

Sound News



SOUND NEWS FROM THE OLD SAYBROOK DEMOCRATS

Special Election Edition October 2019

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Special Municipal Election Campaign

Welcome to the latest edition of the Sound News, from the Old Saybrook Democratic Town Committee. This issue of Sound News is focused on the municipal elections. We have asked our local Democratic Candidates to submit their ideas on issues facing Old Saybrook or their views on the Boards and Commissions they wish to serve on. We hope you will find this issue interesting and informative.

We would like to invite you, the voting public, to a reception on Sunday, October 27th from 3 to 4:30 pm, to meet our Democratic Candidates. Location is the Colin Heffernan Law Office at 48 Main Street (next to the post office). There will be free cider and donuts, and everyone who visits will be entered into a drawing for a free Walt's Market Turkey.

Cleanup the Causeway Day, September 21, 2019

The Democratic Town Committee supported this year's International Coastal Cleanup and World Cleanup Day by joining Old Saybrook's Causeway Pickup. DTC members Barry and Dottie O'Neil, John and Pat O'Brien, Dennis Tulimiere, Chub Wilcox, Steve Pernal and Janis Esty spent Saturday picking up trash along the causeway.



Dennis Tulimiere



Chub Wilcox

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN - MATTHEW PUGLIESE

I am honored to be asked by the Old Saybrook Democratic Town Committee to run for Selectman. I have nearly 15 years of executive experience in non-profit theatre and public organizations in the areas of arts, culture, tourism and higher education as a leader and decision maker. I have served on the Old Saybrook Economic Development Commission since 2015,



and as the chairperson since 2018. Last year I had the honor of running for State Representative for our 23rd District. This was an incredible experience and opportunity for me as a leader and member of our community. I was both humbled and inspired by the conversations and exchanges I had with my neighbors along the way.

Over the last 18 months, I have been working on a task force consisting of members of the Old Saybrook's Planning and Economic Development Commission to up-

date the Economic Development Section of the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development. During the course of this strategic planning process, I have come more aware of the variety of challenges and opportunities that face our community and our citizens. Some of the pressing issues that stand out for me are:

- The ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed) population in Old Saybrook has grown to 30% of our residents. Strong job opportunities for our residents are always needed, and I will bring innovative ideas to the table for our community as global economy continues to change, impacting us here in Old Saybrook.
- As a coastal community, sea-level rise and storms put our community at risk. We need strategies that are both long-term and short-term that can help protect our residents, economy and environment from the impact of dangerous coastal storms.
- Transit oriented development-building our infrastructure that helps commuters and makes our community an attractive location to live or to locate your business, will be important to

strengthening our economy. Bike lanes that allow commuters to easily and safely access Saybrook Junction can simultaneously create a sense of community and place that increases our attractiveness as a community for full-time residents, businesses and tourists.

I will be one of three members of the Board of Selectmen, and will work with them to serve you and Old Saybrook. My experience as an executive leader has always been collaborative—reporting to a Board of Directors in the non-profit sector, and as a co-executive in the theatre. I listen before responding. I encourage creative risk taking to pursue new ventures or strategies to solve problems in a fiscally responsible manner. I'm open to change and new ideas, but balance that with common sense, pragmatic decision making. I am a strategic thinker, balancing short and long-term outcomes. I will utilize this skill set as a member of your Board of Selectman. I ask for your vote on Tuesday, November 5 and for the honor of serving our community.

BOARD OF FINANCE - C. MARSTON LADD

Born in Rocky Hill, Connecticut, I moved to West Hartford, Connecticut in 1949.

Graduated from Kingswood-Oxford Academy and attended Ithaca College having studied International Relations as my major.

Married my wife, Suzanne in May of 1973 and was blessed with two sons, Adam and Trevor, both of who live and own their homes in Old Saybrook with their families. The family moved to Old Saybrook in 1981, renting for two years at Cornfield Point before buying on

Cricket Court in August of 1983.



I worked in banking for many years, moving to The Department of

Mental Health and Addiction Services in 1983, retiring from that agency in 2003.

I believe that the responsibilities of the Board of Finance are to oversee the budget of the town, always keeping in mind the amount of diversity of residents in their financial ability to remain in the community we all love. The town has employed highly skilled managers for the town departments, and it is their responsibility to run their departments within the budget the residents grant to them.

PLANNING COMMISSION - DENNIS TULIMIERI JR.

