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# THOMPSON VILLAGER

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## Reddy campaign contests results of 29th District election



Chris Reddy



Mae Flexer

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

REGION — While most state races have been put to rest in the weeks following Election Day, the contest for the 29th District Senate Seat remains a subject of heated debate, with Republican Chris Reddy refusing to concede to Democratic incumbent Mae Flexer, who was declared the winner a day after the ballots were cast. The district represents parts of Brooklyn, Canterbury, Killingly, Mansfield, Scotland, Putnam, Thompson, and Windham. Unofficial numbers showed Flexer winning by 589 votes. The Reddy Campaign has contested that hundreds of voters, specifically in Mansfield, may have not been eligible to vote. Flexer won Mansfield, the home of UConn's flagship campus and one of the largest voting bases in the district, by thousands

of votes, however with the overall results districtwide being so close the Reddy campaign is challenging if many voters who turned out to the polls for Election Day were improperly registered before casting their ballots due to a massive influx of same day voter registrations. Reddy has called on state officials to investigate the situation. "Based on a number of red flags which presented themselves over the course of the 2024 General Election, Chris Reddy has filed an SEEC Complaint in Hartford. This filing is meant to draw the attention of Connecticut elections officials to some of the shocking information witnessed and recorded, relative to the voting process and ballots cast in Mansfield, Conn.," the Reddy Campaign said in a release on social media calling on state officials to withhold certification of the election until these complaints were

addressed and investigated. The campaign questions the large number of same day registrations and how they were handled, specifically the influx of 1,139 same day registrations at one single location and as many as 2,522 in Mansfield alone. The Reddy campaign's statements also question the Democratic Party's methods for attracting voters, specifically students from UConn, including financing door hangers telling students to vote Democrat and bringing pizza for students to eat beyond the 75-foot limit enforced for any campaigners at the polls. It's not clear whether this was a violation of the rules. The Reddy Campaign officially issued an affidavit on Nov. 12 and later posted portions of the document on social media. The State Election Enforcement Commission oversees addressing these com-

plaints. The Reddy campaign's accusations have sparked responses from several parties both on the state and local level. In a joint statement released by Democratic Registrar of Voters Anne Greineder and Republican Registrar of Voters Vera Ward in Mansfield both individuals denounced any claims of improper registrations or handling of the voting process. "As Mansfield's elected registrars, we take incredibly seriously our duty to ensure free, fair and secure elections that comply with Connecticut law. In accordance with state election laws, all voter registration forms were accepted by the Registrars of Voters or their designees by 8:00 PM on Election Day. Per the Secretary of the State's (SOTS) office, acceptance is defined as the verification of identity and residency, and approval of admittance as an elector by the Town election staff. All available results are required

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## Killingly exploring new therapeutic academy

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The Killingly School District is exploring adding a new therapeutic program that would be housed at the old high school on Westfield Avenue. The concept would be called the Killingly Therapeutic Academy at Westfield and would be geared towards serving both local and sending town students in need of extra assistance in their educational journeys. Superintendent Dr. Susan Nash proposed the concept during a meeting of the Board of Education on Nov. 13 in the form of a three-year plan working with Effective School Solutions (ESS), a third-party company specializing in therapeutic services for students, to create three programs focusing on high school transition, behavioral challenges, and autism. Currently Killingly utilizes outplacement services for many of these programs and hopes to bring these offerings in-house including opening the new academy to outside students. The district is in year one of the plan which includes seeking licensing from the state and exploring the needs of the space at Westfield Avenue. "We have to kind of stage those rooms or furnish those rooms because sending districts and families will be coming in to look at the space and we want to make sure it looks like something they'd want to send their children to every day," said Dr. Nash. Year one will also include identifying students that Killingly can bring back in-house from outplacement services and how the new academy can include students from outside of town in need of the programs. Another element of the first year of the plan is to weigh the costs and benefits. "ESS is a fee. They provide two clinicians and two behavior techs. We would have to supply most likely two special education teachers and maybe a couple of paraprofessionals. Like with any school, you would have some kind of administrative assistant to take care of paperwork and billing and parent phone calls. It would probably be a half-time position. The startup fee will be significant. However, outplacement tuition is significant. So, we have to do an analysis of the students we can bring back from and outplacement now that we're paying essentially \$80,000 or more. How many students can we bring back and if we're charging tuition can we identify students in nearby districts that we would be billing for tuition to balance the startup cost, and then make some revenue in the project as well?" Dr. Nash didn't provide specific financial figures for

Turn To KILLINGLY page A10

## Dueling Pianos raises \$25,000 to benefit Day Kimball Health at Home



Courtesy

Members of the staff from the DKH at Home Services team pose with Savage Pianos at Day Kimball Health's Dueling Pianos Event held Saturday, Nov. 9 at The Raceway Golf Club and Restaurant in Thompson.

PUTNAM — The Day Kimball Healthcare Foundation "Dueling Pianos" event raised \$25,000 for Day Kimball Health's in-home care services, including HomeCare and Hospice & Palliative Care. Presented by WIN Waste Innovations, the fundraiser took place on Saturday, Nov. 9 at The Raceway Golf Club and Restaurant in Thompson. Proceeds from the event will directly support DKH patients and their families by funding vital services not typically

covered by insurance, ensuring they receive high-quality, compassionate care in the comfort of their homes. The event featured a high-energy performance by Savage Pianos, a nationally renowned dueling piano show known for its interactive, energetic rock & roll infused show. The talented musicians entertained a sold-out crowd of 250 guests with hits ranging from Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody" to Chappell Roan's "Pink Pony Club,"

contributing \$1,000 in tips towards the total amount raised. "We were truly appreciative of this year's turnout and grateful for the unwavering support and generosity of our community," said Renee Smith, vice president of post-acute services at Day Kimball Health. "Thank you to our sponsors, donors, and attendees for their contributions, which were instrumental in making this event a success. Your support

Turn To DUELING page A10

## EASTCONN educator honored for transforming lives of students with disabilities



Morgan O'Malley

WILLIMANTIC — Morgan O'Malley never planned to become a champion for students with disabilities transitioning to adulthood. But a single year working one-on-one with a high school student changed everything, setting her on a path that would ultimately lead to national recognition. O'Malley, a consultant with EASTCONN's ACCESS team, was recently named the Iva Dean Cook Educator of the Year at the annual Division on Career Development and Transition (DCDT) conference, an honor that recognizes excellence in helping students with disabilities prepare for life after high school.

"I was completely shocked," O'Malley said of receiving the award. "I work with so many amazing teachers who work so, so hard every day." The recognition celebrates O'Malley's innovative approach to transition education — a specialized field focused on helping students with disabilities successfully move from high school to adult life. While the field has existed since the creation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), it remains unfamiliar to many outside special education circles. "It's about the livelihood of a person," O'Malley said. "We're looking beyond just accessing education. What is life going to look like in their 20s, 30s, and 40s?" O'Malley's journey to becoming a transition specialist began unexpectedly. After graduating from Keene State with a psychology degree, she was initially hesitant about pursuing psychology or education but took a position as a job coach paraprofessional.

She was then asked to work one-on-one with a high school student. That experience opened her eyes to the field of transition education. "I completely found my path," she said. "I didn't even know it existed as a field. I didn't know that it was something you could do." Today, O'Malley works to transform how educators approach preparing students with disabilities for adulthood. The goal isn't complete independence; rather, it's teaching students how to navigate their world and access support when needed, or interdependence. "If your tooth hurts, you're not going to start poking around in your mouth," O'Malley said. "You're going to go to a professional. It's about helping individuals learn who their networks are." A typical network-based approach to transition education spans three major areas: employment, postsecondary education, and independent living. O'Malley and her colleagues at

Turn To O'MALLEY page A10

# Marianapolis' Faye Battersby signs letter of intent with High Point University

THOMPSON — Faye Battersby, a senior from Putnam, signed her National Letter of Intent to play soccer for High Point University on Monday, Nov. 18.

Battersby has played soccer since she was five years old and has developed quite a passion for the game.

She says, "I enjoy playing soccer because it gives me an outlet to express my competitive spirit and make

friends and relationships with people who share my values."

Throughout Battersby's high school soccer career at Marianapolis, she has been "a four-year starter, senior co-captain, WNEPSSA All-Star twice, NEPSAC and Boston Globe All-Star, and second-leading scorer this season as a center-back," says Marianapolis Girls' Varsity Soccer coach Duun O'Hara. "She has been a part of the NEPSAC quarterfinal team as a sophomore and anchored the defense throughout her four seasons. As an athlete, Faye displays grit and passion for the beautiful game by making others around her better with her commitment to tireless and courageous defending. The entire coaching staff and I wish her every success as she looks to begin her D1 career next fall."

Battersby's time playing soccer as a Golden Knight

has been a positive and life-changing experience.

She shares, "I am grateful for the confidence Marianapolis Soccer has given me in myself and my abilities. Thank you [to my coaches] for coaching me and helping to create the player I am today."

In her upcoming soccer career at High Point University, Battersby says, "I am looking forward to helping the team reach the Big South championship title and enter the NCAA tournament. I am also looking forward to learning more about soccer at the collegiate level and bettering myself as a player. Signing a D1 athletic commitment means all my hard work has paid off, and I get to do something I love for four more years."

High Point University, located in High Point, N.C., is a Division I school playing in the Big South Conference.



Faye Battersby

## Access Community Action Agency awarded \$5,000 grant from Berkshire Bank

[ S U B H E A D ] Foundation to support transportation assistance in Eastern Connecticut

WILLIMANTIC — Access Community Action Agency is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Berkshire Bank Foundation. This generous funding will support the critical transportation-related needs of individuals and families in Eastern Connecticut, where access to reliable transportation is essential for everyday life.

In the rural towns of Windham and Tolland counties, the lack of public transportation options, combined

with the large geographic spread of communities, makes owning and maintaining a vehicle vital for commuting to work, attending medical appointments, and accessing essential services such as grocery stores and pharmacies. Without a reliable car, many residents face significant challenges in meeting their daily needs.

The grant from the Berkshire Bank Foundation will help Access provide financial assistance for vehicle repairs, taxes, registrations, and other transportation-related costs. This funding is particularly important for ensuring that residents—whether currently employed, retired, disabled, or unemployed — can maintain reliable transportation. In addition to

large expenses like car repairs, Access aims to assist more individuals with smaller, essential needs such as DMV fees and minor repairs, helping a broader portion of the community overcome transportation barriers.

About Access Community Action Agency

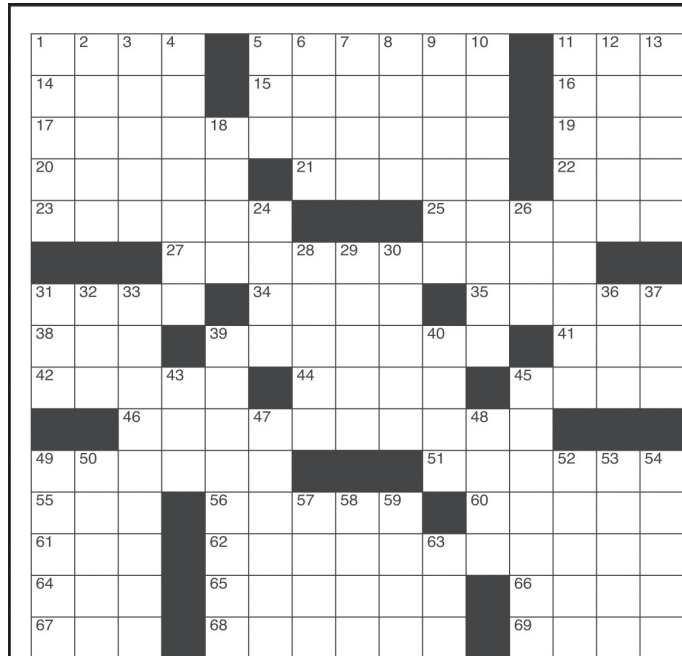
Access Community Action Agency serves 28 towns in northeastern Connecticut, offering a range of services including food assistance, energy assistance, housing support, and employment services. Their mission is to empower individuals and families to achieve economic stability through programs and partnerships that help meet basic needs and build self-sufficiency.

