

News



Our Town

•Bristol picked for list...page 2

•Police blotter...page 5

•City student meets VP Gore...page 8

Board of Finance gets two new members

By ELIO GUGLIOTTI
STAFF WRITER

The City Council appointed two new members to the Board of Finance.

Robert Vojtek, who works for the Avon School District, and Lisa Casey, a human resource manager, were unanimously supported by the council during its July 13 meeting for appointment to the board. Vojtek and Casey will replace former board members Janet Moylan and Mark Peterson.

Moylan and Peterson, who both voted against this year's budget and pushed for more government downsizing, each served one four-year term. They were up for reappointment this month. However, Mayor Art Ward didn't put their names forth to the council for reappointment.

As mayor, Ward selects potential candidates for certain boards, including the finance board, and then they must be approved by the council.

Ward said he received

a lot of interest from people looking to serve on the finance board, and he was looking to get new people involved.

"You try to utilize the talents of everyone who's looking to be active," Ward said.

With the four-year terms served by finance board members, Ward said, if a change is going to be made it has to be done when an appointment is up.

Housing authority gets federal funds

By ELIO GUGLIOTTI
STAFF WRITER

The Bristol Housing Authority has received \$866,336 in federal funds for improvements.

The funds are part of \$2.3 billion in federal money that was awarded to more than 3,100 public housing authorities across the U.S., Puerto Rico, and the U.S.

Virgin Islands. The money was awarded to allow the housing authorities to make major capital improvements to their units.

A total of a little more than \$28.5 million was awarded to housing authorities in Connecticut.

"Last year, we announced \$20 million in federal stimulus dollars to

reduce energy costs in Connecticut's public housing units, so this is even more good news," said Gov. Jodi Rell in a released statement. "This investment will help us to strengthen communities and improve the quality of life for area residents."

ESPN wants to take over Ronzo Road Ext.

By ELIO GUGLIOTTI
STAFF WRITER

ESPN has asked the city for a section of Ronzo Road Extension.

Mike Soltys, a spokesperson for ESPN, said ESPN wants the road to provide better security for its employees and campus. If the city approves the road closure, Soltys said ESPN would build two security

checkpoints on the road.

The portion of the road ESPN is interested in is past the intersection of Birch Street, heading towards its campus, and past the entrance to the Locknetics factory. ESPN owns the land on both sides of the road, and the road only leads to ESPN buildings.

The City Council referred the issue to several

city boards and commissions, including the Planning Commission, the police, fire, and public work boards, for their recommendations on the matter.

If the road closure is approved, it would mark the

See ESPN, page 4

'Adopt-A-Child' program seeks donations

By ELIO GUGLIOTTI
STAFF WRITER

The United Way of West Central Connecticut is seeking donors to help children in need start off the school year on the right foot.

The United Way is currently running its Adopt-A-Child program. The program is designed to provide children, in kindergarten through eighth grade, in need with a new school outfit for the first day of school, along with a backpack filled with school supplies.

The names of the children are provided by other non-profit organizations throughout the greater Bristol community to the United Way, which then gives the donations to these organizations.

The program was started in 1999 with the belief that a child's self image has a dramatic effect on school performance and the lack of a positive self-image can create lasting consequences. In the program's first year, 30 children were served. This year about 400 children are signed up for the program.

Colleen Bolingbroke, director of marketing and community relations for the United Way, said the organization is in need of more people to "adopt a child."

Anyone interested in taking part in the program will be asked to provide a new outfit for the first day of school, along with a backpack filled with school supplies. The United Way will provide anyone interested with a child's first name, sex, clothing sizes, and favorite colors to help purchase the donations.

The United Way is asking to have all donations back between Aug. 3 and Aug. 5 so they can be dis-

tributed by the first day of school.

Anyone interested in taking part in the program can contact Beverly or Kelly at the United Way at (860) 582-9559.

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