



RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

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A Warm Embrace... Newly-elected state Rep. Irene Haines was congratulated by her daughter Katie, as husband Steven (right) looked on, at an election night party at campaign headquarters in Old Saybrook. Haines, a Republican, will represent East Haddam, East Hampton and a portion of Colchester in the state House of Representatives. See full story on page 11.

Needleman Tops Ziobron in Close Race

by Elizabeth Regan

A divisive campaign for the 33rd state Senate District seat ended in a close race that helped erase the chamber's delicate balance.

In the end, it was 303 votes that separated victorious Essex First Selectman Norm Needleman, a Democrat, from state Rep. Melissa Ziobron, a Republican who represented the 34th Assembly District.

The seat is being vacated by Republican Art Linares, who gave up the chance for re-election as part of his unsuccessful bid for state treasurer. Ziobron has stated all along that the decision to forego her House seat for a Senate campaign was an effort to preserve an 18-18 tie in the esteemed chamber that she credited with this year's bipartisan budget.

Democrats will hold a 24-12 majority when the next session begins in January.

Ziobron conceded the race to Essex First Selectman Norm Needleman on Wednesday. A prepared statement from her campaign said she called her opponent around noon, after results from Connecticut's Secretary of the State showed the race was just outside the margin for a recount.

An automatic recount is triggered when the vote is less than half of one percent of the total votes cast.

"I am very proud of the race that I ran and grateful for the tremendous effort from my campaign staff and volunteers. We worked hard, earned every vote and did not give an inch of

ground," Ziobron said in the statement.

Ziobron won all three *Rivereast* towns within the 12-town district, which stretches from the shoreline to Portland.

In East Hampton, where she served since 2012 as state representative, she won 3,679 votes to Needleman's 2,607. She won 2,378 to 2,246 in Portland and 3,857 to 3,563 in Colchester.

Needleman, an eight-year first selectman in Essex and the founder and CEO of Tower Laboratories, described Ziobron as a "formidable opponent" for whom he has nothing but respect.

"Melissa is an extremely capable person and she has a future in public service somewhere. I wish her and her family well," he told the *Rivereast* Thursday.

Needleman said his first focus when he takes office in January will be to address the state budget.

It's a budget that needs to balance, he said – and be fair to everyone.

"I'd personally like to be working on a long-range plan that provides some level of fiscal stability over the next 10 years," Needleman said. "I strongly believe we need to control the spending and we need to help make the state as efficient as possible, but we need to target investments based on a plan to grow the state's economy."

The Democrat – whose priorities include job
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Concerns Remain About Gas Station Project

by Allison Lazur

Despite Marlborough Conservation Commission approval for a proposed gas station on Hebron Road, residents are standing behind concerns about the project as it moves toward a public hearing in front of the Zoning Commission.

The application for the gas station and convenience store was filed by Marlborough One LLC, which is listed on the Secretary of the State's business database as a venture of prominent local developer William Wayne Rand.

The application was set to go to a Zoning Commission public hearing last week, but was postponed until Dec. 6 at Rand's request. Residents at the meeting attempted to use the public comment portion to voice their concerns with the application but were largely prohibited from speaking until the public hearing.

Roughly 15 residents attended Monday's Conservation Commission meeting to oppose the project. Two of them asked commission members to reconsider the commission's Oct. 15 decision to approve the project.

Shawn DeFelice, of Hickory Road, provided copies of a Sept. 7 letter from the Connecticut Water Company that some residents believe was not made available to members of the commission before they voted on the application. The residents became concerned the letter, which

was addressed to Town Planner Peter Hughes, had not been received after there was no mention of an opinion from the water company at any of the Conservation Commission meetings.

The water company letter states the proposed gas station poses "an unreasonable risk" to nearby wells operated by the utility.

"I'm not sure if the conservation commission has [the letters] or not, but I have copies if you would like them," DeFelice told members of the commission. "Also, I would like the Conservation Commission to possibly make a motion to retract their vote from the [Oct. 15] meeting until they can go over this information that was willfully withheld from them."

Connecticut Water Company's environmental and regulatory compliance coordinator, Jessica Demar, told the *Rivereast* last week the company opposes the project because of the site's proximity to the Forest Homes well system and Lyman Brook.

The well system serves approximately 40 homes, according to the water company.

The proposed site contains a 4,920-square-foot convenience store and eight self-serve fueling pumps on the northeast corner of Hebron Road bordered by the northbound Route 2 onramp and Route 66. According to Town Planner Peter Hughes, the parcel is currently zoned

as a Designed Business/Industrial Zone (DBIZ1).

Gasoline stations are allowed with a special permit, according to the general requirements for designed development zones in town zoning regulations.

Demar acknowledged the town is not required to get the utility company's approval for the project since it is not in an aquifer protected area, but she said the company remains concerned about the gas station's potential effect on groundwater.

Demar added that it's difficult to determine the specific contributing area to the well system, so it's possible the "gas station is not within the contributing area."

Conservation Commission Chairman Yvonne Bolton accepted copies of the letters from DeFelice and continued to let residents talk about concerns largely focused on contamination and traffic. But she explained a majority of the viewpoints would be more appropriately directed to the Zoning Commission.

"Wells and traffic are not this commission's jurisdiction," Bolton said. "What we have jurisdiction over are activities that affect the wetlands or the watercourse."

Bolton explained that reconsideration would not be possible.

"A decision has been made by the commission [and] if there are parties that are not happy with the decision, their course would be to go to court," she said.

Bolton also said that although the Lyman Brook is within the vicinity of the proposed site, it is not the source of the residents' water.

"Your wells are groundwater issues; they are not surface water issues. So while I appreciate that the Lyman Brook goes through this area or is sitting in this area, it is not the source of your water," she said.

The town's plan of conservation and development states the commission must "review activities within 150 feet of wetlands and 200 feet from major watercourses and their associated wetlands."

The proposal meets both of those conditions. Glenwood Drive resident Heidi Warner reiterated how strongly residents feel about the proposal.

"There's a strong turnout here just because it's a huge impact to our neighborhood," Warner said.

Bolton told the *Rivereast* Monday that she recalled the water company had concerns before granting approval to the project, but she couldn't remember if the commission had re-

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Needleman cont. from Front Page

creation, education funding for public schools and colleges, paid family medical leave, and utility regulation – said he’s encouraged that his party’s sweep of both chambers of the General Assembly and the governor’s office gives them an opportunity “to do the right thing” for the state.

But he said his philosophy, regardless of the makeup of the state government, is to reach across the aisle to make sure everyone has a voice.

“I don’t believe government by one group or the other is necessarily the best,” he said. “One of the best lines I’ve heard over the last several years is that no individual, no political party, has a monopoly on good ideas.”

The Waiting Game

At 10 p.m. on Election Night, results coming into the Republican Old Saybrook campaign headquarters appeared to put Ziobron about 25 votes behind Needleman, with some uncertainty remaining about Colchester returns.

“Twenty-five votes in 12 towns,” Ziobron told her supporters. “[It’s] nothing to be embarrassed about. We have worked our tails off.”

That’s when someone in the back of the room loudly described the margin as “25 bought votes.”

Needleman’s self-funded campaign raised \$475,000, according to this week’s filing with the State Election Enforcement Commission. He has said he contributed most of that money himself to counter the dark money he knew would be coming in from conservative interests.

“I heard you,” Ziobron called out to the supporter. “Damn right, it’s 25 bought votes – for \$450,000.”

Ziobron ran her grassroots campaign based on \$95,710 in public financing through the state Citizens’ Election Program (SEEC). State senate candidates are eligible for the funding when they raise \$15,300 from at least 300 individuals in their district.

A conservative, third-party special interest group that is not connected to the Ziobron campaign spent \$143,280 on mailers, digital ads and consulting services to fight Needleman as of Wednesday, according to the SEEC database. The commission’s guidelines allow third-party special interest groups to support the success or defeat of any candidate as long as no candidates knowingly participate.

Ziobron told supporters she wasn’t ready to throw in the towel.