About Berkshire Bank

Foundation

The Berkshire Bank Foundation is dedicated to making a positive impact in the communities it serves by supporting non profit organizations that improve access to education, health care, affordable housing, and economic opportunities.

Access Community Action Agency is designated by the federal and state government as the anti-poverty agency in northeast Connecticut. Access provides food, affordable housing, job readiness services, and other pathways to economic self-reliance for vulnerable limited-income families and individuals throughout the region. Learn more about Access by visiting <https://accessagency.org/>.

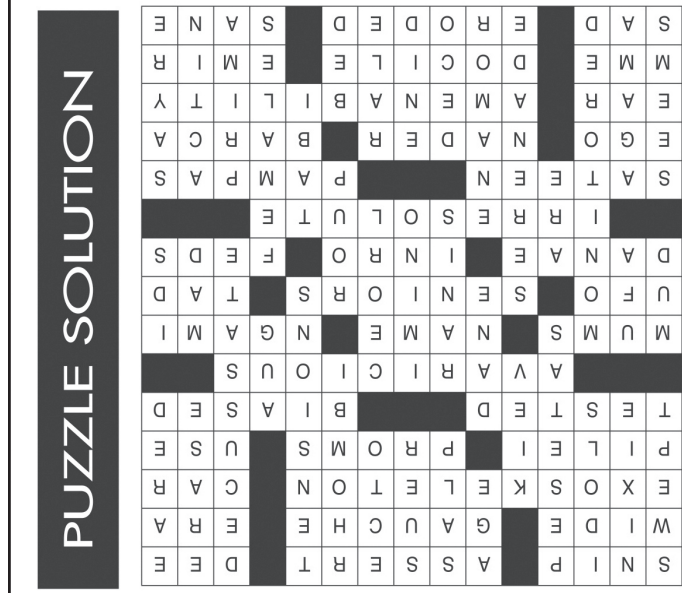


### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Separate with an instrument
- 5. State clearly
- 11. One-time MLB speedster Gordon
- 14. Broad in scope
- 15. Lacking social polish
- 16. Amount of time
- 17. Frame
- 19. Automobile
- 20. Caps
- 21. High school dances
- 22. Utilize
- 23. Checked
- 25. One-sided
- 27. Having an extreme greed for wealth
- 31. Potted plants
- 34. We all have one
- 35. Lake north of the Kalahari
- 38. Unidentified flying object
- 39. Aging persons
- 41. Small amount
- 42. Mother of Perseus
- 44. Ornamental waist box
- 45. Officials
- 46. Uncertain
- 49. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
- 51. Extensive, treeless plains
- 55. Your consciousness of your own identity
- 56. Consumer advocate Ralph
- 60. Notable Spanish sports club
- 61. Body part
- 62. One's responsiveness
- 64. Woman (French)
- 65. Ready and willing to be taught
- 66. Muslim ruler title
- 67. Unhappy
- 68. Gradually disappeared
- 69. Able to think clearly

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Brushed
- 2. Water sprite
- 3. Ones to look up to
- 4. Monetary units
- 5. We all have one
- 6. Marine invertebrate
- 7. One who institutes a legal proceeding
- 8. Outer
- 9. Parallelograms
- 10. Uncomfortable feelings
- 11. Cross to form an X
- 12. Remove
- 13. Some pages are dog-\_\_
- 18. Capital of Ukraine
- 24. A citizen of Denmark
- 26. Eighth month (abbr.)
- 28. Hindu queens
- 29. Acids structurally related to amino acids
- 30. Rider of Rohan in Tolkien
- 31. Wet dirt
- 32. Russian city
- 33. Observed
- 36.irate
- 37. Travelers need them
- 39. Musical composition
- 40. Auction
- 43. Form of "to be"
- 45. Women
- 47. Inspire with love
- 48. Think Japanese ankle sock
- 49. Appears
- 50. Old World lizard
- 52. The lead dancer: \_\_ ballerina
- 53. Protein involved in motion
- 54. Rosalind Franklin biographer
- 57. Popular 1920s style art \_\_
- 58. \_\_ Blyton, children's author
- 59. Abnormal breathing
- 63. A place to rest



## EASTCONN selected for U.S. Department of Energy's prestigious Energy CLASS Program

HAMPTON — EASTCONN Regional Educational Service Center (RESC), a leader in facilities management and environmental services, has been selected by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) as one of 60 local educational agencies nationwide to participate in the 2024-2025 Energy Champions Leading the Advancement of Sustainable Schools (Energy CLASS) program.

This prestigious selection builds upon EASTCONN's extensive experience in providing comprehensive facilities support and energy conservation planning to educational institutions across the region. The six-month program, beginning this November, will provide EASTCONN with comprehensive training, resources, and expert guidance to enhance energy efficiency and create healthier learning environments while optimizing operational costs across its facilities.

"This selection by the Department of Energy represents a significant opportunity to expand EASTCONN's commitment to sustainable practices and fiscal responsibility," said Eric Protulis,

Executive Director of EASTCONN. "Our established expertise in facilities management and environmental services positions us well to maximize the benefits of this program, not only for our facilities but for all the districts we serve."

The 2024-2025 cohort represents educational institutions serving over 1.7 million students across 2,922 schools in 31 states. EASTCONN joins a diverse network of school districts working to implement innovative energy management solutions.

"As an organization that already provides comprehensive facilities audits and energy conservation planning to school districts, the Energy CLASS program will enhance our capacity to deliver cutting-edge sustainable solutions," said Shawn Brodeur, Director of Facilities at EASTCONN. "This program aligns perfectly with our existing green initiatives and expertise in creating healthy learning environments. The knowledge gained will benefit not only our facilities but also the many school districts that rely on our facilities consulting services."

EASTCONN's energy champions will receive specialized training in strategic energy management, project development, and funding pathways, complementing their current work in facilities management, indoor air quality assessment, and green cleaning programs. They will also collaborate with peer institutions in the Energy CLASS network to share resources and insights.

For more information about EASTCONN's participation in the Energy CLASS program or to learn about our comprehensive facilities services, please contact Shawn Brodeur, Director of Facilities, at [sbrodeur@eastconn.org](mailto:sbrodeur@eastconn.org) or 860-455-0707.

## VILLAGER ALMANAC

### At CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of Nov. 18: Pileated Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Robin, Barred Owl, Bluebird, Pheasant, Red-tailed Hawk, Junco, Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Canada Geese, Bald Eagle, Cardinal. Visit [ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home](http://ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home).

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# Giving Tuesday: Tax-efficient ways to show gratitude through charitable giving

As we enter the season of gratitude and giving, Giving Tuesday offers a wonderful opportunity to reflect on our blessings and pay it forward through charitable donations. At WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors, we believe that generosity and financial savvy can go hand-in-hand. This Giving Tuesday, consider these tax-efficient strategies to maximize your charitable impact while potentially reducing your tax burden.

The spirit of gratitude Before diving into the financial aspects, let's take a moment to appreciate the true spirit of Giving Tuesday. This day of giving reminds us to look beyond ourselves and consider how we can make a positive difference in our communities and the world at large. Whether you choose to donate money, time, or resources, the act of giving is a powerful way to express gratitude for the abundance in our own lives.

As financial advisors, we are privileged to work with clients who embody this spirit of generosity year-round. We have seen firsthand how charitable giving can bring joy and purpose to our clients' lives, while also serving as a key part of their overall financial strategy.

If you'd like to do the same, consider these tax-efficient ways to give back this Giving Tuesday.

Donate appreciated stocks

One of the most tax-efficient ways to give is by donating appreciated stocks, mutual funds, or other securities that you

have held for more than a year. When you donate these securities directly to a qualified charity:

You avoid paying capital gains tax on the appreciation

You can deduct the full fair market value of the securities (up to 30 percent of your adjusted gross income)

The charity receives the full value of your donation

This strategy allows you to give more to charity while potentially reducing your tax bill compared to selling the securities and donating the cash proceeds.

Consider a donor-advised fund

A donor-advised fund (DAF) is like a charitable investment account that allows you to contribute cash, securities, or other assets, take an immediate tax deduction, and then recommend grants to your favorite charities over time. Benefits of a DAF include:

Immediate tax deduction in the year of contribution

Potential for tax-free growth of the donated assets

Flexibility to support multiple charities over time

Ability to donate anonymously if desired

DAFs can be particularly useful for those looking to "bunch" multiple years of charitable giving into a single tax year to maximize itemized deductions.

Qualified charitable distributions from IRAs

For those aged 70 and a half or older, making a Qualified Charitable

Distribution (QCD) directly from your IRA to a qualified charity can be an excellent giving strategy. QCDs offer several advantages:

Counts towards your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) if you are 73 or older

Excluded from your taxable income (up to \$100,000 annually)

Allows you to give pre-tax dollars to charity

This strategy can be especially beneficial for those who do not itemize deductions, as it effectively allows you to deduct your charitable giving without itemizing.

Establish a charitable remainder trust

For larger gifts, consider establishing a Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT). With a CRT, you donate assets to the trust and receive income for a set period. At the end of that period, the remaining assets go to your chosen charity. Benefits include:

Immediate partial tax deduction

Potential income stream for you or your beneficiaries

Estate tax benefits

Support for your favorite causes

While more complex, a CRT can be an excellent tool for those looking to make a significant charitable impact while also addressing their own financial needs.

Give your time and expertise

Remember, charitable giving is not just

## FINANCIAL FOCUS

HOLLY C. WANEGAR, CFP

about money. Volunteering your time and expertise can be just as valuable and sometimes more valuable to many organizations. While not tax-deductible, the intangible rewards of volunteering can be immeasurable. Our team at WHZ volunteers at several organizations local to our offices here in Connecticut, including TEEG, the Hale YMCA, the Putnam Business Association, several nonprofit boards, and in other ways. Consider how you might use your professional skills or personal passions to make a difference in your community this Giving Tuesday.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, with Giving Tuesday not far behind on December 3rd, remember that effective charitable giving is about more than just the amount donated – it's about maximizing the impact of every dollar given. By employing tax-efficient giving strategies, you can potentially increase your charitable impact while also optimizing your personal financial situation.

Whether you are looking to make a one-time donation or develop a long-term charitable giving plan, our team is

here to help you navigate the financial aspects of philanthropy. Together, we can create a giving strategy that reflects your values, supports your favorite causes, and integrates seamlessly with your overall financial plan. Contact us to discuss how we can help you make the most of your charitable contributions and provide you with "Absolute Confidence. Unwavering Partnership. For Life." Call (860) 928-2341 or book a complimentary consultation on our website at [www.whzwealth.com](http://www.whzwealth.com).

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## Have toys, will travel



Courtesy

From left: Victoria Ashley, Roberta Rocchetti, Sofia Thurber & June Ferraro.

PUTNAM — June Ferraro and Sofia Thurber, Putnam Rotary Club Interact Club co-presidents, journeyed to the Boston Children's Hospital Nov. 15 to deliver more than \$400 worth of toys. The Interact Club raised \$205 in donations at the Great Pumpkin Festival.

Sofia's mother, Anita Thurber and grandmother, Guiapka Kostovski, generously donated another \$200 toward the purchase of the toys. Victoria Ashley, program coordinator Child Life Services at Boston Children's Hospital, thanked the club for all the toys and was amazed that adviser Roberta Rocchetti drove the club members all the way from Thompson to deliver them.

The Interact Club is now focusing on organizing its annual Salvation Army kettle campaign for the local Salvation Army office. Interact members, along with students from Putnam High, Tourtellotte Memorial High School, Woodstock Academy and Marianapolis will be manning the kettles on Friday, Nov. 29 and Saturday Nov. 30 and Saturdays, Dec. 7, 14 and 21. You will find them at the Putnam Stop & Shop, Putnam Walmart, Putnam Price Chopper and Putnam Supermarket. Please be generous.

