

# THOMPSON VILLAGER

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## Former Putnam woman named Harvard Athletic Director

BY RON P. CODERRE  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Erin McDermott, a former Putnam resident, was named Athletic Director at Harvard University on Thursday, May 7. McDermott is the first woman in the long and prestigious history of Harvard, which was founded in 1636, to hold the position. Her appointment takes effect on July 1, 2020.

McDermott, who was born in Webster, Mass., resided in Putnam for the first four years of her life before moving to Massachusetts with her family. She is the daughter of Thomas McDermott, who starred

on the basketball court at the former St. Joseph's High School in North Grosvenordale and Kathleen Donnelly McDermott.

"We are thrilled to welcome Erin McDermott to the University," Harvard President Larry Bacow told The Harvard Gazette. "She understands and appreciates the values of the Ivy League — that our athletes are students first. She brings to her new role deep and broad experience as well as an abiding love of competition. I am confident that she will build on the considerable accomplishments of Bob Scalise at a moment of remarkable challenge both across the nation and throughout higher

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## American Legion District #4 awards two scholarships

REGION — As part of its commitment to youth, The American Legion District #4, which encompasses Tolland and Windham counties, recently announced its two scholarship recipients for 2020. The American Legion's mission is based on four pillars — Care and Rehabilitation of Veterans; Defense of our country; Americanism; and Service to Youth. In awarding the scholarships, District #4 Commander Ronald P. Coderre noted, "These awards are part of our service to the youth of our area and our commitment to promoting Americanism in our young people. We're honored and proud to support these worthy individuals."

The 2020 scholarship awards are being presented to Emily Guerrero of Rockville High School and Justin St. Martin of Putnam High School, two area high school seniors.

"The District scholarship committee received a large number of applications this year. Following much deliberation, the committee made its selections. Both of these young people demonstrated wholesome American qualities. Their applications indicated strength in the area of American citizenship. We're very pleased to make these presentations," said Commander Coderre.

Emily Guerrero excelled in academics and extracurricular and community activities in her school and community. She served as vice president of her class, participated in track and cross country and was recognized as a STEM scholar. She was also honored by the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education with awards in Student Leadership and Excellence in Computer Science and Business Education.

Ms. Guerrero is active in the Youth Peer Advocate program at her school, serves on the Youth Advisory Board of her community and is a team captain for the Relay for Life. She is the daughter of Anthony and Pamela Guerrero of Vernon. In September she will be attending Seton Hall University in New Jersey, where she will focus her studies in the field of Nursing. Her goal is to be a Doctor of Nursing Practice, specializing in neonatal nursing.

Justin St. Martin is a mem-



Emily Guerrero



Justin St. Martin

ber of the Putnam High School National Honor Society and the Student Council. He participated in soccer, golf, baseball and basketball and was honored as a Connecticut Association of Schools Scholar-Athlete. He's active in Boy Scouts, attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. He's also a member of the Putnam Leo Club, a division of the Putnam Lions Club and volunteers in a number of non-profit organization programs.

St. Martin is the son of Michael and Amy Beth St. Martin of Putnam. He'll attend Landmark College in Putney, Vermont in September, where he'll study Computer Science.

According to scholarship committee chairman Albert Cormier of Mayotte-Viens American Legion Post #13, Guerrero and St. Martin will each be the recipient of a \$1000 scholarship. Under the current conditions created by the COVID-19 crisis, the arrangements for the presentations are pending.

## Centreville Bank Charitable Foundation donates to organizations offering COVID-19 relief

PUTNAM — The Centreville Bank Charitable Foundation has awarded \$45,000 in emergency funding to nine Connecticut organizations, today announced Harold M. Horvat, bank President, CEO and Chairman. Centreville recently completed the acquisition of Putnam Bank, which operates as a division of

Centreville.

"Now that our merger with Putnam Bank is complete, Centreville is proud to be part of the Eastern Connecticut community and we are committed to providing assistance where it is needed most," said Horvat. "We realize that there continues to be an enormous amount of work to help the

people and organizations of Eastern Connecticut that are being impacted financially by this pandemic. We hope that our ongoing support assists those who need it most."

Receiving grants are: Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut (CFECT)

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Photo Courtesy

John Richard and Kayla Engh, EMTs with the Woodstock Volunteer Fire Association in South Woodstock, are all smiles after receiving PPE funding from the Putnam Rotary Club.

## Putnam Rotary supports local first responders

PUTNAM — Call it a "rapid-response" fund-raiser. "Rapid response," much like the beneficiaries of the Putnam Rotary Club's latest fund-raiser.

First responder ambulance/EMT crews received \$1,400 total from the Putnam Rotary Club to spend on Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) that they might need. In less than two weeks, an idea was conceived, carried out and the checks went out.

One Putnam Rotarian who works with local emergency

personnel heard about different needs in different ambulance corps. Some needed masks; others needed face shields; still others needed gloves. Instead of giving crews the items, the club thought that giving the funds instead would allow the crews to get exactly what they needed.

The icing on the cake was word that "First responders are first in line ordering from Amazon."

Putnam Rotary Club President Richard Naumann, in a Zoom meeting with his

club and follow-up email, asked Rotarians send checks to the Rotary Club's treasurer. Another Rotarian compiled a list of crews in need in the club's area of service.

Within days, club members had contributed \$700. Naumann said the club added another \$700 from the District and the checks were mailed to the crews.

The following first responders received funds: Pomfret Fire District, Putnam EMS, East Putnam Fire Department,

Turn To **ROTARY** page **A3**



# Civil War and Memorial Day

Memorial Day dates back to the late 1860's, following the Civil War. Since this weekend is Memorial Day weekend, in honor of the many men who participated in this War Between the States, I thought I would devote this column to Civil War happenings. I don't have a relative in my direct line who was a Civil War veteran, but my great grandfather's older brother James William Lyter served in a Pennsylvania regiment. Since he wasn't born until 1848, he must have enlisted as quite a young man. I know many of our local men were also quite young.

Several interesting publications on local history in my personal library provided me with an abundance of information on what was taking place here in Northeastern Connecticut and in the Southern military camps throughout the war. In his "Historical Memoir of the West or Brooklyn Side Danielson, Connecticut," H.V. Arnold noted various changes in the daily routines following the inauguration of

President Lincoln and the secession of several Southern states. In 1861 "the President called for 75,000 men for three months service and people realized that a civil war was inevitable, though there was an illusion quite generally prevalent that it would be short. The remainder of April and May in Danielsonville was characterized by war-meetings, public addresses and enlistments of men for the war."

The war affected the local factories and "the mills now began running on shortened time and were stopped each Saturday, giving operatives some leisure to take all the more cognizance of what was in progress...Soldiers trains taking whole regiments of men to the war began passing through the village in long trains of passenger coaches. These things set the Brooklyn side boys at playing soldiers, though the 'depot boys', as they were called made no such demonstration."

As the war progressed, men from the Killingly-Brooklyn area were among those who enlisted in the Eighteenth Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry. It was formally organized in Norwich on Aug. 22, 1862 and left that day for Baltimore, Maryland. Colonel William Grosvenor Ely of Norwich, who was born in Killingly December 11, 1836 the son of Jesse and Mary Grosvenor



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(www.nps.gov/civilwar/search-battle-units-detail.htm?...;findagrave

"Dear Transcript Letters from Windham County Soldiers During the Civil War 1861-1865" by the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society provides heart-wrenching glimpses into the feelings of family and friends awaiting news of their loved ones and letters from the war zone. The Transcript of June 25, 1863 carried the following (apparently by the editor): "We have no need to say to our readers that the past the days have been days of intense and painful anxiety on the part of the citizens of our County, and the heavy burden has not now been fully lifted from the minds and hearts of our people. Not alone about the hearthstones where weeping fathers and mothers, wives and children, brothers and sisters, in deep suspense waited tidings from the absent ones...In these hours of our sadness we have one consolation--the Eighteenth never flinched. They met the shock of battle with a bravery and determination that has not been surpassed in the present war...The Eighteenth with their gallant Col. Ely, who proved himself worthy to lead as brave man as ever went to battle---will receive the homage due the heroic." (p.291,2).

Anxiously awaiting news of the men "on Saturday morning our citizens determined, if it was possible, to ascertain the fate of the mass of the Eighteenth as we could obtain no information from either Major Peale or Capt. Palmer, the only commissioned officers or privates who were in the last charge that escaped; and E. L. Cundall, Esq., Major Keech and Mr. Lorin Bates left on the noon train for Baltimore and Harper's Ferry." (p.293).

Cundall sent a letter from Baltimore dated June 21, 1863 noting some of what he had learned, although he had no complete report. Colonel Ely was being held prisoner; Lt. Co. Nichols was wounded and was also a prisoner; Surgeon Holbrook was reported killed but that was not confirmed; Captain Bates (Co. B)

and Capt. Bowen (Co. H) were wounded and were prisoners; Lt. Blanchard (Co. B) was reported killed; Alonzo Potter of Williamsville was sick and a prisoner. (p. 294). That campaign left many casualties and a number of prisoners. The State of Connecticut later erected a monument to the 18th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry Regiment at Winchester National Cemetery in Winchester, Va. ((/stonesentinels.com/less-known/winchester-sites/national-cemetery/18-ct/). Visit the website if you wish to see the monument.

It was not long after the War that graves of those killed in the War were decorated. In fact, as early as 1866 the Southern women had begun to decorate graves of both Confederate and Union soldiers. In 1868 the Commander in Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic issued a general order designating May 30 as a memorial day. Its purpose was to decorate the graves of those who had fallen in battle thus it was originally referred to as Decoration Day instead of Memorial Day. (www.americaslibrary.gov)

Like many towns in Northeastern Connecticut, Killingly chose to honor its Civil War veterans with a statue. The one at Davis Park in Danielson reads as follows: "Erected A.D. 1878 by the Women's Monument Association and Town of Killingly in Honor of the Soldiers and Sailors who served in the War of 1861 for the Preservation of the Union." As we celebrate Memorial Day even though we will have no parades or formal ceremonies due to Covid-19 restrictions, let us pause to remember those who sacrificed so much for us. We can still put flags on our houses and in our yards. We can still visit cemeteries in small family groups. We can still play patriotic music. We can still honor our forefathers and pray that our country is never so divided again.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, May 2020. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wed. or Sat. 10-4 (when it reopens) or www.killinglyhistorical.org. or call 860-779-7250 (when the Historical Center reopens). Like us at Facebook at www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety. Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center should be sent to PO Box 265, Danielson, Connecticut 06329.



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## DONATIONS

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\$25,000  
The funds will support the Neighbors for Neighbors Fund, which was established in April to help area nonprofits that are working on the front lines of the COVID-19 battle to assist those who are most vulnerable including low-income individuals, residents without health insurance, individuals with disabilities, among others — to address immediate basic needs such as

healthcare, food, shelter, childcare and other supports. Centreville previously donated \$25,000 to this fund, bringing the total grant to \$50,000 to date.  
The following eight food pantries will receive a total of \$20,000.  
Daily Bread, Putnam  
Friends of Assisi Food Pantry, Danielson  
Ledyard Food Pantry, Ledyard  
Pomfret Food Pantry, Pomfret Center  
Project Pin Food Pantry, Moosup  
St. Mary's Church Food Pantry, Jewett City

St. Vincent's De Paul Place, Norwich  
Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group Food Pantry, North Grosvenordale  
The Centreville Bank Charitable Foundation was established as a nonprofit, charitable organization in 2006 by the Board of Trustees to further the philanthropic mission of the bank. For more information, visit https://www.centrevillebank.com/Community/Local-Support/Community-Commitment.


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**VILLAGER ALMANAC**

**At CT AUDUBON**

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of May 11: Nashville Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Parula Warbler, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Brown Thrasher, Bobolink, Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting, Baltimore Oriole, Worm-eating Warbler, Wood Thrush, Veery, Bald Eagle, Black Vulture, Barred Owl, Common Nighthawk, Barn Swallow, Tree Swallow, House Wren, Black-throated Green Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush. Visit ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home.



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# Putnam police foil robbery in progress

PUTNAM — On Saturday, May 16 at approximately 2:08 p.m., the Putnam Police Department received a 911 call for a robbery in progress at the Sam’s Food Store/Sunoco located at 303 Kennedy Dr.

Officer Kyle Maheu, who was a short distance away, responded immediately and interrupted the robbery in progress, subsequently taking the suspect into custody without incident.