“We might not know the exact results tonight from my race, but I love this state. And I hope I have the chance to turn it around. But If I don’t, I want you to know, I’m not giving up on Connecticut,” she said, choking up.

By 11 p.m., the margin had grown to 61 votes in Needleman’s favor. The gap widened to more than 100 votes by Wednesday morning. The race was over by noon.

On Wednesday afternoon, Ziobron left the talking to her campaign communications coordinator Edward Odell. She first met the registered Democrat when he was a member of the East Haddam Economic Development Commission and she was its coordinator.

Odell said the campaign was in “a state of shock.”

“It’s strictly because her opponent threw a ridiculous amount of money into the race,” he said.

Odell’s registered political affiliation put him on the receiving end of eight mailings targeting Ziobron, he told the *Rivereast* – “which is absolutely insane in terms of scale.”

In press releases, ads and in several debates, Needleman has repeatedly referenced Ziobron’s ‘nay’ vote on a 2016 affirmative consent bill. Now a law, the measure requires state colleges and universities to develop affirmative consent policies on campus to raise the bar for sexual consent from “no means no” to “yes means yes.” Needleman was also critical of Ziobron’s opposition to a bill to take away firearms from people who are served with a temporary restraining order in domestic violence situations.

Needleman reiterated Thursday that his self-funded campaign was a response to dark money coming into the state through special interest groups with “untrue and hurtful” messages.

“I know Melissa feels I took pieces of her voting record and used them continually, but they were her votes. I never said anything bad about her,” he said.

The newly-elected state senator, who lost his first fight for the seat against Linares in 2016 by more than 8,000 votes, marveled at the increase in participation this year.

According to results from the Office of the Secretary of the State as of Thursday morning, roughly 4,500 more people voted in the 33rd



Norm Needleman

Senate District race this year than during the last presidential election.

Needleman said he remains uncertain whether the results point to a desire to put Democrats in charge on their own merits or if they are a response to dissatisfaction with President Donald J. Trump.

“I just don’t know,” he said. “It’s one of those weird elections that we’re going to be talking about for a long time.”

Gas Station cont. from Front Page

ceived copies of the water company letter or if Hughes had simply relayed the concerns to commission members.

DeFelice told the *Rivereast* this week that a fellow resident reached out to Connecticut Water and obtained the letter sent to Hughes and forwarded the letter to other residents approximately two weeks ago, prompting further concerns.

DeFelice also said he wrote in his notes from an Oct. 1 Conservation Commission meeting that Hughes stated he had not heard from the water company.

Hughes told the *Rivereast* last week he had forwarded the letter to both the zoning and con-

servation commissions.

However, Zoning Board Chairman Kevin Asklar and member Mark Merritt said last week they did not remember receiving the Sept. 7 letter until Wednesday of last week, after the letter’s existence was questioned by Asklar in an email to Hughes.

What Now?

A petition created Monday by Hickory Road resident Kathy Griswold had collected 107 signatures by press time.

A Zoning Commission public hearing for the proposed gas station is scheduled for Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. at the Marlborough Town Hall.

Replacement Pipes Eyed for Hebron Elementary School

by Sloan Brewster

The Board of Selectmen has charged the town's Public Building Committee with overseeing the preparation of designs and specifications to replace pipes causing lead contamination in water at Hebron Elementary School.

At the selectmen's meeting last Thursday, Superintendent of Schools Timothy Van Tassel told the board that measures the district has taken to mitigate lead found in the water at the school have not proven successful and it may be time to consider replacing the affected pipes.

"We don't know the cost right now" of the potential pipe replacement, Van Tassel said. "We're asking for the authorization right now ... so we can go ahead and gather this information."

"We get to a point where we as yet have not been able to string together any successes," Van Tassel said.

In June, the 20 samples taken at various locations in the school came back clear, leading officials to believe the most recently initiated mitigation efforts were working, Van Tassel said. Then, in September, one of the samples showed lead.

Another sample taken after rinsing out and cleaning the filter at the sink in question, was tested and came back clear – or more specifically below the Department of Public Health's "action levels," meaning the DPH considers the

water safe – but Van Tassel told selectmen there was no guarantee that would continue to happen.

Lead was first discovered in the school's water in November 2016. The lead is not coming from the water source but from lead solder used in older piping, which is evidenced by lead levels in different areas of the school, Van Tassel said. The problem is not unique to Hebron. The lead solder was used in pipes in a lot of older schools in the past.

When the toxin was detected, the Board of Education was put on an administrative order with the DPH. Officials gave the department monthly reports regarding the injector system installed to treat the water with zinc orthophosphate, a corrosion inhibitor, and monitored the water by taking regular samples.

Ultimately, the DPH removed the board from the order and shifted it to an agreement to continue monitoring the water. When the lead continued to be detected, the district combined the corrosion inhibitor with a flushing protocol.

To be removed from the agreement, two consecutive samplings must be below the action level.

Combining the zinc orthophosphate with a protocol to continuously flush out the water resulted in samples below the action level, but that does not mean the lead is gone, Van Tassel

said. The Board of Education is requesting that the town look into replacing the pipes that are causing the problem.

"It's not as if the lead isn't there," he said.

The town is part of the regional public health department the Chatham Health District, and Don Mitchell, director of health for the district, attended last week's meeting to speak about the dangerous effects of lead – saying children are the most susceptible. Exposure in children could result in reduced intelligence, learning disabilities, hyperactivity, hearing loss and neurological problems.

"There is no safe level for lead in children; there just isn't," Mitchell said. "We're below the action level [set by DPH]; is that probably okay for you and me? Probably okay, but for children, not so good."

Mitchell recommended replacing the piping altogether.

Selectman John Collins, who said he has spent 30 years in remediation, agreed with Mitchell that any guidance provided by DPH's action levels should be thrown out the window when it comes to children.

"Action levels are for more hardy populations, like adults," he said.

"If you have detection [of lead] it means that your mitigation system isn't working," Collins added. "When I heard this I was upset. My hair

was on fire so I support this. I support construction as soon as possible."

Board of Selectmen Chairman Dan Larson also supported the idea, as did the rest of the board.

Mitchell and Van Tassel said that DPH backs the idea of getting new pipes.

Hungerfords Pump Service custodial foreman Wayne Durocher, who also attended the meeting, said the pipes that need to be replaced are in the school wing built in 1963.

Wings added in 1988 and 2000 have no issues, he said.

The goal, according to Van Tassel, is to secure a reimbursement grant from the state to cover a portion of the cost of replacing the pipes. He said the state Department of Administrative Services has indicated a grant application would be received favorably – but that the department needed to know how much the funding would be.

The selectmen unanimously agreed to put the Public Building Committee – in consort with the Board of Education – in charge of the project, authorizing the preparation of designs and specifications of the potential pipe replacement and thus determining the cost.

The selectmen also authorized the school board to apply for a grant for the project.

Town Okays \$390K Purchase of Open Space in Hebron

by Sloan Brewster

Town Manager Andrew Tierney is "ecstatic" after voters in a special town meeting last week unanimously approved a \$390,000 purchase of 82 acres of open space.

"We're going to keep it in good shape," Tierney said. "We're very excited to move forward on that parcel."

Known by the Board of Selectmen as the Hibbert Property, it was offered to the town by Donald Hibbert, a retired state trooper, Tierney said.

"He offered it to us first because he wanted to see it go into something more" than just another development, Tierney said.

And now, thanks to the vote, it will now be preserved in perpetuity. The money for the purchase will come from the town's Open Space Land Acquisition Fund. The acquisition will leave about \$468,000 in the fund.

The 82-acre property consists of three adjoining parcels. It has 650 feet of frontage on the south side of Raymond Brook and abuts the stretch of the rail trail between Old Colchester Road and Grayville Road, according to Town Planner Mike O'Leary.

Heading south from the trail parking area on Old Colchester Road, the brook will be on the right of the trail as will the property in question. If approaching from the parking area on Grayville, head north, and the property will be near where the trail crosses Old Colchester Road.

Now that the purchase has been approved,

the town will set up a closing date, Tierney said. Two weeks prior to that date, officials will do an inspection to make sure Hibbert has completed some promised work.

