



RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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

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**Cheerleaders Moving On...** The East Hampton Hawks youth football program held its last regular season home game recently, and bid farewell to the program's senior cheerleaders, who are moving on to their freshmen year in high school next year.

## Portland Voters OK Park Funds

by Elizabeth Regan

Portland voters approved a \$10 million bond package that will, among other things, pay for a new park on Route 17 with athletic fields, walking trails, a playground and a splash pad.

The package passed 2,788-2,352. There are 6,233 registered voters in Portland.

Parks and Recreation Commission Chairman Ralph Zampano, when reached by phone Wednesday, could be heard fielding questions from a neighbor about the outcome of the vote in the background.

When Zampano told him the referendum question had passed, the neighbor offered congratulations and compliments for his hard work.

"You're the man," the neighbor said. "I'm sure it was a thankless [expletive] job. The residents owe you a 'thank you.'"

For Zampano, the project was 11 years in the making. It went back to his arrival on the recreation commission and the subsequent purchase of the so-called Goodrich property for "passive and active" recreation in 2006. In 2013, the town received a \$230,000 state grant to develop a plan for the park.

Zampano has said he attended more than 100 meetings on the subject; so, too, did Parks and Recreation Director Sean Dwyer.

Zampano said what started as a way to address shortcomings in the availability of soccer and baseball fields in town evolved into what proponents came to realize was a necessary part of attracting and retaining families and keeping the town economically viable.

Citing the state's precarious budget situation and an exodus of residents from the state, he said it's important to remain "relevant" to those families who are still looking to settle in the state.

Amenities like a park ensure that when "people are looking in the Middletown area, we're in the mix of towns they're going to evaluate," according to Zampano.

He was unsure when a finished product could be expected, but said it would likely be a couple years in the making.

That plan from the design and engineering firm Weston & Sampson, which was delivered last year, includes 226 parking spaces, two natural turf soccer fields and two baseball fields. A playground, splash pad, fitness circuit, paved multi-use path and nature trail were designed to provide recreational outlets for all ages. Other attractions include a bocce ball court, horse-

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## Andover Approves Town Administrator

by Geeta S. Sandberg

By a vote of 1,330-448, Andover voters overwhelmingly said 'yes' to recommended charter changes, which will bring a professional administrator to town.

The changes were recommended by a five-member commission formed by the Board of Selectmen over the summer that was charged with looking at and possibly amending the charter to create the new position; the commission unanimously decided after about a month's worth of work that the change was in the best interest of the town.

The change will transfer the responsibility of running the town's day-to-day operations from the first selectman to an appointed professional town administrator, but the individual would be fully responsible to the Board of Selectmen.

According to the draft of the revised charter available on the town website, [andoverconnecticut.org](http://andoverconnecticut.org), the town administrator "shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Town of Andover responsible to the Board of Selectmen for the supervision, direction and administration of all Town of Andover departments, agencies and offices except the Board of Education and town agencies whose head or members are elected by popular vote."

The revised charter further states the administrator will be appointed by the Board of Selectmen "exclusively on the basis of executive, technical and administrative qualifications, character, educational background, training/certification and professionally related experi-

ence. Educational training must include a minimum of a baccalaureate degree."

At a forum hosted by the Andover Democratic and Republican town committees Oct. 18, several administrators from surrounding towns came to speak about the position. An appointed professional town administrator, they shared in their presentation, "enables local officials to involve and serve the entire community, and to actively plan for the future." The town administrator "applies professional skills and training to assist the [selectmen] and to administer the daily operations of the community."

The first selectman will continue to serve as a key policy leader, however, and will still preside at meetings, set meeting agendas with the town administrator and represent the town in intergovernmental relationships – unless the administrator is designated to do so.

Due to the reduced workload, the first selectman will receive an as-yet undetermined stipend instead of the \$50,000 salary the position currently earns, with the balance of that amount going toward the salary for the town administrator. In total, the town plans to offer a prospective administrator a salary of around \$85,000, which also includes \$35,000 approved in the 2016-17 budget for a position to assist with the public works department that was never filled.

The new position has been touted as being budget-neutral – but First Selectman Bob Burbank said this week he wasn't sure that would ultimately be the case. He shared some uncertainty in the town's ability to hire an administrator without also needing to hire a full-

time administrative assistant, and also said he wasn't sure the town would be able to find a qualified administrator for \$85,000.

"I don't think for the amount of money they set aside they're going to be able to get somebody with a lot of municipal experience," he stated.

(At the aforementioned forum, however, Wethersfield Town Manager Jeff Bridges said of the salary, for a town of Andover's size, "That's pretty fair.")

But Burbank, a Republican, added he was in support of the change. He explained while he's presently able to do the job he was elected to do, a town administrator is "something that in the future is probably going to be necessary."

He continued, "The job has gotten very complex."

Attention has been drawn to the fact the proposed changes garnered bipartisan support in town, with the Republican and Democratic town committee chairs, as well as the Boards of Selectmen, Education and Finance, expressing their support.

Adrian Mandeville, who was chairman of the Charter Revision Commission, reiterated that point Wednesday.

"Republicans, Democrats – everybody came together as Andover folks first and put something together to move the town forward," he shared. "I'm just really excited it passed."

And now, Mandeville furthered, "As townsfolk that are involved, and the Board of Education, Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance, we now have to make this work; we

have to go out and find the right person, and give them the best opportunity to succeed, and we have to make that happen."

The first step, Mandeville explained, was passing the proposed changes. And now, the next step "is finding someone to move our town forward, and I'm excited about that next step and what it means for Andover. Our town has a lot of energy right now because of this. It's kind of cool to see; there's a lot of divisiveness at the national level, but to see our town get behind one issue so overwhelmingly – it's exciting."

Also speaking to the charter changes this week, Board of Finance Chairman Dan Warren said, "I think it's a great positive step for Andover and I'm very excited to be moving forward."

Republican Town Committee Chairman Jeff Murray added, "We're very happy it passed and we're looking forward to moving forward with our new town administrator, whoever that might be."

Board of Education Chairwoman Shannon Loudon also expressed her pleasure with the approved changes, saying "I'm very pleased that the voting citizens of Andover wisely chose to support the bipartisan effort to revise our Charter to provide for a Town Administrator, a new managerial position which I believe will significantly benefit Andover."

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A search committee is expected to be formed in the spring to hire an administrator, with the intention of having one begin in June or July.

**Park Funds cont. from Front Page**

shoe pit and multiple picnic areas. A recreation barn and a concession stand both have room for storage.

The \$10 million bond package approved by voters appropriates \$6 million for the park, \$2.5 million for improvements to Brownstone Avenue and \$1 million to fix sidewalks on streets adjacent to town schools. It also sets aside \$500,000 for miscellaneous projects including repairs to roofs on the town garage and Fire Company No. 2, as well as police station windows.

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said Wednesday she looks forward to working with town staff and members of elected boards and commissions, as well as the public, to determine exactly how the money will be spent.

She said the money for road improvements will likely be used to improve the heavily-trafficked and deteriorating Brownstone Avenue that leads to the private Brownstone Exploration and Discovery Park and the town's Riverfront Park. Other considerations include Spring Street, the Maple Road area and possibly some other rural roads affected by frequent drainage issues.

The decision will be made by the Board of Selectmen with input from town staff as well as from the community through a public hearing, Bransfield said. The same process will be used to determine which sidewalks would be improved; priority will be given to those around schools.

With miscellaneous capital expenses coming in at only 5 percent of the total bonding package, Long Range Capital Improvements Commission Chairman Michael Agogliati said his group will be working within the budget

process to find funding in the 2017-18 spending plan.

Agogliati has been critical of the \$500,000 allocation for capital improvements when he said the town has more than \$2.7 million in immediate needs.

He said the commission will collaborate with the selectmen to address those needs.

"I think it's out there now," he said. "The townspeople understand what's going on. It's just how are we going to fund it in a reasonable way for the taxpayer."

Bransfield called assessing infrastructure and capital needs an "ongoing process."

"While some people may have suggestions for improvements to the process, we have been and we will continue to assess our needs and make appropriate recommendations going forward," she said.

The shorter-lived projects, like sidewalks and capital equipment, will be bonded out over 10 years, according to town financial advisor David Eisenthal. The park and the roads will be bonded out over 20 years.

Eisenthal said the \$10 million appropriation would mean individual taxpayers with homes assessed at \$150,000 would start paying for the 20-year bonding package in 2018, with \$17 of their total property taxes going toward the bond payment. That amount would rise to a high of \$169 in 2022 before scaling back to about \$130 for the last ten years of debt.

With current high school debt included, taxpayers will be paying slightly more than they are now through 2019. Then amount of taxes related to debt would gradually decrease through 2039, barring any new bonds.

*From the Editor's Desk*

**Observations & Ruminations**

by **Mike Thompson**

Okay, what the heck just happened?

I really didn't think Donald Trump would win the presidency; it just wasn't going to happen. At the end of the day, people would decide that, while they could make Trump a presidential nominee, they couldn't actually put him in the White House.

And I, as we all know, was wrong.

I don't understand it. I don't understand how people looked at Trump and didn't see what I saw – the racism, the sexism, the bullying, the childishness, the volatility. Or maybe they did see it and just didn't care. Were Hillary Clinton's emails really so bothersome as to outweigh all that?