As a result of the investigation, it was determined that Tysone Hill, age 21, entered the Sam’s Food Store and approached the clerk demanding money and car keys. Hill then assaulted the male clerk, causing minor injury to him. The clerk refused medical attention. No weapons were used or implied.

Hill was transported to Putnam Police Headquarters and processed and held on bond.



Tysone Hill

## POLICE LOGS

### Putnam police log

PUTNAM — The Putnam Police Department reported the following arrests during the past week.

Syreeta Booker, age 29, of Millbury, Mass. was arrested on May 13 for a Stop Sign Violation.

Tysone Hill, age 21, current address unknown, was arrested on May 16 for Criminal Attempt at Robbery in the First Degree, Criminal Attempt at Larceny in the Sixth Degree, Assault in the Third Degree, Breach of Peace in the Second Degree, Interfering with a Police Officer, and Possession of Less than Half an Ounce of Cannabis.



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# Woodstock Memorial Day activities canceled

WOODSTOCK — Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Woodstock Recreation Director Anthony Pezzetti and First Selectman Jay Swan announce the cancellation of traditional Memorial Day activities. Included are the annual 10K Road Race and 5K planned for this year to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the 10K, as well as the parade, concert, speakers and military flyover.

However, throughout the morning, members of Benson-Flugel American Legion Post 111 will conduct ceremonies at the nine cemeteries in town. At 11:45 a.m., Post members will conclude the day’s observance with a wreath laying and rifle volley at the main Veterans Monument on the south end of the town common. Accompanying Post Members will be Rockwell

Valentine and Keegan Kelleher performing Taps. Since public assembly will not be possible due to social distancing Anthony Pezzetti will live stream the ceremony on the Woodstock Facebook Page ([www.facebook.com/Town-of-Woodstock-CT-108386404135697/](https://www.facebook.com/Town-of-Woodstock-CT-108386404135697/)).

## MCDERMOTT

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education.”

McDermott replaces Scalise who announced his retirement following 19 years at the helm as AD for the Crimson.

Since 2013, McDermott has served as the athletic director at the University of Chicago, a Division III school. Prior to her arrival in Chicago, McDermott held athletic administration positions at two Ivy League schools, Columbia and Princeton, where she worked for Gary Williams.

The new Harvard AD is no stranger to athletics, especially basketball. A 1990 graduate and three-sport athlete at Oakmont Regional High School in Massachusetts, she led the Spartans to the Massachusetts District championship and eventually to the state title game in her senior year. In the semi-finals, Oakmont defeated favored

Southwick High School, which was led by Rebecca Lobo who went on to All-American fame at the University of Connecticut.

In the semi-final upset of Southwick, McDermott went head-to-head with Lobo, who tallied 30 points. McDermott was credited with a great defensive effort. She laughs about that story today, noting that Lobo was probably averaging 50 points per game at the time. Following her days at Oakmont, she was recognized by the school with her enshrinement into the Spartans Athletic Hall of Fame.

Following her brilliant high school athletic career, she was highly recruited by numerous Division I schools, finally selecting Hofstra University on Long Island, N.Y. She graduated in 1994, and was honored as Hofstra’s top female athlete, following an outstanding basketball career. She later earned a Master’s degree from UMass Amherst.

“I really could not have dreamed up a more perfect place to land than at Harvard. I never thought that this was truly possible,” McDermott recently told The Gardner News.

Regarding her transition to Harvard, she told the Boston Globe, “I envision my first 90 days on a listening tour of constituents, and my goal is to try to build relationships as quickly as I can. Credibility and trust happen through consistency in message and being able to show that I believe in this whole ideal.”

“It’s not a they and us; they are us and we are them, and we are all the same.”

Less than a half century ago, the little girl who grew up in Putnam probably never dreamed of Harvard. But hard work, attention to detail and building relationships has paid off handsomely.

“We are all very proud of Erin,” said her father, Tom McDermott.

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## ROTARY

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# OBITUARIES

## James M. Ward, 57

**NORTH GROSVENORDALE-**James M. Ward, 57, of Ravenelle Rd., died peacefully at his residence on Friday, May 1, 2020. He was the loving husband of Susan (Andrews) Ward. Born in Winthrop, Massachusetts, he was the son of James Ward of Bellingham, MA and Patricia (Arnell) Pumphret of Winthrop, MA.

Jimmy was a proud veteran serving with the United States Air Force where he learned Communications. After leaving the Air Force, Jimmy continued to work in the communications field as he became a cell phone tower engineer, owning his own company for many years. His favorite part of his job was the fact that he loved to climb 1,500 feet up to the top of the tower to meet the helicopter, at which time an extension was placed on the tower. Jimmy's business allowed him the opportunity to travel throughout the United States, which this proud Patriot loved, but no

matter what state he found himself in he was able to find a gym to workout in. He was also known for his love of animals, especially his Mastiffs that he raised.

In addition to his wife, Jimmy is survived by his son, James Riley Ward of Alaska; his two daughters, Charlene Ward of upstate New York and Jady Ward of Thompson, CT; his stepson, Colton Andrews of Shrewsbury, MA; his sister, Tracy Ward Adkins of North Carolina; his half siblings, Sean Pumphret, Paul Pumphret Thomas Pumphret, Caitlin Pumphret, and Kathy Pumphret Norris all of Winthrop, MA as well as Lisa Ward, Maureen Ward, Brian Ward, and Roger Ward all of Bellingham, MA and five grandchildren.

At the request of the family and due to the Corona Virus, funeral arrangements are private and have been entrusted to the Gilman Funeral Home and Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam. At a future date, the family will schedule a Celebration of James' life. Memorial donations may be made in honor of James Ward, to The Animal Rescue League of Worcester, 139 Holden St. Worcester, MA 01606. For memorial guestbook visit [www.GilmanAndValade.com](http://www.GilmanAndValade.com).

## Barbara L. Sinkis

Heaven gained a special angel as Barbara L. (Petit) Sinkis passed away on Saturday May 9, 2020 at Care One of Millbury from complications related to COVID-19. She was born in Worcester, MA on January 13, 1934.

She leaves her loving husband of sixty-seven years Chester Sinkis, her sons Stephen Sinkis of E. Brookfield,

Mark Sinkis and wife Carol of No. Oxford, Chester Sinkis of Brookfield, and David C. Sinkis of Terrell, TX (formerly N. Oxford, MA) who passed away in 2013, and her daughters Debra Wyszynski and husband Konrad of Oxford, Donna Korp and husband Arthur of Worcester, Cathy Laskowski and husband Benjamin of Webster, Barbara (Bonnie) Harden and husband John of Dudley, Laurie Baarda and husband Richard of Webster and Kim Brassard of Oxford, and her grandchildren Michael Wyszynski who passed away in 1997, Justin Wyszynski, Kristin Santerre, Meagan Brousseau, Stevie Sinkis, Chelsea Korp, Tiffany Rivera, Matthew Laskowski, Brian Harden, Kevin Harden, Nicole Baarda, Danielle Baarda, Lindsey Baarda, Jacklyn Los, Davie Sinkis, Dean Brassard, Mandy Brassard, and 15 great grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her parents Archie and Lois (Hartley) Petit of Worcester, and her brothers Phillip, Robert and Allen, her sister-in-laws Marie and Carleen Petit and brother-in-law Benas Sinkis, and leaves her sister Shirley Sinkis and husband Al of Oxford, brother Richard Petit of Auburn and sister-in-laws Eileen and Paula Petit of Worcester and Deborah Sinkis of Auburn. She also leaves

many nieces and nephews, and other relatives and many loving friends.

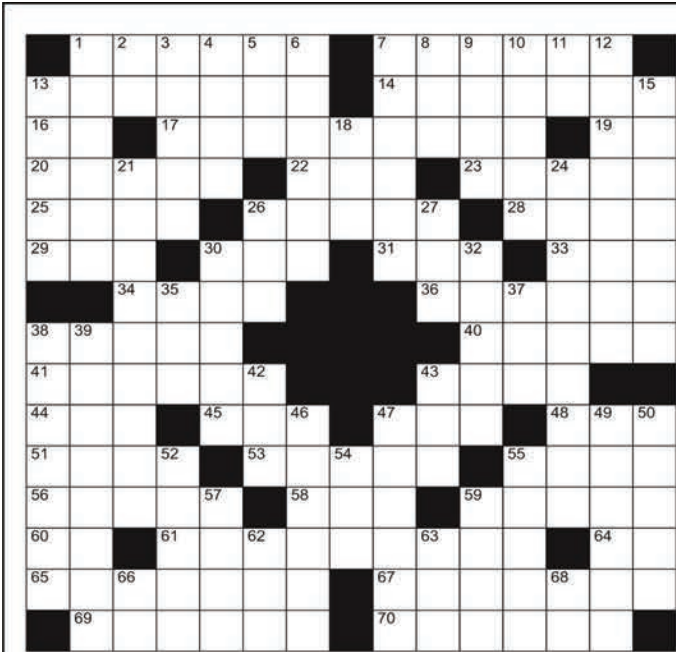
For years she worked at Marvin Richmond Studios in the film processing laboratory and then worked and retired from Liberty Mutual Insurance as a Call Director Agent. After retirement she and Chester enjoyed many years camping at Lake Dean campground spending time with family and friends, having cookouts, sitting by the campfire listening to music, and sitting by the beach. Then they relocated to No. Fort Myers FL, and enjoyed several years making new friends, enjoyed senior activities and having family visit them there. They moved back home to Oxford where they have enjoyed spending time with family and friends.

Her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren were her pride and joy, she enjoyed cooking and baking, family cookouts, listening to music, spending time at the lake and ocean, loved dancing and going to events that had Polka music.

There will be no calling hours and when time allows due to the COVID-19 there will be a Celebration of Life luncheon planned for family and friends. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Care One of Millbury and Ascend Hospice of Marlborough.

To all of the staff at Care One of Millbury especially the nurses, aids and residents, and the Ascend Hospice team, we cannot thank you enough for your support, prayers, dedication, thoughtfulness, and loving compassion during this very difficult time.

The Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School St., Webster, MA has been entrusted with her arrangements. A guest book is available at [www.shaw-majercik.com](http://www.shaw-majercik.com) where you may offer condolences or light a candle in remembrance of Barbara.

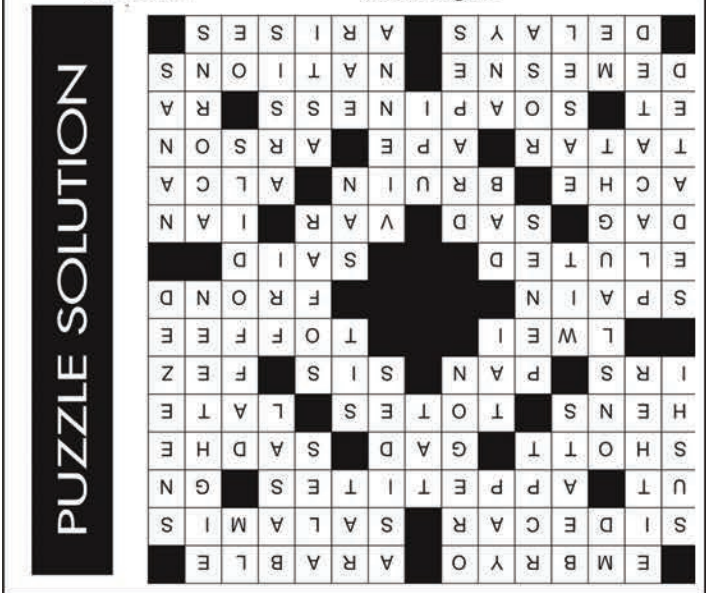


### CLUES ACROSS

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- 7. Productive
- 13. Popular cocktail
- 14. Sausages
- 16. Western state
- 17. Natural desires
- 19. Defunct British automaker
- 20. Early media tycoon
- 22. Move from one place to another
- 23. Letter of Semitic abjads
- 25. Female birds
- 26. Umbrella brand
- 28. Delinquent
- 29. Tax collector
- 30. Cooking tool
- 31. Female sibling
- 33. Flat-topped hat
- 34. Angolan currency
- 36. Boardwalk candy
- 38. European nation
- 40. Leaflike part of palm
- 41. Removed with solvent
- 43. Uttered words
- 44. Unfashionable person
- 45. Disappointed
- 47. Controversial device in soccer
- 48. 007's creator
- 51. Pain
- 53. UCLA mascot
- 55. Razorbill
- 56. Turkic people
- 58. Mimic
- 59. Crime involving fire
- 60. And, Latin
- 61. A saponaceous quality
- 64. Dorm employee
- 65. Estate lands
- 67. States
- 69. They slow you down
- 70. Gets up

