



# THOMPSON VILLAGER

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Jason Bleau

Hundreds of experienced and prospective fishermen took to the ice for Valley Springs Sportsman's Club's first ice fishing derby of the year.

## Valley Springs Sportsman's Club hosts annual Ice Fishing Derby

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

THOMPSON — Valley Spring Sportsman's Club began its 76th year holding an annual tradition as old as the club itself, an ice fishing derby on the property's scenic lake.

Hundreds of participants gathered during the morning of Jan. 19 to take part in both a morn-

ing breakfast and the ice fishing contest hoping to catch an award-winning trout as they enjoyed one of the most popular outdoor winter activities in New England. Event spokesman Mike Zanauskas said the derby was one of the original programs held by the club and continues to be a staple of their promotion of outdoor recreation.

"This is just a great

time. Everyone can come out, enjoy themselves, and catch some fish. Just to see all the kids and families out here is great," Zanauskas said. "We had a lot of people call me because they wanted to learn ice fishing, their kids wanted to

learn, we have a few single moms who brought their kids out here too. Any member out here today helped people drill their holes and we had some bait shops donate some stuff, so this is a great time."

The Club celebrated its

75th anniversary in 2024, making kicking off the new year with arguably its oldest annual pastime even more fitting. Zanauskas said they strive to provide programs that bring families together to explore everything the outdoors has to

offer and the fishing derbies, whether on ice or on the shores, are always a big draw.

"It's a great feeling to give back and have everyone come together. We're a non-profit so whatever

Turn To **DERBY** page **A8**

## Windham No Freeze Project becomes Project HOPE

WILLIMANTIC — The Windham region's only adult homeless shelter is kicking off the new year with a new name and a new mission, offering year-round housing and homeless services to eastern Connecticut. The change follows a year of dramatic growth spurred by the renovation and expansion of the organization's primary building at 433 Valley St. in Willimantic and the award of a State of Connecticut grant to fund approximately six months of shelter operations.

Established in 2003 as the Windham Region No Freeze Project, the organization has evolved from a cold-weather seasonal shelter into a comprehensive housing services provider. The new name, Project HOPE of Eastern Connecticut, reflects its expansion to year-round operations serving the Windham region and beyond.

The word HOPE is an acronym for the breadth of services the organization now provides — Housing, Outreach, Prevention, and Emergency shelter.

"We are thrilled to announce our new name," said Avery Lenhart, Project HOPE executive director. "HOPE is what we strive to give the people we serve every day. Because shelter is a temporary reprieve, not a destination, our expanded capabilities go above and beyond shelter to help people struggling with homelessness and unstable housing to regain control of their lives."

Project HOPE has expanded its staff, allowing the organization to provide the following services:

A full-time outreach coordinator works in the community to locate and assist unhoused individuals, connecting them to the organization and its community partners.

A full-time case manager helps unhoused people reconnect to social services and access critical documents such as birth certificates, identification cards, social security numbers, and other documentation that will allow them to apply for housing and assistance.

A part-time housing location specialist helps to match people to landlords with available units.

A full-time shelter manager oversees shelter operations 365 days a year.

Throughout the year, Project HOPE staff advocate for shelter guests and unsheltered clients locally, regionally and on the state level. Staff communicate the needs and challenges of those living in homelessness or unstable housing in eastern Connecticut to members of the state legislature, to other members of the state's Coordinated Access Network involved in housing, and to landlords and service providers within the local community.

A new Project HOPE website is being developed and will launch soon. In the meantime, information is available at [www.windhamnofreeze.com](http://www.windhamnofreeze.com). News and updates will be shared on Facebook and Instagram.

## Woodstock Agricultural Society re-elects Sandness, names two new directors

WOODSTOCK — The Woodstock Agricultural Society held its annual meeting recently at the South Woodstock Baptist Church.

The Society, whose purpose is to oversee and operate the annual Woodstock Fair, re-elected Jeff Sandness of Eastford as president for a fourth consecutive year.

Dr. Steven Raheb of Pomfret Center was elected as first vice-president with Emilie Hebert of Woodstock selected as second vice-president. Gail White of Woodstock

will continue to serve as treasurer of the Society as will Susan Webster of Woodstock as Executive Secretary.

Bradley O'Connor of Ellington was chosen to serve as a member-at-large on the Society's executive committee along with Tim Walsh (Tolland).

The Society also elevated two life members to its Board of Directors.

Ashley Rabello of Woodstock was elected to a three-year term on the Society's Board of Directors while Barry

O'Connor of Woodstock will fill a one-year term.

Others who will continue to serve on the board of directors for the next three years include Glenn Boies (Woodstock), Hebert; Susan Hibbard (Woodstock); Calvin Neely (Woodstock); Raheb; Walsh and White.

Sandness thanked Patricia Kelly, a past president who will not be returning to the board of directors, for her long-time service to the Society.

The Woodstock Fair, Always Labor Day week-

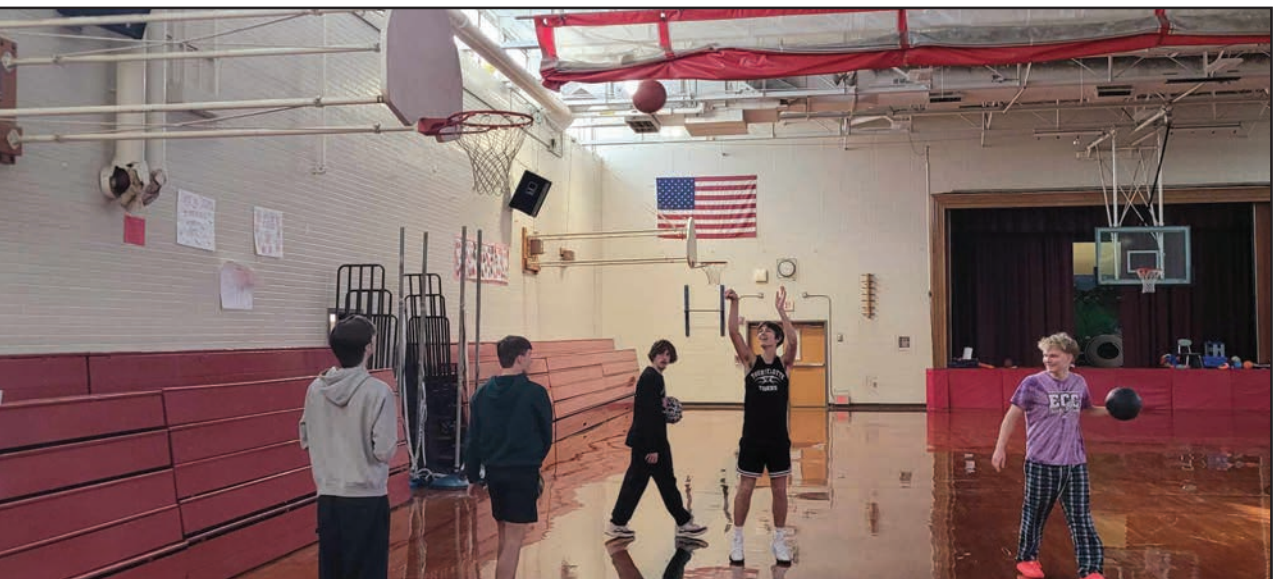
end, will celebrate its 164th year in 2025.

The Fair will open its gates for a special preview night with some new attractions on Thursday, Aug. 28 at 4 p.m.

The entire Fair will open on Friday, Aug. 29 at noon, and will run through Monday, Sept. 1 at 8 p.m.

Watch for more announcements about the 2025 brand new, grand 'ole Woodstock Fair coming soon on [woodstock-fair.com](http://woodstock-fair.com).

## Local nonprofits host youth basketball clinic



Jason Bleau

Tourtellotte Memorial High School basketball players helped teach local youths the basics and values of basketball during a week-long clinic in January.

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

THOMPSON — Basketball is one of the most popular pastimes in the United States. Whether it's taking to the community court in the summer or the local gym in the winter months, the sport serves as a way to let off some steam, improve teamwork, and maybe show off some

skills while spending time with friends or complete strangers. Its popularity has made it the subject of many youth programs over the years, and locally, two organizations partnered to provide another opportunity for local kids to embrace or discover their love of the game.

Northeast Opportunities for Wellness (NOW) and the

Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group (TEEG) came together to offer a free basketball clinic through the month of January bringing in coaches and student athletes from Tourtellotte Memorial High School to teach up-and-coming players the values of the game. Every Saturday from Jan. 11 through Feb. 1, the program offered students a chance to get

hands on experience improving their skills on the court while also learning to deeper life lessons the game has to offer.

Mackenzie Corriveau, a Wellness Leader for NOW, said the clinic was a way to get kids out of the house and allow them an outlet during a time of the year where they're

Turn To **CLINIC** page **A8**



# Killingly track battles it out at Wesleyan



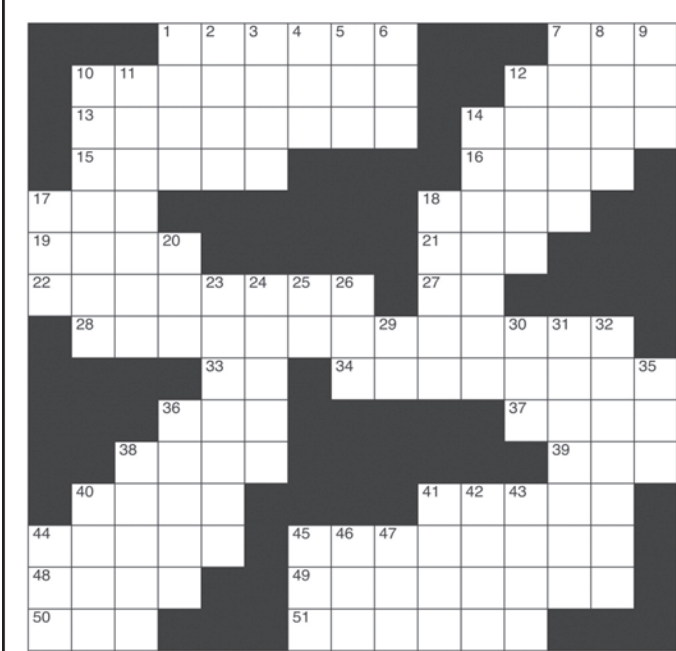
BY MARK NEUMAN  
HEAD COACH  
KILLINGLY HIGH SCHOOL INDOOR TRACK

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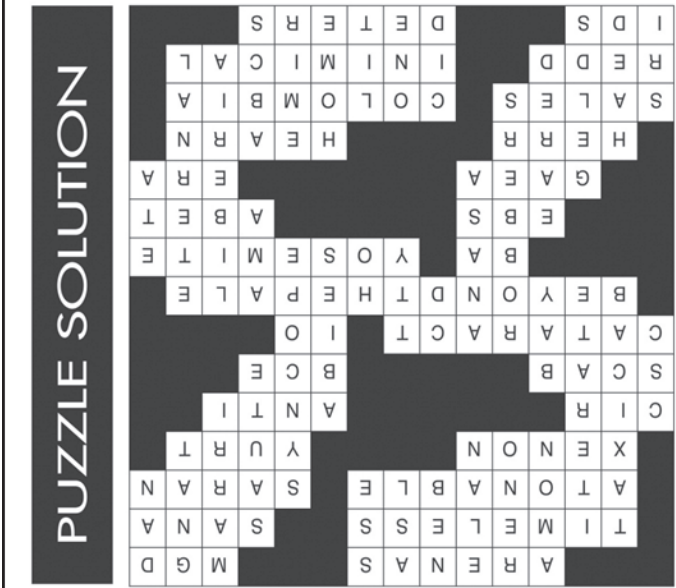


- ### CLUES ACROSS

  - Where entertainers perform
  - Miller beer variety
  - Ageless
  - River in SE Europe
  - Able to be repaired
  - Type of wrap
  - Atomic #54
  - Type of tent
  - U.S. Treasury position
  - Opposed to
  - Protective covering
  - Bridge building degree
  - Clouding of the lens
  - Priestess of Hera loved by Zeus
  - Unacceptable
  - Mr. T's "The A-Team" character
- American national park
  - One point south of due east
  - Assist in a crime
  - Greek mythological personification of Earth
  - A major division of geological time
  - German courtesy title
  - English family dating back to Norman times
  - Discounts
  - South American nation
  - Former Milwaukee Buck Michael
  - Hostile
  - Passports and drivers licenses are two
  - Discourages from doing

- ### CLUES DOWN

  - Supreme god of ancient Egyptians
  - Nevada city
  - Energy, style and enthusiasm
  - Bird's beak
  - Language
  - Midway between south and southeast
  - Punjab village
  - Small biting flies
  - Sportscaster Patrick
  - A way to get around
  - Repeat
  - A way to cook with fat
  - Temporary loss of consciousness
  - Reciprocal of a sine
  - Fir tree genus
  - "Transformers" director Michael
- Criminals who steal
  - Genus of leaf-footed bug
  - Music product
  - "Talk to you"
  - Santa says it three times
  - Doctors' group
  - African nation
  - Ageless
  - When you hope to get somewhere
  - Worn
  - Deprives of vigor
  - Used to have (Scottish)
  - Where you live
  - Muslim ruler title
  - Basics
  - Type of drug (abbr.)
  - Spanish soldier
  - It precedes two
  - Illuminated



KILLINGLY — Last Tuesday, Killingly Indoor Track & Field team battled at Wesleyan University. This meet had 30 schools battling... competition was some of the most intense of the season! Killingly High School graduated for the day and battled in college!

