



RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

Volume 44, Number 3

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

November 1, 2019



Chatham Historical Society members in East Hampton were outraged this week after an 18th century home was demolished to make way for a parking lot for nearby business American Distillery.

Outcry in Belltown After Home Demolished

by Michelle Richmond

The demolition this week of the Joel West house, owned by Ed Jackowitz, president and CEO of American Distilling & Manufacturing Co., has caused an uproar among East Hampton residents and history lovers.

According to historical records: "Built in the mid-1700s, the home - located at 35 West Point Rd. - was one of the oldest and most historic homes in the town. The site of American Distilling used to be the site of the first iron foundry in East Hampton, started in 1742, by Abijah Hall. This foundry was the precursor to all of the bell factories in town, making it the future settlement of the town. Abijah Hall, Jr. built the historic house on the adjacent property, then sold it to Deacon Joel West."

The West home had a distinctive flared roof, and stood as a landmark, showcasing late 1700s architecture. It also had a secret room, used as a station in the Underground Railroad.

According to Sandy Doran, president of the Chatham Historical Society, there are several historic houses in town and while they haven't officially been listed as such, the society is going to make sure that such a "tragedy" never happens again.

"We're going to get together with the State Historical Commission to get older homes registered," she said. "We had no idea that American Distilling was going to act so quickly and that they had so little regard for history. They could have reached out to us months ago and told us that they were planning to do this - just to build a parking lot. We would have made an effort to get the house registered. We just didn't know how urgent this was."

Doran added that the demolition this week

"sounded the alarm that we need to get those houses registered."

"We just didn't know how urgent this was. We need to get all of the older houses registered on the state listing so that they can't be touched. The town should have a policy in place that if someone wants to demolish a house, they should get public input. This was a landmark and there are pockets of old homes around town that need to be protected. So far there's nothing in place."

"They obviously aren't historically minded people," she added. "This was all about what American Distillery wanted, not about what the people of East Hampton wanted."

"This basically started with the state approaching us that they wanted to replace the bridge in front of the plant," said Jackowitz. "In order to do that they're going to need construction area, so that meant that they were going to take the space at our entrance. There are just 12 parking spaces for cars in front here and they're going to cut off part of the front of our lawn area to make a temporary entrance for the trucks to go in front of the building, parallel to Route 66, swing around, head over to Subway and back into our shipping and receiving docks."

Jackowitz stated that they have "35 trailers coming in here a day plus all of our tankers."

"Obviously closing the bridge down and with 35 trailers getting in and out of the front of this building, it's going to be a nightmare. It just so happened that I owned 35 West Point Rd. and I wanted to make sure that it wasn't on the Historical Society list or anything like that and I

See Home Demolished page 12

Colchester Woman Continues Her Creepy House Tradition

by Karla Santos

A ride through Lakeview Drive in October features a picture-perfect fall foliage and lake landscape, but when folks reach Cathy Brown's house, things get creepy instead of pretty.

A tradition Brown has followed for decades, she displays Halloween decorations all over her property. Creatures that are meant to be scary surround the lake home in the outdoor areas. She carries the decorations inside the house to the stairways, kitchen, living room, under the dining room table, by the fireplace and on the sliding doors leading to the deck. Creatures seem to appear out of the blue as one walks around the house.

Brown has lived in the Lakeview Drive home since 2001, but previously she lived in Amston, where she started her Halloween decorating traditions, which were inspired by her former neighbor in about 1996, she said. But Brown said she has always had an interest in scary things including horror movies - and as she gets "older it gets worse."

She adds to her Halloween decorations every year, which is why it has become such a

large collection, she said.

"My birthday is in November so [my husband] gets me a piece or two when they go on sale," Brown said.

Her collection has pieces from movies, including the pumpkin from *Trick 'r Treat* and a stand up figure of Michael Myers from *Halloween*.

It takes her about a week to have her outdoor and indoor decorations all set, she said. "Everything is up and running Oct. 1."

The decorations are not the only thing included in Brown's tradition. She also holds a Halloween party for her friends in the neighborhood on an annual basis.

"I have the lake party," Brown said. "Our friends come and they bring finger foods and they love it. They walk around and see what's new and if they've never been here before then, I can scare them."

The party is normally held the weekend before Halloween, Brown said.

"It's always a good time," she added.

Some of Brown's decorations include candy

See Creepy House page 12



Cathy Brown stands in her front yard on Lakeview Drive in Colchester surrounded by Halloween decorating figures that light up at night but also carry a scary look during the day. The Halloween decorations at Brown's home are also in the inside of the house. She has a large collection and told the *Rivereast* it takes her about a week to complete the work, which is usually up and running by Oct. 1. Photo by Karla Santos.



This Halloween figure is displayed under a table inside Cathy Brown's home. Visitors can unexpectedly encounter the creature as it is almost hidden, but its hands, which reach out of the table, trigger visitors to look for more and find the unique facial expression. Photo by Karla Santos.

Creepy House cont. from Front Page

that her guests can sample.

"Then after trick or treat I bring it to my little ladies," she said.

The "little ladies" are Brown's clients though her job as a companion and home maker.

"I make them a bag and I bring it to them," she said.

Brown said her favorite part of her Halloween decorating tradition is the bigger figures.

"And I do the same thing for Christmas too," she said. "I decorate inside and out, but Halloween is my favorite. I just love the characters, the spirit of Halloween. I love to see it come. I get so excited."

She said the number of people that attend her annual party varies every year, but she gets

at least 20.

Elaine Canfield, one of Brown's neighbors said she enjoys Brown's party.

"She puts on such a party on Halloween," Canfield said. "It's just awesome. She puts on such a show. We have such a wonderful time. It's just a joy going over to her and her husband's place for Halloween. All the neighbors get together, bring a dish and it's always a good time that they put on."

Canfield said the neighborhood also celebrates other festivities together such as Labor Day and the Super Bowl.

"It's so wonderful to get together with neighbors, have a good time, enjoy time with them, get to know them and have fun," Canfield said.

Portland Police News

10/18: Jason Reid, 25, of 98 Sandquist Circle, Hamden, was charged with fifth-degree larceny, Portland Police said.

House Demolished cont. from Front Page

have letters to that effect."

At one point, the house was rented to an employee of American Distilleries.

"I'm not a slumlord. Any properties that we have we try to keep in tip top shape," Jackowitz stated. "But that one over there, maybe they didn't want to say anything to me but it was in pretty bad shape. Once the demolition started, they saw that the floors and beams were rotted. Nobody should have been living there. We started getting some prices to see what it would cost to fix it. Just to side the house was over \$200,000."

Allison Murphy Tokarz, whose family owned – and lived in – the house from 1975-2000, said that when they sold it to Jackowitz, the house "was not dilapidated at all."

"When my parents left it, it was in good shape. I don't know if they had renters in there who destroyed it or what," she said. "But if you look at photos on Realtor.com from 2018, the house looked amazing. There was a six-foot fireplace with a beehive oven in it, and the living room had chestnut wood panels two-feet wide. The beautiful flared roof and hand-hewn beams were unique. It also had a room behind a hidden panel where people from the Underground Railroad were hidden."

Tokarz stated that it was "one of the oldest houses in town."

"I think it's disgusting that they tore it down to put in a parking lot and it was disgraceful that the town allowed it," she said. "When my parents sold it to Jackowitz he promised that he would never destroy the house."

Chatham Historical Society member Margaret Faber – who serves on the CT Historic Preservation Council – speaking as a private citizen noted: "Had we been given notice and time, we could have run it by the Council that I sit on and we could have asked the Attorney General to possibly issue an injunction to stop the demolition. He might have done it."

"A house needs to be deemed 'eligible' to be listed on as 'historic' and this house certainly was that," she said. "But we were given no notice. If Jackowitz had wanted to save the house, we could have gotten him parking for this temporary situation."

Faber stated that for a house to be given "historic" status, that the process is lengthy and could take several years.

"We were under the gun with the state and we wanted to cooperate with them, Jackowitz stated. "They want to start this project April 1 but now we find out they may be starting next week with the utilities so now we're in a panic. If they start doing this, we're going to run out of parking. And of course, we'll have the weather to worry about. Time was of the essence that we got this house down as fast as we could."