He signed a purchase agreement with the town stipulating that he would clean some items from the property, including a backhoe and some trucks and remove an old structure, Tierney said. So far he's been doing a great job getting that stuff cleared out.

Raymond Brook runs through the property, which, according to Tierney, is "kind of open." The town will expand parking near the Air Line Trail on Old Colchester Road for folks looking to take advantage of the Hibbert Property and will discuss further plans for it with the Open Space Land Acquisition Committee.

It would be a good spot for scouting or to bring a dog or to use as a nature classroom, Tierney said.

"The stream goes right through it," Tierney said. "It's probably one of the best pieces of property the town has acquired since Grayville Falls."

Grayville Falls – located nearby the Hibbert Property – offers passive and active recreation, including picnicking, walking, fishing and "quiet enjoyment of the waterfalls and river," according to the town's website. It also provides access to the Air Line Trail. Fairly remote, the park has rugged terrain, is natural in character, and lends itself to passive uses, the site said.

O'Leary echoed Tierney's thoughts on the



At a special town meeting last Thursday, voters unanimously approved the purchase of the Hibbert Property, which has frontage on the Air Line Trail and is crossed by Raymond Brook.

Hibbert Property and said the Open Space Land Acquisition Committee, after learning the land was on the market, walked the property and made the recommendation to the Board of Selectmen to purchase it, he said. Among the positions the committee saw, O'Leary said, was that the property abuts the Air Line Trail and has frontage on both sides of Raymond Brook.

The property is also contiguous with the Raymond Brook Greenway, one of several

greenways identified in the town's Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), which consists of 3,000 feet of frontage along the brook and hundreds of acres in the Raymond Brook Marsh.

"This is connected to large areas along the brook," O'Leary said. "It's a significant purchase, I think. It's one of the better purchases that the town's been looking at since I've been here."

Cassano Wins Fifth Term in Senate

by Sloan Brewster

Once again, Andover voters went with state Sen. Steve Cassano's opponent at the polls on Election Day.

And once again, the incumbent Democrat won by such a wide margin in his hometown of Manchester his defeat in Andover didn't really matter.

Cassano on Tuesday won a fifth term as the state senator for the 4th District, topping his opponent, Republican Mark Tweedie of Manchester, by a total of 23,257-19,632. (The numbers are as of press time Thursday.)

The 4th District covers Andover, Bolton, Glastonbury and Manchester.

In Andover, Cassano collected 736 votes to Tweedie's 881. He also lost in Bolton, drawing 1,221 votes while Tweedie collected 1,488.

But Cassano edged Tweedie in Glastonbury, 8,958-8,692, and won in Manchester by a healthy margin, collecting 12,342 votes to Tweedie's 8,571.

Similar scenarios happened in both 2016 and 2014; in each of those years, Cassano lost Andover, Bolton and Glastonbury, but won Manchester by enough of a margin to carry him to overall victory.

Voter turnout was a hot issue in this election with many municipalities reporting higher than usual numbers at the polls. In Andover, according to the town clerk's office, 1,556 of the town's 2,160 registered voters, or 72 percent, voted this year. In 2014, of the 2,036 total registered voters 1,330, or 65 percent, turned up at the polls.

Cassano, 76, did not return calls for comment for this story.

Tweedie, 62, said he was disappointed with the results but not with his campaign.

"You know, I wouldn't have done anything different," he said. "Across the state there was an anti-Republican, anti-Trump wave."

Tweedie said he had expected that come Election Day, voters would be able to consider state

and national politics separately and that things coming out of Washington don't have anything to do with state politics.

"But the Democrats did a good job of convincing people otherwise," he said.

Tweedie, who said he's hoping for the best for the state, said he'll wait and see what the Democrats will do now that they "have the keys for two more years."

"A lot of them ran on fiscal conservatism," he said. "We'll see."

In the meantime, Tweedie said he was not going away and will go back to work at his business, Tweedie Dental Arts of Manchester, and will spend more time with his wife.

"I own a business and have a family, I pretty much get my life back," he said. "We're happy. We're looking at the bright side of it. I'm not going away but I have a full life and I'm going to live it."



Steve Cassano

Orange Wins 12th Term in State House

by Allison Lazur

Democrat Linda Orange is headed back to the state House of Representatives for a 12th consecutive term after easily beating Republican opponent Mark DeCaprio at the polls Tuesday.

Orange represents the 48th District. The district covers most of Colchester, and portions of Lebanon, Mansfield and Windham.

Orange sailed to victory with a total of 6,039 votes to DeCaprio's 4,923 votes.

Orange, of Colchester, beat DeCaprio in three of the district's towns with a win of 3,731-3,118 in Colchester, 897-425 in Mansfield and 284-82 in Windham.

DeCaprio won the support of his hometown of Lebanon with 1,298 votes to Orange's 1,127.

In Colchester, voter turnout was up at 66 percent from the last round of midterm elections in 2014 where turnout was at 60 percent.

Colchester Democratic Town Committee Chairwoman Michelle Gilman said she was also impressed with the turnout and support from volunteers including Bacon Academy Young Democrats.

"They are so committed and dedicated to our candidates and the party and there is an incredible amount of energy that really speaks to the turnout we saw," Gilman said.

The support proved beneficial to Orange.

"I was very humbled [to win] and I thank the community for their support," Orange said Wednesday.

She encouraged her constituents to voice their thoughts and concerns on major issues and said she would "do my best" to address every issue that comes before her.

Orange, 68, emphasized that the win would not have been possible without "hard work" and her team. She said gathering a team was crucial because "it takes a team really to do anything."

She also stressed that, even in odd-numbered years when she's not up for election, she makes sure to attend public events and "be with the people."

"That's my whole love of the job is to be with the people," she said. "I'm the people's representative."

Orange was first elected to the General Assembly in November 1996. She currently serves as Deputy Speaker of the House, is vice chair of the Public Safety Committee and is also on the General Law Committee and the Joint Committee on Legislative Management.

Before being elected to the House, Orange served on the Colchester Police Commission and was also a member and chairman of the Colchester Board of Assessment Appeals.

Orange said her focus over the next two years

will mainly be the budget and economy.

"When you're dealing with the budget you have to look at it as a whole – have to see what the government is actually responsible for such as the ECS [Educational Cost Sharing] funding that we send to our schools," Orange said.

She also said she is "opposed to any cuts that would hurt our municipalities, our seniors, our disabled [and] our government functions."

But Orange's win did not come without disappointment from her Republican opponent.

DeCaprio, 60, said Wednesday he was "looking forward to being a part of the team that will help Connecticut."

While he had hoped for another outcome, DeCaprio said he wouldn't have done anything differently – other than knock on more doors and meet more people.

"I've met a lot of very fine people out on the campaign trail and that includes all affiliations too, and I want to stress that," he said.

DeCaprio currently serves on Lebanon's Zoning Board of Appeals and as the town's emergency management director.

While DeCaprio said he's not sure if he will run again, he said the campaign has allowed "a new respect for candidates that run for office as far as what you have to do; it's a lot of work."

DeCaprio said moving forward he will spend



Linda Orange

his free time traveling, camping and hiking and called the campaign experience a good one.

"The new governor and new legislature have their challenges ahead of them and I wish them all the best," he said.

Haines Tops Govert in State House Race

by Sloan Brewster

The 34th Assembly District seat is staying in Republican hands, after Republican Irene Haines topped Democrat Theresa Govert at the polls Tuesday night.

The two East Haddam residents were vying to represent the 34th House District, which covers East Haddam, East Hampton and a portion of Colchester.

Haines, 57, is a newcomer to state politics. She works as an insurance agent for AAA. She'll replace Melissa Ziobron in the state House of Representatives; Ziobron opted not to run for re-election to her seat in order to run for state Senate.

On Election Night, Haines attended a party at campaign headquarters in Old Saybrook where she was optimistic of the numbers that were gradually rolling in.

"Keeping the fingers crossed...toes, legs [as well]," she said at one point during the festivities.

Haines took the victory by 458 votes. In all, she received 5,936 votes, while Govert took in 5,478.