As always, ladies first:

Rebecca Gardner, Emerson Joly, and Marley Cusson competed in the 600m in a field of 53, all 3 ladies put up great times! Marley and Graciella Baublitz ran hard in the 55m dash, Grace put up another fresh, PR! Both ladies also competed at Shot Put. Gracie launched her Shot for a fresh, new PR! Great job ladies representing on and off of the track as always!

On to the gentlemen:

We sent nine gentlemen into the 55m dash in a field of 100 strong! Elijah Ward, Jon Palmer, Cooper Logee, Izayah Molodich, Jackson Olson

with a fresh PR, Casey Hamilton with a SB, Jake Sangasy with a fresh PR, and Everton Brown finished 3rd in an incredibly tough field! In the 600m, Casey was seen putting in work! Killingly's own long distance specialist was working hard for the 1600m... we'd also like to give a special shout out to our other great long distance specialist Caydan Jonasch who was celebrating his Birthday, Happy Birthday Caydan! In Shot Put, our 3 gentlemen were launching their shots in the air! Jackson, Calvin, and Wesley Sprouse with yet another fresh PR did great! In High Jump, we have fresh PRs for BOTH Cooper and Jeremiah Smith! Jeremiah took 4th while Cooper took 5th! In Long Jump, Jeremiah and Coop both took flight to put up great marks! Annd our last event, the 4x 400, credit has to be given to all athletes as everyone was out of gas. Ty, Jackson, Wes and Casey ran a great race! Great job gentlemen representing on and off the field!

We have one more regular season meet to go and then we're onto the playoffs, let's keep going strong! We want to again thank all the parents and friends that showed up for the meet with a long drive, we could hear you and the team appreciates you!

## Rotary's Interact Club recognizes top bell ringers



Gabriell Cerasiello with Rotary President Doug Porter and Interact advisor Roberta Rocchetti and the Ring a Ding trophy for volunteering the most hours.



Kaelyn Tremblay accepting the first-place certificate for Woodstock Academy. Students from the academy worked the highest number of hours.

PUTNAM — The Putnam Rotary Club's Interact Club, ringing bells through the bitter cold, raised more than \$13,000 this year for the Salvation Army. The Interactors received high praise and awards Jan. 24.

The Salvation Army's Debbie White, director of Social Services for Connecticut and Rhode Island, said the first kettle campaign might have been considered successful in 1891 "but not as successful as you — you are the top money-raising group in the whole state."

Over the last 27 years, according to Rotarian and Interact advisor Roberta Rocchetti, the Interact members have raised more than \$250,000 for this region.

All the funds raised stay local, helping the Putnam office of the Salvation Army. Kathi Peterson said she appreciates the young people who "make my ability to assist families who are struggling much easier."

June Ferraro, co-president of the Interact Club, thanked all the volunteers who helped raise the money.

Woodstock Academy took home the award for the school that worked the most hours.

The volunteer breakdown included: One student from Pomfret School (two hours); three students from Marianapolis (nine hours); three students from UConn (nine hours); 16 students from Putnam High School (126.5 hours); 27 students from Tourtellotte Memorial High School (129 hours) and 44 students from Woodstock Academy (181.5 hours).

In the fierce competition for the individual that volunteered the most hours and gets to take home the traveling bell-ringer trophy: First-place went to Gabriell Cerasiello of Putnam High who worked 32 hours. In second was Paige Perry of Putnam High with 19 hours and in third was Ella Carota, also of Putnam High, who worked 18 hours.

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## 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.



# Danielson Martial Arts Academy announces newest round of students at grading



DANIELSON — Thursday, Jan. 23, five time Martial Arts Hall of Fame inductee, 7th Dan Master Daryl Laperle announces promotion of 24 students in the schools most recent grading.

Colby Densmore - 1 Gup Red  
Dawn Dionne - 1 Gup Red  
Autumn St. Jean - 1 Gup Red  
Kyra Dionne - 2 Gup Red  
Olivia Mello - 2 Gup Red  
TJ King - 3 Gup Red  
Ophelia Fredericks - 5.5 Gup Purple  
Liberty Harty - 6 Gup Purple  
Raymond Ferland - 6.5 Gup Purple  
Emily Castro - 6.5 Gup Purple  
Kile Gagnon - 6.5 Gup Purple  
Nico Della Porta - 7 Gup Blue  
Bradley Hebert - 8 Gup Blue

Esme' King - 8 Gup Blue  
Benjamin Mello - 8 Gup Blue  
John Wisniewski - 9 Gup Orange  
Ashley Snavelly - 9 Gup Orange  
Noor Javed - 9 Gup Orange  
Annabelle Mello - 9 Gup Orange  
Lillian Spaulding - 9 Gup Orange  
Lincoln Crousey - 9 Gup Orange  
Bennett Drew - 9 Gup Orange  
Abigail Burlingame - 9 Gup Orange  
Otto Griffiths - 9 Gup Orange

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At CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of Jan. 20: Carolina Wren, Raven, American Tree Sparrow, Flicker, Red-winged Blackbird, Red-tailed Hawk, Black Vulture, Mockingbird, Bluebird, House Finch, Goldfinch, Song Sparrow, Junco, White-throated Sparrow. Visit ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home.

Arts Council announces call for artists

PUTNAM —The Putnam Arts Council (PAC) has issued a call for local artists who would like to donate a work of art for their second annual PAC Art Heist. It is a wonderful opportunity for artists to share their talent with new collectors (displayed in many Putnam locations prior to the Heist) while supporting local artists and art-based businesses through PAC scholarships and grants. In addition, each donor will be entered into a drawing for two Bradley Playhouse Flex Passes (each pass good for 4 plays in the 2025 season).

Artwork donations must be valued at a minimum of \$50 and can be any subject matter, media and theme. The PAC urges artists to submit their best representation of their talent as the Heist ticket holders will be competing to own the best!

The Heist will be held on March 8 from 5-8 p.m. at the Montgomery Ward Building, 112 Main St., Putnam. Starting in early February the public will be invited to purchase \$50 tickets which will give them the opportunity to “steal” their favorite artwork during the event. It’s a unique and fun event where each ticket holder goes home with a new piece of art worth at least the same as their ticket price, usually much more.

More information can be found at PutnamCtArtsCouncil.com.

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EDITOR

# Keeping it local —why our community matters most

Big stories from far away dominate our feeds, leaving little room for the stories that directly impact our daily lives. But here in New England, we have something special, a culture of pragmatism, resilience, and a commitment to our neighbors that deserves more of our attention than any distant drama.

When you know what’s happening in your town, you can make better decisions, participate in meaningful ways, and strengthen your community. From town meetings and school board decisions to the opening of a new business or a neighbor organizing a food drive, these are the stories that impact our daily lives.

Local news reminds us that what happens right outside our door often affects us far more than what’s unfolding hundreds of miles away. Sure, keeping an eye on national or global events is important, but the real opportunities for change and impact start right here.

Living in New England is a badge of honor. This isn’t an easy place to call home, and we like it that way. The winters are brutal, the terrain is rugged, and the people. We’re straightforward, skeptical of nonsense, and fiercely independent. But beneath that no-nonsense exterior is a deep sense of loyalty and community.

We might argue about who makes the best chowder or complain about tourists clogging the roads in leaf-peeping season, but when someone in our community needs help, we show up.

Social media and national headlines are filled with division and negativity, but we know better. We’ve built a culture where actions matter more than words and where we measure people not by their politics, but by how they treat others.

Ask yourself, how can I make an impact here? Can you volunteer at a local food pantry? Mentor a student? Organize a block party to bring people together? These small, tangible actions might not make national news, but they’ll make a world of difference to the people around you.

At the end of the day, we’re New Englanders. We don’t fall for the fluff or the fearmongering. We know life is about the relationships we build and the community we create. It’s about showing up, speaking truth, and taking care of the people around us.

### 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.

# OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Withdraw from the WHO? What?!

To the Editor:

One of President Trump’s first executive actions is to withdraw from the World Health Organization?

Without the WHO, we lose early access to vital data about disease outbreaks around the world. Because we support the WHO with major funding - I heard one sixth of its budget -we have privileged access to the latest public health threats information and can then go to work with our own scientists to develop rapid response vaccines and safe-

guards which serve our own people. This is what happened with COVID-19. Our support of and access to the WHO, combined with U.S. wealth and innovation enabled us to emerge from COVID-19 in better shape than most of the rest of the world.

Withdraw from an early warning system that would help our own scientists fight the next pandemic? What madness is this?

KAREN RYKER  
WOODSTOCK

### Don’t pretend Jan. 6 didn’t happen

To the Editor:

As promised on the campaign trail, one of the first executive orders signed by the new President released from responsibility over 1,500 fellow citizens convicted of crimes in the attack on our U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, in an attempt to overturn the results of the 2020 election of former President Joe Biden. Most of those convicts pled “guilty;” and all others were found guilty by juries of our peers. How was this an injustice perpetrated by a “weaponized” Biden administration?

To this day, in the face of overwhelming evidence — over 60 court rulings and testimony of many state registrars of voters supporting the results, and certifications of all 50 states — the new President insists that he won that election. He is either so mentally or emotionally impaired that he cannot perceive reality, or he is lying. The conclusion I have reached can be classified as an opinion, but the data and facts of that election are verifiable and accurate — not merely my opinion.

Some facts about those Jan. 6 convicts pardoned or whose sentences were commuted: 1) over 600 of them were found guilty of violent crimes; 2) more than 140 law enforcement personnel were injured that day; 3) those pardoned or with case dismissals in Connecticut returned to Canterbury, Derby, Greenwich, Groton, Harwinton, New London, Ridgefield, Waterford, Westport and Wolcott-13 total as of this writing; 4) threats have been publicly recorded by some of those released to take revenge, to purchase guns and to run for public office.

Maybe some readers have not seen any of the footage of that day in our nation’s Capitol, of police officers bloodied and overrun; barriers torn down and used as weapons; of the gallows erected on the plaza; of Ashli Babbitt fatally shot as, with others, she entered the Capitol building through a broken window; of Vice President Pence and his family being rushed to safety only moments before angry assailants arrived seeking him and any legislators they might find; officers inside the building turning to face the mob and be beaten, eye-gouged, crushed in doorways, trampled and kicked with hateful and condemning foul language. It’s not easy to watch, especially if one remembers that this is not an invasion by a foreign power, but by our own citizens using violent-not peaceful-means.

In case you have believed that this was not a violent protest to prevent the peaceful transition of power, the weapons used (most of which had to have been brought into the building) included: “firearms, stun guns, flagpoles, fire extinguishers, bike racks, batons, a metal whip, office furniture, pepper spray, bear spray, a tomahawk ax, a hatchet, a hockey stick, knuckle gloves, a baseball bat, a massive ‘Trump’ billboard, ‘Trump’ flags, a pitchfork, pieces of lumber, crutches and... an explosive device,” per NBC News. How would you like to see those objects coming your way as you are outnumbered by an angry mob?