Jackowitz noted that "some historic items were found in the house and were given to the Historical Society.

"There were a couple of doors and pieces, a pot that swings into the fireplace and a few other things that we gave them today."

"We had no other choice," noted Bryan Jackowitz, vice president of American Distilleries. "The Rte. 66 construction is going to put a major strain on our shipping and receiving of 35 trucks a day. That's not going to be fun. Given the state of the home, it was inhabitable and ready to be condemned and would have cost too much to bring it up to a habitable state."

Calling it a "make sense decision for us," Bryan stated that they approached the town and did all the necessary abatements. The initial permit was given "weeks ago" and the final permit was granted on Monday – the day the house was demolished. While the original permit was just for the house, they decided to include the garage.

"We had made improvements to it a couple

of years ago and thought we could live with the garage, but we decided it didn't suit our needs," Bryan said. "We'll build something appropriate – probably another garage."

Bryan stated that they have "no regrets," but that it was a "tough decision."

"This will allow for parking for our employees and provide a streamlined delivery access for our bulk tractor trailers to make deliveries in back of the plant," he said. "This will also make it much safer and easier for cars on West Point Rd."

"We're happy to clarify that this was done all above board with the full cooperation of town and state officials," he added. "We did it in full compliance with state regulations and nothing was done behind closed doors. If people didn't know what was happening, all I can say is that it's our property and we're allowed to do what we want. It's not a protected property and that was documented. All regulations were followed and we were able to do what we did and proceed accordingly."

"We respect the opinion of the taxpayers and I hope that they would respect our desire that our concern is for our business health and the safety of our employees. It was a 'make sense decision' and it forced us to move quickly.

American Distillery issued a formal statement this week, which reads in part:

"We have owned the 35 West Point Road property since 2000, which is not a protected historical property. While the exterior of the home was in good condition, there was severe rotting throughout the interior of the home including major structural beams, siding and other elements. We investigated the cost of restoring the building and received several quotes in excess of \$300k to make this home habitable.

"Because of the circumstances with our parking and the state of the home, we decided that it was the safe and prudent decision to submit a proposal to build a parking lot on the property. We submitted our application to the town for a demolition permit and arranged for asbestos, lead and contaminate removal. After the remediation was complete and certified, the permit was issued and the home was demolished on Monday. All proper procedures were followed and all proper permits were in place.

We appreciate your consideration of our perspective in this matter and look forward to working with the Town and East Hampton Community into the future."

According to Town Manager David Cox, the Building Department received a demolition application for the house at 35 West Point Road on Oct 19 and the demolition permit was issued on Oct. 28.

Cox issued a written statement:

"To be clear, the public hearing to be held on November 6 will continue. Its focus is whether the zoning should be changed to accommodate the proposed use, which always included a parking lot and previously included the garage. If the zoning change is denied for some reason, the size of the parking lot would need to be reduced to meet the requirements of the residential zone but a parking lot could still be constructed. The Town has no provision for a waiting period for an owner to receive a demolition permit and the statutes only require notice to be sent to abutting properties and that asbestos and other similar abatement be performed prior to application. Those requirements were met for the original and amended application. The house at 35 West Point was constructed in the mid-1700s but was not listed on any state, national or local registry of historic places despite being noted in at least a few publications. Listing on such registries would have provided a process by which a person could have stayed the demolition for some time to allow the matter to be reviewed by the Court."

Meet the Board of East Hampton Education Candidates



Wick



Ordonez



Comisky



Oakley



Radavich



Nucifora



Sones

by Michelle Richmond

With elections coming up next week, East Hampton has several candidates running for a spot on the Board of Education. Taxpayers can vote for any four. The *Rivereast* sent out a questionnaire asking each candidate a series of questions. Here are their responses. (Note: Responses have been edited for length and clarity.)

Democrats

Martha Wick

Age and Occupation: 56, child welfare worker/licensor/trainer.

Previous Experience on Town Boards and Commissions: This is my first time running for an elected position.

Why Are You Running? I believe that public education is the bedrock of any community. As a new resident of East Hampton, I will bring new ideas and new perspectives to the Board of Education. As a dedicated advocate for children, I will represent the best interest of all youth in town by ensuring a safe, innovative and equitable education that prioritizes preparation for the future while nurturing a sense of responsibility to community and the well-being of others.

What Are the Key Issues Facing East Hampton That You Hope to Address if Elected? East Hampton, like most Connecticut communities, is facing fiscal challenges, and where transparency and accountability are essential, prioritizing education is paramount to our town's future. It is imperative that we prepare our youth technically, socially and morally to solve the global and local issues of the future.

Amy Ordonez

Age and Occupation: 46, Owner of Studio 13 in the East Hampton Village Center.

Previous Experience on Town Boards and Commissions: I have been the chairperson of the Library Advisory Board since its inception in 2017. I also had the pleasure of being the Childcare Chairperson for the Seamster Park Playground Build this summer. While living in Middletown I served on the Senior Services Commission.

Why Are You Running? I am running to help ensure that the students of our town have the tools they need to succeed whether they choose to continue their education, enter a trade or workforce. It would be an honor to serve my hometown.

What Are the Key Issues Facing East Hampton That You Hope to Address if Elected? Our teachers are wonderful and a great asset, but with increased class sizes and a decrease in resources, our students are at a disadvantage.

Kurt John Comisky

Age and Occupation: Practicing attorney, Labor & Employment Law and Education Law. (Comisky declined to provide his age for this story.)

Previous Experience on Town Boards and Commissions: Board of Finance; Conservation Commission; Ethics Commission and Town Facilities Building Committee.

Why Are You Running? I recognize that our public schools are a cornerstone of our community. They reflect our values and define our community.

What Are the Key Issues Facing East Hampton That You Hope to Address if Elected? Whether we like it or not, technology will have a significant impact on our future. We need to offer our children the tools

necessary to succeed in life, to become engaged citizens in our community. I recognize that our public schools and the school budget do not exist in a silo. Our community includes both those with children in our public schools and those without children. However, these are not competing constituencies, they both will benefit from an adequately funded public school system. I will only vote for a budget that I can support and explain the need and how those needs are met.

Republicans

Nancy Oakley

Age and Occupation: Surety reinsurance broker. (Oakley declined to provide her age for this story.)

Previous Experience on Town Boards and Commissions: Board of Education member; Girl Scout leader and president of the middle school PTO.

Why Are You Running? I am a 14-year resident of East Hampton and am running to retain my seat on the Board of Education. I will continue working to set policies that establish a clear vision for our school district. In addition, I will work to secure the resources necessary to provide the best possible education to our students.

What Are the Key Issues Facing East Hampton That You Hope to Address if Elected? Response not given.

Jim Radavich

Age and Occupation: 55. Response not given.

Previous Experience on Town Boards and Commissions: Response not given.

Why Are You Running? As a 25-year resident of East Hampton and with a supportive wife and two self-reliant college seniors, the time is right for me to expand my volunteering scope to a higher level within our community. I'm a supporter of public education. As a business man, I would like to be sure that the kids are being taught the skills necessary to enter the workforce either directly from high school or directly after college.

What Are the Key Issues Facing East Hampton That You Hope to Address if Elected? As an East Hampton tax payer, I'd liked transparency in how much of the budgeted money is used at any point YTD so no unused budgeted money is spent elsewhere in non-budgeted for areas. For example, we saved \$15,000 here for this project compared to the budget so let's spend that \$15,000 elsewhere rather than

just not spending that money at all.

Sal Nucifora

Age and Occupation: 51, Mechanical and systems engineer working for Electric Boat.

Previous Experience on Town Boards and Commissions: (Response not given.)

Why Are You Running? I am running for the Board of Education to help the superintendent allocate the millions of dollars for teachers, administrators, and students in the best way to keep programs funded through reasonable budgeting.

What Are the Key Issues Facing East Hampton That You Hope to Address if Elected? The Board of Education had failed to do their job after the last budget failed the voter's expectations. I will ensure accountability.

Petitioning Candidate

Tania K. Sones

Age and Occupation: 44, consultant.

