

vt. tradition: t to work

ent in Connecticut is supposed to
perate financial circumstances,
an operating deficit in state
imated at 20 percent of spending.
vernment heavily subsidizes muni-
ent, this deficit bears heavily on
ns. But you'd never notice it from
ernment employment practices.
or has been paying its director of
lderly her full salary, \$52,000
a she hasn't come to work since
government won't say why or
will go on, and her union has tem-
her personnel file, where the ex-

uperintendent suspended the
on paid leave without any public
involve the collapse of discipline
ndent herself knew about but did
irer reported it. Though the prin-
school board has made no public
re is no indication of how long the
Culpable itself in the collapse of
board doesn't want to know.
en's police department gave paid
p was only that his drunken driv-

LIKE THESE EVEN as there is not
ment, at either the state or muni-
reater competence in public admin-
ement is in the opposite direction.
and Public Employees Committee
d collective bargaining rights to
es and to managers in state gov-
e seems to see state government's
give money away fast enough and
by definition, a manager can't be a
inst management. It is estimated
n the unionizing of 99.5 percent of
ment's payroll, omitting only the
e four other constitutional officers,

celebration of public employee
of The New York Times, the sup-
to Wisconsin's "union-busting"
islation. Malloy sent his labor
to speak against it.
between labor and management
with the taxpayers, clients, and
hanged," Yelmini said. "Manage-
same side of the table. Bureau
manage entire agencies alone."
t management isn't the bill's ob-
y the little management that re-
ue government still provides.
mes, the newspaper seldom reports
ent even in New York, much less
gin to feel differently if it spent
ut why so many government em-
aid for not working, sometimes
people paying for it.

TRYING to save money with Con-
n Commission, the commission
know, than merging it, as Gov-

The Reader's Page

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Charter subterfuge attempt

Voters should be aware that there is an attempt to have the Town Council abrogate its fiscal authority by allowing the Board of Education budget to be presented on the budget referendum as a separate vote from the municipal budget. Advocates want the council to allow the Board of Education's recommended budget to go directly to voters, unmodified by the town manager or council.

As a Plan B, to have separate questions for the municipal and school budgets, beware. This is a strategy that directly clashes with the checks and balances set up by the charter.

Many public hearings and discussions on this subject were part of the charter revisions approved by the majority of voting residents. This is an in-your-face attempt to bypass the charter. The Town Council is the town's fiscal gatekeeper, by design and voter approval.

Allowing this would, in effect, be the dismantling of our town government, both in structure and functionality.

Do not allow this to happen. Notify the council that this is unacceptable via email at towncouncil@tolland.org

Attend the meetings critical to the budget development process, which you can find at <http://www.tolland.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/Budget-Schedule3.pdf>.

Don't wait until the annual budget presentation meeting. By then the budget is fully developed. Act while the process is ongoing. Your last chance to speak prior to the council vote is at the March 29 public hearing.

JOHN DURAND
Tolland

*The writer is the director of the Tolland
Taxpayers Association.*

A meeting on Ellington's future

On Monday, March 28, at 7 p.m. at Center School gym, the Ellington Planning and Zoning Commission will continue the public hearing regarding the rezoning of 34.94 acres of land from commercial and residential to multifamily in conjunction with the development of a 172-unit apartment complex near 185 West Road. The land is home to an attorney's office, Johnny Appleseed's Farm Stand, and a peach tree orchard.

Nearly 200 residents attended the opening night of the hearing Feb. 28. This project will affect every resident in Ellington for a multitude of reasons.

The proposed project would eliminate approximately 25 percent of the excess sewer capacity available for commercial use along the Route 83 corridor. Lack of sewer capacity has already handcuffed multiple proposed business ventures over the past five years. Some of these projects would have added to our town's tax rolls without adding population.

Ellington cannot continue to waste this capacity on developments that will not benefit the town. Town Planner Robert Phillips stated in a Feb. 28 memo that

"our best tool to attract economic development is to retain as much available sewer capacity as possible."

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, Ellington's population has grown 21 percent over the past 10 years, making Ellington the fifth-fastest growing municipality in the state (15,602). The proposed rezoning of this land and the proposed development of 172 apartment units would increase Ellington's population by 313 people, a 2 percent increase. Combined with four other ongoing or proposed large-scale multi-family and single-family cluster residential projects in town, these five developments would increase Ellington's population by approximately 8.2 percent.

All of Ellington's schools are at, or over, capacity. The recent approval to purchase land near Crystal Lake School and the assumption that town voters would approve a multimillion-dollar expansion will only partially alleviate the current problem. The expansion would not solve the future problem of overcrowding due to the rapid growth of public school-aged children. The continued rapid uncontrolled growth will result in Ellington building a new school in the near future.

These are but a few of the many issues that have been, and will continue to be, discussed at the PZC meeting on March 28, along with taxes, traffic, planning policy, loss of commercial land, general welfare and safety, property values, town services, and more.

Please take the time out of your busy day on Monday to voice your opinion and to ensure a bright future for your town of Ellington.

LOUIS CORSINO
Ellington

Tuition and military families

What is the justification for any in-state (lower) tuition rates being sought for students who are either here illegally or who are the children of illegal immigrants when there is no voice from legislators or members of the state's Education Committee for the same privileges begin offered to the academically qualified children of our military families?

When military families move into any state but are not residents for a required length of time, they are denied in-state tuition rates. Why? The reason focuses on the fact that they have not been there long enough to have paid sufficient taxes in support of that state's universities or colleges.

Shame on any legislator or member of the Education Committee who supports this special privilege for those who have flaunted our laws and who now seek special advantages in addition.

Our military families serve the entire nation. They or their children should be eligible for special consideration in the costs of higher education — no matter in what state they decide to reside or how long they have been residents.

CAROL BURKE
Vernon