

# HARWINTON

Democratic Town Committee

May

2020

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The Harwinton Democrats advocate for an inclusive and transparent town government that values fiscal sustainability, positive change, and collaborative leadership. We are committed to strong educational opportunities, smart business growth, and preservation of open space. We champion our democratic ideals of community, compassion, and the common good.

Myrna Watanabe-Interim Chair; Joe Arcuri-Vice Chair; Cindy Banick-Treasurer; Merrill French-Secretary

## To All Our Readers

I hope this newsletter finds you healthy, safe and coping with the sometimes overwhelming reality of living through a pandemic.

A week ago, many of you volunteered to call older Harwinton Democratic and unaffiliated voters to reach out to them. For me, a couple of those calls were particularly memorable, one for its humor and another for its poignancy.

One person was offering to do anything to convince Governor Cuomo to run for president including baking cookies for him, an interesting tact for sure. Oh to have a steady, articulate, knowledgeable, empathetic, truthful leader at the helm—November 3rd, 2020!

The other call was to an elderly resident whose new reality included giving up driving and caring for an increasingly forgetful spouse. She was touched by our outreach, and while she was coping at present, her sense of relief that someone was there for her was palpable. She assured me she would call if she needed additional help. A simple human connection cannot be discounted.

We are all reacting differently to the day-to-day we're faced with. Some of us are productive; others are struggling to focus. Whatever your scenario, know that we're all in this together.

Rosemary Simko

HDTC Member and Newsletter Co-Editor

Find us

Facebook

[www.facebook.com/harwintondems/](http://www.facebook.com/harwintondems/)

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## Equity Beyond Covid-19; Why we shouldn't go back to the beginning

As a global health crisis has entered all of our lives, we've seen the impact on equity in education, challenges to our daily economics, and have only begun to see the ramifications on our psyches from social distancing and for some, social isolation. We must all recognize that for now, these challenges may be our new normal. What a lot of you are seeing as interruptions to daily lives, this "new normal", has been the day to day for many marginalized populations for much longer. There have been adults living paycheck-to-paycheck worrying every day about what it will look like for them if that paycheck doesn't come. 51.6% of students in Connecticut participate in free or reduced-price school lunch and eat school breakfast. Without access to meal programs, many of those students go hungry. In our public school system, teachers and other educational professionals report one in every five child abuse claims in the nation.

Everyday stress, economic instability, and housing insecurity can increase these abusive situations. And in urban neighborhoods, Black, brown and communities of color often lack access to quality health care.

While most of us have not seen a health crisis of this magnitude before in our lifetimes, inequities that have always been there are now lit up for others to see. It's a scary world at the moment. For many, it's always been scary. My point? These issues are not new.

During the spread of COVID-19, we are being hypervigilant making sure those who are hungry are fed, that children are accounted for during virtual class, that our seniors are protected, and that the newly unemployed are instilled with the hope that their homes will be safe. But to achieve true equity, we must address these constant struggles as if they are always in the foreground, not only during a national emergency.

There used to be a commercial during the 90's that interrupted every show I watched to give television viewers about three minutes of educational information. It always ended with "The More You Know". So, now you know. We all know more than we did before. How do you continue to stay mindful of the issues that you have recognized beyond a global pandemic?

To start, begin questioning perceptions. When we challenge our perceptions, we begin to think differently about our assumptions. For instance, does everyone have access to quality healthcare? Does a newly unemployed friend or neighbor have three to six months' worth of savings? Is every child safer at home than in school?

At some point our social distancing will be over. Kids will go back to school and our society will look the same as it had before all of this began. It will look the same, but should it?

~Giovanna Adams

HDTC Member and Newsletter Co-editor

## To Keep You Informed

In an effort to keep you informed, here is a brief informative list of various resources.

### BROAD HELPLINE:

211 – is your one-stop connection to the local services you need, from utility assistance, food, housing, childcare, after school programs, elder care, crisis intervention and much more.

### LOCAL RESOURCES:

The Harwinton Emergency Management Team has set up an email address in order for residents to send in questions regarding COVID-19.

[COVID19@harwinton.us](mailto:COVID19@harwinton.us).

### HARWINTON FOOD PANTRY

Information about receiving assistance from or contributing to Harwinton Food Pantry can be accessed from the town homepage.

<https://www.harwinton.us/first-selectman/pages/food-pantry>

### STATE AND FEDERAL SOURCES:

<https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/>

### MENTAL HEALTH WELLBEING:

[http://bit.ly/Mental\\_Wellness\\_Now](http://bit.ly/Mental_Wellness_Now)

<http://bit.ly/SDLoneliness>

### UR COMMUNITY CARES

Delivers helping hands to 70+ years old or age 18+ (temporarily or permanently disabled) at NO CHARGE. You can register to be matched with a local volunteer.

[www.urcommunitycares.org](http://www.urcommunitycares.org)

## Candidate Paul Honig for the 76th Congressional District

Normally, candidate for the 76th State Congressional District, Paul Honig would be going door to door canvassing to defeat his opponent. Instead, part of his time is spent volunteering for Food Rescue. This organization pairs food industry donors with social service agencies.