For more information about the Interact Club, contact Roberta Rocchetti 860-933-8603 or email: [robertarocchetti4@gmail.com](mailto:robertarocchetti4@gmail.com)

**Saint Nicholas Fair**

**Location: Christ Church**  
Routes 44 & 169 • Pomfret, CT  
– 1 Mile South of The Vanilla Bean Cafe –  
[Christchurchpomfret.org](http://Christchurchpomfret.org) • 860.315.7780

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(Snow Date: Saturday, December 14th)

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 EDITOR

# OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Pay attention

To the Editor:  
 Trump's Cabinet picks would make a great sitcom, but unfortunately, it's our reality. Extreme loyalty is the only qualification necessary for the "Yes Men" (and women) he's chosen to run the government -- spineless minions who will never push back against his craziness. But while "wacko" RFK Jr. and accused sex offender Matt Gaetz represent huge problems to most Americans, there's a much bigger threat in the works. Trump wants to circumvent the Senate confirmation process

using "Recess Appointments." That eliminates the checks and balances that have been in place since our nation was founded, allowing him to push through major appointments without any congressional oversight. Every American needs to pay attention -- this is how authoritarian regimes get started, and it's a preview of bigger things to come from this dictator wannabe.

TODD PATRIE  
 POMFRET CENTER

### Call it intermission

To the Editor:  
 Greetings, everybody!  
 Come to think of it... these election cycles are like a long movie! There's no end! We're already fundraising for another biggie 24 months away! So let's call this parenthesis an Intermission! Time to stretch our legs and get some popcorn, something to drink, and go to the bathroom. We can pretend we're watching Cleopatra and not get distracted by all the sex, infidelity, infighting, and drama! Yet trying our best to prevent anyone from noticing that we brought our own popcorn to avoid paying for the bucket!

It is said that time heals all wounds, and though I'm not healed after the deep wound of Nov. 5, I've stopped the bleeding! The fear and hatred injected over nine years of regularly administered treatments, have been visibly absorbed by our neighbors like dialysis treatments. I've been struggling like so many others, trying to figure out how, or why, 1-2% of our neighbors could vote against their best interests! How could the same people who make this country the envy of the entire world, allow themselves to be swindled by a carnival barker, who is being used and swindled himself by manipulators, to destroy the very model that blessed them.

It was then that I remembered what a personal mentor mentioned in a seminar I attended years ago. I was stuck in life's journey and couldn't see my choices clearly. She clarified my confusion by asking me to place one foot behind me, signifying the past, and the other foot in front of me, signifying the future. She then asked me where I would place the present, and whether I had considered the present at all. She asked me if I was paying any attention to the present, or learning from it. Had I considered learning from the present? I had been consumed by the past and its mistakes, as well as overwhelmed by the future, that I

was missing the present! Then I realized the present was between the past and the future, and as I stood with legs apart, she pointed out that we often piss on it! Neglecting it, ignoring it, and not learning from it!

That awareness brought me to where I am today! Aware of a friend's reminder... Vice-President Harris lost by between 1 and 2 percentage points, and still counting. That means that some 48 percent of voters (give or take) were not swayed by fear or hatred! A damn good effort for a three-month campaign when the opponent had been selling the poison cool-aid on the road for four years! Bottom line? Biden and Harris are still in the White House and the Knights of the Round Table are still in control of the Senate. Good things can still happen for regular folks like us, instead of the rich and famous. Mr. Musk will just have to wait to get more government contracts!

Focus on the present! Republican senators have elected a Leader of the Senate who was not the president-elect's preferred candidate! The Senate will not recess to allow confirmations of Cabinet nominees without hearings and background checks. Pressure from Republican senators is forcing scrutiny of helter-skelter nominees, resulting in one of them having to withdraw from the confirmation process already. A majority in both chambers is so slim that crossovers have already spoken out to defend due process, the Rule of Law, and the Constitution. I won't need a sleeping pill yet and the present is clearly on gratitude for the blessings we need to be more aware of. This doesn't mean we can take our eyes off the ball... Vigilance is key! One if by land and two if by sea... Blessings to you and your families!

LYDIA RIVERA-ABRAMS  
 DAYVILLE

## Growing moth orchids for months of beauty

Add exotic long-lasting orchid blossoms to your indoor garden. These living bouquets provide months of beauty with minimal care. Just provide the proper growing conditions and success is sure to follow.

The moth or phalaenopsis orchid is the one best adapted to your home environment, making it the easiest to grow. It thrives in the same temperatures as people with night temperatures in the 60s and 70 to 80 degrees during the day. However, avoid hot and cold air drafts that can stress the plants and cause bud and flower drop.

Moth orchids are epiphytes, growing on but not parasitizing trees and other plants. They obtain water and nutrients from the air, rainwater, and plant debris that accumulate in their environment. They can be mounted on a board but usually are grown in an orchid mix made of peat, fir bark, and perlite. This or a similar combination retains water while providing needed drainage.

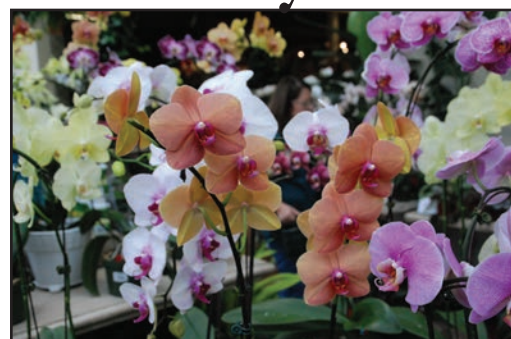
Place your plant in a bright location near an east-, west- or slightly shaded south-facing window. Your orchid will do best when it receives 12 to 14 hours of sunlight daily. Enlist the help of artificial lights if your orchids are struggling when natural light, especially during winter, is insufficient. Newer full-spectrum LED lights are more affordable, require less energy, and are longer lasting than the grow lights of the past.

Give your orchid a good watering about once a week with room temperature water just as the planting mix starts to dry. Pour off any excess water that collects in the saucer. Don't allow orchids to sit in water and don't water too often as this can lead to root rot and death of your plant.

Fertilize actively growing and flowering plants every third or fourth watering. Use an orchid plant fertilizer according to label directions. Skip winter fertilization if temperatures are cooler, sunlight is limited, and the plants are not putting on new growth.

Improve the environment even more by increasing the humidity around the plant. Group them with other orchids and indoor plants. As one plant loses moisture, or "transpires," the others will benefit from the increase in humidity. Plus, you'll create a beautiful display while improving the growing conditions.

Or increase the humidity around your plants with humidity or gravel trays. Place pebbles in the saucer and set the pot on top of the pebbles. Allow excess water to collect in



Melinda Myers

**The moth orchid also known as phalaenopsis orchid provides months of exotic blossoms with minimal care.**

the pebbles below the pot. As the water evaporates it increases the humidity around your plant. It also eliminates the need to pour off the excess water that collects in the saucer.

You won't need to repot your orchid for quite a while. Wait to repot it until it is done blooming, the potting mix has broken down or the plant becomes pot bound. This is usually about every 18 to 24 months.

Enjoy a second flush of flowers with cool nights and proper post-flowering care. Leave the flower stem intact and the plant may produce a second flush of smaller blooms at the tip of the stem. Or you can cut the flower stem back between the second and third node from the bottom. For the best rebloom and to allow the plant to replenish energy spent on flowering, prune the flower stem back to about one-half inch above the leaves and enjoy a second flush of flowers in about a year.

And if reblooming your orchid is too much work, treat it like a long-lasting bouquet. And if you can't stand to toss or compost it, give it to an avid gardener. There's always someone willing to adopt and try to rebloom your plant.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including *Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Myers' Web site is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).

## Buying and selling at auction



Auctions had an inauspicious start when brides were first auctioned in Greece back in 500 BC. Thankfully, that practice ended, and auctions have evolved into a tried-and-true method for selling everything from diamond rings to factory buildings. I'll focus on antiques, collectibles, and estate auctions in today's column.

There are many reasons why people sell items at auction. One of the top reasons is that competitive bidding is an effective way to get fair market value for items. Auctions help a consignor do their due diligence if they have a financial obligation to an estate or trust.



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES  
 WAYNE TUISKULA

For the types of auctions that we run, we're typically contacted by estate personal representatives or attorneys. The representative may request that we appraise an estate for IRS or Probate. However, we're typically contacted to see which estate items may be a good fit for our auctions. We handle higher valued items of all types ranging from smaller antiques and collectibles like gold jewelry to larger items like vintage automobiles. Of course, not everything in a home is antique, collectible, or valuable. There are other auction companies that sell pretty much everything in a home from a sofa to pots and pans. Sometimes we handle the more valuable items and offer suggestions to the seller for the rest.

There are of course many other reasons why people might decide to auction their items. They may be downsizing. They may have inherited things that they don't collect and would like to convert those items into cash. Consignors often have items of value like gold jewelry, sterling silver, or coins that they don't want anymore. Peoples' tastes change and they may no longer want the old painting that hung in their living room. People often tell me that they are getting older and their families have no interest in their belongings, therefore leading them to auctions.

Auctions can be online or live. We were unable to run live auctions during the pandemic and switched to all online auctions. This has expanded our reach to bidders across the world, but other auctioneers are still finding success running live auctions.

Bidders can search multiple websites including [liveauctioneers.com](http://liveauctioneers.com), [invaluable.com](http://invaluable.com), [auctionninja.com](http://auctionninja.com), [hibid.com](http://hibid.com), [bidsquare.com](http://bidsquare.com), and others to find items that they collect.

There are tools available for online bidders. Many online auction sites offer bidders the ability to create a want list. They can enter search terms for whatever they collect. For example, you could enter "Waltham gold pocket watches" and get an email when watches meeting your criteria are being sold. If you see something that you like, many sites will allow you to follow that item and receive an email or text when your auction item is about to be sold. If it is something that you really want, you can place a proxy bid. You enter the maximum amount that you are willing to pay such as \$500. The bidding is competitive so you may get outbid, but you might also win it for less than your \$500 bid.

Turn To **ANTIQUES** page **A5**

### Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author's name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

# KILLINGLY CHRONICLES

## DEC. 2 – DEC. 6

TOWN HALL MEETINGS (agendas and minutes at [www.killingly.org](http://www.killingly.org))

Monday the 2nd  
Ordinance Subcommittee Meeting (Room 102 – Town Hall) 6:00pm  
Inland, Wetlands, and Watercourses Commission Meeting (Room 102 – Town Hall) 7 p.m.

Tuesday the 3rd  
Special Town Council Meeting (KPS Central Office – Conference Room A) 7 p.m.

Wednesday the 4th  
Permanent Building Commission Meeting (Room 102 – Town Hall) 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY EVENTS  
Lit Loot Bag (Ages 13-18) (Library) All Week

Monday the 2nd  
An Epic Book Quest (Ages 13-18) (Library) All Day  
Adult Take & Make Craft (Ages 18 and up) (Library) All Day

Wonderful Ones and Twos (Library) 9:30 to 10 a.m.

Monday Mystery Matinee (Ages 18 and up) (Library) 1 to 3 p.m.

Tuesday the 3rd  
Craft & Chat (Ages 18 and up) (Library) 10:30 a.m. to noon

Holiday Craft Night (All Ages) (Library) 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday the 4th  
Virtual Story Time (Ages three and up) (Library) 10 to 10:30 a.m.

Little Listeners (Ages 2-5) (Library) 11 to 11:45 a.m.

Virtual Author Talk: Dr. Jeffrey Post (Library) 2 p.m.

Anime & Manga Club (Ages 13-18) (Library) 4 to 5 p.m.

Teen Advisory Board (Ages 13-18) (Library) 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Thursday the 5th  
Card Making for Seniors (Library) 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Beaded Votive Candle Holders & Glass Ornament Craft (Ages 8-12) (Library) 11 a.m. to noon

Friday the 6th  
Killingly Public Library Closed

Frosty's Big Night Out (Davis Park) 5:45 p.m.

Saturday the 7th  
Photography Contest (Ages 18 and up) (Library) All Day

A Seussified Christmas (The Little Theater on Broad Street) 1 p.m.

A Seussified Christmas (The Little Theater on Broad Street) 7 p.m.

KILLINGLY PARKS & RECREATION PROGRAMS/EVENTS COMING UP...