Previous Experience on Town Boards and Commissions: I have been actively involved in the budget process since I've lived in East Hampton, approximately six years. I was appointed to serve on the Board of Education for two years, fulfilling a vacancy.

Why Are You Running? I have always had an interest in understanding the educational requirements and budget needed to educate East Hampton students. I am an advocate for both short and long-term planning and think we need to budget accordingly to adequately (and skillfully) fund for our students. I would advocate for continued appropriate planning.

What Are the Key Issues Facing East Hampton That You Hope to Address if Elected? Board of Finance and Town Council members need to understand and take appropriate action for both short term and long-term educational planning. This has not occurred in the past and has had a negative impact to students and taxpayers. With a bifurcated budget there could be discussions of taking the education budget directly to residents to vote on.

East Hampton Town Council Candidates



Reich

Moore

Johnson

Markham

Brown



Engel

Piteo

Feegel

Philhower

by Michelle Richmond

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 5, and there are several candidates running for East Hampton Town Council. Taxpayers can vote for any five. The *Rivereast* asked each of them a series of questions. Here are their responses. (Note: Responses have been edited for length and clarity.)

Democrats

Kevin M. Reich

Age and Occupation: 69, retired teacher and retired assistant superintendent of schools.

Previous Experience on Town Boards and Commissions: Town Council member for six years and member of the Cemetery Board for four years.

Why Are You Running? I am running for a fourth term because I believe the community is at a crossroads. I am looking forward to working closely with the town's new town manager, completing the Police Department/Town Hall/Board of Education facility and there is much to do to address water, lake and Village Center issues.

What Are the Key Issues Facing East Hampton That You Hope to Address if Elected? Over the next two years, I would like to obtain state funding for the development, expansion and consolidation of a public water system, enhance educational excellence and opportunities for our children, implement ecologically sound solutions to improve Lake Pocotopaug consistent with the nine point watershed based plan and develop a comprehensive long-term capital plan to improve our aging facilities and infrastructure.

Barbara Moore

Age and Occupation: 72, owner of Chatham Caterers since 1983.

Previous Experience on Town Boards and Commissions: Elected to Board of Finance 1997, 2001 (Chair), 2007, 2017; Elected to Town Council 2009, 2011; 2013 (Chair); Currently serve as Co-chair of East Hampton Prevention Partnership and serve on Ambulance Board; Chair of Democratic Town Committee for almost 20 years.

Why Are You Running? My husband and I have lived in East Hampton since 1969 and appreciate our town, our friends and neighbors. It is very important to me to continue to work for the future of East Hampton and to help others with the same goals. Positive progress is important and we have many projects that need to move forward. One step at a time will keep our town in a positive direction.

What Are the Key Issues Facing East Hampton That You Hope to Address if Elected? I hope to further address the town's infrastructure and work to keep our buildings and grounds updated. The safety of our residents is very important and I would support a planned growth in police, fire and ambulance protection. We are very fortunate to have many gifted volunteers. It is very important to me to slowly build our school system. I would like to plan for our future generations and continue to adequately prepare them for a successful life.

Derek M. Johnson

Age and Occupation: 62, University of Connecticut (Economics Department).

Previous Experience on Town Boards and Commissions: I had the privilege of serving on East Hampton's Town Council twice – the first time from 2005-2007 and then from 2011-2013.

Why Are You Running? East Hampton is a great town, with great people but we are starkly confronted – after years of political “kicking the ball down the road,” polarization and indecision – with a variety of issues requiring fiscally-honest, thoughtful, balanced and decisive Town Council leadership.

What Are the Key Issues Facing East Hampton That You Hope to Address if Elected? The most critical issues that we face, is how do we (as a town) creatively balance and implement in a fiscally-responsible way (including efforts to diversify the town's grand list consistent with the character of our town) East Hampton's current and future educational and infrastructure goals. These goals range from implementing necessary educational programs to reversing the environmental degradation of our lake and other infrastructure and program goals for our town. I have taught at the university level for nearly 40 years and nothing (in my opinion) is more important (both for our children and our town) than educational excellence. So, for me, the starting (but not “ending”) priorities are the schools, the lake, the library, enhanced programs for seniors and ensuring that town priorities and town services are implemented and performed fairly, efficiently and effectively.

Dean Markham

Age and Occupation: 71, Realtor associated with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices New England Properties; Self-employed financial and business consultant.

Previous Experience on Town Boards and Commissions: East Hampton Town Council 2017-19; East Hampton Board of Finance 2013-17; State Representative, 34th District, 1979-93.

Why Are You Running? I believe I can make a difference in the vitality of our community and the quality of our lives in East Hampton, utilizing my significant life experiences from business, community service and elected government to bring sound decisions that emphasize common sense to solve some of the significant issues our community faces. I want this to continue to be a town that my grandchildren will be proud of.

What Are the Key Issues Facing East Hampton That You Hope to Address if Elected? There are a number of important issues facing the Town Council and our community including the condition of Lake Pocotopaug, maintaining educational excellence, timelines and accountability of government services, availability of cultural and recreational opportunities, development of a public water system, sound business growth and development and balance of cost verses ability to meet those costs. Our students must have the tools and technology to successfully compete in this 21st century. It is incumbent upon us to save Lake Pocotopaug. The Nine-Point Watershed Based Plan is a significant step forward

to restore the quality of the lake. The plan must be continuously evaluated and revised. The proposal presented by Ever Blue Lake Solutions addresses the other problem – the accumulation of nutrients and muck, within the lake bowls off Oakwood and in Markham Bay. This two-pronged approach offers a way to restore the health and beauty of Lake Pocotopaug. The third priority is to hold our town government and departments to provide timely delivery of services. Our Town Manager has begun to address some of these issues, but it will be the Town Council's job to work with all involved to assure the best and most responsive service to our citizens.

James “Pete” Brown

Age and Occupation: 76, retired after 38 years with Department of Children and Families, Superintendent at CT Children's Place.

Previous Experience on Town Boards and Commissions: I'm running as an incumbent. I have also served on the Zoning Board of Appeals and Ambulance Association. I served 20 years as a volunteer East Hampton firefighter, and am a former member of the East Hampton Police Department.

Why Are You Running? As a present council member, I feel we have accomplished many things. I want to continue serving my town and see our goals come to fruition.

What Are the Key Issues Facing East Hampton That You Hope to Address if Elected? If I am re-elected, I want to expand the water system beyond the village center to the Route 66 corridor and beyond. I want to continue to seek a solution to a clean lake. A priority also is to provide high-quality educational opportunities to all students.

Republicans

Melissa H. Engel

Age and Occupation: 63, owner of Markham Meadows Campground since 1997.

Previous Experience on Town Boards and Commissions: I have served on the Town Council for 16 years (not consecutively) and am a charter member of the East Hampton Old Home Day Committee.

Why Are You Running? I am seeking reelection to the Town Council because my experience and commitment to our community will bring our goals to completion in the most cost-effective manner. I have long volunteered and contributed financially to many significant causes in Town. I have a master's degree in public relations and am a charter member of the East Hampton Old Home Day Committee.

What Are the Key Issues Facing East Hampton That You Hope to Address if Elected? (Response not given)

Josh Piteo

Age and Occupation: 56, commodities trader.

Previous Experience on Town Boards and Commissions: Former member of the Board of Finance and Board of Education and currently serves as a member of the Town Council. Member of Catholic Charities of Middletown, ABC Women's Shelter in Middletown, the Rotary Club of East Hampton and the Connecticut Commission on Children.

Why Are You Running? I am proud to be part of a team that has worked hard to provide the necessary services and keep our taxes low. Our AAA rating speaks to our prudent spending while our new municipal building, police radio upgrade and Center School boiler are testament to our commitment to moving forward.

What Are the Key Issues Facing East Hampton That You Hope to Address if Elected? (Response not given.)

Tim Feegel

Age and Occupation: 51, manager of Belltown Auto.

Previous Experience on Town Boards and Commissions: (Response not given.)

Why Are You Running? I have deep family roots in East Hampton and have always been passionate about its history and its future. I have years of budget experience, solid communication skills as well as team building and problem-solving expertise that would be an asset to our Council.

