

# THOMPSON VILLAGER

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## Probate courts remain open for business during COVID-19 crisis

PUTNAM — The Office of the Probate Court Administrator confirmed that the state's 54 Probate Courts and 6 Regional Children's Probate Courts continue court operations through the COVID-19 crisis. The Probate Court judges and clerks are essential workers and continue to conduct probate matters without public-facing operations. Hearings are conducted telephonically whenever possible. Video-conferencing capabilities for hearings are being rolled out statewide.

"The Northeast Probate Court and the Northeast Regional Children's Court located in Putnam are operating and are available by phone or email. The court staff is committed to serving the people of the district during these difficult times," said Judge Leah Schad.

Probate Courts have jurisdiction over matters which

directly affect families in the most challenging times in their lives such as protecting a vulnerable child or adult through guardianship or conservatorship proceedings, coping with assets after the death of a loved one, and protecting the rights of individuals in psychiatric treatment. In these unprecedented times, the Probate Courts are handling an increased caseload of petitions for custody of a decedent's remains and for end-of-life medical treatment situations of conserved persons. The courts are prepared to hear appeals of quarantine or isolation orders.

"We are committed to protecting the health and safety of our Probate Court community while ensuring that our court operations continue. Our courts remain open to the public by telephone, eFiling and mail to handle all matters including those critical to

families during the COVID-19 crisis. We are also prepared to hear any appeals of quarantine or isolation orders should those orders be issued," said Judge Beverly K. Streit-Kefalas, Probate Court Administrator.

It is recommended that individuals access the courts' on-line user guides in English and Spanish and register for the eFiling system if they are a party to a probate case. eFiling allows parties to file petitions, make payments and conduct most types of Probate Court business electronically on a 24/7 basis. The public is encouraged to call their local court for telephone guidance; the Northeast Court at 860-928-4844 and the Northeast Children's Court at 860-928-4833.

Please consult [ctprobate.gov](http://ctprobate.gov) for other court contact information.



## Dennehy remembered as a "good neighbor"

BY BRENDAN BERUBE  
EDITOR

WOODSTOCK — The entertainment world lost a titanic talent, and Connecticut one of its most treasured native sons, with the passing last week of award-winning actor Brian Dennehy.

The 81-year-old star of stage, screen, and television, who won two Tony Awards and a Golden Globe and was nominated for six prime-time Emmys during a career spanning more than four decades, died of cardiac arrest in New Haven on April 15.

With more than 180 film and television appearances to his credit, the powerfully built six-foot-three actor was known for an imposing presence that led to memorable roles in several hit films beginning in the late 1970s. He is perhaps best remembered, however, for his breakout performance opposite Sylvester Stallone

as a small town sheriff who harasses drifter John Rambo, with dire results, in the 1982 thriller "First Blood," which launched the popular Rambo franchise.

Stallone praised Dennehy in an Instagram post as a "great actor" who helped him build the character of Rambo.

"The world has lost a great artist," he wrote.

Dennehy was born in Bridgeport on July 9, 1938, and relocated to Mineola, Long Island with his family as a child, graduating from Chaminade High School. Although he was encouraged by a teacher to pursue an acting career, he tried at first to focus his energy on sports, enrolling at Columbia University on a football scholarship in 1956. Following military service in the Marine Corps, he earned a graduate degree in dramatic arts at Yale and held down a series of jobs over the next several years,

Turn To **DENNEHY** page **A4**

## Local food pantry continues to serve community

BY KAREN BUTERA  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

PUTNAM — Even though the Daily Bread Food Pantry, located at the Living Faith United Methodist Church at 51-53 Grove St. in Putnam had to make adjustments to their programs, they are still going strong and helping out about 300 families per month. The program is privately funded and is run by a Board of Directors.

Karen Osbrey, President of Interfaith Human services- IHSP could be found on Saturday doing what she loves to do, serving the local communities at the food pantry.

"We had to make changes and adjust to a different model due to the Corona Virus," she said. "Before this, people use to go in and shop with one of the volunteers and they were able to pick their choice of food off of the shelves. Today we are making food choices that are packaged ahead of time. Before we had between 12-15 people in an hour. Now it is only four per hour. We use to have five or six volunteers at a time and now there are only a couple of



Photo Karen Butera

**Karen Osbrey, President of IHSP serves the clients of Daily Bread.**

volunteers to meet the social distancing guidelines."

The people that take advantage of the food pantry must now call 860-928-0769 to set up an appointment. Appointments are made every fifteen minutes. This gives the clients

enough time to choose their own produce from the Farmer's Market. Osbrey also lets them know what additional items she has available that they can have. This keeps the number of people picking up food down to

Turn To **PANTRY** page **A5**

## Day Kimball Healthcare receives protective equipment from community

PUTNAM — Day Kimball Healthcare (DKH) has sought donations of medical supplies from organizations and individuals across Northeast Connecticut in the wake of shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE) caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the original call for materials just three weeks ago, DKH has received donations of variety of PPE supplies from over 85 individuals, organizations, businesses and manufacturers.

"We continue to be humbled by the generosity of the community as we all navigate this difficult situation together," said Kristen Willis, director of development, Day Kimball Healthcare. "Support has come to us in a number of ways



Photo Courtesy

**Staff in the Townsend Emergency Medical Center at Day Kimball Hospital wearing donated personal protective equipment.**

including donations of PPE, restaurant owners and individuals preparing and delivering meals for our staff, and monetary donations with messages of gratitude and inspiration. The outpouring of support has been amazing, but we still need the help of our community."

In collaboration with the Northeast District Department of Health for the procurement of these critical supplies, DKH continues to accept PPE donations from the community to keep colleagues, patients and families safe during these unprecedented times.

Donated items must be in original, unopened packaging. Equipment being accepted by DKH include: disposable head covers; disposable gowns; dis-

posable gloves; N95 respirator face masks; disposable face masks; face-shields/goggles; coveralls/scrubs; shoe-covers; disinfection wipes and liquids; and general-purpose hand cleaners and hand sanitizers. DKH is also accepting homemade face masks.

Visit [www.daykimball.org/donatePPE](http://www.daykimball.org/donatePPE) for information on donating supplies.

In addition, DKH is accepting monetary donations to the DKH COVID-19 Response Fund which will be put to use immediately to provide critical supplies, equipment and resources in response to this rapidly evolving pandemic.

As the COVID-19 crisis continues, DKH is adapting

Turn To **PPE** page **A2**



# Due to COVID-19 the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center will be closed until further notice.



KILLINGLY  
AT 300  
.....  
MARGARET  
WEAVER

I'm writing this the week after Easter, and must admit that it's been very rough one. I've lost one of my long-time "history friends," Louise Cutler Pempek of Putnam's Aspinock Historical Society. We go back a long way, to the early 1970's when that society was formed and over the years worked on a number of projects together. When I wrote my first edition of "Perspectives of Putnam," published in 1980, she was one of my editors and then served in that capacity for the update. During Walktober last fall I had the great pleasure working with Louise on a walk at the Cady-Copp Cottage. What a treasure she was as a friend and as a resident of Northeastern Connecticut where she generously gave

of her talents and time. I am grateful to have had her as part of my life, and she will long live in my memories.

As I was researching last week's column, I realized that there were several strikes that were having an adverse impact on businesses in both Killingly and Putnam in April 1920. The first I came across was a railroad strike that meant the Goodyear Company, the factory in present-day Rogers, which made use of the railroads in the area, needed alternative forms of transportation between its Killingly and Akron, Ohio plants. The April 15, 1920 Norwich Bulletin had the following intriguing article: "One hundred five-ton motor trucks were being assembled here Wednesday by the Goodyear Tire and Rubber company for use in transporting tire fabric from their plant at Goodyear to the parent plant at Akron, Ohio. The tie-up of railroad transportation facilities is responsible for the emergency arrangement made by this great corporation with its characteristic energy and forceful manner of doing things. A group of eight of the giant trucks each carrying five tons of fabric, left here just before noon on Tuesday, and five more of them, similarly loaded, got away late in the afternoon. Fifteen more trucks were expected arrive from New York at any minute...and the remainder of the 100 trucks will have arrived at Goodyear, loaded and started on their westward journey of more than 800 miles within the next 30 hours. While the plant at Goodyear is becoming glutted with finished fabric, the plant at Akron is rapidly running out of the material and it is absolutely necessary that the loads now being sent overland be put through to Ohio before the beginning of next week to prevent the Akron plant, where 37,000 employes (sic) are engaged, from being tied up in his tire making departments... The Goodyear Tire and Rubber company has for several years been operating its own overland trucking system between Danielson, Goodyear, and Akron...It is figured that the trucks will be two weeks in making the round trip. Coming east they will bring tires, rubber soles and other products of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber company" (p. 6; newspapers.com).

I was curious about the railroad strike, and https://libcom.org/history/us-national-railroad-strike-1919-jeremy-brecher provided interesting background information. "There were a large number of strikes in 1919, many of which were "outlaw" or wildcat strikes,

opposed as heartily by the unions as by the employers. Those railroad strikes which occurred met the opposition not only of the railroads but of the unions and the government. This was all the more true during the war and post-war period because the railroads were under Federal control until March, 1920. Discontent rose with the cost of living; by April, 1920, prices had risen one hundred percent since 1914, railroad wages only fifty percent. After April, 1919, the government refused all requests for wage increases... In this charged situation, a railroad worker named John Gru-nau, a leader of an insurgent Chicago Yardmen's Association, was demoted in the Chicago yards on April 2. The 700 switchmen on his line immediately walked out in protest. The strike crystallized the general discontent of the railroad workers, and within two days every railroad in the Chicago area was involved in the strike, with 9,000 switchmen out. By April 9th, the strike had spread spontaneously across the country..." The site noted, "This text has been excerpted from Jeremy Brecher's excellent book, Strike! and very slightly edited to make sense as a stand-alone text by libcom.org."

Apparently the passenger trains were not affected as much. "Putnam was not experiencing any discomforting effects of the outlaw railroad strike on Tuesday, though the movement of freight through this city had decidedly slowed up. If this situation continues for any protracted length of time, it will cause serious difficulties to manufacturers..." On Tuesday, heavy shipments were coming here by express, chiefly from New England points...All of the usual passenger trains are continuing service through here...though the Boston-New York expresses were not to be depended upon for the usual through service between the cities mentioned" (Norwich Bulletin 4/14/1920, p. 6; newspapers.com).

In Putnam, the Manhansett Manufacturing Company was affected by a strike in January 1920. "Carpenters employed on the new addition to the Manhansett Manufacturing company's plant here were out on strike Saturday. It was stated that the labor trouble developed as the result of mill employees, who are not members of the carpenters' union, being sent in to help to nailing down heavy flooring in the new part of the mill. The carpenters resented this addition to their ranks and walked off the job. The company, which is doing a splendid business and

is a big factor in Putnam's industrial prosperity, is anxious to get its addition completed in order that machinery may be installed and employment given to an additional number of operatives, and for this reason alone sent in the helpers to rush along the construction work" (Norwich Bulletin, January 20, 1920, p. 6; newspapers.com).

I had asked for memories so will share one that Dave Doiron sent.

"One interesting story of downtown Danielson actually happened to my dad back in the late 1950s. Dad read two or three daily newspapers and would drive to Dowe's to pick them up. The store had a set of newspaper tubes for customers who always got one of the daily newspapers. So Dad would get his Norwich Bulletin in the morning before heading to work. This particular day, since it was so early, he was the only one parked on that side of the street. He had a habit of leaving the engine running while he got the paper. It had an automatic transmission, so he's put it in Park, but he wouldn't bother with the parking brake. He was chatting with Marshall Dowe when one of them noticed his car wasn't in front of the store. Dad ran outside and saw the car headed down the street. It apparently had slipped out of Park. It crossed the street and took out a parking meter and ended up against a utility pole near Woolworth's. Dad was devastated. He walked back to Dowe's, and his friend Marshall managed to calm him down. (emails, April 4 & 14). If you remember Dowe's and/or Woolworth's, please share your memories.