People will spend months, perhaps years, dissecting just what went wrong. (We know the pollsters were dead wrong.) While I did support Clinton, thought she was extremely well-qualified, and didn't hesitate for a second voting for her, I've been on record in this space in the past as saying I voted for Bernie Sanders in the primary. I do think he would've stood a better shot against Trump. One thing all the TV networks were saying Tuesday night (I kept flipping back and forth between channels, in a desperate yet futile search to find one that was giving me positive news) was that Americans, quite obviously, wanted a change; they wanted to go anti-establishment. Clinton was not an anti-establishment candidate; Sanders, despite his many years in the Senate, would've been more of one.

What I'm even surer of is if Joe Biden had run, he'd have beaten Trump pretty handily. He's definitely been one of the more enjoyable vice presidents of my lifetime, and I think he'd have been a popular candidate – he has higher approval ratings than either Trump or Clinton. He has his own reasons why he didn't run – the chief one perhaps being the tragic loss of his son – but, this whole campaign season, it's been tough not to think "what if"?

I think some blame for Trump's victory can definitely be pinned on Jim Comey's stupidly ill-advised release of that "well, there may be something, there may be nothing" letter to Congress just a week and a half before Election Day. Yes, he issued a "hey, it turns out it was nothing! Never mind!" follow-up letter last Sunday, but, as any newspaper editor knows, you can highlight a correction as much as possible, even put it on the cover of the paper, but it's far better to have never made the error to begin with. It's tough to unring a bell. Nine days passed between Comey's initial letter and his follow-up; who knows how many early votes were made, or absentee ballots filled out, during that time period. And who knows how many seeds of doubt were sown.

We may never know for sure; we just know

a lot of people turned out for Trump (though it was hardly a decisive victory; in fact, as of Wednesday it looked as he'll join the likes of George W. Bush and Rutherford B. Hayes as someone who wins the presidency despite losing the popular vote). Including many more women than I anticipated – something I frankly have a hard time getting my brain around, given Trump's long history of sexist talk and the sexual assault allegations against him.

As I lay in bed early Wednesday morning, after it became quite clear Trump had won, my mind went to the 2006 National League Championship Series, between the Mets and the Cardinals. (Hey, I'm a baseball junkie; my mind often goes to the game.) That year's Mets team was a dynamo, winning 97 games and finishing in first place by a whopping 12 games over the second-place team. The Cardinals, meanwhile, barely made the playoffs at all, squeaking in with a lackluster 83-76 record.

I think you know where I'm going with this.

The Cardinals weren't even supposed to get as far as the LCS – and once they did, they certainly weren't supposed to beat the mighty Mets. The Mets had the tools, the talent, the experience; the upstart Cardinals weren't even supposed to be there. And yet the Cards stunningly took the LCS to the full seven games, winning in that seventh game by a very close score.

So, in bed I lay, thinking about the team that didn't belong there and instead wound up winning the whole thing, and, 20 years later, the man who didn't belong there and instead won the whole thing.

Only thing is: this is not a baseball game. The election of Trump will have far worse consequences for far more people, I fear, than the Mets losing an LCS. Loved ones who are on Obamacare will find themselves without health insurance (and I have little faith the Republicans will replace Obamacare with anything). Hard fought-for rights will be revoked. Immigrants will be deported at a far greater clip than they are now. And then there's that stupid wall.

Or maybe Trump won't do any of this. The one thing giving me comfort right now is that no one can say for sure how Trump feels on – well, anything. (Although the fact he selected terrifying Mike Pence as his vice president suggests he really is as conservative as he showed during the campaign.)

From where I sit right now, it's a disaster Trump got elected, and I fear awful things are in store. I hope very much he proves me wrong.

\* \* \*

See you next week.

**Cassano Keeps His Seat**

by **Geeta S. Sandberg**

It was a close race, with a difference of less than 500 votes, but it appears the status quo will remain the same in the Fourth District, with Democrat incumbent Steve Cassano keeping his seat.

Final numbers were slow to come in Wednesday, and on Thursday the secretary



**Steve Cassano**

of the state's website still listed results as "unofficial," but according to the most results Thursday afternoon, the tally was 23,944-23,483 with Cassano garnering just 461 more votes than Marchetti; Marchetti, a Glastonbury resident who spent time on the Town Council, actually earned more votes in three of the four towns that make up the district – Glastonbury, Andover and Bolton – but Cassano's lead in his hometown of Manchester gave him the edge.

In Andover, Marchetti earned 1,030 to Cassano's 833; in Bolton, she gathered 1,625 to Cassano's 1,296; and in Glastonbury she received 10,968 votes to Cassano's 8,280.

But in Manchester, Cassano was the recipient of 13,535, compared to 9,860 earned by Marchetti.

Cassano, who was first elected to represent the Fourth District in 2010, also spent 15 years as the mayor of Manchester, and another 12 as deputy mayor.

Neither Cassano nor Marchetti returned calls in time to comment for this story.

However, last week Cassano shared he was looking to continue in the role because he enjoys the work that he does, works hard, and has been able to accomplish a number of things; some of the accomplishments he mentioned include his work to help rein in water fees charged by the Metropolitan District Commission, and his vote in favor of a \$2.2 million deal to keep Sikorsky Aircraft in the state that's expected to result in \$69 billion for the state's economy through 2032.

Cassano also mentioned recent expansion announcements by Pratt & Whitney and Electric Boat – which will mean more jobs not only at those companies, but work for the smaller manufacturing businesses around the state.

Meanwhile, speaking to some of the issues currently facing the state, Cassano said the reliance on property taxes is too high, particularly for seniors who are on a fixed income and receive social security. Cassano also said the state should provide municipalities with additional ways to raise revenue besides property tax, such as having a portion of the tax on car sales go to the towns.

Cassano said he works across the aisle to address these issues and get things done, and he shared last week, "You're not a Democrat or a Republican – you represent everyone."

He added, "I do my job well and I respond to the needs of the people."

And now he'll be able to do just that for at least two more years.

**Excessive Lead found in Hebron Elementary School Water**

by **Geeta S. Sandberg**

Hebron Elementary School was one of 26 public entities in the state cited this week for lead levels that exceed recommendations set by the Environmental Protection Agency, according to a notice sent Monday by Schools Superintendent Tim Van Tassel.

Van Tassel explained in the Nov. 7 notice, "The issues surrounding lead water contamination in Flint, Mich., have heightened concerns regarding lead water levels, and there are new regulations and timelines that must be followed to remediate the problem."

He added there were ten water sampling points at the school, and rooms 2 and 9 – which are the STEAM Room and special education room, respectively – showed levels in excess of the EPA standard of .0150 parts per million.

In the STEAM room, lead levels were detected at .020 parts per million; in the special education room, lead levels were detected at .017 parts per million.

Van Tassel said the excess lead in the two sampling points at the school is from the lead solder used to fuse the copper pipes together when the school was built.

"We have shut off the water in these two rooms, to no longer allow for their use until a

formal treatment plan is approved by the state Department of Public Health," he stated.

Van Tassel added Wednesday that, although the excess levels were only found in two rooms, the district isn't taking any chances, and water dispensers are being brought to the school to provide drinking water.

"This could be a lengthy process so we've taken steps to ensure the safety of staff and students," he explained.

According to the EPA, "even low levels of lead in the blood of children can result in" behavior and learning problems, lower IQ and hyperactivity, slowed growth, hearing problems and anemia.

"Hungerfords Water is already in the process of developing a mitigation plan that will address the issue," Van Tassel furthered in the notice. "In addition to recharging the water distribution system filters, they are submitting a formal proposal that would increase the pH level in the water system to neutralize the lead levels. We will await the state's approval of this potential course of action."

Anyone with questions regarding the issue can call Van Tassel at 860-228-2260

# Orange Beats Out Evans for Second Time

by Julianna Roche

Democrat Linda Orange will serve her 11th consecutive term as the 48th District state representative, after outdoing Republican challenger Evan Evans for the second time at the polls on Tuesday.



Linda Orange

The district covers most of Colchester, and portions of Lebanon, Mansfield and Windham.

In 2014, Evans also challenged Orange for the district seat. She topped the Republican that year by a total of 4,920-3,430 votes from the four towns.

On Tuesday, Orange bested Evans again, this time by a combined tally of 7,006-5,471.

She outshined Evans in three of the district's towns, with a 4,420-3,708 win in Colchester, a 991-462 in Mansfield, and 297-3 in Windham. In Lebanon, however, Orange and Evans tied,

each receiving 1,298 votes.

"It's always exciting to win an election," Orange said, despite this year's "tough political climate."

She also credited both her campaign team and voters for the win.

"With the help of a good campaign team and campaign manager, we won as a team," Orange said. "And I wholeheartedly thank the people who voted for me, as I'm humbled to be re-elected to serve the 48th district."

Orange was first elected to the General Assembly in November 1996, and is currently a member of its Appropriations Committee, the General Law Committee, the Joint Committee on Legislative Management, and the Public Safety and Security Committee. She is also deputy speaker of the house.

Born in Hartford, Orange grew up in Marlborough before relocating to Colchester 34 years ago.

The incumbent, whose "sleeves are already rolled up," said over the next two years, she will continue to focus on the economy, education and creating new jobs in her district.

Orange has also said working on keeping retirees in the state is a major priority.

"People deserve to stay here in the state," she stated. "I love Connecticut and I think it's a good state, and that together, we can work to resolve these issues."

Orange, who prides herself on being "an independent thinker," also emphasized that she will keep thinking and voting for her district over her party.

"I've taken the title [of deputy speaker] as representing both sides of the aisle – both Democrats and Republicans," Orange said at a Meet the Candidates event hosted by the Colchester Business Association early last month. "I pride myself on working across the table."

On Wednesday afternoon, Evans said he was "very surprised" at the outcome, adding, "I really did think I was going to win. I have no idea what happened – I really don't."

