

# Record-Journal

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**Right:** Veterinarian Thomas Chin scans Hannah's identification microchip at the Sandbank Veterinary Hospital in Cheshire Thursday.

**Below:** The syringe used to insert microchips into pets.

Photos by Bob Stern Record-Journal

## Microchip technology helps owners find lost pets

Local veterinarians say procedure is catching on

By Jesse Buchanan Record-Journal staff

Twelve-year-old Hannah, a mixed breed dog, barely flinches as she gets a needle in the shoulder from veterinarian Thomas Chin at the Sandbank Veterinary Hospital in Cheshire. It's not a vaccine, though — Chin is inserting a microchip into Hannah that will identify her should she get lost.

Microchips — about the size of a grain of rice — contain a number registered to the pet's owner. Many animal shelters and hospitals are now equipped with microchip readers, which can identify stray animals.

Chin said the procedure, which costs about \$50, is catching on.

"We're seeing more of them," he said. "When we see a new pet and they don't have one, we recommend it."

Earlier this month, a dog taken in Naugatuck by Cheshire Police Officer Thomas Wright was returned to its owner after a microchip confirmed its identity.

The dog had run away in January 2010 and was taken in by



### Reader poll

► Would you consider having a microchip implanted in your dog for the purpose of identification? [Myrecordjournal.com](http://Myrecordjournal.com)

Wright and his family. The dog's owner later claimed Wright had her dog but Wright refused to return the dog or allow animal control officers to scan the microchip.

The dog was seized and identified by fur markings and the information contained on the microchip.

To implant Hannah with a chip, Chin first swabbed an area on her shoulder with antiseptic

and then inserted the chip through a needle similar to one used to draw blood. He said the body forms scar tissue around the chip, injected under the skin, to keep in place.

That form of identification can't fall off or get misplaced. "A collar with a tag is disposable. I can put my dog's tag on your dog," Chin said.

He estimates that 10 to 20 percent of pet owners at the hospital have microchips in their pets, with more chips in dogs than cats.

Hannah's owner, veterinarian technician Lisa Bissonnette, said she'd been thinking about getting a microchip for her pet for some time.

"Just in case she was to get separated from me," Bissonnette said.

Anne Coy, who works at the Meriden Veterinary Associates, said microchipping is a smart move for pet owners.

"It's the only permanent form of identification," she said. "If (a pet) gets lost or stolen, you have that permanent form of identification."

"I have one dog that's microchipped and I have another dog that'll be microchipped next week," Coy said.

Once a microchip has been im-

Please see **Microchip / 8**

## Economic issues front and center for Dickinson, Testa

By Robert Cyr Record-Journal staff

**WALLINGFORD** — The second-longest serving mayor in the state, Republican William W. Dickinson Jr., squared off against Democratic Town Councilor Vincent Testa Jr. in a forum Thursday night in the Town Hall auditorium.

Dickinson, 64, was first elected in 1983, and is running for his 15th consecutive term. On Nov. 8 he'll face Testa, 51, a former mortgage specialist who put a teaching-certificate program on hold to run for office.

Testa ran in 1997 and lost by a greater than 2-1 margin. He has been on the council since 2004. He started his political career in 1990 on the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission and served eight years on the Board of Education.

Testa is Dickinson's first Democratic challenger since James Vumbaco in 2007. Dickinson entered office after several years working as a lawyer for a local firm and an insurance agency.

Local reporters and a high school student asked the candidates questions. When asked about his plan to attract new business, Testa said he would use his corporate experience to draw in the right clients.

"I have a plan to establish Wallingford as a clean energy research and development hub, if you will," he said. "This



Photos by Christopher Zajac / Record-Journal

**Above:** Wallingford Mayor William W. Dickinson Jr., who is seeking his 15th consecutive term.

**Below:** Town Councilor Vincent Testa Jr., who is challenging the mayor for the second time.



is the perfect place for new, high-tech start-up industries."

Dickinson said the Economic Development Commission has helped draw 19 new businesses and 1,800 jobs to the area in the past year.

"They know what they're doing and have

Please see **Dickinson / 8**

### More inside and online

- Wallingford Board of Education forum. **Page 3.**
- Voters study DePaolo Middle School to prep for the ballot question on renovating it and Kennedy. **Page 2.**
- Learn more at [Myrecordjournal.com/election](http://Myrecordjournal.com/election).



## Southington council hopefuls face off

By Richie Rathsack Record-Journal staff

**SOUTHLINGTON** — Candidates for Town Council shared thoughts and traded jabs on the North Center School project, the budget and the town's future during a forum hosted by the Southington Chamber of Commerce Thursday.

Carole Mulready, president of the League of Women Voters of Greater Hartford, moderated the forum and asked the questions. Most pertained to finances and how, if elected, the candidates would guide the town through the floundering economy.

"The major issue facing the town is the budget. ... What we've seen happen is \$6.1 million in new funding under Republican control," said incumbent Democrat John Barry, when asked the most significant issue facing Southington.

"Over the last two years, Republicans have used Obama money to balance ongoing expenses."

When asked about how he would address declining state contributions to the budget, incumbent Republican Edward Pocock III said that, instead of waiting for things to get better, he would like to continue to be aggressive with economic development to increase the tax base.

"I think economic development is the key," Pocock said. "We have to stand up on our own and figure out how to bring industry in town. That's the reason we've been able to keep taxes low."

Democrat John Moise said that, when grant money begins to decrease, town officials need to look inward to find ways to compensate, such as by

Please see **Southington / 7**

### In Sports

- Football Friday: Follow tonight's high school football action online tonight and in the Record-Journal Saturday morning.
- Sheehan hands Lyman Hall a 3-1 defeat in volleyball. **Page 9.**

### Were you spotted?

- Were you spotted at Halloween Happenings in downtown Meriden? Find out at [Myrecordjournal.com/spotted](http://Myrecordjournal.com/spotted)

### In Meriden

- The 20th annual AIDS candlelight vigil carries a message of hope. **Page 17.**

### Just Menus

- Enjoy a fine dining experience, whether it's eat-in or take-out. **Inside.**

## VOTE

### Voter Guide 2011

► Coming Sunday, Oct. 30, your voter guide will have candidate profiles, sample ballots and polling places for Meriden, Wallingford, Southington and Cheshire.

► Want to know where the candidates stand? At [Myrecordjournal.com/election](http://Myrecordjournal.com/election) you can view videos, read candidate profiles and more in our online ELECTION COVERAGE.

### More campaign coverage

- The 12 candidates running for the Wallingford Board of Education meet for a two-hour campaign forum. **Page 3.**
- Meriden's three Area 2 City Council candidates take on the city's issues — and each other — in a forum. **Page 15.**

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Forecasts, **Page 8**

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### Libya's Gadhafi is dead

► Moammar Gadhafi, Libya's dictator for 42 years, was killed Thursday as rebel fighters overwhelmed his hometown and captured the last major bastion of resistance. **Page 6.**