I'll include more memories in next weeks' column. If you have something to share, please email or put it in a letter to the Killingly Historical Society. Please do not call the Killingly Historical Center with them until after the Covie-19 restrictions have been removed. Thank you so much for sharing.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, April 2020. Special thanks to Dave Doiron for sharing his memories. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wed. or Sat. 10-4 or www.killinglyhistorical.org. or call 860-779-7250. 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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**www.thebradleyplayhouse.org**

## PPE

continued from page A1

daily to ensure that patients continue to receive the best medical care based on guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH). The DKH COVID-19 Response Fund is designed to provide assistance as needs continue to be identified during the crisis.

"Our hospital was established through community partnership and philanthropy, we are in this together – and we will

get through this, together. Philanthropic support from our community is essential to help ensure DKH remains in a constant state of readiness now and in the future, and to support our caregivers who are on the front lines of this pandemic," said Willis.

For more information about the DKH COVID-19 Response Fund, or to make a donation visit [www.daykimball.org/giving/covid-19-response-fund](http://www.daykimball.org/giving/covid-19-response-fund) or call the Development Office at (860) 928-7141.

About Day Kimball Healthcare Day Kimball

Healthcare is a nonprofit community healthcare system comprised of Day Kimball Hospital, Day Kimball Medical Group, Day Kimball Healthcare At Home, and healthcare centers in Danielson, Dayville, Plainfield, and Putnam. Its service area includes Northeast Connecticut as well as nearby Massachusetts and Rhode Island communities. Day Kimball Healthcare's comprehensive network offers more than 1,000 staff including nearly 300 associated, highly skilled physicians, surgeons and specialists. Its Web site is [www.daykimball.org](http://www.daykimball.org).





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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 April 13: Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl, Palm Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Northern Harrier, Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Wood Duck, Killdeer, Common Snipe, American Kestrel, Pine Warbler, Eastern Towhee, House Finch, Chipping Sparrow. Visit [ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home](http://ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home).



# Day Kimball Medical Group to open drive-up collection site for COVID-19 testing

PUTNAM — Day Kimball Medical Group (DKMG), the physician practices of Day Kimball Healthcare (DKH), has announced that it will open a drive-up collection site for COVID-19 testing beginning on Thursday, April 16.

The community-based drive-up collection site will be located at the Killingly Intermediate School located at 1599 Upper Maple Street in Dayville, Connecticut. The collection site will be open from 2 to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Weekend hours will be determined over time to best serve the needs of the community.

“At a challenging time like this, it is more important than ever for health care institutions to come together and mobilize every resource possible to help their communities,” said John Graham, MD, chief medical officer and vice president of quality and medical affairs, Day Kimball Healthcare. “It is our hope that establishing this collection site for COVID-19 testing in the region will enable more people to access the care they need close to home.”

Only patients who have been evaluated by a health care provider for COVID-19 symptoms and who have a valid prescription order from their physician may be tested at the drive-up collection site. On-demand or walk-up testing is not available at this location.

To obtain a test order, patients with COVID-19 symptoms such as cough, fever, and shortness of breath should

contact their health care provider to be evaluated for their symptoms. Once the individual is determined to be a candidate for testing, the clinician will submit a physician order for the COVID-19 test. Physician orders will be processed immediately upon receipt, and the patient will be contacted directly by DKMG and set up with the first available collection appointment.

“Community-based collection sites are meant to decompress hospital emergency departments and physicians’ offices, preserve personal protective equipment, and centralize testing options,” said Gerald Sullivan, MD, family medicine physician, Day Kimball Medical Group. “The drive-up collection site will minimize unnecessary visits into clinical offices, waiting rooms, and hospital emergency departments, mitigating the potential spread of COVID-19.”

At the drive-up location, on-site signage will direct patients to the secure drive-up collection area. Patients will stay in their vehicles where a health care worker will verbally verify the patient’s identity and then perform the swab. If there is more than one person in the vehicle, each person will need a valid prescription order to be tested.

“The entire sampling, collection and storage process will take place outside of the school building. The collected specimens will be stored in a cooler outside and will then be transported

to Day Kimball’s laboratory on a daily basis. No potentially contaminated personal protective equipment, materials, or specimens will be brought inside the school,” Sullivan confirmed.

Those who have been directed to the drive-thru location should be aware of the following:

- Patients who do not have a provider’s order will not be tested.
- Patients will need to bring with them a valid photo ID to the collection site.
- Patients will drive through a secured, marked area and will remain in their vehicles throughout the entire collection process.
- No outdoor restrooms will available at the collection location.
- The sample is collected via a nasal swab; the process typically takes less than 30 seconds.
- The sample will be tested for the novel coronavirus.
- Individuals will be contacted directly with their results within two or three days, depending on regional test volume. As volumes increase, wait times for results may be longer.
- No medical screening or on-site medical evaluation will be performed.
- While waiting for their test results, individuals should stay at home. Those who receive positive COVID-19 test results may be issued additional care orders or self-isolation orders.

“At DKH, we continue to take steps to

protect our patients, their families, and our caregivers from the risk of exposure to infectious disease,” Graham said. “The drive-up collection site is one of several steps we have taken to keep our community safe and mitigate the potential spread of the virus.”

For the latest information, refer to the CDC website [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov), and the CT DPH website [www.ct.gov/coronavirus](http://www.ct.gov/coronavirus). Local measures to contain the spread of the virus are available at Day Kimball Healthcare’s website [www.daykimball.org/coronavirus](http://www.daykimball.org/coronavirus). Updates can also be viewed at Day Kimball Healthcare’s Facebook and Instagram channels.

About Day Kimball Healthcare

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## Local student attends Model UN Conference

DUDLEY, Mass. — Seven students from Nichols College attended the North American Model United Nations Conference at the University of Toronto, Victoria College campus, on February 20-22, 2020. Model United Nations is a program that aims to build and maintain strong links between the UN and Model UN participants around the world by providing students hands-on experience through real-world issues simulated at conferences.

Olivia Antonson, of North Grosvenordale, Conn. was accompanied by Erika Smith, assistant professor of political science and international business and chair of political science, and Karol Gil-Vasquez, assistant professor of economics.

The Nichols contingent served on committees representing Equatorial Guinea on the African Commission for Human and Peoples’ Rights, Malaysia on the World Health Organization, and Agrarian Party of Russia for the delegation Constituent Assembly of Russia, and others.

The Model UN conference is the ultimate test of knowledge for students studying politics, international business, and economics. They are not allowed to use cell phones or laptops while in sessions and are pushed to react, debate and make decisions on knowledge from past studies and preparation before

presenting their positions to the conference at large for a vote. Nichols students felt that they had a unique advantage excelling at presentations in front of the group because of the numerous class presentations they are required to perform as part of their Nichols education.

“It is a very fast paced environment, and it forces you to use your memory. It is a great way to test our knowledge and see what we retained. I was impressed with myself on how much I remembered from my classes!” says Rebecca Khachikian.

Khachikian further reflects on her experience, “I’d love to be a foreign services officer for the US State Department, and this experience helped me confirm that this is a career path that I’d like to take.”

Tyler Dunn, a sophomore at Nichols College with a double major in international business and economics and a minor in political science, was recognized with the Outstanding Delegate Award. He encourages

future students to take advantage of participating in Model UN. “If you are someone that likes problem solving, working in a collaborative environment, and enjoys debating policy, it is a very fun and rewarding experience,” he says.

About Nichols College

Nichols College is a college of choice for business and leadership education as a result of its distinctive career-focused and leadership-based approaches to learning, both in and out of the classroom, and through impactful research and professional education. Students thrive in a learning and living environment that is supported by an experiential business curriculum and a strong liberal arts foundation aimed at transforming them into tomorrow’s leaders. Nichols also offers master’s degrees in business, leadership, accounting, and counterterrorism, as well as a range of certificate programs, to promote career advancement for today’s professionals.

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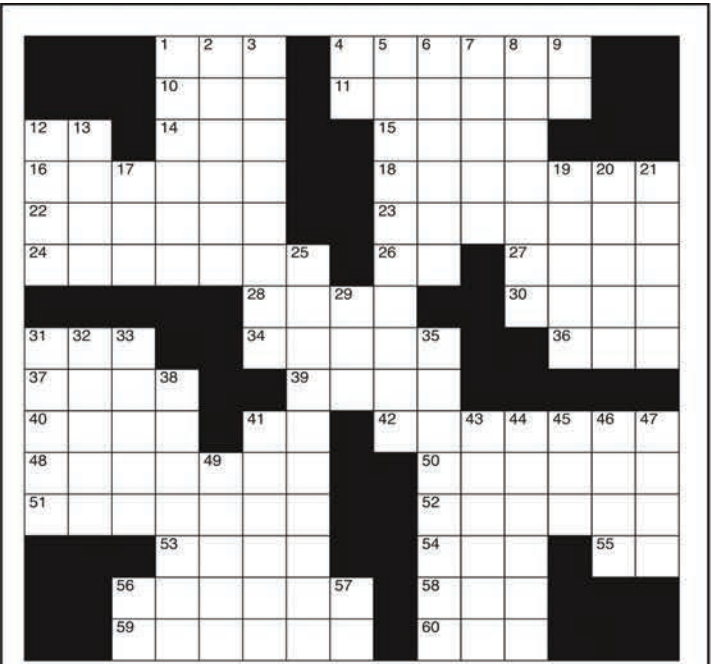
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Revolutions per minute

4. Hymns

10. Brew

11. Did not acknowledge

12. Atomic #77

14. Partly digested food

15. Not one

16. Lesotho capital

18. Copyreading

22. Living organism that feeds on organic matter

23. One's biological father

24. An aggregate of molecules

26. Equally

27. Khoikhoi people

28. Jump in figure skating

30. Lantern

31. TV network
34. Georges \_\_, French philosopher

36. Sharp, shrill bark

37. Albanian monetary units

39. Launched Apollo

40. One who graduated

41. Exist

42. Passed by

48. Very unpleasant smell

50. Graduates

51. Seedless raisin

52. Self-protection

53. Clue

54. Life-savers

55. Ingest too much

56. Misrepresented

58. Small Eurasian deer

59. Most mocking

60. Soviet Socialist Republic

CLUES DOWN

1. Flower cluster

2. A form

3. Inner organ regions

4. Local law enforcement

5. A citizen of Senegal

6. Positively charged electrodes

7. Connects granules

8. Business practice

9. The Mount Rushmore State

12. Leader

13. Hindu queen

17. Proofreading mark

19. European country

20. Greek mythological nymph

21. Grandfather

25. Clears
29. Amount of time

31. Mollusks

32. German municipality

33. Body part

35. City of Angels hoopsters

38. Suffocate

41. Pleasing to the eye

43. Poplar trees (Spanish)

44. Ship officer

45. Individual investment account (abbr.)

46. Prefix meaning within

47. Ceased to live

49. Day by day

56. Not color

57. Condition of withdrawal (abbr.)



# Virtual campus keeps students, community connected at QVCC

DANIELSON – Quinebaug Valley Community College is here to support our current students, future students, and the community through a number of college-wide initiatives to create a virtual campus. QVCC wants northeast Connecticut to know We are in This Together to support learning opportunities for all residents.

While both QVCC locations remain closed, students are now able to have virtual sessions with our academic advising and other support staff. QVCC implemented Microsoft Bookings to facilitate remote advising sessions for students who are preparing to register for summer or fall semesters. With the Bookings tool, students can schedule a virtual appointment with any of the following departments: Academic Advising, Advanced Manufacturing, Career Services, Disability Services, Financial Aid, SNAP Employment and Training, Support Services, and Veterans Services.

QVCC has also implemented Virtual Library Services. Students can reach library staff via text message (860-200-2821), voice message (860-932-4007), email (library@qvcc.edu), and real-time chat. Library staff can help with research assignments, finding scholarly sources, citing sources, evaluating websites

for credibility, and more! The Virtual Library Services can be found through QVCC Guides. Within QVCC Guides, students can also access virtual tutoring support, eTextbooks, and Information Technology (IT) support. Various community resources are also available within the guide.