He said he would not be running for a third time in 2018.

"But I am still very concerned about our fu-

ture," Evans continued, adding that while he "may not be an elected official," he is now directing his attention to forming ideas about how he can still help bring change to the district in the future – including setting term limits for the seat down the line.

Despite feeling disappointed and dismayed by the loss, however, Evans gave credit to Orange for her win.

"One of the things I said to Linda was that it was very nice to be a part of a campaign where we weren't adversarial," he said, adding he thought they could even "complement each other."

"It wasn't about personalities; it was about issues," Evans continued.

Orange agreed, saying that while she was "very pleased" with the outcome of the election, she foresees the challenges the future will bring.

"We will, as a legislature, have our work cut out for us and hopefully we'll do it together," she said. "My door is always open to everyone's ideas, as always."

# Linares Wins Third Term in Office

by Elizabeth Regan

It was a big night for Donald Trump across the country – and a big night for Art Linares in the 33rd state senate district.



Art Linares

It turned out efforts by some Democrats to discredit Linares for supporting the controversial presidential candidate were not enough to stop the Westbrook-based Republican from winning the seat for the third time. Linares brought in 56.77 percent of the vote in a three-man contest, based on unofficial results from the secretary of the state's office.

The race was a hard-fought one between Linares, Democratic Essex First Selectman Norman Needleman and the Green Party's Colin Bennett, a small business owner and environmental activist from Westbrook. The district covers the *Rivereast* towns of Colchester, East Hampton and Portland as well as Chester, Clinton, Deep River, East Haddam, Essex, Haddam, Lyme, Westbrook and part of Old Saybrook.

Needleman received 41.50 percent of the vote, almost 9,000 fewer votes than Linares received. Bennett had fewer than 1,000 votes total, coming in at 1.73 percent.

In East Hampton, Linares received 4,264 votes. Needleman got 2,556 votes and Bennett brought in 118.

Portland totals came in at 2,940 for Linares, 2,018 for Needleman and 103 for Bennett.

The number of votes in Colchester were

5,466 for Linares, 3,376 for Needleman and 198 for Bennett.

Linares, 27, stayed true to his message of improving the state's economy – while blaming the Democratic majority and Gov. Dannel P. Malloy for current budget woes – as he fought insults from Democrats for not disavowing Trump.

A website titled "Never Trump Linares," paid for by the Democratic State Central Committee and approved by Needleman, pointed to Linares' status as an alternate delegate to the Republican National Convention as well as news articles referencing the Westbrook-based candidate's professed intent to vote for Trump.

According to *CT News Junkie*, Republicans added three of the four seats they needed for a majority. That leaves an even split between the two parties, with the responsibility to break any ties falling to Democratic Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman.

Linares said Wednesday that the newfound equality in the number of senators from each party is fortuitous.

"Call it fate, call it whatever you want. Coincidentally, the people of Connecticut chose to have 18 Republicans and 18 Democrats," he said. "I think maybe that's a sign we need to work together and unite to prove to the state we can be a shining light for folks across the aisle to work together. I hope we can do that."

Linares said his priorities in the upcoming session revolve around growing the economy and increasing jobs in the state. He cited three ways for accomplishing his goal: "right-sizing" regulations to reduce the burden on small businesses; working across the aisle to come up with priorities for making it easier to do business in the state; and focusing on attracting new busi-

nesses.

During his election night speech at Water's Edge in Westbrook, Linares congratulated fellow Republican victors. He singled out Bob Siegrist, of Haddam, for taking the 36th state house district by a slim margin over incumbent Democrat Philip J. Miller.

"It's a new generation of leadership and we are going to push and never stop fighting until we make sure Connecticut is the best that it can be," Linares said. "We will take Connecticut to the top of every list that we can."

Linares also used the opportunity to thank his younger brother, Ryan, for managing a third state senate campaign. He also called out 100 other volunteers for their commitment to the cause.

Needleman, 65, ran a campaign touting his experience helping to balance local budgets in Essex for 13 years as well as business experience acquired as founder and CEO of a company that develops and manufactures effervescent products.

Needleman billed himself as a mathematician with the problem-solving skills to take care of the state's budget deficit by promoting small business growth instead of relying on the state's biggest businesses for revenue. He cited strengthening small business incentives and cutting red tape as ways to do that.

"I thought we ran a good race," he said Wednesday. "We did the best we could."

Now, he will get caught up on work in his role as the first selectman – a job he loves and never had an intention of giving up, even if elected. He will also be making up for lost time as CEO of Tower Laboratories.

"And then after that, I will see," he said. "Public service was never something I thought was

going to be my calling, but I recognized kind of late in life it was something I was pretty good at."

He congratulated Linares on a well-run campaign.

Bennett, 37, said he ran for office in part to challenge the state's reliance on fossil fuels. He criticized efforts by those like Gov. Dannel P. Malloy, whom he calls "Methane Malloy," to expand the availability of natural gas.

He cited the Black Lives Matter movement, which began as a response to police brutality and perceived systemic racism, as an equally important issue.

A five-time candidate for the state senate district, Bennett has also run for the U.S. House of Representatives and state comptroller.

Linares, when asked about his reaction to the presidential race results, said he hopes Trump's election night call for unity and economic growth becomes the national focus.

"I've said it before: I voted for Donald Trump and so I'm happy that he was successful," Linares said.

He cited subsequent speeches by Hillary Clinton and President Barack Obama on Wednesday that reiterated the importance of working together as a nation to move forward.

"I think now is the time to follow that leadership and I'm hopeful in Connecticut we can do the same," he said.

For Needleman, it's time to heal the wounds of a divisive presidential election.

Trump must do, according to Needleman, what any good businessperson must: put together a team that improves his weaknesses and enhances his strengths.

It is only then that the United States can be "one nation" again, Needleman said. "We have not been acting like it for quite a while."

# Rivereast Towns Split on Clinton, Trump

by Mike Thompson

The country was split Tuesday on Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton. In the end, Trump won, though it was hardly a landslide; nationally, while Trump won the electoral vote, 279-228, Clinton actually edged her opponent in the popular vote, collecting, as of Thursday morning, 59,923,033 votes to Trump's 59,692,978.

The race between the two was similarly tight in the six *Rivereast* towns. Unofficial results from the secretary of the state's office Wednesday afternoon showed three of the towns went for Clinton, and three went for Trump.

The vote was closest in Portland, where Clinton squeaked past Trump by just two votes, 2,493-2,491. Libertarian candidate Gary Johnson received 186 votes, and Green Party candidate Jill Stein collected 82.

In Andover, Clinton edged Trump 896-891, with Libertarian Gary Johnson receiving 79 votes and Green Party candidate receiving 42.

Clinton also prevailed in Hebron, with 2,627 votes to Trump's 2,555. Johnson won 206 votes

while Stein came away with 42.

However, Trump was the victor in the other *Rivereast* towns. He edged Clinton in Marlborough by a 1,766-1,687 tally (Johnson received 128 votes and Stein had 46).

The vote was similarly close in Colchester, where Trump collected 4,332 votes to Clinton's 4,236 (Johnson received 439 votes and Stein received 152).

In East Hampton, Trump beat Clinton by more than 400 votes, 3,648-3,210, with Johnson receiving 277 votes and Stein 88.

Statewide, as it often does, Connecticut went with the Democratic nominee. Clinton topped Trump 713,389-575,857; Johnson won 41,410 votes, and Stein collected 18,804. The state last went for a Republican presidential candidate in 1988, when it voted for George H. W. Bush.

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While the presidential race was split, Democrat Richard Blumenthal cleaned up in all six *Rivereast* towns, en route to winning a second term as one of Connecticut's two U.S. Sena-

tors.

In Andover, Blumenthal collected 1,080 votes to Republican Dan Carter's 733. Libertarian Richard Lion took 38, and Green Party candidate Jeffery Russell had 25.

In Colchester, Blumenthal won 5,439 votes, followed by Carter's 3,502, Lion's 148 and Russell's 98.

East Hampton saw the Democrat come away with a 4,019-2,771 victory over Carter. Lion won 97 votes and Russell had 76.

Hebron saw 3,029 voters go for Blumenthal, compared to 2,225 that cast ballots for Carter. Lion and Russell were again a distant third and fourth, at 62 and 52 votes, respectively.

In Marlborough, 1,968 voters went for Blumenthal, compared to 1,523 for Carter. Lion took 31 votes and Russell 30.

Lastly, 3,009 Portland voters cast ballots for Blumenthal, while Carter took 1,929. However, Russell actually garnered more votes than Lion, at 71-61.

# Green Officially in as State Rep

by Geeta S. Sandberg

She ran unopposed, but people still needed to vote for her – and on Tuesday, they did just that, making Marlborough resident Robin Green the state representative for the 55th Assembly District.

The district covers Andover, Hebron, Marlborough and Bolton.

Green is replacing Republican Gayle Mulligan, who is concluding her first term and announced in the spring she wasn't going to seek re-election, as she's moving out of district. Prior to Mulligan, Pam Sawyer, another Republican, held the same seat for 22 years – and both women had positive things to say about Green's success this week.

Sawyer said of Green, "It was wonderful working with Robin over the campaign cycle. She campaigned as though she had an opponent [and] she really got out on a really good listening tour of the district which was greatly appreciated by many."



Robin Green

Sawyer also noted that Green is joining a state House that, while still controlled by Democrats, will feature more Republicans than it has in years, due to GOP gains on Election Day.

"With the change of the numbers in the House of Representatives, with it being very close to a tie at 79 Democrats to 72 Republicans, Robin will have a very different experience than either Gayle Mulligan or myself have had," Sawyer said.