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. One or the other
- 2. Doc
- 3. Songs have them
- 4. Record of payment (abbr.)
- 5. Speak endlessly
- 6. American state
- 7. Digressions
- 8. Tell on
- 9. Brews
- 10. Belongs to the bottom layer
- 11. American cigarette brand
- 12. Legal voting age in US
- 13. Dish
- 15. Expelled air from the nose
- 18. Body art
- 21. Fierce, destructive act
- 24. Bear bright yellow flowers
- 26. Japanese delicacy
- 27. Get off your feet
- 30. Male organs in some invertebrates
- 32. \_\_, so good
- 35. Cleverness
- 37. Protest yacht
- 38. Anesthetized
- 39. Mollified
- 42. Touch lightly
- 43. Diego, Francisco, Anselmo
- 46. Some windows have them
- 47. National capital
- 49. Squirrels like them
- 50. Grandmothers
- 52. Painter's tool
- 54. News organization
- 55. \_\_ and thesis: musical term
- 57. Famed activist Parks
- 59. \_\_ Spumante (Italian wine)
- 62. A number or amount not specified
- 63. Body part
- 66. Of I
- 68. Old English



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# OBITUARIES

## David P. Trifone, 69

SOUTHBRIDGE-David P. Trifone, 69, passed away at his home on Sunday May 10,2020 after a long illness. p



He is survived by his daughter Amber (Trifone) Pagan and her husband Victor of Southbridge, his son Jason Trifone of Southbridge and his son Jeff Trifone of Raynham and his girlfriend Brooke. He also leaves behind 4 brothers, Raymond Trifone and Richard Trifone both of Worcester, Anthony Trifone of Belchertown, and John and his wife June Trifone, and 2 sisters Liza (Trifone) Kemp of North Grosvenordale, and Donna Trifone of Charlton, and his 5 granddaughters, Adria, Vianca, Victoria, Mariayh, Kylee, and 3 great-grandchildren, Logan, Alana, and Sire, and many nieces and nephews. He also leaves his former wife Linda (Smick) Trifone Bachand of Southbridge, and his “best friend” ever his dog Bruno. He was predeceased by his brother James Trifone and his sister Mary Ann (Trifone) Brodeur. He was born in Southbridge, October 1, 1950, the son of the late Anthony R.

and Ida (Smarelli) Trifone and has lived here most of his life. He was a member of St. Mary’s Church, and attended the former Cole Trade High School. He worked at Morse Lumber for 26 years, after retirement from Morse, he opened Scootz Bar, and later was a transportation specialist for Tradewinds.. He was passionate about motorcycles, weight lifting, and loved being out riding his Harley Davidson. Dave was known for so many special things over the years, his famous nicknames and sayings that his family and friends and anyone that knew him are well aware of. Dave was deeply loved, and his memories will be cherished forever by his family and friends. Services for Dave will be held at a later date once it is deemed safe to gather publicly due to Covid-19. A date and time will be announced. Sansoucy Funeral Home 40 Marcy Street, Southbridge, MA 01550 is assisting with arrangements. Donations in Dave’s memory can be made to St. Jude Children’s Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-1905. [www.sansoucyfuneral.com](http://www.sansoucyfuneral.com)

## Rita A. Laws, 56

STURBRIDGE-Rita A. (Gagne) Laws, 56, of Heritage Green Dr., passed away at home on Thursday, May 7th, after a brief illness.



She leaves her father, Joseph A. Gagne; her two sons, Keith A. Laws of Woodstock, CT and Randy D. Laws and his wife Olivia of Woodstock Valley, CT; her two brothers, Daniel A. Gagne of Southbridge and Alan B. Gagne of Brookfield; her three sisters, Monique Reed of Southbridge, Diane Goddard of Norwood, CO and Michelle Gagne of Southbridge; as well as many nieces and nephews. Rita was predeceased by her mother, Annette T. (Duff) Gagne. She was born in Southbridge. Rita graduated from Tantasqua High School and worked for a few years as a local seamstress. She often said that her greatest pleasure in life was raising her children and watching their individual families grow. As she progressed through her

life she held onto those treasured memories and moments; never missing an opportunity to reminisce. She will be greatly missed by those who were touched by her kindness and sincerity. She was characterized by the deep passion she held for helping those who meant the most to her; and was always willing to help someone in need. This often presented itself through her loving nature and eagerness to be surrounded by her children, grandchildren and friends. She never missed an opportunity to see her family and friends and spend time with them. It is with great sorrow that we must say goodbye to a soul as beautiful as Rita’s but we will take comfort in this time knowing that we were all loved and cherished by her. A graveside service for Rita will be private and held at a later date. There are no calling hours. Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St. Southbridge is directing the arrangements. [www.morrillfuneralhome.com](http://www.morrillfuneralhome.com)

## Carol A. Plouffe

BLACKSTONE – Carol A. (Pepka) Plouffe passed away on Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at her home with her family by her side following a five-year battle with cancer. She was the wife of Arthur G. Plouffe.

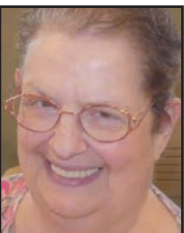


In addition to her husband Arthur, she is survived by her daughters Kelly Taylor and husband Thomas Taylor of Bellingham, MA and Tammy Surprise and husband David Surprise of Blackstone, MA; 2 brothers Donald Pepka and wife Naomi Pepka of Dudley, MA and Kenneth Pepka and wife Sandra Pepka of Thompson, CT; brother-in-law Alan Plouffe and wife Karen Plouffe of Spencer, MA, sister-in-law Susan Plouffe of N. Grosvenordale, CT, and sister-in-law Ann-Marie Ellis and husband Dan Ellis of Dyer, IN; her 3 beloved grandchildren Skyler, Jared, and Thomas; and many loved close family members and friends. Carol was the daughter of the late Felix and Eleanor (Parmentier) Pepka. She attended St. Louis schools in her younger years and was a graduate of Bartlett

High School in 1971. Carol and Arthur celebrated their 47th Anniversary while on an Alaskan Cruise May 20, 2019. This was a dream come true trip for them. She worked as a postal worker at the Charlton City Post Office. She also enjoyed working at Commerce Insurance and at Park ‘N Shop. She was a very social person that loved spending time with family and friends. She loved to attend her grandchildren’s events and was proud to be their ‘Mimi’. She enjoyed her weekly trips to the casino, watching the Red Sox, and listening to her 60’s music. A graveside service at St. Joseph’s Garden of Peace, Webster will take place at a later date. Memorial donations may be made to the Cancer Center at Harrington Fund, 55 Sayles St., Southbridge, MA 01550. Arrangements by Buma Funeral Home, Uxbridge. [www.bumafuneral-home.com](http://www.bumafuneral-home.com)

## Anne M. Kozlowski, 75

WEBSTER – Anne M. (Scioscia) Kozlowski, 75, passed away on Sunday May 10, 2020 at Hubbard Hospital.



Being predeceased by her husband of thirty-three years, the late Peter J. Kozlowski in 1999 and their son Peter J. Kozlowski I in 2016, Anne is survived by her daughter Donna Keith of Griswold, CT; her daughter-in-law Crystal Kozlowski of Thompson, CT; five grandsons: Anthony Manuel, Jared Keith and his wife Carrie, Nathan Kozlowski, Peter J. Kozlowski II, and Andrew Markvenus; two granddaughters: Samantha and Suzanne Demers, and their mother Dina Kozlowski; she also leaves three great-granddaughters, and two great-grandsons. Anne also left behind many dear friends, some of

whom became family, most gratefully Kathy Bedard, Rose Pierce, her son Josh and Stephanie Laderman of whom their care, time, and love were selflessly given. Anne was born in Worcester, MA on August 4, 1944, daughter of Charles and Marjorie (Anderson) Scioscia. Anne graduated from Oxford High School, not long after she met the love of her life and was married to Peter Kozlowski on October 1, 1966. Anne was a devoted wife, a loving mother, and caring grandmother who cherished the time spent with her beloved family and friends, Private funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School Street Webster, MA. A guest book is available at [www.shaw-majercik.com](http://www.shaw-majercik.com) where you may offer condolences or light a candle in remembrance of Anne.

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# OBITUARIES

## Edith S. Garvey, 98

DAYVILLE – Edith (Carroll) Garvey, 98, of Lake Road passed away at home on Wednesday, May 13, 2020. She was the loving wife of the late John E. Garvey, Sr.



They were married on November 3, 1945 at St. Edward Church in Pawtucket, RI. Born in Pawtucket, RI, she was the daughter of the late William and Roselene (Collette) Carroll.

Edith attended school in R.I. She worked for the telephone company as a switchboard operator in the days when each phone call was connected manually. She worked there until her marriage to John in 1945 and then moved to Connecticut in 1956. She was a homemaker and mother of seven children while doing the bookkeeping for her late husband's business. She was a Girl Scout leader for a few years. She loved baking, taking walks through the woods and the ocean, especially the wall

at Narragansett Bay and Scarborough Beach. She was a communicant of St. Joseph Church in Dayville.

The family would like to thank Joanne Beaurais for bringing Edith Holy Communion at her home for many years.

Edith is survived by her sons, John E. Garvey, Jr. of Dayville who was her caretaker and whom she made her home with, and Michael C. Garvey of Dixon, CA; her four daughters, Jean K. Mantoleski of Dudley, MA, Mary L. Fisher of Moses Lake, WA, Margaret M. Coman of Putnam CT, and Maureen E. Keith of Putnam, CT; 17 grandchildren; 18 grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her son, the late Joseph L. Garvey; four sisters; and four brothers.

Burial will be private at St. Joseph Cemetery and arrangements have been entrusted to the Gilman Funeral Home & Crematory, 104 Church St, Putnam, CT. For memorial guestbook visit [www.GilmanAndValade.com](http://www.GilmanAndValade.com).

## George N. Youssef, 83

DUDLEY- George N. Youssef, 83, passed away Saturday evening at Harrington at Hubbard Healthcare in Webster.



He leaves his wife, Roza (Kerio) Youssef, their children; Naim G. and his wife Mirna E. Youssef of Dudley, Leif G. and spouse Jamileh Youssef of Sweden, Dergan Youssef of Dudley, Salam Habibi and husband Karim of Long Island, and Karim G. Youssef and his wife Carollee of Thompson. He also leaves grandchildren; Gustav and Philip Pearson, Akram, Clarisse, and Joelle Habibi, George Youssef, Matilda Pearson, Isabella Youssef, Olivia Youssef and Joy Youssef, siblings; Joseph Chalino of Shrewsbury George was predeceased by his brother Maliki Youssef of Worcester and his brother Dr Jabriyal Youssef of Hudson, George also leaves behind an aunt, Emiline Zhogbi and his close brothers in law George Kerio, Adib Kerio and Subhi Kerio, sisters-in-law, and many nieces and nephews.

He was born in Hassakee, Syria on January 6, 1937 son of the late Naoum and Jamileh (Kolo) Youssef.

Mr. Youssef was a member of St. Mary's Syriac Orthodox Church.

He was the owner of the former East Side Bakery in Worcester and prior to that owned and operated a bakery on Long Island.

George continued at home to cook and bake for his family and friends, which he enjoyed doing.

"George Youssef was the most kind hearted and selfless person I have ever met and I find myself wondering how I got so lucky that I ended up with him as my grandfather. He did everything in his life with God and his family at the center, and we are lucky enough that he passed that wisdom onto us. As much as we grieve his passing, he made sure to let us know how he will never leave us

## Lisa M. Chesters, 50,



Lisa M. Chesters, 50, of Danielson passed away Wednesday May 13, 2020 at Day Kimball Hospital. She was born in Dover, NH on December 21, 1969, daughter of Violet (Lavallee) Bowen of Danielson and the late Raymond Bissell. Lisa worked at Colt's Plastics in Dayville for many years. She was known for always being willing to help anyone

as well as her love for her dogs and cats. She is survived by her husband William A. Chesters, her mother and stepfather Violet Bowen and husband Robert Bowen, Sr., son Billy Chesters of Danielson, daughter Heather Shortt of Danielson, brothers Thomas Bissell of Danielson, Raymond Bissell Bowen of Putnam, Robert Bowen Jr., of Danielson and sister Linda Bissell of Danielson. Two grandchildren Hailey Geer and Gage Shortt. Funeral services will be private. [tillinghastfh.com](http://tillinghastfh.com)

## Francis E. Cutting, 93

WEBSTER – Francis E. Cutting, 93, passed away on Saturday May 9, 2020 at the Hubbard Hospital in Webster.



