tuesday night at Angelico's Lake House to celebrate their victory over the Chatham Party.

Moore said, "No other town would ever have Democrats and Republicans having a party like

this celebrating their town together."

Some voters seemed to be more split on their decisions Tuesday, however.

One voter, who wished to remain anonymous, said she voted the Chatham Party for Town Council and a mixture of Democrats and Chatham Party members for the other boards "just because I didn't know some of the Chatham Party," she said.

Another anonymous voter also said she voted for the Chatham Party, because "there's a lot more forward motion" involved in the party.

East Hampton resident Cliff Wise said, "I vote Republican all the time."

On the other end of the spectrum, resident Richard Johanson said he voted "straight Democratic" because he liked the Democratic candidates.

"The Democrats presently on the ballot appeal to me," Johanson added. "They have sound ideas with a vision for the future."

Schuster cont. from Front Page

Soby received the most votes for the selectmen race, with 1,620 votes. Democratic incumbent Rosemary Coyle racked in 1,375 votes. Soby was first appointed to the board in 2006 and has been re-elected in the last three elections. Coyle was re-elected to serve her fourth consecutive term. Both were quite pleased with the voters' support.

"I really appreciate the trust that the people of Colchester have put in me of providing leadership and representation," said Soby, who added his focus will be to continue striving for economic growth in town.

"I'm very flattered that the citizens of Colchester appreciate the work I do and re-elected me for the fourth time to this position," Coyle said. "I put my heart and soul into it and I work hard to make good decisions, ask tough questions and represent the citizens well."

Coyle added she felt fellow Democratic nominee Ford would have made a "fine first selectman and would have brought a fresh perspective." Conclusively, she felt the Democratic team worked "extremely hard because they care about Colchester."

While Soby and Coyle easily won their seats, among the remaining four candidates, all newcomers, it was much closer. Tuesday's count showed Republican Denise Mizla and Democrat Michael Caplet defeating CIP newcomers Evan A. Evans and Tearice Peters for the remaining two seats on the board. Evans had 1,165 votes while Peters' 1,207 votes came just two votes short of Mizla's 1,209 votes, and only seven away from Caplet's 1,214.

The recount will be conducted on Wednesday, Nov. 13, and even though the outcome could change, Caplet said he was "humbled by

and incredibly thankful for the support of my fellow Colchester voters." Similarly Mizla, former registrar of voters in town, said she understands how recounts work and that votes could change. Nonetheless, of her victory, Mizla said she was "very pleased with the results so far."

For Peters, a recount is sensible as she felt there were "some mishandlings of the election" due to closed doors within Town Hall during the tallying of the votes. Regardless of the close vote and future recount, Peters said she felt the CIP's role in this year's elections is "a historic moment in the town."

"I hope we continue growing," Peters concluded.

Turnover also occurred in the seat of town treasurer, as Republican newcomer Greg Cordova defeated Democratic incumbent Gregg LePage. LePage has served as the town's treasurer since 2009 while Cordova has spent the last eight years as a selectman. Cordova reeled in 1,592 votes over LePage's 1,455. Cordova confirmed Tuesday night this will be his first stab as the town treasurer and said it "feels really good" to have the support of the town.

The Board of Finance will welcome back two incumbents for six-year terms, Republican Rob Esteve and Democrat Tom Kane. The two full term seats were uncontested. Joining them is CIP newcomer James McNair III, who beat out Democratic nominee Kurt Frantzen by over 500 votes to serve a four-year term. Long-time Democratic member John Ringo also beat out the fairly new Republican member William Curran for a two-year term.

McNair said he was "greatly elated" to have been elected. He was also proud of the entire

CIP slate, who he felt "made a very substantial showing."

"I hope that we are able to accomplish what we're trying to do and I look forward to the challenges for the future," McNair said.

The Board of Education will welcome three familiar faces, and one new one, as the four candidates running to serve on the school board were automatically seated to the four open seats. Current Republican members Ron Goldstein and Mitch Koziol will join Democratic incumbent Don Kennedy and CIP newcomer Michael Voiland. Goldstein received the most votes out of anyone in the election, reeling in 2,137 votes. Though in terms of school board votes, Voiland came in just behind Goldstein for the most, with a total of 1,940.

However, change is afoot on the Board of Assessment Appeals, as two Republican incumbents seeking re-election, board chairman David Anderson and Jeff Brainard, who earned 1,118 and 1,081 votes respectively, were defeated. Democratic incumbent John Malsbenden maintained his current seat with 1,295 votes and will be joined by two newcomers, Democrat Denise Turner and CIP's Torri Buchwald who took in 1,404 and 1,166 votes.

Republican Town Committee Chairman Brenden Healy commented this week on the Republicans overall success at the polls Tuesday.

"We are very excited about the success the Republican candidates had on election night," Healy said. "We did lose a few races, which are disappointing, but we'll work hard to gain those seats back. However, we had a strong election and were looking forward to the future."

Democratic Town Committee Chairwoman

Dorothy Mrowka said she was "disappointed" about the Democratic losses of first selectman, town treasurer and a Board of Finance member.

"The people have spoken," Mrowka said, adding, "and I'm not sure what the mandate is."

However, Mrowka said she was "very pleased" to see the remaining Democratic candidates win seats and looked back at this year's campaigning efforts with confidence.

"I think our team did everything right," she said. "I've never seen a team work as hard as this team had. They worked well and it really was a pleasure working with all these candidates."

Hodge again stressed the success of the Colchester Independent Party. The CIP candidates sought roles of first selectman, Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance and Board of Assessment Appeals. Before the results came in Tuesday, each CIP candidate was officially a "petitioning candidate." In order to become an official party, the CIP had to run candidates in this year's election and gain 1 percent of votes per board or commission.

On Wednesday, Hodge said the CIP accomplished that, meaning in two years, when those boards and commissions are up for election again, candidates will be able to run on the CIP ticket. Hodge added that for any other boards or commissions that weren't up for election this year, such as the tax collector or town clerk, the CIP will have to run as petitioning candidates and grant 1 percent of votes in the future.

All elected officials will begin their new terms Nov. 18.

East Hampton Podium Players to Perform *Honk! Jr.*

by Elizabeth Bowling

Podium Players' youth theater members have been preparing for their production of *Honk! Jr.*, a musical based on the story *The Ugly Duckling*, for about two months and are nearly ready to take the stage next weekend.

According to stage manager Stacy Soracchi, *Honk! Jr.* is a modern take on Hans Christian Andersen's classic tale *The Ugly Duckling* and portrays the same, anti-bullying message.

She said, "*Honk! Jr.* offers a lesson in individuality and acceptance for all ages and teaches the lesson that it is alright to be different."

Soracchi explained that the comedic musical is about a character named Ugly, whose "odd, gawky looks instantly incite prejudice from his family."

Once Ugly is born, he is bullied by his father and neighbors. He is taken by a hungry cat, the show's villain, and separated from the farm and his loving mother. While trying to find his way home, Ugly meets a slew of characters and learns some valuable life lessons along his journey.

According to Soracchi's explanation of the plot, Ugly meets memorable characters including Captain Greylag, who leads a flock of geese, and a comical Bullfrog. Ugly discovers his "true beauty" and his "glorious destiny," as well as love and acceptance, Soracchi said.

"The show is witty and hilarious," Soracchi furthered. "*Honk! Jr.* will have you laughing, crying and humming the tunes as you leave the theater."

The show's director, Valerie Bozzi, has been with Podium Players for more than 25 years and has directed eight Podium productions in that time.

She said Podium has never done a production of *Honk! Jr.* before – but, then again, the theater troupe rarely repeats shows. *Honk! Jr.* was selected this year, though, because of its "wonderful message," she said.

Bozzi called the show "universal to all ages." She furthered, "It has a strong anti-bullying theme and a lot of parts" – which means there are plenty of opportunities for kids to shine, she explained.

She added, "There's a lot of wonderful actors."

Bozzi said her favorite part of the show is the theme, as well as the "warm-hearted" music.

She called the music "sophisticated," "catchy" and noted that it has "a lot of range."

One song in particular, Bozzi said, sends a

great message. The song, called "Being Different," expresses the importance of accepting people's differences.

She furthered, people need to "get comfortable with the uncomfortability" – for example, she said, "The lead's name is 'Ugly,' and that makes a lot of people uncomfortable."

Overall, Bozzi said, "The show has grown near and dear to my heart." She added, "I have a lot of favorite things about doing this or I wouldn't keep doing it."

Choreographer Kim Cordeiro also enjoys a lot of different aspects of Podium; she's been involved in the organization since 1990 and started doing the choreography in 2000.

