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Greenwich man sentenced to 4 years for \$9M embezzlement plot

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GREENWICH TIME

WWW.GREENWICHTIME.COM | Tuesday, April 28, 2015 | SINCE 1877 | \$1.00



Bob Luckey/Staff photographer



Bob Luckey/Staff photographer
Greenwich Water Club's President Rick Kral, at Beacon Point Marine in Cos Cob. Greenwich Harbor is seen at left. Boats are moored in Stamford Harbor, below.

GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL Innovation lab set to launch next fall

50 ninth-graders already enrolled

By Paul Schott

Greenwich High School's new "school within a school" is set to launch this fall, with much of its curriculum in place and an incoming class of students already enrolled.

The Innovation Lab will allow several dozen sophomores to take the core subjects of English, math, science and social studies in a less structured environment. They will take a more interdisciplinary approach to their work and spend more time working on projects than they would in traditional classes.

"I'm extremely excited about all the work we've put in," said social studies teacher Michael Belanger. "Through our school visits, through our reading, through many different rough drafts of curriculum, we've come up with this program that encompasses all these goals we had."

Belanger and the four other Greenwich High teachers leading the Innovation Lab's development describe it as a program that will appeal to a broad range of students who think they will learn more and engage better in a setting that allows for more experimentation and in-depth study.

Some 50 ninth-graders have already signed up for next year, and about 15 seats are still open.

The inaugural class got an introduction
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For more information on the Greenwich High School Innovation Lab, visit:
www.ghsinnovationlab.com



Contributed photo

Science teacher Sarah Goldin does chemical voltage testing as part of research for a planned Innovation Lab project on solar energy.

On June 16, 2014, Gov. Dannel P. Malloy signed Public Act 14-222, establishing the Connecticut Port Authority.



Jason Rearick/Staff photographer

CRITICS FEAR LOSS OF FUNDS



Some fear that only the three major harbors will get funding for dredging from the newly formed Connecticut Port Authority.

Dredging since 2012

Date	Harbor	Cubic yards Removed	Cost
Jan. 2012	Clinton Harbor	40,000	\$1.7M
April 2012	Housatonic River	50,000	\$750K
March 2013	New Haven Harbor	810,000	
(Funded by Army Corps of Engineers)			
March 2013	Connecticut River	Unknown	\$1M
Feb. 2014	Housatonic River	70,000	1.3M
Feb. 2014	Mystic River	20,000	\$1M
Feb. 2014	Housatonic River	500,000	\$10.3M
July 2014	Mystic River	25,000	\$1M



Brian A. Pounds/Staff photographer
Connecticut Harbor Management Association board member Bill Rock, left, and Stratford Harbormaster Ross Hatfield.

New agency to oversee state's smaller harbors, causes concern

By John Burgeson

Those who advocate on behalf of smaller harbors welcomed Gov. Dannel P. Malloy's push to make the deepwater ports of New London, New Haven and Bridgeport more competitive — but they don't want to be left high and dry in the process.

These are nervous times for commissioners who oversee the smaller harbors up and down Connecticut's shoreline: The state is in the process of placing them in the hands of

a new government entity they think could be indifferent to their needs.

"That would be bad news for us if the smaller harbors get pushed aside," said Diane DeNardo, co-owner of the Palmer Point Marina that's nearly under the Interstate 95 bridge over the Mianus River in Greenwich. "We're all getting silted in here, and all of us here have to get privately dredged, at a huge cost to us."

The harbor responsibilities that used to reside with the Maritime Office of the state

Department of Transportation will sit, beginning Oct. 1, with the newly created Connecticut Port Authority, an agency that many say will give short shrift to small and medium-sized ports from Stonington to Greenwich.

Critics of the move fear the new authority — a quasi-governmental agency — will only cater to the state's three deepwater ports of New London, New Haven and Bridgeport.

"No question — there's a lot of concern about that," said Ray Redniss, who sits on the Stamford Harbor Management Commission.

He said the legislation that

created the new state Port Authority doesn't seem to address the DOT's grant-in-aid programs that smaller harbors have relied on for dredging.

"They removed the dam on the Rippowam River, so now the West Branch of Stamford Harbor has been silting up very fast," he said. "So what happens to the grant-in-aid program for that? They never

addressed that when they passed this legislation when they created the Connecticut Port Authority."

Dredging for dollars

The DOT grants-in-aid

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VIEW FROM THE WHARF

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS MEETING

Himes hopeful about bipartisan progress

By Ken Borsuk

The view of many is that Washington, D.C., is a hopelessly gridlocked place. But in a meeting with the League of Women Voters, U.S. Rep. Jim Himes, D-Conn., offered a note of optimism, saying, "There's function returning to the Congress."

Himes, who represents Connecticut's 4th Congressional District, spoke at the league's

Cocktails and Conversation event Monday evening in Old Greenwich. He backed up his optimism by pointing to a bipartisan cyber security bill that passed the House with strong support and is expected to get through the Senate.

Then there was the correction to the sustainable growth rate in Medicare and a budget being passed the previous December.

"It's very important, because we have a

number of things coming up that are going to require this newfound sense of functionality," Himes said.

"The debt ceiling comes back to us at some point in the middle of the year. We need to reorder the sequestration cuts, which was a real hamfisted way of controlling the budget. There's a number of things like that which will cause real dysfunction if we don't come together to make some compromises."

It wasn't just a broad sense of the Congress that Himes spoke to at the event, in which he took questions from an audience of close to 40. He also touched on specifics.



Ken Borsuk/Staff photo

U.S. Rep Jim Himes, D-Conn.

A member of the House's Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Himes discussed ongoing negotiations aimed at preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons.

Calling it a very thorny issue, Himes said Iran had "a very bad regime" in charge, and he criticized the country for threatening to destroy Israel and for sponsoring terrorists. But Himes also said Iran was far more than just its leadership.

"Iran is a complicated place," Himes said. "It's actually the one country in the Middle East where the bulk of the population kind of admires

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WEATHER

Partly cloudy.
High: 65. Low: 45.
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