Being predeceased by his loving wife Mary J. (Cronin) Cutting, Francis is survived by his son Michael Cutting of Webster; four daughters: Sheila Avakian and her husband Pete of Largo, FL, Mary Ellen Piarulli and her husband Vincent of Oxford, Patricia Ludovico and her husband William of Webster, and Frances Buccini and her husband Michael of Webster; his son-in-law George Duplisea of Grafton; his brother-in-law Robert Cronin and his wife Patricia of Worcester; twelve grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; he also leaves many nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends; he is predeceased by his daughter Kathleen Duplisea; his brothers James and Alfred; his sisters Helen and June Hebert.

Francis was born in Webster, MA on

October 11, 1926, son of the late Louis and Mary Ellen (Meagher) Cutting. Francis served honorably in the United States Navy during World War II and the Korean War; he worked as an iron worker for many years and was a member of the ironworkers local 57. Francis was a faithful member of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Church and was also very active with the VFW, American Legion, the TSKK, the 200 Sportsman Club, and the Booster Club; he enjoyed watching his favorite gameshows with his best friend Mike Mahan, but nothing compared to the joy that filled his heart while he was fishing, hunting, and watching sports with his grandchildren. Francis loved spending time with his big and beautiful family, he will be deeply missed, and will remain in our hearts forever.

Due to current world events, services will be planned and announced at a later date.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School Street Webster, MA.

A guest book is available at [www.shaw-majercik.com](http://www.shaw-majercik.com) where you may offer condolences or light a candle in remembrance of Francis.

## Jeffrey M. Mayotte, 69

DANIELSON – Jeffrey M. Mayotte, 69, of Mockingbird Drive, died unexpectedly on Friday, May 8, 2020, at UMass Memorial Medical Center – University Campus in Worcester.



He is survived by his longtime companion, Linda D. Sweeney of Danielson, CT; two brothers, Armand R. Mayotte and his wife Irene of Sebastian, FL, and Richard A. Mayotte of Dudley and his wife Arlene of Austin, TX; many nephews and nieces; and a large extended family including Linda's children and grandchildren. He was born in Webster, son of the late Anselme Roger and Beatrice Marie (Matte) Mayotte, and lived in Webster, Dudley, and Quinebaug before moving to Danielson 3 years ago. He graduated from Bartlett High School in Webster in 1968. He was a U.S. Army combat

veteran of the Vietnam War, receiving the Purple Heart and Bronze Star for his service.

Mr. Mayotte was a member of the Ironworkers Union Local 7 in Worcester for over 30 years. He was a member of the Disabled American Veterans and the V.F.W. His passion was golf and he played in several area leagues. He played baseball for Bartlett High School and was a fan of all the New England sports teams, especially the Patriots and Red Sox. He loved traveling with Linda to St. Petersburg, FL, and York, ME, and had many friends in Maine who will miss him greatly.

Due to gathering restrictions in Massachusetts, a private graveside service will be held at All Faiths Cemetery in Worcester. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Veterans Inc., 69 Grove St., Worcester, MA 01605, or to the Iron Workers Local 7, 195 Old Colony Avenue, South Boston, MA 02127. Paradis-Givner Funeral Home in Oxford is directing the arrangements.

[paradisfuneralhome.com](http://paradisfuneralhome.com)

## Helen Gauthier

Helen Gauthier of Brooklyn, CT passed away peacefully of natural causes at her home with her family on May 12, 2020. Helen was born in Warren, RI on June 3, 1936 to her Irish parents Edward and Margaret O'Shea.



Helen married Napoleon (Nappy) Gauthier, the love of her life, in 1956. They were married 63 years and had six children, 15 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren. The center of Helen's life was her husband and family. Helen and Nappy would host members of the family at their house multiple days of the week and there was always a Sunday dinner. Often, upwards of 50 members of the family would gather to celebrate anniversaries, birthdays and holidays. Helen, being dedicated to her family, had a passion for the O'Shea and the Gauthier family history. Helen traced the O'Shea family back to Tipperary,

Ireland in the 1300's and the Gauthier family to France in the 1500's. In her 70's, Helen attained dual citizenship from Ireland. Helen also enjoyed sewing, baking, writing short stories, bridge, and the senior learning club at QVCC. Helen grew up and loved Bristol and Warren, RI and would return there regularly with Nappy until the last couple months of her life. Helen graduated from Warren High School and the Rhode Island School of Nursing. Helen worked as the Director of Nursing at the Norwichtown Convalescent Home and as a school nurse for the town of Ledyard, CT. She helped establish and worked at the Blair House in Norwich, CT. Helen is survived by her husband Nappy and their six children, Peter (wife Candy), Patrick (wife Cindy), Ann, Jim (wife Wendy), Cynthia (husband Bob Kapustinski) and Daniel (wife Louise) and her sister Peggy. Helen was preceded by her brother Edward and sister Ann. Funeral services will be private. [tillinghastfh.com](http://tillinghastfh.com)

*More Obituaries on page 11*

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**BRENDAN BERUBE**  
EDITOR

# Be excellent to each other

It seems as though human kindness has taken a back burner as of late, and we're not sure why. The remarks on social media between people bashing one another over politics or whether or not businesses should re-open, or whether or not the new Coronavirus is as 'real' as 'they' say, are over the top. Social media is certainly both a blessing and a curse.

Social media is a great way to keep in touch with friends and family, but it's also a platform for strangers to draw baseless conclusions and put each other down from behind the comfort of a keyboard. Once upon a time, those on opposing sides had face to face productive conversations. Those have since been replaced with this new format complete with emoji's and other memes or belittling GIFs.

Even more worthy of a raised eyebrow is how many people read a post or a news story from some random, disreputable source and then share it as incontrovertible fact. Nine times out of ten, a simple fact check will prove these "click-bait" posts to be non-factual. There are fake doctors putting out interviews on YouTube and people will just fall for them hook line and sinker. Please pause a moment and question what you're looking at objectively and always check the source.

It seems as though the regard for how we treat one another has been given a new standard, and we believe we know why; however, we'll leave that for our readers to decipher. Kindness and empathy along with professionalism is still alive and well and it's how our country has moved forward the way it has since its inception. Let's not forget that despite the current climate. What we need to remember is that no matter what you think, we are all on the same side.

When we're perusing online, it's not our job to correct a person if it can't be done in a positive way. If a person is being negative and inappropriate in how they interact online, then your best bet is to simply not engage. A heated argument never ends with any side switching to the other. A more productive means of conversation over a hot button issue would be to simply ask the other person questions. This is the best way to make a person think. A light-hearted example: "I see you think blueberry pie is better than Boston Cream pie — can you explain why?"

Asking questions from a meaningful angle can go a long way. Here's the truth of the matter, we don't know everyone we interact with online. With that being said negativity just fuels more negativity. It's easy to disagree with someone in a positive way. Another example could be, "I understand the point you're trying to make; however, I don't agree. With that being said, enjoy your day. It should be a sunny one!" Always try to leave things on a positive note. If you're feeling angry, go for a run or a drive. Don't take your frustration out on strangers online.

As Fred Rogers always said, "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'" This has never been truer than in our current situation. With this pandemic, the outpouring of love and support we have seen does far outweigh any negativity. In Brooklyn, N.Y., every night at 7 p.m., everyone bangs pots and pans outside their windows as a way to show appreciation for local healthcare workers. This is something we have seen happening in several cities across the country. On a local level, people are raising money for food pantries and running errands to protect the elderly and other vulnerable populations. We dig it. At the end of the day, the glass should always be half full.

To quote one of our favorite duos from our childhood filmgoing experiences, Bill and Ted, "Be excellent to each other!"



POSITIVELY  
SPEAKING

GARY W.  
MOORE

I've always had a love affair with my hair. The Moore men and many of the women have/had jet black hair. It comes from both sides of my father's tree, The Moore's and the Loucks.

# OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Our problems are of our own making

To the Editor:

It seems that most of today's news and information sources have become so biased that they're only believable by whomever wants to take their bait. (But it's on the Internet, it has to be true, right?) Has anybody ever considered looking into the "bias" and "factual" ratings of your news sources? That can be done by checking out sites like: "Media Bias/Fact Check," or "AllSides."

I recently had an exchange with a fellow on Facebook who provided anti-Trump views that came from the "Center for American Progress." CAP was founded by John Podesta (Chairman for the 2016 Hillary Clinton campaign), and is partially funded by George Soros. (Soros, now there's a man beyond reproach?) CAP as a news source is rated "mostly" factual, but being that they're almost as far left (bias) as you can get - what did you expect them to say? Does anybody still remember that old saying: "you have to consider the source?"

Yes, it is very unfortunate that we are suffering with Covid-19. The U.S. was ill-equipped to deal with this pandemic in the first place. We did not have the means to quickly produce more PPE, and unfortunately, we are now scrambling to provide it and make more testing available. Isn't it time to

bring back "Made in the USA?" In addition to most of the things we buy, our pharmaceuticals are being made in China, and they supply half of the worlds face masks. If I wanted to open up a window and yell out, "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore," I'd be yelling at the country that both spawned this virus and took our manufacturing jobs!

My hat goes off to those innovative Americans who are pitching in by making and donating masks, as it does to you, Mr. John A. Day, Jr., for your service in the medical field and especially for even wanting to be involved at this time. Funny thing is that I also like Wormtown IPA, and I hope that when this mess is all over we can possibly enjoy one together. And no, you're not crazy, but as that feeling of being powerless goes, I think it's also because that no matter what we say - or who we blame - we are all just pawns in one big chess game! I found this little quote that I feel sums it up: "Welcome to the United States, where we pretend our problems are created by one man and ignore that both parties have been failing us for decades."

ED DeLUCA  
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

### Road closures pose a safety hazard

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter with my concerns about the construction of the Airline Trail and the simultaneous closure of Holmes Road and Modock Road. After making some phone calls and doing some research, I was informed that the projected time frame for the closure of both of these roads is from April 1 to approximately Sept. 1. The simultaneous closure of these roads for a prolonged period of time is a safety and liability issue for residents of both Holmes Road and Modock Road. I have spoken to several of my neighbors, and we have a number of safety concerns.

What would happen if a tree were to come down on South Modock Road, as is prone to happen? What if there were a fire in that location? My neighbors and I would be unable to safely evacuate our homes because of

## A lack of leadership

To the Editor:

Hold on, America; it cannot go on longer. To Mr. Jay of Woodstock Valley, hang in; the end is almost near, your points were very precise and true.

At this point, the country lacks a President who portrays, commands and gives respect to the country. He lacks accountability and empathy for most citizens of this country. Republicans, who are sick of him have left the party this past election in 2018, either by retiring in disgust or losing an election. Those who will do anything to be near power, will do whatever it takes to have their master approve of them, even to giving up their own moral compass and values. We all know what it is called, been mentioned hear many times over the last 42 months, begins with a C. These 42 months of what history will looked back upon as a black stain on this country. His lack of empathy for those who have lost their lives in this pandemic is something that cannot be explained and understood by rational people and human beings. It is always about whose fault it is and whose to be blamed, anybody and everybody but himself. In the next paragraph you will find out whose fault it is.

What Trump did was by not taking the reins in the beginning of the crisis in January, never mind since in March, when he drop the ball and left to the governors of each state to deal with it, causing the pandemic to gain further control, he showed a lack of leadership and more importantly accountability. In not helping the country get thru a health crisis not seen in the history of the world and making the governors, who mostly have done good job, solve the problems 50 different ways. This just made the pandemic harder to get under control and cost more lives, all the while Trump is working on reelection. This way he could cheerlead and criticize any governor he did not like or did not give him proper respect, in his mind. I advise you to read on the internet website (Vent 201) and see how in October 2019 people sat down and tried to figure a plan on how to best handle a situation like this, in case it happened in the future. I suspect Trump or his people never ever read, saw this and of course acknowledge its' existence. The best way to attack a crisis similar

our only means of egress via South Modock Road would be blocked. Given that the Holmes Road project is fully approved and the Modock Road project is only partially approved, why was the Holmes Road project not completed first to allow for safe egress?

Moving forward, will you be shutting down River Road at the same time as Modock Road? If this were to happen and schools were able to reopen, there would be no way a school bus would be able to turn around. Please help to solve this problem. This project has been poorly planned and executed, and the compromised safety of numerous taxpayers is the result! I welcome you to drive by the project sites to experience this unsafe and frustrating situation.