As the mother of a 25-year police lieutenant who also serves as a Lt. Colonel in the Army National Guard in a state not far

from the District of Columbia, how would you like to envision your child in the middle of this attack, whose job it is to protect every single member of Congress and the Vice President and family? I pictured my child being called up to respond, but that did not happen until later in the week when order had been restored and protective fencing was being installed. And it amazes me to recall that, even with those terrible injuries and shock that this was happening in the United States of America endured by those law enforcement men and women, not one legislator or staff member was injured or touched, even though some were literally being hunted by the attackers.

Many of these same Capitol police officers have been on duty this past week during the inauguration of our new President, even though they may feel that the trauma and PTSD they have experienced was due to the summoning and encouragement of the very people who are now proclaiming these attackers as “patriots” and “hostages.” It takes a special kind of person to have such a high sense of honor for our country and its institutions that duty overrides any personal feelings about those they are protecting. I doubt if our new President would be able to understand such high-mindedness-yes, my opinion again.

There are many defensive, evasive, fact-free, straight-faced lying congressmen and congresswomen in Washington now either ignoring the significance of Jan. 6, 2021, mischaracterizing it as a day of peaceful protest, or attacking the previous administration for issuing so many pardons, as if the current president has been swayed by what the previous president did or didn’t do. It brings to mind a quote attributed to German-American historian and philosopher Hannah Arendt: “This constant lying is not aimed at making people believe a lie, but at ensuring that no one believes anything anymore. A people that can no longer distinguish between truth and lies cannot distinguish between right and wrong. And such a people, deprived of the power to think and judge, is, without knowing and willing it, completely subjected to the rule of lies. With such a people, you can do whatever you want.”

I happen to still have faith in our ability to distinguish between right and wrong, opinion and fact (which sometimes match up), thinking and feeling. I have found that feelings alone are never a reliable guide to action; feelings must always be checked against the facts of any situation before proceeding, when time allows. And I remember seeing with my own eyes an unforgettable sight: hundreds of angry, out-of-control people, mostly white men, hanging from the ledges and window frames and balconies of the Capitol four years ago. Don’t pretend this did not happen. Use your own mind and listen to your heart. And say a prayer of thanks to those who showed up for work one day and whose lives were ended, ruined, changed forever because of a presidential candidate who was — and remains — a sore loser.

Respectfully,  
CLAUDIA TERWILLIGER ALLEN  
THOMPSON

### Trump loves cop beaters

To the Editor:

I wonder what your readers think about President Donald Trump’s pardon of the convicted felons who viciously beat over 140 police officers in the failed Jan. 6, 2021 insurrection. How would they feel if their son or daughter, or wife or husband had been assaulted by violent thugs who had been called “hostages” and “political prisoners” by the President of the United States of America? What would you think if your loved one subsequently died as a direct result? How would apologists for the first rapist and felon elected President of the United States such as Mr. DeLuca feel if Trump had pardoned a convicted felon who grievously injured or killed one of his loved ones? Does it make you feel better, Mr. Editor, that Trump found it “too cumbersome” to review the 1,500 convictions to separate the violent from the non-violent criminals?

Trump pardoned those cop beaters in one of his first official acts on Monday, emulating Hitler who pardoned his goons, the Brownshirts. That’s what you, we, voted for apparently. But if you thought you voted for him because groceries cost too much, you can’t find affordable housing, home and car insurance rates have

gone out of reach, or the immigration system needs reform, there’s bad news.

There’s nothing in the hundreds of Trump’s decrees that will make groceries cheaper, or address the cost and severe shortage of housing, or reform the immigration system. Nothing that will make our children and grandchildren safer from gun violence in school or slow the warming climate which is causing causing death and destruction across the country. Nothing that might improve your life unless you’re already ultra-wealthy.

But take heart. The pardons that cemented the loyalty of the two right-wing militias to Donald Trump are just one of the “doom and gloom” predictions that came true. Now, the Proud Boys and Oath Keepers can be confident that they can commit political violence in his name with impunity. Trump promised to prosecute and imprison his perceived enemies but now his personal paramilitaries can deal with them and dispense with the cumbersome criminal justice system. The newly freed cop beaters are openly vowing retribution against Trump’s opponents.

BILLY G. TAYLOR  
KILLINGLY

## Memories and smells

The sweet smell of a red strawberry on a cold January morning is enough to wake up every sense. It is a miracle that our local supermarket is awash in the bright colors of berries in the middle of a cold snap. The fruits look like jewels, and even have some taste and aroma. A simple nibble tickled my nostrils and gave me a momentary relief from the chill in the air and the news. Besides, I read that a decline in one’s sense of smell, anosmia, is an early sign of Alzheimer’s disease, and clearly, I could detect the strawberry across the kitchen. Whew! Keep smelling with intention.

One smell I seem to encounter often and everywhere is the odor of marijuana. In the same local supermarket, I was studying the dizzying number of choices in yogurt. I was engulfed in the sweet, musky, skunky smell. It was so strong, I was certain the people near me were smoking, but they were not. The odor must have been on their winter coats. It was strong.

Often as I stroll along walking trails, sidewalks, and public roads a cloud drifts by from a passing car, a motorcycle or even occasionally a bike. In the moment between fresh air or smelly air, there is no sign the aroma is about to descend. When it does, it lingers for only a few moments, but longer than a whiff of a tobacco cigarette. I guess vaping offers up even more complex aromas by adding smell to the mix.

On a trip to Sicily a few years ago, plans fell through one afternoon and our guide had to create a little adventure so he led our group through the tight streets of a small city. He took us to a hooka bar, where a few men sat around veiled in smoke. One pulled the plastic tip from his hooka, replaced it with a new one, and handed it to me. I took a puff. Several others did too. The charm of the thing was hard to grasp, but the smell reminded me of the pipe tobacco that was once commonly smoked in pipes by old men. I was hoping Aladdin would pop out.

Cigarette smoke engulfed nearly everyone in the world of my childhood. Men smoked with cigarette dangling from their lips as they drove a car, dug a ditch or read the paper. Women smoked in groups with the tips of the cigarettes dyed red by their bright lipstick. In conference rooms ash trays spilled their butts and ash on to the tables and into trash cans or between seat cushions. At a diner, a patron might put a cigarette out on the plate that had held his meal. Formal restaurants made a grand flourish of lighting a customer’s cigarette. The smoke mixed with the heavy sauces and liquor. Smoke was everywhere and now cigarette smoke is rare.

My husband leads chocolate tastings where he instructs people to let the chocolate melt slowly in their mouths and then breathe in. It’s lovely. The smell of hot chocolate is redolent of the best parts of winter. Instant memories spring to mind of skating parties and ski trips. With emotionally laden aromas, we can call up the past we really want to remember.

The smells we encounter change, but their power is remarkable. From the fumes wafting out of passing cars, to long extinguished briar pipes and unfiltered cigarettes to sweet strawberries, fresh chocolate, and soon the smells of spring, life without a good deep sniff would be nearly forgettable.



NANCY WEISS



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Innocent until proven guilty

To the Editor:

In his letter in the Villager on Jan. 24, Mr. Ed DeLuca took issue with me, Mr. Taylor, and Mr. Day. In doing so, he pretty much took what we wrote out of context, and then twisted it around, often drawing conclusions that were not there, in essence presenting a Straw Man. I cannot speak for Mr.'s Day and Taylor, but I can address his comments about me.

Mr. DeLuca took exception to my using the FBI as a source for data, calling it "Biden's FBI data," and said he had doubts about it being totally factual. This is the FBI under the directorship of Christopher Wray, the eighth Director of the FBI who was nominated by President Donald Trump and has served under both Trump and Biden. He was not appointed by Biden. Mr. DeLuca offers no counter data, or other source. In essence, he commits an ad/hom attack on the source of the data, and not the data itself, and, because Mr. Wray worked under President Biden, it cannot be valid. He would have failed the debate on this score alone.

In his letter, he seems to allude that Mr.'s Day, Taylor, and myself think that immigrants, documented or otherwise, that commit crimes should go unpunished. Here he makes a hasty generalization. None of us have made such a claim, and you really have to twist it to come to that conclusion. We simply stated that the vast majority of immigrants do not commit any crime. Again, only speaking for myself, no one should be immune from prosecution, or from punishment, including deportation, if they commit crimes – and this includes the President of the United States, a known felon, and the 1500 felons he just pardoned. One of those felons, by the way, has been rearrested for even more violent crimes. Mr. DeLuca wants all immigrants gone, because a minority

of them commit crimes. This is like saying if you're in a family of 12 and one of your children shoplifts, then the whole family should go to prison.

He goes on to quote statistics from ICE, who he apparently trusts, even though they also worked under President Biden. I don't question these statistics, just wonder why one government agency is reliable, and the other is not. But there he states that 500,431 non-citizens were arrested for various crimes between 2021 and 2024. According to usafacts.org, 11 million unauthorized people entered the country during the same period, so his criminals are a tiny fraction, 4.5%, of that number. Now all of those 500,431 people should be properly punished, if they have been convicted in a court of law, but the other 10,499,569 or 95.5 percent should not.

He goes on to quote statistics from Judicial Watch, which is a conservative activist group. I'm not questioning the data here, but on the face of it, I would assume it is somewhat biased. That said, they report that "nearly half of illegal immigrants arrested had multiple criminal charges, convictions." So of those 500,431, about 250,000 had multiple charges. This is not in any way unusual, and can be said about any criminal convicted of any crime. Our own Felonious President has been charged with over 90 crimes and convicted of 34, and that's just one person.

So I'm sorry once again that Mr. DeLuca chooses to paint with a broad brush. I choose to go by the tried and true phrase of justice, "innocent until proven guilty." The vast majority of immigrants, legally here or otherwise, have not been proven guilty of any crimes.

DAVE CLARK  
THOMPSON

Donald J. Trump — retribution at your expense

To the Editor:

Well, that didn't take too long. President Trump threw a hissy fit with no regard for his constituents that would be footing the bill.

With the dust barely settling on his inauguration, Trump wound up in a diplomatic slap fight with the Colombian government, who refused to accept military flights to repatriate Colombian migrants. The Colombian president wanted migrants returned on civilian aircraft without being treated like criminals, and on our end if you check the numbers those military flights cost far more per flight than if Homeland Security chartered their own planes. Trump of course decided to showcase "the art of the deal" by slapping tariffs on Colombian products, which would include a sizable amount of the coffee we import among other things.

Here's the issue. If Colombian coffee suddenly became artificially more expensive, what's to say traders wouldn't try higher prices on coffee coming from other countries? After all, goods are worth whatever someone will

pay for them, so if Americans willingly pay more for Colombian coffee, why not try to get a little more out of the other stuff? No problem for me though. I drink Walmart instant coffee from Mexico, so hooray for the USMCA! Oh, wait. Mexico has been threatened with tariffs too. Rinse, lather, repeat.

Coffee was already high due to climate change affecting coffee bean harvests, and I've screenshotted that the "cheap stuff" I drink is 60.3 cents per ounce right now. We'll see where it goes if Trump keeps pulling this nonsense.

Such is the dirty little secret of Trump's politics of retribution. For the sake of his ego and looking all macho in the Oval Office, you the main street American will be footing the bill.

Lest we forget, there was wailing and gnashing of teeth over Biden and inflation even though inflation was coming down and five dollar a gallon gas has become a distant memory. With Trump being 78 with a family history of dementia, let's see if he's anything more than Angry Biden.

JAY GERHART  
PUTNAM

Thoughts on recent land preservations

To the Editor:

Land development does need to occur at times. Latitude Commercial writes that it is important because it leads to "increased property value" and betters "the overall quality of life in the area." This might allow safer housing for those searching for it and indirectly would provide the realtor with a heftier paycheck. However, although this is undeniably significant, there is something else that is possibly even more so. Something about which the people of this great state have spoken. They have commanded us to keep in mind the preservation of our earth in its natural state. And they are talking about it now.

