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Sam Chester resigns as Democratic Party chair

By: , Special to the Post

The Avon Democratic Town Committee announced Monday night that Samuel D. Chester has resigned as party chair, and the Committee has elected Christopher Gaffney as its new Chair. Elaine Primeau, John Logan and George Caspar will continue in their offices as Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. Chester will continue as an active member of the Committee. Chester has been an Avon resident since 1990, and took over the reins of the Party in January, 2004. Chester has been credited with bringing a new enthusiasm to the Democratic Town Committee, having had the responsibility for running several spirited campaigns recently.

"Being Chairman of the Democratic Party in Avon is a challenging task," he said. "I've tried to bring a sense of collegiality to the Town Committee, and have worked hard to find and encourage candidates to run for office. It's not an easy job, and progress is measured in slow increments," Chester said, regarding his efforts as Town Chair.

Citing his many other civic activities, such as being a board member of the Avon Old Farms School since 2001, the Board of Governors and House Chairman of the Golf Club of Avon, and serving on the Avon Board of Assessment Appeals, as well as returning to the practice of law in his new Avon office, Chester indicated that he needs to focus his time on some of these other activities.

Christopher Gaffney, a graduate of Ithaca College, is a lifelong Avon resident, having attended Avon schools, and is now pursuing a law degree at the University of Connecticut Law School.

Gaffney, no newcomer to politics, is a longtime member of the Avon Democratic Town Committee, having first become active with the Committee as a junior member while attending Avon High School. He has worked on numerous campaigns, including those involving races for the state Senate, State House of Representatives, U.S. House and Senate as well as various presidential primary campaigns.

"My longstanding interests in politics and the law have naturally lead to my desire to participate as fully as possible in the Town Committee. I now look forward to taking this leadership role, and following up on the work that Sam has started during his tenure as chairman", Gaffney said.

Gaffney noted the successful Avon campaigns in support of U.S. Congressman Christopher Murphy and state Rep. Beth Bye.

"I expect that our Town Committee will run an aggressive campaign for our local offices this fall, just as we did in support of Congressman Murphy and Representative Bye," Gaffney added.

Both Gaffney and Chester will continue to work on a new project initiated by the Town Committee, which will be a family pasta dinner scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 15, to be held at the Prince Thomas of Savoy Society Italian Club on Old Farms Road. Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz and Congressman Christopher Murphy are among the expected guests.



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