What Are the Key Issues Facing East Hampton That You Hope to Address if Elected? I know we need water to attract economic development and provide clean drinking water. I join with others in wanting our tax dollars spent wisely where necessary and not at all without solid demonstration of need.

Mark Philhower

Age and Occupation: 59, owner of Tech Unlimited, a HVAC contracting company.

Previous Experience on Town Boards and Commissions: I have served three terms on Town Council, 20 years on our Planning & Zoning Commission, four years on the Conservation Commission and 10 years as the town's representative on the Midstate Regional Planning Agency.

Why Are You Running? I am running for another term on Town Council because in the face of economic turmoil – locally, statewide and nationally – our town needs a conservative voice.

What Are the Key Issues Facing East Hampton That You Hope to Address if Elected? The most pressing need in town right now is our poor infrastructure. Roads and buildings need to be addressed in a fiscally prudent manner with a sharp pencil on spending.

Traversa vs. Lowrey Leads Marlborough Selectmen Race



Traversa



Lowrey



Godbout



Asklar



Denniss

by Karla Santos

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 5 – and there are several candidates running for Board of Selectmen seats in Marlborough. First Selectwoman Amy Traversa, a Democrat, is being challenged for a second term by Republican Greg Lowrey. The winner of that race will be joined by two others on the Board of Selectmen. Incumbents Evelyn Godbout, a Democrat, and Cliff Denniss, a Republican who was not endorsed by the Marlborough Republicans and is running as a petitioning candidate, are seeking re-election. Also seeking a seat on the three-person board is the endorsed Republican candidate, Joe Asklar.

The *Rivereast* recently asked each of the candidates a series of questions. Here are their responses. (Note: Responses have been edited for length and clarity.)

First Selectman — Democrat

Amy Traversa

Age and Occupation: First Selectman of Marlborough. (Note: Traversa declined to provide her age for this story.)

Previous Experience on Town Boards and Commissions: Before becoming first selectman in 2015, I worked for 22 years as a registered principal and financial advisor. After retiring, I was a consultant for large financial firms and insurers, managing several major projects.

Why Are You Running? In the past four years, Marlborough has been revived. We have seen \$20 million dollars of private investment in commercial development in the town's center, helping to stabilize the burden of residential property taxes, and we are working to help bring additional commercial growth to town. Despite the chaos in Hartford, we have been able to stabilize Marlborough's finances without taking on any new debt or refinancing any existing debt. We have moved to a pay-as-you-go structure in our budget and funded reserve accounts, allowing added flexibility to managing our infrastructure improvements to facilities, equipment, roads, culverts and bridges. We have worked with our finance director and investment advisor to put policies in place to keep us on track and to guide future financial decisions. More than \$1.3 million has been returned to the Undesignated ("rainy day") Fund, allowing us added security against unexpected events or budget cuts from Hartford. The first changes to our Charter in 34 years were approved by an overwhelming majority of voters, and we are already hard at work towards seating a new Commission to continue revising our town's Charter to modern standards. I am proud of all that's been accomplished in Marlborough during the past four years, and I'd like to see it continue.

What Are the Key Issues Facing Marlborough That You Hope to Address if Elected? Like all towns in Connecticut, Marlborough is facing a decline in student population and an increase to the population of senior citizens. The demographics are changing, and so have our needs. We must provide needed services for the entire community, literally from cradle to grave. The newly revised 10-year Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) addresses many of these issues, and prepares us for some of the critical decisions that need to be made! My plan is to continue working to make Marlborough a better place to live!

Republican

Gregory J. Lowrey

Age and Occupation: 48, Certified Public Accountant.

Previous Experience on Town Boards and Commissions: I have not previously run for political office. I have attended (BA '95, JD '00, MS '04) and subsequently worked as the tax and compliance accountant at UConn. I served in the US Army as a cavalry scout and in logistics in the Connecticut National Guard.

I have worked in Marlborough and surrounding towns in emergency management and emergency medicine for eighteen years. I was appointed to the role of Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security for the Town of Marlborough three years ago. I also currently serve as an EMT with the Roy B. Pettengill Ambulance Association and as the treasurer for East Glastonbury Fish & Game Club.

Why Are You Running? I'm intrigued by numbers, and I think every adult in town knows that the cost of living here is rising faster than our income. I'm intrigued by numbers, but no matter your line of work, you will be interested to know our property tax bills have increased by almost ten percent over the last four years. Times are better than they were, but not many of us have seen our paycheck go up by ten percent in four years. I am running for First Selectman to administer a town hall that is efficient, effective and welcoming.

What Are the Key Issues Facing Marlborough That You Hope to Address if Elected? Under my leadership, the next administration will work cooperatively with Marlborough's boards and commissions with a focus on public works, schools, safety and intelligent development. We will look to modernize purchasing with an eye to reducing the number of staff hours and miles devoted to procurement. We will seek to economize through careful planning of the sequence of events, timing and division of labor on projects. A thoughtful approach to roads, mowing, motor pool, and minor building maintenance can improve the user experience in a cost-effective manner. The town will strive to improve communication with property owners affected by Town projects & routine maintenance. Perhaps we can cultivate a volunteer garden club to assist with the design and care of public spaces? Public schools are a crown jewel of the tri town area. Let's promote development of needs based budgets that look to the future. We have a responsibility and an opportunity to plan and prepare for, prevent and respond to, events stemming from crime, fire, medical emergency and weather. To do this, we need to look at ways to augment our efforts to recruit and retain talented crew members through respectful relationships and incentives such as modern tools, stipends, tax exemptions and abatements. We value small town charm and modern convenience. Let's put a value on preservation through the assessment process. Together, we can consider property tax exemption for open space and, at the same time, streamline the project permit process.

Board of Selectmen – Democrat

Evelyn Godbout

Age and Occupation: I have served the last four years as a Marlborough Second Selectman. I am also the Director of Information and Technology for the State of Connecticut Division of Criminal Justice. (Note: Godbout declined to provide her age for this story.)

Previous Experience on Town Boards and Commissions: Previously I served on the Board of Finance for eleven years. I served as chairman of the Board of Finance for more than five years. Prior to that, I served for seven years as president of Parents in Education at the RHAM Middle and High School.

Why Are You Running? I have been honored to serve as a selectman in Marlborough. Marlborough has already invested millions and we are now beginning to see a return on our investment. We have made the best possible use of the money that has already been spent on infrastructure by proactively seeking businesses that will benefit residents while drawing non-residents to our town. We have developed a strategy and plan to encourage business to come into town. We, as a town, must take all that is good about our wonderful town and strive to make it even better. I have the

hands-on experience and am willing to commit to continuing to work to make Marlborough better. When Amy and I were elected we faced a soaring debt. We had the 9th highest per capita debt in the state. We have worked hard to successfully decrease our debt burden. Many of our roads, bridges and culverts were neglected. We have successfully completed many infrastructure projects. Businesses were closing and new businesses were not coming to Marlborough. Now we have strong new development in town.

What Are the Key Issues Facing Marlborough That You Hope to Address if Elected? We need to continue to find ways of increasing our revenues without placing more of a burden on our residential taxpayers, especially the seniors on fixed income. They deserve to stay in their homes and not be forced to sell because they can no longer pay the ever-increasing tax burden.

Republican

Joe J. Asklar

Age and Occupation: 72, President and CEO of Marlborough Plastics, Fire Marshal Town of Marlborough.

Previous Experience on Town Boards and Commissions: Former Chairman of the Economic Development Commission.

Why Are You Running? I am running to improve Marlborough's quality of life by creating strong economic growth within the town and I feel confident that I have the experience and knowledge to make it happen. Also, to protect our community, as a member of the Volunteer Fire Department and a first responder, public safety is important to me. As a father and grandfather of children who have attended Marlborough Elementary, I am a strong believer in an excellent school system which is a strong foundation for growing children.

What Are the Key Issues Facing Marlborough That You Hope to Address if Elected? The key issues facing Marlborough are affordability and our quality of life. Let's move forward with projects that will work with conservation, planning, and zoning regulations in order to grow our commercial tax base and ease the burdens on residents. Additionally, town government needs to be more open, ac-

countable and customer-friendly.

Petitioning Candidate

Cliff Denniss

Age and Occupation: 74, retired since 2002, after working for the Aetna for 34 years.