According to Cordeiro, the cast for *Honk! Jr.* is made up of about 45 kids from East Hampton and the surrounding towns, to as far away as South Windsor and Cromwell. She said some kids come back for Podium productions "year after year."

For this Podium production, Cordeiro said, most of the cast members are playing some kind of bird, but aren't dressed up like the animals. Rather, the children's costumes simply resemble particular birds by following certain color schemes.

She said the age range of the kids is from first grade to 12th grade. That "spectrum," she said, gives the younger kids an opportunity to learn from the older kids.

"The kids are doing a great job," she said.

The proud choreographer said *Honk! Jr.* differs from the original *The Ugly Duckling* because "it's set to contemporary music."

Cordeiro called the play "timely" because it addresses bullying "in a way your six-year-old can understand and a senior citizen can understand."

Cordeiro said her favorite part of the play is the scene in which the cat, trying to eat Ugly, takes Ugly through a blizzard and the two become frozen. The scene ends in "the transformation when [Ugly] turns into a swan," she said.

The message is: "Everybody is going to be okay; just wait," she laughed.

For Cordeiro, this show is a family affair, as all three of her children are performing. Her oldest daughter, Jenna, plays Ugly's mother; her son Mason plays Ugly; and her youngest daughter, Lily, plays a duckling named Downy.

For Jenna Cordeiro, 17, *Honk! Jr.* will be her last play with Podium. The East Hampton High School senior called her final show a "bittersweet" experience. She said, "It's sentimental



A group of young Podium Players tested out their costumes under stage lights at rehearsal last Tuesday, Oct. 29. The kids will perform *Honk! Jr.*, a modern take on *The Ugly Duckling*, next weekend, Nov. 14-16, at East Hampton High School.

because this is my last Podium Players show before I go off to college."

Jenna is playing Ida, Ugly's mother. She said the biggest challenge of her role is pretending to be the mother of her real-life brother and sister.

She added, "It's different being a motherly character because I'm used to playing comedic roles."

For example, Jenna played Roxie in this summer's Young People's Center for Performing Arts production of *Chicago*. Overall, Jenna said she's performed in more than 25 shows and has been involved in Podium specifically since she was 3 years old.

Mason Cordeiro, who plays Ugly, is a 15-year-old sophomore at EHHS. He said he's been involved in Podium as long as he can remember and has plenty of experience playing a lead – he's played about 10 lead parts already, he said.

Even so, he said, "I'm a little nervous, but I'm warming up to it as I go."

He said he appreciates his character's journey throughout the course of the play, especially

that "in the end, everyone respects me," he said.

Alex Balletto, who plays Drake, Ugly's father, called the show "family-friendly." Balletto, 16, is a junior at EHHS and has been involved in 12 plays with Podium.

Balletto said he's had a couple of lead roles in the past, so he feels ready to take on the challenge yet again.

"I'm not nervous at all," he said, adding that he enjoys working with the younger children who play Drake's children.

In fact, he said his favorite aspect of the show is "the scenes with all of my kids – all of Ugly's brothers and sisters."

Balletto added, "It's a really funny show," and "the songs are good."

The show will go on at East Hampton High School Nov. 14, 15 and 16 at 7 p.m., with a matinee show Nov. 16 at 2 p.m. General seating tickets are \$12 and \$10 for seniors and students. To purchase tickets in advance or for more information about the production, visit www.podiumplayers.org.

Missing East Hampton Teen Found Safe

by Elizabeth Bowling

A Silver Alert that was issued after an East Hampton teen went missing last Wednesday, Oct. 30, was called off the following evening, as the teen was found safe.

The missing 19-year-old East Hampton resident, Ashley Newell, of Chestnut Hill, was found unharmed near her home last Thursday around 7:30 p.m. by East Hampton Police, according to a press release from Sgt. Timothy Dowty.

Greg Voelker, East Hampton's volunteer fire department chief, confirmed that Newell was found on Chestnut Hill, just north of

Michael Drive.

Newell had gone missing near her home around 5 p.m. last Wednesday and East Hampton Police considered her to be an endangered person at that time. The search called for assistance from Portland Police, Connecticut State Police and the East Hampton Fire department.

According to Voelker, more than 65 people helped search for Newell, including the Community Emergency Response Team.

Voelker said he wished to express thanks "to everybody that helped out."

Portland Brownstone Discovery Park Broken Into

by Elizabeth Bowling

The Brownstone Exploration Discovery Park was broken into last Thursday night, Oct. 31, and two laptops and several underwater cameras were stolen, Portland Police said.

The break-in, which occurred from late Thursday night into early the following morning, is being investigated by Officer James Capello of the Portland Police.

Lt. Ron Milardo said Tuesday that Capello

had identified four suspects in the burglary. Three out of the four had already confessed to the crime, he said.

"We have recovered one of the laptops from someone's house," Milardo added.

He also said the police will be applying for arrest warrants.

If anyone has any information on the burglary, call Capello at 860-342-6780.

East Hampton Police News

10/24: East Hampton police said Elizabeth Warzecha, 22, of 45 Copper Beach Lane, Portland turned herself in to police pursuant to an active arrest warrant. Warzecha was charged with two counts of second-degree forgery, sixth-degree larceny and sixth-degree criminal attempt at larceny.

10/25: William V. Depietro, 30, of 225 West High St., East Hampton was placed under arrest pursuant to an outstanding PRAWN warrant held by State Police Troop K. Depietro was charged with first-degree failure to appear, police said.

10/25: Amber Pierce, 20, of 531 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester turned herself in pursuant

to an active arrest warrant. Pierce was charged with sixth-degree conspiracy to commit larceny and sixth-degree attempt at larceny, police said.

10/27: Police said Santo David Barbagallo, 37, of 64 Markham Rd., Middletown was placed under arrest and charged with violating a restraining order.

10/30: Eric J. Lachappelle, 28, of 162 Wall St., Hebron was arrested pursuant to an active PRAWN warrant. Lachappelle was charged with violation of probation, police said, said police.

10/31: Ronald Perkins, 47, of 29 1/2 North Main St., East Hampton was arrested for second-degree breach of peace, police said.

Portland Police News

10/9: Devon Brackett, 22, of 33 Chatham Ct., was charged with criminal violation of a restraining order, Portland Police said.

10/18: Christopher Ahearn, 26, of 11 Michelle Dr., was charged with first-degree criminal trespass and criminal violation of a restraining order, police said.

10/23: Scott Spicer, 18, of 1080 Portland Cobalt Rd., was charged with second-degree breach of peace, possession with intent to sell within 1,500 feet of a school and possession of drug paraphernalia, police said.

11/2: Jeffrey Mackenzie, 45, of 96 Union St., Westfield, Mass., was charged with third-degree assault, police said.

11/2: Keith Hann, 49, of 48 Overlook Ter., Rocky Hill, was charged with third-degree assault, police said.

Colchester Police News

10/29: State Police said Joshua Giddings, 25, of 604 Town St., East Haddam, was charged with three counts of second-degree failure to appear.

10/31: State Police said Michael L. Marchany, 43, of 69 Montauk Ave., New London, was charged with second-degree failure to appear.

11/2: State Police said Heather Bordeleau, 62, of 11 Nehantic Trail, Niantic, was charged with failure to drive right, DUI and violation of any traffic commission regulation.

Hebron Police News

11/2: State Police said Matthew W. Laforge, 35, of 74 Hunt Rd., Columbia, was charged with DUI and failure to drive right.

Marlborough Police News

11/4: State Police said Scudder Evans, 20, of 17 Fairview Run, was charged with first-degree failure to appear.

Andover Police News

11/3: State Police said William J. Kauffman, 47, of 10 Shoddy Mill Rd., was charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct.

Hebron Vets Share Memories with RHAM Students

by Geeta Schrayter

On Wednesday, students at RHAM High School took a break from their regular schedules to listen to a number of Hebron veterans who came to the school in honor of Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

Grades nine and 11 gathered in the gymnasium, while students in grades 10 and 12 filled the auditorium. As the program began in the latter, talking quickly ceased as everyone listened to the guests talk not only about their personal experience with the military, but the different opportunities the military can – and has – provided them, both personality and career-wise.

John Tuttle, who served with the Army Military Police in both Korea and Vietnam, began the presentation and explained he signed up at 19 and served for three years, as a result of his not knowing what he wanted to do after high school.

Tuttle said he had no inclination to attend college after he graduated. Instead, he became a “ski bum” in Vermont for a year. Then, after a visit with a local recruiter, he decided to join the military – something he said Wednesday had been a “privilege.”