Relaxation and Guided Meditation – Session 2 – Nov. 5 through Dec. 17 – Tuesdays (Killingly Community Center)

Virtual High Five 2024 (Killingly Community Center/KPRD) (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday)

Baseball Hit Club – Dec. 1 through Jan. 19 – Sundays (Killingly Community Center)

Softball Winter Clinic – Dec. 1 through Jan. 19 – Sundays (Killingly Community Center)

Senior Christmas Celebration – Monday, Dec. 16 (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

Homeschool Art Club – 3 Month Session – Tuesdays

January – Drawing and Painting

February – Intro to Mixed Media

March – Maker Madness

Jan. 7 through March 25 (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)

Check out the Killingly Parks and Recreation website for more daily class schedules, camps, trips and events!

For updates and changes, please visit the calendar on the Town of Killingly Web site at [www.killingly.org](http://www.killingly.org).

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# The play's the thing



KILLINGLY  
AT 300  
.....  
MARGARET  
WEAVER

Aren't libraries wonderful! You have access to so many books that you never even knew existed. I'm reading one called "The Explorers: A New History of America in Ten Expeditions" by Amanda Bellows. It has short biographical sketches of many individuals who were new to me, and it is making me think about a number of different ideas including homesteading (Laura Ingalls Wilder), conservation (John Muir), and wildlife preservation (Florence Merriman Bailey). I have just finished the chapter on Florence, an ornithologist, and must admit at times I felt like screaming, "No!" At times, I felt like crying. I Love the Birds. Did you know that in the late 1800's, it was the custom to shoot them to study them? Florence chose the opera glass. What boggled my mind was the revelation that the fashions of the Gilded Age were devastating to the bird population. Women's hats were full of plumage--of both backyard and exotic birds. Birds were destroyed by the thousands. Florence began pushing for a stop to this practice even as a student at Smith College in Massachusetts. The road was long! It was not until 1900 that Congress passed the Lacey Act, which safeguarded birds. Then in 1918 it passed the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which saved thousands of birds from slaughter. (p.132). I'm anxious to read more of the biographies and to see what I learn.

How many of you remember going to plays during the 1950's? Perhaps your parents or grandparents talked about them. Television was in its infancy, and many families still did not own one in 1954. Perhaps a few of you saw the following play. The Dec. 2, 1954 Windham County Transcript contained a large ad for "You Can't Beat Fun" presented by the Danielson Chamber of Commerce Organization Bureau to benefit the Killingly High School Band and the C. of C. Community Service and Planning Fund. Maybe one of your relatives was in the cast of characters: Lucky Lamson-George McKeone; Diamond Lil-Hollis Hooper; Oil Well Willie-Clarence Briere; Frivolous Sal-Irving Fetterman; Good Time Charlie-Bill Sabourin; Klondike Kate-Robert Cote; Bull Moose Malloy-Joe Brennan; Minnie the Moocher-Joe Levesque; Wall Street Sam-Abe Shatzman; Big Bertha-Bill Hartley; Senator I. Kisse-Dr. H. H.

## ANTIQUES

continued from page A4

Whether you're a consignor or a bidder, hopefully you'll be a winner at auction.

We are currently cataloging a large collection of Civil War memorabilia from a local estate as well as running an antique auction in a Beacon Hill Boston estate. We are accepting consignments of all types for future auctions. Please visit our Web site, <https://centralmassauctions.com>, for links to upcoming events.

Contact us to consign items or for auction information at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique, Collectibles Auctions and Appraisal Services info@centralmassauctions.com or (508-612-6111).

Schneider; Frankie-Rudy Godbout; Johnny-Henry Chabot. Chorus girls: Doris Lofgren, Janet Reynolds, Carolyn Smith, Gloria Maurice, Barbara Harold, Sandra Knight, Mary Mason, Lorraine Smurra, Judy Knight, Beverly Nash, Ellie

Farfax, Judy Ashworth, Barbara Swaggart, Linda Sye, Betty Emond, Valerie Smurra, Carol Fortin, Patricia Chapman, Sheila Dvarcas, Eoland Meunier, Jackie Chabot, Jean Wollow.

Many of the advertising businesses wishing them well are no longer in existence; how many do you remember? W.T. Grant, 119 Main St., Danielson; Rogers Corporation; Patterson's Jewelry Store, Danielson; Joseph A. Bussiere, Realtor; Labonte's Market-Meats & Groceries, beer; 52 Elm Street, East Brooklyn; William Prym, Inc. Mfg. of Prims Cover Buttons & Buckles, Dayville; Hudson-William J. Smith, 1 Mechanic Street Danielson; Acme Cotton Products Co., Inc. Surgical Dressings for Hospitals and First Aids, East Killingly; Andrew E. Meech, Hardware, Electrical Supplies, Paints, etc.; Wells Mobil Service, 129 Main St. Danielson; Davis Park Tourist Home 164 Main St.; Danielson Inn, Rooms, Restaurant, Bar; Sunshine Card Shop; Crosby's Flowers, Academy Street; Rawson's Home Cooked Food, Route 6, Brooklyn Danielson; Carl's Lunch, Center St.; Dr. H. H. Schneider, Optometrist; Morin's Prescription Pharmacy, 56 Main Street, Danielson; Gauthier Insurance-Main Street; Musgrave 7 Co., Certified Public Accountants Patrons-Savoie's Shoe Shop-McEwen's Paint & Wallpaper; Harry E. Magoon, Danielson Laundermat; R. W. Cramer Co., Inc.-Manufacturers of precision timing devices and synchronous timing motors.; V. LaRosa and Sons, Red & White Food Store-Philip Gendreau, proprietor; Woodwad Drug Store; Danielson Sales & Service; Danco-The Danielson Manufacturing Co., Danielson The one business which I saw that still remains today was Sorel's Garage, Route 6, Brooklyn. (All WCT Dec. 12, 1954, p. 14; killinglypl.org).

I thought I'd take a quick look at the headlines in early December, 1964. The following are from the Dec. 3, 1964 Transcript. Do you remember Civil Defense alerts? "Civil Defense Alert Signal to Sound Monday. On Monday morning, Dec. 7, at 11 a.m., all towns in Connecticut are asked to participate by sounding the alert signal--a steady blast of three to five minutes, according to William L. Schatzman, CD State director. There will be no public participation." (p.1).

"Miss Windham County Wand to Usher in Yule Festival at Federal Savings Sunday. "Christmas at Danielson Federal Savings" will be ushered in at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 6. At that time 'Miss Windham County', (ame not given) as a guest of the association and acting as official representative of the local Junior Chamber of Commerce, will step to the podium of Danielson Federal's 'Christmas Festival of Song and Light' and with a wave of her wand, will bring into focus the entire lighting program of the community which the Danielson Jaycees contribute each Yuletide season. From the lighting of the giant Christmas tree in Davis Park the illumination will take place simultaneously all down the Main Street as well; walkie-talkie equipment is put into play, coordinating the timing of the evening's events...Prior to the lighting ceremony, with fanfare, furnished by Killingly High Trumpeters, 300 singers in a torchlight procession will have descended on Danielson Federal, depicting the Tyrolean Christmas custom observed in homage to Frans Gruber, who on Christmas eve, finding the chapel organ out of order, composed the famous carol 'Silent Night' and played it on his own guitar. Richard Herklots, Roland Chabot and Barry Wood, guitarists, will assist in making this tradition authentic. Of the 300 singers, 125 are children in two of Danielson Federal's own choirs and will be seen in vestments of thermal material contributed by Hale Manufacturing Remnant Store of Putnam, assuring the community of its interest and cooperation in a program of this magnitude.

"A group of child dancers under the direction of Dance Instructor Helena Crandal of Norwich, will perform...guests from the Scandinavian Lodge of Lucia in Manchester will bring their folklore in the 'Crowning of the Queen of Light.' Lucia, the Queen, will have four attendants, two star boys and three tiny dancing Tomte, Scandinavian elves, who do the chores and feed the poor at Christmas..." (p. 1). If anyone remembers this festive occasion, please feel free to share your memories by email me. Thank you. Enjoy all the festivities of the season this year!

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, November 2024. For additional information email me at [margaretmweaver@gmail.com](mailto:margaretmweaver@gmail.com) or visit the Killingly Historical Center at 196 Main St., Danielson, Wednesday or Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook at [www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety](http://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, CT 06329.

# Community invited to Holly Fair at Church of the Good Shepherd

WOODSTOCK — The Church of the Good Shepherd, 12 Bradford Corner Rd., West Woodstock, invites you to their Holly Fair on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 9 a.m.-noon. In addition to a large selection of cookies sold by the pound, this year they will also be offering wreaths, swags, and an assortment of unique handmade crafts. Come browse for that perfect Christmas gift for your family and friends - or yourself!



# Community Connection

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# Danielson Martial Arts Academy brings home tournament hardware



**DANIELSON** — On Nov. 3, members of the Danielson Martial Arts Academy attended the Cheezic Federation Challenge Tournament hosted by the Cheezic Tang Soo Do federation. DMAA took home numerous medals in each division.

**7-8 Year Olds:**

Girls:  
Tori Dellagiovanna:  
1st Forms  
3rd Sparring  
2nd Breaking  
2nd Weapons  
Liliana Huling:  
2nd Forms  
1st Sparring  
4th Breaking  
3rd Weapons  
Serenity Robbins:  
3rd Forms  
1st Sparring  
1st Breaking  
1st Weapons  
Autumn St. Jean:  
2nd Forms  
2nd Breaking  
3rd Weapons

**9-10 Year Olds:**

Girls:  
Lillian Antunes:  
2nd Breaking  
1st Weapons

**Aurora Huling:**

3rd Forms  
1st Sparring  
2nd Breaking  
1st Weapons  
Lila Turner:  
2nd Forms  
1st Sparring  
3rd Breaking

**11-12 Year Olds:**

Girls:  
Lorelai Tyler:  
3rd Forms  
1st Sparring  
3rd Weapons

**Boys:**

Colby Densmore:  
4th Sparring  
Orion Huling:  
4th Forms  
2nd Sparring  
4th Weapons

**13-17 Year Olds:**

Girls:  
Alina Turner:  
1st Forms  
3rd Sparring  
3rd Breaking  
2nd Weapons

**Under Blackbelt 18+:**

Men:  
Kile Gagnon:  
3rd Forms  
2nd Sparring  
3rd Breaking

**Under Blackbelt Seniors (35+)**

Women  
Melinda Densmore:  
1st Forms  
2nd Sparring  
1st Weapons

**Men:**

Scott Gardiner:  
1st Forms  
3rd Sparring  
2nd Breaking  
3rd Weapons

**Junior Blackbelt 11-12 Year Olds:**

Girls:  
Dakota St. Jean  
2nd Forms  
3rd Sparring  
1st Breaking  
2nd Weapons

**Boys:**

Luke St. Jean  
1st Forms  
2nd Sparring  
3rd Weapons

**Junior Blackbelt 13-14 Year Olds:**

Boys:  
Hunter St. Jean  
2nd Forms  
3rd Breaking  
1st Weapons

**Blackbelt Seniors (35+)**

Women:  
Kathleen Anderson  
4th Forms  
Melanie Branco  
1st Forms  
1st Sparring  
Tracy St. Jean  
2nd Forms  
1st Breaking  
1st Weapons

Men:  
Brian Densmore  
4th Sparring

This year, DMAA is celebrating 50 Years of being in business. For more information regarding classes, please call 860-779-0699, or visit the Web site at DanielsonMartialArts.com.



**JOIN US SATURDAY, DEC 7TH  
9 AM - 1 PM  
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# EllisCon 2024 continues decades-long gaming tradition



**KILLINGLY** — EllisCon has been a staple of Ellis Tech for decades helping bring together gamers of all kinds to enjoy each other's competitive drive and love for the challenge. The 2024 edition was no different providing a wide array of tabletop, card, and video games that kept everyone engaged throughout the day. Whether trying a new experience or embracing familiar favorites, EllisCon 2024 was another great addition in a long history that has made the event the largest school sponsored game convention in Northeast Connecticut

Jason Bleau

Players take on Dice Throne, a dice dual game that requires luck and strategy to claim victory.



Players take on "Dead Panic," a zombie survival game filled with twists, turns, and strategy.