Previous Experience on Town Boards and Commissions: After taking a one-year rest, I went to a public hearing regarding the town budget. I never attended any town meeting before, I found it very informative and started to go to various Town Board and Commission meetings. I centered in on the Board of Finance. Attending as a member of the public for about 2 years, I applied for a BOF alternate position and was appointed. After serving 2 years as a BOF alternate and 8 years as a seated member, I decided not to run for a third term. First Selectman Amy Traversa then asked if I would be interested in filling out former Selectman Dick Shea's term on the Board of Selectman. I was very honored to be asked but because of the importance of this position, I wanted to think about it. After a few months, I agreed to serve.

Why are you running? After serving on the Board of Selectmen for about 5 months, I felt I was contributing to the betterment of Marlborough and decided to run for a full term. After completing the necessary paperwork, I am now on the November 5th ballot as a Petitioning Candidate for Marlborough Selectman.

What Are the Key Issues Facing Marlborough That You Hope to Address if Elected? Much has been done during my time on the BOS, but there is still much more work to do such as repairing our roads, bridges, culverts, 10-year Plan of Conservation & Development, potential development of the Business Park, and the establishment of a Charter Review Commission to name a few. The Board of Selectmen has started work on these projects. I would like to continue as a Selectman to see these projects through.

Colchester Independent Party Claims Democrats Over-Endorsed

by Karla Santos

The Colchester Independent Party (CIP) recently filed a complaint with the Connecticut Secretary of State (SOTS) and the State Election Enforcement Commission (SEEC) in regards to the Colchester Democrats 'Certification of Party Endorsement'.

According to Deanna Bouchard, chairman of the Colchester Independent Party, the Colchester Democrats erred on their form in that they endorsed two candidates for the office of First Selectman.

On the form in question, Mary Bylone is endorsed as first selectman, but after the name of one of the Board of Selectmen candidates, under the heading "Office and Term," it reads "Selectman-First."

Colchester Town Clerk Gayle Furman altered the endorsement form to fix the apparent error – and Bouchard claims the alteration to the form occurred after the statutory filing deadline which was July 24 at 4 p.m.

Bouchard told the *Rivereast* in an email that the response she received from SOTS was to

"dismiss our complaint by citing the case of Nardello v. Merrill."

In that case, according to the *Waterbury Republican-American*, Democratic candidate Vicki Orsini Nardello had sued Secretary of State Denise Merrill, alleging a flub may have cost her the ability to run in a 16th Senatorial District primary.

According to the *Republican-American*, Nardello sued Merrill after losing her party's endorsement at a convention on May 21, 2018. Nardello, planning to challenge the party's endorsed candidate, filed paperwork with Merrill's office four days later but failed to fill out a box that asked for her district number. A Merrill staffer noticed the omission and contacted the Connecticut Democratic Party.

In an email from Lewis Button, staff attorney of the Legislation and Election Administration Division, he tells Furman that in the case of Nardello v. Merrill, Nardello had filed her certificate of endorsement on time, but had filed her endorsement with the wrong district num-

ber. After the deadline had passed, the district number was corrected.

"The matter was taken to court and the judge determined that the correction of a ministerial error was not sufficient to remove a candidate from her place on the ballot," Button told Furman in the email.

Bouchard argues that Connecticut SOTS must make decisions that are fair and equitable to all parties.

"It must be based on law, without an underlying partisanship agenda," Bouchard said.

"In the case of Colchester, it was an error by the party. That party's chairman and that party's secretary signed off on that certificate of endorsement. That endorsement was delivered at 10 o'clock in the morning the day it was due, so they had until four o'clock to correct that ballot. If that democratic town clerk had any attention to the detail, she would've picked up on that right away and said 'hey you guys made a mistake, come in here and correct it before

the deadline.' She didn't."

Bouchard's complaint comes from the fact that the town clerk altered the document herself and after the deadline

"We filed the complaint because the Colchester Independent Party has always believed that the citizens have the right to full transparency in the government."

Button sent his email statement to Furman on Oct. 21.

"While the determination of whether or not Furman should have made the correction herself may be considered by other authorities, we believe that the clerk had the ability to determine that an error was ministerial and a correction could be made after the deadline as occurred in the Nardello matter," Button said.

Furman said that the fact that she corrected the error is not an issue.

"I have contacted our town's counsel on this matter and he agrees with the Secretary of the State's opinion," she added.

Meet the Hebron Board of Selectmen Candidates

by Sloan Brewster

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 5, and there are several candidates running for the Board of Selectmen. Four candidates are running and people can vote for any three. The *Rivereast* recently asked each of the candidates a series of questions. Here are their responses. (*Note: Responses have been edited for length and clarity*)

Democrats

Marc Rubera

Age and Occupation: 65, Hebron Police Sergeant assigned to RHAM High School as the School Resource Officer, teacher, two-time National Championship Coach [NCAA], founder and executive director of a nationally recognized community based non-profit corporation, retired Lieutenant/Commander Hartford Police.

What is Your Previous Experience, if any, on Town Boards and Commissions? I have prepared budgets and have been an administrator in both the public sector and in the non-profit community. I'm a trained and experienced critical incident manager. I've been involved in developing and working in a variety of substance abuse programs, crime prevention programs and educational programs. My work in Hartford was featured in a 60 Minutes documentary called "In the Killing Fields of America." I've been honored in a Presidential ceremony at the White House. I'm the recipient of the Whitney Young Award, the Salvation Army's "Gift to Others" award and was selected to carry an Olympic torch in the 1996 Atlanta games.

Why Are You Running? I have spent my entire adult life in Public Service. It is my desire to bring all my experience, training and education to benefit my home town of Hebron. While campaigning I've learned people don't feel like they have a voice, that decisions are made by the most vocal, the self-interested and those without any experience in public affairs

and that politicians don't make enough of an effort to seek out what is of value to the people. They feel decisions are made by a small group of people without transparency.

What Are the Key Issues Facing Hebron That You Hope to Address if Elected? The issue of most concern in Hebron is in how we spend our tax dollars. It must be in a fair and balanced way, taking into account the interest of all members of our community. I pledge to be the voice of those who haven't been heard. To listen and learn. To put the process of government in the hands of the people. I promise to be a public servant not a politician.

Tiffany V. Thiele

Age and Occupation: 38, National Media Relations Manager, Connecticut College

What is Your Previous Experience, if any, on Town Boards and Commissions? Citizen at-large, Capital Improvement Plan Committee (2 years), Chair, Hebron Democratic Town Committee (March 2019-Present)

Why Are You Running? I'm running for two reasons: first and foremost, as a proud resident, I love my community and I want to give back to the town I call home. Secondly, as a taxpayer and citizen, I see firsthand the challenges towns like ours face given our state's ongoing budget crisis and balancing the needs for town services and great schools with fair budgets for taxpayers. I believe the answer to this lies in smart economic development. Specifically, I want to work with local colleges and universities to encourage young entrepreneurs to start their companies in Hebron. This benefits our tax base and as an added bonus, offers real-life internship and job experiences for RHAM students.

What Are the Key Issues Facing Hebron That You Hope to Address if Elected? We must continue to invest wisely in our great schools – they are one of our most valuable assets and help bring young families to Hebron.

We must pass budgets that are fair to all taxpayers and that reflect town values. And as mentioned above, smart economic development that maintains our rural character is essential to ward off the financial challenges many Connecticut towns like ours face and will continue to face.

Republicans

Gail B. Richmond

Age and Occupation: 79, former school principal and served in a variety of educational leadership positions.

What is Your Previous Experience, if any, on Town Boards and Commissions? I am currently vice-chair of the Board of Selectmen and Liaison to the Hebron Board of Education, Liaison to Commission on Aging and serve as a trustee on Douglas Library Board. In addition, I serve as President of the Association of Connecticut Library Boards. My past offices/community involvement include being president of the Douglas Library of Hebron Association and chairman of the Library Board of Trustees, Charter Revision Commission, Pre-school Study Committee and Library Strategic Planning Committee.

