

## Your Views

### Southington says

**If you had the opportunity to live in any time period, which one would you choose?**



**"The 1960s. We had someone come to our school and tell us about it. I liked their clothes back then and the music was really fun."**

Ddaly Chavez  
Southington



**"The dinosaur days. I'd like to try out my survival skills and see how dangerous it was to live."**

Alex Gumprecht  
Southington



**"The old west. I'd like to ride horses instead of cars. I'd love to learn to ride and I would wear my cowboy hat everywhere."**

Adeline Kilgore  
Southington



**"The early 1800s. I could be home with my children and family more often and would get to wear beautiful clothes every day."**

Samantha Kilgore  
Southington



**"The 1930s. I'd like to see Babe Ruth play baseball live and in person."**

Robert Kofsuske  
Southington

Photos by  
Tammi Knapik

### Letters

#### How much salary is too much?

To the Editor,

Who decides how much a CEO is worth, how much their salary should be, or how much they'd get for an exit package when they leave the company?

The CEO of New Alliance Bank is making over \$9 million in salary and bonuses already, but if she quits,

she'll receive an "exit package" of over \$16 million! To stay home!!!

What makes one person worth this kind of money when most of us don't even make \$100,000, not to mention that so many people are completely out of work and struggling?

Why is it always the banks (or insurance compa-

nies) that pay out millions to one person instead of smaller amounts to many people?

And then the banks can only muster up 0.01 percent interest on our savings accounts! What's wrong with this picture?

May Laner  
Plantsville

#### Should not bond Water Department

To the Editor,

The Water Dept wants us to finance \$3.4 million in bonds to replace a water tank and other water projects. Let's look at the facts:

Last November Tom West, Southington Water Department Superintendent, told the Charter Revision Commission they had a couple of million dollars to be utilized for these very projects. Where did the "couple of million dollars" go?

They receive approx. \$140,000/year from cable companies' cell towers usage and refuse to share this with the town, yet they pay no taxes on town property they use.

They raised our water rates by 20 percent.

In 2009, Steve Pestillo, former Water Board Commissioner, said they received more than \$1,800,000 in federal grant money in recent years. In 2009, they received \$3.168

million cash settlement from the Solvents Recovery lawsuit.

They received assurances of approx. \$9.6 million in federal grants in 2009, thanks to their paid lobbyists efforts.

They hiked our fire hydrant rental fees by 23%, refusing requests from the Board of Finance to reduce this. As of 2009, the Water Department owes Southington \$590,000 (1991 bonds), due in 2011 and \$3 million due in September 2014. Have they paid interest on these bonds or have we taxpayers been picking up the tab?

At their July meeting, Commissioner Berkmoes proposed (and the Board approved) a 2.5% salary increase not only for the current year but retroactive to last year for Superintendent West and Assistant Superintendent Rogers. Their current salaries: \$104,763.28 and \$80,637.57 respectively, while Southington taxpayers are

lucky if they reach Friday without a pink slip, let alone any raises. How is it they have ample revenue for such unfathomable raises, but not enough to fund their projects? We should deny their bond request.

The larger problem: Southington owns the Water Department. But unlike other Southington departments, the SWD operates like an independent company. Tom West has said they have no oversight by Department of Public Utilities, nor anyone but the Water Board. It is time for our Town Council to address these conflicts and bring the Water Department into line with other town departments. That 3 Town Councilors are former Water Board Commissioners should not prevent them from doing the right thing for Southington residents, should it?

Sandra Feld  
Southington

#### What are politicians thinking?

To the Editor,

The Taste of Southington held at the Barnes Museum the other week was a great event. The music was great and the food as always fantastic.

There were many townspeople there and they all seemed to be having a great time. This is another reason that Southington is such a great town to live in.

Then a woman came up to me and gave me a handout. She said that she was the wife of someone named [Rusty] Haigh and

that her husband was running for State Representative. I then read the handout and found that all it talked about was the 2nd amendment, the 10th amendment and introducing something called the 28th amendment of the United States constitution.

He also states that all politicians must live by the law, I would think they know that but I am not sure if he knows that already. I don't know if Mr. Haigh knows it or not but someone should tell him that he is running for state office

not for congress. For some reason he seems to think he is running for a federal office.

He may have to run against John Larson for that job with the issues that he seems to care about. Maybe he should check out what a State Representative does before he wants to run for the office. I hope he does some studying before he gets to the election ahead.

Susan Locks  
Southington

#### Questions on campaign literature

To the Editor,

Recently I went to the taste of Southington at the Barnes museum and music on the green. My peaceful evening out with my wife and children was interrupted by this summer's election cycle. The election cycle has come early this year for all of us here in Southington and across the whole state. You know the routine, never ending TV commercials, nonstop phone calls and enough mailings to cut a forest down.

But frankly the only way we have to keep our elected officials honest is to vote. So I listened to what they had to say and took their handouts. These two conversations were so odd I felt that I just had to share them with everyone in town.

First there was Joe Markley running for the

open state Senate seat here in Southington's 16<sup>th</sup> district. Now I didn't have the heart to tell him Ronald Reagan is no longer alive and he cannot be running on a ticket headed by him as his handout stated.

Then there was Rusty Haigh. Now he was nowhere to be seen, but he had his wife handing out his literature for him. Rusty is running for State Representative in Southington's 81<sup>st</sup> district. Rusty's wife didn't have a convincing story and wasn't very pleasant. After she moved on we looked at her husband's literature and the only issues on the handout were federal things like the second amendment, right to bear arms and the tenth amendment.

In fact the handout even said Rusty would introduce a

new 28<sup>th</sup> amendment.

If Rusty was around I would have told him he has entered a state race, not a federal election. The issues that are most important to the people of Southington and he could have any effect on, are state and town issues' like property taxes, education, the high cost of energy and the state budget. These are the only issues you could have an effect on in Hartford Rusty, you might want to look at the job specifications before you go out and run for public office.

These are state seats. You won't be going to Washington and adding new amendments to the constitution.

Mark Dziubek  
Southington

#### Send us your milestones

We welcome milestone announcements from all of our readers. Forms for weddings, engagements, anniversaries and birth announcements are available at [www.SouthingtonObserver.com](http://www.SouthingtonObserver.com). Send your milestones to Editor Ed Harris at [eharris@SouthingtonObserver.com](mailto:eharris@SouthingtonObserver.com), or mail them to The Observer, 213 Spring St., Southington, CT 06489. Deadline is 5 p.m. Friday for the following week's edition. The editor reserves the right to edit all milestones for length or grammatical errors.

#### Send us your letters!

We welcome letters to the editor from all of our readers. Send your letter to editor Ed Harris at [eharris@SouthingtonObserver.com](mailto:eharris@SouthingtonObserver.com), or mail them to The Observer, 213 Spring St., Southington, CT 06489. Deadline is 5 p.m. Friday for the following week's edition. The editor reserves the right to edit all letters for length or grammatical errors.