Hello, please allow me to introduce myself, I am Dennis M. Tulimieri, Jr. I was raised in Glastonbury and graduated from Merrimack College. Kim & I married in 1989 and lived in Portland for over 20 years, raising 3 children, who are now independent young adults of whom we are very proud. We moved to Old Saybrook in early 2017. I have worked traveling the greater northeast for over 30 years providing industrial electrical products and services to industrial plants, hospitals, and a variety of municipalities and institutions. I have witnessed firsthand the changes in our region and the ingenious capabilities of

our communities to thrive when given the opportunity.



I believe an imploding economy has produced an imploding middle class leading to many of the challenges we see in our community. All this

was produced by a kind of massive, chronic underinvestment in public goods. It does not have to be this way.

I believe the civil liberties of all citizens must be protected. I believe healthcare is a human right as is a secure retirement. I believe climate change is an existential threat and I believe public education is part of a solution. I believe we need to make changes to eliminate racism and gun violence in our country. I can offer constituents my honest and sincere commitment to work to better our community. It will be an honor to serve the citizens of Old Saybrook.

PLANNING COMMISSION - KENNETH SOUDAN

My name is Ken Soudan and I am married to Debbie Soudan. We have been residents of this wonderful town of Old Saybrook since 1996. Three of our six children went through the Old Saybrook school system from kindergarten through high school graduation. Several have moved back to Old Saybrook with their families so they can enjoy the excellent school system, and all the qualities Old Saybrook has to offer. I have always worked independently, and own a business nearby. I was formerly a first responder and assis-

tant chief for the ambulance before we moved to Old Saybrook.



My wife and I are members of

Grace Episcopal Church and I am also a member, and former officer of the Elks Lodge, where voluntarism is priority number one! I have been on Old Saybrook's Planning Commission for a number of years, and became its chairperson in 2017. I am also currently Old Saybrook's representative on the Regional Planning Commission. My wish for our town is to be able to keep our small New England quality while maintaining a responsible level of growth.

POLICE COMMISSION - STATEMENT OF CANDIDATES

The General Statutes of Connecticut provide that municipal police commissions "shall have general management and supervision of the police department of such town" and "shall have the sole power of appointment, promotion and removal of the officers and members of such police department...." The employment contract between the Police Commission of Old Saybrook and Chief Spera provides that the Chief's salary and benefits may be adjusted "on the basis of the Chief's annual evaluation or to adjust the salary schedule of the department."

The Chief has never had such an annual evaluation. The Commission has typically relied on the Chief to "manage and supervise" the police department, including the preparation and management of its budgets and the hiring and promoting of its members.

It is time for a more collaborative, rather than one-sided, approach to the management of the Old Saybrook Department of Police Services. An independent review of the Department, as originally initi-

ated by First Selectman Carl Fortuna, will greatly educate and aid the Commission as it seeks to put itself in a more informed position to discharge its statutory and contractual responsibilities. The revitalized request for proposals is an important first step toward that end. An annual evaluation of the performance of the Chief of Police will provide a formal structured assessment of the goals set by the Commission and the Chief's progress toward those goals. The Old Saybrook Department of Police Services has many outstanding officers and members, and we are sure outperforms many other such departments. But we believe it is possible to manage the Department toward an even closer approach to the ideal of a Department that is safe, effective, efficient, responsive to the needs of the community, and respectful of all members of the community. That is why we endorse an independent review of the Department.

POLICE COMMISSION - ALFRED (CHUB) WILCOX

My name is Alfred (Chub) Wilcox, and my wife Marcia and I moved to Old Saybrook from Pennsylvania a few years ago. I am retired from a 40 year career practicing law in the Litigation Department of a large Philadelphia law firm. My wife and I chose Old Saybrook, despite Connecticut's taxes, because we loved not just the beauty of our view over Ragged Rock marsh but also the full time sense of community we felt here.

I have never run for public office and have no political aspirations whatsoever. I have come to love this town and in my own way wanted to give back and contribute to it, and so I met with the First Selectman and expressed interest in serving in any way I could. After establishing my political affiliation

(Democratic) and my interests, he



referred me to the Democratic Town Committee. After being interviewed by them, my resume was sent back to the First Selectman and I was appointed to replace my Democratic predecessor on the Police Commission.

I have looked into the responsibilities of the Commission, which are to "provide general management and

supervision of the police department" including making "all needful regulations for the government thereof" as well as being responsible for the "appointment, promotion and removal of the officers and members of such police department."