What Are the Key Issues Facing Hebron That You Hope to Address if Elected? Hebron, a small town with limited business development, is facing many of the same challenges as our surrounding communities. There is a growing demand for services with limited and diminishing state revenue. We strive to contain the mill rate while prioritizing services, it is a challenge that I embrace. Over the years, Hebron's population is aging and requires more services. Our schools, both local and RHAM are exceptional. We must continue to provide a quality education to all. In addition, our natural resources must be preserved for our enjoyment, for future generations and for our health

and safety. I want to see us move into the future while maintaining those qualities that make Hebron exceptional.

Peter Kasper

Age and Occupation: 55, Senior Vice President, Sales and Marketing, MiddleOak

What is Your Previous Experience, if any, on Town Boards and Commissions? I am a current member with four years of service on Hebron's Board of Finance and a past member of Hebron's Zoning Board of Appeals

Why Are You Running? I believe I can make a difference. I enjoy volunteering in the community that my family has called home for more than 20 years. When our five children were young, much of my volunteer time was spent coaching their Hebron youth sports teams. The last several years I have been fortunate enough to be able to volunteer in town government by serving on the Hebron Zoning Board of Appeals and currently on the Hebron Board of Finance. The Board of Selectmen offers a new challenge to serve, which will allow me to draw upon my town service, education and business background to provide thoughtful and knowledge-based decisions that are in the best interest of our community.

What Are the Key Issues Facing Hebron That You Hope to Address if Elected? The most important issue facing Hebron today is the impact of state cuts in municipal funding. The state's fiscal burden is continuing to shift to local tax payers. The reason this is so important is that a reduction in town revenue directly impacts all areas of our community; money we use for our schools, roads, town facilities and a variety of services. With the lower source of state revenue, it will be important that we have strong, experienced leadership to properly incorporate long-term planning into our budgeting process without sacrificing what is most important to our community.

Meet the RHAM Board of Education Candidates

by Sloan Brewster

Election Day is Tuesday Nov. 5 and there are several candidates running for the RHAM Board of Education. In Hebron, three candidates are running and people can vote for any two; the same applies in Marlborough. The Riverast recently asked each of the candidates a series of questions. Here are their responses. (*Note: Responses have been edited for length and clarity*)

Hebron Republican

Vin Colonna

Age and Occupation: 49, Sales/Operations manager

What is Your Previous Experience, if any, on Town Boards and Commissions? I am currently president of RHAM Sports Boosters and had been on the executive board for RHAM youth baseball for eight years.

Why Are You Running? I am running because RHAM has made great improvements in recent years in academics, administration, and facilities. Just this last year, I was able to be a part of the committee to hire a new fulltime athletic director, another key improvement. In my profession, for the past twenty years, I have had extensive dealings with more than 50 school districts in the state. I hope to continue move RHAM forward to be one of the top ranked high schools in the state. RHAM is a tremendous asset to our communities and is key to attracting young families.

What Are the Key Issues Facing RHAM That You Hope to Address if Elected? One of the key issues facing the town each year is the budget. We need to be creative in finding ways to cut spending while also continuing to fight that our state funding does not get cut. We also need to be sure we are applying for state grants whenever they are available.

Hebron Democrats

Jessica Dapsis

Age and Occupation: 48, business owner.

What is Your Previous Experience, if any, on Town Boards and Commissions? It is not only my personal experience with the town and our school that drives my desire to run for the RHAM Board of Education but my belief that the foundation our children develop in middle and high school plays such an integral part of who they become as adults.

Why Are You Running? I have spent the majority of my work career focusing on making education equitable for all students. I have more than 15 years of experience working with students in high school as a vocational rehabilitation counselor and as a school counselor, a Master's Degree in education from Springfield College and am a certified K-12 school

counselor. The first part of my career was working with students with disabilities as they transitioned to work, college and vocational training. The second half has been working with students that withdrew from high school and are looking at an alternative method of obtaining their high school diploma.

What Are the Key Issues Facing RHAM That You Hope to Address if Elected? The key issues in our educational system are those that all middle and high school students face. Creating an environment where our children can feel safe, challenged, supported, and a part of a bigger community. Specific to Hebron and my beliefs is that there should be an equitable distribution of resources to all students – whether college bound, pursuing employment or training in a trade. I am hoping to bring some of my passion for the power of education, my understanding that the educational experience is so individual to each student, and the desire to continue to learn from residents of the town and the staff at RHAM High School and Middle School what they believe is important to best support all of the students of our towns.

Amy D'Amaddio

Age and Occupation: 49, Connecticut Judicial Branch, 21 years and retired as a juvenile probation officer in 2016.

What is Your Previous Experience, if any, on Town Boards and Commissions? I have been serving on the RHAM BOE for almost eight years. I sit on the program, negotiations and field improvement subcommittees.

Why Are You Running? I am seeking reelection to the RHAM Board of Education because there are so many initiatives and outstanding projects that I would like to continue to support. The Social Emotional Learning is one such initiative. The focus on the emotional health and well-being of both students and educators is of utmost importance and it's something that I strongly support. I am also committed to strengthening the partnership between RHAM and AHM to provide a continuum of support and services that will meet the complex needs of both the students and their families.

What Are the Key Issues Facing RHAM That You Hope to Address if Elected? Key issues facing RHAM include declining enrollment, increasing facility needs as the building and grounds age, addressing the ongoing drainage problems with the competition field, to name a few.

Marlborough Republicans

Sue Rapelye

Age and Occupation: 45, Director, Program Management

What is Your Previous Experience, if any, on Town Boards and Commissions? I hold a seat on the Marlborough Board of Education and the RHAM Board of Education. I also Chair the AHM Coalition for a Healthy Empowered Community.

Why Are You Running? To give back to the community and personally I really enjoy volunteering, it brings me great satisfaction.

What Are the Key Issues Facing RHAM That You Hope to Address if Elected? These past couple of years, declining enrollment is a hot topic and will continue to challenge us in the coming years. Also, we cannot lose track of our capital investment in our facilities. We must continue to maintain our investment or it will cost the taxpayers more in the future. The past couple of years have been extremely challenging and I'm a firm believer that working together in the years to come will limit the impact to our children's future while remaining fiscally responsible. The education of our children should not only consist of the core subjects but programs and subjects that create diversity in thought so that our children become well rounded and prepared for life.

Scott Fleeher

Age and Occupation: 48, Director of Customer Experience for Comcast.

What is Your Previous Experience, if any, on Town Boards and Commissions? My experience spans more than 27 years of corporate and public service, including 25 years as a United States Army Officer. I previously served as a Board of Finance alternate for Marlborough and have served for a year on the RHAM Board of Education. With so many moves over the years, my daughters attended schools in at least seven different districts, including overseas and international schools. This exposure provides me a unique perspective of what "right" looks like. My wife has been an educator for more than two decades and currently teaches in East Hampton. Since my appointment to the Board of Education in 2018, I've played an active role and served as a positive change agent for key initiatives including renovation of the media center and athletic facilities improvement special sub-committee.

Why Are You Running? I seek to continue my service with the Board of Education for a few simple reasons. First, I feel that I owe a debt of gratitude to the citizens of Marlborough, faculty and staff of RHAM for the world class education they provided to my two daughters. This is my way to give back. Second, the board needs the kind of experience, focus on accountability and structure that my military and corporate experience allows me to bring to the

team. The board of education is responsible for a huge budget that impacts the citizens of all three towns in many ways. I take the position seriously, and do the homework required to make informed decisions that focus on the needs of students, while respecting the resources entrusted to us by the taxpayers of Marlborough.

What Are the Key Issues Facing RHAM That You Hope to Address if Elected? The education, safety and development of all RHAM students is the foundation of why I dedicate my time to serve. To best serve RHAM and our residents, I will continue to focus on transparency and accountability of the administration. I also believe that we must maintain and improve our facilities in order to attract families and students while avoiding unnecessary costs. During my first year with the board I helped invigorate the facilities subcommittee, drove changes to the budget development process, and developed a facilities maintenance reporting system in collaboration with the board and administration.

Marlborough Democrat

Nancy Visco

Age and Occupation: Declined to provide her age for this story. High school athletic trainer for more than 20 years, and has recently moved into an industrial setting.

