

Newsmakers to watch in 2010

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Which individuals will be the most interesting newsmakers of 2010 in the Greater Danbury area?

Only time will tell, but The News-Times staff has compiled this list (in random order) of some of the most likely people to watch, and Special Sections Editor [Terri Rousseau](#) and Opinion Editor [Brian Koonz](#) have articulated the reasons why.

- [Mark Boughton](#), Republican mayor of Danbury

Will the city's popular leader, who just started his fifth two-year term, throw his hat in the ring and make a run for the governor's office being vacated by Brookfield neighbor [Jodi Rell](#)?

Will the city lose its leader to the state capital?

Most guesses are he will run, but with a large field of contenders, his chances of success are unknown.

All eyes will be on [Boughton](#) when he makes his announcement in early February, and if he does run, they will continue to be on him as long as he is a player in the gubernatorial sweepstakes.

- [David Cappiello](#), McMahon campaign manager

Former state legislator [David Cappiello](#) of Danbury has left his post of policy analyst for the state Senate Republican caucus to manage the [U.S. Senate](#) campaign of Republican hopeful [Linda McMahon](#).

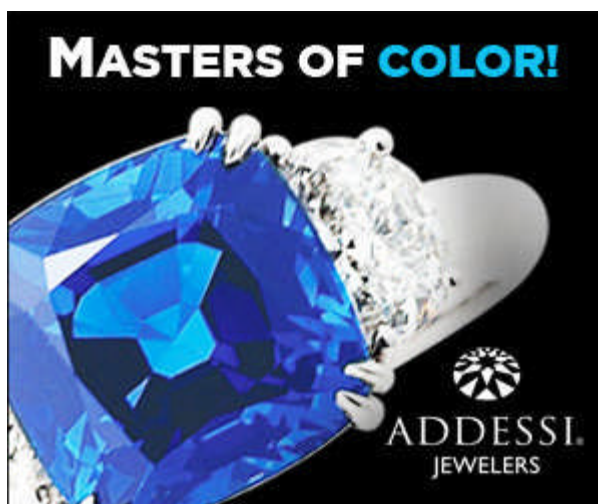
[McMahon](#), former CEO of the Stamford-based World Wrestling Entertainment has money, and now she has [Cappiello's](#) political connections and organizational skills. Will they be enough to help her win the seat being vacated by [Chris Dodd](#)?

- [Ken Green](#), professional golfer

[Green](#), 51, who grew up in Danbury, joined the Champions Tour in 2008 after collecting five wins in his PGA Tour career and playing on the 1989 Ryder Cup team.

In June, he was seriously injured in an RV accident that killed his brother, his girlfriend and his dog and required the amputation of part of his right leg.

But [Green](#) is a feisty, combative individual, and he is hoping to be the first professional golfer to compete with a prosthesis. He will certainly have plenty of local support as he seeks to make that courageous and



historic comeback.

- The Crouch quadruplets of Danbury, all accepted to [Yale University's Class of 2014](#)

Ray, Ken, Carol and Martina, seniors at [Danbury High School](#), made history by being the first set of quadruplets accepted en masse to the [Ivy League](#) school in New Haven. Will they all choose to go there? If so, what will freshman year bring them?

- [Marcus Tracy](#), soccer player

Tracy grew up in Newtown, was a member of the 2004 LL Division state championship soccer team, won the 2008 Hermann Trophy as the nation's most outstanding college player while at [Wake Forest University](#), and was recently selected by News-Times sports columnist [Kevin Duffy](#) as the top area high school athlete of the past decade.

Tracy joined the Danish club Aalborg and made his debut with it last March. But last month he was chosen by [Major League Soccer](#) club [Houston Dynamo](#) in the 2009 MLS SuperDraft. Will he return to the U.S. to play professionally or stay in Europe?

- [Stephen Snow and Brian Montague](#), owners of the [Center for New Media and the Arts](#)

Snow and Montague are making Bethel a happening place. They've staged dance, music and arts events with a Manhattan flair in renovated space downtown -- and charged affordable prices for them.

Will they get the support from the community they need to keep their artistic vision sparkling?

- The Rev. [Ivan Pitts](#), pastor of New Hope Baptist Church

Pitts' church building grew more than fourfold last year. Will his thriving congregation keep its steady footing with the expense of running this greatly enlarged facility and its services, which include a day-care center? And will Pitts continue to be a strong, articulate voice in the community?

- [Rudy Marconi](#), first selectman of Ridgefield

After 10 years leading his hometown, Marconi has set his sights on the governor's mansion. The respected Democrat already has an exploratory committee in place and is hoping to cash in on voter sentiment to return a Democrat to the governorship for the first time in two decades.