I believe the Old Saybrook Police Commission would benefit by engaging independent experts to help it evaluate the current operations of the Department, including its organizational structure, staffing, and costs. WE ALL want a police department that is safe for the officers and the community they serve, responsive to the needs of the community, efficient and effective in meeting those needs, and respectful of all members of the community.

POLICE COMMISSION - ADAM LADD

Being raised in Old Saybrook has blessed me with many opportunities and great experiences. After graduating from OSHS, I was part of the first matriculating class at Johnson and Wales University to earn a Bachelors degree with a concentration in Culinary Arts. After meeting my wife, our journey together, expanding both our family and our careers brought us full circle back to Old Saybrook where we settled to raise our family. Having gone through the Saybrook school system myself, I am proud to have my sons follow-

ing in those footsteps. They now learn, as I did, the importance of hard work, dedication, and the ability to thrive in such an inclusive



community. A member of the Knights of Columbus and the former Deputy Registrar, I have tried to exemplify for my children that involvement in town and communities is a fundamental way that we are able to contribute towards the betterment of our town and play an important role maintaining and perpetuating the inclusivity and character of our town that makes us a great community to be a part of. That is why I have chosen to run for Police Commission. Old Saybrook needs a Police Commission that is involved, proactive, and

(POLICE COMMISSION - ADAM LADD continued)

effective in its endeavor to both collaborate and aid in the function, oversight and development of our police department. A hallmark of the safety and security we all can sometimes take for granted, The Old Saybrook police department has grown over the years—not just in size and number, but in law enforcement and technological advancement that enables our officers to do their jobs effectively and our

community to thrive. Such growth and development must, however, be accompanied by periodic assessment and reflection to ensure that we continue to pave the way to meet new demands of an ever-evolving community. A comprehensive, independent study of our police department is a tool that would certainly benefit us all. The analysis and review, combined with recommendations for our entire depart-

ment infrastructure could provide insight to additional ways to support our department and our community as a whole. As my family and I continue to grow in the community I am proud to have called home for over 40 years, I now look to give back in a deeper way, and contribute by running for a seat on our Police Commission.

POLICE COMMISSION - DANIEL MORAN

My name is Daniel Moran, and I am seeking your support in my bid to remain a member of the Old Saybrook Police Commission.

I have a BS degree in Accounting and an MS degree in Public Safety. For 40 plus years I worked at Central CT State University in various jobs, first as a Police Officer, to a Property & Inventory Control Officer, and finally as the Associate Chief Administrative Officer, responsible for the management of its facilities, budgets and personnel in a large University setting.

My wife and I moved to Old Saybrook thirty years ago to retire, during which time I have been in-

involved in various civic activities. In 2014, I was selected to serve as



Chairman of the Building Committee for the renovation of the new Police Station, which was completed in 2015. During this time I have re-

mained an advocate for constantly improving the efficiency of our department's organization, staffing, and the training for its police officers serving our town.

I am currently working as a part-time Facilities Manager, assisting the First Selectmen and various department directors in maintaining our town buildings, and in overseeing numerous building projects for the town of Old Saybrook.

I look forward to continuing this opportunity of service to the Town of Old Saybrook.

POLICE COMMISSION - LORAINE CORTESE-COSTA

Loraine Cortese-Costa and her family have lived in Old Saybrook for over twenty years. Her two daughters attended St. John School and Old Saybrook High. She and her husband are licensed foster care parents providing respite services to foster families. Loraine is the principal attorney with the Law Offices of Loraine Cortese-Costa with offices in Old Saybrook and Bridgeport. She is seeking a position on the Old Saybrook Police Commission because of her desire to provide support to our Town government using her experience and expertise. In her law practice, she represents mainly municipal employers and has handled hundreds of labor and employment matters in the state and federal courts, Departments of Labor, Commission on Human Rights, Freedom of Information Commission, State Board of Labor Relations, collective bargaining and in arbitration. Prior to starting her own firm in April 2015, she worked for a national labor and employment law firm in New York City and then was a Director with Durant, Nichols, Houston, Hodgson & Cortese-Costa, P.C., a

Bridgeport based labor and employment law firm, for over twenty-five years. In that capacity, she represented cities, towns, police commissions and Boards of Education. Named by her peers to the Best Lawyers in America© 2017-



2020 for Labor and Employment Law-Management and awarded the 2019 Friends of Public Transportation Award from the Connecticut Association for Community Transportation, her professional activities and public service are thoroughly integrated. Loraine also provides pro bono services to non-profit agencies throughout Connecticut in conjunction with Pro Bono Partnership, Inc. and is a member of

the federal Second Circuit Court of Appeals Pro Bono panel.