What is Your Previous Experience, if any, on Town Boards and Commissions? I have not served on any town boards or commissions, but I have been involved in the community and school system in other ways. I was the treasurer of the MOMS Club of Marlborough for three years, and I was the Co-Vice President of the Marlborough Elementary School PTO for three years. I ran the Scholastic Book Fair in the fall for two years at Marlborough Elementary School, and helped out in various ways while my children were at MES.

Why Are You Running? I was asked to run for RHAM Board of Education. I decided to run as I have two children in the RHAM school system. I thought this would be a great opportunity to get more involved with RHAM, and learn more about what goes on behind the scenes. I care about our kids' education, and want to make sure they have the best education possible, while also being mindful of our responsibility to the towns we serve and represent.

What Are the Key Issues Facing RHAM That You Hope to Address if Elected? I think the issue that always concerns people is the RHAM budget. I just want to be part of the conversation and help come up with a budget that supports our students and faculty at RHAM, but is also taking into consideration the community we represent.

Sewer Vote Is Next Week in Hebron

by Sloan Brewster

A \$7.6 million sewer upgrade project proposed for the town will be on the ballot next week.

Last Thursday at a special town meeting, voters approved a motion to bring the question to referendum.

One resident, Lenny Babin, who was the only no vote on the motion, asked a couple questions about how the town would pay for the upgrades, Town Manager Andrew Tierney said Monday.

"It's going to be paid for by all the taxpayers in Hebron," Tierney said. "It's a town asset; it's a protection of the town's asset. We own it. It services a lot of town buildings – schools, Town Hall, the library."

Businesses in the town center are also serviced by the sewer system as are Colebrook Village, an assisted living facility on John E. Horton Boulevard, Kevin Kelly, director of public works, said.

According to the town's website, the system consists of 17 miles of sewer supported by the nine pump stations and was completed in the early 1990's. It also serves the Amston Lake District and the area along Church Street.

Elaine Griffin, finance director, said the project would be bonded and that the referendum question will include authorizing the issuance of bonds, notes and obligations for the \$7.6 million.

Tierney said while not all residents in town are hooked up to the sewer system, it benefits the town as a whole.

"It's part of the town's \$55 million infrastructure and is listed in the town's audit every year," he said.

If approved, the sewer upgrades will be achieved in two phases, Kelly said.

The proposal dates back to 2015, when the town applied for a planning grant from the Clean Water Fund through the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to assess the condition of the pump station and system. The system, which was built beginning in 1989, has a 40-year lifespan and was already showing the signs of age, Kelly said.

The Clean Water Fund grant was ultimately approved and the town, after sending out a Request for Quotations, selected Wright-Pierce Engineering, of Middletown, to complete the four-year study, Kelly said. The study of the nine pump stations included an estimate of the cost for upgrades.

Phase 1 would cost consist of repairing four of the stations and would cost \$3.3 million, Kelly said. Phase 2 would be fixing the remainder of the stations and would also cost \$3.3 million.

The additional amount in the funding would cover the cost for designing the project, the replacement of grinder pumps as well as sewer evaluation surveys and force main – a sewer operated by pressure rather than gravity – inspections, Kelly said.

Some large repairs have already been completed on the sewers and the problem will not go away if voters nix the proposal, Tierney said.

Kelly concurred, saying repairs to the system are pricy. One example he gave was a \$25,000 price tag to replace a damaged pipe. Maintenance costs will go up if the upgrades are not done and the town risks "sudden failure" of the system, he said.

Five Questions on Next Week's Ballot in Hebron

by Sloan Brewster

Hebron's ballot on Election Day next week will include the following five referendum questions:

"Shall the Town of Hebron adopt amendments to the Hebron town charter as approved by the board of selectmen on July 11, 2019, except for the specific amendments that are being voted on separately in question #2 and question #3?"

The result of nine months of review and revision of the charter, this is a process the town completes every five years, said Scot Kauffman, chairman of the nine-member Charter Revision Commission appointed by the Board of Selectmen in August 2018. The revisions include the elimination of advisory questions included with budget referendums.

"Shall the Town of Hebron adopt the amendment to the Hebron Town Charter to Transition from an elected to an appointed town clerk, as approved by the Board of Selectmen on July 11, 2019?"

The change, which the Board of Selectmen has said would assure the town always gets a qualified candidate for the job would have no effect on current Town Clerk Carla Pomprowicz, whose position would be grandfathered, Town Manager Andrew Tierney said.

Pomprowicz, however, has voiced opposition as it would take power from the electorate of the town.

"Shall the Town of Hebron adopt the amendment to the Hebron Town Charter, to reduce the number of Planning and Zoning Commission alternate members from three (3) to two (2), as approved by the Board of Selectmen on July 11, 2019?"

This change was referred by the Charter Revision Commission after its review of the charter.

"Shall the Town of Hebron appropriate \$7,600,000 for upgrades and improvements to the sanitary sewer collection system, and authorize the issue of bonds, notes and obligations in the same amount to finance the portion of said appropriation not defrayed from grants?"

The sewer system, which was completed in the 1990s, has a 40-year lifespan and is showing signs of age, said Town Manager Andrew Tierney and Director of Public Works Kevin Kelly. Some large repairs have already been completed on the sewers and the problem will not go away if voters nix the proposal.

"Shall the Town of Hebron appropriate \$2,400,000 for paving and improvements of town roads and parking, and authorize the issue of bonds and notes in the same amount to finance the portion of said appropriation not defrayed from grants?"

In addition to a list of seven roads slated for repairs, town parking lots, including the one at the Russell Mercier Senior Center will get some fixes, Finance Director Diane Griffin said.

Obituaries

Marlborough

Marcy L. Vogel

Marcy (Lauro) Vogel, 59, of Marlborough was called home to heaven on Thursday, Oct. 24, ending a courageous battle with scleroderma. She was the beloved wife of 36 years of James Vogel. Marcy was born in New Haven July 10, 1960, to Anthony Lauro and the late Anne Marie (Giammattei) Lauro.



She grew up in Northford and was a 1978 graduate of North Branford High School. She went on to attend Fairfield University where she earned a bachelor's degree magna cum laude in political science. It was during a summer job at the Farm Shop restaurant in North Haven that she met a young man, Jim, who would become her best friend and the love of her life. The couple wed in 1983 and moved to Michigan where Marcy began her career as a purchasing agent for General Motors. They returned to Connecticut in 1988 where Marcy worked as a salesperson in the corrugated packaging industry for over 25 years, first for the Jackson Corrugated Company of Middletown and then for Rand-Whitney Corrugated Container Corporation of Worcester, Mass., and was consistently recognized as a top performer.

Marcy was a deeply devoted daughter, sister, wife and mother who put her heart and soul into everything she did. She was always there to lend a helping hand and a compassionate ear to anyone who needed it, making many friends over the years. She loved being a mother and selflessly volunteered to be homeroom mom and chaperone on many of her son's school field trips. Marcy also loved playing tennis and cooking delicious meals for her family. She always looked for the good in people and was a ray of sunshine who could put a smile on anyone's face. Despite the pain and debilitating nature of the scleroderma, Marcy remained a strong, loving, gracious, kind and warm person who always put others first. All who knew her are better for it. A beautiful light has gone out and will be sadly missed.

Marcy will be forever loved and missed by her husband Jim, her son Josh Vogel of Marlborough, her father Tony Lauro, her brother Tony Lauro, mother-in-law Edna Vogel, and brother-in-law and sister-in-law Gary and Christy Vogel. She also leaves behind nephews Sean and Patrick Vogel, nieces Katie and Emily Lauro, and Karlee Vogel, and aunt Jo-Anne Keane.

Calling hours will be tonight, Nov. 1, from 5-8 p.m., at the Iovanne Funeral Home, 11 Wooster Place in New Haven. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Saturday morning, Nov. 2, at 10:30 a.m., in St. Michael Catholic Church, 29 Wooster Place, New Haven, followed by burial at St. Lawrence Cemetery in West Haven.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Scleroderma Foundation, 300 Rosewood Drive, Suite 105, Danvers, MA 01923 or by visiting their website scleroderma.org.

Share a memory and sign Marcy's guest book online at iovanne.com.