Only a few weeks ago, the Jan. 3 edition of the Thompson Villager highlighted how the Berry family in Killingly preserved their land. They donated "15 acres of woodland" in order to "honor [their] parents' wish that the land surrounding [their] family home be held in conservation" (Thompson Villager, p. A2). This would allow the public to be able to explore their forests, pond, and native animals, something for which they were quite cheerful. In the same edition was mentioned the preservation of parts of the Buck Hill Scout Reservation in both Connecticut and Rhode Island. Many mammals and birds will profit from the protection of this land, as well as "amphibians that struggle to survive when exposed to toxic runoff from

streets..." (Thompson Villager, p. A7). Upon reading of these actions, I was deeply pleased and excited, and truly appreciate the setting aside of parts of the earth for the thriving of nature and the enjoyment of humans. One of the noted animals that will now have protected habitat was the Cerulean Warbler. Being a birdwatcher, a lighthearted, joyous sensation came over me as I learned of this, for this particular bird is very uncommon, and now its population has more of a chance to increase.

The fact of the matter is that most people love nature: the pleasure of walking in a quiet forest is completely unparalleled, and seeing untouched land still remains a blessing to many. We must retain that feeling and the possibility of experiencing it. And thankfully, some individuals already agree. In the latest edition of the Villager from Jan. 24, it was described how the residents of Thompson refused to allow a solar project to commence on a scenic road in the town. It is important for there to not be unrestricted destruction of land in its natural state, and not just so that animal life can stay out of danger. Sometimes people would just rather wake up and see the trees than solar panels, and that is a completely valid desire.

Thank you again,

GEORGE FOINT  
THOMPSON

Trump 2, DAY 1: "Unpardonable"

To the Editor:

The man who promised he'd be a dictator on day one has dictated. Here are a few of the things he did:

1) Tried to end birthright citizenship by executive fiat. "This is a blatant violation of the United States Constitution;" I didn't say that. The first federal judge to review Trump's order said that, and he was a Reagan appointee.

2) Withdrew the United States from the World Health Organization. Bird flu is just starting to rev up. Remember his expertise on Covid 19 five years ago- "it's only fifteen cases and it'll be zero in a few weeks"? Seems like a bad time to cut ourselves off from international health expertise.

3) Withdrew the United States from the Paris Climate Accords that aim to reduce global warming. He just doesn't get it that hurricanes and wildfires are destroying our planet, and that fossil fuel consumption is a major cause.

4) Worst of all, pardoned and set free about 1500 people convicted of storming the Capitol on his behalf four years ago. 400 of them had been convicted of assault on police officers, five of whom died, hundreds of whom were injured, and thousand of whom were traumatized. We all saw the riot with our own lying eyes, but Trump has the nerve to call his minions hostages and even heroes. Now even the cop killers are back on the streets, and guess what? Some of them are vowing revenge.

In one day, Trump walked upon the Constitution that he swore to defend, he threatened our health and our children's inheritance of this planet, and he flipped the finger at our rule of law. Make America Groan Again.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN D. BOLAND  
POMFRET CENTER

ADDITIONAL LETTERS TO THE EDITOR,  
SEE PAGE A-8



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# When cooking ‘went electric’

Inclement Weather: In case of inclement weather, check WINY or call the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center after 10:15 to see if it is open. (860-779-7250).

Celebrate Black History Month. The Remarkable Women of the Six Triple Eight; The Only All-Black, All-Female Unit to be sent overseas in WWII. Saturday, Feb. 15 at 12:30 p.m. (Snow date Feb. 22). Putnam Municipal Complex. 200 School Street, Putnam. Presented by Melodye Whatley.

I have been reading “My Life in France” by Julia Child, and have learned she paid great attention to details and using the proper French cooking implements. Living in France with her diplomat husband, Paul, she was bound and determined to learn French and soon found herself embracing the food. Despite the challenges of different ingredients (American flour is different than French), different measurement (the French weigh their ingredients for recipes which are in grams), she, with several friends persevered, eventually wrote

a cookbook, and when she returned to the greater Boston area was asked to do a pilot cooking show for WGBH. Soon, she was a regular! I remember that my late mother would watch her, but I was too busy watching children to do that.

I mentioned this to my youngest sister Susie, and we reminisced about our maternal grandmother’s cooking. She made marvelous cookies, but we never saw her use a whisk or an electric mixer. A trusty wooden spoon was her “go-to” tool. Nana did have a rotary egg-beater. Susie wondered when electric mixers were invented. Of course, you know me by now. I had to check.

AI Overview says that the first electric mixer was invented in 1885 by Rufus Eastman. The first electric stand mixer was invented in 1908 by Herbert Johnson. Wikipedia has quite a lengthy write-up on mixers. That was much earlier than we expected.

I guess I must take after Nana for I always made my cookies by hand, with a spoon. When I was still a teen-



KILLINGLY  
AT 300



MARGARET  
WEAVER

ager and in college my little sisters loved to help (I’m the oldest of nine children so we devoured cookies). So did my children when they came along. Ah, what wonderful aromas! What joy!

I was curious about when the electric toaster was invented. I still remember being fascinated by the ancient “toaster” my Lithuanian aunt would put on top of the old coal range in my other grandmother’s kitchen. (There were no counters). It was metal and had two doors that opened, one on each side. My sister Susie found several reasonably similar ones for sale on eBay. So, how long have toasters been around? An internet search produced the following about toasters from Wikipedia. The first stand-alone electric toaster, the Eclipse, was made in 1893 by Crompton & Company of Chelmsford, Essex. Its bare wires toasted bread on one side at a time. {Underlining mine}. “The primary technical problem in toaster development at the turn of the 20th century was the development of a heating element that would be able to sustain repeated heating to red-hot temperatures without breaking or becoming too brittle....The problem of the heating element was solved in 1905 by a young engineer named Albert Marsh, who designed an alloy of nickel and chromium, which came to be known as nichrome.

The first US patent application for an electric toaster was filed by

George Schneider of the American Electrical Heater Company of Detroit in collaboration with Marsh. In 1913, Lloyd Groff Copeman and his wife Hazel Berger Copeman applied for various toaster patents, and in that

same year, the Copeman Electric Stove Company introduced a toaster with an automatic bread turner. Before this, electric toasters cooked bread on one side, meaning the bread needed to be flipped by hand to cook both sides. Copeman’s toaster turned the bread around without having to touch it. The automatic pop-up toaster, which ejects the toast after toasting it, was first patented by Charles Strite in 1921. AI revealed that General Electric unveiled the first toaster oven in 1956. That’s now what I use for toast rather than a toaster.

As we begin a new year, I want to write of People from Our Past who have helped make the Quiet Corner a special place. The first individual helped settle three towns in Northeastern Connecticut. Peter Aspinwall, was one of the thirteen individuals who left Roxbury, Massachusetts in the spring of 1686 to “spy out” land for a new settlement. “New Roxbury,” Massachusetts, now Woodstock, Connecticut was the result. When problems with the Native Americans developed in Massachusetts, Peter, designated a lieutenant, served as a scout along with some Mohegans. Still in New Roxbury, following in his father’s footsteps as a surveyor, young Peter was called into service to lay out a road below the falls in (hew a path) from Woodstock, across the Quinebaug River and on

to Providence. About 1703 he and his family moved to the easterly side of that river, settling on land which would become part of Killingly and later Putnam. Windham County historian Ellen Larned noted that Aspinwall Cemetery in present-day Putnam was near the eastern bound of his tract.

After the incorporation of Killingly in 1708, Aspinwall was recommended to train and command the soldiers of the town. In 1713, he was chosen to be Killingly’s first representative to the General Assembly and served again in 1714 and 1716. (Colonial Records of Connecticut, 1706-1716). In 1716 he was appointed Justice of the Peace for New London County under whose jurisdiction the town belonged.

He was also instrumental in establishing Killingly’s first church. In 1715 Aspinwall and Simon Bryant, on behalf of the residents, petitioned the General Assembly to grant a church. The request was approved. Peter and his stepson James Leavens were among the eleven original members who united in church fellowship on Oct. 19, 1715. In December Aspinwall was chosen one of the first deacons of the church... an indication of his high standing in the community. (Larned, History of Windham County, Connecticut, Vo. I., p. 170).

Peter was one of the members of the committee that laid out Killingly’s first distribution of common land in 1721 and was again a member of the committee which distributed additional land in 1744. (Killingly Book of Surveys). His talents were many, and likewise his participation in town affairs was great.

Peter Aspinwall

apparently waited until he was older to marry. On March 24, 1699 he married Elizabeth (Preston) Leavens, the widow of early Woodstock proprietor John Leavens. With the widow came a number of almost-adult stepsons (Peter, James, Joseph, and Benjamin Leavens) who also would be among Killingly’s and Putnam’s earliest settlers. Records seem to indicate that in his twilight years Peter left Killingly. In the mid-1740’s a land record places him in Mansfield, Connecticut. Perhaps he lived with relatives. (Killingly Land Records, Vo. 5, p. 20). No record or burial has been found for either Peter Aspinwall or his wife Elizabeth (Leavens) Aspinwall. However, their contribution to Woodstock’s, Killingly’s, and Putnam’s histories and that of Northeast Connecticut should long be remembered. (For sources not cited see Larned’s History of Windham County, Connecticut, Vo. I). Also see Perspectives of Putnam, a history of Putnam, which I wrote. It contains more detailed information about Peter Aspinwall and is available at the Putnam Public Library and the Aspinock Historical Society.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, January 2025. Special thanks to Susie Markunas Dayan for asking about mixers and finding the reference for antique toasters. For additional information email me at 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 www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety.

## KILLINGLY CHRONICLES FEB. 3 – FEB. 8

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

Monday the 3rd  
Inland, Wetlands and Water Courses Commission Meeting (Town Meeting Room – Town Hall) 7 p.m.  
Tuesday the 4th  
Special Town Council Meeting (Town Meeting Room – Town Hall) 7 p.m.  
Wednesday the 5th  
Killingly Community Gardens Meeting (Room 102 – Town Hall) 5 p.m.  
Permanent Building Commission Meeting (Town Meeting Room – Town Hall) 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY EVENTS  
Lit Loot Bag (Ages 13-18) from Feb. 1 until Feb. 10 at Killingly Public Library  
Monday the 3rd  
An Epic Book Quest (Ages 13-18) (Library) All Day  
Wonderful Ones & Twos (Library) 9:30 to 10 a.m.  
Monday Mystery Matinee (Ages 18 and up) (Library) 1 to 3 p.m.  
Tuesday the 4th  
Moving & Grooving (Ages 1-5) (Library) 9:30 to 10 a.m.  
Craft & Chat (Ages 18 and up) (Library) 10:30 a.m. to noon  
Virtual Author Talk: Sabrina Sholts (Library) 7 p.m.

Wednesday the 5th  
Virtual Story Time (Ages three and up) (Library) 10 to 10:30 a.m.  
Little Listeners (Ages 2-5) (Library) 11 to 11:30 a.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 6th  
Story Craft (Ages 2-6) (Library) 10:30 to 11 a.m.  
Friday the 7th  
AARP Tax Assistance (Library) 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

Virtual High Five 2025 (Killingly Community Center/KPRD) (Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday)  
Let’s Get Moving February – Feb. 4 through Feb. 25 – Tuesdays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)  
Senior Yoga February – Feb. 7 through Feb. 28 – 9 and 10:30 a.m. – Fridays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)  
Homeschool Art Club – 3 Month Session - Tuesdays February – Intro to Mixed Media  
March – Maker Madness  
Jan. 7 through March 25 (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)  
Zumba with Movement Magic – Jan. 27 through Feb. 10 – Mondays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)  
Beginner Salsa Dancing – May 5 through May 19 – Mondays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)  
Beginner Rhythm Ballroom Dancing - Session 2 – March 3 through March 17 – Mondays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)  
55+ Chair Pound for Seniors – Session 1 – March 3 through March 25 – Mondays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)  
Outdoor Spring Strength and Conditioning – March 11 through April 22 – Tuesdays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)  
55+ Chair Pound for Seniors – Session 2 – April 28 through June 9 – Mondays (Killingly Community Center/KPRD)  
Mystic Village/Mystic Luxury Cinemas Trip – April 17

\*\*\*Send your favorite Valentine a singing Cupid, flower and chocolate from the Killingly Parks & Recreation Department on Feb. 14! Register at Killingly Parks & Recreation Department or call 860-779-5390\*\*\*

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.killinglyct.gov](http://www.killinglyct.gov).

# Kid- and pet-friendly indoor gardening

Creating an indoor oasis of greenery can help lift your spirits, reduce stress and improve your overall wellbeing. Challenges arise when growing indoor plants with kids and pets in the house. Keep them safe by selecting pet- and kid-safe plants and pest management strategies.

