



Bob Luckey Jr. / Hearst Connecticut Media

An electric warning sign at the Lake Avenue traffic circle after the town ordered water restrictions due to the depleted reservoirs in Greenwich.

DROUGHT CONDITIONS

Officials question Aquarion actions

Some are asking if water restrictions could have come sooner

By Ken Borsuk

GREENWICH — With no end in sight for water restrictions due to an ongoing drought, some officials in Greenwich and Stamford are questioning whether the water company should have declared an emergency earlier in

order to stave off a crisis.

"Anyone could see how low the reservoir was becoming," Greenwich Selectman Drew Marzullo said Tuesday. "How much money would Aquarion stand to lose if incremental steps were taken?"

Last week, after the Board of Selectmen expanded mandatory

water restrictions in town, Marzullo pointed out that Aquarion Water Company is a for-profit operation, which he said benefits from high consumption — a claim denied by company officials Tuesday.

"If Aquarion acted faster with
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"The goal was to be a professional singer, and then children happened."

Brett Kroeger

A DAY AT THE OPERA

Greenwich hockey mom sings Gilbert & Sullivan



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Brett Kroeger in her Riveriside home on Tuesday. Kroeger, a soprano, will be playing Mercury in the Trouper's Light Opera Company production of the first collaboration by Gilbert & Sullivan, "Thespis," which opens Nov. 5 at All Saints Catholic School in Norwalk. To see and hear her sing, go to: bit.ly/2dOPYzC



Ken Borsuk / Hearst Connecticut Media

State representative candidate Dita Bhargava talked transportation issues at a Tuesday morning press conference with U.S. Rep. Jim Himes at the Greenwich railroad station.

TRANSPORTATION

A focus on transit problems

By Ken Borsuk

GREENWICH — Politics took center stage at the Greenwich railroad station Tuesday morning.

Greenwich Democratic state Legislature candidate Dita Bhargava focused her campaign on the need for transportation improvements at a press conference at the station with U.S. Rep. Jim Himes, D-4, at her side.

Bhargava, a working mom who commuted into New York City for years, said her family moved to Greenwich because they thought it would make commuting easier.

"I've knocked on over 3,000 doors as part of my campaign and I do feel there is discontent with the type of service that the MTA is providing," Bhargava said. "We need to be much more

By Robert Marchant

GREENWICH — There are plenty of hyphenated high achievers in Greenwich who pursue multiple tasks with intensity, but Brett Kroeger might have a distinction all her own.

"I'm the hockey-mom opera-singer," she said with a laugh.

When she's not lugging around

hockey equipment, or spending hours behind the wheel driving to ice rinks around the region, Kroeger is hitting the high notes as a soprano with a regional opera company.

"The goal was to be a professional singer, and then children happened," said Kroeger, whose deep, rich voice in casual conversation hints at years of conservatory training and classical-

opera performances in New York City and Italy. "As much as I can, I've tried to make this work."

Now that her children, aged 5 and 8, are school-aged, Kroeger is renewing her commitment to opera and the vocal arts. She will be taking a lead role in an upcoming Gilbert and Sullivan production next month with the

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with the type of work that she needs providing," Bhargava said. "We need to be much more aggressive with the MTA to make sure they do live up to their contract and force their hand."

Bhargava is running against incumbent Republican state Rep. Fred Camillo in the 151st District as he seeks his fifth term in office.

The morning gathering with a handful of supporters on the New York-bound platform at the station was occasionally interrupted by trains roaring by.

The focus also turned to conditions on

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EDUCATION

GCS cuts ribbon on renovated, expanded Upper School

Greenwich Catholic School Principal Patrice Kopas welcomes the crowd at Tuesday's ribbon-cutting for the new Upper School.

Danielle Robinson Calloway / For Hearst Connecticut Media



By Emilie Munson

GREENWICH — Greenwich Catholic School cut the ribbon marking the official opening of the newly expanded and renovated Upper School building on Tuesday.

"This is a totally unique and historic day in the life of Greenwich Catholic School," said Bishop Frank Caggiano. "Today will change the future of this school and let everyone know that GCS

"Today will change the future of this school and let everyone know that GCS is here to stay forever."

Bishop Frank Caggiano

is here to stay forever."

Work on the Upper School, which houses grades six through eight, began in late June 2016. The construction included a completely renovated interior, the addition of two classrooms, a new roof, an

energy efficient heating and cooling system and Americans with Disabilities Act compliant restrooms.

"This building is a gift to you," said Principal Patrice Kopas to

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Weather: Partly sunny.
High: 65. Low: 54.
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FROM THE FRONT PAGE

OPERA

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region's only operetta company.

It's a facet of her life she can't live without, said Kroeger, a Riverside resident.

"This is the kind of job — you can't do it, unless you love to do it, unless you can't live without it. Every time I try to quit — it just doesn't happen," she said.

A love of singing came at an early age.

"I've always sung. Would not shut up," the soprano said. "According to my mother, I was singing 'Old Man River' at 11 months. I don't really believe it, but it's a nice story."

A career as a professional singer beckoned. "I had a big voice. It made sense, perfect sense, when I was 16, and I never doubted that that was my path."

Though she has also sung folk music, popular hits from the Great American Songbook and loves

Tori Amos, the world of opera lured her in with a siren song she could not resist. Her eyes light up when she talks about performing operatic works by Tchaikovsky and Mozart. She also enjoys light opera — and the challenge of extremely fast and witty vocal wordplay, punctuated by broad comedic laughs, created by Gilbert and Sullivan.

The Troupers Light Opera Company, now in its 72nd year and the only vocal-arts company of its kind in southern Connecticut, is putting on a rarity from Gilbert and Sullivan, "Thespis," their first collaboration together.

It's typically described as a "lost opera," since Sullivan's musical score has been lost to history. In 2007, director Anthony Baker and conductor Timothy Henty recreated the score, using bits of other works by Sullivan and composer Jacques Offenbach, an important influence on Sullivan's work. The perfor-

mance of Thespis in Norwalk next month would be the first of its kind in the Northeast using the new score.

"It's all new. It's exciting, it's funny, it's a quirky show," said Kroeger, who also sits on the board of the Troupers.

The company has survived through the years on the labors and passion of people like Kroeger.

"It's the last of its kind — all these opera companies are falling apart," Kroeger said. "We struggle every year, and worry that we don't have enough funding, but every year, somehow, we put on two shows a year. It's one hundred percent a labor of love."

The 20-member cast is presenting the full comic operetta, semi-staged, at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 5 and 2:30 p.m. Nov. 6, at All Saints School in Norwalk.

Aside from the upcoming Gilbert and Sullivan show, and performing popular songs from the era of World War I, Kroeger said she



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Brett Kroeger in her Riverisde home on Tuesday.

sees a duty to bring a new generation of young people into the world of opera. She has done operatic performances at Riverside School and is planning one for Cos

Cob School.

In between driving, hockey practices and rehearsals, promoting a love of opera has become a priority for the dedicated

soprano.

"This music needs to stay around," she said, "however we can do it."

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