Sincerely,

KATHIE HESS  
POMFRET CENTER

to this for getting the country safe again were not done by Trump, as always just the opposite. Read it, it is pretty informative.

According to, Trump you cannot fault him; no, it is not his fault. The fault belongs to Obama, Biden, Comey, the media, the democrats, MSNBC, CNN, the Cuomos, China, Russia, immigrants, Pelosi, Schiff, FBI, CIA, HHS, John Kelly, Rex Tillerson, Mueller and his staff, George Conway, Manafort, Bill and Melinda Gates, people that counted how many were at the Inauguration, Mexicans, Washington Post , NY Times, Bezos, Sundland, Dr. Bright, soon to be DR.'s Fauci and Burks (soon to be let go or minimized), the reporter from CBS who asked a question, E Kania, Anderson Cooper, Chuck Todd, Robert Gates, Gen. McMaster, Bolton, Sessions, Don Lemon, Rosenstein, Brennan, LT. Col. Vindman, kids in cages, McCabe, McGahn, Mattis, anybody who speaks truths that are not in line with Trumps', LameStream media, Clintons, Bush. Japan. North Korea, any allies of this country Prime Ministers of Canada, Germany, France, members of his administration in jail or about to be, the people who make bleach, Sen, McCain, and the five people who will be fired before this is published, I could go on but generally anyone who speaks truth to his power.

Those who loved their 401k's, bank accounts, their job and the stock market, how do you feel now.? A lot of it is gone, but what is more troubling is what he tried to protect (money) not people of this country, his main concern was the damage to be done to his reelection campaign, that was utmost in his mind in the face of the oncoming pandemic. Always about him, not you or us. This country is in bad shape, and will be for a while because of one persons' lack of leadership, accountability and lack of any empathy for the citizens of this Country, as in a recent editorial someone skillfully researched all the things Trump he has tried have failed at, everything he touches it goes down the ... Only good thing the USA will not join that list of things that he has failed at.

Do not hate the messenger.

DAVID CASSETTARI  
KILLINGLY

## Is bald beautiful?

My mother always told me that when I was born, before she actually got to see me for that first moment, the doctor and nurses began to laugh, and the Doc said, "Look at all that black hair!"

In 1988, I went on an all liquid diet which was the rage at the time. My hair started thinning

and I was assured it would grow back, but it didn't. No bald spots, but the thickness was gone, and I always regretted going on that fad diet.

Now I have cancer and am in chemotherapy. Every day when I wake up, I seem to have lost a

## Toast is always a sure thing

The smell of something burning is unmistakable. I know it is a piece of toast turning to a hard black piece of charcoal.

Adding to the odor of charred wheat are the assorted nuts and seeds that have fallen to the bottom of the toaster oven from previous uses. Fortunately, the



NANCY WEISS

smoke alarm is not so sensitive that it bursts into an annoying bleats every time it catches a whiff. Pandemic or not, our household runs on toast.

My husband is a toast-a-holic. He and family members toast something, generally bread, approximately four times a day. Even the grandchildren have fallen in line. We use a toaster oven now, but through the years have operated with a variety of appliances. Regardless of the engineering involved, every one created browned toast and a fair number of flames.

When I was growing up, we had a silver-colored rectangular toaster that held two slices of bread. Push it down. Wait. Watch the smoke rise and pop the bread up. We were quite modern compared to some. I loved watching the old-fashioned toasters that had two doors that flopped down exposing the blazing hot grills. I think the bread had to be turned with tongs to toast both sides. I remember watching a friend touch the rods with a fork and get an electrical shock and a smack from his mother.

It took decades before manufacturers offered four-slice toasters, which is odd because many families were quite large. I've always admired an expensive brand of English toaster- a Dualit. My husband found a less costly version and gave it to our daughter as he thought her household was deficient in the toaster department. English people I have known can't live without plenty of toast, although I've always been puzzle by the existence of toast racks. My Welsh grandmother left one that held toast upright. It must have always been cold.

In college, I loved the rotating toasting machines in dining halls. The first time the bread went through it wasn't cooked and the second time it burned. Standing around watching the process was how I made several lifelong friends. The bagel craze added to the art of toasting as an under cooked bagel is not good. I hope people still bond by toasters.

When I dream of the places where I loved eating toast, one stands out. The old Ritz in Boston had a café that looked out on the street and across to the public garden. They made a delicious dish of creamed mushrooms on toast that was classic New England cuisine: butter, toast, cream and gently fried mushrooms. Avocado toast is the posh toast choice now and it is more suited to modern taste. I'd be happy for either one served with a thick linen napkin and a taste of life as it once was.

Toast can serve a medicinal purpose. A sweet Scottish Terrier, Piper, licked the lid of a can of paint one Sunday afternoon as we were touching up a bedroom. We called poison control and were told to feed him charred toast mixed with olive oil. Piper ate it gleefully and survived for more misadventures.

I read Roger Rosenblatt's memoir, "Making Toast," years ago. His daughter died suddenly leaving her husband and three small children. Rosenblatt and his wife moved in to help. All Roger could make was toast, but toast provided comfort and focus for the grieving family. The power of toast is a good image.

As we live in uncertain times, we must take comfort wherever we can find it. Toast is always a sure thing.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

High School Bio, part I

To the Editor:  
School definitely got weird over the past two months. I teach high school biology and both I and my students have had to figure out how to ‘do school’ online. Some students have handled the transition with relative ease while others have struggled to overcome many challenges. For some students, a lack of motivation and video games keep them from doing online school. Other students have told me they are working long hours to help support their family and have no time to attend online classes. Learning has been compromised in many ways. Normally, my students would be in biology class 340 minutes each week but now they are online, at most, 120 minutes. Consequently, my students, and probably many other biology students in schools across the region, have learned a lot less than they would in a regular, non-pandemic school year.  
But all is not lost biology students! In this short essay and in a second one that will appear next week, I will give you brief lessons on a topic you likely didn’t learn about this year. Indeed, even in a normal year, there is one topic that is often missing from biology in public schools. Both the Next Generation Science Standards and the Advanced Placement curriculum, which guide instruction for most of the biology courses offered in Connecticut’s

public high schools, lack any mention of human evolution. Despite being one of the topics my students wonder most about, teachers are not actually required to teach it.  
But here’s the problem: If you don’t learn about human evolution in high school, you are even less likely to learn about it later. Some graduates don’t go to college and those who do might never take a biology course there. So, unless you decide to go figure out the science on your own, this essay (and next week’s) might be your first and last opportunity to learn anything about the evolution of our species.  
First, some background. Evolution is a huge topic, it’s the topic of biology, and the word can be used in many different contexts. But there are two core principles of evolution. The first is that genes can become more or less common in a population depending on whether they are ‘good’ or ‘bad’. If a gene helps an organism leave more offspring, it can become more common over time. That’s called microevolution. This kind of evolution has been demonstrated for countless species, including humans, and it is considered a well-established fact within biology.  
The second core principle of evolution is that all life that exists today and that has ever existed is related to all other life by common ancestry. White-throated Sparrows, for example, are

closely related to all other sparrow species but they are also related to pigeons, elephants, mushrooms and humans. This idea is generally referred to as macroevolution and the evidence for it is so overwhelming that it’s also considered a fact by biologists. So evolution is true. Evolution is real. If a non-biologist ever tries to tell you that evolution is ‘just a theory,’ they are wrong. They either don’t know what a theory is or they are trying to deceive you. Beware!  
We don’t have a lot of time...er...space here so let me give you the shortest, most profound truth of human evolution I can:  
Humans are mammals.  
Humans are mammals. Mammals are a group of animals that share certain features, although not every mammal will possess every feature. Generally, mammals are endothermic (warm-blooded), they have hair, three tiny middle ear bones, mammary and sweat glands, a 4-chambered heart, a muscular diaphragm, a brain region called the neocortex and they give birth to live young.  
Why do mammals share these traits? It’s no coincidence. Mammals living today have inherited the genes to make these structures from a common ancestor who lived about 145-200 million years ago. An interesting consequence of our common ancestry with other mammals is that about 8 percent of

our genome is the inherited genetic remnants of ancient viral infections. The same viral fragments can be found in the genomes of other mammals and even reptiles, their DNA sequences having been passed on across millions of years and generations. Some of those broken viral genes have evolved new functions, including the ability to code for proteins that are now essential in the development of placentas.  
So yes, humans are related to chimpanzees and we have the genes, bones, physiology and viral signatures to prove it. But we are also related to rats, bees, oak trees and bacteria. If you are feeling cooped up these days with your annoying brother or sister, you can tell them they are related to parasitic toe fungus. The science exists to support your claim! It’s an astonishing realization that life on Earth has basically been one long, uninterrupted series of cell divisions. Single-celled microbes reproducing and evolving new forms over more than three billion years.  
Next week, I will conclude our short course on human evolution by telling you the story of your 125,000th great-grandma and what she did for a living, two million years ago.  
JON DiPIPPO  
BIOLOGY TEACHER  
QUINEBAUG MIDDLE COLLEGE  
DANIELSON

Who is gaslighting whom?

To the Editor:  
In a recent editorial, the following question was asked: “So this is where I need help with my gas-lighting problem. Can someone please help me understand why so many Americans still support this man and his Administration unconditionally?”  
We’ll begin with the author’s supposition that support is unconditional. I do not think for one moment people support President Trump unconditionally, and it would also be fair to say that every President who served this country encountered disagreement and contention to varying degrees.  
For those who cast their vote for Trump, it is my opinion that it was based on who they felt was the most qualified candidate based on the choices given to them on the ballot in 2016.  
The Democratic Party’s choice was Hillary Clinton, who had a litany of corruption and shady dealings with Russia and China. She flagrantly made available sensitive and top security information to foreign actors via her own server and email accounts. She’s a politician who used her Clinton Foundation as a pay to play slush fund. A person who bragged about taking down an elected president of a foreign country (Gaddafi in Libya), to name a few of her “qualifications.” Her disdain for the American citizens is very clear. Remember how Hillary, and then President Obama, left several American personnel and an American Ambassador to die without lifting a finger, all in an attempt to cover their arms to terrorist shenanigans.  
Mr. Trump, at the time, was an unknown in the world of politics; a businessman with a large ego. What he did have, in my opinion, was a genuine desire to do things differently in an attempt to “drain the swamp” of corruption and self serving manipulation, trickery and back room dealings that continue to erode the financial and social fabric, and the rule of law. He saw the need to slow down the loss of jobs to foreign actors at the expense of the American middle class. A strong economy needs to be a producer, not just a consumer of goods. He was a businessman who it was felt would most likely approach things from a different perspective rather than the typical political “what’s in it for me” culture