Increase your indoor gardening success by selecting plants suited to your home’s growing conditions and gardening style. If you tend to overwater your plants, grow moisture-loving plants or opt for more drought-tolerant plants if you practice benign neglect. Once you have your list, double-check their people and pet toxicity. Consult with your veterinarian and visit the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) website for a list of pet-safe and toxic plants. Consult with your pediatrician, local botanical garden, and children’s hospital for a list of kid-friendly indoor plants.

Keep an ongoing list of all the plants you are growing. Include both common and botanical names for accurate identification. Research the care they need and their toxicity to your pets and youngsters in the home. If you suspect your pet or child has ingested a toxic plant, you’ll have the proper plant name when contacting your veterinarian or poison control center.

Display any toxic plants out of the reach of curious kids and pets. This can be challenging if your cat or child is skilled at jumping and climbing. With so many beautiful houseplants, play it safe and avoid those that are toxic or too tempting.

Secure plants against accidental tipping by inquisitive pets and kids with mounting putty. A couple of pieces on the bottom of the pot will help reduce the risk of spilled plants and soil. Invest in pots with wider bases for floor plants or secure several pots together to reduce the risk of tipping.

Cover the soil surface to prevent children and pets from digging. Fiber mulch and plant pot grid covers create a barrier between the soil and those who like to dig.

Once you narrow down the list, place your kid- and pet-friendly plants where they will receive the necessary amount of sunlight. An east- or west-facing window provides enough light for most indoor plants. Keep those that need brighter light within two feet of the window. Those that prefer lower light can be grown near a north-facing window or up to six feet back or off to the side of an east- or west-facing window.

Regularly groom and wipe dust off the leaves of your indoor plants to help reduce the risk of insect damage. Remove spotted leaves when they appear and adjust your watering. This is often enough to correct fungal disease problems. Enlist children in the ongoing care of your indoor plants. This will help them gain respect for the plants and may instill a love of gardening.

Give kids a hand lens and go on an indoor pest



Melinda Myers

**Prayer plant (Maranta leuconeura) is a tropical plant with beautiful, unique foliage that’s non-toxic to pets and people.**

hunt. Children often find bugs more interesting than plants. Have them place yellow sticky traps like Summitá Sticky Traps in various pots to help monitor and trap insect pests.

Always look for kid- and pet-friendly options when intervention is needed. Start with a strong blast of water to dislodge pests like aphids and mites. Follow with an application of a lightweight horticulture oil like Summitá Year-Roundá Spray Oil. This organic spray controls aphids, mites, immature whiteflies, and all stages of scale and mealybugs.

And if those tiny fruit-fly-like gnats are too annoying to tolerate, consider managing them with a Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis product like Summitá Mosquito Bitsá(SummitResponsibleSolutions.com).

It’s labeled for controlling fungus gnat larvae and is non-toxic for people, pets, and plants. Always read and follow label directions when using any product. You’ll have better results and prevent problems caused by misapplication.

Proper plant selection and ongoing care will help keep your indoor plants healthy and children and pets safe from harm.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the 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 TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Summit for her expertise to write this article. Myers’ website is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).

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**DERBY**  
*continued from page A1*

money comes in just goes out to the next derby we have so we can continue to bring these people and families together,” said Zanauskas. Prizes were given out throughout the day for catching special tagged trout, the three biggest trouts, and the smallest trout. Raffles and food made special by the members of the Club were also available throughout the morning. The club will continue to host similar programs all year long including spring and summer derbies and a second ice fishing event scheduled for Feb. 23. Information on club events and membership opportunities can be found at [www.valleyspringssportsmans-club.com](http://www.valleyspringssportsmans-club.com).

**CLINIC**  
*continued from page A1*

often stuck inside unable to embrace a more active lifestyle. “A lot of these kids might be part of a team or didn’t make a team. Maybe it’s just something they like to do for fun and this is a less stressful environment for them. Winter can get pretty tough for a lot of people so it’s also good for their social and emotional wellness just to be a part of this and meet some new people as well,” Corriveau said. “The whole mission of NOW is to give the kids free opportunities to be a part of things like this. Their health is the most important thing. Offering these opportunities, it’s great when they can get involved.”

The program was also significant for TEEG, whose facility is on the Thompson School District campus walking distance from the Thompson Middle School gym where the clinics were held. Meg Gohn, Youth Advocate for TEEG, said many of their kids use sports as an outlet, so offering a winter clinic allows them to continue to help these kids grow and experience both new and familiar offerings that teach them new life skills and the value of teamwork.

“We live in an area where a lot of kids are just sitting at home, and we want them to make productive use of their time. The basketball clinic is an awesome, free opportunity for the kids who may not be able to afford a clinic, and they can hang out, learn some skills, and connect with adults and other kids in their community,” said Gohn. “We have a mentorship program as TEEG, and this is kind of a micro version of that where basketball teams come and teach them skills and it’s a chance for them to form positive relationships with these people.”

Basketball is one of the most unifying casual sports in the country, making clinics like this an important tool for enhancing the growth and maturity of local youths. For many of these kids, the mentoring of high school athletes alone provides them the confidence and motivation needed to improve their daily lives and chase their dreams.

The basketball clinics made up just one of many youth programs and activities offered by both NOW and TEEG throughout the year geared towards helping with social, emotional, and physical growth of local children and teens. Details regarding other available and upcoming programs are available on the NOW and TEEG websites and social media pages.



Pre-Calc, Statistics added to Killingly AP offerings

BY JASON BLEAU  
 VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — Killingly High School will be adding two new AP (Advanced Placement) courses to its curriculum after the Board of Education approved both classes during a meeting in early January. AP Pre-Calculus and AP Statistics were proposed simultaneously in a presentation by Lydia Miudo, the District Math Curriculum Coordinator,

on Jan. 8. Both courses will provide college-level credits with one serving as an introductory class for higher level studies and the other introducing a brand new subject to the school.

The pre-calculus course was discussed first as a way to provide a college level math course for students that want to fulfill their college credits in high school but may not want or need to pursue higher level subjects for their career path.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

So much for the “party of law and order”

To the Editor:

Our convicted felon president released over a thousand dangerous anarchists from prison simply because they’re his supporters. No surprises there. So much for “The Party of Law and Order” and “Back the Blue.” A slap in the face to every member of law enforcement nationwide, and a dog whistle to all MAGA extremists waiting in the wings.

If the Jan. 6 insurrection had happened in any other country (especially Trump’s favorites, Russia and North Korea), it would have ended much differently. Any of the terrorists who weren’t shot on site would have been thrown in jail for life, along with their “leader” who orchestrated the attack. But in “Trump World,” the violent criminals get a slap on the wrist and go free, and their ring-leader gets voted back into the White House by millions of gullible fools. Shortly after his release, Oath Keepers founder Stewart Rhodes met with at least one GOP lawmaker on Capitol Hill — maybe a job interview for a “Trump Goon Squad?”

Trump has been given a second chance to destroy our democracy, and he isn’t wasting any time. He’s already done plenty of damage in just a few days, and I’m sure the worst is yet to come. It’s too scary to imagine what our country might look like in four years

TODD PATRIE  
 POMFRET CENTER

Another episode of “Illegals in the News”

To the Editor:

Whether you’ve been expecting it, or dreading it ever happening again, here’s another episode of “Illegals in the News.” An illegal alien who was living in Government housing in Revere, Mass. was recently caught with five kilos of fentanyl and an AR-15, and the high Sheriff of Worcester County noted that operating migrant shelters in that state is costing the taxpayers \$3 million per day.

Apparently, some bleeding-heart liberals would rather hear about this criminal’s journey to the U.S. from the Dominican Republic instead of learning how many times he was deported and snuck back in? And evidently, they’re more concerned about the conditions he fled from instead of how the drugs got into his hands, or where they might have ended up if he hadn’t been caught. An illegal alien from Mexico has been charged with murdering his girlfriend in Utah, and this comes one week after he was deported from the United States for the second time. Then there was the illegal immigrant from Guatemala, who had also been deported and snuck back in, that lit a woman on fire on a New York City subway train, and more recently six migrants were arrested for trafficking two teen girls in Omaha, Neb. A convicted pedophile and illegal migrant was released from a Connecticut prison (north of Hartford) last month after his sympathetic parole board mulled how to best help him avoid deportation. He was serving five years in prison for felony second degree sexual assault against a child between 13 and 15 years old, and during his parole hearing, he said he “cannot promise he will not offend again.” And if it was announced that this criminal was now going to reside on the same streets as Messer’s Clark, Day, Jr. and Taylor, I’d bet they’d be screaming “NIMBY” louder than those sore-losers yelling at a lake. (And I wouldn’t blame you.)

In a past letter, Mr. Taylor said, “We can see the cruelty in your newspaper in letters under the heading of ‘Opinion’ that name-call, misrepresent immigrant communities, and express delight at the suffering of people certain writers disagree with.” But obviously, some people can’t see, or rather choose to ignore, the cruelty and the suffering that migrant crimes have caused the American people. But then they’re a good example of the bleeding-heart liberals that haven’t been affected by these crimes and enjoy living in the relative safety of places like the “Quiet Corner.”

In the first days of the Trump administration, ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations arrested more than 460 illegal immigrants that include criminal histories of sexual assault, child abuse, robbery, burglary, aggravated assault, drugs and weapons offenses, resisting arrest and domestic violence. ICE agents targeted individuals flagged with “Interpol red notices” (a designation reserved for the world’s most wanted criminals), and among those arrested were MS-13 gang members, convicted murderers and a Haitian man with 17 criminal convictions. Continue with your anti-Trumping all you want to, but maybe you could put your hatred aside for just a minute and at least thank #47 for getting these people off the streets? (But I doubt it.)

(Democrat) Mayor Mike Johnson said that the City of Denver will work with ICE and the Trump administration to deport immigrants who are “violent criminals.” Thank you, Sir, and when more democrats smarten-up and follow suit, this problem can end and I can stop writing about “Illegals in the News.” (And wouldn’t that make some readers happy?)

ED DELUCA  
 NORTH GROSVENORDALE

“As you can imagine, calculus is very rigorous at the college level, and it is even more so as a high school student,” said Miudo. “While it’s great that we offer that, and for those students that go on to college and have STEM majors that’s a really nice asset for us to have available to them, we have a lot of other students who go to college and have non-STEM majors. For non-STEM majors in college, you don’t necessarily need calculus you just need a math credit and that’s where these courses could come and play a role for our students.”

The AP class will replace an honors level pre-calculus course currently available at the high school and also provide a steady introduction to the established AP Calculus classes. While it would be recommended that qualifying students take the course as sophomores, it could be taken

at any grade level above ninth grade depending on the needs of the student. The district already has textbooks and staffing for the course which would include four different units three of which would be weighted at different percentages on the AP exam.

The second course, AP Statistics, is a brand new class for Killingly and introduces a subject that may be a niche interest for some but offers real-world applications for those who chose to take on the challenge.

“We don’t currently offer statistics at the high school. It’s something that would really be beneficial to our students to round out our offerings,” Miudo said. “AP Statistics would be a class a STEM major may want to add to their transcript and prepare them better for school. Many of them will need that course in college as well. It’s also

a course that would be appealing to non-STEM majors. Statistics is really the study of data analysis so if you think about all the careers and jobs out there that make use of data on a daily basis, even just as humans that interact with the world and graphs and information that comes at us, this is a powerful course that can help them be college ready and career ready.”

The AP Statistics course will not require new personnel but will require the purchase of textbooks. It’s courseload will include nine different units, each with different weighted percentages on the AP exam.

Both new classes will offer one college credit to students who successfully complete the course work. Both courses will also include costs for summer institute mentoring and school year mentoring programs.

Linda Touchette earns Westview’s Employee of the Month Award



Linda Touchette

DAYVILLE — Linda Touchette gained the accolade of Westview Employee of the Month to close out the year in December 2024.

At Westview Health Care Center, Touchette’s role as a Certified Nursing Assistant fortifies the nursing department with direct care and constant compassion for the patients and residents. She initially joined the Westview staff in March 2022 following a shift in her daily vocation. In the setting of the Dayville skilled nursing facility, she can often be found on the Annex Wing team of caregivers. She is very proud of her colleagues individually and as a team—and as this recognition indicates—they are also quite proud of her.