According to Paul, so far he's delivered food to the Bethlehem Food Pantry, Harwinton Food Pantry and Sullivan Senior Center in Torrington. He's adopted a regular run on Sundays from Stop and Shop and The Bakehouse in Litchfield to the Harwinton Food Pantry. Recent pick-ups include prepared meals from the deli counter at the Market CT in Bantam, bread from the Bakehouse, and bread, pastries and cakes from Stop and Shop in Litchfield.

Paul stated, "I love the idea of Food Rescue. It's common sense to try to get food that would otherwise be thrown out from retail business to local charities providing food for families in need. The technology they created makes it easy to find pickups and drop offs in your local area." For more information, visit:

<https://foodrescue.us>

Please consider making a donation to Paul's campaign.

<https://secure.anedot.com/honig-2020/contribute>



### Meetings & Gatherings

04

Region 10 Board of Ed

Visit RSD10 website for Zoom ID

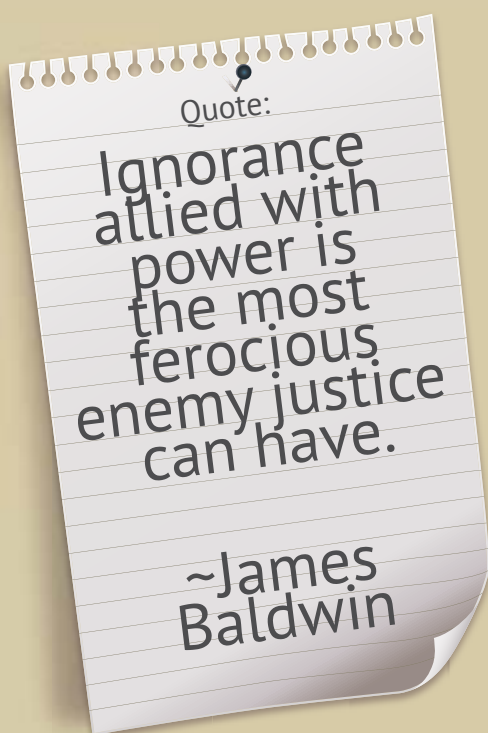
7:00 p.m.

09

State Convention & State Central

Committee election

Via Phone



# Presidential Election

## District 31 State Senate News

Councilwoman Mary Fortier announced her candidacy for the 31st State Senate District which includes Bristol, Plainville, Plymouth, Thomaston, and part of Harwinton.

Fortier received her bachelor's degree from Boston College. She then went on to law school as a young mother, graduating from Western New England University School of Law in 1995. She is currently an attorney with the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch.

Mary is participating in the Connecticut Citizens' Election Program. To qualify for a full grant of \$103,955, a State Senate candidate must raise \$16,000 in amounts of \$5-\$270 for an individual donation from 300 residents of the towns that comprise parts of the district.

Here is a link to donate to her campaign:  
<https://secure.anedot.com/fortier-for-state-senate/>

## Covid-19 Impacts State Convention Schedule

At this time, Democratic conventions for state representative, state senator and U.S. Congress are in flux. The assumption is that they are likely to be virtual.

Both the State Convention and the Democratic State Central Committee election will be combined and take place on May 9 (virtually). The State Convention will also elect members to the Democratic National Committee and reps to the Electoral College for the state.

Nominations must be sent in before a convention by delegates to the convention: one a nominator, the other a second. They are working out how proxy voting will occur and how state house and senate conventions can be organized.

The party is currently working with Secretary of the State Denise Merrill to allow absentee voting for the presidential primary, which has been rescheduled to June 2.

## More Meetings and News

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Congressional Convention  
Via Phone



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MULTI TOWN HOUSE (MAY  
18TH) & STATE SENATE  
CONVENTIONS (MAY 19TH)

November  
3rd

### Assistance for the Elderly/Disabled in Harwinton

I've recently started volunteering with an online platform that connects local volunteers with community members in need. If you are 70+ years old or age 18+ and temporarily or permanently disabled and need help with certain tasks, such as household chores, yard work, grocery or medication pickup, do not be afraid to ask for help. We know that some days it's difficult to do daily chores. UR Community Cares can deliver helping hands at NO CHARGE. You can register at [www.urcommunitycares.org](http://www.urcommunitycares.org) to be matched with a local volunteer.

Volunteers are needed also. You can give just one hour, sign up for an ongoing weekly task or devote time for a specific project that's requested. Groups or businesses can also enroll multiple volunteers to fulfill community service projects.

UR Community Cares has 97 participants in over 40 CT towns and is looking to expand into the NW corner and in Harwinton! If you are or know of anyone that is in need of this valuable service, or would like to volunteer, please register on the website.

Contact me if you have questions about the process; I'm the point person for Harwinton. I would love to hear your feedback.

~ Kris Durante

[kdwildcat191@gmail.com](mailto:kdwildcat191@gmail.com) or 860-690-3250

Have you got an interesting story, information or an event to share which we can include in the next newsletter? Email: [harwintondems@gmail.com](mailto:harwintondems@gmail.com)