

★ ★ ELECTION 2013 ★ ★



JOHN MCKENNA REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

Morris Republican Registrar of Voters Denise Weik, right, and Democratic Registrar of Voters Carrie Keppler discuss the voting process at the polling place at Town Hall on Tuesday.

BONGIOLATTI: Aiello also wins

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Burch failed to gain a seat on the board.

"I'm thrilled to have Vinnie join me on the board," Bongiolatti said of Aiello. "We are going to make a great team."

Bongiolatti credited her record of the past two years and her many years of public service in town for propelling her to victory.

"I'm very much looking forward to a new term and moving forward with the projects we've started, including the Smokey Hollow Road bridge project and some more improvements at the recycling center," Bongiolatti said. "We will, of course, be fiscally responsi-

ble, just as we have been the last two years."

Aiello has served on the Board of Finance for 10 years and is a longtime member of the town's volunteer fire company. As the election approached, Aiello could be spotted around town knocking on doors and introducing himself to voters.

"Vinnie has a great record of public service and I believe that made a difference with the voters," Bongiolatti said.

Aiello, who confessed to being surprised by his vote total, said voters sent a clear message.

"They showed who they want leading their town," Aiello said. "Barbara has

served the town for years and the voters saw that. I'm really looking forward to working with her." Democratic Town Committee Chairman Larry Sweeney said Bongiolatti and Aiello were candidates whose campaign message resonated with voters.

"Barbara serves the town out of the goodness of her heart, and Vinnie's the same way," Sweeney said. "The voters realized that."

Burch was a virtual unknown in town until emerging last year to help lead a group of residents opposed to a proposed cell tower at the recycling center.

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CRISS: Republicans win 2 seats

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After his loss of the first selectman's seat in 2011, Chiaramonte declared that he would not sit on the board with the two Republicans, but did so anyway. The votes this year were clear: He won't have a seat on the board.

Schnyer said she had hoped to serve under Chiaramonte, but still is looking forward to taking her seat.

Schnyer received the third-highest number of votes. According to unofficial results, Criss came in at 1,420. Truskauskas at 1,287 and Schnyer, 760. Chiaramonte

received 645 votes.

After the results were announced, the four candidates smiled and shook hands. Truskauskas said he looks forward to working with Schnyer. Both Republicans thanked Chiaramonte for his time and dedication to the town.

Criss and Chiaramonte ran a lower key campaign this year than in 2011. The two also seemed to agree on the major issues.

Criss, 38, and Chiaramonte, 77, both said they want to preserve the town's rural character, to continue to preserve the town's open

space and to stabilize the tax base. Both candidates also said they were running on their records.

Criss has said he wants to continue to work to bring small businesses into existing buildings on routes 118 and 4 and continue to promote community activities at no cost to taxpayers.

"It is such an honor to serve the community I love so much," Criss said Tuesday night. "I can't wait to get back to work."

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COLLEY: Three ran for top spot

Continued from 1B

running again, Colley agreed to petition to run for the position on that party's line. Jones was endorsed at the caucus for selectman.

Since the town passed an ordinance that allows for three candidates to run for selectman, Mathews, who had served in that office for 17 years before being rejected by his party two years ago, threw his hat into the ring as an unaffiliated petitioning candidate. The town also passed an ordinance several years ago that prohibits a losing first selectman from being seated on the board.

According to unofficial totals, Colley received a total of 535 votes to Randall's 438. Jones captured 466 votes, Fowler, 631 and Mathews 439.

Republican Selectman



RUTH EPSTEIN REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

Howard Fuhr, Democratic candidate for Board of Finance in Sharon, checks in at the polls Tuesday afternoon. He is running with fellow Democrat Harding Bancroft, who is currently an alternate on the board, and Republican Mary Robertson, an incumbent. Two of the three will be seated.

John Perotti and Democratic Selectman Meg Szalewicz chose not to run for re-election.

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JERRAM: Wins a third term

Continued from 1B

er for the Torrington Public Works Department, could not be reached for comment after the results were tallied but Minor said his campaign allowed many people to get involved in the political process who otherwise would not have.

But Minor, who has served as the town's recreation director for 11 years, also said that taxpayers must continue to scrutinize the local government and hold the administration's "feet to the fire" when necessary.

Besides keeping taxes low, Jerram said his administration will also continue working on trying to find a way to lower costs for the users of the wastewater treatment plant. Users pay on average \$1,364 per year, which is the second highest in the state.

The town recently formed a committee to assess whether it can provide users some relief. The current arrangement has existing users paying 61 percent of the \$3.6 million loan for the plant and taxpayers 39 percent.

The plant, which opened

in 2010, has the capacity to treat up to 400,000 gallons of sewage per day but only receives roughly 80,000 gallons daily.

Jerram has also noted road maintenance, a new town website, the conversion of pensions to 401(k)s, newly negotiated contracts and a septic hauler contract to help the financially struggling Water Pollution Control Authority.

The town may also soon decide to spend about \$1 million combined on a school security project and the replacement of the Carpenter Road bridge.

Assard reclaims his old job in Bethlehem

BY RICK HARRISON
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

BETHLEHEM — Democratic Board of Finance Chairman Lenny Assard defeated Republican Selectman Edward A. Roden in the race for first selectman Tuesday, reclaiming the job he last held in 1987.

After a campaign noted for its niceness, Assard accepted his 809-408 vote vic-

tory with generosity. Results were unofficial Tuesday night.

"It is gratifying," Assard said. "I sent out a message that the voters agreed with."

As he has since accepting the nomination, Assard vowed to bring back a sense of community he feels the town has lost.

"A lot of people and a lot of community groups in town do a lot of things be-

hind the scenes," Assard said. "I want to get them all together so we all understand each other's mission."

Assard will serve on the Board of Selectmen with Democrat Dave Deakin, an incumbent who won another two-year term with 735 votes.

Republican David Butkus Jr. earned the board's minority seat with 481 votes.

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