(unaccountable power and money) that has evolved and operates regardless of the impact on our nation and we citizens.  
Now as to the comments with respect to the view of gaslighting, which I point out are more opinion rather than factual. I would like to ask who is gaslighting whom?  
To begin answering that question, I would like to lay out the following with respect to what the Democratic party has been doing (or trying to sell) to the American people for the past three and a half years, all the while doing nothing to correct or address the real problems this country is facing. In fact, the Democratic Party has done everything to obstruct any meaningful legislation and has wasted time and taxpayer money aimed at trying to overthrow an elected president.  
The Russia impeachment farce by the Democrats, on which we have spent millions and millions of taxpayers’ dollars, has proven to be a bust. The Mueller investigation has, and continues to be, exposed for the fraud and corruption it is. We learn that the dossier was paid for by the Clintons and the DNC. The Schiff / Nadler impeachment “trial” once again is a bust as we slowly learn how due process was nonexistent, and it was more of a circus distraction, how evidence that exonerated the President and others was ignored and held out of sight from the citizens. We are learning how selective negative items (at times taken out of context) were leaked to the press. We are now learning that the fake Russia plot involved many of the agencies (DOJ, FBI, CIA to name a few) that are supposed to protect this country and its citizens. Newly released documents (FOIA) show it likely goes to the top, right up to Mr. Obama.  
We have just waded through a Democratic candidate presidential primary campaign where we watched a parade of socialist candidates that would give free this and that to everyone and anyone (including Illegal immigrants).  
Upon the conclusion of this farce, it appears the best candidate they now have to offer is Joe Biden. Mr. Biden is 77 years old with 40-plus years in politics and no major accomplishments! He has not been able to hold a discussion without mixing up his facts or losing

his train of thought. He at times forgets what position he is running for or where he is. Really, is this the kind of person we want to elect to run this complex country? Should this person be the one to have his finger on the nuclear option if we should have disagreements with another nation? A man who actually admitted to an illegal quid pro quo with Ukraine for US aid? In another attempt to ensure they are able to sway the election to a positive outcome for them is the item the Democrats included in their recent Coronavirus stimulus proposal. They want to do away with any voter ID requirements. You know, so anyone illegal, dead or otherwise compromised could vote for the Democratic candidate.  
In conclusion, it’s not that anyone has unconditional allegiance to President Trump; rather it relates more to the choices American citizens are given. With respect to myself, the Democratic party (socialist, communist) is not my choice. Based on the Democratic primaries and question and answer sessions, here is what I have learned as to what the current Democratic Party stands for:  
They will tell you what you want to hear but do what they really want to do.  
We are deplorable (Hillary) if we dare to disagree.  
We are the dredges of the earth (Joe Biden) if we dare to disagree.  
They will open borders and let everyone in, regardless of the impact to the citizens.  
They will nationalize corporations (Warren, Sanders).  
They will take away your rights to protect oneself.  
They will increase taxes to destabilizing heights.  
They will grow the government with unlimited powers. They will trash the Constitution.  
The citizens will be subservient to the government.  
Regardless of what one thinks of the current “elected” President, none of this would have been exposed if one of their handpicked puppets had been elected initially.  
For those who cannot accept who won the election, it has become an insane and blind vendetta to disparage, manipulate and create obstacles for any type of success. It has reached the point

where they have attempted to actually overthrow an elected president. This was initiated and plotted long before he actually won. In my opinion, this is treason.  
What has been exposed (and many are taking notice) is that this country is in dire straits as to who/what is actually calling the shots and how we the people have consistently been sold out. If it wasn’t for the fact that Trump could finance his own run for office and win we the people would be none the wiser as to the level of disdain the democrats have for the citizens and the extent to which they will go to obtain power and money.  
Like it or not, the swamp is being exposed; however, years of entrenchment will not allow for overnight change.  
No, President Trump’s supporters do not necessarily agree with everything that he is doing, or at times his approach, but I believe that a large majority are totally tired and turned off by the constant empty promises of greedy politicians (on both sides) who continually promise the same things but do nothing but worsen the state of this country. They do not even hold themselves accountable to the laws.  
We needed change, and we got it. As those responsible are exposed and routed, it won’t be pretty. Their attempts to stop the exposure, as we have already experienced, will have no bounds. They will use outright lies, fabrications, coercion, disparagement, obfuscation, dirty tricks, stonewalling, distractions and foreign governments. Gaslighting is a form of psychological manipulation in which a person or a group covertly sows seeds of doubt in a targeted individual using the previously mentioned tactics. Gaslighting depends on “first convincing the victim that his thinking is distorted and secondly persuading him that the victimizer’s ideas are the correct and true ones.” So who is Gaslighting who?  
Where our country is today with respect to the political process and its affects are ugly. Any attempt to reel it in will also be very discomforting to many but is needed if our nation and its Rule of laws is to survive.  
JERRY HOULE  
WOODSTOCK



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# What to do with your retirement investment accounts from a previous employer

Throughout the COVID pandemic, some people have been less personally, professionally, and financially impacted, while many are left needing quick access to cash and others are now searching for new jobs. For those finding new employment, one question you may be asking is, “what do I do with my previous employer-sponsored retirement accounts?” If you or someone you know has lost their job or has recently found new employment, you may have a lingering retirement investment account that needs consideration.

Typically, there are three options to consider: stay in your previous employer’s plan, roll over your assets to a new plan, or cash out your assets. There are many advantages, disadvantages, and planning strategies to consider to help you determine the right move for you. Ultimately, choosing the right option may help you achieve your retirement goals, and allow you to Live Well.

Stay in your previous employer’s plan

You generally have the option to leave your old retirement plan where it is, as long as your balance is at least \$5,000 (if it’s less than that, your employer may be able to automatically cash you out). You will not be able to actively contribute anymore, but the money that is already there will remain invested and participate in investment gains (and losses), based on how you set up your asset allocations.

Staying in your previous employer’s plan is certainly the easiest route, and if your old

plan has access to quality investments that are now closed to new investors or can offer them for lower fees, it may also make sense. However, if you originally allocated your retirement plan funds in a way that no longer reflects your current financial life goals and you don’t commit to adjusting your allocations over time, it could be costly.

An old plan that is invested too aggressively means you might face more volatility than you are comfortable with. On the flip side, a too-conservative investment strategy means your money is not taking the appropriate amount of risk to meet your goals, and you could be missing out on greater opportunities for growth.

It is all too easy to fall into the old “out of sight, out of mind” trap with a retirement account you are no longer actively contributing to. And an investment style that is not aligned to your current needs and risk tolerance could mean less retirement income for you when the time comes – so be wary of letting old plans sit idle.

Roll over into a new account

There are a few options for rolling over your retirement assets into a new account. You can either roll over into your new employer’s plan or into an individual retirement account (IRA).

Depending on your personal situation, you may be able to consolidate your retirement accounts by rolling the balance from your old plan into your new employer’s plan. Just make sure to ask your

former plan administrator for a direct rollover so the money never touches your hands – if it comes to you as a check that you have to deposit in the new plan, the transaction is considered a taxable distribution. The amount distributed, including the amount of the income tax withholding, would be subject to ordinary income tax, plus an additional 10 percent early withdrawal penalty if you are under the age of 59 and a half.

Consolidation is a pretty common route, and the upside is that you don’t have to keep track of multiple retirement accounts or remember to update your asset allocations in a separate, older account as your investing style and risk tolerance change.

Another option is to move your funds into an Individual Retirement Account, or IRA. As with 401(k)s (private sector), 403(b)s (non-profit organizations), 457s (government employees), and other defined contribution plans, IRAs have their own sets of rules. There are two basic kinds of IRAs: traditional and Roth. The big difference is in when they are taxed. Traditional IRAs, like 401(k) plans, defer taxes until retirement, when you may be in a lower tax bracket and therefore would owe less tax on the earnings.

Roth IRAs, on the other hand, are funded with after-tax dollars, so there is no immediate deduction benefit, but there are eligibility requirements associated with starting a Roth IRA. However, the earnings grow tax-free, which can yield a bigger potential payoff for retirees.

There are other differences, too, so make sure you understand the options before going with either a traditional IRA

or a Roth IRA. For more details about their differences between traditional and Roth IRAs, visit the IRS Web site at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

Cashing out

There is one final road you can choose when determining how best to manage your retirement account when you leave your job: cashing out.

Your contributions, and any matching contributions from your former employer for which you are vested, are yours to do with what you choose. That includes cashing out. This can be tempting, as we could all make use of a sudden windfall, especially right now.

But remember that when you put that money away, it was specifically earmarked for retirement. The longer you leave money in your plan, the more opportunity it has to benefit from compound interest in a tax-deferred setting. If you drain your savings now, you are robbing yourself of that money’s potential to grow.

If you take a cash distribution from your retirement account with no intention of paying it back, you must claim the account balance as income for that year and pay ordinary income tax on that amount. There is a chance this could push you into a higher tax bracket. However, the CARES Act eliminates the 10% early-withdrawal hit, and 20 percent federal tax withholding, on early 401(k) withdrawals for those impacted by the crisis.

While this may seem like a beneficial option, unless you don’t have any other options, you should refrain from cashing out. If you must access and use the money now due to an absolute emergency, consult with a tax professional to

understand the impact.

Which option is right for me?

The best way to determine which option is appropriate for you is to meet with your financial advisor. At Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors, we advise our clients using our Plan Well. Invest Well. Live Well.TM process. During this process, we identify our clients’ unique financial life goals, risk tolerance, and time horizon to establish an investment strategy that will position them to retire on their own terms and ultimately Live Well.TM

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*Authored by Vice President, Associate Financial Advisor, Leisl L. Cording, CFP®, Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser. 697 Pomfret St., Pomfret Center, CT 06259, 860-928-2341. <http://www.whzwealth.com> These materials are general in nature and do not address your specific situation. For your specific investment needs, please discuss your individual circumstances with your representative. Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors does not provide tax or legal advice, and nothing in the accompanying pages should be construed as specific tax or legal advice.*

## De-stress your kids (and yourself)



CHOP  
TALK

MIKE  
BOGDANSKI

If you haven’t felt any stress during this pandemic then you must be superhuman. This time in our lives will be recorded as one of the most emotionally draining ever. The shift of our culture, the change in our daily routines, and social isolation all contribute to the stress families are feeling. We may not be able to totally remove stress but we surely can take steps to reduce it. Here are a few suggestions.

Step 1 - Healthy eating. Your body is your temple. You have all heard this mantra about food. Imagine you owned a million-dollar racehorse. You probably wouldn’t feed it candy and cookies all day. Fruit and vegetables are definitely the prescriptions for fueling the

body for energy and clarity. Prime your body for good health and immunity from disease by eating fresh fruits and veggies.

Step 2 - Exercise. Your kids don’t need the Marine Corps workout, but they need to move. Climbing trees, throwing a ball, walking through the woods are all great spring activities. Since we are closed at our martial arts school we have been doing classes on zoom. Parents are quite happy their kids have this regular routine of exercise and healthy interaction.

Step 3 - Reduce electronics. Being social creatures, we have turned more to Facebook and Instagram to get our social fix and see what is going on in the world. It’s natural to keep up with your friends and relatives, but please don’t overdo it. If you or your kids spend too much time on Facebook, there is a tool built into the app that can help you limit your time. Go to the settings page on either app and select either “Your Time on Facebook” or “Your Activity on Instagram.” At the top is a dashboard showing average time spent on the app you are using. Underneath is the option to set up a daily reminder

that will send an alert when you have reached the time limit you have allowed yourself.

Step 4 - Talk about it. In these circumstances, kids can easily pick up on the climate of fear through the media or conversations in your household. Information is knowledge and it is best to talk about the pandemic in age-appropriate language to reassure your children they are staying safe. In our martial arts program, we teach students how to deal with stress in a self-defense confrontation. The first step is to address fear. We use the acronym F.E.A.R. - false expectations appearing real. Kids need to realize that their life is mostly not at risk.

Step 5 - Take a breath. When we get anxious we change the way we breathe. Quest martial arts classes begin and end with an exercise that teaches us to focus, maintain an inner calm, and develop mental clarity by taking slow deep breaths. The breathing is done by breathing slowly in through our nose and out through our mouth. Breathing techniques and methods are directly related to reducing or increasing stress.

Step 6 - Sleep. A tired child is easily

frustrated by simple, daily tasks. Here is a basic rule of thumb: six- to 12-year-olds need nine to 12 hours/day and 13- to 18-year-olds need eight to 10 hours/day. Dear parents, you know how irritable you can be if you are sleep deprived. Adults that are sleep deprived exhibit the same symptoms as people that have had several alcoholic drinks.

Step 7- Sharpen the saw. This is a concept from the book, “Seven Habits of Highly Effective People” by Stephen Covey. Two people are chopping wood. One worker takes a break every hour while the other works furiously at the task. At the end of the day, the person who took the break had a substantially greater pile. The worker who had less wood asked his friend, “How in the world did you end up with more wood cut than me?” He asked curiously. His friend responded, “You didn’t notice that every time I stopped to rest I sharpened my saw.” Take a break and just do something that makes you happy!

*Mike Bogdanski is a karate Grandmaster. Co-owner of Quest martial arts. Bachelor’s degree in psychology, Master’s degree in school counseling.*

**MOORE**  
*continued from page A8*

little more of my hair. Add to the fact we are in quarantine and can’t get it trimmed, my

head is beginning to look like a mangy old coyote during the heat of the summer. I wear a ball cap around the house. I’m avoiding mirrors and am in denial. A friend recently said, “just shave it off. It will

grow back.” (I’ve heard that one before) Another said, “And when it grows back it will be curly and a different color?”

A different color? Not black? Really? As of now, my thinning hair would be considered “salt and pepper” and I’ve been fine with that because the pepper was still black. But curly and a different color?

Cancer can strip you of more than your hair. I’m in the fight of my life and I plan to win. To fret about my hair seems ridiculous. I must face the reality that sometime soon, I’ll head into the bathroom and probably just shave it all off. I get weird thoughts like, “Will I still be a Moore? Will people stare at me? If they realize I have cancer will they pity me?”