Loraine is eager to share her experience and knowledge for the benefit of Old Saybrook and believes a position on the Police Commission would provide a great opportunity for her to do so. While appreciating that each member of the community has talent and experience to contribute, her experience and skill-set are somewhat unique and particularly appropriate to the issues that come before the Police Commission. In Connecticut, local governments provide citizens a voice in the oversight of their public services, but that opportunity can be lost if not exercised effectively. Loraine has three central goals for using her voice:

- *Restore Citizen Oversight-As set forth in the CT statutes and Old Saybrook Town Charter and Ordinances;
- *Study Operations-And make decisions based on safety, efficiency and fair treatment;
- *Provide Expertise-On labor relations and human resource issues; federal, state, and local laws; governance; and contract compliance.

HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMM - STEPHEN SHEEHAN



HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMM - PAUL CONNOLLY

We have accomplished three major objectives during my time on the Harbor Commission where I serve as Secretary. We worked with town, state, and federal authorities to dredge North Cove, which created the opportunity for additional moorings. We replaced the unsafe, damaged dock at Ferry Rd. This fall and next spring, we will be making upgrades at the Town Dock at the end of Sheffield St. Improvements will include a new ramp and floating dock, which are designed to be more accessible for people with

physical challenges. The new facilities will also be more convenient for getting into and out of small boats. We will also be testing kayak storage at Sheffield St. in 2020-2021.

I have been around boats and the waterfront my whole life. I studied navigation and currently hold a commercial Inland Waters Coast Guard Captain's license. I wrote a column on navigation for Offshore Magazine for many years, and was the navigation editor for the first edition of the Embassy Long Island Sound Guide. I have had a boat in

North Cove since moving here in 1996. I believe my background allows me to contribute a qualified perspective on the Commission.

I believe in good stewardship for the town's waterfront assets, which in addition to those mentioned above include the North Cove Launch Ramp and Clothesline Marina. I believe in expanding public access and enabling broader use of these facilities. I ask for your support to continue our work to make our waterfront marine resources accessible and safe.

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS - JEFFREY GIBSON

My family and I have lived in Old Saybrook for the past 18 years. I have spent the past 29 years as a Residential Real Estate Appraiser in Middlesex county. My background and experience as a Real Estate Appraiser makes me an ideal candidate for Board of Assessment Ap-



peals. With 2018 being a revaluation year, my appraisal experience helped our current board complete the monumental task of 182 appeals hearings. I look forward to continuing our excellent work on the future board.

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS - CARL GARBE

Carl Garbe has been a Certified Residential Real Estate Appraiser licensed in the State of Connecticut since 2001, in addition, he holds a Real Estate Sales Agent license and a Plumbing Contractors license as well.

Carl has been a resident of Old Saybrook for almost 45 years, has been elected to both the Old Saybrook Zoning Board and Zoning Boards of Appeals.



“Our Assessors office does a good job in what they do, but no one is 100% right all the time. The Board of Assessment Appeals exists to help correct any over-taxation of Old Saybrook’s homeowners.”

“We should all pay our fair share of local taxes, but that doesn’t mean that we should pay more than what is due.”

ZONING COMMISSION - ANN MARIE THORSEN

My family and I have lived in Old Saybrook for over twenty years and have one daughter. I have volunteered as a Girl Scout Leader in this community for 12 years.

I graduated from Lehigh University with a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering and have been a professional engineer registered in the State of Connecticut since 1994. For the past 34 years I have been employed as a Senior Engineer with STV Inc. doing highway design, traffic analysis, hydraulic analysis,



drainage, sanitary sewers and permitting for various municipalities and the Connecticut Department of

Transportation.

I have done Construction Administration and Inspection, maintaining construction management records, preparing change orders, tracking submittals and contractor payments for various projects for the Connecticut Department of Transportation.

I believe my experience as a professional engineer working with state and local regulations makes me uniquely qualified for the duties of the Zoning Commission.