Career services is here to support students prepare for their future careers. Students can now register for a series of virtual workshops, “Get Career Ready During COVID-19.” The first workshop, “Job Search During COVID-19” will be on Wednesday, April 22 from noon-12:40 p.m. The second workshop, “Updating Your Resume During COVID-19” will be on Wednesday, April 29 from noon-12:40 p.m. The third and final workshop, “Interviews and Networking During COVID-19” will be on Wednesday, May 6 from noon-12:40 p.m. To register, visit <https://bit.ly/2xZ336r>. Please contact QVCC’s Career Services [atcareerservices@qvcc.edu](mailto:atcareerservices@qvcc.edu) or 860-932-4089 with any questions.

QVCC is actively working with our future students who will be starting classes this summer or for the fall semester. Visit the QVCC campus through virtual tours and information sessions this spring. “Virtual Tour Tuesdays” will begin

on Tuesday, April 21. Every Tuesday following, photos will be shared via social media of various key areas of the College, such as the library, the Student Success Center, the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center (AMTC), the Early Childhood Education (ECE) building, the Learning Center, engineering labs, art studios, and more. Our first interactive “Virtual Information Session” will be held on Tuesday, May 5 at 5:30 p.m. This Virtual Information Session will be hosted by QVCC’s Admissions Department and is designed to give prospective students a chance to learn more about the admissions process, financial aid, certificate and degree programs, and will include a question and answer session. Learn more by visiting [www.qvcc.edu/visit](http://www.qvcc.edu/visit). Admissions is available daily through [admissions@qvcc.edu](mailto:admissions@qvcc.edu); we are also replying to messages left at (860) 932-4020.

QVCC’s Advanced Manufacturing Department will also host a Virtual Information Session on Thursday, May 7 at 6 p.m. Attendees can learn more about our Advanced Manufacturing Certificate Program, our Mechatronics Technician Certificate Program, our paid internship programs, and more! =

## DENNEHY

continued from page A1

including stints as a delivery driver, butcher, bartender, and stockbroker (a job he later said he hated), while trying to establish himself in the theater. Early stage roles in New York landed him minor parts in the films “Looking for Mr. Goodbar” and “Semi-Tough” in 1977. The late ‘70s also saw him making a string of guest appearances on television, where his credits would eventually include “Kojak,” “M\*A\*S\*H,” “Dallas,” and “Dynasty.”

Following the massive success of “First Blood,” Dennehy established himself as one of Hollywood’s foremost character actors, making memorable appearances in such diverse films as the science fiction classic “Cocoon,” the crime thriller “F/X” and its sequel, the star-studded Western “Silverado,” the courtroom drama “Presumed Innocent,” and the slapstick comedy “Tommy Boy.” He also cultivated a thriving career as a leading man on television, delivering an acclaimed portrayal of serial killer John Wayne Gacy in the 1992 miniseries “To Catch a Killer” and headlining a series of popular made-for-television

movies as Chicago detective Jack Reed, five of which he also directed, beginning with 1992’s “Deadly Matrimony.”

It was on the stage, however, that Dennehy would achieve his greatest success, earning a Tony Award for his portrayal of Willy Loman in Arthur Miller’s “Death of a Salesman” in 1999 (a role for which he also won a Golden Globe and a Screen Actor’s Guild Award when the production aired on television). His second Tony came in 2003 for Eugene O’Neill’s “Long Day’s Journey Into Night,” in which he appeared opposite Vanessa Redgrave and Philip Seymour Hoffman. He would go on to garner a reputation as the American theater’s foremost interpreter of O’Neill’s works, delivering searing performances in acclaimed productions of “The Iceman Cometh,” “Desire Under the Elms,” “A Touch of the Poet,” and “Hughie.”

A longtime resident of Joy Road in Woodstock, Dennehy was remembered by scores of area residents on social media in the days following his passing as friendly and kind hearted, a familiar face at stores and restaurants in neighboring Putnam, along with his children.

The Pomfret School’s Theater Director, Chip Lamb, recalled Dennehy in a letter to the

Villager as “an accomplished man” and a “good neighbor” who was “helpful, gracious, and kind.”

“Brian’s son and my daughter were in the same class at Pomfret School, and when he heard that our chorus was struggling to raise the funds to travel to Bolivia, he stepped up and organized a benefit performance,” Lamb wrote.

Dennehy, he remembered, became a close friend who once sent Lamb a personal note complimenting Lamb’s own performance in a local production of “The Crucible,” and took time after a grueling performance of “The Iceman Cometh” to meet with Lamb in his dressing room.

“Helpful. Gracious. Kind. These are the qualities of a good neighbor,” Lamb wrote. “These are the lessons I learned from Brian; lessons that seem more important than ever. Lessons that may not have a lot to do with acting, but have everything to do with living.”

Dennehy was married twice, to Judith Scheff (who passed away in 2015) and later to Jennifer Arnott. He is survived by his three daughters with Scheff, Elizabeth, Kathleen, and Deirdre, as well as Arnott and their children, Cormac and Sarah.



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# Daughters of Isabella hold annual recruitment teaa



Photo Courtesy

The Daughters of Isabella recently celebrated their annual Tea and membership recruitment event. Forty members attended, including 12 guests.

PUTNAM—The Daughters of Isabella recently celebrated their annual Tea and membership recruitment event. Forty members attended, including 12 guests. Patricia Krodel, a local storyteller, entertained with a humorous Irish tale. Joy Lizotte and Jennifer Lombardo offered an informative and historical skit which gave the background of the organization from its beginning to the present. Sandra Montie, the secretary and membership chairperson, coordinated group participation in furthering the goals and mission of the group. It was a wonderful afternoon, enjoyed by all.

The Daughters of Isabella is a charitable organization of Catholic Women founded on the principles of Unity, Friendship and Charity. To fulfil our goals the group hosts charitable activ-

ities, fund raising events and social interactions to encourage the community in a positive way to support and assist one another. We have sponsored Red Cross Blood Drives, Boy Scout activities, Hospice Tree of Life Lighting ceremony to name a few, and individual members volunteer at Daily Bread, The Community Kitchen, visit the sick, support St. Jude’s Hospital and many others.

After this event, three new members were installed bringing the total membership to 64. We encourage women of the Catholic faith to join us. We offer open meetings occasionally to recruit new membership and anyone who may be interested in joining may call our Regent: Maureen Desilets (860-928-5644) or Secretary, Sandra Monte (860-963-9552).

# The countdown is on to Tackle the Trail

DANIELSON – April 17 is the six-month mark until Tackle the Trail 2020! Are you ready to Tackle?

Mark your calendars! Saturday, Oct. 17. This year, the race has grown to marathon and half marathon distances, open to individuals and up to six-person relay teams (relay teams for marathon distance only). With leg distances varying from 2.1 to 6.7 miles, this race is fit for elite runners and weekend warriors alike!

The half marathon will begin in Brooklyn, and the marathon will begin in Windham; both races will end in Putnam, at the Hale YMCA with an awesome post-race festival sponsored by Michelob Ultra! Free beer, food, and fun!

Tackle the Trail takes place every third Saturday in October. Organized by the Quinebaug Valley Community College Foundation, Tackle the Trail raises scholarship money for students within the community of northeast Connecticut and beyond. The support of this race allows QVCC students to receive a debt-free education.

To register for Tackle the Trail, visit tacklethetrail.org. Follow Tackle the Trail on Facebook and Instagram to stay up-to-date with the latest information and to connect with other runners. Sponsorship opportunities are available



at a variety of levels. To inquire about sponsorships, please contact Monique Wolanin, Race Director, at mwolanin@qvcc.edu.

Tackle the Trail would also like to give a special shout out to The Wyndham Land Trust and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) for all their help in making the marathon and half marathon extension possible.

## PANTRY

continued from page A1

one person at a time. The other change is no one is able to go inside the building anymore.

According to Osbrey, “We have expanded our hours and added deliveries to seniors. Since appointments are made as needed, some days are longer than others.”

The towns served are Putnam, Pomfret and Woodstock, but they will never turn away the homeless or veterans.

One of the other services that the Daily Bread provided was NU2U, a clothing closet that has been temporarily shut down. They are also unable to accept clothing at this time.

A popular and much needed program is The Diaper Bank. The main location is at IHSP, Daily Bread. The hours of operation are Tuesday evenings from 5-6:30 p.m., and Putnam clients can pick up diapers during their regular food pick up. Towns served are Putnam, Pomfret, Thompson, Woodstock, Eastford, Ashford, Killingly, Brooklyn, Chaplin, Hampton, Canterbury, Scotland, Oneco, Sterling, and the Plainfield area. Husky cards need to be presented. For those outside of the Putnam area, diapers can be picked up at TEEG on the second Friday of the month. You must call 923-3458 for an appointment. The Plainfield Early Learning Center is open on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 10:30 a.m. through 1 p.m., no appointment is needed. For Ashford Social Services you must call 487-4417 to complete an application and arrange to pick up the diapers. The United Methodist Church of Danielson is open on last Friday of the month from 10:30 a.m. through 1 p.m. No appointment is needed.

DKH Nurturing Families, Killingly-Goodyear Family Resource Center and Generations Family Health Center are also distributing diapers. When a child is ready for potty training, Potty Training Kits consisting of a potty seat, activity books, crayons, and a hint sheet are provided upon request.

“We also provide Heating Assistance, Rental Assistance, Homeless Support and Pathways to Success by appointment. In the summer, we provide the Summer Food Program and during the school year, School Snacks,” said Osbrey.

Along with all of these services the food pantry is able to help point clients in the right direction for other services that may be needed. You may call 860-928-0769 for an appointment for Daily Bread or for any of their other services.

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Whatever health situation you may face, we’ll be here for you. Call your provider today to schedule your telehealth visit.



ARISE, SNOW LADY!



Photo Courtesy  
Mickey and Bonnie Morgan, a pair of readers in their 70s, decided to have a little fun in the snow while self-quarantining at home in Woodstock last week.

Eastern students honored for academic excellence

WILLIMANTIC — Eastern Connecticut State University's Communication Department inducted 39 new students into the Lambda Pi Eta national honor society and awarded students for excellence in radio, research, television, leadership, journalism and photography.

Among those honored were new inductee Maggie Chzaszcz, a senior from Putnam who majors in Communication, and Cameron Schultz, a senior from Brooklyn also majoring in Communication. Chzaszcz also received an award for Excellence in Television for work on Eastern's ETV television station. Schultz was awarded Excellence in Television ETV.

Lambda Pi Eta is the international honor society for communication with 400 active chapters worldwide. The honor society recognizes students for excellence in the field of communication and supports professional development.

To be eligible, students must have completed at least 12 credits of communication study, have a GPA of at least 3.25, be in the upper 35 percent of their graduating class and display commitment to the field of communication.

Each year, selected students are recognized for distinguished academic and leadership achievements through membership with honor societies. By obtaining membership into an honor society, students are given the opportunity to network with like-minded individuals and professionals while being honored for their academic success throughout their college years.

Thompson Speedway cancels Liquid Death Icebreaker

Pomfret Lions offer scholarships

THOMPSON — Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park announced last Friday that the 46th annual Liquid Death Icebreaker, originally rescheduled for May 15-16, will not happen during that weekend.

We continue to work with local and public health officials during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are in constant communication with NASCAR about rescheduling the event and will have further updates when available.

POMFRET – The Pomfret Lions Club will award two \$1,000 scholarships to students who will attend a post-secondary educational institution during the 2020-21 academic year.

To be eligible, applicants must be residents of Pomfret and must complete and return an application before May 20. The application requires a school transcript, a reference, and several brief paragraphs in addition to personal information. An application may be requested from the following address: Lions Club Scholarship, Box 224, Pomfret, CT.