As mentioned, becoming a Certified Nursing Assistant is somewhat of a second career for Linda. Caring for others personally and professionally forms a lifelong passion in Touchette’s life. She graduated from Tourtelotte Memorial High School and went on to Worcester State University to study Early Childhood Education. For over 20 years following that, she was the Owner and Director of “First Steps,” a child care center in Thompson. When she began pursuing certification as a Nursing Assistant, she already carried a background in caregiving and compassion for others into her new vocation. She earned her status as a Certified Nursing Assistant through the CNA educational program at Westview Health Care Center. Over the last three years working with Westview, she appreciates her ability to continue connecting with people as a provider—and as this recognition heralds, her colleagues greatly appreciate her. Connecticut’s Quiet

Corner is where Touchette has called home for her entire life. Born and raised in Thompson, she lives there to this day. Having her parents, Muriel and Sherman, in town nearby affords many opportunities to share family moments together. Touchette and her husband, Kenneth Clark, have a large, loving family that spans four generations altogether. Her daughter Nicole and her husband Jim live in Fort Worth, Texas; her son Evan and his wife Laura reside in Windsor, Maine; her son Austin and his wife Brianna live in Brooklyn; and Clark’s daughter Cynthia and her husband live in East Baldwin, Maine. All of Touchette and Clark’s sons and daughters visit as often as they can, and bring the joy of “grandbabies” into their parents’ lives. When the grandchildren come to town, Linda is happy to recreate “daycare at Nanny’s house” with her kin. Some of Touchette’s favorite activities include tending her flower garden and creative pursuits like crafting hand-made greeting cards. She is the adoring owner of her Yorkie-Poo “Remy,” her cat “Willow,” and her two Silky Chickens who wear their fancy plumage proudly.

In receiving this recognition for her outstanding efforts, Touchette noted how much she values her calling and her commitment to compassion.

“I am truly passionate about caring for the residents at Westview,” she stated. “Caregiving for any generation is an important part of my life, and I take pride in knowing that our patients rely on us for their health and wellbeing—and more. We are able to offer social connections, emotional understanding, and a sense of family to those

entrusted to our care. It is very fulfilling to know that we can impact their happiness as well as their health.”

Westview Executive Vice President and Administrator David T. Panteleakos also speaks to the fulfillment of providing care across a range of ages and stages in life.

“At Westview, we often say that we are ‘Caring for Generations’ as we provide for the wellness needs of our skilled nursing inpatients, therapy outpatients, independent and assisted living residents at Westview Commons, and students at Westview Child Care Center. Linda is a wonderful example among us in carrying that beacon,” Panteleakos said, adding “It is wonderful that she brings her keen and kind experience from a range of care provider perspectives to our population at Westview. Congratulations to Linda!”

Westview Health Care Center is a 103-bed inpatient skilled nursing facility, which includes a distinct and self-contained 28-bed sub-acute short term rehabilitation unit and outpatient physical, occupational and speech therapies including: Sports Medicine, Adolescent/Pediatric, Adult, and Aquatic Outpatient Centers, all dedicated to providing outstanding quality health care services. The Dayville facility is consistently ranked among the top nursing facilities in the nation, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as well as U.S. News and World Report, consecutively for the past 17 years.





# Windham County 4-H Foundation recognizes Community Partners



REGION — As we start a new year at the Windham County 4-H Foundation, we recognize community partners who have provided special support to our programs in the past year. 2024 Community Spirit Awards were given to Danielson Surplus, WINY Radio, and Auctioneer Ernie Eldridge at the annual meeting on Jan. 19.

Warren Rosenberg from Danielson Surplus was recognized for his longstanding support of our auction, and sponsorship of dinners, races and an long list of other fundraising activities. We are not the only not-for-profit in town that he sponsors either! It is a relationship we have come to rely on for quality products and services and unwavering support.

Karen and Gary Osbrey from WINY Radio were recognized for their generosity and service again not just to the Foundation but to pretty much every community organiza-



tion in the area. They provide a place to speak and be heard (and now seen through Facebook), from community activists, fundraising chairs, and young campers publicizing camp programs, events and fundraisers on those early morning

interviews.

Ernie Eldridge has provided professional auctioneering services to our annual auction for the past few years. This major fundraiser has benefitted from his expertise and ability to coax yet another dollar from the bidders. He has been a gentle coach to our young auction helpers to display items to their best advantage.

We are very grateful to these community partners and appreciate the opportunity to acknowledge their support.

## Thompson250 logo design contest winner announced

THOMPSON — The Thompson Board of Selectmen are pleased to announce that the winner of the Thompson250 Logo Design Contest is Mr. Dave Laabs.

Dave Laabs is the owner and operator of The Airbrush Shack in East Thompson where he and his wife Deb reside. Dave enjoys doing business in the community, offering services in screen printing, vehicle graphics, embroidery and more. As an artist by trade, he has painted murals throughout Central and Southern New England and has worked on projects with local businesses, schools, organizations as well as the Town of Thompson.

Mr. Laabs original logo design will become the official logo of Thompson250 to be used on printed and media publicity materials and commemorative merchandise.

Thompson250 is the local celebration of America's 250th Anniversary of the Commencement of the American Revolution. Celebrations are taking place across the state and the nation in 2026, and the town of Thompson is thrilled to be participating.

Watch our website [www.thompsonct.org](http://www.thompsonct.org) (or sign up for news and alerts) and like our Facebook page [facebook.com/townofthompsonct](https://facebook.com/townofthompsonct) for information on Thompson250 events.

## Thompson Recreation awarded ARPA funds grant

THOMPSON — We are thrilled to announce that Thompson Recreation has been awarded an ARPA Funds Grant from the Department of Aging and Disability Services. The total grant award is for \$24,070. This generous funding will allow for new affordable, low cost senior programs to be designed by Thompson Recreation.

New senior programming will include a diverse variety of fitness classes, social events, and assistance to senior citizens over the age of sixty. The funds will also help support special senior outings and day trips. These programs will aim to provide local seniors with increased opportunities for socialization and engagement, will help to reduce social isolation, and will contribute towards improving cognitive function amongst Thompson's senior population.

Along with offering the variety of programs and events, Thompson Recreation will also be opening a Friendship Share with the assistance of the Thompson Business Association's Weekend Warriors. This share will take place throughout the year, allowing Thompson senior citizens to receive assistance in acquiring toiletries and other household items.

Additionally, there will also be scholarships opportunities for Seniors to reduce or eliminate the cost of Recreation programming. To qualify, Seniors must reside in Thompson and fill out a scholarship application in the Thompson Recreation Department office.

There are so many wonderful things happening in Thompson! If you'd like to stay up to date with all of the programs and events at Thompson Recreation be sure to follow us on Facebook or visit us at [www.thompsonrec.org](http://www.thompsonrec.org).

For additional information, or to register, visit our Web site at [www.thompsonrec.org](http://www.thompsonrec.org) or stop by Thompson Recreation in the Town Hall, 815 Riverside Dr., North Grosvenordale. Questions? Call 860-923-9440.

## Shannon Breen named to Dean's List at Plymouth State University

PLYMOUTH, New Hampshire — Shannon Breen of Brooklyn has been named to the Plymouth State University Dean's List for the Fall 2024 semester. To be named to the Dean's List, a student must achieve a grade point average between 3.50 and 3.69 during the Fall 2024 semester and must have completed at least 12 credit hours during the semester, at least nine of which must confer grade points, at the time the lists are finalized. Breen is a Management major at Plymouth State.

About Plymouth State University

Established in 1871, Plymouth State University serves the state of New Hampshire and the world beyond by transforming our students through advanced practices where engaged learning produces well-educated undergraduates, and by providing graduate education that deepens and advances knowledge and enhances professional development. The Plymouth State Cluster Learning Model emphasizes open, integrative, and project-based experiences. With distinction, we connect with community and business partners for economic development, technological advances, healthier living, and cultural enrichment with a special commitment of service to the North Country and Lakes Region of New Hampshire. To learn more about Plymouth State University, visit [www.plymouth.edu](http://www.plymouth.edu).

## EASTCONN educator receives prestigious Holocaust Education award

HAMPTON — Stephanie White, Grant Facilitator at EASTCONN, and Esther Soffer, former EASTCONN educator, have been selected to receive the 2025 Simon Konover Recognition for Excellence in Holocaust Education from Voices of Hope.

The award recognizes White and Soffer's outstanding commitment to Holocaust education, particularly their work coordinating the "American Mosaic" program featuring Holocaust survivor Ruth Weiner. Over five years, this initiative has helped students understand the critical importance of remembrance and empathy, ensuring the memory of this history is never lost.

White and Soffer will be honored at The Emanuel Synagogue in West Hartford on Feb. 2 alongside other Connecticut educators and Holocaust survivors.

"I am absolutely humbled to be receiving this award," said White. "The America's Mosaic program was nominated for this award by our community partner and Holocaust survivor, Ruth Weiner. We would not have been able to deliver this kind of programming to our students were it not for Ruth and her dedication to sharing her story with young people. This honor brings with it a great responsibility that we all bear to continuously educate about the Holocaust to ensure that history never repeats itself."

## Putnam Science Academy's Alexis Ruiz Ortiz commits to Assumption University

PUTNAM — For Alexis Ruiz Ortiz, the decision to continue his football career at Assumption University came down to one thing: family.

"I liked the coaching staff and how they welcomed me like I was already part of their family—and their players too," Ruiz Ortiz said. "That made it feel like the right place for me."

After a successful tenure at Putnam Science Academy, Ruiz Ortiz will now bring his skills and leadership to the Division II level at Assumption. Reflecting on his time at PSA, he credited the school for teaching him valuable life lessons both on and off the field.

"During my time at Putnam Science Academy, it showed me how to fight adversity, compete, and what it means to be part of a family," he said. "That experience prepared me for the next step."

Now enrolled at Assumption, Ruiz Ortiz is eager to embrace the challenges ahead. "I'm really excited to compete and to grow stronger each and every day," he

## Brady Devlin of Putnam achieves President's List honors for fall 2024 semester at Nichols College

DUDLEY — Brady Devlin of Putnam has achieved President's List honors for the fall 2024 semester at Nichols College.

President's List recognizes those students who achieve high grades during a single semester. Students whose semester grade point average is 3.85 or higher for at least 12 undergraduate credit-hours and no grades below B- will receive President's List honors.

About Nichols College

Nichols College has earned business accreditation from the prestigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools and the largest business education network connecting learners, educators, and businesses worldwide. Founded in 1815, Nichols transforms today's students into tomorrow's leaders through a dynamic, career-focused business and professional education. Nichols offers real-world learning focused on professional depth - combined with vibrant living, competitive athletics, and an unmatched alumni advantage - equipping students to exceed their own expectations. [www.nichols.edu](http://www.nichols.edu)

## Kaylynn Horan of Putnam named to University of Alabama Presidents List

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Kaylynn Horan was named to The University of Alabama Presidents List for Fall Semester 2024.

A total of 14,631 students enrolled Fall Semester 2024 at The University of Alabama were named to the dean's list with an academic record of 3.5 (or above) or the president's list with an academic record of 4.0 (all A's). These driven students are making waves across UA's more than 70 undergraduate programs and 12 colleges and schools.

The UA dean's and president's lists recognize full-time undergraduate students. The lists do not apply to graduate students or undergraduate students who take less than a full course load.

For more information visit [news.ua.edu](http://news.ua.edu).

The University of Alabama, part of The University of Alabama System, is the state's flagship university. UA shapes a better world through its teaching, research and service. With a global reputation for excellence, UA provides an inclusive, forward-thinking environment and nearly 200 degree programs on a beautiful, student-centered campus. A leader in cutting-edge research, UA advances discovery, creative inquiry and knowledge through more than 30 research centers. As the state's largest higher education institution, UA drives economic growth in Alabama and beyond.

said.

Ruiz Ortiz also expressed deep gratitude for the people who helped him reach this milestone, including the coaching staff and his teammates at PSA, as well as his mom and little brother.

"They push me to do big and better things because they know I can reach my goals and achieve them," he said. "I couldn't have done it without them."

With his passion, work ethic, and the support of his family and mentors, Ruiz Ortiz is poised to make an impact both on and off the field at Assumption University.

Ortiz is a local student from Killingly and was a standout football player for the Redmen before doing his post grad year at PSA.