The Canterbury Lions Club continued a longstanding partnership by providing the food for EllisCon 2024.



Players dive headfirst into one of the most popular sci-fi/action franchises in the Terminator: Genysis tabletop game.



While EllisCon heavily involved tabletop games and card games, videogame enthusiasts also had plenty to enjoy especially during the "Super Smash Bros." tournament.



Brian Blake and Dave Carter, both teachers at Ellis Tech, and Mason Weimer, a 20-year veteran of EllisCon, pose for a photo during the annual celebration of all things gaming in Killingly.



Players take on one of the most popular card games in the world, "Magic: The Gathering."



The most popular miniature wargame in the world, "Warhammer 40,000," was a big draw at EllisCon.



These players went interstellar for their game, "Terraforming Mars," where players work as a corporation to make Planet Earth's famous neighbor more habitable for life.



"Hang High Raiders vs Marauders" challenged players to create their own scenarios and structures to direct the battle of its namesake factions.



"The War of Ozz" put players right into the action as they engaged in battles inspired by and based on the world and characters of the famed "Wizard of Oz" franchise.



# 23rd Holiday Dazzle Light Parade ready to roll Dec. 1

PUTNAM — The Holiday Dazzle Light Parade Committee says all systems are go for the 23rd annual Holiday Dazzle Light Parade on Sunday, Dec. 1 at 5 p.m. in downtown Putnam.

This year, the Putnam Lions Club will be honored as Grand Marshal. The starting line is at the Grove Street Monument and entries will start lining up at 2 p.m. on parade day. The staging area is from Grove Street to Killingly Avenue.

Once again this year, the parade committee will present a “litter-free parade.” Before the parade begins, an army of volunteers will hand out trash bags donated by The Last Green Valley. At the conclusion of the parade, volunteers will walk the parade route, picking up trash bags from the crowd and depositing the bags into a Town of Putnam Public Works truck.

The 23rd annual Holiday Dazzle Light Parade will step off at 5 pm on Sunday, Dec. 1 at the Grove Street Monument and will follow Grove Street, merging right onto South Main Street, left onto Front Street (through the center of downtown Putnam), right onto Kennedy Drive (at Cargill Falls) and will travel past Rotary Park and Riverfront Commons on Kennedy Drive, taking a right onto Providence Street and will end at the Putnam Municipal Complex at the corner of Providence and School streets.

The rain date is Sunday, Dec. 8. The parade is produced by the Town of Putnam, Green Valley Crossing and WINY Radio.

For more information, contact Gary Osbrey at 860-928-1350 or garyo@winradio.com.

## PUTNAM HIGH SCHOOL RELEASES HONOR ROLL

PUTNAM — Putnam High School has released its honor roll for the first quarter of the 2024-2025 school year.

High Honors – Five eligible courses with all grades 80 and above and a 90 percent or better simple GPA for the quarter.

Honors – Five eligible courses with all grades 75 and above and an 85 percent or better simple GPA for the quarter.

### Class of 2025

High Honors: Brooke Champagne, Anthony Cosentino, Landenn Eaton, Antonio Furtado, Melanie Garcia, Caden Gluck, Olivia Hetrick, Logan LaFrance, Madison Lamothe, Isabelle Magalhaes, Evan Mailloux, Edy Morente Mendez, Ava Morrison, Zoe Pehowdy, Isabel Porter, Clara Souza, Hailey Summers, Justin Vukas, Ava Wolinski, Jasmine Wolinski

Honors: Lucas Benoit, Sawyer Britt, Aaliyah Daughenbaugh, Lillian Ennis, Anthony Lowell, Kaylee Mayo, Jacob Olson, Whitney Pynn, Alex Suzedelis

### Class of 2026

High Honors: Leah Benzie, Christina Blanchard, Ella Carota, Nicholas Devlin, Jayce Jodoio, Aidan Martin, Kaydena Morris, Paige Perry, Kasyn Robillard, Kaylin Rodrigues, Madison Thomas

Honors: Brynn Dignam, Joselin Garcia Osorio, Kenneth Goloski, Kianna Griffin, Julius Lang, Madalyn Parquette, Jordan Travisano

### Class of 2027

High Honors: Delanie Bernier, Mia Cosentino, Ayla Daniels, Makenzei Fry, Avah Grimshaw, Elieana Ionkin, Sidra Jahangir, Logan Marciano, Gavin Patterson, Nathaniel Ramos, Rebekah Robbins Ferreira, Iyanah Ruiz, Jillian Spalding

Honors: Tyler Bonin, Danny Boriboun, Leland Fisher, Alina Kamara, Jay Patel, Bridgett Reidy, Keivon Robinson, Rockford Snow, Calvin Wormley

### Class of 2028

High Honors: Charlotte Adams, Kaitlin Brodeur, Theodore Buzanoski, Laura Coderre, Abigail Daniels, Alyssa Daniels, Avalynn Fiske, Eliza Garvey, Chloe Gazzola, Sophie Godzik, Imani Hernandez, Aiden Herrera, Caleb LaFrance, Devin LeBeau, Nyla Magalhaes, Jayda Rivera, Angelina Seymour, Mya Smith, Gavin Weiker

Honors: Daniel DiNola, Griffin Fjellman, Sammuell Jackel, Camden Kell, Owen LePage, Oliver Paine, Cassidy Sabatinelli, Taylor Thomas

## Woodstock's Alexandra Cloutier inducted into national honor society for first-generation students

WILLIMANTIC — More than 100 first-generation students from Eastern Connecticut State University were inducted into the Tri Alpha National Honor Society on Nov. 8, recognizing their academic achievements despite the challenges of being the first in their families to attend college.

Among those inducted was Alexandra Cloutier, a sophomore from Woodstock studying Pre-Social Work.

Tri Alpha offers lifetime membership and recognizes first-generation students who display significant academic achievement. Christina Irizarry, director of opportunity programs, described the inductees as “trailblazers in their families and agents of change.”

Students with a GPA of 3.2 or higher and whose biological parents have not earned a four-year college degree in the U.S. or Canada were eligible for induction into Tri Alpha, a national honor society for first-generation college students.

This new honor society at Eastern recognizes the drive and resilience of first-generation students and aims to foster a supportive environment. At Eastern, first-generation students make up about 30 percent of the student population. Inductees received a certificate and a pin featuring the honor society's logo.

Kolin Ebron, assistant director of the Office of Opportunity Programs and a proud first-generation college graduate, said: “It's an incredible opportunity for our students to be celebrated and build a sense of community.”

## Quiet Corner Al-Anon group meets Wednesdays

WOODSTOCK — An open Al-Anon meeting meets at the East Woodstock Congregational Church every Wednesday from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

The Quiet Corner Al-Anon Family Group is open to anyone affected by alcoholism, family or friend. Any enquiries can be directed to 860-634-3271.

## Community invited to Jingle All the Way Senior Dance

PUTNAM — Mark your calendars and be there will bells on for the Jingle All the Way Senior Dance sponsored by Christopher Heights Assisted Living and Matulaitis Rehabilitation & Skilled Care Thursday, Dec. 12 from 6-8 p.m. at the Putnam Elks Lodge, 64 Edmond St.

Don your favorite Fa La La wear (optional) and dance to music by JL Sound as you enjoy selfies with Santa, door prizes, raffles, and light refreshments.

## WOODSTOCK ACADEMY RELEASES HONOR ROLL

WOODSTOCK — Woodstock Academy has released its honor roll for the first quarter of the 2024-2025 school year.

### Grade 12

High Honors: Ashley Abrams, Juliet Allard, Ajani Banton, Addison Beausoleil, Lillian Beausoleil, Kaitlyn Becker, Mikayla Bessette, Nathan Billings, Lucas Boynton, Madisen Braunstein, Emma Brody, Abigail Budd, William Bushey, Ryder Chaput, Samuel Clark, Emma Costa, Benjamin Cross, Chi Dam, Filippo De Giorgi, Bella DiGregorio, Jonathan Eddy, Abigail Elliott, Kaitlyn Erskine, Jayden Fuller, Olivia Gadue, Ella Gilchrist, Kira Greene, Adyson Grether, Meadow Harnois, Madeline Jezierski, Thomas Johnson, Muhammad Kiani, Cassidy Ladd, Dominic LaFleur, Destiny LaMarre, Leo Larkin, Celine Leffingwell, Chyanne Machamer, Audrey MacPherson, Margaret Marshall, Margaret McHugh, Alvaro Medrano Lopez, Xandar Miller, Dorisabel Mojica, Nhu Nguyen, Thao Nguyen Nguyen, Kaya Nichols, Bailey Nordman, Jiwoong Park, Lysette Parmentier, Alice Pham, Andy Pham, Grace Pokorny, Erik Proctor, Tommaso Protti, Macy Rawson, Katherine Ritzau, Freya Robbie, Elizabeth Roberts, Cameron Robida, Maya Rodriguez, Colton Sallum, Ava Salsich, Sophia Sarkis, Austin Sebastian, Isabella Selmecki, Olivia Smith, Juliana Stacy, Alexandra Tetreault, Lauren Thomas, Kevin Thomson, Tien Tran, Mariia Ursal, Autumn Wade, William Wasko, Haley Whitehouse, Jack Wiggins, Jillian Wiggin

Honors: Diogo Andrade, Ayden Angel-Ouimette, Brayden Bardan, Brandon Baron, Gunnar Basak, John Bennett, Madison Bloom, Katelyn Bruce, Tyler Chamberlin, Jiahao Chen, Thomas Coleman, Abigail Converse, Emilia Costa, Leah Costa, Shauna Daka, Luke Davis, Jacqueline Dearborn, Gabriel DiPierdomenico, Richard Duncan, Brady Ericson, Julian Escobar, Samantha Espeseth, Jude Essuman, Francisco Filho, Chandler Folkerts, Madelyn Frechette, Ela Gadoury, Madison Goetz, Ava Golden, Tanner Graham, Kyle Grist, Sophie Gronski, Avery Hardacker, Matthew Hernandez, Christian Ireland, Enoch Joseph, Emily Jurnovoy, Aidan Kane, Kason Kelly, Eli Laffert, Aribella LaFleche, Isabella Lefebvre, Matthew Letourneau, Kevin Lewis, Max Lim, Emma Manis, Devlin Mansolf, Olivia Martocci, Gianna Materas, Isabella Mawson, Kira Mesick, Sophia Milardo, Ryley Morin, Timothy Mozzi, Shaun Mugagga, Ty Nichols, Brady O'Brien, Catherine O'Brien, Raiden Olsen, Francesco Panetta, Tomas Pejkov, Adriano Peniche Gasque, George Perreault, Evan Quinn, Marco Sanchez, Dylan Shinkiewicz, Nina Silva, Emily Smock, Mia Sorrentino, Michael Susi, Olivia Tappenden, Avery Thienel, Chauntel Vandal, Vincent Vandale, Gwendolyn White, Pola Wysocki, Evelyn Young, Seonung Yu, Daniela Zeka Grossocordone, Marcus Zuidema

Recognition: David Abbamonte, Thiago Andrade, Liliana Bottone, Aiden Brailsford, Alexander Brouillard, Indigo Brown-Nevala, Om Brown, Austin Byer, Maria Castaneda Banderas, Matthew Chace, Olivia Dahl, Grace Delsanto, Xahvi DeRoza, Giovanni Farina Santana, Gavin Gluck, Abigale Houle, Lilliana Latour-Gervais, Marie Mairson, Emily Mayne, Camden Nason, Keira Notis, Avin Orvos, Amir Sanchez, Jack Shea, Riley Titchen, Isabella Vasconcelos