Rotary members become fundraising machines

PUTNAM — Before the COVID 19 virus put the brakes on the Putnam Rotary Club's fund-raising, the club was able to raise an impressive \$110,000 for local groups and an international water project.

Club President Richard Naumann said the club recently made donations totaling \$110,000.

The funds came from the Lobster Fest, the ever-popular Rose Sale, its 2-20 game, the golf tournament and grants awarded by the Rotary Foundation, Rotary District and Rotary International. In addition, each Rotarian has made generous donations to the club throughout the year, in various ways.

Beneficiaries include: Arc of Eastern Connecticut, Camp Quinebaug, Community Café, Daily Bread, Day Kimball Healthcare, NECT Cancer Fund, NOW, Richard Franklin Memorial Fund, Scouting, Shelterbox USA, TEEG, United Services, Windham-Tolland 4-H Foundation, Hale YMCA, scholarships. In addition to those local beneficiaries, the club is helping to fund an international project -- the Ecuador Water Project. The Woodstock Volunteer Fire Association and the Bungay Fire Brigade also received donations for equipment.



Photo Courtesy  
Members of the Putnam Rotary Club were everywhere and raising money in dozens of ways to benefit local organizations and an international project, as well.



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# Extend your garden season

No matter where you garden, there never seems to be enough time to grow all the fresh vegetables desired. Planting earlier or just providing plants with some added warmth on chilly days and nights can reduce the time from planting to harvest. Southern gardeners will enjoy the additional time for harvesting heat-sensitive plants before the stifling heat moves in and plants begin to decline.

Prepare the soil as soon as it can be worked. Cover the prepared soil with clear plastic, row covers or high tunnels for several weeks when planting earlier than normal. This warms the soil for planting and helps germinate many of the weed seeds. Lightly cultivate to remove the young weed seedlings without bringing more weed seeds to the surface. You'll be pulling fewer weeds throughout the growing season.

Once the garden is planted, enlist some of these season-extending helpers (gardeners.com). Homemade and commercial cloches, cold frames and row covers can help you plant earlier and harvest later in the season.

Row covers made of spun fabrics let air, light, and water through while keeping the plants warm. Anchor the fabric with landscape pins, stones, boards, or other heavy items. Leave enough slack in the fabrics for the plants to grow. Lighter weight garden fabrics



## GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

also protect plants from insect pests like cabbage worms and bean beetles.

Garden covers take this method one step further. These structures fit over plantings in the garden, raised beds or elevated planters. Look for those with durable greenhouse fabric covers that let water in and keep excess heat out. These types of structures protect plants from cold and wind, speeding up your harvest by as much as 25 percent.

Raise the roof on these structures with high tunnels and plant protection tents. These are perfect for growing tall plants like tomatoes. As temperatures rise, the tops can be ventilated or in some cases replaced with a mesh that keeps out insects and critters, while providing plants enough room to reach full size.

Or maybe you just can't wait for that first red ripe tomato and only want to jump start a row of greens. Garden cloches have long been used for this purpose. They capture the sun's warmth to protect plants from frosty weather.

Gardener's Supply Company's Early Season Row Cloche Set allows you to expand your protection to the desired size. These clear PVC plant protectors have water wells to capture rainwater and gently disperse it to the plants below and vents for managing the temperature.

Further boost your tomato harvest with red plastic mulch, red tomato teepees and tomato boosters. University researchers found using red plastic mulch increased the individual fruit size and weight and overall tomato harvest by as much as 20 percent. They found the red plastic mulch reflected certain growth-enhancing wavelengths of light back onto the plants.

With a bit of extra effort and investment you'll be harvesting fresh vegetables long before your friends and neighbors. Then be sure to keep these season-extending devices handy to use again in fall. Protecting plants from those first few fall frosts can keep you eating garden-fresh tomatoes, peppers and greens well into winter.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* DVD series and the *Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio segments*. Myers is a columnist and con-



Photo Courtesy — Gardener's Supply Company

Cloches can help you plant earlier and harvest later, extending the growing season.

tributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by Gardeners Supply

for her expertise to write this article. Her web site is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).

# Antiquing during this health crisis

Many antique events and auctions have been canceled due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The usual online selling and buying options are still available though, and some new opportunities have even become available.

The biggest local antique news is that the May Brimfield Antique Show has been canceled. *Westernmassnews.com* quoted the Head of the Brimfield Select Board who said "I think when you get 20,000 people coming from around the world, it'd be disastrous ... I think everybody is sad for it. I don't necessarily apologize for the decision because I think it's the right one." Although this is disappointing to antique dealers and collectors, in my opinion July 2020 will be one of the best shows. Many other



## ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES

WAYNE TUISKULA

shows have also been canceled. Live auctions and estate sales have been put on hold. Antiques and the Arts Weekly has a long "running list" of many of the canceled events available on their website at [antiquesandthearts.com](http://antiquesandthearts.com).

Like many other local businesses, antique dealers, auctioneers and estate sale companies have been going online to fill the void. For example, some estate sale companies are running online only sales. Others are selling by appointment only to comply with social distancing guidelines.

Channel 7 News in Watertown, N.Y. reported that auctioneer Don Peck Auctions has turned to Facebook Live

to run his auctions which had been held live in person prior to the pandemic. Peck said that prices have increased as he has found a group of new bidders. Most buyers are from within 50 to 75 miles of his Gouverneur, N.Y. location, but he has reached others from as far away as Florida and Las Vegas.

The pandemic has brought out the best in many. Many public figures have done exceptional things to help those affected by the COVID-19 virus. Former Ohio Buckeyes and Detroit Lions linebacker Chris Spielman is one example. The Detroit Free Press reported that he had previously donated \$100 each to 8 people who were in need for the past two weeks. He is now selling some of his personal memorabilia on eBay to help those in need during this pandemic. His Ohio State Big Ten championship ring is one of his prized possessions

that he is auctioning for the greater good. "This hurts to give this up, but where is it going to serve a better purpose?" Spielman said. The ring sold for \$12,000, and Spielman said he will be offering more of his memorabilia.

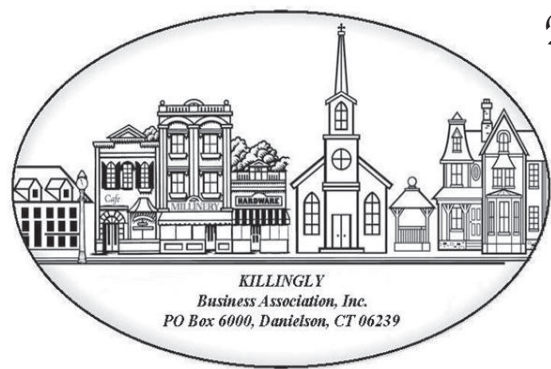
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We are also planning an online auction in Warren, R.I. and an estate sale in Auburn when the situation allows. Our Rutland estate farm auction will go online again as soon as possible. Please see [www.centralmassauctions.com](http://www.centralmassauctions.com) for details on these and



other events. I hope all of you continue to stay safe and in good health and we can all be attending antique events together soon.

Contact us at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique Auctions, Estate Sales and Appraisal Services [www.centralmassauctions.com](http://www.centralmassauctions.com) (508-612-6111) [info@centralmassauctions.com](mailto:info@centralmassauctions.com).



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**FRANK G. CHILINSKI**  
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

**BRENDAN BERUBE**  
EDITOR

# The lost class of 2020

When schools across the country moved to remote learning, we weren't sure how long it would last, but many of us suspected that eventually it would last for the remainder of the year.

Many students use school as a respite and several thrive on having a consistent schedule. Younger students are facing many losses, but our hearts truly break for the seniors, particularly athletes who are missing out on their final sports season.

In our own experience, it was track season that would have had the most impact. As a senior, records needed to be broken, goals needed to be reached and rivals needed to be beat. To have that season abruptly "taken" would have been devastating. Thinking back, time spent on a Saturday at a sunny track meet with talented athletes, encouraging coaches and parents with coolers loaded with food are some of, if not the best, memories from high school.

Then there are softball and baseball players. Baseball, in all its various incarnations, is called the 'American pastime' for a very good reason. The adrenaline rush that comes after managing to hit an expertly thrown pitch and sprinting to first base is unforgettable. Making a catch in the outfield, or making the play for that all important out that could decide the game, is gold. Fortunately, many athletes are going on to play ball or run track in college. For those that are not, know that we sympathize with you, and hope that you can continue doing what you love in some sort of league that will hopefully be available to you. No, it won't be the same, but this is when they say you need to "adjust your sails" and remember that what is happening is in order to keep you and your families safe.

Again, we know that all of our students, parents, faculty, healthcare workers, business owners and all community members are going through a loss, all to varying degrees but all just as important. For students, whether it's the last school theatre production or JROTC competition, we feel for you. Have faith that your administration will make up for all of this, as best they can, given the circumstances.

Certainly, our students understand the gravity of the situation. Lives are being lost, families are losing loved ones and people are heart broken. We are in the midst of a global pandemic, but that doesn't mean that the devastation those students are feeling shouldn't matter. We acknowledge your pain. Reading a recent Facebook post by a friend's daughter brought the situation home to us. In an emotional letter to her fellow members of the Class of 2020, she wrote that if she had one wish, it would be to go back to the last day of classes before the governor's office made the decision to close schools, with the knowledge this time that those eight precious hours would be the end of her senior year, and give all of her classmates — many of whom she might never have an opportunity to see together in one place again — one last hug or high-five before saying good bye.

Her words speak for all students across our region, and across the country, who have been denied the opportunity to experience one of the most memorable times in a young person's life, and we invite our readers to join us in recognizing the pain, comforting the sorrow, and above all, saluting the achievements and incredible fortitude of the Class of 2020.

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# OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Putnam has shown a commitment to funding education

To the Editor:  
The chairman of the Putnam Board of Education recently criticized the Putnam Board of Finance for offering the Board of Education a budget of \$18,794,001 instead of the \$19,622,420 requested. He argued that the town should use its reserve funds to offset potential mill increases during this challenging period.

I disagree. I think the town officials are right in refusing to use the reserve fund this year. We are just at the beginning of a virus-induced crisis with no idea of what its duration or ripple effects will be. We may well be in greater need of the reserve money further down the road.

Mr. Morrill also implied that Putnam officials do not really support the town's schools. This concerned me, so I looked on

the State Department of Education Web site to see what information it might offer. The Department lists data on total school expenditures, enrollments, and per pupil expenditures for each town in Connecticut. I found that for the school years 2008-09 through 2017-18, Putnam increased its school expenditures every year except 2010-11 and 2015-16. Per pupil expenditures increased steadily over the same period, rising from \$13,913 in 2008-09 to \$17,192 in 2017-18. Keeping in mind that the State ranks Putnam among the bottom 20 towns in terms of wealth and property tax base, it's clear that the town has shown a real commitment to funding its schools and educating its children.

MARGARET BARTLEY  
PUTNAM

### A thought on 'free'

To the Editor:  
Some weeks ago, I read a letter in this newspaper that stated, "nothing is free." However, when we simply stop and think about it, there are so many things all around us that are free; think about sunlight and the warmth it gives us, and the rain, to quench our thirst and fill our wells, and the air we breathe, these are some of the most important things our planet offers, and they are all free. But I believe the writer was speaking about some of the more social ideals such as healthcare and college tuition.

Of course, these things are not free in the usual sense of the word, but what is proposed is to make them free to the user, as we currently do for children from grades kindergarten thru high school. As we know, K through 12 education is not free in the usual sense of the word, but the user does not pay as he goes. When my two children were in school, my town's real estate tax bill covered less than one third of the per pupil cost to the town. You might say I was not paying my fair share of what it cost the town to educate my children. But the fact is that everyone who lived in town also paid taxes, even though many of them had no children in the school system. Now that my children are grown and out of school, I still pay my town taxes, and my tax dollar helps to pay the cost for the children now in school.