**For Advertising Information**  
**Call 860-928-1818 Ext. 326**  
**email: [mikaela@villagernewspapers.com](mailto:mikaela@villagernewspapers.com)**



# Regis College announces Fall 2024 Dean’s List

WESTON, Mass. — Regis announces the students that met academic requirements to be named to the university’s fall 2024 Dean’s List, in recognition of their outstanding academic achievements. To earn a spot on the Dean’s List, Regis students must earn a grade point average (GPA) of 3.5 or higher; first-year students must have a GPA of 3.25 or higher.

This year’s Dean’s List includes:

Shannon Cuniff of Woodstock

Kylie Rufo of North Grosvenordale

“Being named to the Dean’s List is an honor earned by students who show a persistent commitment to their academic journey throughout the semester,” said Dr. Mary Erina Driscoll, PhD, the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs. “At Regis, we prioritize the development of students’ character and confidence, equipping them with the skills they need for a successful career and life of meaning. Recognition on the Dean’s List reflects a student’s continuous dedication to academic excellence and we congratulate them on this well-earned recognition.”

Founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph nearly a century ago, Regis challenges, inspires, and supports students who are driven by passion, purpose, and a pursuit to positively impact the world within a learning community that embraces inclusivity and innovation and

builds strong character, confidence, and careers.

Regis College is a coed university 12 miles west of Boston in Weston, Mass. founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston nearly a century ago. With over 3,200 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students enrolled on campus and in fully online graduate programs, Regis provides an academically rigorous education within the schools of nursing, arts and sciences, business and communication, and health sciences. In line with Regis’ mission of providing innovative, industry-focused learning opportunities, the university offers academic partnerships with hospitals and local employers, a clinical dental center in Waltham, Mass., and bachelor’s completion and accelerated nursing programs at its campus in Lawrence, Mass. The university’s 20 NCAA Division III athletic teams compete within the Great Northeast Athletic Conference

(GNAC). Regis challenges, inspires, and supports students who are driven by passion, purpose, and a pursuit to positively impact the world within a learning community that embraces inclusivity and innovation and builds strong character, confidence, and careers. Visit regiscollege.edu to learn more.

## University of Rhode Island names area students to Dean’s List

KINGSTON, R.I. — The University of Rhode Island is pleased to announce that several area students have been named to its Fall 2024 Dean’s List.

### Local students earn Dean’s List honors at Nichols College

DUDLEY, Mass. — Nichols College is proud to recognize the academic accomplishments of students on the fall 2024 Dean’s List.

Dean’s List recognizes those students who achieve high grades during a single semester. In order to be included on the Dean’s List, a student must have a minimum grade point average of 3.5 for at least 12 undergraduate credit-hours and must have received no grades below B- during the semester.

The following local students have achieved Dean’s List honors for the fall 2024 semester:

Taylor Annis of North Grosvenordale  
Kyle Busha of North Grosvenordale  
John Merrill of North Grosvenordale  
Hailey Stewart of North Grosvenordale  
Joseph Werge of North Grosvenordale  
Taylor Annis of North Grosvenordale  
Kyle Busha of North Grosvenordale  
Mateusz Chojnicki of Woodstock  
Adien Hyde of Danielson  
John Merrill of North Grosvenordale  
Alina Michalski of Woodstock  
Hailey Stewart of North Grosvenordale  
Joseph Werge of North Grosvenordale  
Liam Wilcox of Woodstock Valley  
Makala Dube of Brooklyn  
Adien Hyde of Danielson  
Carter Sullivan of Dayville  
Liam Wilcox of Woodstock Valley

About Nichols College  
Nichols College has earned business accreditation from the prestigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools and the largest business education network connecting learners, educators, and businesses worldwide. Founded in 1815, Nichols transforms today’s students into tomorrow’s leaders through a dynamic, career-focused business and professional education. Nichols offers real-world learning focused on professional depth - combined with vibrant living, competitive athletics, and an unmatched alumni advantage - equipping students to exceed their own expectations. [www.nichols.edu](http://www.nichols.edu)

### Local students earn Dean’s List recognition at Norwich University

NORTHFIELD, Vt. — The following students from your readership area have been recognized on the Dean’s List at Norwich University for the Fall 2024 semester:

Megan Juhola, Brooklyn  
Addisyn Herdic, Canterbury  
Chase LeClerc, Dayville  
Attley Stevens, Stafford Springs

Full-time undergraduate students, who earned a semester grade point average of at least 3.40 are awarded Dean’s List honors.

About Norwich University

Norwich University is a diversified academic institution that educates traditional-age students and adults in a Corps of Cadets and as civilians. Norwich offers a broad selection of traditional and distance-learning programs culminating in baccalaureate and graduate degrees. Norwich University was founded in 1819 by Captain Alden Partridge of the U.S. Army and is the oldest private military college in the United States of America. Norwich is one of our nation’s six senior military colleges and the birthplace of the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC). [www.norwich.edu](http://www.norwich.edu)

Among them are:

Brian Jameson of Woodstock  
Maeve Lusignan of Woodstock  
Elias Newall-Vuillemot of Woodstock  
Aubrey Rumrill of Eastford  
Kelsey Tichenor of Danielson  
Linsey Arends of Brooklyn  
Emma Korsu of Brooklyn  
Meaghan O’Brien of Brooklyn  
Abigail Owens of Dayville  
Emma Russell of Brooklyn  
Kelsey Tichenor of Danielson

To be included on the Dean’s List, full-

### Local students earn President’s List honors at Nichols College

DUDLEY, Mass. — Nichols College is proud to recognize the academic accomplishments of students on the fall 2024 President’s List.

President’s List recognizes those students who achieve high grades during a single semester. Students whose semester grade point average is 3.85 or higher for at least 12 undergraduate credit-hours and no grades below B- will receive President’s List honors.

The following local students have achieved President’s List honors:

Alivia Dalpe of Thompson  
Stephen Scrapchansky of North Grosvenordale  
Nick Skaradowski of Thompson  
Dominick Kollbeck of Woodstock  
Angel Lewis of Danielson  
Jonah Libby of Pomfret  
Ryan Odorski of Woodstock  
Stephen Scrapchansky of North Grosvenordale  
Angel Lewis of Danielson  
Maya Orbegozo of Brooklyn  
Julia Revellese of Dayville

About Nichols College

Nichols College has earned business accreditation from the prestigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools and the largest business education network connecting learners, educators, and businesses worldwide. Founded in 1815, Nichols transforms today’s students into tomorrow’s leaders through a dynamic, career-focused business and professional education. Nichols offers real-world learning focused on professional depth - combined with vibrant living, competitive athletics, and an unmatched alumni advantage - equipping students to exceed their own expectations. [www.nichols.edu](http://www.nichols.edu)

time students must have completed 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable during a semester and achieved at least a 3.30 quality point average. Part-time students qualify with the accumulation of 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable earning at least a 3.30 quality point average.

Students named to the Dean’s List represent nearly all of Rhode Island’s cities and towns, all six New England states, New York and New Jersey, and many other states and countries.

About the University of Rhode Island  
The University of Rhode Island is a diverse and dynamic community whose members are connected by a common

## Local students named to President’s List at Plymouth State University

PLYMOUTH, New Hampshire — 922 students have been named to the Plymouth State University President’s List for the Fall 2024 semester. To be named to the President’s List, a student must achieve a grade point average of 3.70 or better for the Fall 2024 semester and must have completed at least 12 credit hours during the semester, at least nine of which must confer grade points, at the time the lists are finalized.

Matthew Siegmund, Exercise and Sport Physiology major of N. Grosvenordale

Logan Gagnon, Business Administration major of Thompson

Lilly Verraneault, Social Work major of Pomfret Center

About Plymouth State University  
Established in 1871, Plymouth State University serves the state of New

hampshire and the world beyond by transforming our students through advanced practices where engaged learning produces well-educated undergraduates, and by providing graduate education that deepens and advances knowledge and enhances professional development. The Plymouth State Cluster Learning Model emphasizes open, integrative, and project-based experiences. With distinction, we connect with community and business partners for economic development, technological advances, healthier living, and cultural enrichment with a special commitment of service to the North Country and Lakes Region of New Hampshire. To learn more about Plymouth State University, visit [www.plymouth.edu](http://www.plymouth.edu).

## Putnam’s Doug Ryan named to University of Rhode Island Fall 2024 Dean’s List

KINGSTON, R.I. — The University of Rhode Island is pleased to announce that Doug Ryan of Putnam has been named to its Fall 2024 Dean’s List.

To be included on the Dean’s List, full-time students must have completed 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable during a semester and achieved at least a 3.30 quality point average. Part-time students qualify with the accumulation of 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable earning at least a 3.30 quality point average.

Students named to the Dean’s List represent nearly all of Rhode Island’s cities and towns, all six New England states, New York and New Jersey, and many other states and countries.

About the University of Rhode Island

## Woodstock resident named to Dean’s List at University of New England

BIDDEFORD and PORTLAND, Maine — Hanna Longwell of Woodstock has been named to the Dean’s List for the 2024 fall semester at the University of New England.

Dean’s List students have attained a grade point average of 3.3 or better out of a possible 4.0 at the end of the semester.

The University of New England is Maine’s largest independent university, with two beautiful coastal campuses in Maine, a one-of-a-kind study-abroad campus in Tangier, Morocco, and an array of flexible online offerings. In an uncommonly welcoming and supportive community, we offer hands-on learning, empowering students to make a positive impact in a world full of challenges. We are the state’s top provider of health professionals and home to Maine’s only medical and dental colleges, a variety of other interprofessionally aligned health care programs, and nationally recognized programs in the marine sciences, the natural and social sciences, business, the humanities, and the arts. Visit [www.une.edu](http://www.une.edu).

## Putnam Science Academy announces honor roll

PUTNAM — Putnam Science Academy has released its honor roll for the fall term of 2024.

High Honors

Alexis Ruiz Ortiz, Altinai Toucheteau, Angel Seinturier, Annabelle Guo, Antione (Tony) Williams, Daniel Wilmore, Darren Kuyeri, David Djan, Drake Alvarez, Duo (Sunny) Xu, Ekaterina Lipatova, Elif Goskel, Geovani Aniceto, Gigi Mazanishvili, Helin Yoztyurk, Hugh Copley, Jacob Wang, Javelle Epps, Johnny Patrick, Kethabile (KD) Duba, Lina Ostos, Maksym Shepel, Martyn Poliuchovic, Michael Olorunsola, Michael Therrian, Relebohile (Ruby) Pebane, Teresa Lopez, Tianze Hong, TJ Espinosa, Varvara Utina, Xiaohan (Alice) Xu, Yanchen Zhang, Yuju (Andy) Chen, Zhiyi (Dolores) Luo, Zuoda (Caden) Wu

Honors

Benjamin Ahmed, Chumo Li, Defne Mumcu, Erix (Erica) Chen, Jaeden Roberts, Jaiden Blue, Javier De Castro, Jeremiah Jackson-Sherman, Kendy (KJ) Cyr, Lahélie Lockel, Luis Melo, Mario Camacho, Maximo Sanchez Samo, Mingyuan (Ryan) Sun, Octavius Wheeler, Tzu-Yu Feng, Zihan Zhu

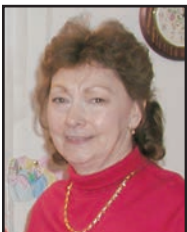
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# OBITUARIES

## Lorraine E. Daviau June 5, 1940 - January 18, 2025



Lorraine (Bourbeau) Daviau, 84, of Sonny Lane, Thompson, passed away Saturday, January 18, 2025, at home surrounded by her loving family. She was predeceased by the love of her life Albert “Sonny” Daviau. She was the youngest daughter of the late Alfred “Fred” and Eva (Lamiotte) Bourbeau. She was also predeceased by her two sons Kevin and Alan. She is survived by her daughter Darlene and son-in-law Frank Tremont where she made her home the last several years. She had two grandchildren and four great grandchildren, many cousins and

many nieces and nephews. Especially her two nieces called “Her Girls” Wendy and Tracy who assisted in her loving care. Lorraine loved to cook, sew, water ski, arts and crafts. She enjoyed traveling, visits with family and occasional trips to the casino. Lorraine not only raised her children, but many others. If she touched your heart, you don’t have to look far for she’s right where you are. She was a very strong and courageous woman. She may be gone, but never forgotten. Services for Lorraine will be private. For memorial guestbook visit [www. GilmanAndValade.com](http://www.GilmanAndValade.com). In Lieu of flowers donations can be made to Smilow Cancer Research, New Haven, CT