Of the 11,485 registered voters in Colchester, 7,605, or 66 percent showed up at the polls Tuesday compared with 10,136 or 60 percent of the 6,080 registered voters in the last mid-

term election in 2014. Of the 8,894 registered voters in East Hampton, 6,359, or 71 percent showed up at the polls Tuesday compared with 5,294 or 68 percent of the 7,775 registered voters who tuned out in 2014.

The day after the election, Haines spent the morning pulling out signs and then it was off to her day job. In between meetings, she spoke to the *Rivereast*, saying that she was "thrilled" to represent the 34th District and looks forward to working with her constituents.

"We have a lot of work to do in Hartford, making Connecticut more affordable and improving our economy," she said. "We all have to work together to make this happen."

Haines said while it may be challenging to get folks to work across the aisle, she plans to do just that, especially when it comes to finding answers for unfunded mandates and the state's pension liability, which she said the state has to "stop kicking it down the road."

"We're going to all have to share the solution and hopefully we can come to some compromise," she said.

"We have to sit down and make something happen," she said.

Haines said she wants to bring the folks of Connecticut back together.

"I want to stop the caravan leaving Connecti-

cut," she said. "I want to stop people leaving. I want to bring people back together."

In addition to working on getting the state's fiscal house in order, Haines said she would like to work on economic development and tourism.

Govert, 27, referred the *Rivereast* Wednesday to her Facebook page, where she wrote she saw the bright side to her defeat, saying that while she may not have achieved the result she wanted, she got something greater.

"We had thousands of conversations with our neighbors at their doors about healthcare, an unfair tax structure, what investment in education looks like, about the beauty of our lakes and natural environment and so much more," she wrote. "We sent hundreds and hundreds of handwritten, meaningful postcards. Talked on the phone and poured our hearts out into this race."

In the Facebook post, she said her campaign showed communities what an engaged Democratic process looks like and that she would rest for a few days "but we'll be back soon."

She went on to write that she would continue to host forums about healthcare, senior concerns, preserving land and open space, breaking the stigma surrounding addiction, fighting for economic development that honors the ru-



Irene Haines

ral character of towns and embraces the future and that she would "fight for a state where all of us can thrive."

Osten Wins Fourth Term in State Senate

by Sloan Brewster

Democrat state Sen. Cathy Osten swept all 10 towns in the 19th Senate District and is keeping her seat for a fourth term.

The district includes the *Rivereast* towns of Hebron and Marlborough, as well as Columbia, Franklin, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Montville, Norwich and Sprague. Winning all 10 of the towns is a new thing for her, said Osten, who said she hung out at These Guys Brewing Company in Norwich, while the numbers rolled in on Election Night.

Osten, 63, who is also first selectwoman of Sprague, received 21,398 total votes, while her opponent, Republican and fellow Sprague resident Mark Lounsbury, 57, also of Sprague, received 15,586.

In Hebron and Marlborough, voter turnout was up from the last midterm elections in 2014. Of the 7,163 registered voters in Hebron, 4,897, or 68 percent, showed up at the polls Tuesday, compared with 4,065, or 63 percent, of the 6,447 registered four years ago, said Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Hebron Democratic Registrar of Voters.

In Marlborough, 3,215 came to the polls for this election, which is approximately 74 per-

cent of the 4,329 registered voters in the town. In 2014, 2,698 cast ballots, about 67 percent of the town's then-4,048 registered voters.

Osten – who said she was “very honored” by the win – offered thanks to her campaign team and said her victory would not have been possible without team effort.

Osten ran on a largely jobs-related platform, and said Wednesday she's already working on ways to get that platform “out there.”

“I'm very excited to get work done,” Osten said. “My main objective has always been jobs.”

Osten said she has a particular fascination with high school and community college programs that give people skills to get “sustaining jobs that have to do with manufacturing.”

The state's future is with those jobs, Osten said. She has worked with the Eastern Connecticut Manufacturing Pipeline in support of a manufacturing program that has put 2000 people to work, and plans to continue working on such measures.

Osten included funding in the last two state budgets to expand and continue the program, which she said puts manufacturing certification courses in high schools, including the Norwich

Free Academy.

“I introduced RHAM to the program and they will be starting this summer,” she said.

Lounsbury, who also took on Osten for first selectman of Sprague last year and lost, said Wednesday the next couple of years would be interesting for the state as a whole.

“I'm a man of evidence and I'm a critical thinker,” he said, “and I'm saying to myself, ‘Well, we've been dug into a hole that will be particularly difficult to get out of and yet we as a state decided tax-and-spend is the way to go.’”

In terms of the race against Osten, Lounsbury said if he were to do it again he would get out and start going door to door earlier in the campaign and spend more time reaching out to constituents.

He said he hopes he gained knowledge and experience from the election and that if the Republicans ask him to run again he would do so. He also said that he would consider running as an Independent.

“I'm staying active,” he said.

Lounsbury said he would also consider running for first selectman of Sprague again, if the Republicans ask him to do so.



Cathy Osten

Ruptured Sewer Line Brings Lake Problems to Surface in East Hampton

by Elizabeth Regan

Concerns about the health of Lake Pocotopaug have been brought to the surface after a ruptured sewer line released as many as 10,000 gallons of sewage into the watershed early this week.

Public Utilities Administrator Tim Smith said someone taking a walk in the area called the police department Sunday morning after noticing sewer material coming out of the ground. Emergency dispatchers notified the water and sewer department around 9 a.m., according to Smith.

He said the leak was isolated by about 9:30 a.m., with a pumper truck shuttling wastewater from the site to the nearest gravity sewer from about 10 a.m. to midnight the next day.

Smith said approximately 6,500 to 10,000 gallons of wastewater were discharged into the watershed due to the break.

Repair work on the pipeline began Monday morning and was complete by 8:30 p.m., though he said the road remained closed through Tuesday afternoon.

Conservation-Lake Commission member Wesley Jenks posted to Facebook his own video of the repair effort. The images show the excavated area across the road from a stream that feeds into the lake.

“Everything on Old Marlborough and Route 66 on the opposite side drains directly into the lake. The town's allowed constant development here, and now we have a broken sewer line right in the watershed area,” Jenks said in the video.

A 1.5-inch hole in the pipeline about 120 feet from the Old Marlborough Road pump station led to the leak, according to Smith. The ductile iron pipe, which is made of thick steel lined with cement on the inside and a protective coating on the outside, appeared to have been worn through by a rock.

Jenks told the *Rivereast* on Tuesday he's concerned an aging sewer infrastructure will further compromise the already damaged lake.

“There's a stream that runs underneath the road right there that goes into the lake,” he said.

Potentially-toxic blue-green algae blooms

have led to weeks-long beach closures every summer since 2014, the year after the state Department of Public Health established guidelines to protect residents from possible health risks. But the problem has been around for roughly three decades, according to a comprehensive watershed management report by certified lake manager and scientist George Knoecklein.

“We're basically adding insult to injury,” Jenks said. “We're already in a bad situation and now it's going to be worse.”

Conservation-Lake Commission member Joe Carbonell said he wonders how long the pipe may have been leaking before the problem was detected by a passerby. He referenced a photo taken Saturday by a resident on the bay side of Meeks Point Road showing a clear line of brown sediment.

Carbonell posited the brown runoff could have come from the sewer pipe, depending when the rupture actually occurred.

Smith said the pump station is not equipped to test for internal leaks.

The 35-year-old system is checked externally on a daily basis by members of the department's road crew at each pump station, according to Smith. He said a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system continuously monitors the system for pumps failures – but added “there's nothing connected to it which would tell us if there's a hole in a pipe.”

Certified Lake Manager Hillary Kenyon – who works with Knoecklein, the town's lake consultant – said this week that members of the team visited the lake on Wednesday and did not note anything unusual in their visual inspection.

“The water clarity was about 2.7 meters, which is better than it has been all summer (though that is to be expected as the lake is now thermally mixed again after fall turnover),” she said in an email. She said water samples were taken, but the results were not available by press time.

