

# Incumbent David Mills wants return to council

By MIKE CHAIKEN  
EDITIONS EDITOR

Republican David Mills is seeking reelection to the council, serving the third district.

Mills will be running with fellow Republican Cheryl Thibeault in the district against Democrat incumbent Mary Fortier. A second Democrat in the third district has not been tapped yet.

Mills, a veteran councilor, said he wanted to serve the city once again because, "I still believe that the city of Bristol is a great place to live. We have so many things to be proud of, with a good education system, parks, outstanding public safety services, a stable financial future and a citizenry that is hard working and care for one another. So it would be an honor for me to continue to serve and recommit to develop

the pride in our community."

If elected once again, Mill said, he wants to continue the progress he has seen in the city. "I have been advocating for the installation of a synthetic playing surface to meet the needs of our athletic and recreation programs. We were able to construct two—one at each high school, which already has eased the traffic on other facilities in the city."

"Additionally," Mills said, "the downtown project will begin later this year with infrastructure and the hospital building starting construction. Additional projects are being proposed and finally, this barren piece of land will infuse new life into the city."

"Directly down the street from this project is Memorial Boulevard School," said Mills who has been active advocate for

finding a use for the empty building. "I believe it is time to make this project a reality."

"Although the state is in a difficult financial condition," said Mills. "Bristol needs to develop its future. A state of the art theater and a new city hall will be expensive. However, we must decide now if creating a new attraction to the surrounding communities and the rest of the state, to a venue that offers first class entertainment, as well as a venue to showcase our local talent."

As for where he finds satisfaction as a councilor, Mills said, he enjoys "helping to solve peoples problems by giving them a voice and getting them in touch with the right people."

There has been a perception that the current council has experienced a good deal of partisanship.

However, Mills does not agree with that perception.

"I truly believe that everyone that becomes a part of city government does so to make the city a better place to live," said Mills. "With this as a backdrop, I did not witness a lot of partisan conflict."

"If you review the voting record over the past two years, you would find that most votes were unanimous



Mills

or nearly unanimous," said Mills. "Members expressed differences as they should, but reached consensus on most issues."

"It will be an interesting campaign season," said Mills. "I intend to promote the need for unity and developing the much needed pride in our city."

Republicans Andrew Howe and incumbent Jodi Zils-Gagne will be running against Democrats Peter Kelley and incumbent Democrat David Preleski in the second district.

The Republicans run-

ning in the first district are Eric Carlson, a former councilor, and incumbent Anthony D'Amato. Greg Hahn is running for the Democrats in the district. A second Democrat has not stepped forward for the first. Incumbent Democrat Calvin Brown moved out of the first district and will sit this election out, instead focusing on his impending marriage and his pursuit of his master's degree.

Comments? Email [mchaiken@BristolObserver.com](mailto:mchaiken@BristolObserver.com).

## National Prevention Week extended through May

By GRACE GAGNON  
CORRESPONDENT

Governor Dannel Malloy proclaimed May 14-20, 2017 as Connecticut Prevention Week, but prevention coalition B.E.S.T-for-Bristol (Bristol Eliminating Substance Abuse Together) extended initiatives throughout the entire month.

"We didn't break it down by day per se. Our consensus in the coalition meeting was we wanted the whole month to be designated to us, rolling the activities out and introducing us to the community," said Jesse Mancinone, the project coordinator of B.E.S.T-

for-Bristol.

B.E.S.T-for-Bristol is a team of about 30 to 40 people from all community sectors who meet regularly to prevent underage drinking and drug use among youth ages 12 to 17. The coalition received a \$125,000 grant last November, which allowed Mancinone to be hired as the project coordinator.

One of the first public events the coalition participated in was a health fair that the Bristol Chamber of Commerce hosted at Bristol Eastern High School on May 13.

In addition, the coalition decorated Bristol with

purple ribbons, symbolizing the community coming together to prevent substance abuse and promote healthy living.

The coalition also is supporting a mock car crash at Bristol Central High School and holding an assembly to discuss substance abuse with the students, Mancinone said.

Mancinone said the coalition targets 12 to 17 year olds because, "that age group, if you really hit it long-term, it prevents more addiction and opioid use."

Mancinone said the Connecticut Health Survey See COALITION, page 7



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