Being a columnist, author, and speaker, you must fight for attention. I’ve always enjoyed standing in front of large crowds to share my stories. I’ve never shied away from being in the spotlight. Now I find myself happy for quarantine so no one can see me. Silly

... I know. Silly or not it’s the truth.

I haven’t taken the step yet to shave what’s left of the former thick and black mop on my head. I’m a fighter. Some things are worth fighting for and I’m realizing that my hair just isn’t worth it. I’m fighting for my life. My hair should be the least of my worries.

What is it I’m really worried about? I guess I don’t want to die bald and that’s a thought that I must strip out of my head and heart because I’m not giving in or up. Stage 4 Stomach Cancer has met its match. I’m going to beat cancer and you can take that to the bank ... although you’ll have to take it through the drive-in window as quarantine seems to have the lobbies closed.

So, is bald beautiful? guess I’ll soon find out.

PS - There is nothing to take lightly about cancer, but contrary to the belief of some, cancer doesn’t have to be a death sentence. It is serious business, but the attitude of

the patient plays a major role in treatment and recovery with any health crisis. Do not allow a medical professional to place a time stamp or expiration date on your life. It’s your life. Fight with all your might. Only speak positive and uplifting words into your head and heart. Only associate with others who do the same. Do your own research. Read about positive imaging. Be up to date with what the universities, major cancer centers and research hospitals are doing. There are advances and breakthroughs daily. Be optimistic, be positive and fight. Never give up or give in. Cancer is beatable. Believe it and fight.

*Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, “Playing with the Enemy.” Follow Gary on Twitter @GaryWMoore721 and at [www.garywmoore.com](http://www.garywmoore.com).*



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OBITUARIES

Gene M. Bailey, 69

DUDLEY – Gene M. Bailey, 69, passed away peacefully at home with his loving wife and family by his side on Tuesday May 12, 2020.

Gene is survived by his wife of thirty-five years, Elizabeth (Gauthier) Bailey; two sons: Michael Bailey and his wife Johanna of Auburn and Sean Bailey of Dudley; his sister Linda Madonna of Leicester; his granddaughter Michelle; he also leaves many relatives and friends; he was predeceased by his brother Robert E. Bailey.  
Gene was born in Boston, MA, son

of the late Robert and Mary (Bouret) Bailey; He served honorably in the United States Army during the Vietnam War and worked for the Scales Industries Technology Company. Gene greatly enjoyed reading, going fishing, boating, and watching his NASCAR Races.  
In lieu of flowers, please consider making a memorial contribution to the American Cancer Society in honor of Gene.  
Private funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School Street Webster, MA.  
A guest book is available at [www.shaw-majercik.com](http://www.shaw-majercik.com) where you may offer condolences or light a candle in remembrance of Gene.

David Bunn

David Bunn passed away peacefully in his home early morning May 12th, 2020. David is survived by his partner of over 20 years Debra Dwyer, her sons Chris Dwyer and wife Andrea and Kevin Dwyer and wife Alison. David is also survived by three grandchildren, Conner Dwyer, Colin Dwyer and Lila Dwyer whom he loved dearly and who will miss him deeply. Not to be forgotten, David is survived by his dog and best friend Brinkley. David is predeceased by his parents, Lillian

and Edward Bunn, his brother Edward Bunn Jr., and his sister Jane Flaherty. David grew up in Cranston RI before moving to Brooklyn, CT where he was the founder and owner of Wauregan Grain Co. in Wauregan, CT, Arlington Grain in Cranston, RI, and Westerly Grain in Westerly, RI. In David's spare time he was a member of Mortlake Fire Dept. in Brooklyn CT, and for many years volunteered annually at the Brooklyn Fairgrounds. David will be forever missed by family, friends and the farming community. A private graveside service will be held at Union Cemetery in North Stonington. tilling-hastfh.com

Bronze age comic books



In a past column, I wrote that I would dedicate a future column to comic books. There is so much collector interest in comic books, and they have been selling so well recently, I will dedicate the next three columns to them.

Comic books have a longer history than you might expect. Swiss cartoonist Rodolphe Töpffer created “Histoire de M. Vieux Bois” in 1837. The book was retitled “The Adventures of Mr. Obadiah Oldbuck” when it was translated into English in 1842. It is considered the first comic book, according to the South Florida Reporter.  
The first modern comic book was published nearly 100 years later, in 1933. It contained several comic strips that had previously appeared in newspapers. According to the South Florida Reporter, “the term ‘comic’ implies that the tone of these strips are always humorous, that couldn’t be further from the truth. Comics have been used as a medium for telling stories of all kinds.”  
Comics are categorized in four different “ages.” The Golden Age was from 1938 to 1956. The Silver Age took place from 1956 to 1970. The Bronze Age went from 1970 to 1985 and the Modern Age began in 1985 and continues today. Some experts also include the Copper

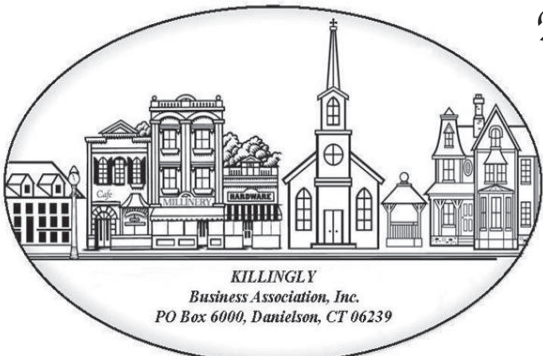


ANTIQUES,  
COLLECTIBLES  
& ESTATES  
• • • • •  
WAYNE TUISKULA

Age from 1984 to 1991.  
As you might expect, older comics are typically more valuable. Condition is also a huge factor in determining what a comic book is worth. Comics featuring superheroes are the most desirable.  
Even a few Modern Age comic books can be valuable. Spiderman issue # 300 can sell for hundreds of dollars in exceptional condition. The Walking Dead issue # 1 can bring thousands of dollars for a copy in pristine condition.  
Some Bronze Age comic books can also sell for high prices. A near mint Hulk issue # 180 from 1974 sold for over \$2,000 recently. That comic book featured the first appearance of Wolverine. Two near perfect copies of Iron Fist # 14 each fetched over \$2,000 at auction this spring. A Marvel Spotlight issue # 5 with the first appearance of Ghost Rider and in great condition sold for \$4,000 in a recent online auction. A “Giant-Size” X-Men from 1975 in great condition recently brought \$4,300. Hulk issue #

181 has a full story on the Wolverine. A near mint version sold for over \$10,000 online recently. I know many of you have been using this time to clean and organize. Maybe you’ll stumble across some old comics that were tucked away years ago. My next article will be on Silver Age comic books.  
COVID-19 has changed the antiques and collectibles market dramatically. Shows, live auctions, estate sales, and shops are all feeling the effects. We have shifted our focus to online auctions for the time being. We are currently accepting valuable items that can be shipped to buyers across the country for our June online only auction. You can call or email us for no-contact options for consigning your items. We have some online auctions and an estate sale that we will be running when regulations permit.

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Linda Sue (Robinson) Wilmot, 73

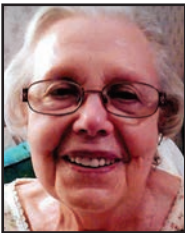
Linda Sue (Robinson) Wilmot, 73, passed away April 9,2020 at Day Kimball Hospital in Putnam, CT from complica- tions of pneumonia. Daughter of William A. and Mary (Agee) Robinson, Linda was born and raised in North Hollywood, California. She attended Fort Wayne Bible College in Indiana, graduating in 1968. Linda lived in the Midwest for 25years, primarily in Richmond, IN where she started her family and met husband Bill Wilmot. In 1990 Linda completed her long journey eastward when she moved to Pomfret, Connecticut. Living in an 18th-century home in New England let her pursue a longtime interest in historic restoration.She loved music, antiques, and gardening, passions she expressed through business while own- ing an antique store in Centerville,



IN in the 1970s and running A Cottage Garden, a Pomfret nursery. Linda was possessed of a kind heart and determined spirit. Living with MS for 30years, she met her many difficul- ties with courage and grace Devoted to her family, she knit it together with bonds of concern and love. Her absence is deeply felt by those who survive her:sons Jeffrey Alexander of Philadelphia, PA, Ryan Alexander of Upton, MA, William Wilmot of Belmont,MA, and Gregory Wilmot of Pomfret, CT; daughters-in-law Dyna Alexander, Cindi Alexander, and Elizabeth Gray; grandchildren Kylie, Adan1, Juliet, Calder, Rowan, August, and Noah; and Howard & Karen Wilmot of StJohn IN. Shewas preceded in death by her parents, husband Willard J. Wilmot, and brothers WadeNorman and Don, Billy, and James Robinson. A memorial service will be delayed until summer. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the National MSSociety.

Shirley L. (Frederickson) Schultzberg, 91

UXBRIDGE-Shirley L.(Frederickson) Schultzberg, 91, passed away peacefully on Monday, May 11,2020 in Milford Regional Medical Center, Milford. She was the wife of Gosta “Gus” H. Schultzberg who passed away in 2011. Shirley was the daughter of Joseph L. and Emma K. (Ek) Frederickson and grew up in Worcester near Lake Quinsigamond. She worked as a file clerk at Bernat Mills and also sold Avon for many years. Previously, she worked as a reception- ist at Dr. Insuik’s Optometrist office and was a graduate from Commerce High School in Worcester, MA. She and her late husband “Gus” enjoyed yard sale excursions on week- ends and selling their finds and other goods at the Grafton Flea Market on weekends for many years. She enjoyed reading suspense and mystery books, watching old movies on TCM and English Comedies on PBS. She also enjoyed watching her favorite sports



teams, The Boston Red Sox and the New England Patriots. Shirley enjoyed living in Uxbridge and appreciated the support and love of her children, grand- children and great-grandchildren. She looked forward to going to the Uxbridge Senior Center for lunch and had fun with her friends and other fun activi- ties at the center. She is survived by her children Jean McElreath of Douglas, Dyan Larson-Parker of Douglas, Linda Walsh of Putnam, CT, Karen Legassey of Uxbridge, Nancy Schultzberg of Athol, Carol Moore of Whitinsville, Gary Schultzberg of Uxbridge, Gail Boutiette of Uxbridge and Glen Schultzberg of Brookline; 17 grandchildren and 20 ½ great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by a brother Robert Frederickson of Worcester. A memorial gathering will be held at a later date. Memorial donations may be made to the Uxbridge Senior Center, 36 South Main Street, Uxbridge, MA 01569. Arrangements being made by Buma Funeral Home, Uxbridge. [www.bumafuneralhome.com](http://www.bumafuneralhome.com)

Mary Jeannette (Richard) Vienneau

GARDNER - Mary Jeannette (Richard) Vienneau died peacefully at the Rose Monahan Hospice Home in Worcester, MA on May 11, 2020 after a brief, yet coura- geous battle with cancer. Jeannette was born on April 16, 1941 in St. Anthony N.B. Canada daugh- ter of the late Zoel and Alma (White) Richard.