For Jenks, the leak discovered Sunday is not the biggest issue threatening the lake right now.

“The sewer rupture, I think they'll fix right away. I'm way less concerned with that than the overdevelopment of commercial [land] in the watershed area. I think that's a way bigger problem,” he said.

Jenks cited the municipal hub that broke ground in the Edgewater Hills mixed-use development last month, the Dollar General site currently under construction, and a nearby parcel that Conservation-Lake Commission meeting minutes said is being cleared, excavated, filled and graded by prominent local developer Wayne Rand so he can sell the site as a buildable platform.

“I've been an advocate for conservative development in the watershed, and the town has three major projects getting developed right now this side of the lake that infiltrate in that area,” he said.

Jenks said residents have been complaining about brown runoff that does “not happen normally.” The last time it was seen to such an extent was when the Lake Vista development went up decades ago, according to Jenks.

“There's no doubt in my mind it's because of these three projects going up right now,” he said. “That issue is way bigger than a ruptured sewer line. That's nothing compared to what the bigger development projects are causing.”

Jenks did, however, say he is concerned about the correlation between the decline in water quality and the establishment of the sewer system in the early 1980s.

According to Jenks, former public utilities administrator Vincent Susco Jr. told him the sewer system pumps almost a million gallons of well water out of the watershed every day.

Before the sewer system came on line, residents' septic systems would fill with water, get filtered and go back to the water table.

“So we're taking well water and aquifer water that would normally seep back into the lake and we're pumping it out of town,” Jenks said.

The solution could be the public water system that is currently being pursued by Town Manager Michael Maniscalco, according to Jenks. One avenue being explored is an interconnection with the Town of Portland as a way to obtain water from the Metropolitan District (MDC) water utility company.

That means the sewer system would use MDC water instead of pulling the water out of the ground and pumping it out of town.

“We'd be keeping it in the water table and eventually it would fill the lake via spring water,” Jenks said. “If you start talking about a million gallons of water a day and then you look at the volume of water in the lake, you could see it would have a tremendous impact.”

He said the existing system deprives the lake of natural water, leaving surface runoff as the dominant factor.

“Then add to that the development, the clear cutting. There's no filtration happening, so anything on the roads, anything in the yards, people's houses, just flows directly into the lake,” he said.

Susco did not return a call for comment. Smith, the current water and sewer head, said he does not know whether or not Susco was a proponent of the theory Jenks described.

Smith said he found the theory illogical. “If anything, it would be the opposite. If you got all of this wastewater going into the lake from the septic leach fields, it would make the lake worse, not better,” he said.

But he acknowledged it's an existing theory. “For the people who believe that's the case, dilution is the solution,” he said.

Still, going to a public water system could help the situation, according to Smith.

“Yes, I think it would be beneficial to the lake if the wells around the lake were not used,” he said. “Less water out of the groundwater table would mean more water into the lake.”

Smith said approximately 550,000 gallons of water per day are removed from the watershed area through the sewer system.

Green Tops Thiele, Wins Second House Term

by Allison Lazur

Republican Robin Green will continue to represent the 55th Assembly District after defeating Democrat Tiffany Thiele at the polls Tuesday.

The 55th district covers Marlborough, Andover, Hebron and Bolton.

Green, of Marlborough, won her second term after topping Thiele, a Hebron resident, in all four of the district's towns, for a combined total of 6,668 votes to Thiele's 5,532.

Green bested Thiele 2,573-2,208 in Hebron, 1,761-1,374 in Marlborough, 912-698 in Andover and 1,422-1,252 in Bolton.

Voter turnout was up in all three of the *Riverast* towns in the district from the last midterm election which took place in 2014.

In Marlborough, 74 percent of voters came out on Tuesday as opposed to 67 percent in 2014. Andover turnout was at 72 percent, compared to 65 percent in 2014, while in Hebron, 68 percent of voters came out, in comparison to 63 percent in 2014.

Green said Wednesday "I'm ecstatic, I'm happy and I am thrilled to be going back up to the house."

She attributed the win to her "wonderful team and the local Republican town committees."

Green said her constituents were "so thankful that I ran a positive campaign and the negative was not a part of our campaign."

The race for the 55th seat took a negative

turn, Green explained last week, noting incidents such as a spray-painted campaign sign. Another moment came when Thiele's campaign sent a mailer designed to look as if it were riddled with bullet-holes, pointing out that Green voted against HB 5542, a bill that would ban what are commonly referred to as "bump stocks," or attachments that enable semiautomatic rifles to fire faster.

Republican Town Committee Chairman Ken Hjulstrom said he believes the "voters saw beyond the attacks and chose to place their continued trust in Robin."

"In the end, Robin's proven dedication to the taxpayers in her district won her their support and continued trust," Hjulstrom said.

Despite the perceived negativity, Thiele said Wednesday she was "very proud of the campaign that we ran," adding "We focused on the issues and my opponent's record that people didn't know about."

Hebron Democratic Town Committee Chairman Ted Bromley, who works for the office of the Secretary of the State as an attorney, said the loss was unfortunate.

"I think that it was an overall great result in Connecticut," he said. "Unfortunately I think the 55th lost a great candidate in Tiffany, but overall I think the state will be heading in the right direction under new leadership."

Democrats won big in the state on Tuesday, taking majorities in both the state House and

state Senate, and also winning the governor's seat.

Green, 52, is a Marlborough resident who is involved with various community organizations, including the Marlborough Business Association, Audubon Society, Friends of Connecticut State Parks, and library friends groups in Marlborough and Columbia.

She started her first business – the Discovery Zone Learning Center in Columbia – 16 years ago, and the daycare eventually expanded to Marlborough and Hebron. Prior to opening her own business, Green worked at Capitol Regional Education Council (CREC) and The Village for Families and Children.

Green is a member of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and Connecticut Association for the Education of Young Children (CEYAC).

Over the next two years, Green said she will focus on several things including the economy.

"I want to make sure property taxes remain the same [and] education funding remains the same," Green said.

Thiele, 37, said Wednesday she's not yet sure if she will run again.

But, she said, "I'm certainly not done in politics. I think it's really important even if you lose to stay engaged because you're fighting for what you believe in."

In regard to her campaign, Thiele said she



Robin Green

wouldn't do anything differently.

"I'm really proud of the thousands of doors we knocked on and we worked collaboratively with the [Democratic town committees] in the area," she said. "There's a strong sense of community which is really exciting."

Carpino Bests Steinhauser for Sixth Term in House

by Elizabeth Regan

An energized grassroots campaign by Portland Democrat Laurel Steinhauser failed to prevent incumbent Republican state Rep. Christie Carpino from winning her sixth term in the 32nd Assembly District.

Carpino, of Cromwell, carried 57.23 percent of the total vote. She bested the newcomer in both towns, with unofficial results from the Office of the Secretary of the State showing she received 2,626 votes to Steinhauser's 2,065 in Portland and 3,958 to Steinhauser's 2,857 in Cromwell.

About 73.6 percent of Portland's registered voters cast their ballots in the election, according to Town Clerk Ryan Curley. That's an increase from the 68.85 percent of registered voters who came out during the last mid-term election in 2014.

Carpino, 43, positioned herself as an experienced, bipartisan lawmaker with a focus on making the state affordable for families and advocating for local issues. Steinhauser, 35, campaigned as an advocate for children and families who is committed to lower property taxes, paid family and medical leave, affordable healthcare and education.

Both women are mothers: Carpino to two school-aged children and a stepson, and Steinhauser to three children under six years old.

Steinhauser described herself as disappointed with the outcome but proud of her campaign.

"I got into this as the underdog, knowing it would be an extremely uphill battle, but that it was important to offer voters a choice. It was important to have progressive values on the ballot," she said. "And over the last many

months we gathered so much momentum and I'm so proud of the dozens and dozens of volunteers who poured their heart and soul into this race."

She said she hopes the momentum will continue as residents in both towns work together "across the river" to hold lawmakers accountable and to remind them that nearly 5,000 people in the district voted for the progressive values her campaign represented.