Isn't this exactly what we do with all of the benefits society finds beneficial? The taxes we pay provide post offices, roads, airports, passenger trains, and hundreds of others, and we pay for them whether we use them or not. More important to society, although neglected, are the benefits of education and healthcare. Proven by many studies, the healthier the population, means less healthcare and thereby lower healthcare costs. Yearly physicals can detect problems before they become acute, medical help with weight loss will, for many of us, reduce diabetes and other ailments, moderate exercise tends to lower heart problems, and a healthy diet will go a long way to reducing many current health problems; these are all healthcare issues. Several recent polls show most Americans also want a universal, single-payer healthcare system, and it has become obvious it will happen in the United States sooner rather than later.

### Who do we believe?

To the Editor:  
Thanks for making me aware of Donald Trump's past business adventures. I didn't even know that he had his own brand of vodka, but I probably would have paid more attention if he had put out his own brand of beer. Yet for all those mentioned failures, he is a billionaire and the President of the United States. (I only wish that I had done so poorly in life.) But then all of his business dealings are shady, right? And though I could mention any number of other people who are in the same boat, I won't because what good will it do?

Thanks also for your (U.S.) COVID statistics. I can only hope that you are not totally blaming the President for those numbers. Yes, the death figures are sad, and unfortunately, there is no magic wand. All I've heard as of late is that the President did not act soon enough in his handling of the COVID issue. How about, instead of only being spoon fed by the likes of Rachel Maddow or Anderson Cooper, you "no fans" open up your minds for just a minute and check out the Bill Maher/Congressman, Dan Crenshaw exchange? (Food for thought?)

Letters to the editor may be e-mailed to  
brendan@villagernewspapers.com

Please include your place of residence and phone number for verification, not publication. Letters must be received by noon on Tuesdays.

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# One step backward taken

The lady bugs are back. They aren't as numerous as other years, but they are, sticking to the corners of the windows and dropping into shoes and on to sheets. They are "alien" or non-native little creatures, closer to orange in color than red with black spots, but they have settled in and they plan to stay. They are joined by "Asian" stink bugs, that also hitchhiked in somehow. The natural world adjusts and so must we.



NANCY WEISS

April is poetry month. Through the years, I have shared poems I enjoy. I memorize poems for the sheer pleasure of recalling lines at odd moments and to calm myself in the middle of the night. Sometimes poems I thought I understood reemerge as meaning something else. Writing poems focuses the mind, another area where we must adjust. If we can keep our attention on what truly matters, we will emerge from these strange times with new insight, or at least tidier closets.

I'm always impressed by two magazines, Yankee and Down East, we've gotten for years. In Yankee, I enjoy the celebration of New England life presented without a saccharine-sweet tone. In a recent piece, read on the internet as I avoid my beloved post office, Mel Allen, the editor referenced a poem by Robert Frost called, "One Step Backward Taken."

The poem describes a time when after a storm or a flood, sand and boulders were tumbling down a gully. The poet then recalls, "I felt my standpoint shaken/In the universal crisis. /But with one step backward taken/I saved myself from going. /A world torn loose went by me. /Then the rain stopped and the blowing, /And the sun came out to dry me."

While we are waiting for the sun to come out, we have the time to slow down and think. Two close friends have lost their husbands since the virus shutdown began. Neither man died from corona, but because of quarantining, my friends, now widows, can't move ahead with traditional funerals, and the comfort of seeing relatives and friends. Both women are largely alone. Once this time is over, they will hold memorial services, but their isolation right now, except for the internet and phone calls, seems very cruel.

My husband and I walk outside every day. We wave to passers-by and chuckle at the dogs hanging out of car windows. When we come upon other walkers, everyone knows how to distance themselves, say something cheery and move on. Through binoculars, we spotted four turtles sunning themselves on a rock in a local pond and laughed when two little girls, neighbors we hadn't met, brought out three ferrets to show us as we stood on a country road. The ferrets wanted to be entertaining, so they burrowed into a stonewall. We smiled in the sunshine.

Every day, I write of my friends and I four haikus and share them. As you may recall, haikus are based on a Japanese tradition of three lines of poetry with five syllables in the first and third line and seven in the middle. Haikus are often about nature and often have a surprise ending. We've taken to writing them with alacrity. The recent snow storm, spring blossoms, animals and even house cleaning provide great material. Being creative is a pleasant way to step backward and forward.

The "one step backward taken" is how we need to live for a while longer. When the sun comes out, we will join the insects, the turtles and the silky ferrets in adjusting to whatever the new world offers. We will save what we have learned.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A failure of leadership

To the Editor:  
Historians of future generations are destined to look back on the Covid-19 global pandemic with the same fundamental awe as the two World Wars and the Great Depression. These few dreadful events were able to bring an entire world to its knees. One would have thought that the climate crisis would (and still may be) the source of our next fall from grace but nature seems to have found another trick up its sleeve. Still, as the chronicles of the 20th century have shown us, human kind did find solutions and those solutions were in no small part due to the emergence of the United States of America's becoming the great superpower it was always meant to be. Sadly, America leading the rest of the planet out of this disaster does not appear to be in the cards, in no small part due to the lack of leadership at the pinnacle of our government. Rather than guide a world teetering on the brink as we have done before, President Trump's strategy appears to be to point fingers elsewhere, take credit when none is due, and isolate the country when a worldwide agenda is called for.  
Past administrations have for years been forewarned about the possibility of a deadly global pandemic. We had agencies that planned for it. But in spring 2018, the Trump administration began taking down the team in charge of a pandemic response along with deep cuts to the CDC all part of his desire to cut the size of the federal

government.  
Early in the course of the disease this year the administration ignored intelligence warnings as the President seemed more concerned with keeping the numbers low and likening the coronavirus to the flu as well as suggesting to his supporters that it all was a Democratic hoax.  
He then picked Vice President Pence to head his response task force, a politician not a scientist. Yes, he declared a ban on Chinese nationals from entering the country but he failed to quarantine and test the thousands of Americans returning from Asia, bringing the infection with them.  
In February, Trump said of the virus that "One day it's like a miracle, it will disappear," failing to grasp the basic science behind a deadly malady. He then in March decided that Easter would be the day that social distancing restrictions could be lifted again flying in the face of all rational evidence.  
Throughout this year, he has continued to hype the use of hydroxychloroquine as a miracle cure even as doctors warned him that this was dangerous and as recent studies have borne out can cause more harm than good.  
He has turned daily Covid 19 task force briefings into mini rallies allowing him to rail against Democratic governors and Congress as well as the press while continuing to spread falsehoods that America is leading the world in testing (its far behind per capita compared to other countries)

and that hospitals are being provided all the PPE's and ventilators that they need. He states that we have passed the peak even as the numbers continue to rise in sections of the country, in part because the numbers can't be accurately assessed until we have more testing.  
Now Trump wants to open up the country once more by first declaring that he had "total authority" and then saying that governors should decide, and at the same time egging on supporters who deny the seriousness of the pandemic. We have witnessed hundreds marching in crowds, without masks, on government state houses. He should explain to them that even though they may not fear getting or dying from coronavirus, they are potential sources that can spread it to others and prolong its duration.  
He has created a reopen the economy task force and including his son in law and daughter, who are neither doctors, or scientists, or business leaders, or epidemiologists; they are just relatives.  
But perhaps most disappointing is Trump abandoning America's role as a global leader. In defunding the WHO at a point when worldwide coordination against a health crisis has never in history been more important and failing to dictate a universal protocol, we risk creating a permanent vacuum in the Western world which no doubt will be filled by China. Yes, many can blame them for triggering the virus but this will be quickly forgotten as

they become the leading world voice and economic superpower. Already, they are shipping medical supplies and providing health experts to less fortunate nations while effectively quelling the illness at home.  
The pandemic will last for many months, if not for many years. Many lives will be lost. Many jobs will be lost forever. All this will be accelerated by an administration that feeds on half truths and outright lies and is willing to trade the wants of a few misguided xenophobes and one self centered narcissist for a damaged planet searching for a way out.  
The end of this catastrophe will be led by science. Already there are 86 vaccine trials underway. Odds are at least one will prove effective. An effective treatment should also be discovered. Until that time, we will need to heed the advice of experts and stay the course. Mr. Trump needs to understand this. He needs to spearhead the national effort, stop treating the country as a business, and recognize this is no time to place gut feelings over coherent facts. He also needs to return America to its position as the world's beacon of hope. The chances of this happening, especially given his consistently erratic behavior, seem quite unlikely. And this is why, on the global playing field, China stands to come out the winner.  
LEE WESLER  
WOODSTOCK

We are community strong

To the Editor:  
Words do not do justice to describing the difficult times in which we are living. All of us face a common problem. Each of us faces our own individual challenges. It is OK to be anxious, nervous, or even scared about the future. It is OK to feel tired because of a changed work environment or a hectic work schedule. It is OK to feel stressed because of a high-risk circumstance if you are a healthcare worker, first responder, or employee at an essential job. It is OK to ask for help. Throughout it all, each of us can take hope in and have our spirits lifted up by the countless acts of kindness, generosity, and caring that are happening every day and every night in our communities.  
If you are a worker who has been furloughed, support has been offered. If you are a worker who has experienced a pay cut, support has been offered. If you own a small business that has had to close shop or change the way things operate to try to stay afloat, support has been offered. If you are a retiree wondering if a pension or Social Security is enough to help, support has been offered. If you are a teacher, student, or parent, support has been offered. If you are food insecure or unable to help yourself due to age or infirmity, support has been offered.  
Support is not only in the form of government assistance. Although federal, state, and municipal governments can be of help, it is not government's role to cover 100 percent of everything 100 percent of the time. It takes private citizens, private businesses, non-profit organizations, and religious places of worship to help do the work at local, grassroots levels. It is a partnership between government and private parties. But, it takes people to step in to do what government cannot do or cannot do fully. This is how things get done and get done well.  
I find it unfortunate that there are politicians trying to score political points through special interest statements and actions. It is not for me to comment as to why there are individuals who chose to be pundits by making political arguments or lobbying charged comments.

What I do say and what I have said many times before, is that while it is OK to have a reasonable and reasoned discussion of public policy and to hold government accountable for its actions, it is more important concurrently to highlight the good work that people are doing and to support them in doing the good work as best as can be done realistically and effectively.  
We are community strong. This is not new. This strength long predates the present public health emergency. It will last long after the pandemic is past us. During these current times, more people are noticing the strength of our communities and talking about it. We see more of it publicly. But, it has always been present, often times existing behind the scenes or anonymous.  
That the goodness outnumber the bad is something each of us must remember and take faith in. We must work hard together to keep it this way. After the 9/11 tragedies, Ben Stein wrote a wonderful article about who are the true American heroes. His point was that average Americans, like first responders and even like you, are the true American heroes by doing good and by helping others. He ended his article by saying, "Faith is not believing that God can. It is knowing that God will." I will paraphrase this by saying, "Faith is not believing that people can do good things. It is knowing that people will and that they are already doing it."  
To everyone and to each organization who have stepped out and stepped up to be of help, thank you. To each of you who needs a helping hand or a hand on your shoulder during these tough times, be aware that help is available, in various and many forms. Whether you help one person or help many, helping people does make a difference. Working together as a community is what will drive us through toward better times. Americans over the generations and the years have done it before more than once. America and our communities will do it again.  
Stay safe. Stay healthy.