Tuttle became a military policeman and served in Korea 10 years after the war. During that stint, he worked with the Korean National and Military Police on joint patrols, where they detected and arrested black market smugglers.

That experience took Tuttle into the Korean mountains and villages where he learned what some of the Korean citizens thought about Americans.

“To them, we were liberators” he said, sharing he once entered a home and followed Oriental custom by removing his shoes. The homeowners then took things further by removing his socks and washing his feet. Confused, Tuttle asked one of the Korean police members he was with what they were doing, and was told the act was a mark of honor.

“Americans are considered their liberators and they feel they enjoy freedom because of us,” he concluded.

After Korea, Tuttle served a year in Texas and then, when he had 10 months remaining in his service time, he was sent to Vietnam. There, he was a squadron leader on several missions, serving primarily as a machine gunner on convoy runs along the Cambodian border.

Tuttle said all of his experiences allowed him to move forward in life once his enlistment was over.

“Because of the Army military training, I fell into police work,” he explained. “The Army was grateful for my service so I was also able to get

a grant and go to college. The military gave me enough confidence to know I could make it.”

And make it he did.

“I pursued my dream and became a federal agent,” he said.

After Tuttle, Roger Krasusky, who is a master sergeant in the Air Force, shared his own reasons for joining. Although his sights were originally set on the Army, Krasusky explained those plans changed when his father, who had served in the Air Force, had a heart attack.

In response, Krasusky stayed nearby and started to go to college part-time – but college, he mused, costs money. When he found out he could attend a state school for free if he enlisted in the National Guard, he enlisted in the Air Force National Guard in 1994, following in his father’s footsteps.

Since enlisting, Krasusky’s been to Iraq twice – “to work on my sun tan” he joked.

“That’s sarcasm. It’s not a fun place to be,” he added. “You try to make the most out of it.”

Krasusky told the students joining the military not only allowed him to attend college for free, but taught him about such qualities as teamwork and attention to detail.

He added high school students already experienced a facet of the military through their participation in sports.

“That’s your team. That’s your unit; your squadron.” He said. “A lot of the rank and structure you live in today is in the military.”

Krasusky concluded by saying every job is important in the military, and if students were interested in joining they should “have at it – do the best you can,” and they may learn what they’re looking for in the future as a result.

Next came Jesse Cox and Dan O’Connell, both Army medics who have spent time in Afghanistan.

For Cox, joining the military wasn’t so much in response to a particular calling, but as an answer to the fact he “messed up in high school.”

Additionally, “I didn’t know what I wanted to do. I just knew I wanted to get out and see the world,” he said. “I loved medical stuff, so I went to training, got into college because I was in the military and studied premed in New York.”

During that time, Cox was deployed twice: once to the Dominican Republic on a humanitarian mission, and then to Afghanistan to work at a hospital.

“Overall, it was a great experience,” he said. “I got to meet some of the most interesting people you’ll ever meet, see the world and see different cultures.”

While prior to joining Cox was unmotivated



In honor of Veterans Day, RHAM High School students listened to presentations Wednesday by local veterans who talked about their experiences in the military. Shown, from left, are Dan O’Connell, Jesse Cox, Roger Krasusky and, at the podium, John Tuttle.

and lacked direction, the military taught him to be responsible. Through his work, he was given responsibility over people’s lives, something he said “definitely” made you become responsible in return.

Joining the military “was one of the best decisions I ever made in my entire life,” he stated.

For O’Connell, joining the Army four years ago after graduating from RHAM was a decision he made because he considered it his duty “as a young, fit man.”

“Not everyone is able to be a soldier, so I just felt like it was my duty to do it,” he said, calling his experience “really rewarding.”

“My personal perspective on life changed when I came home,” he explained. “I try to keep in touch with my family as much as possible and not take them for granted.”

In addition, O’Connell said “I feel very fortunate to be living in America. We don’t realize how fortunate we are here.”

As the four men concluded their remarks,

Tuttle returned to the podium to leave students with a passage he said meant a lot to him “because the military changed my life.”

The passage, he furthered “is about you. This is about me. This is about us.”

“In just over 200 years, your country, through freedom and hard work, has changed the world,” he read. “In agriculture, industry, education, medicine, law transportation and on and on, no country can match America’s record – in religious freedom, civil freedom, human rights and the importance and dignity of the individual. We do have our differences, but when we join together in times of crisis, our strength is awesome. Among all the world’s nations, America still stands out front. You’re an American. You’re the finest ever – and don’t you ever forget it.”

And with that, after thunderous applause, the students were left to mull over his words, the experiences of the veterans, and possibly their own peaked interest in joining the military after their time at RHAM comes to an end.

Help Give the Gift of Warmth in Marlborough

by Melissa Roberto

Dipping temperatures and frost-covered windows are greeting New Englanders, which means it’s time to start pulling out those hats, mittens, winter coats and heavy blankets that have been stowed away since spring.

For the Marlborough Knights of Columbus, it’s also the time of year to help out a neighbor in need, which is why the council has begun a winter clothing drive that will continue through December for those less fortunate in the area going without such necessary items – and an event for the cause, a “Knight on the Green,” will take place this weekend on the Marlborough Town Green.

Starting at noon tomorrow, Nov. 9, and running until 10 a.m. Sunday, Marlborough Knights will camp out in tents on the green. The purpose of the event is to raise awareness for the homeless and to collect donated items from passersby in the town center.

“We plan to spend a night sleeping in the cold to raise awareness that we have neighbors

who suffer in the cold all winter long,” said Grand Knight John Egazarian.

While supplies last, each person who donates during the weekend event will receive a \$5 Dunkin’ Donuts gift card. The gift cards were donated by Deputy Grand Knight George Piel of LKQ Corporation.

The Knights are looking to collect donations of hats and gloves, coats and blankets. The item in greatest demand is men’s jackets.

Marlborough’s Knights of Columbus Council 15734 was formed in July and is already 42 brothers strong, Egazarian said. The council is dedicated to serving the local community as well as St. John Fisher church. In October, the Knights held a “successful” pig roast event that welcomed 300 attendees, Egazarian furthered, but the clothing drive is something that brother Fran Falanga spearheaded.

Falanga, chairperson for the event, said this week it was a YouTube video he watched earlier this year that inspired him to help out the

homeless. The video showed footage of clothing donations being brought to homeless shelters, and he recalled thinking to himself, “What a great idea this would be for the Knights of Columbus.”

The drive will run through Dec. 6, though Falanga said he would be flexible with accepting donations past the end date. Falanga said the brothers have a goal of ultimately filling one box truck full of donated items. However, with high hopes for Knight on the Green, Falanga said he’d like to see that entire box truck filled by Sunday morning.

“You might as well aim high right?” Falanga said excitedly.

To Falanga, the winter clothing drive is aimed to help the less fortunate families in Marlborough.

“We’re starting with them,” he said.

The donations will also extend into the greater community. Donations will benefit the charitable organizations of the Marlborough

Food Bank, Hartford Catholic Worker House and Hartford’s Immaculate Conception Shelter. The brothers stressed that donating is quite easy and accessible. In addition to this weekend’s event, there are drop-off donation boxes at Marlborough Town Hall, 26 North Main St.; Richmond Memorial Library, 15 School Dr.; and Marlborough Elementary School, 25 School Dr.

The Knights are also available for picking up donations in Marlborough and surrounding towns. Anyone interested in scheduling a pick up can call Falanga at 860-883-9225.

Falanga said Council 15734 is made up of “motivated members” willing to pull resources to come up with a beneficial donation.

“We have a pretty good, young council,” he explained. “We just figured this time of year people are in need. There’s power in numbers and we can really do some damage on this and come up with a big donation.”

Republicans Sweep Seats in Marlborough

by **Melissa Roberto**

The Republicans in Marlborough made a hefty sweep on Election Day, as 18 out of 19 candidates on the GOP slate snagged seats, as opposed to just five of nine Democrats that were elected.

Overall, 1,201 Marlborough citizens voted out of the total 4,156 that are registered to vote. According to the Town Clerk's office on Wednesday, approximately 25 percent of voters weighed in. Of those 1,201 voters, three were people who registered to vote on Tuesday – a first in Marlborough, thanks to a new state law that allows people to register to vote on Election Day if necessary.

Republican incumbents Susan Leser and Cliff Denniss were both re-elected to serve for another four years. Leser received 619 votes while Denniss received 617 votes. Leser has served on the board since 2004 and Denniss has maintained a seat since 2007. The Republican pair defeated Democratic nominees David L. Farrington and Torin Lee-Lewis, two candidates that, if elected, would have been new to the board and Marlborough's political scene altogether. Farrington received a total of 582 votes and Lee-Lewis received support of 477 votes.