### GRADE 11

High Honors: Bree Antaya, Benjamin Arters, Anthony Beaudreault, Aidan Botelho, Kaylee Bundy, Vaughn Buzak, Ryan Chabot, Archie Chang, Isabel D'Alleva-Bochain, Alexa Delmonaco, Greysen Dery, Audrey DeYoung, Gianna DiCola-Keddy, Abby Ditzel, Clara Dowdle, Jackson Durand, Emma Eaton, Campbell Favreau, Ruben Fernandez, Emma Forcier, Lilly Frechette, Cruz Garcia, Maddox Houston, Lilah Jafar-DeCesare, Danylo Kyryliuk, Andrew Landreville, Kenzie Le, Philip Le, Emma Long, Colin MacNeil, Eli Manning, Mykola Marchenko, Katelyn McArthur, Ivar McDonald, Abraham McGregor, Adrian Mendez Robledo, Camden Mercer, Giulia Musumeci, Troy Myers, Avery Nielsen, Aidan O'Connor, Nicolas Ochoa, Eric Oller Sales, Rafael Paez Requena, Diya Patel, Evelyn Pine, Lucas Quercia, Kyrialis Rivera Cabrera, Carlos Rodriguez Camacho, Emma Rustichelli, Ellary Sampson, Kaylee Saucier, Ivan Serrano Vinas, Siyuan Shen, Mykhailo Smoliar, Kayla St. Louis, Jamie-Dean Stewart, Abby Thayer, Olivia Tracy, Aidan Tyler, Nicolae Velicico, Sadie Wood

Honors: Sofia Aguilar Del Olmo, Rania Almashharawi, Nicole Alonso, Noemia Amaral, Evan Anderson, Aiden Bachand, Gabriel Bard, Vivian Bibeau, Natalie Borges, Kyree Bourassa, Ngoc Bui, Jack Buyers, Allison Camara, Nathaniel Couture, Edward Cygnarowicz, Avery Danis, Scarlet Delaney, Rayne Delfarno, Danielle Demers, Olivia DiGregorio, Haoran Dong, Jackson Dorez, Amelia Duquette, Nathan Faucher, Philip Feanny Aleman, Sara Forcier, Kaydena Foster, Avery Gallagher, Brady Gedutis, David Genay, Kaylyn Hall, Aidan Jeon, Diego Kawakami, Julia Kerr, Elizabeth Ladzinski, Ivan Lin, River Linkin, Kylee Longey, Eva Lusignan, Sara Macri, Spencer Mayo, Lilyanne Mercier, Lillian Morgis, Akira Newall-Vuillemot, Han Nguyen, Alec Nunes, Thatcher Paterson, Gabriella Payne, Ozzie Pearson, Kloe Pike, Emma Quinney, Connor Racine, Hanyi Ran, Nathan Rauls, Emma Raymond, Baylee Rosinski, Ella Simoes, Caleb Simoneau, Cameron Simpson, Marit Sjogren, Alexis Starr, Abigael Stevens, David Sumner, Finnley Syphers, Collin Teal, Luke Thompson, Thatcher Wood, Wynter Worth, Daniel Yang, Ryan Yang, Ahmet Zobali

Recognition: Armando Araujo, Adelyn Cournoyer, Avery Crescimanno, Lucia Durand, Kiley Elliott, Jenna Forcier, Jialiang Fu, Ekin Gokcimen, Owen Hamilton, Soyul Jung, Kris Latour, Madison LaVallee, Elizabeth Leach, Payton Leite, Eden Lusignan, Kuanzhi Ma, Liliana Moran, Emily Mumford, Cadence Nichols, Mariia Oliinyk, Kyle Parmeter, Vayda Payne, Cotten Pierce, Sophia Rattray, Jomaraliz Rosado, Quantiwah Sangasy, Jacob Say, Jocelynn Serrine, Jacob Swayze, Helen Telford, Emma Weitknecht, Michael Wolchesky

### Grade 10

High Honors: Nova Almquist, Braden Andersen, Tess Anderson, Ava Beauchemin-King, Adriana Benavides Rodriguez, Izabella Bernstein, Brayden Bottone, Drew Bundy, Jayliana Camacho, Jiayue Chen, Ronan Curran, Kady Danner, Brayden De Oliveira, Matthew Dearborn, Rhea DeSota, Kathryn Dobosz, Bronson Eddy, Samuel Greene, Brady Hebert, Cora Hefner, Bohdan Hnat, Nathan Jezierski, Shih Yong Jung, Tymoffii Kholod, Blake Kudzal, Yuanzhong Li, Elina Makarenko, Maria Martinez Adiego, Kennedy McCooey, Caylee Morrison, Landon Murdock, Evony N'Chonon, Tyler Odorski, Jessica Palmerino, Rocco Pascale, Damien Redman, Avery Schaefer, Matias Solano Platero, Isabella Tedisky, Zachary Thibeault, Kaitlyn Thiffeault, Alfredo Tiffon, Chloe Vogt, Heath White, Grette Zheng

Honors: Maggie Beams, Olivia Beaulieu, Sofia Benito, Kellen Coleman, Kaylyn Converse, Caroline Costa, Elise Coyle, Fabian Crespo, Mason Davis, Della Dupont, Olivia Elliott, Claire Ellsworth, Ivan Fernandez, Arianna Fox, Laia Garcia Miralles, Michael Gasperini, Gage Gawron, Avery Grant, Brayden Graves, Avery Gregoire, Samantha Gumula, Finley Hamilton, Cooper Harris, Christian Hart, Ethan Haynes, Gabriel Hull, Maria Jordanoglou, Shihab Juman, Delilah Kesselman, Maxwell Kopp, Leah Kozerefski, Matthew Kruger, Christian Ladero, Xavier LaFleur, Kealyn Lamarche, Ayden Lamontagne, Coral Lechert, Mackenzie Malboeuf, Mitchell Mazzucco, Alexander Milardo, Abby Neeland, Jason Nelson, Lara Ozgoz, Luca Passinha Braz, Tatam Perez, Elena Petrella, Jake Quattlebaum, Riley Quinn-Perkins, David Rahall, Drew Rhault, Blake Robida, Grace Sallar, Aiden Sanchez, Alexis Sansone, Tre Sotomayor, Sophia Turner, Adrian Vargas, Wyatt Voter, Owen Williamson, Cayden Worth, Quencheng Wu, Jiangqi Xu

Recognition: John Andersen, Samuel Anderson, Christian Bard, Tiana Bergeron, Connor Bessette, Isabella Billings, Madison Boyd, Owen Budd, Charlotte Caisse, Jorge Castellanos, Cole Cimeno, Lyla Cowles, Miles Densmore, Lorelai Fish, Maylie Ganas, Ethan Gilchrist, Patrick Griswold, Jake Henderson, Halle Jolly, Luke Larkin, Hayden Maloney, Camden Marshall, Kelsey McNeil, Cameron Perreault, Daphne Potvin, Derek Emiliano Rodriguez Arenas, Brooke Roireau, Bella Stillitano, Marharita Svyshch, XiCheng Tang, Leah Thibodeau, Olivia Tolman, Gia Bao Vu

### Grade 9

High Honors: Drake Abdulloviski, Carolina Ahearn, Grace Audet, Kaylanni Beaudry, Danika Beliveau, Scarlett Beliveau, Juliette Bernier, Zoe Bibek, Jacob Bickoff, Lily Buisch, Jack Capobianco-Dildine, Brynn Choruzek, Kayleigh Cote, Madison Crevier, Georgia Cross, Colby Deary, Alexander DeCarli, Olivia Devolve, Melanie DiPippo, Charlotte Donovan, Nathaniel Drake, Caroline Ethier, Gabriel Flannery, Timothy Gardner, Sophia Groves, Eli Hamilton, Aocheng Han, Scarlett Hogarty, Daniel Jameson, Abigail Keser, Kaleb Langlois, Ethan Laoroyal, Teagan Maloney, Abigail Manning, Kaitlyn McQuiston, Owen Murdock, Colbie O'Connor, Ella Petersen, Eli Petrarca, Payton Plasse, Colby Plouffe, Stella Puchalski, Patrick Raftery, Aaliyah Raymond, Harper Simoneau, Lily Smock, Kaitlyn Teal, Elizabeth Thomas, Addison Tyler, Kennedy Keller, Nevaeh Youssef, Adalynn Zegarzewski

Honors: Rhys Asikainen, Meadow Blain, Jason Burns, Addison Casteen, Ella Chitmanotham, Ava Clark, Zoe Cloutier, Ash Collige, Christopher Corneau, Samantha Cote, Haylee Cronin, Theo DeChellis, Brody Dexter, Nina Drane, Olivia Durgin, Colin Ericson, Jax Golden, Jacob Gollop, Summer Goodell, Rose Granger, Jude Harrison, Carlita Herrera, Abigail Hollenbeck, Kasey Jakan, Caitlin Kilcollum, Lilah Ledogar, Jeong Bin Lee, Lily Leite, Kaylee Letourneau, John Mainetti, Tristen Maloney, James McHugh, Makenzie McMahon, Lily Mioduszewski, Oliver Moulton, Kristina Nieminen, Madison Parsons, Hattie Patenaude, Ryael Riche, Cassidy Rosinski, Erin Russell, Addison Shaw, Rainie Singleton, Nolan Smeltzer, Noelle Smith, Faith Swortwell, Ella Stone, Dylan Syriac, Chenglin Tan, Stanley Ten Eyck, Evelyn Thayer, Ian Thayer, Ally Walters, Stevie Wilmot, Olivia Wolchesky, Charlie Wood, Lauren Young, Muhammad Zameer, Zixuan Zhou

Recognition: Gia Baldyga, Shealyn Bannon, Joelle Cassidy, William Charette, Keagan DeNolfo, Ava Eaton, Wallya Ellsworth, Julien Farwell, Evangeline Gurski, Aidan Hall, Lucas Hecker, Phoebe Houston, Davis Jette, Kaitlyn LaBonte, Zoe Laffert, Kyra Longey, Haven Magnan, Kaleb Nagel, Namrah Naveed, Scarlett Sistare, Vanessa Tetreault, Lucille Trudeau



**REDDY**

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to be filed with SOTS by midnight on Election Day. Final results are due Friday of the same week, which was November 8th this year. The final election results for the Town of Mansfield were submitted within this timeframe. We are confident the election results in Mansfield are accurate. Protecting everyone's right to vote is of the utmost importance. Due to the crush of first-time voters at Town Hall on Election Day, processing all the registrations and votes was time-consuming. However, it must be emphasized that processing of registrations and tabulation of ballots was all completed within permissible timeframes. We were in regular communication with SOTS to ensure compliance with all aspects of the law, and we were assured our results were submitted on a timely basis," the Registrars wrote.

Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have also released statements responding to the Reddy campaign's allegations. Senate President Martin Looney and Majority Leader Bob Duff released a joint statement stating "no legitimate concerns have been raised" in the matter. Mansfield Republican Town Committee Chairman G. William Tomecko Jr. and Ben Shaiken, Chairman of the Mansfield Democratic Town Committee, issued a joint statement of their own.

"We are disappointed that Chris Reddy and his campaign are challenging the validity of Tuesday's election and attempting to disqualify the votes of thousands of Mansfield citizens," Mansfield's Republican and Democratic chairmen said in a statement. "It was a free, fair, secure, and extremely well-organized election, and his comments do nothing but sow discord and division among the voters of Mansfield and the 29th District."

The Reddy Campaign has indicated it will remain steadfast in its effort to get answers concerning the election results. Flexer has not provided any direct public acknowledgement or response to Reddy's complaints and challenge to her victory.

**KILLINGLY**

continued from page A1

the project, which is a part of the current phase of the project. She did clarify the program would be called the Killingly Therapeutic Academy at Westfield and start by serving students in grades 2 through 8 with plans for further expansion. Projected costs will be part of a future analysis and the upcoming budget season in early 2025; however, Dr. Nash is hoping that the district will at least break even with the cost of the new program offset by existing costs of outsourcing those services and tuition from potential sending towns. Dr. Nash says conversations will also continue with ESS to finalize what this new academy would look like.

**DUELING**

continued from page A1

ensures that patients in our community continue to receive essential in-home care programs."

The fundraiser was made possible by the generosity of community members and business partners through sponsorships, raffle donations, dessert platter donations, monetary donations and ticket sales, as well as the support of Jim Terrien and The Raceway Golf Club and Restaurant for donating the venue.

In addition to Presenting Sponsor WIN Waste Innovations, major sponsors included

**O'MALLEY**

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EASTCONN, however, are pushing to expand traditional definitions, particularly around independent living skills. Beyond basics like doing laundry, they focus on crucial life skills such as voting, accessing healthcare, managing mental health, and navigating transportation.