"I think one of my big goals was to kind of help to energize Democrats in Portland and Cromwell and I want to see us continue with that work. We built a lot of momentum and it's clear we have more work to do," she said.

Steinhauser said she plans to focus on reconnecting with her family and recovering from the campaign before thinking about her future in politics.

"I'm looking to continue being involved," she said. "I don't know exactly how that will work out, but I'm looking forward to working to have our values represented. I'm not going anywhere."

For Carpino, Election Day was a chance to see positive feedback she received during the campaign carry over into the voting booth.

"I'm very grateful for the confidence of the voters in Cromwell and Portland and it's an honor to continue being their voice in Hartford," she said. "The overwhelming support from both towns is something I will never take for granted."

Carpino held the seat since 2010, when she unseated 10-term incumbent Democrat Jim O'Rourke. She serves as the House Chair of the Regulation Review Committee, and as a

member of the Judiciary and Public Health committees.

She said the thing that made this campaign different from her five other campaigns was the enthusiastic support of about a dozen kids from Portland and Cromwell.

She said the "tremendous group of youngsters" was with her as the results came in on Tuesday night.

"My junior team members were there, pacing, waiting for the numbers," she said. "They were truly hollering and jumping up and down at the results."

This race marks the third time Carpino has faced off against a Democrat challenger from Portland: The first was then-Board of Education chair Christopher Phelps in 2012, followed by Board of Selectmen member Kathy Richards in 2014.

* * *

U.S. Rep. John B. Larson, D-1st, on Tuesday sailed to an 11th consecutive term in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Districtwide, Larson received 63.7 percent of the vote against Republican Jennifer Nye, who pulled in 35.2 percent. Green Party candidate Thomas McCormick received 1.1 percent of the vote.

Portland, the district's only town in the *Riverast* coverage area, delivered Larson 2,610 votes over Nye's 1,979 votes. McCormick received 47 votes in Portland.

Larson is poised to take a leadership role on the Ways and Means Committee as a member of the new Democratic House majority that will take the helm in January, according to the *Connecticut Mirror*.

He has advocated for working families, the



Christie Carpino

manufacturing and small business sector, and "commonsense solutions" for common problems.

In past election years, Larson 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 10 prior contests.

He first was elected to the Congressional seat in 1998.

Gay Strikes Out in Bid to Be Third Registrar

by Elizabeth Regan

The town's existing two-party Registrar of Voters system remains intact after voters declined Tuesday to elect a third-party registrar.

In order to win election, the Green Party's Brian Gay had to bring in more votes than either the Republican or Democratic candidate.

Incumbent Republican registrar Lori Wilcox received 3,194 votes and newcomer Charlene Marquis-O'Brien, a Democrat, received 2,508, according to unofficial results from the Office of the Secretary of the State.

Gay ended up with 289 votes, or 4.8 percent.

Still, despite the loss, Gay remained upbeat. "I am happy with the results," Gay said

Wednesday. "My primary focus was to raise awareness about the Green Party for people who had never heard of it, and also to try to get more involved in the local process and learn more about how elections work."

Gay emphasized there are more undeclared and third-party voters than there are Republicans or Democrats.

Numbers from the town clerk's office show voters who have not aligned with the two traditional parties comprise just under 50 percent of registered voters.

"From my perspective, 4.8 percent is great," he said of his results. "Sometimes [Green Party

candidates] don't even get 1 percent in the national elections."

On Election Day, the highest vote-getting Green Party member on ballots across the state was Michelle Louise Bicking in the race for the 2nd U.S. Congressional District. With the seat remaining in the Democratic control of U.S. Rep Joe Courtney for the seventh term in a row, Bicking received 1.25 percent of the vote compared to Libertarian Dan Reale's 1.14 percent.

Gay said he plans to continue help building the Green Party, though he doesn't yet know what he might run for next.

Invoking the party's mission of "people, planet and peace over profit," he said he thinks that's what most people want – and he doesn't think they're getting it from the two-party system.

The Green Party is "the only party that does not accept corporate donations, so we're not beholden to dark money and corporate donors who have a lot of power and control over elections," Gay said. "We've seen at all levels of government how much money can play a role in outcomes, and it doesn't serve people. It just serves the corporate interests that are funding these campaigns."

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

In the interest of full disclosure: I'm writing this before the election results come in. I often write my column Tuesday nights, but this week I knew I'd be glued to the television watching the election results come in, so I wanted to get it out of the way beforehand.

I'm hoping there was a blue wave across the nation, and I'm hoping here in Connecticut, Ned Lamont won for governor. I've already gone on record in this space saying I don't like Stefanowski; he's far too similar to Trump in my opinion, and I'm worried about what he'd do to this state. Lamont himself put it best in one of his final campaign ads, which I saw over the weekend: "We can fix what's wrong with our state without turning our backs on what's right."

If it turned out Stefanowski won.....well, I guess the only thing to do is to hope for the best, as there is no alternative.

* * *

In recent weeks, I've watched multiple episodes of the three revived shows on network TV this season. I don't mean outright remakes, like CBS's new *MacGyver* and *Magnum P.I.* series. I mean the three shows that came back with the same characters, same actors, even sometimes the same creative staff, and are just acting like they're back for another season – albeit with a 10- or 20-year break in between.

I'm talking about *Will & Grace*, *Murphy Brown* and *The Conners*.

Let's start with the last one first. While *The Conners* is a new name, it's not really a new show. Rather, it's the second season of the *Roseanne* revival. The sitcom returned last spring, after more than 20 years off the air, and brought in gigantic ratings. The show was renewed for a second season and then, shortly thereafter, star Roseanne Barr popped off on Twitter, making the incredibly stupid decision to compare former Obama official Valerie Jarrett, who is black, to a member of *Planet of the Apes*. Saying a black person looks like a monkey tends to not go over well, so ABC swiftly canceled *Roseanne*.

The network then had second thoughts – likely once they realized the boffo ratings they'd be giving up – and worked with the producers to bring the show back, only sans Roseanne herself. The character, it was decided, would be killed off, and the show would go on as *The Conners*, revolving around the surviving family members. It was similar to 30 years ago, when Valerie Harper's character was killed off of her eponymous sitcom *Valerie*, following a real-life contract dispute, and the show was retooled to focus on Valerie's survivors and became *The Hogan Family*. (Only there is no Sandy Duncan on *The Conners*.)

I've now seen all three of the *Conners* episodes that have so far aired, and I have to say, the show's been quite enjoyable. I really don't miss the Roseanne character. The series had built up a strong enough supporting cast – particularly during its original 1988-97 run – that the members of the Conner family are more than capable of maintaining interest.

And more than capable of being funny. I've laughed out loud several times during each of the episodes – and a lot of the humor is

timely and relatable. There are only seven more episodes left to be shown this year – ABC only ordered 10 altogether – but I'm hoping the network brings it back for another batch of episodes next year. While it's true the ratings haven't been quite as gargantuan as *Roseanne* saw in the spring, the numbers are still very good.

Another good revival has been *Will & Grace*. For this one, the exact same cast, writers and even director (sitcom legend James Burrows) from the 1998-2006 original returned – and the results have been quite enjoyable. I admit I didn't watch a ton of the original series, but from what I saw of it, it looks like this revival has done a great job of recapturing its energy and spirit. Laugh-out-loud moments abound.

Like *Roseanne/The Conners*, the new *Will & Grace* debuted last season – and was a ratings hit right out of the gate. In fact, NBC has already renewed it for the 2019-20 season as well. The show airs in its former home – Thursdays at 9 p.m. – and is well worth checking out.

Following *Will & Grace*, albeit on a different network, is the revived *Murphy Brown*. Unfortunately, I can't say quite as many nice things about this one as the other two. Which is a shame, because I really wanted to like it. CBS announced last spring they were reviving the show because it was felt the political climate was perfect for it. The original series was very left-leaning, very liberal – remember Dan Quayle trashing the Murphy character for having a baby out of wedlock? – and, with the current Republican control in Washington, it was quite tempting to bring the show back to comment on today's politics.