JEFFREY A. GORDON, M.D.  
WOODSTOCK

We are hearty folk

To the Editor:  
As someone who grew up here in Windham county, moving to the south, I have always been proud to acknowledge us as "hearty folk." Out of sheer necessity, we adapt; like our military, we overcome.  
During 9/11, we saw how hearty New Yorkers were. Then, we watched how our nation pulled together to overcome. Think of all the shootings and how we pull together as a whole to try to move forward.  
Now we face a pandemic. It won't be our last. So many times I've wanted to add to this column, but there is just so much to talk about. I've decided to try and shoot for the optimism that is me. To project negativity isn't helpful at this time. However, I can't stress enough how important diligence with hand washing and isolation are in slowing down this pandemic. It is imperative. It is something we can all do to help-if possible, stay home.  
I have always held faith for us as Americans. We enjoy a special privilege in our everyday life that can lead us to greatness. We are forward thinkers. People are contributing and mak-

ing sense. As always, individuals are volunteering, stepping up to the plate. From small children to elderly, folks are doing the best they can. These times are when ingenuity excels.  
As a relative of mine once said, "necessity is the mother of invention!" We are certainly seeing that in these times. Homemade PPE equipment, 3-D printers being used to make connections that give extra access to a single ventilator, small companies making headgear for ventilators, the conversion of C-pap machines to make ventilators. Folks are buying headbands, sewing buttons on the sides so that medical personal can attach face masks to them as their ears have sores and are painful from wearing masks for eight to 12 hours at a time. Folks are donating these ideas without compensation to a patent. They are just saying "here it is, take it and run with it, please." Capitalism out the window!  
We need to understand and be supportive of the many frontline folks that are working to get us through this. We have David Yo, a Doctor who dis-

Now is the time to unify

To the Editor:  
It's quite the change that we are all going through. Pretty much everything we have been spending our time on has changed, and continues to change on a daily basis. That adjustment is difficult enough without the very real life-threatening virus that has caused it all. Yet, I continue to believe that this is all happening for a reason. The cause, response and coming together as a global community is an awakening to prioritize and just simply, do our best. As a very wise business associate once told me, "In time, all things will be revealed." When impatient, frustrated or discouraged, I rely on and find comfort in this mantra, which has proven to be true.  
A huge shout-out to Mr. Bedard with his short and sweet story last week about sending his Mom letters. What an encouraging and inspiring story that every reader should be motivated by. I'll bet quite a few cards and letters went out this week thanks to this kind and caring son. Thank you for sharing!  
It is interesting to watch protests, hear testimonies and see individual behaviors during this time. I am becoming more and more disturbed by political obstruction in all of its forms. This is just not the place or the time for such nonsense. Photo ops, late night show appearances...seriously? Not to mention, the ratings are so bad at that hour because many of us are sleeping! Why are these politicians on recess (!!) spending time there and not in their own districts? They Serve Us...and from what I am seeing, many have forgotten that. Not serving themselves should go without saying. I would encourage any readers to not forget who, of our elected leaders and citizens who made

a real difference during this pandemic. For those who cashed in stocks at the first whiff of the impending crisis, to the customer buying up all of the toilet paper.  
I do believe that a lot of broken systems will be fixed because of what is happening. From domestic manufacturing to supply chain reliability. Mostly, to an attitude of gratitude for those who are working the front lines, at their own personal risk and the risk to their families.  
Lastly, as a strong fan of our President, I am grateful for his "as quick as it could be" response.  
With some, he will never do anything right. To his supporters, he has been and remains our best hope for the job of putting Americans first and a proven leader to get it done. To those who don't like President Trump...that's ok...that is your opinion. But, a word to the wise. Most of us do not like to be called a cult or other names. It is not true, and therefore offensive. We all have our opinion, and it makes me thankful to have the Villager encouraging dialogue, but like my Mom used to say, "If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything." Another favorite: "two ears, one mouth," particularly when we are in such trying times. It has been said that "it is not so much what you are going through, but how you react to it." Let's unify to encourage, assist and do the best that we can without pointing blame or reacting negatively to this crisis. Look for the good...the kind, and how you can make a lasting difference to those in your life.  
TAMI JO WYKES  
BROOKLYN

Be a good neighbor:  
lessons learned from a great actor

To the Editor:  
When Brian Dennehy died last week, we lost a good neighbor: an accomplished man who was a member of our little community in northeastern Connecticut.  
He will be remembered as a great actor who was seen on screens and stages throughout the world for over four decades. He will be praised for his renowned performances of some of the greatest roles in the English language, and also for the tough guys he played in the movies. He will be recognized for many accolades and many awards.  
But my memories of Brian will be the qualities he showed me on a personal level. He was helpful, gracious, and kind.  
Brian's son and my daughter were in the same class at Pomfret School and when he heard that our chorus was struggling to raise the funds to travel to Bolivia, he stepped up and organized a benefit performance. When I told him that I was travelling to the Stratford

Shakespeare Festival for a professional development project, he arranged all the tickets for me. After attending a performance of "The Crucible" that I was in at the Bradley Playhouse, he wrote me a personal note. After we missed each other following a production of "Waiting for Godot," he left a message on my cell phone to apologize. One very late evening in New York, after a grueling performance in "The Iceman Cometh," Brian set aside time to meet with me in his dressing room. "Thanks for coming," he said.  
Helpful. Gracious. Kind. These are qualities of a good neighbor. These are the lessons I learned from Brian; lessons that seem more important than ever. Lessons that may not have a lot to do with acting, but have everything to do with living.

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Unemployed? Here’s how to keep your head above water

COVID-19 has presented many challenges since we have all begun to social-distance, work from home, and limit our travel outside of the house. But one of the most leveling aspects has been the dramatic increase in unemployment. More than 22 million Americans have filed for unemployment benefits as businesses are forced to close because of public health orders or cut costs through layoffs and furloughs. This may leave people wondering what resources are available to put food on the table, keep the roof over their head, and manage other financial obligations. Here's everything you need to know if you have lost your job or been furloughed because of the spread of COVID-19.

What should I do if I’ve been laid off or furloughed?

The first thing you should do is apply for unemployment benefits. The goal of unemployment benefits is to replace a percentage of the income you were making at your previous job – in

Connecticut, the max you can receive is \$649 per week. The next thing you should do is assess your budget and your finances. Is your income enough to cover your bills and other monthly expenses? Do you have enough saved up to get you through this until you can go back to work? Are there monthly expenses or subscriptions where you can cut back?

Finally, consider applying for another job if you or someone in your home is not severely at risk for COVID-19. Even though businesses in your field may not be hiring, others are hiring lots of essential employees to help with the recent demand for certain products. Consider the time frame from when you apply, interview, and ultimately start, as it may be prolonged. For employment placement resources in Connecticut, visit [www.CThires.com](http://www.CThires.com).

Am I eligible for unemployment assistance?

There are three provisions under the CARES Act that expand benefits and eligibility for those affected by COVID-19: the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC), Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), and the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC).

The FPUC provides an additional \$600 to your state's weekly unemployment benefit. This a flat supplement that comes solely from federal funding. For Connecticut residents, the additional \$600 will begin the week of April 27 and end July 25.

The PUA expands eligibility for unemployment to those who typically do not qualify: independent contractors, part-time workers, and those who do not have sufficient work history. Individuals must first be denied eligibility or exhaust entitlement to regular unemployment benefits or any state or federal extended benefits before they can be found eligible for PUA benefits. Eligible individuals will receive the \$600 FPUC benefits, though this income is taxable. In Connecticut, this program is available until Dec. 26.

The PEUC adds 13 weeks to the standard 26 weeks of unemployment benefits, so you can ultimately receive 39 weeks of assistance should it be needed.

The filing process may take longer than normal as more than 22 million Americans have filed for unemployment in the past month. You can make an unemployment claim online, over the phone, or in-person – though we don’t recommend going in person if you can avoid it. For more information, visit [www.dol.gov](http://www.dol.gov) or if you are a Connecticut resident, go to <http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/>.

Is there more help coming?

As many people know, the CARES Act provides a one-time relief payment, which starts at \$1,200. Depending on your income and the make-up of your household, you may receive more or less. Some people may have already received their check through direct deposit, but if you do not have your banking information filed with the IRS,

a check will be mailed to your house.

If you are in need of food assistance, the federal government boosted the amount of money for recipients of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP. Many school districts are also providing meals for children and families that parents can pick up and take home. Our website has local assistance programs listed for those who may need them. [www.whzwealth.com/covid19-resources](http://www.whzwealth.com/covid19-resources)

What happens to my health insurance?

If you have been laid off, you may qualify for COBRA, where you can keep your employer's plan for up to three years. To be eligible for COBRA coverage, you must have been enrolled in your employer's health plan when you worked, and the health plan must continue to be in effect for active employees. There is a 60-day application window from the time you lost your job, so it is better to act sooner rather than later.

If you are furloughed, you may be able to keep your employer-sponsored plan. To pay for your employer-sponsored plan during a furlough, some employers take larger deductions before and after the time off, while others request payment on a pre-set schedule – ask your employer how to handle this situation. Depending on the status of your health coverage from your employer, you may qualify for a Special Enrollment Period. You may also be eligible for a premium tax credit to help pay for Marketplace

Turn To **ZAHANSKY** page **A14**

## MAC WILLIAMS

continued from page A9

covered the epidemiology of the Aids virus. He is diligently working towards a cure. In this time of nothing to do, look him up. Convalescent plasma is being researched for a cure. Lieutenant General Semonite, US Army, corps of Engineers working with FEMA to get field hospitals erected in places of need. His men and women, converting the Javits Center in a phenomenal seven days with central piping for O2 and access for ventilators, accessing 646 much needed beds. With the right intel provided by our governors, he will do this continuously for probably the next few months. Hospitals, schools, town halls, hotels and senior centers are site adapting. Retired Medical personnel and first responders are turning out in droves to help and to replace those that have been on the front lines for months now. This is America, this is the human race. In spite of ourselves we come

together in time of need.

There are unprecedented by-pardons bills being passed. Unemployment compensation being extended to self-employed folks. I got a letter from my 1199 health care organization which stated that those of us receiving a pension, formally only being allowed to work 40 hours per month, could work as many hours as we wanted to and still receive our pension. Open enrollment for insurance deadlines have been extended. Tax deadlines have been extended. Licensures have been extended. We will see how this all works out but it is a beginning.

We are so lucky in this area to have the news reporting we have. Our town newspapers, where we can express our feelings, get local news along with world news. Winy Radio keeps us up-to-date on a daily basis with familiar voices and guests that help us understand our new environment. The media in our area give uplifting stories, trying to ease the stress that we feel daily. This can only be done if folks are actually

doing compassionate uplifting things. I have to thank these news venues for their ability to give a small sense of normality to our daily non-routine lives.

Like all first responders, my nursing profession comes with the realization that at any point in time you will have to be a fearless person to do your job. We get a lot of praise for that and it comes with a sense of civic duty. It doesn't mean that we are fearless. It just means we do our job. There are folks out there now who have been thrown in front line positions that they never expected to be in. We are trained in this, they are not. We are warned about this; they are not. We are educated about how to handle a situation like this; they are not. We have practice drills that help us to negotiate our way through what could be unfamiliar territory; they do not. We are provided equipment and supplies to deal with whatever comes our way (for the first month anyway); they are not. The companies we work for pay folks to come up with plans to negotiate our way through emergency. How

fortunate are we? So, to all the grocery workers, delivery personnel, local take-out restaurant employees, food banks and kitchens, truckers, educators and students, moms and dads who have to leave their children to provide these services, everyone who are just staying put and to the dear children, y'all are doing a great job. You are the heroes in my book.

Maybe this will show, once again, our leaders, what Americans are made of-what is rooted deeply in our makeup. A fundamental respect forward towards each other, with a dash of compassion. When this is done, wouldn't it be great to continue to work together. We need to apply another great Philosopher's words (not my relative)... “Imagine”. John Lennon

Please consider giving blood if you can- save a live, be a hero.

I'm happy to be home

LUCY MAC WILLIAMS  
WOODSTOCK



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# OBITUARIES

## Doryann Garnett, 60

Doryann Garnett, 60, of Brimfield died suddenly Saturday April 11 at her home. She was born in Palmer to the late



Richard+Marlene (Gurski) Garnett. She leaves behind her husband Paul Skomro of 30 yrs, her daughter Jennifer Tenczar and spouse Jonathan Checka of Charlton, her 2 brothers John Garnett and Richard Garnett both of Palmer, her grandson Dylan Checka, and her beloved dogs Gumber and Frankie. Doryann had a huge and warm

heart. She loved nothing more than her family. She enjoyed a good cup of coffee and sitting around the kitchen table sharing a good story. One of her favorite pastimes was tagsaling, she always loved a bargain. She enjoyed taking care of “her” lake and planting and replanting her shrubs.