According to the *Hartford Courant*, those 72 seats are the most Republicans have had in the House since the GOP last controlled it in 1986. Meanwhile, with her time in office drawing to a close, Mulligan was reflective this week.

"It has been a true honor and pleasure working for the people in the 55th General Assembly District, even if for just a short period of time," Mulligan said. "It is difficult leaving this role so quickly, as I felt my contributions were valuable and I had much more work to do."

But, she added, "As I begin a new journey in my personal life, I leave the district in great hands. Robin Green has the background, the business acumen, and the passion I feel will make her a very successful, productive legislator. I wish her and the people of the 55th the

very best. I will miss this job but am thankful for the opportunity to serve as State Representative for the past two years."

According to the secretary of the state's office, Green garnered 9,466 votes from the four towns in the district: 1,257 from Andover, 3,715 from Hebron, 2,477 from Marlborough, and 2,017 from Bolton.

Speaking to her win this week, Green said, "I'm ecstatic and I just feel absolutely wonderful and I'm ready to get to work."

Green previously shared that an area she hopes to work on is the state's financial situation, and getting the state to control its spending – and her experience as a small business owner, she said, will help her do just that.

"What kind of expertise can help at the state capitol?" she said in May. "Someone who knows how to read a budget, manages finances, and spends no more than we take in. I have that experience."

For the last 15 years Green has owned – and grown – Discovery Zone Learning Center, which has locations in Columbia, Hebron and Marlborough and, according to the website [discoveryzone.info](http://discoveryzone.info), provides a "creative, multicultural atmosphere [that] facilitates learn-

ing for children at all developmental levels."

Green has lived in Marlborough for the last 10 years with her husband and two children, who currently attend RHAM High School. She received a bachelor's degree in human services from Springfield College and, prior to owning Discovery Zone, she worked with a non-profit for 18 years as well as the Capitol Region Education Council.

She's a member of the Marlborough Arts Center and Museum, Friends of the Richmond Library, the Marlborough Business Association as well as the Marlborough Republican Town Committee. She has also helped with RHAM Project Graduation, and is a member of Friends of Connecticut State Parks and the Connecticut Childcare Association.

Now that Election Day is over, Green said preparing for her new role involves "just really getting up on all the issues and making sure that I find out what the needs of the community are."

She concluded, "I just want to thank everyone for their support. It was absolutely wonderful to get as many votes as I did and to have been unopposed – it's just breathtaking!"

Green will be sworn into office in January.

# Courtney Remains a Congressman

by Geeta S. Sandberg

Congressman Joe Courtney will keep his seat in Congress, easily winning re-election Tuesday across the 64-town Second Congressional District.

Courtney, a Democrat who first won in 2006, earned his sixth term, with 63.01 percent of the votes, compared to 33.86 percent received by his Republican opponent Daria Novak (in addition, 1.51 percent was earned by Libertarian Daniel Reale, and 1.61 percent was garnered by Green party member Jonathan Pelto).

Five *Rivereast* towns are included in the 64 municipalities that make up the district – and Courtney won in all of them. In Andover, he received 57.65 percent of the vote, collecting 1,077 votes to Novak's 723, according to the secretary of state's website.

In Colchester, he won 62.01 percent of the vote, topping Novak 5,626-3,185; in East Hampton he received 3,942 votes to Novak's 2,718, for 57.41 percent of the vote; in Hebron Courtney bested Novak 3,106-2,098, collecting 58.08 percent of the vote; and in Marlborough, Courtney received 55.37 percent of the vote, beating Novak 1,951-1,489.

Overall, across the district, Courtney defeated Novak by a tally of 198,556-106,709.

"I'm very excited and honored to represent the best part of Connecticut, in my highest opinion, for another two years," Courtney said Wednesday. "It obviously was one of the most complex and challenging political environments, since at least as long as I've been alive, and it was a very solid win."

Courtney added, "We worked very hard and never took the district or the voters for granted with our canvassing and phone calling, and we did some paid media, and emphasized a record of real results."

Some of the results Courtney mentioned include strong hiring in the Groton area "and at all the small businesses that are feeding into the shipyard." He also mentioned work that's been done with the United States Department of Agriculture to help with community facilities such as schools, fire houses, and water and sewer projects. Earlier this month for example, Courtney announced \$1.1 million in USDA funding for water quality improvements in Putnam.

"And obviously," he added, "a lot of other infrastructure work, like the rail lines that we just cut ribbon for."

On Oct. 25, Courtney joined Sen. Richard Blumenthal, Sen. Chris Murphy, state Department of Transportation Commissioner James Redeker, and officials from the New England Central Railroad for a groundbreaking ceremony to highlight a grant award Courtney helped secure to upgrade rail infrastructure to increase freight capacity from New England, up through Massachusetts to the Vermont/Canadian border.

"So that's what I'm going to roll my sleeves up and start working on today – to keep that positive momentum."

Courtney also mentioned he'd be heading back to Washington, D.C., on Monday to finish work on the budget, as well as a water resources bill, "so it's going to be a pretty busy lame-duck session."

The congressman added he planned to continue on as ranking member of the Sea Power Subcommittee that writes the Navy shipbuilding budget each year, as well as on the Educa-

tion Committee, where Courtney said he'd like to deal with issues such as college affordability.

"Those are obviously the two committees where I devote most of my time," he explained, but added prescription drug prices were another "huge sore point" he heard about during the campaign season.

President-elect Donald Trump "actually said he supports having Medicare negotiate lower prescription drug prices with drug manufacturers, which is actually a pretty unorthodox position for a Republican," he explained, "so hopefully we can come up with a bipartisan effort on that."

And, in the meantime, Courtney said he was grateful for the support he received and promised his best efforts moving forward.

"Election Day is, for me, a very inspiring and moving experience," he explained. "To drive across this huge part of the state that the Second District consists of, it's a good opportunity to talk to folks obviously. And it's a reminder that it's a really, almost sacred trust that people are giving you; and I'm grateful for it and take it to heart and pledge I'm going to do my best."

# Ziobron Returns to East Hampton for Third Term

by Elizabeth Regan

Republican Melissa Ziobron will be returning to the state House of Representatives after running unopposed for her third term representing the 34th District, which covers East Hampton, East Haddam and the Westchester section of Colchester.

Ziobron, of East Haddam, received 10,353 votes. East Hampton residents accounted for 5,708 of those votes while Westchester residents brought in 541 votes.

Republicans remain the minority party in the House, according to *CT News Junkie* – but they picked up eight seats based on unofficial election-night numbers. They would have had to gain 12 seats to eke out a majority.

Ziobron said Wednesday her biggest priority remains the state budget.

"I think with such a close margin now, it's going to be more and more difficult for the majority to pass bad policies," she said. "If you have a couple members absent, it's going to make a big difference."

She said she's concerned not only about the 2018-19 budget that will be formulated in the upcoming session, but also about the growing deficit attached to the current fiscal year's budget.



Melissa Ziobron

Ziobron is the highest-ranking House Republican on the General Assembly's 57-member Appropriations Committee.

"I'm very fearful we could end up in a deficit mitigation plan situation before session even begins," she said, describing a situation in which lawmakers could be called back to work to make adjustments to the budget.

*CT News Junkie* reported Comptroller Kevin Lembo said last week the state is projected to end the year with a \$42 million budget deficit, or 0.2 percent of net budgeted expenditures. A special session to balance the budget is required once the deficit reaches 1 percent of expenditures.

One of Ziobron's key areas of focus on the Appropriations Committee during the 2015 legislative session was making sure the minority party was engaged in the budget process from the start. She kept close tabs on the work done by the group's 13 subcommittees; she also brought together the ranking Republicans of each of those subcommittees to outline their own cohesive, well-defined budget priorities.

The General Assembly works during odd-numbered years to craft a biennial budget.

This year, the House Republican Caucus drafted a five-year budget plan that includes "long-term structural changes" including mandatory voting by the legislature on labor contracts, overtime accountability protocols, and caps on spending and bonding.

Formerly the economic development coordinator in East Haddam, Ziobron now devotes

herself wholly to her elected position. She is married with two children.

In East Hampton, Ziobron has been a visible presence advocating for concerns such as those related to the growing opioid epidemic, state parks, and funding for the East Hampton High School renovation.

She worked with state Sen. Art Linares, R-Westbrook, to secure \$7 million in state funding for the renovation projected after the state Department of Administrative Services failed to fund the maximum reimbursement amount.

She also supported the expansion of the Air Line Trail through a \$583,800 grant to connect downtown East Hampton to the Portland Border at Depot Hill Road.

Ziobron won her seat in 2012 against Democrat Chris Goff of East Hampton upon the retirement of Democrat incumbent Gail Hamm. She defeated Mimi Perotti of East Hampton in 2014.

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Statistics from the office of the secretary of the state showed voter turnout was at 82.32 percent in East Hampton, with 7,385 of the town's 8,971 registered voters casting ballots.

Democratic Deputy Registrar Stephanie Lee said she didn't hear any complaints about wait time, despite the large and steady number of people that flowed through the middle school polling location.

"They all came out yesterday in droves," Lee said.

She said the hardest part for voters was finding a parking place.

Voter turnout numbers included 425 absentee ballots and 215 same-day election registrations. The "Election Day Registration" program first went into effect during the municipal elections of 2013, making this year the first one in which residents were able to arrive at the polls, register to vote, and cast their vote for president all on the same day.

Statewide, 80.58 percent of registered voters showed up to vote, according to the office of the secretary of the state.