Unfortunately, while the humor is indeed topical and timely, it's also a little too obvious and heavy-handed. And the attempts at satire aren't very clever: Murphy's now-grown son Avery is the token liberal commentator at the conservative Wolf News cable channel. Get it? Not Fox News but Wolf News? The big star on the network is a Sean Hannity clone named.....John Haggerty. In one episode, Murphy spars with a Steve Bannon knock-off named.....Ed Shannon.

The thing with these targets is the show makes it plenty clear in other ways who they're skewering. They could be a little more creative with the names. And that's kind of the problem with the whole show. They give in to overkill a bit too often. You get the gag, and the message the writers are sending – and goodness knows I often agree with what they're saying – but then the show really hits you over the head with it. A little more subtlety would be welcome.

Still, it's impossible to dislike the show; it's well-meaning, everyone looks like they're having a blast, and even if the political humor could stand to be cleverer, it's delectable to see these utterly ridiculous people like Hannity and Bannon getting justly served up. The show is doing OK ratings-wise, though not along the same lines as *Will & Grace* or *The Conners*. I'm hoping it returns next season – but I'm also hoping it gets a little bit better.

* * *

See you next week.

Colchester Stabbing Victim Identified

by Allison Lazur

State Police have named 42-year-old Joseph Kolodnicki of Oakdale as the victim of a stabbing that occurred on Oct. 30 in the parking lot of an apartment building on 55 Renee Drive.

At approximately 8 p.m. Colchester Police and troopers from State Police Troop K responded to the scene to discover Kolodnicki unresponsive and with a stab wound. Kolodnicki was later pronounced dead at the scene.

According to the Chief Medical Examiner's office, the cause of death was a stab wound to the torso and Kolodnicki's death has been ruled a homicide.

Elmar Baker, 38, was arrested at the scene and charged with murder. Police continue to list Baker's address as 55 Renee Dr., Apt. 4, but the building's property manager, Ronald

Goldstein, has said he is not a tenant.

According to the state corrections website, Baker is currently being held at the Northern Correctional Institution in Somers; his bail is set at \$1 million.

State Police would not provide any further details other than that the incident was prompted by "some sort of altercation" between Baker and Kolodnicki.

The case is under investigation by Eastern District Major Crime Squad and police have said this is an isolated incident with no threat to the public.

According to the state judicial website, Baker was found guilty of possession of narcotics in October 2013 and sentenced to two years in prison.

Baker is set to appear in court on Nov. 19.

East Hampton Police News

10/21: After an investigation into a car vs. parked car motor vehicle accident on Skyline Drive, in which the driver left the scene, Brian Lorentsen, 23, of 50 Skyline Dr., was arrested and charged with evading responsibility and interfering/resisting arrest, East Hampton Police said.

10/24: Carrie Lawrence, 58, of 23 Edgerton St., East Hampton, was arrested and charged with DUI, police said.

10/28: Sean Smith, 40, of 64 W. High St., was arrested and charged with DUI and failure to drive right, police said.

10/30: Jessica Lewis, 30, of 21 N. Main St., was arrested and charged with fifth-degree larceny, police said.

Also, from Oct. 22-28, officers responded to 18 medical calls and six motor vehicle crashes and five alarms, and made 12 traffic stops.

Portland Police News

10/30: Danial Fagan, 48, of 18 Sunset Drive, East Hampton, was charged with following too closely and evading responsibility, Portland Police said.

Colchester Police News

11/1: State Police said Ryan D. Fogarty, 25, of 204 Taylor Rd., was arrested and charged with DUI.

11/3: State Police said Karlin A. Carper, 40, of 34 Bulkeley Pl., New London, was arrested and charged with second-degree failure to appear.

Andover Police News

10/29: State Police said David Fuger, 35, of 22 Shoddy Mill Rd., was arrested and charged with DUI, speeding, reckless driving and unsafe passing.

Fraudulent Debit Card Charge in Colchester

A New Britain resident reported his debit card information was used to make an unauthorized purchase at a local grocery store, Colchester Police said.

Police said that, at approximately 11:02 a.m. Oct. 30, they received a report from a New Britain resident that an unauthorized debit card charge occurred at the Stop and Shop grocery store in Colchester on Oct. 24, police said.

The complainant reported the card had been used to purchase \$500 worth of items, police said. According to police, this case is currently under investigation.

Obituaries

Colchester

Betty Jones Ous

Betty Jones Out of Colchester passed away Saturday, Nov. 3. She grew up in Hebron, the daughter of Carlton and Lu Jones. She was married to the late Joseph Ous in 1952. They spent many years traveling, often to Florida and twice driving across the United States.

She was the bookkeeper for Ous Construction which helped contribute to the growth of the town. She was the organist at Westchester Congregational Church for 60 years and their music director. She was a member of Daughter of the Nile and Westchester Ponemah Club.

She enjoyed music, movies, reading, crossword puzzles, games (Scrabble and Cribbage) and eating out with friends from the Breakfast Club and the Lunch Bunch. She was famous for her Betty beans and ginger cookies. She especially looked forward to spending July with her whole family at the beach house, where she would float for hours.

Betty and Joe had three daughter, Darlene Ous (Dusty Reynolds), Hilary Ruitto (Jim) and Jodie Ous (Carl). She was predeceased by her son Carlton. She had three grandchildren, Josh Ruitto (Ricki), Chelsey Barr (Chris) and Jaime Hunt (Heath). She had five great-grandchildren, Taylor and Kai Ruitto, Louie Barr, Ryden and Kayden Hunt.

She was predeceased by her brother Carlton Porter Jones who died in World War II.

She will be missed by all, including her cat Buddy.

A memorial service will be held at Westchester Congregational Church Saturday, Nov. 17, at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to Westchester Congregational Church.



East Hampton

Christine White Man

Christine White Man, a truly remarkable woman of St. Augustine, Fla., passed away peacefully, surrounded by her loving family Tuesday, Oct. 16, in East Hampton. She was 90. Chris, an amazing mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, loved her family very much.

She was the daughter of Victor Gerald White and Margot Wood and grew up in Cedarhurst, N.Y. Chris attended Garrison Forest School, a college preparatory school in Baltimore, Md., and Middlebury College in Vt. She married Alrick H. Man III in 1957 and had four children that they raised in Fairfield.

She is survived by her children, several grandchildren and great-grandchildren: daughter, Stephanie C. Man and her children, Taryn and Derek; daughter, Victoria L. Minor and her children, Tucker and his son Ryder, and Shawn; son, Alrick H. Man IV, his wife Susan and his children, KatieAnn Savo and her children Parker and Lily, Alrick V and his wife Brittany, and Shane; and son, William Man and his daughter Briana.

Chris was predeceased by her former husband Alrick and her 3 brothers; Victor (Gerry), Paul and William White.

Chris was a humble woman, always doing for others but at the same time not hesitating to let you know her thoughts or even correct your manners. She was devoted to the arts and music and was an accomplished piano player. She taught piano and flute in Fairfield and at the Music and Arts Center for the Handicapped in Bridgeport.

Her journey to Florida in 1994 enabled her to continue her teaching and share her talents with the EMMA Guild (President 1999-2001), First Coast Opera Company (board member 2001-2007), St. Augustine Community Chorus (singer and board member), The Dance Company (president 1996-1998), The Limelight Theater (actress) and the St. Augustine Community Orchestra (flutist 1997-2005). She was one of five women from St. Johns County recognized by an arts coalition in 2010 and awarded the 2010 ROWITA (Recognize Outstanding Women in the Arts) Award.

In addition, she volunteered her time at Flagler Hospital, St. Augustine Light House, Parade Committee, Ancient City Baptist Church and many more. Chris was also an accomplished swimmer, participating and medaling in three National Senior Games: Palo Alto, Calif., in 2009, Houston, Texas, in 2011 and Cleveland, Ohio in 2013.

Calling hours will be held from 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 18, at Spear Miller Funeral Home (39 South Benson Rd., Fairfield). A private celebration of life will follow from 4-6 p.m. There will be a memorial Mass held at Fairfield University's Loyola Chapel Sunday, Dec. 2, at 5 p.m. A funeral Mass will be held Friday, Dec. 7, in St. Augustine, Fla., at St. Anastasia Catholic Church (5205 A1A S, St. Augustine, Fla). A gathering will follow next door in the parish hall.