Funeral services will be private and held at a later date with family. 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 can post a condolence or light a candle.

## Rene L. Fournier, 88

SOUTHBRIDGE - Rene L. Fournier, 88, died Tuesday, April 14, 2020, at Life Care Center of Auburn.



Rene is survived by his daughters, Deborah Johnson of Woodstock, CT, and Lisa Ayotte of Southbridge, MA; 2 grandchildren, Kristina Johnson of Beverly, MA, and Stephen Ayotte of Southbridge, MA; a brother, Robert Fournier of Agawam, MA, and a sister, Alice Ravenelle of Southbridge, MA. He was predeceased by his siblings, Emile Fournier, Edward Fournier, Roland Fournier, Alfred Fournier, Raymond “Blackie” Fournier, Theodore Fournier, Henry Fournier, Armand Fournier, Adeline “Belle” Ballard, Mary Blanchette, and Anita Jodoin.

Born September 1, 1931, in Southbridge, MA, he was the son of the late John B. and Aldea Y. (Castonguay) Fournier. He is a



veteran of the US Army, serving in the Korean War. Rene worked for 45 years at Hyde Manufacturing, retiring in 1992 as an Assistant Production Manager. He enjoyed New England sport teams, especially the Patriots and the Red Sox.

Sansoucy Funeral Home, 40 Marcy Street, Southbridge, MA is handling arrangements. Due to the current precautions, services will be private. The family would like you to pay your respects by sharing your condolences and memories online at [sansoucyfuneral.com](http://sansoucyfuneral.com).

## Donna Tellier, 55

NORTH GROSVENORDALE – Donna Tellier, 55, of Ravenelle Rd., passed away peacefully on Sunday,



April 12, 2020, surrounded by her family at the UMass Memorial Medical Center. Born in Worcester, MA., she was the daughter of Marylyn (Zemsky) Rybacki and the late Richard Rybacki.

Donna was the beloved wife of Leonard “Lenny” Tellier.

Donna was a waitress for many years, before starting a family with Lenny. She then devoted her life to her husband and her three beautiful children.

Donna enjoyed cooking, hanging out by the pool and according to Lenny she

was quite a card shark when it came to playing pitch.

Donna is survived by her mother Marylyn Rybacki; her devoted husband Lenny; son Dylan Tellier; two beautiful daughters Joslyn and Sarah Tellier all of North Grosvenordale; three brothers Robert Rybacki of N. Grosvenordale, Ronald Rybacki of Thompson, David Rybacki of NH.; sister Julie Rybacki of Woodstock. Donna was predeceased by her father Richard Rybacki and her brother Thomas Rybacki.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Gilman Funeral Home and Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam, CT. 06260. Memorial donations may be made to The Diabetes Association, 2080 Silas Deane Highway, Rocky Hill, CT. 06067. For memorial guestbook visit [www.GilmanAndValade.com](http://www.GilmanAndValade.com).

## Doris Dorothy (Poirer) Rekola, age 91

Brooklyn, CT. – Doris Dorothy (Poirer) Rekola, age 91 of Brooklyn, CT. passed away



April 13, 2020. She was born May 15, 1928 in Moosup, CT. to the late Rose (Dumas) Poirier and Arthur Poirier.



She graduated from Plainfield High School class of 1946. After the war she met her husband Viljo Rekola a returning Navy veteran and plant engineer at National Casket in Plainfield, CT. They married in 1948 and moved to Brooklyn, CT to raise a family and operate chicken farms for over five decades. Upon retirement from farming and after a road trip to Alaska she managed the Brooklyn’s Senior Housing Lillian Apartment behind the Senior Center bringing a sense of community to residents.

Doris was a simple person yet did not suffer fools. She believed in God, loved her family, felt rewarded in a hard day’s work enjoyed travel on the open road, or a good cocktail hour with her friends in Texas where she wintered, and her amazing community on Stetson Road.

Doris had a wicked sense of humor, a strong opinion, and was a sure shot.

She was always known to cook, grow delicious blueberries, complete the daily NYT crossword puzzle, and even day trade on the NY Stock Exchange.

Her friends and family will sorely miss her.

She was predeceased by her husband of 52 years, Viljo Rekola, loving son Douglas Rekola, a brother Leon Poirier, and a sister Claire Eist.

Doris is survived by a son, Brett Rekola and his wife Karen of Orange, CA., grandchildren; Christopher and Kristin Rekola of Pasadena, CA., Michael and Kaitlin Rekola of Arlington, VA., great grandchildren; Stevie, Emma and Scarlett Rekola, a niece, Carolyn Eist and her husband Gale Hastings of Bradenton, FLA, nephews; Stephen Eist of Stonington, CT., Karl , Kelly and Kris Poirier of Holly Pond, Alabama and daughter-in-law, Roberta Rekola of Brooklyn, CT.

The family would like to thank her wonderful caring neighbors on Stetson, Road.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to: Mortlake Fire Company, 12 Canterbury Road, Brooklyn, CT. 06234.

A Private burial service will be at Witter Cemetery in Brooklyn.

The ROBERT J. MILLER FUNERAL HOME, 366 School St., Webster, MA. is assisting the family with arrangements.

To leave an on-line condolence, please visit: [RJMillerfunerals.net](http://RJMillerfunerals.net)

## Muriel C. St. Hilaire, 86

PUTNAM– Muriel (Therrien) St. Hilaire, 86, of Breault St., passed away peacefully at Davis Place on Saturday,



April 18, 2020. Muriel was predeceased by her beloved husband, the late Maurice St. Hilaire, who passed away on March 12, 2018. Born in N. Grosvenordale, she was the daughter of the late Ulde and Rose

Therrien.

Mrs. St. Hilaire was a packer with Deran Borden Candy retiring in 1996 after 30 years. She was an avid reader, enjoyed dining out, and especially loved spending time with her family. She was a good natured, happy person

that had a smile that would brighten up any room.

Muriel is survived by her son, William St. Hilaire of N. Grosvenordale; daughter Linda Cruz of Southbridge, MA.; five grandchildren, Laurie Rankin, Edward Vetmette, Jr., William St. Hilaire, Jr., Jaclyn Cirrone, and Tara Tenczar; eight great grandchildren; two great-great grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her brother, the late Norman Therrien.

Funeral arrangements are private and have been entrusted to the Valade Funeral Home and Crematory, 23 Main St., N. Grosvenordale. For memorial guestbook visit [www.GilmanAndValade.com](http://www.GilmanAndValade.com).

## Hester C. Green

It deeply saddens the family of Hester C. Green to announce her sudden death, on March 22, 2020. She was in good health of mind and body right up to her last few hours. She was smiling and making jokes on the morning of her passing. When she passed she was surrounded by her 7 children.



Hester was born on June 20th, 1926 at home on the family farm in North Ashford, Eastford, Connecticut as Hester Lee Carpenter to father Urban Victor Carpenter and mother Lila Hester

(Lee) Carpenter. She excelled in school and skipped the 2nd grade while living in Phoenixville. She then attended Woodstock Academy and graduated in 1943 during the height of World War II. After graduation she worked at the Electro-Motive Manufacturing Co. in Willimantic and made transistors for the war effort. In 1946 she married Ralph Joseph (Joe) Green, literally the cute blue-eyed boy next door, once he returned from the South Pacific. After living in Eastford, and Warehouse Point, they bought a small farm in Willington in 1957, where they raised their 7 children. Hester continued to reside in Willington for 62 years and was active in several local organizations. She was active in the Willington Hill Fire Department Auxiliary since 1964. She was a founding member of the Easter Egg Hunt that still thrives to this day. She was a member and President of VFW Auxiliary Post 938, member of Federated Church of Willington, a 4-H leader, and an active member of the Willington Senior Center. She assisted in the first Center School library, which was on wheels kept in a closet. She left Willington in 2019 to split her time between 2 daughter’s homes in Woodstock and Brooklyn.

Hester is survived by her 7 children, Ralph Joseph Green (of Willington married to June Carbone), Alfred Lester Green (of Eastford), Melvin David Green (of Eastford), Beverly May Green Brazeal (of Woodstock married to Earl Brazeal), Nancy Ellen Krivanec

(of Willington married to David Krivanec), Joyce Elaine Kramer (of Brooklyn married to Douglas Kramer) and Lisa Lee Green (of Philadelphia). Over the decades her family grew to include multiple in-laws, grandchildren, step grandchildren, great grand-children and 2 great-great grandsons. Including Patricia Green, Dulcie Vannais, Heather Mineau, Robert Mineau, Sarah Green, Blake Green, Amanda Farrell, Paul Farrell, Desiree Kramer, Roy Goncalves, April Green, Kyle Krivanec, Chantel Peltier, Melissa Kramer, Jessica Green, Douglas Kramer Jr, Rebecca Kramer, Nichole Paige, Bill Paige, Edith Dutton, Cliff Dutton, Frank Carbone, Tracy Yanouzas, Niko Yanouzas, Suzanne Brazeal, Bob Hearn, Jeremy Brazeal, Josh Vannais, Brianna Vannais, Samantha Vannais, Alyssa Beaudoin, Ethan Horton, Austin Phillips, Leah Mineau, Robert Dutton, Erin Dutton, Diamond Green, Remus Leit, Alexandra Paige, Cooper Paige, William (Tony) Paige, Ruth Green, Hannah Farrell, Serena Farrell, Elizabeth Farrell, Marek Sachs, Nicholas Goncalves, Davante Green, Bryn Krivanec, Owen Kramer, Elaina Kramer, John Reed, Wyatt Carbone, Lauren Yanouzas, Nichole Yanouzas, Elijah Brazeal, Noah Brazeal, Madelyn Brazeal, Laura Lee DiFonso, Kyle McAllister, and Jim Dougherty; and 2 great-great grandsons, Jeremiah Tewksbury, Tyler Tewksbury. She was predeceased by her husband of 38 years, Joe, 4 siblings, Edmond Carpenter (of Eastford), Lorna Herrick (of Windsor Locks), Luella LaRose (of Mansfield), Carla McLaughlin (of South Windsor) and 2 grandsons, Dennis Keith Vertefeuille (of Willimantic) and Chad Robert Krivanec (of Willington).

Due to the current requirements of social distancing and concerns for everyone health, Hester’s family had a small private service. However, we plan to have a public church service and memorial to be determine at a later time. In lieu of flowers, the family would like donations made in Hester’s name to The Willington Hill Fire Department Building Fund, 24 Old Farms Road, Willington, CT 06279.

## William Steibel, 95

CHARLTON - William Steibel, 95, passed away away the Overlook Masonic Home on Tuesday April 14, 2020.



Born in New York City on July of 1924 to Phoebe and George Steibel. Bill loved growing up in NYC and for the rest of his life he remained connected to “The City” as he called it. At the start of the Second

World War Bill enlisted in the Navy and rose to the rank of Lieutenant.

After the war, Bill married Mae Lucille Bodiford of Columbus Georgia. He then attended and graduated from the NYU School of Dentistry. He opened a private dental practice in Babylon, NY. After 20 years building his practice, he became interested in public health. Bill then earned a Masters in Public Health degree from Columbia University. He worked in public health the rest of his professional life.

Bill had a wide range of interests. He was a ham radio enthusiast (W2EJQ), a private pilot, rode various motorcycles even up into his seventies. In his later years he and his wife, became regular attendees of the Metropolitan Opera House in his beloved New York City. During his retirement, he volunteered at the Museum of Natural History in NYC and at the summer home of Theodore Roosevelt at Sagamore Hill.

Bill and Lucille remained happily married for 76 years. Bill leaves his two wonderful children, Melanie and Scott, 6 grandchildren, and 10 great grandchildren. Bill passed on April 14, 2020, a mere 2 weeks after his wife’s death.