- [Herm Sorcher](#), managing general partner, Danbury Whalers

Will this new team, which will start competing in the [Federal Hockey League](#) in November, be able to survive and succeed at the Danbury Arena, where three previous teams have failed?

Fans should enjoy a special promotion that allows season ticketholders to lock in a guaranteed lifetime price that will never be increased -- that is, they'll enjoy the benefit if the team lasts.

What else will Sorcher and his colleagues do this year to build local support for the [Whalers](#)?

- [Jessica Principato](#), singer

Principato and her alternative rock band, Turbulent Flow, began organizing a monthly battle of the bands at Danbury's [Heirloom Arts Theatre](#) in September.

It's been drawing six or eight bands at a time, playing a wide range of musical styles in front of crowds of various ages. And it charges an amount young people can afford, \$10.

Will this venture have staying power?

- [M. Jodi Rell](#), governor of Connecticut

Before her final term ends next January, Brookfield's best-known resident faces the myriad challenges of the state's budget crisis.

Will her decisions help her maintain her reputation as the citizens' sweet-grandmother guardian until she becomes a full-time grandma? What will her legacy be?

- [John Murphy](#), future [Danbury Hospital](#) president

This summer Murphy will become the first doctor to head Danbury Hospital, a job that may grow with the proposed merger of Danbury and New Milford hospitals, a delicate move to execute.

Murphy has big shoes to fill, succeeding successful 23-year president [Frank Kelly](#). Among other challenges, he will seek to maintain the hospital's financial strength and contend with whatever health-care reforms Washington lawmakers approve.

- [Bill Davidson](#), [Matt Knickerbocker](#) and [Pat Llodra](#), newly elected first selectmen

After all three emerged victorious in multiple-candidate races, Davidson needs to lead the way on the Brookfield Village concept at the [Four Corners](#) in Brookfield, Knickerbocker is faced with the challenge of restoring civility to Bethel public life, and Llodra must focus on the development of the Fairfield Hills property in Newtown.

- [Joe DaSilva](#), Danbury landlord

DaSilva's extensive real estate holdings in Danbury include the downtown [Palace Theater](#), which closed in 1995. In 2008, he began renovating it to provide a major venue for the Connecticut Film Festival and other performances, and it is considered key to a thriving downtown.

Will he remain committed to the city's success?

- [Agostinho Ribeiro](#), Danbury attorney

"Augie" Ribeiro provides a key voice for Portuguese community in the city. He's a founding member of the [Portuguese Cultural Center](#) and sits on its board of trustees. He's also a founding member of the [Portuguese Bar Association of Connecticut](#).

He has an office on Main Street and is a supporter of the downtown renaissance, and he can play a big role in the city's future.

- [Tom Carruthers](#), founder and president of the Connecticut Film Festival

In 2009, its second big year, the festival drew thousands of out-of-town visitors to Danbury. Will Carruthers be able to attract more local residents to this year's festival and eventually grow the event so it doesn't need taxpayer money to survive?

- [Bob Rossi](#), new Danbury High School principal

Will the administrator from Goodyear, Ariz., have a good first year in Danbury? Will he stay and succeed in running Connecticut's second-largest high school, which has had five principals in 10 years?

Will his commitment to changing the culture of the school by having every student connected to a caring adult have the result he believes it will: rising test scores?

- [John Kline](#), president and CEO of Union Savings Bank of Danbury

Kline has helped guide the bank through tremendous growth and will play a pivotal role in its efforts to merge with the First National Bank of Litchfield.

Kline is also chairman of Danbury's Main Street Renaissance Task Force, charged with planning the future success of the area that directly surrounds the bank's 1886 office building. He can play a historic role in that endeavor.

- [Derek Roy](#), WestConn student

Roy was the youngest person to run for a City Council seat in November's election, and although he lost by 59 votes he continued to promote innovative ideas for school and city cooperation, the Communiversy and the WestConn Weekend Initiative. Will they take off? Will he run for office again?

- [Glenda Armstrong](#), president of the Greater Danbury NAACP

Armstrong rang alarm bells in October when New Fairfield board members forwarded racist e-mails, but the flap resulted in townwide meetings about the value of diversity, civility, respect -- and the proper use of e-mail. Will she continue to be a strong voice in fostering the proper handling of sensitive issues?

"Hopefully," she said at the time, "we can look back on this a year from now and say we are all better off for weathering this storm."

Let's hope when we look back a year from today, these newsmakers have accomplished things in 2010 that make all of us better off.

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