Republicans Scott Fleher and Midge Denno automatically obtained the two open seats as finance board alternates as their race was unopposed. Fleher received 804 votes and Denno received 762 votes.

Possibly one of the most anticipated races in Marlborough this year was between the Board of Education candidates. Despite the Republican dominance of the other races, three of the four citizens elected to the school board are Democrats. The four candidates are a balance of two incumbents and two newcomers.

The two newcomers, both Democrats, were also the top vote-getters for the school board race. Theresa Brysgel walked away with 651 votes, while Wes Skorski received 630. The incumbents, Democrat Mimi LaPoint and Republican Carole Shea, received 608 and 604

votes, respectively. The two will begin their second four-year terms on the school board. For the fifth candidate, Republican newcomer Susan Rapelye, 572 votes wasn't enough to guarantee her a seat.

Shea thanked the residents of Marlborough for supporting her this week. She also thanked fellow Republican Rapelye, whom Shea felt "worked hard and has an open, receptive approach to issues." In regards to newcomers Skorski and Brysgel, Shea said she feels the two will "certainly have different perspectives on the challenges we face, and I look forward to working with them and other board members as well."

"I'm proud of our school and what we've accomplished over the last four years," Shea continued. "My goal has always been, and will remain, an excellent education for our children."

Rapelye, the lone Republican who did not win a seat on any board Tuesday, said she's "very proud" of how many votes she received.

"I'm very happy with the turnout and I will definitely be trying again in 2015," said Rapelye.

Brysgel and Skorski, meanwhile, are both looking forward to their new roles.

"I'm just really looking forward to working with the rest of the Board of Education members and making a difference in the school," said Brysgel. "I'm looking to build the strongest school possible."

Brysgel furthered she's happy to see the world language program coming back into the school, and looks forward to "hopefully hiring a really strong full-time principal for the next year."

Skorski, too, seemed quite pleased with the results.

"I'm so happy with the tremendous support we received from the community and my family throughout the election," Skorski said. "I look forward to working with the board and the administration and to continue working with the community."

Incumbent Republicans David Morganson and Riva Clark received enough votes to keep them on the Board of Assessment Appeals. Morganson's 659 votes and Clark's 738 votes both defeated Democratic newcomer Matthew Wilson's 574 votes.

In terms of the Zoning Commission, the Republicans ultimately came out on top. Republican newcomer Mark Merritt, a familiar face through his dealings with the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department, was elected for the first time, as well as Sandy Sudduth and current vice chairwoman Susan McFarland to serve another term. The three GOP candidates defeated Democratic nominee Joe La Bella. Current Republican alternate David Fisher was re-elected to serve another four years as an alternate to the commission.

Despite the loss, La Bella said this week he was pleased to see new candidates have been elected – "obviously" for his fellow Democrats, he said, but also for new faces from "both sides." La Bella furthered he hopes newcomers who may not have won will stay involved.

"I'm disappointed to have lost personally, but that's the reality of elections," La Bella said. "Sometimes you lose."

But for some boards and commissions in town, nobody lost, as the races were uncontested. That was the case for Planning Commission candidates Brendon Montstream and Wendy Nichols. The two Republican candidates were automatically seated, along with lone candidate for an alternate position, Republican Mark Stankiewicz. Despite the lack of the race, all three Republican candidates received over 800 votes.

The Zoning Board of Appeals candidates also automatically assumed roles on the board. These included Republicans Eric J. Kelly and Chris Lawson, as well as Democrat John Grasso. Also automatically seated was Republican Joseph Weber, the only citizen to run for one of two open alternate seats.

Similarly, Marlborough citizens Judy

Benson-Clarke, a Republican, and Manny Catarino, a Democrat, were automatically seated on the RHAM Board of Education. The regional school board serves RHAM middle and high schools.

Republican Town Committee Chairman Ken Hjulstrom commented on the GOP slate's results this week.

"I am disappointed that Sue Rapelye failed to win a seat on the Board of Education," said Hjulstrom. "I think she would have been a great addition and I look forward to working with her in a future campaign. But I am pleased that the voters chose to overwhelmingly endorse the balance of the Republican candidates and look forward to the return of Cliff Denniss and Susan Leser to the Board of Finance along with newcomer Board of Finance alternates Scott Fleher and Midge Denno."

Hjulstrom furthered his interest in the new Board of Education members, particularly Wes Skorski, whom Hjulstrom felt "made an issue of the foreign language program."

"That topic, coupled with the low voter turnout, which typically occurs in a year when there are no state or federal elections, helped them to draw in voters who were focused on this topic," Hjulstrom said. "We will now need to see how Wes and other Board of Education members handle the myriad of issues that will confront them."

Democratic Town Committee Chairwoman Lauren Cragg commented on the success of the Democratic candidates elected to the local Board of Education.

"We're extremely pleased that the voters of Marlborough have replaced the public school naysayers with forward-thinking advocates," Cragg said. "This is a step toward the open and responsive government that Marlborough deserves."

Elected officials will assume their new roles on boards and commissions beginning Nov. 11 with the exception of RHAM education candidates, whose new terms will begin on Dec. 1.

Bransfield Elected to Sixth Term in Portland

by **Elizabeth Bowling**

Portland's lineup of elected officials didn't change much after Election Day Tuesday.

Democratic incumbent First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield was re-elected to serve her sixth term in office, beating out her only opponent, American Independent Party candidate Lambros Lambrinides. Bransfield collected 1,159 votes, while Lambrinides had 308.

"I'm grateful to have my term renewed," Bransfield said. "I'm looking forward to the next two years."

She also said she appreciated everyone who came over to the Democrats' tent Tuesday to talk to her about their concerns.

Regarding voter turnout, Bransfield said, "We always wish more came."

A total of 1,593 Portland residents came out to vote Tuesday, which is approximately 27 percent of registered voters. That number includes five people who took advantage of the recently implemented same-day voter registration.

Lambrinides said he was "disappointed that the voter turnout wasn't higher." He furthered, "I think a lot of Republicans and people got a bad taste in their mouth two years ago and didn't show up."

But, he assured, "I'll be back in two years." Another race that has left the town experiencing homeostasis was the race for the Board of Selectmen, in which seven candidates ran for six seats. Each incumbent selectman was re-elected for another term, leaving the board Democrat-controlled.

The selectmen are: Democrats Kathleen Richards (1,040 votes), Mark Finkelstein (1,005 votes), Brian Flood (983 votes), Frederick Knous (957 votes); and Republicans Ryan Curley (724 votes) and Carl Chudzick (624 votes).

Richards, who also serves as chairwoman of the Democratic Town Committee, said Wednesday, "We were happy with the results and we look forward to working as the full board again."

She added that she, too, was disappointed with voter turnout.

"I wish more people had come out to vote," she said. "They should take advantage of their right to vote."

The seventh candidate for the Board of Selectmen was Republican Robert Taylor, who was running for the first time and earned 556 votes, but didn't win a seat on the board.

There were no surprises with the Board of Education results Tuesday night, as it wasn't much of a race. Five residents ran for five seats on the school board, so all were elected.

Four of the five candidates were incumbents: Democrats Andrea Alfano (1,097 votes) and Ben Srb (1,082 votes), and Republicans Michael Pelton – who filled a vacancy for a two year term – (1,007 votes) and Betsey Smith (720 votes). The fifth candidate, and newest member of the school board, is Democrat Christopher Darby, who earned 1,011 votes.

Similarly, the Board of Assessment Appeals yielded no race at all. Three seats were filled by three candidates: Democrats John Dillon (995 votes) and David O'Brien (962 votes), and Republican Peter Castelli (746 votes).

The one seat available for the Zoning Board of Appeals for the 2013 term went to incumbent Democrat Ben Srb (842 votes), leaving out Republican Kurt Peterson (656 votes).

Finally, the one seat for the Zoning Board of Appeals for the 2014 term went to its one contender, Democrat Richard Basso (1,170 votes).

"I'm thrilled that the entire Democratic ticket was elected," Bransfield said, but not without recognizing every candidate. "I want to thank everybody – Republicans, Democrats, American Independent – for putting their names on the ballots."

Outside the polls Tuesday afternoon, resident Paul Randazzo said he voted mostly Democratic because – at least in the race for first selectperson – there weren't many options. He said, "There were no Republicans for first selectman; there was just an Independent so I figured he didn't have much of a chance so why bother wasting a vote?"