Colchester

Kathleen R. Berryman

Kathleen R. Berryman, 98, of Colchester, passed away at home on Nov. 6.

She leaves to mourn her loss a son and his wife, Richard and Elaine Carone of Columbia; four grandchildren, Cheryl and husband, Jim Powers of Lebanon, James Carone of Myrtle Beach, S.C., Kimberly Carone of Newington, Mark Carone of Rocky Hill; four great-grandchildren, Allison and Ryan Powers, Ava Carone and George Carone; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Kathleen was born in Waterbury March 11, 1920. She was the daughter of the late Frederick and Ida (Adams) Ryan. Throughout her lifetime, she was a faithful communicant of the Roman Catholic Church and a devoted and loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother to her family.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her husband of 43 years, Harry Berryman, a son and his wife, George and Susan Carone, and a grandson, Kevin Carone.

A memorial service will be held Friday, Nov. 16, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd, Colchester, beginning at 5 p.m., with visitation, followed by a memorial service at 6:30 p.m. Burial will be private, at a later date in the Calvary Cemetery in Waterbury.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to Veronica Wright and Tiffany Brown, the caregivers who lovingly saw to her needs through her illness.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Department and Ambulance, 52 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, CT 06415.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.



Colchester

Stephen George Misovich

A kind and gentle soul passed peacefully into the arms of the Lord on Wednesday morning, Oct. 31. Stephen George Misovich, beloved husband for 57 years to Marjorie (Mitchell) Misovich, died at Hartford Hospital at the age of 77.

Steve was born Jan. 12, 1941, in Willimantic, and grew up in Colchester. He graduated from Bacon Academy in Colchester with the Class of 1959. Steve went on to the University of Connecticut, where he met and married Marjorie. He received his bachelor's degree in 1964, master's degree and PhD in 1969, all from UConn. Steve was hired in 1969 to teach at Providence College. It was at that time that Steve and his family moved to North Stonington. Steve's career at Providence College was long and distinguished, enhanced greatly by students and colleagues he respected and admired.

In addition to his professional life, Steve was a devoted family man, hobbyist, outdoorsman and was active in the political life of his community. Steve was a 55-year member of Colchester Grange 78, a 50-year member of the Bozrah Rod and Gun Club, a 48-year member of the North Stonington Democratic Town Committee, a member of Trout Unlimited, a member for many years of the August Derleth Society, and a devoted member of the North Stonington Historical Society, as well as the Photography Club of the Historical Society. Steve served on the North Stonington Planning and Zoning Commission, one of the earlier School Building Committees, the North Stonington Economic Development Commission, and as North Stonington's representative to Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority.

Steve was an avid fly fisherman and fly-tyer. He fished Long Pond, Wyassup Lake, and Hewitt's Pond in North Stonington, all along the Wood River in southern Rhode Island, as well as Weekapaug Beach and Quonnie Breachway. He also fished with cherished friends in the Catskills, the Adirondacks, and North Conway, N.H. In his younger years, Steve loved vegetable gardening and enlisted the help of his wife and children in freezing vegetables for winter enjoyment.

In addition to his wife Marjorie, Steve is survived by his children, Stephen Joseph Misovich and his wife Kelly of Storrs, daughter Karen Bobonich and her husband Chris of Stanford, Calif.; cherished granddaughter, Lara Mary Misovich; honorary grandchildren; Hallie Bomster Davis and her husband Greg of North Stonington, and their children Arianna and Jonathan Davis, whom he adored as his own. Steve also leaves his sister, Evelyn Perkins, niece Rosemarie Clifford and her husband, Joe, all of Indiana; cousins Charlie Babek and his wife Phyllis, Geraldine Dawson and her daughter Beth Coleman and Beth's children, Olivia, Melanie and Matthew, James Babek and his wife Tencia of Texas; sister-in-law, Mary Jean Mitchell and her husband Michael Askenazer of Hayward, Calif., and Mary Jean's daughter Jenny; sister-in-law, Peg Klungle and her husband Bill; niece, Carla Clark and her husband Tom; niece, Nikki Cushman and her husband Matt, their children, Megan, Katie and Danny, all of Michigan.

Steve was predeceased by his parents, Joseph and Mary (Knick) Misovich-Dawson; brother, Joseph Edward Misovich; stepbrother, Mike Dawson; and nephew, Brian Dawson.

Calling hours were Tuesday, Nov. 6, at the Buckler-Johnston Funeral Home, 121 Main St., Westerly, R.I. The funeral was held Wednesday, Nov. 7, at the Buckler-Johnston Funeral Home, with the Rev. Sue LaTourette. Burial will be private at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, those who wish may donate to the Trout Unlimited, the North Stonington Grange, or to the charity of the donor's choice.

For online condolences, visit buckler-johnston.com.



Portland

Barbara Russell Phillips

Barbara Russell Phillips was born in Joliet, Will County, Ill., on June 1, 1938. She was the only child of Leslie Ruel Russell and Catherine James Russell.

She attended the University of Iowa, where she received a B.S. in pharmacy in 1959. She married that year to Dean E. Phillips. Upon graduation, the couple moved to central New York, where they lived for several years and where Barbara practiced pharmacy. In 1968, they moved to Portland. While raising their family, Barbara worked for several years in pharmaceutical sales, and subsequently, she managed her husband's engineering and home inspection practices.

Barbara was very active in her community, first with the Portland Junior Women's Club, where she served in many roles and ultimately served as president. She was also active in Republican politics, first heading the party's town committee and subsequently serving four terms on the Board of Selectmen. When Dean retired, the couple toured the southern states in search of a suitable retirement community. They settled in Savannah, Ga., in 2006, where they lived until 2015, at which time they moved to Alexandria, Va., to be close to their daughter, Cynthia, and her family.

We will remember Barbara for her kindness, her toughness, her resilience, her directness, her integrity, her sense of humor and her endless generosity.

Barbara is survived by her husband Dean of Alexandria, Va.; son, Curtis Phillips (Heather Smith) of Middletown; son, Douglas Phillips of Cromwell; daughter, Cynthia Phillips (James May) of Alexandria, Va.; and granddaughter, Catherine May, also of Alexandria, Va.; as well as her dearest friends, Cindy Varricchio, Kris Strubell, and Fran and Charlene O'Brien.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Nov. 10, at 11 a.m., in the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. Pastor Jane Hawken will be officiating. Burial will be in the family plot in the Swedish Cemetery, Portland. Friends may call at the funeral home Saturday morning from 10 a.m. until the time of service.

Portland

Margot P. Wark

Margot P. Wark, 75, beloved wife, mother, grandmother and an eternal resident at heart of Enfield, passed away Friday, Nov. 2, with her loving family by her side. Born Sept. 9, 1943, in Nyack, N.Y., she was the daughter of the late Harold and Ruth (Gilhooley) Peterson, and is the sister of Karen Douglass.

Margot is survived by her husband and best friend of 39 years, Robert; four children, daughters Nicole Pierce and her husband Jeff, Kristin Brazalovich and her husband Phil, and sons Peter Damato and his wife Cathy, and Tommy Truszkowski; precious grandchildren Brittany, Philip, Casey, Jackie, Michael, Samantha and Marissa, and she was overjoyed to welcome great-granddaughter, Adelina, five months ago. She also leaves behind her beloved rescue dog, Sam.

Prior to retirement, Margot was a systems analyst at Travelers, where she made lifelong friends. She was an avid crafter, and her crochet and framed creations are prominently displayed in many homes of her loved ones and friends. Margot was also known for her quick wit, exemplary writing skills and for her love of music, particularly Barry Manilow, Elvis Presley and The Everly Brothers.

The family received relatives and friends Thursday, Nov. 8, with a memorial service immediately following, at the D'Esopo Funeral Chapel, 277 Folly Brook Blvd., Wethersfield.

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

For online expressions of sympathy to the family, visit desopofuneralchapel.com.

