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## Gaffney Named To Lead Dems

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August 3, 2007

AVON

Christopher Gaffney, a 26-year-old law student who has worked on numerous political campaigns, is the new chairman of the Democratic town committee, taking the post recently vacated by Samuel D. Chester.

"My longstanding interests in politics and the law have naturally led 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.

He will lead a political party that is outnumbered by Republicans, who have a long winning streak. A Democrat hasn't won a contested election in town since 1970. The last Democrat to beat a Republican in Avon, 37 years ago, won the probate judgeship.

Chester took on the chairman's post in 2004. He says he needs time to focus on his other activities.

"Being chairman of the Democratic Party in Avon is a challenging task," Chester 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."

Former Chairman Tom Gugliotti looks forward to having Gaffney lead the party.

"He's already been organizing on a bigger stage than the town of Avon," Gugliotti said. "He's smarter than most of us in terms of organizing. I think he's going to help us do the right thing."

Gaffney became interested in politics in high school, when he started working with local Democrats on political campaigns.

Since graduating from Ithaca College, Gaffney has worked on a number of campaigns, including the 2006 effort by Stamford Mayor Dannel Malloy, who lost his bid to win the Democratic nomination for governor.

Gaffney attends the University of Connecticut Law School and works as an intern in the office of Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz.



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