The key to success, O'Malley said, is starting early. "It becomes too overwhelming if you wait until those last couple of years before graduation," she said. Instead, she advocates for beginning transition planning in middle school, using what she calls "the ladder approach" – breaking down long-term goals into manageable steps.

ed Centreville Bank as the Diamond Record Sponsor with Linemaster Switch and Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Partners as Platinum Record Sponsors. Gold Record Sponsors included Gerardi Insurance Hilb Group, Heritage Valley Ford, Rawson Materials, and Sever Pharma Solutions.

Henry and Cheryl Medlyn contributed as Hit Single Sponsors, and the Top 100 sponsors included American Legion Post #13, Saul and Sandra Ahola, Cynthia de Bruyn Kops, Betty Edwards, Jewett City Savings Bank, Jeziarski Plumbing & Heating, Inc., Bernice Mansfield,

Matulaitis Rehabilitation & Skilled Care, Richard Morse, and Caroline Sloat.

Local bakeries contributed an array of desserts, including donations from Caylee's Kitchen, Keith's Kreations, Matthew's Catering, Renee's Catering, Sadie's Sweet Shop, Soleil and Suns Bakery, and The Victorian Village and Bakery.

"We are delighted by the overwhelming response and extremely grateful for the level of support that we received for this event," said Director of Development Kristen Willis, Day Kimball Health. "This year's event sold out

weeks in advance, with many of our dedicated supporters expressing heartfelt gratitude for the level of care that they or their loved ones had received from our at-home services. There was genuine excitement about joining us for a repeat performance of Savage Pianos resulting in an atmosphere of positivity and energy that was off the charts from beginning to end."

Day Kimball Health at Home offers a wide range of compassionate and personalized in-home care services throughout Northeast Connecticut. To learn more, visit [daykimball.org/athome](http://daykimball.org/athome).

About Day Kimball Health

Day Kimball Health is a nonprofit community healthcare system composed of Day Kimball Hospital, Day Kimball Medical Group, Day Kimball Health 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 Health's comprehensive network employs 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).

Working with colleagues at EASTCONN and Capital Region Education Council, O'Malley is helping to develop accessible curriculum and frameworks to support this comprehensive approach. She stressed the importance of involving students in their own planning through goal setting and self-advocacy.

"It's too much for a teacher to lift on their own," she said. "It's about listening to what the student is advocating they want, followed by the family. Once you have their input, you can see how that fits into the work each team member is doing, such as the BCBA, SLP, OT, and the PT."

Nationally, Connecticut

stands at the forefront of transition education. O'Malley praised the state's emphasis on improving outcomes for students with disabilities and the dedication of educators throughout the system.

"Everyone wants the same thing," she said, "which is to have that moment five years after a student graduates, when you're at a store and they come up to you and say, 'Oh, I'm working in my dream field.'"

Looking ahead, O'Malley could imagine transition education expanding beyond special education classrooms. She sees potential benefits for all students in explicitly teaching skills for achieving life goals and navigating support systems.

"That's the next frontier – shaping our society to be as inclusive as our schools have become," she said. "If we can start talking about this more widespread and not just within our special education world, I think it could serve everyone."

For now, O'Malley remains focused on her work with EASTCONN, helping to ensure that students with disabilities have the tools and support they need to build fulfilling adult lives. While honored by the national recognition, she maintains perspective on what matters most.

"It's really about teaching the individual," she said. "What is it that you want long term, and then knowing who to go to for that, whether that's

their family, a college, an employer, or an agency. It's really about empowering the student."

O'Malley has helped teachers apply this approach at the EASTCONN Transition Academy (ETA). Located in downtown Willimantic, ETA serves students ages 18-22 with diverse learning needs, providing comprehensive transition services that combine classroom instruction with real-world experiences. Through career exploration, community integration, and specialized support, ETA prepares young adults for independent living and meaningful employment opportunities after graduation.

# Quinebaug Middle College recruiting students Spring 2025 and 2025-26 school year

**DANIELSON** — EASTCONN's Quinebaug Middle College (QMC), a regional, public magnet high school, is currently recruiting academically motivated students for the Spring 2025 semester and 2025-2026 school year. Students who seek a more independent learning environment tailored to their academic and career goals are encouraged to apply.

Located on the campus of CT State College-Quinebaug Valley (CTSC-QV) in Danielson, QMC offers high school students a middle college experience that enables them to earn a high school diploma while also earning free, transferable college credits from CTSC-QV. The school's unique partnership with CTSC-QV provides students access to college facilities and opportunities for meaningful collaboration with college faculty and resources.

Students select from one of our six distinguished learning pathways: Liberal Arts and Humanities, Education, Business/Leadership, STEM Engineering, STEM Manufacturing, and STEM Health Sciences. Core academic and elective courses,



Field Day 2024 at Quinebaug Middle College.

along with industry mentorship opportunities, are carefully aligned to each pathway.

"QMC offers a small, personalized learning experience where all students strive to live by our core values of Inspiration, Kindness and Respect," said Principal Edward Keleher. "The opportunity to succeed to college level classes offers our students the ability to explore their interests, while offering families a significant cost

savings for college. QMC offers every student the opportunity to thrive. We are excited to offer this unique opportunity to new students who are looking for an engaging and enjoyable high school experience."

Housed in a modern, state-of-the-art facility, QMC offers distinct advantages including small class sizes, a personalized competency-based approach, rigorous curriculum, and a collaborative school

governance model. QMC students have access to advanced technological laboratories, comprehensive career and vocational resources, public service opportunities, and innovative learning experiences.

Our program emphasizes real-world experience in project management, public communications, and community leadership. Service leadership is integrated into the daily schedule, enabling students to

actively participate in meaningful community service projects and initiatives.

QMC serves approximately 160 students in grades 9-12 from 18 towns across northeastern Connecticut. The school is administered by EASTCONN through a partnership including CTSC-QV and seven northeastern Connecticut towns. While primarily serving northeastern Connecticut, enrollment is open to students from other regions. Transportation is provided for students within the EASTCONN service area.

For enrollment information and applications, visit [//www.eastconn.org/qmc](http://www.eastconn.org/qmc). Contact QMC Principal Edward Keleher at [ekeleher@eastconn.org](mailto:ekeleher@eastconn.org) for additional information.

EASTCONN is a public, non-profit Regional Educational Service Center that has served the educational needs of northeastern Connecticut communities since 1980. Learn more at [www.eastconn.org](http://www.eastconn.org). Hi-res photos available upon request.

# LEGALS

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
**ESTATE OF Cromwell D Chase, Jr., AKA Joseph Chase (24-00471)**  
 The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated November 15, 2024, ordered that all claims must be presented 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, Chief Clerk  
 The fiduciary is:  
 Karen Chase Lord  
 c/o PAUL M SMITH, BORNER, SMITH, ALEMAN, HERZOG & CERRONE, 124 WAUREGAN ROAD, DANIELSON, CT 06239  
 November 29 2024

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
**ESTATE OF Diane Johnson (24-00477)**  
 The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated November 19, 2024, ordered that all claims must be presented 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, Chief Clerk  
 The fiduciary is:  
 Kyle Johnson,  
 90 Ballouville Rd.,  
 Dayville, CT 06241  
 November 29, 2024

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
**ESTATE OF James Edward Kelley (24-00430)**  
 The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated November 17, 2024, ordered that all claims must be presented 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, Chief Clerk  
 The fiduciary is:  
 Lisa Eno Kelley  
 c/o FRANK GERARD HERZOG, BORNER SMITH ALEMAN HERZOG & CERRONE, LLC, 155 PROVIDENCE STREET, PO BOX 166, PUTNAM, CT 06260  
 November 29 2024

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
**ESTATE OF Ronald L Dehart (24-0447)**  
 The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated November 18, 2024, ordered that all claims must be presented 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, Chief Clerk  
 The fiduciary is:  
 Valerie Baker  
 c/o NICHOLAS, HERON, MANCUSO, MANCUSO, CAREY, LLC, 116 PARUM RD., COLCHESTER, CT 06415  
 November 29 2024

# OBITUARIES

## Lorraine Dion, 93



Lorraine Dion, died peacefully on November 9, 2024 at her home in Thompson CT at the young age of 93. Lorraine was born on August 23, 1931 in Webster, MA. She is the daughter of the late Czeslaw and Alexandra (Krupinski) Stolarczyk. She was married to the late Raymond Dion until his death in 2010.

She is survived by her son: Michael Dion, wife Debby of Lakeville, MA; her daughter Jane Dion, wife Cindi Perugini of Portland, CT; and son-in-law, Joseph Holewa of Charlton MA. She is predeceased by her daughter Judy Holewa and great grandchild Sloane Marie Rickaby in 2024. Lorraine is predeceased by all her siblings: three sisters: Stasia Jasczur, Joan Plasse, Theresa Courtemanche, and four brothers: Chester, John, Victor and Vincent Stolarczyk. She leaves nieces and nephews.

Lorraine leaves 7 grandchildren Caitlin Rickaby (Michael), Brian Kiley (Katie Dragon), Danielle Bossi (Patrick), Chris Dion, Nicole Higgins (Joey), Laura Holewa and Colleen Holewa. Lorraine also leaves 3 great grandchildren Dante, Maverick and Matthew. Lorraine had many "grand pups" and "great grand pups" who will miss visiting her to receive a cookie.

She retired in 1995 from Hubbard Hospital as an Administrative Assistant in the Physical Therapy Department. Lorraine, known to her family as "Grandma or Gma", loved her family above everything else and was the "glue" connecting all of us to family goings-on. She and Ray enjoyed traveling together and occasionally "going south" to the casinos. Lorraine kept her brain as sharp as a tack by mastering crossword games, and in her late 80's, learning online word puzzles and scrolling/commenting on Facebook. She was very creative with arts and crafts, making many Christmas items, ceramics, and even a "Grandma O'Keeffe" painting. She was a parishioner of St Joseph's Church in Charlton where she enjoyed a sense of community and connection to her faith.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held at St. Joseph's Church, 10 H Putnam Rd. Extension in Charlton, MA Saturday November 23 at 10 AM. Prayers to follow at the columbarium at St. Joseph Garden Of Peace Cemetery, Webster, MA. There are no calling hours. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at [www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org). Bartel Funeral Home 33 Schofield Ave. Dudley is assisting the family.