Another Portland resident, who wished to remain anonymous, said he, too, voted mostly



First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield, right, won a sixth term in office on Election Day. She's shown here outside the Portland Senior Center polling place Tuesday afternoon, alongside Portland resident Ann Snow.

Democratic because he "wanted to stick with one party." He added, "I like Susan Bransfield so I went with her party."

Another anonymous voter said she voted for the Republican Party because that's how she and her husband always vote.

"That's what we have always believed in," she said.

Resident John Bula said simply, "I'm a [staunch] Democratic voter." He added, "Bransfield is trying very hard and I think she's dependable."

Mike Elliott, another Portland resident, said he voted for the incumbent first selectwoman,

too, because Bransfield has "done a pretty good job."

Elliott said he also voted for the incumbent Board of Selectmen, and "voted a mix" of Democrats and Republicans for the other boards.

But ultimately, the majority of candidates elected were Democrats – to be exact, 12 Democrats and five Republicans were elected overall.

* * *

The next regularly scheduled Portland Board of Selectmen meeting is Tuesday, Nov. 19, at 7:30 p.m. at the Portland library.

Hebron Voter Turnout Increases for Quiet Election

by Geeta Schrayter

Despite there being only two contested races, the number of voters who stepped out during Tuesday's municipal election increased from 2011, when only 855 voters - or about 13 percent - headed to the polls.

This year, 1,427 ballots were cast, including 30 absentee ballots and nine from same-day voter registrants - which was a new option this year. Altogether, turnout represented about 22 percent of the town's registered voters.

Since the majority of the candidates were running unchallenged, most of the votes equated a show of support. Of the 1,427 voters, 989 showed support for Republican Board of Selectmen candidate Dan Larson, who will be returning for his second term; 745 expressed support for Democratic candidate Mark Stuart, who will begin his third term.

Two new Republican candidates, Terrence Piggott and Henry Sawicki, will be joining Democratic incumbent Malcom Leichter on the Board of Finance. Piggott received 892 votes while Sawicki garnered 897, and Leichter earned 808.

As a result of the election, the makeup of the Hebron Board of Education will be changing from a Republican-controlled board to a Democratic-controlled one, as Republicans Kathy Shea, Tina Marie Blinn and William Moorcroft are not seeking re-election, and no Republicans opted to run in their stead. Rather, Democrats Ramon Bieri, Carol Connolly and Erica Bromley all ran uncontested. Connolly received the most votes of the three Tuesday, at 839 while Bromley earned 822 and Bieri received 769.

In addition to the above, another seat was left vacant after the resignation of Republican Dominic Marino in September. At Thursday's Board of Selectmen meeting, which occurred after presstime, the selectmen were slated to discuss the possible appointment of unaffiliated voter Abe Krisst, who has lived in town since 1996 and has three children currently in school.

Republican Town Committee Chairwoman Catherine Marx said in a letter to the selectmen Krisst was "very eager to serve, and was well received by those in attendance [at the Oct. 28 RTC meeting]."

Speaking on the elections in general, Marx said Wednesday she was happy with the results.

"Many of our candidates were newcomers to running for political office and their hard work paid off" she said, adding Kevin Williams, who ran to keep the seat on the RHAM Board of Education he filled after a resignation last October, received the highest vote count in the two contested races with 971 votes. (The Planning and Zoning Commission was the only other contested race in town.)

Williams said he was pleased with the results, and "deeply honored" by the votes he received.

"The voter confidence is deeply gratifying" he said, adding now that elections were over the board had a lot of work to do.

"I'm looking forward to continuing to support the workload I've taken on," he said, explaining his first year was all about learning, but now he feels "I've hit a stride where I feel I can move things forward."

Williams said the primary issue facing the school board is the implications of education reform including teacher evaluations, the implementation of Common Core State Standards and the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium.

"There's a lot of work to be done to figure out how to accomplish those things while keeping costs in line," he furthered. "There's a fine line we have to walk."

In addition, Williams said the second issue facing the board was to find ways "to enhance and deepen communication between the district - not just parents, staff and students but the taxpayers without children so they understand what's going on."

Williams said he also wanted to see strengthened communications between the various RHAM groups such as the Sports and Music Boosters and the RHAM Parent Group, to work on issues "that run from field maintenance to homework practices."

Along with Williams, newcomers Rich Jacobson and Val Dalton with the Republican Party and Democrat Joe O'Connor vied for a spot on the board. With 851 and 813 votes, re-

spectively, Jacobson and O'Connor edged out Dalton, who collected 706.

Jacobson said he was happy with the results and voter turnout.

"I thought we had a pretty good turnout considering the limited [number of contested races]," he stated, and said it seemed to him that people came out to support the RHAM Board of Education in particular.

"So people were concerned," he said, adding, "I'm very pleased they selected me to help resolve some of the issues" facing the board, which he had previously mentioned as being communication and school maintenance.

O'Connor was similarly pleased with his election.

"It feels great to be elected to the RHAM Board of Education by [the] community," he said. "I look forward to serving the RHAM community for the next four years."

O'Connor added he was looking forward to sitting down with the board and the superintendent to discover how his professional background and education can be immediately put to good use.

In the other contested race Tuesday, Republicans Natalie Wood and Devon Garner along with Democrat Judy Podell edged out Democrat Rich Marzi for spots on the Planning and Zoning Commission, collecting 968, 746 and 764 votes, respectively, to Marzi's 646.

Wood and Podell, who will both be starting their fourth terms on the commission, said they were excited to continue.

"I'm excited to be continuing with another term," said Wood. "I've been doing it for a while and it doesn't grow old by any means and Hebron is in a very exciting time. I look forward to helping lead us forward."

Podell shared similar sentiments.

"I'm happy to be on the board. I think we influence the direction the town grows in and I think we do a very good job - the entire board together," she said. "Hebron has become a better, prettier, nicer place in the 12 years I've been on."

Newcomer Garner, who moved to town in

2009, said the Planning and Zoning Commission has had a "great group" of members in the past and he was excited to serve with them. In addition, he said he was happy with the turnout and grateful for the opportunity.

"I was extremely excited and thankful for the opportunity to come out and serve on Planning and Zoning which has been a passion of mine," he stated.

Lastly, Republican Eric Brancard earned 971 votes Tuesday in his run for Planning and Zoning Commission Alternate.

In addition to touting Williams' high number of votes, Marx noted newcomer Michael McCormack, who ran for an unchallenged seat on the Zoning Board of Appeals, "was honored with the highest vote count for Republicans."

McCormack received 1,001 votes, while fellow Republican Jardo Opocensky earned 867 and Democrat Anthony Novak had 744. Republican Jane Golino, who ran for Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate, took in 972. All got slots on the board.

Over on the also-uncontested Board of Assessment Appeals, Democrat Ted Bromley received 764 votes while Republican Phil LoBianco came in a close second with 759.

Town Clerk Carla Pomproicz, who has held that office since 1999, received 1,034 votes and will continue her work for at least another four years.

On Wednesday, Democratic Town Committee Chairman Bill Rudis extended his recognition to the leadership and candidates of the RTC and said he hoped the elected officials would "engage the responsibility they now carry with the right amount of understanding and work toward a balanced interactive with our elected Democratic Party representatives."

In addition, Rudis said he was thankful to the members of the Democratic Town Committee who had volunteered their time and would help make the town a better place to live with "their educations, training, instincts and belief that they will be able to make a difference by their service."

Andover's Bond Rating Goes Up

by Geeta Schrayter

It was announced at Wednesday's Board of Selectmen meeting that Andover's bond rating had been raised two notches, from 'AA-' to 'AA+' by Standard & Poor's Rating Services.

The ratings are Standard & Poor's "opinions about relative credit risk," according to the company's guide *Understanding Ratings*, and the ability of the issuer - in this case, Andover - to meet its financial obligations.

According to the Standard & Poor's summary, Andover's upgrade reflects a number of factors such as a "very strong economy" in town, "very strong budgetary flexibility" and a strong budgetary performance.

The summary stated the town had "adequate" management conditions with standard financial practices but mentioned some concern over the 2012 auditor's report that found "significant deficiencies in areas of internal control over financial reporting and compliance."

First Selectman Bob Burbank commented on this area and said part of the concern, which was a lack of formal policies and a procedures manual was due to time constraints, but they were currently in the works. And, he added, the concerns "didn't necessarily affect the rating."

Overall, Standard & Poor's said Andover's outlook is stable, which reflects the town's "consistent financial performance and economy."

"We do not expect to revise the rating in the next two years," Standard & Poor's wrote, "because we believe the town will maintain strong reserves and continue to participate in the broad and diverse economy of Hartford."