She was the eldest of three daugh- ters, growing up in St. Anthony N.B. and Springhill N.S. Times spent on her Grandparents farm was one of her favorite stories to tell. She loved to dance and those sure were the dancing days. From the teenage dances to the many years of weekend dancing with Charlie. She met and married the love of her life Charlie, celebrating 60 incredible years. Having dual citizenship, they moved to Gardner in 1963 to raise their family and then retiring in Lower Five Islands, N.S. Canada. They loved their additional “Community & neighbor Family” there, making it their special home. Her beautiful voice was heard often at home as she loved to sing and also played piano. Friends would visit and music filled our home. Holidays were especially joyful as she harmonized with her Mom and sisters and of course the dancing. Her Faith was her guide, so strong and steady. She was always at peace knowing God was beside her in every step of her life. Family was her whole heart, and that wasn’t just her very own. Many became “family” through out the years. Whether they stayed for din- ner or stayed indefinitely. There was always room for more and she had this incredible way of only seeing beauty in others. Her unconditional love was limitless. She became Nana to everyone from then on. Together with Charlie they always offered a safe place for anyone who needed it. She loved to cook and fresh bread was a staple, especially warm. Passing along many family favorites for us to

continue. Many games were always played from Canasta, Parcheesi, Skip Bo, jigsaw puzzles and she was a whiz at video games as well. She enjoyed these all with every generation from eldest to youngest. She was predeceased by her hus- band Charlie on Nov, 7, 2019. She has leaves behind a son Charles Vienneau of Gardner, MA., a daughter Angie Sabettini and her husband Peter of Littleton, MA. Five grandchildren Nina Sabettini, Ashley Vienneau, Amanda Vienneau, Jessica Flaxington, Justin Vienneau. Her 6 great grandchildren Dominic, Kenzie, Jaydon, Rylee, Brooke, Kaislee. Her sisters and best friends Dianne Henrie and husband Gerald, Louise Gallant and husband Ronald. She also has so many beloved nieces, nephews, relatives and friends in the U.S. and Canada. Here are some things she wanted to share Smiles – They are free Be kind to everyone - especially now Help each other, do your part - espe- cially now Forgive each other our short com- ings, we all have them. If you can’t help someone, please don’t hurt them. She wanted everyone to know how grateful she is for such a wonder- ful life. She was so blessed to have her Faith, Family, Friends. She and Charlie had so many adventures from Canada, Mass., CA, Las Vegas. She wanted to be sure to thank Dr. Michael Mutchler for all the years of superior care & friendship. Heywood Hospital, UMass Oncology and The Rose Monahan Hospice Home for the compassionate and loving care she received. Due to the current circumstances of Covid 19 her life celebration will have to be held at a later date. Please omit flowers and donations may be made in her memory to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. The Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School St., Webster, MA has been entrusted with her arrangements. A guest book is available at [www.shaw-majercik.com](http://www.shaw-majercik.com) where you may post a condolence or light a memorial candle

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# OBITUARIES

## Michael J. Bernier, 70

Michael J. Bernier, age 70, of 32 Carol Avenue, Danielson passed away Tuesday morning, April 28, 2020 at Day Kimball Hospital in Putnam of pneumonia after a long illness with MS. He was born November 28, 1949, son of the late Conrad Maurice Bernier and the late Marie (Francis) Paul Bernier and was predeceased by a brother Lawrence Bernier of CA.

He leaves behind a loving family, his wife Blanche M. (Briere) Bernier of 50 years July 4; two sons Michael D. Bernier and wife Victoria of Ella Bell, GA and Matthew D. Bernier and wife Jessica of Danielson, CT, one brother Joseph Bernier of UT, his grandchildren Jacob, Sarrah, Thomas, Katryna and Rene Bernier and step-grandchildren Majenta Sinardi of Brooklyn and Arron and Zachary Jenkins of Ella Bell, GA. Also many brothers and sisters-in-law and nieces and nephews.

Michael served 12 ½ years in the Military, four years in the Marines and 7 ½ in the Army. His last tour was Germany where he was diagnosed with MS, retiring with a full medical discharge.

His compassion in work and play was computers. His MOS was computer repairman and office repairman. He also got his electrician degree in the Military. He received numerous Military Awards throughout his career.

He went to St. James and Ellis Tech in Danielson, prior to going in the Military he worked for Senator Ferland of Danielson as a computer repairman. He went to computer schools all over the country for his trade both civilian and Military. Michael spent most of his married life with MS. 43 years, before his illness got worst, he loved to take his children Mike and Matt to work with him and they would play all day on computers. They were his pride and joy.

He also liked to fish and hunt. He liked bowling and playing pool. Later he loved spending time with his children, grandchildren, wife and families. Michael was a permanent member of St. James Church, The VFW in Putnam and the American Legion in Putnam. Michael will sadly be missed and remembered as a loving husband, father, pepé, brother-in-law, uncle and friend. His big smile, his kindness and loving compassion for others and his “fun kidding” shall be passed down and remembered for generations to come.

Burial with Military Honors will be held at a later date in a Veterans Cemetery. Share a memory at [www.gagnonandcostellofh.com](http://www.gagnonandcostellofh.com)

## Vincent J. O'Connor, 79

Vincent J. O'Connor, 79, of East Killingly, CT, passed away on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 in Worcester, MA after a brief illness. He was married to the love of his life, Diane (Harker) O'Connor in June of 1965. They would have celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary this year.

Born in Providence, RI, he was the son of J. John O'Connor and Antoinette (Dumas) O'Connor. He attended Sacred Heart Academy in Central Falls, RI and upon graduation enlisted in the U.S. Navy. After completing his service to his country, he worked for the Providence Journal Bulletin and JF Donovan Chemical Co. in RI. He later owned a trucking company and moved to CT. His final job was for the Town of Killingly as a heavy equipment mechanic. While in the Navy, Vinnie realized his dream of traveling the world. He spoke and understood multiple languages and used this gift working as a Navy translator. As a truck driver, he visited the 48 contiguous states. He and Diane

enjoyed their retirement, traveling throughout New England but especially to their favorite place, Moosehead Lake, Maine. Vinnie recently declared that when this quarantine was over he was “going to drive far and drive fast!”

He is survived by his loving wife Diane, his daughters Suzanne Gosselin (Brian) of Danielson, CT, Margaret Trahan (Dale) of Norwich, CT, Eileen Carlson (John) of Farmington, CT, and his son Sean O'Connor of East Killingly, CT. He is also survived by his 11 adoring grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and his beloved beagle, Henry. He was the brother of William O'Connor of Sterling CT, Joanne Lafergola of RI, Jeanne O'Connor, Mary Ellen Noonan and Kathleen Montella, all of Florida.

Due to the current crisis, his family will hold a private service at The Cathedral of St. Patrick in Norwich, CT. At a later date there will be a celebration of Vinnie's life with family and friends. In lieu of flowers or donations, the family asks that in Vinnie's memory, you do as he did, and take a moment to tell your spouse that you love them, hug your child or grandchild, walk your dog, call an old friend, help a stranger or make someone laugh.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4:7. Share a memory at [www.gagnonandcostellofh.com](http://www.gagnonandcostellofh.com)

## Joseph Paul Krukowski, 85

DUDLEY -Joseph Paul Krukowski, 85, died Thursday, May 14, 2020, at St.Vincent Hospital after a period of declining health and a battle with COVID-19.



He is survived by three daughters: Lisa Benway of Mendon, MA Suzanne Clearwater of Oxford, MA, and Michelle Krukowski of North Grosvenordale, CT, granddaughter, Carissa Clearwater of Worcester MA and a dear Cousin Anne Clemons of Milford MA, predeceased by his former wife, Pauline Denham, longtime partner Vera Mainheit, and his beloved dog Reba.

Mr. Krukowski was born on February 9, 1935, in Webster, MA. He is the son of the late Frank and Laurianna (Malboeuf) Krukowski and lived in Dudley, MA for most of his life. He proudly served in the Army from 06/27/1957 to 05/07/1959 and then

with the National Guard Reserves. He worked at Bates Shoe for many years before finishing his career as a welder at Southbridge Sheet Metal.

Joseph was a member at St. Anthony's of Padua Church, a 40-year member of K of C Council # 228 past Grand Knight, Fourth-degree member of the John Cardinal Wright Assembly # 1924.

He enjoyed fishing, playing bingo, and spending time with his three daughters.

A private graveside service will be held in Sacred Heart of Jesus Cemetery, Old Worcester Rd., Webster, MA His guest book is at [www.bartelfuneral-home.com](http://www.bartelfuneral-home.com)

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to any local Covid-19 relief fund, or

Worcester County Food bank Webster, Dudley Food share Bread of life kitchen of Webster

Bartel Funeral Home & Chapel 33 Schofield Ave Dudley is directing arrangements

## Rebecca Sue Cote, 37



Rebecca Sue Cote, 37, of Danielson CT passed away unexpectedly on May 11, 2020 in her home. She was born April 25, 1983 in Putnam CT and grew up mostly in Plainfield CT.

Rebecca had a beautiful soul, infectious smile & laughter, and a caring personality. Her presence in our lives will be sorely missed.

She is survived by her parents Larry and Debra Cote; brother Larry and his

wife Katrina; sister Sarah and her husband Martin. Rebecca also is survived by her nieces and nephews Madailyn, Caitlyn, Larry, and Martin who she cared deeply for, as well as aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

Rebecca was preceded in death by her Grandparents Alfred & Thurla Cote and Norma & Arthur Carrigan, and several aunts and uncles.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting that a donation be made in Rebecca's name to National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) [www.namict.org](http://www.namict.org). [tillinghastfh.com](http://tillinghastfh.com)

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# LEGALS

### TOWN OF WOODSTOCK

Wetlands Agent has granted approvals for the following applications: #05-20-08 Creative Exteriors LLC for Christa Swenson, 155 Laurel Hill Dr – rebuild of existing wall in URA, & patio; #05-20-09 Joshua Pratt, 9 Bassett Hill Rd – landscaping in URA/grading, Tina Lajoie, WEO/CZEO. May 22, 2020

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Jeremie Kayne DeBruycker (20-00010) The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast probate Court, by decree dated January 28, 2020, ordered that all claims must be pretested to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Clerk  
The fiduciary is:

Robin Lajoie, 44 Woodstock Ave, Putnam, CT 06260  
May 22, 2020

### TOWN OF THOMPSON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL NOTICE

The Thompson Zoning Board of Appeals held a Zoom meeting on Monday, May 11, 2020 at 7:00 pm. The following actions were taken.

Public Hearings ZBA Application #20-02, Joshua and Jessica Rhodes, Owner, 0 Pompeo Rd, Map 61, Block 59, Lot 5A, Zone R40 requesting a 25' variance front setback.

Kevin Beno moved and Kirby Cunha seconded the motion to approve ZBA Variance Application #20-02 as requested.

A roll call vote was taken:  
Kirby Cunha – Yes Geoff Bolte – Yes Jason St. Onge – Yes

Kevin Beno – Yes Ken Weiss - Yes  
The motion carried.

Public Hearings ZBA Application #20-03, 705 Washington Avenue LLC, Owner, 1391 Riverside Drive, Map 57, Block 61, Lot 2, Zone R40, appealing enforcement letter issued by the Town of Thompson Zoning Enforcement Officer.

Kevin Beno moved and Kirby Cunha seconded the motion to move this Public Hearing for Application #20-03 to next month.

A roll call vote was taken:  
Kirby Cunha – Yes Geoff Bolte – Yes Jason St. Onge – Yes

Kevin Beno – Yes Ken Weiss - Yes  
The motion carried.

Public Hearings ZBA Application #20-04, Joseph and Wanda Kelly, Owner, 0 Lowell Davis Road, Map 120, Block 30, Lot 3A, Zone IND, requesting a variance to build a house on property

in non-conforming zone.

Kevin Beno moved and Kirby Cunha seconded the motion to approve ZBA Variance Application #20-04as requested.

A roll call vote was taken:  
Kirby Cunha – Yes Geoff Bolte – Yes Jason St. Onge – Yes  
Kevin Beno – Yes Ken Weiss - Yes  
The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kevin Beno, Chairman  
Publish ONCE in the Thompson Villager

Friday, May 22, 2020  
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# When it can be smart to hire a painting pro



Few things can revitalize a home more readily than a fresh coat of paint. Thanks in part to the affordability of paint and its ease of application, painting is something that even novice DIYers can typically handle. According to the marketing advice guru Brandon Gaille, it is estimated that residential interior paint only lasts around three years before it needs to be updated. Exterior

paint can fade, chip and peel due to various environmental factors. As a result, many homes can likely use a fresh coat of paint in at least one room. As DIY-friendly as painting can be, when attempting to paint the interior or exterior of their homes, homeowners may learn that some painting projects are best left to the professionals. Painting requires skill,

patience and a knowledge of how various paints — including finishes for particular applications — will hold up. Novice painters may do more harm than good by dripping paint on expensive carpeting or floors or fail to recognize the nuances that indicate a spot-on painting job. Professional painters have spent hours upon hours learning the ropes of what works — and what does not. Painters often understand that painstaking preparatory work is crucial to getting pristine finished results. Walls and ceilings must be properly repaired and prepared even before a base coat is applied.

Professional painters also have an eye for details. And because professional painters make a business out of doing interior and exterior surfaces, they understand which techniques can improve efficiency. That means a professional job can typically be complet-

ed much more quickly than a DIY project. Even though some people think they'll save money by painting their own homes, that's not necessarily true. Professionals already have all the equipment necessary, unlike novices who may need to make repeated and potentially costly trips to the hardware store for supplies. Plus, if mistakes happen, DIYers have to spend additional time and money fixing them.

Safety can be a large motivator for turning painting over to a pro. Navigating exterior areas or tall interior ceilings can be challenging and may require scaffolding or tall ladders DIYers do not have. Risk of falls or other injuries increase with lack of experience.

Painting can give a home a facelift, and oftentimes it is smart to turn the work over to professionals to ensure the job is done just right.

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