## Valerie L. Dumont, 69



Valerie L. Dumont, 69, passed away peacefully on Sunday January 26, 2025, at Overlook Nursing Home in Burrillville, RI. She was the beloved daughter of the late Francis and Marie (Ryan) Henriques. Valerie was the devoted wife of Roger Dumont of Dayville, Connecticut. Together, they built a loving family that brought her immense joy. She is survived by her children, Matthew Dumont and his wife Erin of Danielson, Connecticut, and Sara Franklin and her husband Cory of Putnam, Connecticut. Valerie cherished her role as Nonna to her two grandsons, Nathaniel and Theodore Franklin, who were the light of her life. She is also lovingly remembered by her sisters, Kimberly Sadler of Voluntown, Connecticut, and Lisa Vernon of St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin

Islands. Valerie spent much of her career with International Chimney Corporation in Williamsville, New York, where she worked as a site supervisor on relocation projects. Her dedication to her work was matched only by her passion for animals and the deep love she had for her family. Above all else, Valerie found her greatest joy in being a grandmother. Her time spent with Nathaniel and Theodore brought her unparalleled happiness and fulfillment. Valerie’s memory will live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved her. May her legacy bring comfort to all who mourn her passing. A Memorial Service will be held in Tillinghast Funeral Home 433 Main St. Danielson, CT on Tuesday February 4, 2025, from 5-7PM. In lieu of flowers, donations in Valerie’s memory may be made to St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital [stjude.org/donate](http://stjude.org/donate). [tillinghastfh.com](http://tillinghastfh.com)


## Robert “Bob” C. Picard, 87



Robert “Bob” C. Picard, born February 5, 1937, in Putnam, Connecticut to Wildor and Lucille (Guertin) Picard, passed away peacefully at home on January 12, 2025, at the age of 87 surrounded by the love of his family. Bob’s caring and fun-loving spirit left an enduring legacy on all who knew him. Bob left Ellis Technical School as a sophomore to work with his father. Later married with two children, he returned to school and earned his GED – an achievement that he was always proud of. He shared a fulfilling life with his wife of 67 years, Charlotte (Snelgrove) Picard. Family was the mainstay of Bob’s life. His encouragement and unconditional love created a constant foundation of support. He found joy in the achievements and laughter of his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He is survived by four children: Linda Lamoureux (Roger) of Londonderry, NH; Brian Picard (Barbara) of Bristol, NH; Gary Picard (Tracy) of Clinton Corners, NY; and Sandy Forand (Scott) of Willington, CT. Bob was a devoted grandfather to eight grandchildren—Matthew (Laura) and Dave (Abby) Picard, Colleen (Michael) Levesque; Russ (Tory) Lamoureux; Hannah Lamoureux; Katherine (Evan) Adams, Brittany (Frank) Burnette; and Ashley (Nicolas) Faba. He cher-





ished his role as a great-grandfather to seventeen great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister Gloria, two brothers-in-law, eleven sisters-in-law, and many, many nieces and nephews. Bob was predeceased by his brother Rene, two nieces, several brothers-in-law and a sister-in-law. A man of deep faith, Bob was an active member of the Congregational Church of Putnam. His commitment to service was exemplified through his twenty-five years as a volunteer at Day Kimball Hospital, twenty-two years with Hospice for a total of 5600 volunteer hours. He formed lasting friendships through his employment at Prevel Industries and Rogers Corporation in Willimantic, CT, where he worked for over two decades until retiring. In every aspect of his life—family, work, or volunteering—Bob embodied kindness, generosity, and devotion to others. His greatest hope was that all people get along and work and live together in peace and harmony. May his compassionate spirit continue to inspire those he touched. For full obituary please visit [www. GilmanAndValade.com](http://www.GilmanAndValade.com). The family expresses sincere appreciation to Hospice of N.E. Connecticut for the compassionate care, thoughtfulness and support extended to Bob and our family; and our thanks to Dr. Raja Fattaleh for the ten years of understanding and caring he provided as Bob’s Primary Physician.

Send all obituary notices to  
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to [obits@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:obits@stonebridgepress.news)



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# LEGALS

**PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING NOTICE**  
The Towers, LLC (“The Towers”) (a joint venture between Vertical Bridge REIT, LLC and Celco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (“Cellco”)), will host a Public Information Meeting regarding its plans to construct a wireless telecommunications facility in the northeast portion of a 55.1-acre parcel 835 Route 169 in Woodstock, Connecticut. The proposal calls for the construction of a 150-foot monopole tower, the installation of antennas on the tower and associated equipment, and a diesel-fueled backup generator on concrete pads within a fenced facility compound near the base of the tower. The tower and compound would be designed to accommodate up to four wireless carriers and the Town’s emergency service providers, if a need exists. The telecommunications facility described above is under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Connecticut Siting Council pursuant to the provisions of Section 16-50g et seq. of the General Statutes. A Public Information Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 20, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. in the Woodstock Town Hall, 415 Route 169 in Woodstock. If you have any questions about the proposal please contact Brian Paul at Vertical Bridge REIT, LLC at (860) 550-5971, [brian.paul@verticalbridge.com](mailto:brian.paul@verticalbridge.com) or Kenneth C. Baldwin, Esq., Robinson & Cole LLP at [kbalwin@rc.com](mailto:kbalwin@rc.com). January 31, 2025

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Please take notice that a public information session will be held in connection with a proposal by The Towers LLC (“The Towers”), a joint venture between Vertical Bridge REIT, LLC (“VB”) and Celco Partnership d/b/a Verizon (“Verizon”) for development of a wireless

telecommunications tower facility located at 90 Route 171 Woodstock Ave West in the Town of Woodstock. The public information session will be held during The Woodstock Planning & Zoning Commission (PZC) meeting located at the Woodstock Town Hall at 415 Route 169, Woodstock, CT on Thursday, February 20, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. This wireless telecommunications tower facility is proposed to meet Verizon’s and other FCC wireless carriers’ need to reliably serve the public in the immediate area. The Towers LLC would own, maintain and operate the tower facility project. The project as currently proposed would consist of a 150’ tall self-supporting monopole structure within a 3,600 square-foot fenced compound on a portion of the approximately 32-acre parcel. Verizon’s antennas would be placed at a centerline height of approximately 145’ with equipment installed at grade within the fenced compound. Verizon’s equipment cabinet, back-up battery cabinet, and 50kW diesel-fueled back-up generator will be installed on a 10’x20’ concrete pad in the southwestern corner of the fenced compound. The tower and fenced compound are designed to support the antennas and equipment of other FCC licensed wireless carriers. Vehicle access to the facility would be provided from Route 171/Woodstock Avenue West over the existing paved driveway. A 12’-wide and approximately 265 linear foot-long gravel driveway will be constructed to connect the compound with the existing paved driveway. The Connecticut Siting Council has exclusive jurisdiction over the location and siting of wireless telecommunications towers in the State of Connecticut and as such, no local zoning or land use approvals are required. The public

information session that is the subject of this notice is being held as part of The Towers municipal consultation with the Town of Woodstock in accordance with Section 16-50l of the Connecticut General Statutes. The purpose of the municipal consultation is to provide information to the Town about the proposed facility so that the Town can provide The Towers with recommendations or preferences regarding the siting of the proposed wireless telecommunications facility. Cuddy & Feder LLP Attorneys for The Towers LLC (“The Towers”), a joint venture between Vertical Bridge REIT, LLC (“VB”) and Celco Partnership d/b/a Verizon (“Verizon”) 445 Hamilton Avenue, 14th Floor White Plains, New York 10601 (914) 761-1300 Dated: January 31, 2025 January 31, 2025

**RESULTS LEGAL NOTICE**  
**Town of Thompson**  
**NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING - January 22, 2025**  
The Electors and Citizens qualified to vote in Town meetings of the Town of Thompson, Connecticut, are hereby notified and warned that a Special Town Meeting of said Town will be held at the Thompson Public Library/Louis P. Faucher Community Center, 934 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale, Connecticut, on Wednesday, January 22, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the evening. The purposes of the meeting will be: To choose a moderator for the meeting; Motion by Kathleen Herbert and seconded by Jessica Bolte to nominate Francis McGarry as moderator. Motion that nominations be closed made by Jessica Bolte and seconded by Stephen Herbert

Motion passes. Motion to elect Francis McGarry as moderator passes. To consider and act upon the following resolutions: RESOLVED, to adopt amended Ordinance §25-6 Annual Town Meeting Date Motion by Stephen Herbert and seconded by Jessica Bolte to approve. Motion passes. RESOLVED, to adopt proposed Ordinance Regulating Purchases and Sales for the Town of Thompson Request by Amy St. Onge to amend wording of Ordinance to Regulating Purchases for the Town of Thompson and adopt Ordinance as such Motion to close discussion by Stephen Herbert and seconded by Jessica Bolte. Motion passes. Motion by Jessica Bolte and seconded by Tyra Penn-Gesek to approve. Motion passes. RESOLVED, to authorize publishing of a summary of the Ordinances approved at this meeting Motion to close discussion by Stephen Herbert and seconded by Jessica Bolte. Motion passes. Motion by Robert Mann and seconded by Stephen Herbert to approve. Motion passes. Motion made by Stephen Herbert and seconded by Jessica Bolte to adjourn at 7:13 pm. Motion passes. A copy of the amended ordinance and the proposed ordinance are on file in the office of the Town Clerk in Town Hall and on our website [www.thompsonsonct.org](http://www.thompsonsonct.org) ATTEST: Gail Livingston Assistant Town Clerk January 31, 2025

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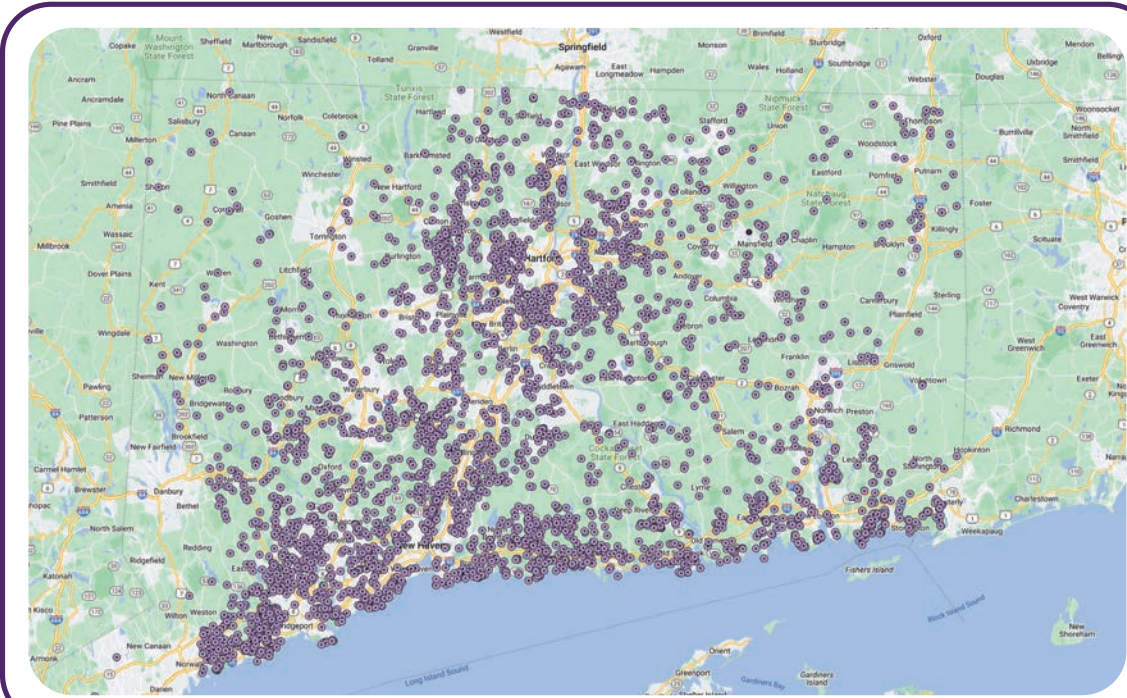
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