The company added a higher rating would be considered once enhanced management policies are implemented.

"I think that [rating upgrade] was a plus to the town," said Burbank. "They do that every other year and this is the third time in a row since I've been in office that we've been upgraded. So we're doing something right."

The selectmen also voted to switch the town's accounts over to Farmington Bank from Citizens Bank - but not without some frustrations boiling over.

Burbank explained in the last year, many of the services Citizens used to cover the cost of have been handed over to the town. In addition, he said, the current interest rate is "less than one half of one percent."

In response, a committee made up of Burbank, the town treasurer and assistant to the treasurer as well as Lindy when available, have been interviewing banks over the last few months "to find the best bank that will be able to handle government business."

"We concluded after all that, many of them weren't able to meet our criteria," Burbank said. But Farmington Bank did.

"Farmington Savings Bank is going to pick up all the items Citizens did in the past and they have also come up with an interest rate that is almost .5 points higher than all the other banks we interviewed," he said, adding, "The assets in that bank is far greater than necessity but all our money will be completely insured."

Burbank said another benefit to switching banks was that Farmington Bank had a team "of about six to assist in the switchover."

The other banks considered, which included First Niagara, the Savings Institute and Rockville Bank, had fewer people who specialized in government banking.

"One of the other banks had only one person available for government banking," he said. "We really needed a bank that when situations come up, there is a staff to assist us."

Although the board members agreed the switch seemed to be a good thing, not everyone was pleased with the way the situation had been handled.

Selectwoman Julia Haverl expressed concern over the lack of communication between board members. She said she felt she should have been informed the interviews were going on - and that the town was even looking into switching banks.

"I'm happy to serve but I do feel I'm not getting any information," she said. "Something like this I'd like to know about in advance."

Haverl said she felt as though Burbank, Lindy and selectwoman Elaine Buchardt were always in the know, while she and selectwoman

Cathy Desrosiers were left in the dark.

(But Buchardt added she was often left unaware too, and only finds out about certain issues by stopping into Town Hall.)

"I'm trying to do a good job," Haverl continued. "I was voted in here fair and square but I really am disappointed that you do this over and over and over again. Tell us what's coming down the pipeline. Share the information."

Haverl concluded by saying she just wanted Burbank to take what she said "under advice."

"There's no hard feelings," Haverl said. "We just want to know what's going on."

The switch to Farmington Bank was approved 4-0, with Desrosiers abstaining. Later in the meeting, Desrosiers furthered Haverl's thoughts and said she had refrained from voting since she wasn't made aware of the issue beforehand.

"The thing that concerns me is we're expected to vote stuff in that represents the town," she said. "I abstained because my name is going on it. Any feedback from the public, they're going to say 'You voted it in,' and I'm going to say 'No I didn't because I didn't know about it.' It's been two years we've all been on this board and it seems like we should have this figured out. I'm frustrated."

Desrosiers added it was the same with other issues too, not just the bank.

"We drop them and it seems like we never address them again," she said.

Also at the meeting, the board voted to approve a number of expenditures made to improve the structure of the Town Hall. After a heavy safe recently arrived, Lindy said some concern was expressed over the amount of weight carried on the top floor of the building, particularly since there were already a number of heavy fire-safe cabinets in the building. In response, an engineer was brought in to examine the structure who determined that the existing floor joists were overstressed.

"If we didn't take immediate action and something happened we would be very neglect," Burbank said. "So rather than wait we brought in a structural engineer."

The engineer recommended some additional support be added through the construction of a new bearing wall on the lower floor of the building.

The cost of the consulting services amounted to \$1,777.50 while the construction, which took place last month, totaled \$1,800. Although the board unanimously approved the expenditures, Haverl said commented this was yet another example of an issue she would have liked to know of ahead of time.

"Here is another example of something we could have helped on, and again this is the first we hear of it," she said.

But Burbank said "time was of the essence on this."

Lindy also shared at the meeting that a Veterans Day program would be held at 11 a.m. on Veterans Day, this coming Monday, Nov. 11.

"Each year at our Memorial Day observance, we recognize the living veterans as well as those who have passed," he wrote in a letter to local veterans. "This year Andover will initiate a Veterans Day Program at Veterans Memorial Park."

The program will include presentations by Andover students on the meaning of Veterans Day and a performance by local recording artist Karen Lussier.

The program will be followed by a cookout, and was put together by the Andover Veterans Day Ceremony Committee which includes Lindy, Burbank, Board of Education member Kim Hawes, resident Russell Billings and former first selectman Ed Turn.

The program will take place at Veterans Memorial Park at the intersection of Route 6 and Hebron Road.

The next Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 12. The board voted during Wednesday's meeting to move the date from Wednesday, Dec. 4, as Burbank will be on vacation that week. The meeting will take place at 7 p.m. in the town office building, 17 School Rd.

Portland Open Forum Gets the Discussion Started

by Elizabeth Bowling

About 50 Portland residents – including a handful of elected officials – attended an open forum Sunday afternoon, Nov. 3, at Gildersleeve School.

Event organizer Elwin Guild said he has a lot of experience in what he calls “Open Space,” which essentially allows members of a community to come together, discuss their concerns, and brainstorm solutions.

Guild explained to the crowd of Portland residents that the event was based on everyone’s mutual interest in “planning the future of your community.”

He said that instead of criticizing the town, residents should do something to impact it for the better.

“Every time I have a conversation with a friend or neighbor, it seems to turn into bad news,” Guild said. “We can’t really complain if we haven’t done something to invest in the problem.”

So he organized the Open Space event to give people a chance to invest.

According to Guild, Open Space Technology is “a natural communication process that recognizes that people take responsibility to pursue what they are passionate about and also ensures that what is important to each participant will be discussed.”

Essentially, it is a form of strategic planning and “allows people to self-organize around issues of shared interest and quickly formulate next steps toward achieving change,” he furthered.

He said his Open Space events are typically spread out over three days, so Portland’s event Sunday was an “ultimate compression.”

Elected officials from the Zoning Board of Appeals and Board of Selectmen attended the event, as well as First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield.

“I think this was a wonderful way for the community to come together and talk,” Bransfield said. “I hope there are many more of these sessions.”

Guild, too, said he hopes to implement more of these Open Space meetings.

At the beginning of Sunday’s event, about 50 chairs were arranged in a big circle – which Guild called a “family circle” – in the Gildersleeve gymnasium.

“It’s a powerful, powerful structure,” he said of the circle.

A table covered in blank papers stood in the

center of the circle. Guild offered an opportunity for people to write on a sheet of paper the issues they wanted to address during the forum. They would then tape that paper to the “agenda wall” and establish what area of the gym the group would meet to discuss the topic and at what time.

“We’ve got lots of space and lots of time,” Guild said, encouraging residents to not be shy.

To get things started, he posed the following question to the audience: “What is it that you’ve always wanted to have considered that never got the time of day?”

One resident, who seemed particularly eager to get started, walked up to the table to write down her issue. She was followed moments later by three others residents. After about 10 minutes, and the merging of several meeting topics, 14 meetings were established.

Some of the topics were: the Elmcrest property, land preservation, removing charges at the transfer station, establishing a community center, canoe and boat access, swimming in the reservoir, and addictions in Portland.

But before the groups could get started with their meetings, Guild explained the four principles for each of the 14 meetings: “the people that come are the right people; what happens is the only thing that can happen; whenever it starts is the right time; and when it is over it is over.”

Guild’s four principles kept the pressure low and the meetings simple. The first principle, Guild explained, means the people that attend one particular meeting are “going to care about the issue that you posted” and, thus, are the “right people.”

He also explained the “law of two feet,” which essentially allowed people to come and go as they pleased. He told residents to “use the two feet that God gave you” and walk out when you want; he didn’t want anyone to feel obligated to stay the entire duration of the forum, he said.

Before exiting the gymnasium, Guild told the audience in a concluding remark, “You may do anything you wish.”

Some groups got right to work – literally to the drawing boards that Guild had set up on easels in each corner of the gym.

Board of Selectmen member Fred Knous attended the meeting about the Elmcrest property, which drew the biggest crowd – about a dozen people.



Around 50 residents attended an open forum Sunday afternoon at Gildersleeve School, and split up into small groups to discuss various issues in town. Here, a group talked about the development of the former Elmcrest property in town.

Bransfield and selectman Ryan Curley attended the meeting about Main Street, in which road repair and sidewalks were discussed.

Bransfield said to one resident in the meeting group, “Selectmen are very careful with money, which I think is what you want.”