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 post a message of comfort, share a fond memory, or light a candle in remembrance of William.

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# OBITUARIES

## Marina E. Borghi, 71,

Marina E. Borghi, 71, of Grafton, passed away Wednesday, April 15, 2020, from complications of COVID-19; She was the beloved mother to four children: son Joseph Barranco and his partner DeJon Phillips of Oakland, CA; son Mark Barranco and his wife Kristen with two grandsons Jacob and Tyler of Shrewsbury; daughter Tara and her husband Scott Hemingway with grandson Joshua of Charlton; and son John Barranco and his wife Tara with three grandchildren Lila, Phillip, and Meredith of Worcester. Marina was the dear sister of Richard Borghi and wife Carol of Webster, David Borghi and wife Dianne of Bonita Springs, FL, and Jeanne Licciardo of Spring, TX. She also leaves behind several nieces, nephews, grand and great-grandnieces and nephews.



Marina was born in Milford, MA to the late Louis and Marie (Greene) Borghi. She attended Sacred Heart Grammar School and St. Mary's Central Catholic High School. She will be remembered as always being joyous, kind, and welcoming; she had a way about her that made you feel at ease. She took great joy in spending time with family at various celebrations and cookouts for special events, birthdays, or just to hang out. She was never happier than when she was spending time with her beloved grandchildren.

Due to health concerns and restrictions on gatherings, there will be no funeral services at this time. A memorial mass and a celebration of her life will be held at a time to be announced. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the American Lung Association.

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 Marina.

## William R, Martin, 81

DUDLEY - William R, Martin passed away on Monday April 13, 2020 at the age of 81 at his home after losing his battle with Leukemia, with his daughter (Debbie) by his side.

William is survived by his wife Nellie (Ferrell) Martin of Dudley; his sister Agnes "Sunshine" Marcoux of Webster, his daughter Deborah and her husband Ambrose Sastamoine of Norridgewock, ME; his other children Katherine and her husband of New York, Doreen and a son William "Billy" Martin Jr., also, his stepdaughters and son, many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends. William is predeceased by his brothers Raymond and Andrew Jr., and his parents.

William was born in Webster, MA on January 4, 1939, son of the late Andrew Martin Sr. and Marion (Roy) Martin; he was a graduate of Bartlett High School and served for a time in the National Guard. William owned a contraction business for many years in 60-70's; he was also employed by Lusignan Textile

of Uxbridge MA for many years as a maintenance worker as well as US Button of Putnam Ct.; he always kept busy doing odd jobs and working at the Grange in Woodstock, CT.

William was always there to lend a helping hand to whoever needed help; he loved to go on drives along back roads of New England, pan for gold and stop at yards sales; he was a charming and warm hearted person, his beaming smile and great sense of humor will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Due to the current pandemic a Celebration of Life will be scheduled 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 post a message of comfort, share a fond memory, or light a candle in remembrance of William.

## Alice D. Barton, 86

Alice D. Barton, 86, of Chepachet, RI passed away, April 18, 2020 surrounded by her family at her home.



Alice loved to garden and travel. She enjoyed animals and raised a few small farm animals and also dogs and cats. She will be truly missed by her loving family.

She leaves her husband Kenneth E. Barton, Sr. of RI, her daughters Brenda

Credit and her husband Gary of FL, Joyce Apley and her husband Fredrick of RI and Diane Gaucher and her husband Roland of CT, her sons Kenneth E. Barton, Jr. of CT and Doug W. Barton and his wife Joan of RI, her 13 grandchildren and her 24 great grandchildren. Also several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by all of her siblings.

A private funeral service will be held at Smith and Walker Funeral Home, 148 Grove Street, Putnam, CT. Burial will follow in Munyan Cemetery, Putnam, CT. In lieu of flowers donations can be made in her memory to Hope Hospice, 1085 North Main St. Providence, RI 02904. Share a memory at [www.smithandwalkerfh.com](http://www.smithandwalkerfh.com)

## Gerard R Aubin



Gerard R Aubin passed away April 14, 2020 following a heart attack. He was born Sept 23, 1961 in Putnam, CT son of Shirley and Leo Aubin Sr. Gerard was Developmentally Disabled as a result of complications during his birth, and spent the majority of his life under specialized care. He was a patient at Apple Rehab in Avon, CT for last few years. He was predeceased by his father



Leo Aubin Sr, brothers Kirk, Leo Jr and Kevin. He is survived by his mom Shirley and brother Keith of Putnam, CT, brother David of Killingly, CT, Daniel of North Carolina, and Kerry Baker of Killingly, CT, several nieces and nephews. The family would like to thank everyone for their support during this difficult time. Special thanks to Judy Weiss from DDS for her assistance. May he rest in peace.

## Raymond O. Bergeron, 77

NORTH GROSVENORDALE – Raymond O. Bergeron, 77, of Reardon Rd., died Monday afternoon April 13, 2020 at Westview Healthcare.



He was the loving husband of the late Jill N. (Brownlie) Bergeron. Born in Webster, MA, he was the son of Lucienne B. (Lamoureux) Bergeron of N. Grosvenordale and the late Ovide T. Bergeron.

Mr. Bergeron worked for many years for the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation in the maintenance department.

Ray was a member of Sons of the American Legion Post 67 in N. Grosvenordale and a lifetime member of both the Thompson Little League and the former Knights of Columbus Council 2087 in N. Grosvenordale. Ray enjoyed collecting sports memorabilia and was an avid New England sports fan.

Ray was a wonderful man who dedicated his life to being a thoughtful, loving, and supportive father and son. He was known as Dad, DOM, Pepere, Pop-Pop, Helmut, Uncle Reema and The Trickster throughout his life and brought much laughter and joy to his family and friends.

Westview Healthcare staff called him a ray of sunshine and that he would look up to heaven and say, "I'm coming Jill; I will see you soon." Let us all take comfort in knowing that he is now with the

Lord celebrating with his wife, Jill and his father, Ovide.

Raymond is survived by his mother, Lucienne Bergeron; his children, Kevin Bergeron and his wife Pamela of N. Grosvenordale and Rebecca Bergeron of Spring, TX; a brother, Leonard Bergeron and his wife Cindy of Tarrifville; and his grandchildren, Jeremy, Maxwell, Jill, Nicole, Lauren, and Anthony.

Due to the current global pandemic, a private funeral service and burial was held. A public Memorial Mass of Christian Burial for Raymond will be held in the near future. A notice will be published.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to either the Jimmy Fund, 10 Brookline Place West, Brookline, MA 02445 or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Tribute Program, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. For memorial guestbook please visit [www.GilmanAndValade.com](http://www.GilmanAndValade.com). Arrangements have been entrusted to the Valade Funeral Home & Crematory, 23 Main St., N. Grosvenordale, CT 06255.

Due to the fact that the family is unable to have a proper reception whereby we can share laughter, tears, and funny stories and memories of Ray, please feel free to write a letter/note sharing a memory about Ray so that we can share those recollections with our family. Letters/notes may be sent to Rebecca Bergeron, 6322 Darby Way, Spring, TX 77389 or emailed to [Rebeccatexap@gmail.com](mailto:Rebeccatexap@gmail.com). The family would love to hear from you.

## Mary Anne Conroy, 67

SPENCER – Mary Anne (Rousseau) Conroy, 67, passed away on Sunday April 5, 2020 at the Rose Monahan Hospice Home in Worcester.

Mary is survived by her daughter Claire Conroy, her granddaughter Montana West Barker, as well as many relatives and friends.

Mary was born in Portsmouth, NH on March 2, 1953, daughter of Joseph Xavier Lucien Rousseau and Jane Frances (Adams) Rousseau; she

worked as a cook for many years prior to her retirement.

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 post a message of comfort, share a fond memory, or light a candle in remembrance of Mary.

## Robert W. Barton, 79

WORCESTER – Robert W. Barton, 79, passed away at the Lutheran Home of Worcester on Thursday April 9, 2020.

Robert was born in Marlborough, MA on November 16, 1940, son of the late Ernest and Annette (Benoit) Barton; he is survived by his nephew Anthony Barton of Worcester.

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).

com where you may post a message of comfort, share a fond memory, or light a candle in remembrance of Robert.

**To place an In-Memoriam, Card of Thanks, Birthday or Anniversary Greeting, in the Villager Newspapers**

the deadline is Monday at noon for that week.

Ad prices are \$15 for a 2x3 (actual size 2.4" x 3") or \$25 for a 3x4 (3.7" X 4") or 4x3 (5" x 3"). You can add a photo at no additional cost.

To send by mail, please mail to  
**Villager Newspapers**  
**P.O. Box**  
**196 Woodstock, CT 06281**  
Personal checks, Visa, Master Card, Discover and AMEX are accepted.

**For more information, please call 860-928-1818 or email [brenda@villagernewspapers.com](mailto:brenda@villagernewspapers.com) and she'll be happy to help!**

# LEGALS

**TOWN OF BROOKLYN LEGAL NOTICE**

The **FOURTH** installment of real estate and personal property tax of 28.92 mills on the dollar levied on the assessment of Oct 1, 2018 becomes due April 1, 2020. Bills will become delinquent on May 1, 2020 and subject to interest from the due date at 1.5% per month as prescribed in the General Statutes of the State of CT. Minimum interest penalty is \$2.00.

The Tax Office's hours are as follows: Mon-Wed 8AM to 5PM, Thursday 8AM to 6PM, and CLOSED FRIDAY. If you wish to pay by mail, enclose coupon of bill and address to: Revenue Collector, PO Box 253, Brooklyn, CT 06234. If a receipt is desired, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

**ATTENTION:** You can pay via credit/debit card online or in the office. There is a processing fee of 2.50%. For more information, go to our town website [www.brooklynct.org](http://www.brooklynct.org).

Jocelyne Ruffo, CCMC, Revenue Collector  
March 27, 2020

April 3, 2020  
April 24, 2020

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

ESTATE OF Carolyn L Chisler (20-00127)

The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast probate Court, by decree dated March 20, 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:  
Brenda Kemp  
c/o JANE GORHAM GURZENDA.  
GORHAM & GORHAM,  
25 DANIELSON PIKE, P.O. BOX 46,  
SCITUATE, RI 02915  
April 24, 2020

**TOWN OF KILLINGLY BOROUGH OF DANIELSON REVISED TAX NOTICE**

The fourth quarter installment of taxes for the Town of Killingly and the Borough

of Danielson with the assessment date of October 1, 2018 will become due on April 1, 2020, and becomes delinquent on May 2, 2020 and subject to interest at the rate of 18% per annum, 1 ½% per month or any fraction of a month, from the due date. A minimum of \$2.00 interest will be charged for each delinquent tax bill and installment. Returned check fee is \$20.00.

On April 14, 2020 the Killingly Town Council adopted a resolution granting a three month extension for eligible taxpayers. For these taxpayers the April 1, 2020 installment becomes delinquent on July 2, 2020 and subject to interest at the rate of 18% per annum, 1 ½% per month or any fraction of a month, from the due date. A minimum of \$2.00 interest will be charged for each delinquent tax bill and installment.

**FAILURE TO RECEIVE A BILL DOES NOT RELIEVE OR EXCUSE THE OBLIGATION OF THE TAX OR INTEREST DUE.** Payments will be received 1. by mail at Town of Killingly Dept 1650 PO Box 4110 Woburn MA 01888-4110, Our local bank lockbox depository. 2.

by telephone 855-985-1106 3. online at our website [www.Killingly.org](http://www.Killingly.org) 4. in our drop box, rear of the building, near the handicap entrance. Emptied twice a day, held in quarantine for 12 hours

Online and telephone pay fees apply credit or debit card 2.95% EFT charge 95 cents.

Dated at Killingly this 15th day of April, 2020

Mrs. Patricia Monahan C.C.M.C. Revenue Collector for the Town of Killingly  
April 24, 2020