BOARD OF EDUCATION - GEORGE CHANG

My family (Lynda Kieffer, Keanna and Joshua) and I moved to Old Saybrook from Ivoryton, CT in 2000. Keanna and Joshua went through the OS school system from pre-K to 12 and benefitted greatly from its many opportunities. Keanna graduated in 2014, attended Cornell, and is currently a 2nd year medical student at UConn. Josh graduated in 2017



and is currently a junior at Stanford. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve three terms on the Board of Education, and to give back for all that was given to Keanna and Josh. Once again, I am humbled to receive the support of the nomination committee to be on the November ballot. Thank you for the opportunity.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMM - SUSAN ESTY

As an incumbent Commissioner and Chairman, I know that there are many challenges ahead that need to be met by the Parks and Recreation Commission. Most importantly, setting Strategic Plans for future recreation needs to be a top priority. A timeline is essential as it will prioritize and define present and future needs of the Parks and Recreation Department. Without this plan, the commission would react



only to situations as they arise; instead of planning for future needs. I understand the complexities of balancing programs, use of facilities, and needs of our residents. This understanding is necessary to formulate department policies. I have the experience to help the commission to do this.

I believe we need to continue with a pragmatic approach to update and

(PARKS AND RECREATION COMM - SUSAN ESTY continued)

improve our parks. Recently this commission has improved our playing fields with proper irrigation along with the use of topsoil and seed techniques that will withstand the negative impact of overuse. Now is the time to direct our efforts to update and improve our picnic areas, playscapes, and hiking trails.

Safety is an important issue and a priority of mine. I have been working with our P&R Director and Police Department to create a safe traffic pattern at Saybrook Point. This will be implemented in the coming year. I look forward to working with our Director and other town departments to review other potential hazards.

I have pushed for the need to have year round facilities at our parks and beaches. For example, Saybrook Point Park, Town Beach, and Harvey's Beach are used year

round. Yet only portable toilets are offered in the off season. In the middle of winter, residents come to Town Beach to walk the mud flats at low tide, or to visit the Ct. River at the Vicki Duffy Pavilion. We should have facilities available year round. To this end, as chairman, I have made myself available to the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, and other town boards and commissions to answer questions on proposals brought by the Commission. If elected I will continue to do so.

This Department has an added responsibility maintaining a revenue flow to the General Budget. Collectively Saybrook Point Mini Golf, Vicki Duffy Pavilion and Beach Passes returns over \$300,000 yearly to the General Budget. This helps to keep the town Mill Rate Low. This is a delicate balance between generating revenue for the town and ensuring affordable fam-

ily fun. As Chairman, I work with our Director to insure policies are fair to all. It is a pleasure to work on a commission committed to offering programs which are affordable to our residents; whether they are novice or expert, young children or senior citizens. Our programs are meant for all to enjoy.

As a Commissioner, I continuously search for future needs of this town. Asking: How can we make our forest and conservation areas more inviting to enjoy? Can we find an appropriate space for a dog park? Can we make safe launching areas for canoes, kayaks, paddleboards? What is needed to make Saybrook more attractive?

On Tuesday November 5th, please vote for Susan Esty to return for another term on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

July 2019 Old Saybrook Arts and Craft Show

The Democratic Town Committee presented \$300 dollars to Amy Hollis of the Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantry with Judy Sullivan, Chamber of Commerce Director and Karen Pinette, Chamber of Commerce Office Manager, at the end of this year's Arts and Craft Show. Nancy Walsh, Joan Strickland, Carl Garbe, Karen Pendergast, Barry and Dottie O'Neil, Chub Wilcox, Sharon

Craft, Janis Esty, Susan Esty and MaryAnn Iadarola came early in the morning to serve breakfast to the Artists and assistants. It was hot and muggy but that did not stop our volunteers from pulling a wagon up and down the aisles before the show opened serving hot coffee, bagels and muffins.

There were 1059 registrants to the Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantry

in 2018 in Old Saybrook alone. The population of Old Saybrook is approximately 10,000 people one and ten of your fellow citizens, your neighbors, your friends need the Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantry. Please join us in supporting the Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantry.

July 2019 Old Saybrook Arts and Craft Show



Chairwoman:
Janis Esty

Vice Chairwoman :
Wendy Gesick

Secretary:
Nancy Walsh

Assistant Secretary:
MaryAnn E. Iadarola

Treasurer:
Donald S. Brodeur

Assistant Treasurer:
C. Marston Ladd

Sound News Editors:
Laura Gray
Bill Webb

Mission Statement: the Old Saybrook Democratic Town Committee fosters a town government in which the members of our community can actively participate and be represented. We promote transparency, accountability, and economy in our town government. We support the mission of our schools, the preservation of our natural environment, and sustainable economic growth. We value diversity of thought and seek to increase Democratic representation on our town's boards and commissions as well as support Democratic candidates for statewide and national office.

**Paid For by the Old Saybrook Democratic Town
Committee, Don Brodeur Treasurer**

Old Saybrook Democratic Town Committee
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