In addition to the state and federal elections, as well as five charter revision referendum questions, both of the town's registrar of voters positions were up for election this year. There is one registrar position for Republicans and one for Democrats.

However, no names appeared on the ballot. Republican Town Committee Chairman George Coshow said neither his committee nor the Democratic Town Committee nominated their candidates by the spring deadline.

Coshow called it "an unfortunate oversight on our part."

Current Republican registrar Lori Wilcox and Democratic registrar Jodi Brazal were certified as write-in candidates.

Both candidates were elected. Brazal got 42 votes and Wilcox received 11.

Coshow said last week that no other candidates were certified by Secretary of the State Denise Merrill, so any names written in other than Brazal and Wilcox would not be included in the tally.

# Book Chronicles Portland Resident's Struggles

by Elizabeth Regan

The mother and daughter team of Joyce and Jill Gould, who fought first for diagnosis and then acceptance of Jill's rare disease, have written a book about their experience.

But while *The Purple Canary* ends after 342 pages, Jill's struggle continues.

Based on genetic testing results from the Mount Sinai Medical Center, Jill had been treated for acute intermittent porphyria (AIP) for several years before the results were reevaluated and then retracted through the medical center in 2014, according to Joyce.

The change meant Jill was no longer able to get the treatment that had been keeping her painful and debilitating symptoms at bay, her mother said.

The U.S. National Institutes of Health describes AIP as a disease resulting from low levels of the enzymes needed to produce heme, a form of hemoglobin found mostly in red blood cells. Heme is mainly produced in the bone marrow and liver.

Low levels of heme may cause porphyrins to build up in the body, which can lead to attacks of symptoms ranging from the physical, like severe abdominal pain, to the psychiatric, like hallucinations.

Symptoms may be triggered by hormones, medications, chemicals and dietary changes, according to the U.S. National Health Institute.

Joyce said in a recent interview that Mount Sinai still acknowledges Jill has the gene for the disease: "But they're telling us the gene is a non-disease causing gene. So she's 'latent,' which means asymptomatic. No, she's not! She has some really terrible problems with this."

Joyce does not understand what led the medical center to reevaluate the original 2009 genetic testing, though *Purple Canary* delves into some of her theories involving ethical breaches and conflicts of interest.

"One by one, medical professionals turned their backs and withheld the life-saving panhematin her liver so desperately needed," Joyce wrote in the book.

She said the medical community continues to rely on the main indicator – one not produced by Jill – as a basis for diagnosis of acute intermittent porphyria: urine samples that can appear brown, red or even purple due to an increase in porphyrin levels.

Such an indicator is usually found in adults, according to Joyce's research. The already rare disease is identified even less frequently in children, which Joyce said leads to a lack of understanding in the medical community about how

to diagnose and treat young patients.

"That treatment was being withheld simply because her pee didn't turn a pink, red, brown or purplish shade when she was in obvious AIP distress did not make sense to me," Joyce wrote.

Joyce said Jill began exhibiting a host of symptoms – including tremors and nausea – when she was a sixth-grader at Brownstone Intermediate School. Jill had also been experiencing nosebleeds for several years prior and had been diagnosed with the blood clotting disorder Von Willebrand disease.

Symptoms worsened over her middle school years to include convulsions and fainting as well as mood swings, sudden changes in behavior and hallucinations. Medical professionals at Middlesex Hospital and Connecticut Children's Medical Center were unable to pinpoint the cause of the symptoms, according to Joyce.

Based on the genetic testing combined with numerous physical, neurological and psychiatric symptoms, doctors ultimately authorized a treatment protocol that included doses of glucose and panhematin administered through a port in her chest.

Joyce and Jill said those treatments helped address symptoms as they happened and ward off future attacks.

With the treatment halted in 2014, so were the prescriptions for opioid painkillers like morphine that came with it.

In an interview, Jill described the retracted diagnosis as the first in a "domino's effect of bad luck."

Around the same time, the then-17-year-old broke up with her boyfriend, started having jolting chest pains after surgery to change the port near her heart, and graduated from high school.

Jill described a building sense of anxiety with the direction in which her life was heading.

"Alright, you're stepping in the adult world now," she recalled herself thinking. "You're getting nervous. You're going to college, you're going to have to find a job, you're going to have to pay bills."

That's also when a string of doctors she'd been seeing for years became unable to treat her due to changes in their location, insurance or their own life circumstances. Then a friend who'd been supportive of Jill growing up was killed in a car accident.

"I was slowly falling apart," Jill said. She cited pressure from an ex-boyfriend to use drugs as the factor that pushed her over the edge.

"I would say within a week or two, I basically switched from using Dilaudid and mor-

phine to using heroin to self-medicate," she said.

When she'd have porphyria attacks after that, people would chalk up the symptoms to drug use and some, Joyce said, would laugh at her.

According to Joyce, people looked at Jill solely as a "junkie." It wasn't the first label that had been applied to her, either: she'd been referred to on many occasions as "a faker" looking for attention.

Over two years later, Jill ended up at a rehabilitation facility in Miami, Fla. It's been more than six months since she left the facility, and she said she remains clean.

Joyce said Jill's porphyria attacks continue, however, and they are hopeful they have found a doctor who will resume the treatments that give her relief and an opportunity to live a full life.

"All I want is to be able to go back to school, get a job again and live a normal, 20-year-old life – whatever that is," Jill said.

Meanwhile, mother and daughter look at their new book as a way to spread the word not only about a little-known disease, but about conditions they say contributed to Jill's suffering – including toxic chemicals and bullying at school.

Chemicals are a known trigger for porphyria. Joyce fought for the removal of certain dry erase markers and cleaning chemicals, as well as for a fresh air exchange in the venting system in Portland schools. She said the district was not receptive to her concerns.

Jill attended therapeutic day school through Wheeler Clinic for a portion of her high school years. As a senior, she went to the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts in the afternoon while being tutored at Portland Public Library in the mornings. She received her diploma outside Portland High School because of fears the chemicals inside could trigger another attack.

"As a taxpayer, it was not logical that in tough economic times [the] school district had shelled out thousands of dollars to ship Jill out of the district when a simple solution could have involved maximizing fresh air intake and switching to water-based brands and quantity of dry erase markers," Joyce wrote in the book.

Superintendent of Schools Philip O'Reilly said he could not comment on the Gould's situation since he was not employed in the district at the time. He was hired in the summer of 2014 to replace Sally Doyen.

O'Reilly said the school system recently went through a thorough revision of its policy on allergies. The district also subscribes to a



Joyce Gould and her daughter, Jill, have written a book on acute intermittent porphyria, a rare disease they say has affected Jill since she was at least 12 years old. Joyce has dubbed Jill a "Purple Canary" in part because her sensitivity to certain environmental triggers makes her a "canary in a coal mine," alerting others to toxic chemicals they didn't know were there. Photo credit: Tim Eccles Photography

policy guiding the use of "environmentally preferable" cleaning products.

The book, with a full title *Purple Canary - The Girl Who Was Allergic to School: The true story of how school chemicals unleashed a rare illness and devastated a young girl's life*, was written by Joyce with excerpts of Jill's old journal entries, writing assignments and poetry placed throughout.

It's fitting that Jill, who said she's long dreamed of being a songwriter, penned the lyrics that close out her story.

"I want to be the one/The one I used to see/ In the mirror/Where everything's clearer," she wrote. "I could finally breathe/But the mirror is broken/And my scars are open/For everyone to see."

## Carpino Wins Fourth Term in Portland

by Elizabeth Regan

Republican state Rep. Christie Carpino, R-32, sailed to a fourth term with 65.17 percent of the vote against former Democratic Cromwell selectman Myron P. Johnson.

The 32nd House district covers Portland and Cromwell.

In Portland, Town Clerk Ryan Curley said residents descended on the new polling place at the middle school in record numbers to fill out their ballots. Voter turnout came in at 86 percent of registered voters.

The number eclipsed voter turnout of 84 percent during the 2008 Obama/McCain race.

The occasion also marked the first time voters were able to register to vote on the day of the presidential election. The "Election Day Registration" program first went into effect during the municipal elections of 2013.

There were 161 Portland voters who registered to vote on Tuesday.

Carpino received 3,452 votes in Portland, en route to a total of 8,225. Johnson received 1,633 votes in Portland, for a total of 4,395.

"I am humbled by the overwhelming support I received from the voters in both Portland and Cromwell," Carpino said Wednesday. "The



Christie Carpino

people of the 32nd District have put their confidence in me and I look forward to being their voice in Hartford."

Carpino, 41, of Cromwell, currently serves as co-chairman of the legislature's Program Review and Investigations Committee and is a member of the Judiciary and Public Health committees. She is the only state representative from the minority party to co-chair a committee in the Democrat-dominated General Assembly.

Carpino ran on a platform of improving the economy and creating jobs. Her commitment to addressing those concerns goes back to her first term, when she supported a bipartisan jobs bill providing funding and job training for small businesses across the state.

She also cited public safety as a key issue, pointing to successful efforts last year to engage the state Department of Transportation in installing rumble strips and new signage on Route 66 through joint advocacy with state Rep. Melissa Ziobron, R-34.

Johnson, 57, put job creation and traffic safety at the top of his priority list. He said he was inspired to run for a seat in the General Assembly after efforts to reconstruct exit 19 south off Route 9 in Cromwell never came to fruition because of lack of funding.

Johnson, the owner of an architectural landscaping company, was a member of the Cromwell Board of Selectmen from 2005-09. He could not be reached for comment.