Another meeting, about land preservation, led to a discussion about less development and more space. One woman attending the meeting said she didn’t want Portland “moving forward” because that would entail more businesses and more cars, which could negatively impact nature.

One meeting group was made of residents who wanted to see an established community center in town because currently kids tend to go to the library after school when they really need a “quiet, safe, warm space” for homework, projects, socialization, etc., one group member said.

Resident Janet Ellsworth, who was part of the community center meeting, summed it up

nically when she said, “You need a place for people to reconnect.”

Most people zoned in on the meetings they wanted to attend and stayed in that meeting for the full 45 minutes, with the exception of a few floaters.

About half the crowd took advantage of the “law of two feet” after the first round of meetings was over. But those who stayed logged their meeting “report cards” and moved on to the next round of meetings. The report cards showcased who participated in each meeting, the major discussion elements, and the participants’ suggested next steps.

In addition to the event being a brainstorming session, it was a social experience that allowed residents to connect with others in town on a meaningful level – a passion to improve Portland.

More information about each meeting, including the report cards, can be found at portlandplan.org.

Obituaries

Andover

Henry Garlin Parkington

Henry Garlin Parkington, 90, longtime resident of Andover and loving husband of Louise F. (Kettledon) Parkington for 67 years, died at his home Wednesday, Oct. 30 after an extended illness.

Henry was born in Georgia July 14, 1924, the only child of James H. and Mae Parkington. He was raised in Bridgeport, Conn., proudly served with the U.S. Marine Corps in the Pacific Theatre during World War II, and came to Andover in the late 1940s.

After moving to town he started working at his father-in-law's business, Kettledon Battery Service in Hartford. Henry became owner of the business in the early 1960s and retired in the early 1990s. He was an active member of the Andover Volunteer Fire Department for over 25 years.

Along with his wife he is survived by a daughter and three sons, Cindy Parkington of Manchester, H. James Parkington of Andover, Allan Parkington and his wife Anna of Andover, and Gerald Parkington of Tobaccoville, NC; two grandsons, Kurt Parkington, Dean Parkington and his wife Jennifer; and two great-grandchildren, Charlotte and Joseph Parkington.

A funeral service was held at the Holmes Funeral Home in Manchester and a graveside committal service with military honors was in the Townsend Cemetery in Andover. Memorial contributions may be made to the Andover Volunteer Fire Dept., 11 School Road, Andover, CT 06232.

To leave a message for his family, visit holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com.

Portland

Mary Jeanne Powers

Mary Jeanne Powers, 84 of Portland, wife of the late Theodore E. Powers passed away Thursday Oct. 31 at Waters Edge Health Care. She was the daughter of the late Nicholas and Marion (Scanlon) Pillarella.

Born April 29, 1929 in Middletown, Powers was a Portland resident for the last 63 years. She was a graduate of Middletown High School and worked as a switchboard operator for Wesleyan University for 32 years until her retirement.

She is survived by her sons, David Powers Sr. of Cromwell and Donald Powers of Portland; daughters Donna Powers of Portland and Debra Tyrol of Middletown; a sister Doris Fisher of Haddam Neck; six grandchildren, Dawn, David Jr., Ryan, Nicholas, Theodore and Jonathan; two great-grandchildren, Ryleigh and Owen; and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by a brother and a sister, Anthony Pillarella and Angela Thayer.

Funeral services and burial will be private and at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Portland Fire Dept. P.O. Box 71 Portland, CT 06480.

To send an online expression of sympathy, visit portlandmemorialfh.net.

Marlborough

Peter L. Hine

Peter L. Hine, 63, of Harpswell, Maine, formerly of Marlborough and Glastonbury, died in his cherished home with his loving wife and children by his side on Saturday, Nov. 2.

Peter was a dedicated pediatrician to children in the Marlborough area for over 32 years. One year after retiring, he was diagnosed with a rare and aggressive cancer. He fought the battle with grace, always showing love and concern for his family and friends.

Peter was the beloved husband of 43 years to Candis Yimoyines Hine, loving father to Rook Thomas Hine of Brunswick, Maine, Katherine Hine Smith and husband Corey of Freeport, Maine, Theodore L. Hine and wife Gwyneth of Amston, and adoring grandfather to Madeline, Ian, Luther, Calliope, and Vivian.

A celebration of Peter's life will be held Saturday, Nov. 9, at 2 p.m., at First Parish Church, Brunswick, Maine.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Connecticut Children's Medical Center, Hartford, or the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital, Portland, Maine, in honor of his lifelong commitment to children's healthcare.

Colchester

Jacqueline M. MacLean

Jacqueline M. MacLean, 83, previously of Jewett City and Deltona, FL, responded to the call of the Lord and had her prayers answered, passing away peacefully, surrounded by her loving children at Harrington Court in Colchester Friday, Nov. 1. She was a daughter to the late Armand and Aurore (Benoit) Lippe. Jacqueline was predeceased by her husband John MacLean in 1994 and their son Michael in 1983.

She is survived by her five sons, two daughters and their families, son James MacLean and his wife Karen of Norwich and their son Daniel, daughter Colleen MacLean of Voluntown and her fiancé John Carlo, son Thomas MacLean and his wife Roann of Plainfield and their son Thomas Jr., son Dennis MacLean and his wife Debbie of San Antonio, Fla., son Patrick MacLean of Vernon, daughter Susan LaPlant and her husband Gary and Susan's daughter Michaela DeBenedictis of Coventry, and son Robert MacLean of Norwich.

She is the last of her siblings and was predeceased by brothers Paul, Jerry and Leonard Lippe; sisters Irene Goddette and Lucille Gibeault.

There was a memorial Mass held at St. Mary's Church in Jewett City Thursday, Nov. 7. There were no calling hours. Interment will be private and at the convenience of the family.

The funeral arrangements are entrusted to the Gagne-Piechowski Funeral Home. For online condolences, go to gagnepiechowski.com.

Colchester

Harriet Risley

Harriet Risley, 93, of Colchester and formerly of Westmoreland, N.H., passed away at her home Wednesday, Oct. 30. She was born in Manchester, one of six children born to the late Robert and Harriett (Adamson) Muldoon.

Harriet was united in marriage to Horace Risley on Oct. 11, 1941 in Manchester; they were married for nearly 53 years until his death on Aug. 12, 1994.

Harriet was sweet, friendly and fun to be with. She had a smile that would brighten any room. She lived by her mother's motto to "Carry that smile and pass it on to the next." Harriet had many friends and was very active within the Colchester Senior Center, an organization she dearly loved. She most recently became a member of the Colchester Federated Church.

When Harriet was living in New Hampshire she was very active in numerous organizations she was always volunteering and ready to help anyone who needed it. Harriet or G.G. as her family calls her, will be greatly missed by her family and friends. She was a very proud grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother.

Harriet is survived by her son Raymond Risley and wife Claire of Westmolane, N.H.; daughter Judy Boland and husband Gary of Corneilus, N.C.; sisters Violet Benway of Manchester and Betty Gagnon of East Hartford; a brother, William Muldoon of Manchester; grandchildren, Deborah Sobko, Jackie Koss, Jody McManus, Michael Boland, Diane Violette, Stephen Zane and Craig Boland; numerous great-grandchildren; and a great-great-granddaughter. Her special friend Irene also survives her.

In addition to her husband and parents, her daughter Connie Zane and five brothers and sisters predecease her.

Calling hours were held Friday, Nov. 1, at the Belmont-Sabrowski Funeral Home, 144 S. Main St., Colchester. Funeral services were held Saturday, Nov. 2, at the Colchester Federated Church, 60 Main St., Colchester, with a burial that afternoon at South Village Cemetery in Westmoreland, N.H.

Hebron

Elizabeth A. Nevin

Elizabeth A. Nevin, 72, of Hebron, died Sunday, Nov. 3, at home, after a long struggle with Alzheimer's. Born Aug. 13, 1941, in Hartford, daughter of the late Phillips Nevin and Hazel (Hadley) Hutt, she had lived in Glastonbury most of her life, moving to Hebron two and a half years ago.

She is survived by a daughter, Katherine "Kassy" Balesano of Hebron; a son, David Kelley of New Hartford; a much-cherished granddaughter, Morgan Balesano; and two cousins, Alice Lawson and Cathy Frail both of New York. Betty also leaves behind two very dear friends, Alice Osborn and Pat Shaer, with whom she shared a lifetime of memories. In her last years, she was provided much love by her caregivers Katherine Swenson and Bonnie Fellows.

She was predeceased by a sister, Mary Slawski.