[www.bartelfuneralhome.com](http://www.bartelfuneralhome.com)

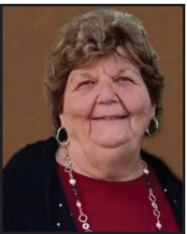
## Kathleen E Hall, 74



Kathleen E Hall, 74, passed away peacefully at home on Sunday, October 20th. She was joyfully reunited with her husband, Dennis, and her parents, Jim and Elizabeth Brady. Kathy was born on September 28, 1950 and she grew up in Valley Stream on Long Island. While working as a Bookkeeper for Acme Cotton, Kathy met Dennis Hall, and they fell in love and were married. They relocated to Danielson, CT and together they raised their four beautiful children. Kathy leaves behind her children Richard (Erin), Kerri, Sean (Ashley), and Megan (Pete), and her very beloved grandchildren Nina, Matt, Maddison, Desmond and Coraline. Kathy also leaves behind her siblings Jim Brady (Nancy), John Brady (Barbara), Patty Kitz (Bill), Sheri Brady, and Scott Brady. Kathy was predeceased by her brother, Tommy Brady. She also leaves behind many nieces and nephews, and countless cherished friends, neighbors, and members of our community that she has made lifelong impressions on. Kathy, (Mrs. Hall) led Girl Scout troops, loved to chaperone class trips, and to support her kids' sports teams, especially the Killingly Redmen football team. She helped raise many teenagers, including friends of family, and always championed her kids in times they faced setbacks in school and later in life. Kathy was very active in her Parish, overseeing candy sales at St. James School, then Bingo for the past few decades. Even after her children had graduated, she invested numerous hours and raised generous amounts to donate to the school. While fundraising through the \$1000 Club, she spent many afternoons delivering checks to the winners, chatting over a cup of coffee and brightening their day. Kathy was a Monday Night Roller

and Treasurer at the Friendly Bowl, befriended many perfect strangers as a Census worker and as an election poll worker. Additionally, Kathy donated her time as a caregiver for elderly friends, and provided tax services for friends and seniors. She was a volunteer for the Killingly Republican Town Committee, and most recently provided rides for candidates campaigning, including Chris Reddy every Thursday. Kathy was also faithful to the Friends of Assisi Food Pantry, helping to register many clients for Thanksgiving baskets for the past 30 years. With a great heart of compassion, Kathy was drawn to service, helping lost sheep throughout her life. A parishioner of St. James Church, she was a devout Catholic, and her devotion to God got her through difficult times. Kathy enjoyed her Thursday prayer group and also Rallies and Rosaries with Right to Life. When her mother passed, Kathy traveled to Long Island every month to take her place in the Legion of Mary. She regularly donated to dozens of non-profit organizations such as humane societies, humanitarian efforts, and Alzheimer's research. Kathy enjoyed listening to her favorite crooners Frank Sinatra and Billy Joel, and was a fan of the Beatles. Kathy's favorite pastime was being with her children and grandchildren, whom she was so very proud of. She cherished having cookouts at Alexanders Lake, babysitting and pet sitting, attending concerts, Brady Christmases in NY, and gathering for birthday celebrations. Our precious Kathy will be greatly missed by all those who knew her. There will be a mass in remembrance of Kathy on December 8th at 11:00AM at St. James Church in Danielson, CT. The Hall Family requests that donations in memory of Kathy be made to The Friends of Assisi Food Pantry 77 Water Street Danielson, CT 06239. [tillinghastfh.com](mailto:tillinghastfh.com)

## Sheila Johnson, 81



It is with profound sadness that the family of Sheila (Fogarty) Johnson, announce her sudden passing on November 16, 2024 at the age of 81, at her home in Brooklyn, CT. She leaves behind her children: Kirsten

(Michael) Dumaresq of Kensington, NH; Gavin (Melissa) Johnson of Brooklyn, CT; Brendan (Kirsten) Johnson of Thompson, CT; and Brian T (Joanna) Johnson of Sutton, MA. As well as her beloved grandchildren: Molly, Neve, Briant, Jack, Hailey, Dylan and Gwyneth. She was predeceased in death by her husband and best friend, Brian (1998); her granddaughter Jade (2018); and her brother Shawn (2023).

Sheila was born January 29, 1943 in Bridgeport, CT to the late John and Rita (Keeney) Fogarty. She grew up in the small town of Georgetown, CT and it was there that she met Brian Johnson, the love of her life, who she was married to for 33 years until his sudden passing.

She was an educator and lifelong learner. She graduated from Danbury High School in 1960 and went on to earn degrees from: Marietta College, Marietta, OH (BA in English/Journalism - 1965); Eastern Connecticut State University, Windham, CT (MS in English Education - 1991); and Seton Hill University, Greensburg, PA (MA in Creative Writing - 2001).

She had several different career paths: Executive Director - ARC of Quinebaug Valley; Assistant Director - New London County Head Start; Human Resource Director - United Services, but her true passion was teaching. Her greatest joy was teaching

the children of Killingly and Brooklyn as an English and Journalism teacher at Killingly High School and Killingly Intermediate School.

Her activities included: Brooklyn Board of Education for 10 years; Eastconn Board; Our Lady of LaSalette Church - lector, CCD teacher, and parish council; KHS Class of 2002 class advisor; Northeastern Connecticut Writers; LIR (Learning in Retirement); Bridge; and Killingly Book Club. But, her favorite activity was being her grandchildren's biggest fan and cheerleader at all of their sporting events and activities.

She was a thoughtful and caring person, who enjoyed spending time with people of all ages. She had the ability to touch people's lives in positive ways: encouraging, nurturing and supporting people during difficult times and celebrating with them in their moments of triumph. She will be missed dearly by all who knew and loved her.

"Until we meet again may God hold you in the hollow of His hands".

Please join us in celebrating her life and reunion with her beloved husband. Visiting hours will be held on Sunday, December 29, 2024 from 2-5pm at Gagnon and Costello Funeral Home, 33 Reynolds St, Danielson, CT. Her Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Monday, December 30, 2024 at 11am at Our Lady of LaSalette Church, 25 Providence Rd, Brooklyn, CT.

Memorial donations may be made in Sheila's name to her granddaughter's memorial scholarship fund: <https://gofund.me/1787ad06>, or checks can be sent to: Jade Ariel Nicholls Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 427, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255. Share a memory at [Gagnonandcostellofh.com](http://Gagnonandcostellofh.com)

## Marie Melanie Konicki, 79



Marie Melanie (Houle) Konicki age 79 of Park St., Putnam passed away Thursday November 21, holding hands with her husband of 60 years Lee "Noonie" Konicki Sr. Her son Lee Konicki Jr along

with her daughter-in-law Annette Jakubisin Konicki and her granddaughters and their husbands Lauren and Evan Grasser, Erin Konicki and Zachary Sears, were by her side.

Born Marie Melanie Houle on April 30, 1945, she was the daughter of the late Raymond and Cecile (Gauthier) Houle of Southbridge, MA. She met the love of her life, Noonie, at the Southbridge Dairy Queen in 1963 and they were married in 1964. They bought their first and only home in Putnam in 1968 and continued to love the community and its people 56 years later. Marie worked at Day Kimball Hospital in the Nutritional Services Department for 40 years retiring in 2010. She spent her retirement going to her granddaughters' athletic endeavors from rec league through college and all of their life events.

She could always be counted on for encouragement and an emotional support grilled cheese. No Christmas Eve party was complete without her renowned lasagna and no summer gathering was without 10 pounds of her world's best potato salad. Marie could be seen frequenting the Hanover Theater with her brother-in-law, Fr. Bill Konicki, and friends or heading to the casinos to enjoy the slots.

Marie loved jigsaw puzzles, making cards for every occasion, dancing, sing-

ing (not well), the Cape, Florida, travelling and Elvis. She embraced her French-Canadian heritage which manifested itself in her love of the frog of which she collected 1000's of in every shape, form, and size.

Beyond all else, she loved spending time with family and friends. She was the rock that everyone leaned on and her laugh was infectious. She lived a charitable and humble but impactful life and despite nearly 80 years she is proof that time spent with your loved ones is not nearly enough. Her absence will be felt by everyone she knew.

She is also survived by loving sisters Rose Houle, Theresa Lamontagne, Annette (Armand) Lamontagne, brother Wilfred Houle and numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews and many honorary grand and great grandchildren.

In typical Marie fashion she requested NO black be worn at her service. She asked that all wear "frog" green. In lieu of potluck meals, please consider dropping off alcohol to help us drown our sorrows!

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Marie's family on Monday December 2, 2024, from 4:00 to 7:00pm in the Gilman Funeral Home & Crematory, 104 Church St. Putnam, CT. A Funeral Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at 10:00a.m. in Notre Dame Church, 446 Main St. Southbridge, MA. Donations may be made to Jolly John's Keep You Truckin Fund, PO Box 308, Columbia, CT 06237 or to the Holiday Gift Drive at the Putnam Family Resource Center, 33 Wicker St. Putnam, CT 06260. For memorial guestbook, visit [www.GilmanAndValade.com](http://www.GilmanAndValade.com)

## Merton E. Hill



Merton E. Hill of Dayville, CT passed away on Oct. 14, 2024, after a brief battle with cancer at home surrounded by his loving family. He was born in Harrison, ME on July 12, 1940 to Henry and Edna (Kimball) Hill.

"Mert" attended school in Conway, NH. He was a graduate of Fryeburg Academy in ME and attended college in Keene, NH. He bought an Army/Navy Store in Conway NH. Later went to Cornell University for Eastern Artificial Insemination.

Mert married Dorothy (Rines) Seavey in 1967, a widow with 3 children, and they moved to Whitinsville, MA to service farms in Worcester County. In 1969 he moved his family to Woodstock. In 1973 he changed careers, bought Ted Kuper's business and became an independent contractor for IBA (Independent Buyers Association) and worked until he sold his business in 2012. Mert also drove truck for Paul Sansoucy and Randolph Blackmer, as second jobs. After retirement Mert worked for Sig Swanburg on construction. Mert became close friends with all of them, as well as nearly all the farmers he met in his area.

Mert enjoyed Dartball and weekend parties with friends. Horseshoe games, stock car races, watching the Patriots and sharing football stats with any-

one, especially his grandson Evan. His favorite annual trip was camping at Fryeburg Fair, showing oxen, watching pulls, and hosting our "5-o'clock" gatherings trackside. He enjoyed coffee breaks with his peers, and was still planning coffee runs with Sig a week before he left us.

He is survived by "Dot" his loving wife of 57 yrs, daughter Andrea Hill MacWilliams of Pomfret, Corinna Hill-Malavenda of Dayville, Darrell Seavey and wife Denise of Venice, FL, Dennis Seavey and wife Mary Beth of Woodstock, Diane Smith and husband Todd of Woodstock, and Kelly Ignasiak of N. Charleston, SC. Grandchildren Toni, Evan, Brooke, Chuck IV, Marnie, Kristen, Shelley, Melissa, Shane, Josh, and Cailan. Great grandchildren Jacob, Riley, MacKenzie, Chloe, Camden and Alice. Merton is survived by his brother Ronald Hill and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at 1:00 PM on Saturday, December 14, 2024 in the East Woodstock Congregational Church, 220 Woodstock Road, East Woodstock, CT 06244. A celebration of Life will follow in fellowship hall, 220 Woodstock Road, East Woodstock. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made in his memory to East Woodstock Church, PO Box 156, East Woodstock, CT 06244. Muddy Brook Fire Department, PO Box 222, East Woodstock, CT 06244 or St. Jude. Share a memory at [www.smithandwalkerfh.com](http://www.smithandwalkerfh.com)

## Wayne C. Credit, 79



Wayne C. Credit, 79, of Columbia passed away peacefully on Thursday November 21, 2024, at home with his family by his side. Wayne was born in Putnam on March 11, 1945, the son of the late Clarence and Evelyn (Theriaque) Credit. Wayne graduated from Killingly High School in 1963 and graduated from Pratt and Whitney Jet Engine Metalsmith Program in 1968. He worked for UPS for 18 years. His

favorite sports teams were the NY Giants and the Boston Celtics, and he enjoyed competing in bowling and pool. He is survived by his longtime partner of 30 years Bonnie Kovach and his two sons David and Scott Credit both of Danielson. Wayne is also survived by his grandchildren Jesse Credit, Luna Credit and Samuel Credit and great grandson Ryder Burke.


A graveside service will be held on Monday December 2, 2024, at 11:00AM at Holy Cross Cemetery, Danielson. There are no calling hours. [tillinghastfh.com](mailto:tillinghastfh.com)

*Gilman & Valade* 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary


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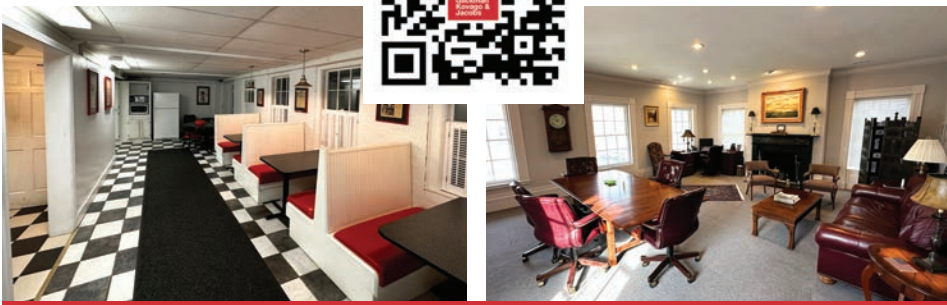
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## Bay Path FY26 Annual House Building Project



Applications are now being accepted from anyone interested in having a house built in one of our 10 member communities.

Member Communities are: Auburn, Charlton, Dudley, North Brookfield, Oxford, Paxton, Rutland, Southbridge, Spencer and Webster

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