Carpino won the seat in 2010, after defeating incumbent Democrat James O'Rourke. Prior to serving at the state level, Carpino served on Cromwell's Board of Assessment Appeals, was the vice chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals and the vice chair of the Republican Town Committee.

Curley said the inaugural election in the new polling location at Portland Middle School went relatively smoothly.

"We handled the lines tremendously," he said, crediting the Portland Police Department with keeping the traffic flowing and the registrars, moderators and poll workers with keeping the lines moving inside.

Approximately 3,000 of more than 5,000 voters were finished voting before 1 p.m., according to Curley.

He said the few parking and traffic issues that came up will be addressed for the next election.

As an example, he said participants in a professional development conference took up unforeseen parking space. There was also a van that was supposed to deliver voters from more remote parking spaces to the school, but congested traffic made that impossible – so a golf cart was used instead.

Even with the hiccups, Curley said the new spot is much better able to accommodate the number of voters that came through than the former polling place at the Waverly Center

would have been.

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Meanwhile, Portland voters Tuesday also helped give Democratic Congressman John B. Larson of the First Congressional District a 10th consecutive term in the United States House of Representatives.

Districtwide, Larson earned 60.08 percent of the vote against Republican Matthew M. Corey, who pulled in 33.56 percent.

Green Party candidate S. Michael DeRosa received just over 2 percent of the vote.

Portland, the district's only town in the *RiverEast* coverage area, picked Larson with 2,870 votes, or 57.19, over Corey's 2,029 votes, or 40.43 percent. DeRosa received 119 votes in Portland.

It was a departure from the 2014 race in which Portland voters chose Corey over Larson by 331 votes.

Larson, a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, has advocated for working families, the manufacturing and small business sector, and "commonsense solutions" for common problems, according to his website.

In Larson's past elections, he has had no trouble consistently gathering over 60 percent of the total vote, and has enjoyed wins with over 70 percent of the vote in four of his nine elections.

He first was elected to the congressional seat in 1998.

# East Hampton Voters Pass Four Charter Changes, Reject One

by Elizabeth Regan

East Hampton voters have approved four out of five ballot referendum questions to change the way the town government operates.

The approved changes – which include bifurcating the town and school budgets – went into effect the day after the election, according to Town Clerk Sandi Wieleba.

This year's volunteer Charter Revision Commission learned from a failed attempt in 2010 to change the charter, when multiple revisions were lumped into one question on the ballot. Critics of the combined approach characterized it as throwing the baby out with the bathwater – rejecting all changes when residents only objected to some of them.

This time around, each proposed revision had its own question on the ballot. Only one got rejected: a change that would have clarified who has the power to fill vacancies in elective offices.

The Charter Revision Commission's recommendation would have given the town council the authority to fill vacancies on boards and commissions. It also would have required that any vacancy be filled by a member of the same party as the one who left the seat.

It failed by 2,943 'yes' votes to 3,502 'no' votes – a difference of 559 votes.

The question stemmed from a lawsuit filed in December by the Board of Education after the Town Council refused to cede to the school board's demand for councilors to pass a resolution formally acknowledging the school board has the right to make its own appointments.

In March, the school board and council signed an agreement stipulating no further proceedings in the case shall take place until after the Nov. 8 election. It also required the council to withdraw a previous motion to dismiss the

case.

The appointment controversy arose following last year's municipal election after the new Republican-led Town Council appointed Republican Michael Rose to the school board seat vacated by Republican Josh Piteo, who resigned upon winning a spot as a councilor.

But Rose ultimately declined the nomination, so members of the outgoing school board appointed former member Jeff Carlson, a Democrat, to the seat – tipping the new board's majority to the Democrats.

A review of policies in Colchester, Cromwell, Glastonbury, Haddam, Marlborough, Middletown and Portland shows only two towns empower their school board to fill their own vacancies: Colchester and Portland. Most of the towns include a same-party provision.

Since the settlement agreement apparently relied on the charter revision process to decide the issue once and for all, Charter Revision Commission Chairwoman and council member Melissa Engel said Wednesday she doesn't know where the lawsuit now stands.

She has reached out to Town Manager Michael Maniscalco to get a legal opinion from town counsel.

"I still think somehow, someday, we need to make it clear," Engel said. "The town cannot continue to sue itself over this issue."

The most talked-about charter change had a clear resolution Tuesday: residents want a bifurcated budget.

Seventy-three percent of those who voted on the question said the charter should contain a provision to separate the town budget and the education budget during each budget planning cycle.

There were 4,710 'yes' votes to 1,713 'no' votes.

Currently, voters either approve or reject a budget that includes general government, education, debt service and capital expenses. Bifurcating the budget means voters will see two questions on the ballot: one amount for general government and a separate amount for education.

There is no mechanism in the language in the revised charter to clarify how debt service and capital expenses would be divvied up among the town operations and education budgets on the ballot.

Members of the Charter Revision Commission said they recommended bifurcating the budget as a way to provide more transparency for voters by letting them know how much money is going toward general government expenses and how much is going toward the school system. They said the system encourages close cooperation between the town manager and superintendent of schools to create and promote a budget that works for the town and the schools.

The idea of budget bifurcation came up because of multiple failed budget referendums over the past several years.

The Board of Education opposed the question because it did not address debt and capital improvements. Members also questioned whether the move would cut down on the number of repeat referendums, citing towns like Colchester, Griswold and Windham that bifurcate their budgets but still have a history of voting on multiple budget proposals before they pass one.

Engel said the decisive vote reinforces what

the commission believed taxpayers truly wanted.

"It's very interesting that that many people felt it was a better way to manage our system," she said.

Board of Education Chairman Christopher Goff did not return multiple calls for comment.

A question asking voters if all elected officials should be sworn in the day after the regular election was answered in the affirmative by 4,319 voters. There were 2,025 people opposed.

Currently, different elected bodies have different timetables for being sworn in.

Voters also endorsed a change "to allow a member of the Town Council to hold office or accept employment one year after the term is completed."

There were 3,644 voters for the question and 2,681 against it.

The proposed change, in addition to specifying councilors cannot hold "more than one elected or appointed office" while serving, would change the length of time following their tenure during which they are ineligible to be appointed to office or take on paying jobs with the town. The current charter puts the prohibition at two years; the recommendation would shorten it to one year.

The final question, described by the commission as a collection of technical changes, sailed through with 4,795 votes. There were 1,483 opposed.

Changes included removing outdated references to positions that no longer exist or have changed, as well as putting an "s" on references to the annual "budget" to reflect that taxpayers will be voting on separate town and education spending plans.

## Osten Wins Third State Senate Term

by Julianna Roche

It was smooth sailing for incumbent state Sen. Cathy Osten (D-19th District), who outdid Republican challenger Barbara Crouch in nine of the district's 10 communities at the polls Tuesday.

The 19th District includes the *Rivereast* towns of Marlborough and Hebron, as well as Columbia, Franklin, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Montville, Norwich and Sprague (where Osten is also first selectwoman).

Overall, Osten amassed 24,381 votes in the district, compared to Crouch's 17,336, with 2,709 votes trumping Crouch's 2,567 in Hebron. However, in Marlborough Crouch prevailed with a victory over her Democrat opponent with 1,772 to 1,711 votes, respectively. (During the 2014 election, Osten also lost in Marlborough to her then-opponent Steve Everett.)

According to Marlborough's Republican Registrars of Voters Dorothy Denniss, the voter turnout (which she estimated on Wednesday afternoon was around 82 percent) was on par with "the last couple big ones [the 2008 and 2012 presidential elections]."

"It was a very busy day, a very good day" she continued, adding that "everything ran very

well" and they received no complaints.

Despite the Marlborough win, Crouch didn't fare as well in the other towns, where she suffered significant losses – most notably Norwich, where Osten won with over double the amount of votes in an 8,523-3,971 tally.

"It went really great... I had a great team working with me," Osten said about the outcome, adding she was "not surprised at all" by the win.

"I think I work really hard to represent the people in the district and if you don't do that, you won't get re-elected," she continued.

With her re-election to a third term as state senator, Osten said she will continue to work hard in representing her constituents and that she has already started focusing on economic issues, including "tightening up the budget."

In Hebron and Marlborough, she added, she plans to work on rebuilding infrastructure and establishing initiatives surrounding the issue of dyslexia, which she said would help provide resources for teachers and students.

"I'm not a one issue kind of person," Osten said, who is currently chair of the Planning and Development Committee, vice chairwoman of

the Aging Committee, and a member of the Labor and Public Employees Committee, the Public Safety and Security Committee, and the Veterans Committee.

Meanwhile, Crouch said that, despite the loss, the election was "one of the best experiences of my life" and she plans to run again in the 2018 election.

"I think it went really well. I was basically unknown in the district, so I did better than I thought I would," Crouch said, adding that she didn't join this year's race until mid-April, as opposed to most candidates who join in January.

"I really didn't have time to go to all the towns, talk to their leaders and have those relationships established," she said.

For the next election, Crouch said she will make an announcement much earlier. Until then however, she plans to continue establishing relationships with district towns and staying involved with the communities – perhaps even becoming a board member on a private or charter school board.

"I still am very much an advocate for businesses and for children," she continued. "I'm

going to be watching the discussions for care around our kids."

In terms of Osten's win, Crouch said while she "understood the premise" of voters' decision, she is interested to see if there will be change.

"People are very much resistant to change in one form or another," Crouch said, adding that may be why they chose to stick with Osten for a third term.

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Despite the outcome – both Crouch and Osten encouraged voters to continue reaching out to them through social media channels or through their websites.

"Call the office anytime," Osten said. "I appreciate hearing from people about issues they consider important."