Friends called at the Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury, on Wednesday, Nov. 6.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Rd., Newington, CT 06111.

For online condolences, visit mulryanfh.com.

Portland

Katherine M. Horton

Katherine M. Horton, 48, of Portland, passed away Sunday, Oct. 27, at Middlesex Hospital. She is the daughter of Phyllis Bordonaro of Portland and the late Richard E. King. Born Jan. 5, 1965, in Middletown, she was a lifelong Portland resident and a devout advocate for cystic fibrosis.

She was predeceased by her daughter, Nicole Horton.

Besides her mother, she leaves Roberto Serrano, grandmother Mary Bordonaro, along with her sisters, Laura King-Emmons of Wethersfield, Donna Kowalski of Newtown and Patricia Smith of Middletown, numerous nieces and nephews and a great nephew. Katherine leaves godparents Santo Bordonaro and Josephine Ackerman. She was a godmother to Stephanie Cahill and Richard M Smith Jr.

Funeral services were held Monday, Nov. 4, at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. Burial was in Trinity Cemetery, Portland. Relatives and friends called Monday morning, before the service.

To send an online expression of sympathy, visit portlandmemorialfh.net.

Amston

Paul Francis Serra

Paul Francis Serra, 90, of Amston and formerly of Portland, beloved husband of Helen (Spada) Serra, born Aug. 28, 1923, passed away Wednesday, Nov. 6, at the Aurora Senior Living Center in Cromwell, after an extended convalescence.

The family will receive guests from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 9, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A Time of Remembrance will be observed at 12:30 p.m., followed by committal with full military honors in the New Hebron Cemetery, Hebron.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Louis J. Chalko

Louis J. Chalko, 94, of East Hampton and formerly of Newington, departed this earth to be with his wife Jerry, his son Dennis and his grandson Brandon Monday, Nov. 4. Louis was born Aug. 19, 1919, in Newington, where he lived most of his life, to the late Frank and Anna Wojiechowski Chalko.

Louie graduated from the first class of Newington High School, served in the U.S. Army in Japan during World War II, and worked at Pratt and Whitney until he retired in 1983. Golf was his passion. He grew up playing the game with his many brothers, and all of them played well. Lou was a great golfer who won many trophies, and at one point had the chance to go pro. Louie loved life: he loved to sit outside during the summer months, he loved to go to the beach, and he especially loved the many dogs he had over the years.

Louis leaves Donna Scott, his daughter with whom he lived with for the past eight years, his sister Mary Borawski of Newington. "Mappie" also leaves his grandchildren Bryant, Andrew, Denise and Brittany, and his great-granddaughter Maddie. "Uncle Louie" also leaves many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his brothers John, Pete and Chet, and his sister Irene. Louie was loved by all and will be missed by neighbors, friends and family.

Calling hours for Louie will be held today, Nov. 8, from 9:30-11 a.m., at the Newington Memorial Funeral Home, 20 Bonair Ave, Newington, followed by an 11:30 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial at the Church of the Holy Spirit, 183 Church St., Newington. He will be laid to rest with military honors at West Meadow Cemetery; 679 Willard Ave.

Donations may be made to the Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Rd., Newington, CT 06111.

To share a memory, visit newingtonmemorial.com.

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

As is customary every Tuesday-after-the-first-Monday in November, I headed down to my polling place after work to cast a ballot. And, boy, what a difference a year makes.

Election Day 2012 was a big one, the presidential election, and turnout was huge. I remember getting to Manchester High School – where I vote – to find loads of cars in the parking lot, and a seemingly-endless line of people inside, waiting to vote. I believe it took me close to two hours to vote that day. Not that I minded it, really. I've rallied for years for more people to get out and vote, so I wasn't about to complain that more people had actually gotten out and voted.

This year – as I knew it would be – was a different story. There weren't a whole lot of cars in the parking lot, and even fewer people inside. When I walked into the gym – with no wait at all, mind you – I think there maybe was one other person in there voting. After filling out my ballot, I chatted briefly with the poll worker, who said turnout had been pretty steady all day, although he admitted it was nothing at all like last year, and noted that not only was there the presidential election last year, but Manchester underwent re-districting last year as well, which meant a lot of people, including yours truly, had brand new polling locations. Apparently there was a lot of confusion.

But, anyway, there was nothing like that this past Tuesday. As I write this Tuesday night, the final voting numbers for the towns aren't in. While I suspect they'll be low (at one point Tuesday afternoon, Hartford had seen a pathetic 1 percent turnout), I'm intrigued to see them – and I'm also intrigued to see how many people registered Tuesday before they cast their ballots. This was the first day the state allowed same-day voter registration. While I'm not convinced it will lead to substantially higher turnouts – people have plenty of time all year to register, if they so desire – I think it's a great initiative. Anything that encourages more people to vote – no matter how small that additional "more" may be – is a good thing.

* * *

Some of you may recall a few weeks ago reporter Melissa Roberto's cover story about the Colchester scarecrow contest. It's a delightful fall story, and I try to put it on the cover every year if possible. One of the scarecrows featured – a *Sleepy Hollow*-themed, Headless Horseman display – was one of the best, most creative displays I've seen in the time I've been with the paper.

And I'm pleased to report the majority of voters agreed with me.

See, from Oct. 21-25, voters could cast ballots for their favorite scarecrows, in three different categories. First prize in each category fetched a \$100 gift card, with second place getting a \$75 one. The Headless Horseman scarecrow, which was put up by Phoenix Construction, won first place in the "Most Imaginative" category. Colchester Dental Group's Tooth Fairy scarecrow came in second.

In the "Funniest" category, "Cheercrows" from Galaxy Youth Cheer took first, and an ATM display (which was built to resemble a robot) from People's United Bank took second.

Lastly, in the "Scariest" category, Colchester Home School took first, with a display entitled "Welcome to the Bates Motel," while second place went to Shattered Endz, with a salon-themed display called "On the Cutting Edge!"

While there was only space in the paper

for a couple of scarecrow photos, I saw several that Melissa had taken that we just couldn't squeeze in, and there were a lot of cute and creative ones this year. Like I said, it's one of my favorite annual stories, and I look forward to seeing what displays people around town can come up with next year.

* * *

I've seen them. You've seen them. We've all seen them – and we've all clicked on them. How many times have you gone to check your email, or logged on to Facebook, or are reading a story on some news site, when you see, on the side of the screen or at the bottom of the page, a headline so enticing you know you just *have* to click on it. It could be a list – "The 16 Best Movies of 1985!" – it could be news you didn't know you didn't know but now you just have to find out – "Why You Should Never Move to Alaska!" – it could be *anything*. But we've all been there; we've all seen those headlines written not to inform you so much as to get you to click on a link, and we've all clicked on those links probably more often than we'd care to admit (and in the process find out sometimes-interesting, often-useless pieces of trivia).

I came across an amusing picture this week of "20th Century Headlines, Rewritten to Get More Clicks." It was a comical list of milestones from various years of the last century, as they may have appeared had the modern-day Internet been around back then. Here are some highlights:

– 1912: "6 Titanic Survivors Who Should Have Died"

– 1920: "17 Things That Will Be Outlawed Now That Women Have the Right to Vote"

– 1928: "This One Weird Mold Kills All Germs"

– 1929: "Most Embarrassing Reactions to the Stock Market Crash [gifs]"

– 1955: "Avoid Polio With This One Weird Trick"

– 1957: "12 Nip Slips Potentially Visible to Sputnik"

– 1969: "This is the Most Important Photo of an Astronaut You'll See All Day"

– 1989: "You Won't *Believe* What These People Did to the Berlin Wall! [video]"

* * *

Lastly, this weekend's a very big one for Portland's own Erin Brady. Erin, you may recall, won the Miss U.S.A. Pageant back in June. Well, on Saturday night, Erin will face a whopping 85 other women in the Miss Universe pageant. The pageant will be broadcast live at 9 p.m. Saturday on NBC.

And while none of us are on the judges' panel for the show – a varied bunch that includes a chef, a watch designer, gold medal figure skater Tara Lipinski and, sure, what the heck, Steven Tyler – we *can* make a difference. There's an online vote being conducted right now, and the winner of the vote will automatically advance to the semifinals, along with all the others selected by the judges for the semifinals.

Online voting only runs until 6 p.m. today, so if you're reading this, you might want to head over to missuniverse.com and show Erin your support. And then don't forget to tune in to the pageant Saturday and cheer her on!

Of course, Erin's already a terrific success story, and someone for Portland to be really proud of. I hope she wins it all tomorrow night, but no matter what happens, she's had an amazing 2013.

* * *

See you next week.