Colchester

Joan Soboleski

Joan Soboleski, 77, of East Haddam and Colchester, passed away Thursday, Oct. 27, peacefully at home, after a long and arduous battle with cancer. She was surrounded by her loving family. Born in Manchester Aug. 8, 1942, she was the daughter of the late George and Catherine Starkweather.



She married her beloved husband, Jerry, in the spring of 1961 and the couple made their home and raised their family in East Haddam. Joan devoted her entire life to her family even while courageously battling cancer for over 40 years. She was a dedicated wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Joan was very proud of her Scottish heritage and she loved her home at Lake Hayward.

Joan will be forever missed and remembered with love by her husband of over 58 years; her children, Patricia McKelvey of East Haddam, Kevin (Janet) Soboleski of East Haddam, Mary (James) Stockwell of Colchester, James (Bridget) Soboleski of Marlborough; brother, George Starkweather of Florida; grandchildren, Kristen, Michael, Shelby, Kate, Jeff, Caroline, Adam, Jake; great-grandchildren, Hannah, Owen, Ben, Emily, Madison; and numerous extended family and friends.

Visitation will be held Saturday, Nov. 2, from 1-3 p.m., at the Aurora McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Burial will be private.

Memorial donations in Joan's name can be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (stjude.org) or East Haddam Volunteer Ambulance Association, P.O. Box 17, Moodus, CT 06469.

Joan's family would like to express their heart felt gratitude to Dr. Stacy Nerenstone for her loving care and friendship.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Carol D. Mandigo

Carol D. Mandigo, 69, of East Hampton, formerly of Cromwell, beloved wife of David D. Mandigo, passed away Sunday, Oct. 27.

Carol was known for her unconditional love for her family and friends and was always there to help care for them. Her love and care for others did not stop with family, Carol was an active member of 4-H and Troop 57 Boy Scouts, donating her time to children and helping them grow and reach their fullest potential. When Carol was not helping others, she loved to spend her time baking cookies and cakes, she was not your typical baker, she would make hundreds of cookies at a time and make the most beautiful and extravagant wedding cakes.

Other than her husband, Carol is survived by her son, Andrew R. Mandigo and his wife Mary of Pocomoke City, Md.; her sister, Nancy Deming Squier and her husband Walter of East Hampton and her aunt Winnie Knapp of Middletown.

Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, tonight, Nov. 1, from 6-8 p.m. There will be a funeral service at 7:30 p.m. Burial will be private at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to The Ronald McDonald House of Connecticut, 860 Howard Ave., New Haven, CT 06519.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Portland

Michael W. Sullivan

Michael W. Sullivan of Glastonbury, formerly of Portland, passed away Friday evening, Oct. 18, at the Marlborough Health and Rehabilitation Center. He was born in Middletown July 28, 1941, to the late William and Anne (Fitzgibbons) Sullivan of Portland.



He married his beloved wife Shirley Peterson Malcarne in 1973. They resided in East Hampton, then in Glastonbury for the last 36 years. He graduated from Portland High School and went to the Porter and Chester Institute. He worked for Combustion Engineering of Windsor Locks before his retirement. He loved to play golf with his friends. He was a New York Giants and New York Yankees fan.

Besides his wife he leaves behind two daughters, Kelly Sullivan (Matt) of Glasgow, Virginia and Kim Sullivan-Clark (John) of East Hampton; his wife's three children, Tricia Gunning of East Hampton, Tom Malcarne of East Hartford and Barbara Baclini of Glastonbury; his siblings, Betty Martyszczuk and John Sullivan of Portland. He is also survived by his grandchildren, John, Daniel, Julia, Olivia, Jordan and Amanda, and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his brother William Sullivan of South Carolina, and sister, Patricia Sienkiewicz of Portland.

A graveside service was held at the Swedish Cemetery of Portland at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 29, with a Celebration Life after the service.

Donations can be made under Michael's memory to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 188, North Haven, CT 06473 or a charity of your choice.

The family of Michael would like to thank their friends and family for the outpouring support and prayers during this difficult time. He will be truly missed.

The Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, was in charge of arrangements.

Portland

Josie Binder

Josie Binder, 101, wife of the late Alfred Binder passed away Monday, Oct. 28, at Portland Care and Rehabilitation Centre. She was born May 22, 1918, in Hammonton, N.J., to the late Frank and Catherine Varalli.

Josie is survived by her daughter, Catherine Beyer and her husband Charles of East Hampton; grandson, Tommy Grote and his wife Carrie; grandson, Jason Beyer and his wife Michelle; granddaughter, Debbie Matchett and her husband Scott; and her beloved great-grandchildren, Cody, Max, Maya, Cole and Finley.

Josie centered her life around her family, whether helping to raise her sibling's kids or teaching her grandkids how to cook and bake, Josie always had her family in mind. She grew up farming, which led to her passion for gardening. She was known for her homemade Sicilian tomato sauce which was often times canned for fresh sauce over the winter months. When she was not making tomato sauce, she could be found canning other vegetables or making jams and jellies all from her own garden.

Josie spent many years working as a seamstress on 7th Avenue in Manhattan, where she learned many more skills that she was able to pass down to her family, along with a profound love for the New York Yankees. She was not only a skilled seamstress but also could crochet quite well.

Besides her husband, she was predeceased by her brothers, John and Frank Varalli and her five sisters, Elizabeth, Annie, Rosie, Mary and Antoniette.

Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Saturday, Nov. 2, from 10 a.m.-noon. There will be a funeral service at noon, with burial to follow at St. Andrew's Cemetery in Colchester.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Marlborough

Bruce Y. Turgeon

Bruce Y. Turgeon, 42, of Marlborough, beloved husband of Kerry (Kowalsky) Turgeon and father of Mackenzie Adrien Turgeon, passed away unexpectedly Thursday, Oct. 24. Born in Hartford to Bernard Turgeon and Francine Bellefleur, he was raised in Hebron and has been a resident of Marlborough for the past 11 years.



Bruce was a drywall tapper his entire life. His work was amazing. Bruce loved the New York Giants and Montreal Canadiens; GO HABS!! He loved four-wheeling, snowmobiling, and spending time with his precious daughter Mackenzie, whom he loved more than anything. He taught Mackenzie to ice skate and play hockey. Bruce loved playing hockey, and played for many years.

Besides his wife Kerry and daughter Mackenzie, Bruce is survived by his father Benard Turgeon and his wife Cathy; his mother, Francine Bellefleur and her husband Henry; his sister, Melanie Turgeon; his wife's parents, James and Sandra Kowalsky; his nieces, Kristiana Cloutier and Aryanna Turgeon-Medlin; and nephew Evan James Cloutier.

Bruce was predeceased by his grandparents, Adrien and Aline (Blais) Turgeon and Alfred and Germaine (Langlois) Cloutier.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 2, at Samsel & Carmon Funeral Home, 419 Buckland Rd., South Windsor. A celebration of life will be held by the family at 5:30 p.m. at the American Legion Post 102, 20 American Legion Dr., Manchester.

In lieu of flowers, please make a memorial donation to the Mackenzie Turgeon Education Fund C/O Liberty Bank, 26 E Hampton Rd., Marlborough, CT 06447.

For online condolences, visit carmonfuneralhome.com.

Marlborough

Winona Cavanaugh

Winona (St. Jean) Cavanaugh, 79, of Marlborough, beloved wife to the late Raymond J. Cavanaugh, peacefully passed away Monday, Oct. 28. She was born Dec. 26, 1939, and raised in Van Buren, Maine, daughter to the late Raol and Rachel (Desjardins) St. Jean.



Winona is survived by two brothers with their spouses, Roger and Mary St. Jean of East Hartford, Clayton and Kelly St. Jean of Manchester; two stepchildren with their spouses, Raymond J., Jr. and Virginia Cavanaugh of Simsbury, Marlene and James Hayes of Tolland; as well as several cousins.

Friends and relatives may pay their respects to the family today, Nov. 1, at the Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home, 50 Naubuc Ave., Glastonbury, from 10-11 a.m., at which time a remembrance service will be celebrated at 11 a.m. in the funeral home. Interment will follow the service in Marlboro Cemetery, Route 66, Marlborough.

To extend online condolences and/or share a memory, visit farleysullivan.com.