Crouch agreed: "I think the more people work together, the better ideas we'll have."

Voters can reach out to Crouch through her Facebook (search for @CrouchforSenate in the search bar), Twitter (@MISSBABS65), or email at [crouchforsenate@gmail.com](mailto:crouchforsenate@gmail.com). To reach Osten, call 860-240-0759 or send her an email at [senatedems.ct.gov/Osten-mailform.php](mailto:senatedems.ct.gov/Osten-mailform.php).

### East Hampton Police News

10/26: Gary O'Connell, 58, of 14 Commerce St., Portland, was arrested and charged with driving under the influence and failure to drive right, East Hampton Police said.

10/31: Michael A. Zascirinskis, 26, of 1284 Straits Tpke., Middlebury was arrested and charged with driving under the influence, failure to drive right and operating a motor vehicle with unsafe tires, police said.

### Colchester Police News

11/3: State Police said Timothy J. Birchall, 55, of 9 Islanda Ct., East Lyme, was arrested and charged with evading responsibility in the operating of a motor vehicle, failure to drive in the proper lane of a multiple lane highway, threatening, and breach of peace: threatening.

11/3: State Police said Frank Shukis, 68, of 47 Sherwood Terrace, Vernon, was arrested and charged with disobeying the signal of an officer, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs and alcohol, and failure to drive in the proper lane of a multiple lane highway.

11/4: State Police said Richard Haagensen, 27, of 692 Old Colchester Rd., Salem, was arrested and charged with violation of probation/conditional discharge.

### Hebron Police News

11/2: State Police said Kyle E. Dellert, 31, of 58 Carolyn Dr., was arrested and charged with first-degree failure to appear.

11/2: State Police said Mark J. Dellert, 31, of 58 Carolyn Dr., was arrested and charged with second-degree failure to appear.

# Marlborough Fire Department Raising Funds for Gathering on the Green

by Julianna Roche

Marlborough residents can expect an even better Gathering on the Green this year (think a longer fire truck parade and an even bigger fireworks show) – at least that’s the hope of Fire Marshal Joe Asklar and Rescue Captain Mark Merritt, who are leading the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department in raising funds for the holiday event.

The pair, who helped run the event last year, said the celebration, which is designed to “bring the town together” to ring in the holiday season, was a huge success.

Merritt estimates there were about 1,500 attendees in 2015, and they’re expecting even more this year.

“People have tried to pull an event like this off in the past, but they didn’t really have any organizations behind them – that was just kind

of the problem,” Merritt explained.

He added that was why he and Asklar decided to take over, but to make the event happen the pair said they’re looking to raise \$5,000. As of Monday, Merritt said they were just under halfway there with about \$2,000; they have just over three weeks to come up with the rest.

“The success or failure of this whole Christmas tree lighting and this festive gathering in the center of town depends on contributions from residents and businesses in town,” Asklar said. “Some of the businesses have stepped up and have done a great job, but we’re still short of our goal.”

The event, which is hosted by the MVFD, the Roy G. Pettengill Ambulance Association and the Knights of Columbus, is set for Saturday, Dec. 3 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Town Green.

In addition to hot cocoa and cookies (made by Senior Center members), Asklar said there will be a Santa-led decorated fire truck parade starting at 5:15 p.m., with the fireworks show set to begin immediately after the tree lighting at 5:45 p.m. There will also be caroling and a disc jockey.

“The event is driven entirely by volunteerism and donations,” Merritt said, adding he’s hoping for at least ten fire trucks from other towns to participate in the parade.

“We want to make this happen,” Asklar said, “because it brings great camaraderie to the town – a real holiday spirit.”

To donate, visit the event’s Go Fund Me page at [gofundme.com/MarlbGathering](http://gofundme.com/MarlbGathering). Checks can also be made payable to Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department and sent to P.O. Box 237, Marlborough, CT, 06447.



Fireworks are due to return to the annual Gathering on the Green this year – and organizers are hoping for an even bigger display than last year. The Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department is currently seeking donations for the event.

## East Lake Property Purchase Moves to Marlborough Town Meeting

by Julianna Roche

Information regarding the town’s potential purchase of a lakefront property was met with mostly support by about 50 residents on Wednesday night during a public hearing held by the Board of Finance in a packed-full media room in the elementary school.

During the meeting, the finance board led a presentation that included background and facts regarding the 17 East Lake Rd. property, as well as reasons to consider the purchase, potential concerns, and sources of funds. Residents were also given an opportunity to speak publicly and ask questions.

The potential purchase was first presented to the finance board by First Selectwoman Amy Traversa nearly two weeks ago, where she explained the town had been “approached out of the blue” by current property owner James Dwyer about purchasing the land – where a small cottage (with 44 square feet of waterfront) sits adjacent to Blish Park with a view of Lake Terramuggus.

Since, the town had signed a purchase agreement with the tenant, which states it can purchase the property (which has since been appraised at \$343,600) for \$200,000 with a Dec. 31, 2016 closing date.

Dwyer “has given the town the first opportunity to make the purchase without inviting any offers outside of the town itself,” Chairman Doug Knowlton explained, adding the purchase agreement, while legal, only grants the town “the right to refuse the offer” – it’s not a con-

tract set in stone.

According to Traversa, Dwyer has already received outside offers to buy the home. She added that the house, which was built in the 1930s, was “really in unsalvageable condition” so the town is “really talking about purchasing the property itself,” which she added could potentially be used for a recreation or community center “down the road.”

Despite the \$200,000 price tag, some concern was raised by several residents present, who questioned what additional costs there could be if, for example, the town decides to demolish the property.

“To buy this property, we don’t know what we would do with it yet, so there’s really no plan and we don’t know what the total cost is going to be,” said resident Patricia Koshko.

According to Town Planner Peter Hughes, if the town did decide to demo the home, he estimated it would cost somewhere between \$12,000 and \$18,000 – or they could potentially even use the home as a drill house for the fire department.

“Is it a structure the fire department could use to drill on?” he said. “If not, we would come in with an excavator and dumpsters, and in about three hours it’d be gone.”

Knowlton also emphasized that if additional dollars would be used towards the property, the funds would “come from the next budget cycle,” not the current one, should the town decide to

move forward with the purchase next month.

To fund the \$200,000 property purchase, Knowlton said the town plans to use \$50,000 from the open space fund, \$22,000 from the land acquisition fund, \$50,000 from the undesignated capital expenditure reserve within the capital non-recurring fund, and the remaining \$78,000 from the undesignated fund balance – all funds they already have, which do not need to be generated.

“We can debate the \$200,000 price tag, the property’s possible future uses, and the pros and cons of acquiring the property, but in the end, the taxpayers will make the call at the Nov. 21 town meeting,” said finance board member Ken Hjulstrom.

Hjulstrom expressed concerns about the property at the board’s previous meeting, such as whether the property was worth the price and what else might need to be done with it after the acquisition. He added, however, that he was “pleased most of the questions raised were answered.”

Traversa also emphasized during the hearing that while she recognized the town currently has considerable debt, the property purchase was a “town want, not a town need” – which was why she and the Board of Selectmen wanted to let town residents decide if the town should move forward with it or not.

“I wouldn’t be looking at this if I didn’t think it’d be a good thing for the town,” she said. “This

isn’t [going to be] debt we’re assuming at this point.”

“I think it’s a really, really good idea and I think it would be an opportunity lost [if we didn’t move forward],” she added.

During the public comments portion at the end of the hearing, overall, most residents seemed to support the purchase.

“I think it’s a brilliant idea,” said resident John Craggs. “I largely grew up at the park swimming as a kid and it gets more use now than it did when I was little ... [and] for the most part, it sounds like the money is there to do it.”

Resident Dave Porteous agreed, adding he originally came to the meeting unsure of the purchase believing it was “an opportunity looking for a plan,” not the other way around.

“[Now] I think it may be a good idea, but it’s going to have to be given a [clearer] plan, because it is an opportunity. You should be able to present us with a plan and put forward all of the good reasons [we should buy it].”

Town residents will ultimately be able to vote on whether the town should move forward with the purchase at a town meeting later this month, on Monday, Nov. 21, at 7 p.m. in the Marlborough Elementary School’s cafeteria.

“We will always come before a vote,” Traversa said. “And what we do in the future with the property will again be presented and voted on by the town before we go forward.”

## Dump Truck Overtakes on Route 87 in Hebron

by Julianna Roche

A Ford dump truck overturned on Route 87 after colliding with a car at around 5 p.m. last Monday, Oct. 31, police said.

According to police, the Ford Conventional L-LTL 90, driven by Daniel F. Bronzi, 40, of 128 North St., was traveling southbound on Route 87, while a Chevrolet Cruze LS, driven by Christopher Knight, 34, of 75 Bolton Branch Rd., Coventry, was traveling northbound around a curve just before the road’s intersection with Porter Road. Police said the Chevrolet moved into the southbound lane in front of the Ford; the Ford was unsuccessful in avoiding the vehicle, and subsequently collided with it.

The Ford proceeded to overturn onto its

passenger’s side into the northbound lane of travel, causing the contents of its dump truck to empty onto the roadway of both travel lanes, according to police.

Police said both vehicles sustained disabling damage and were towed from the scene. Bronzi sustained possible injuries but declined medical treatment, police said, while Knight was transported to Manchester Memorial Hospital by Andover Fire Department for possible injuries.

According to police, Knight was found to be at fault for the incident and was issued a ticket for failure to maintain the proper lane and failure to renew an operator’s license.

## Head-On Collision on Old Hartford Road in Colchester

by Julianna Roche

A head-on collision between two cars on Old Hartford Road left two with possible injuries on Nov. 2, police said.

According to police, at approximately 4 p.m., a Chevrolet Equinox driven by Amelia Ballek, 38, of 55 Renee Dr., was traveling westbound on Old Hartford Road as a Toyota Sienna X, driven by Robert St. Martin, 86, of Main Street, Glastonbury, was traveling eastbound just west of Upton Road.

Police said the Toyota then crossed over the double yellow lines and subsequently

struck the Chevrolet head-on, resulting in both vehicles sustaining heavy front end damage and being towed from the scene by Desmond’s Auto.

Ballek and passenger Elizabeth Townsend, 15, also of 55 Renee Dr., were transported to the Marlborough Clinic by Colchester Hayward Fire Department for possible injuries. According to police, St. Martin said he was tired and may have fallen asleep, and was written a warning for failure to drive right.

## Obituaries

### East Hampton

#### Kurt Nelson

Kurt Nelson, formerly of East Hampton, passed away Friday, July 1, at his home in North Carolina after a long illness.

He leaves behind his wife, Elizabeth Nelson; three children, Nancy Brotz, Kimberly Bock, and Jon Nelson; plus six grandchildren, Bailey and Morgan Brotz, Connor and Katherine Bock and Hunter and Logan Nelson.

Kurt was born in McKeesport, Pa., where he graduated from Elizabeth Forward High School, and then spent six years in the Navy. After his tour of duty he attended the Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics. He then was employed at Pratt and Whitney in East Hartford, where he worked for 36 years. During that time, he was sent to Iran to work on the F14 program. He spent his retirement between Maine, which he truly loved and North Carolina where he enjoyed boating, reading and playing solitaire.

His memorial service was held Saturday, Oct. 15, at the VFW on North Maple Street in East Hampton.

We ask that you please make a donation to our local Hospice or Heart Association in his name.



### Marlborough

#### Doreen Marie Posage

Doreen Marie (Haggerty) Posage, 65, of Marlborough, passed away Thursday, Nov. 3, at Hartford Hospital. Born Feb. 7, 1951, in Staten Island, N.Y., she was the daughter of the late Eileen (Delaney) Haggerty.

She leaves her husband, William Posage of Marlborough; two children, Carl Alessandro Jr. and his wife Lori of Wellington, Fla., and Elizabeth Alessandro of Marlborough; five grandchildren, Brittany, CJ, Christopher, Javier and Adrianna; a brother, Ken of California; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to her mother, she was predeceased by her first husband, Carl Alessandro; and three brothers, Bruce, Craig and Scott.

Before her retirement in July 2014, Doreen had worked in Effort Reporting for UConn. She loved the outdoors, especially hiking, boating and traveling, as well as knitting and reading in her spare time.

The family received guests Sunday, Nov. 6, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral liturgy was celebrated Monday morning, Nov. 7, directly at St. John Fisher Church, 30 Jones Hollow Rd., Marlborough. Burial followed in the Cemetery of St. Peter, Clove Road, Staten Island, N.Y.

Donations in her memory may be made to Habitat for Humanity, P.O. Box 1933, Hartford, CT 06144 ([hartfordhabitat.org](http://hartfordhabitat.org)) or to the Hartford Hospital Comprehensive Liver Center, Attn: Fund Development, P.O. Box 5037, Hartford, CT 06102 ([giving.harthosp.org](http://giving.harthosp.org)).

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



### Portland

#### Frank C. Violissi Sr.

Frank C. Violissi Sr., 92, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family, Tuesday Nov. 1, and joined his wife, Rita, in eternal love. Born April 19, 1924, in Portland, he was the son of the late Marcello and Domenica (Arrigoni) Violissi.

A lifelong resident of Portland, Frank attended local schools and was a parishioner of St. Mary Church. Frank enlisted in the United States Marine Corps during World War II at the age of 17. He was a corporal and rifleman in the first squad, serving in Company "A", 1st Platoon, 1st Battalion, Third Marines. During his military career, he was deployed twice, spending time in the Guadalcanal and Solomon Islands.

While on leave from his first deployment, he was introduced to Rita, the love of his life. They married a short time later, and even after 71 years, he had never forgotten a single detail from that initial encounter.

After being honorably discharged from the military, he went on to become the plant manager at Standard-Knapp division of Emhart Industries. Later, he owned and operated F.C.V. Tool & Engineering, Inc. Frank was also one of the forefathers of law enforcement in Portland, serving on the police force for 40 years.

Frank could build anything, and built each of the three homes he lived in with his family; including their cottage on Lake Pocotopaug in East Hampton, where they enjoyed spending their summers. He was the most loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He and Rita raised and provided for three generations, all of whom he adored dearly. He cherished nothing more than being surrounded by his family. They will miss his infinite wisdom and endless love. Frank was the epitome of an American hero and was always extremely proud of having the privilege to serve his country. Semper Fi.

Mr. Violissi is survived by his son, Frank C. Violissi Jr. and his wife Wendy of Portland; daughter, Carolann Violissi of East Hampton; three grandsons, Teddy Violissi Jr., Chuck R. Violissi and his wife Annie, Frank H. Violissi and his wife Lisa; seven great-grandchildren: Brooke Vigneri and her fiancé George Sirigos, Brittney Vigneri, Tyler Violissi, Nickolas Violissi, Teddy Violissi III, Robby Violissi, Johnny Violissi; and several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his wife, Rita Violissi; son, Theodore J. Violissi; a brother, Anthony Violissi; sister, Mary Molinari; and his granddaughter Michele L. Violissi.

His funeral was held Monday, Nov. 7, from the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, where the funeral cortege proceeded to St. Mary Church for a Mass of Christian that morning. Burial with military honors followed in the Swedish Cemetery. Family and friends paid their respects Sunday, Nov. 6, at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home.

Donations in memory of Frank C. Violissi Sr. may be made to the Disabled American Veterans, P.O. Box 14301, (Cincinnati, OH 45250-0301 or via its website, [dav.org](http://dav.org)).

To send an online expression of sympathy, visit [portlandmemorialfh.net](http://portlandmemorialfh.net).

### East Hampton

#### Karlene Patricia Burke

Karlene Patricia (Bassola) Burke, 58, of East Hampton, beloved wife of David Burke, died Thursday, Nov. 3, at Hartford Hospital. Born Nov. 1, 1958, in New Britain, she was the daughter of Gervasio "Jerry" and Geraldine (Christiansen) Bassola of Rhode Island.

Karlene was employed as an office manager at IBU Inc. She was an active member of Hope Church in East Hampton and was also active with Meals on Wheels.

Besides her parents and husband David, Karlene is survived by her three daughters, Carlee MacDonald and husband James of East Hampton, Casie Sabean and husband James of Massachusetts, Cara Burke of East Hampton; two sisters, Karen Steller and husband Steve of Rocky Hill, Kathy Burke of Rocky Hill; and her granddaughter, Taijauna.

Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Monday, Nov. 7. Funeral services were held Tuesday, Nov. 8, in Hope Church on East High Street in East Hampton. Burial followed.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Global & Local Outreach Fund, c/o Hope Church, P.O. Box 44, East Hampton, CT 06424.

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

### East Hampton

#### Carol Ann Damm

Carol Ann Damm, 73, of East Hampton, died Friday, Nov. 4, at her home. Born May 17, 1943, in Meriden, she was the daughter of the late Walter and Florence (Socha) Damm.

Carol was raised in Wallingford and graduated from Lyman Hall High School in Wallingford, and received her master's degree in education from Southern Connecticut State College. Carol taught in the New Haven Public School System for three years before moving overseas and teaching the children of U.S. military families stationed abroad until her retirement. Carol received many commendations for her teaching abilities.

After her retirement, she lived in Colchester for five years and then moved to East Hampton in 2013. She had summered on Lake Pocotopaug for many years.

Carol's family was very dear to her, especially her nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews, who all referred to her as "Auntie Carol."

She leaves to mourn her loss her brother, Walter Damm and his wife Kathie of North Carolina; her two sisters, Marilyn Meyers and husband William of Moodus, Janice Bryant and husband William of Meriden; nieces and nephews, William Meyers and wife Christy, Jennifer Wanderman and husband Todd, Emily Nichols and husband Ray, and Stephen Dioses; nine great-nieces and nephews, Will, AJ, Tristan, Marek, Baleigh, Nathan, Sophie, RJ and Grace.

A funeral liturgy will be celebrated Saturday, Nov. 12, at 11 a.m., in St. Patrick Church in East Hampton. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 417005, Boston, MA 02241-7005.

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



### Colchester

#### Karen A. Goguen

Karen A. Goguen, 57, of Colchester, died Thursday, Nov. 3, at St. Francis Hospital. Born May 18, 1959, in Hartford, daughter of Paul Goguen of Colchester and Dolores (Aldington) Goguen of South Windsor, she had lived in Colchester since 1992. Karen had a lifelong love for horses and enjoyed volunteering at the Hebron Lions Club Fair.

Besides her parents she is survived by her husband, Carl Zirkenbach; her daughter, Karly Zirkenbach of Colchester; two brothers and their wives, Glenn and Debbie Goguen and Gary Goguen and Mary Holman, all of Rhode Island, and a special friend, Theresa McHugh of Tolland.

The funeral service was Tuesday, Nov. 8, in the Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury. Burial will follow in Marlboro Cemetery, Marlborough. Friends called at the funeral home Tuesday morning, before the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Smilow Cancer Center at St. Francis Hospital, 114 Woodland St., Hartford, CT. 06105.

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

