

Local news does not happen somewhere else. It happens on your street, in your town, and among your neighbors.

# PUTNAM VILLAGER

Serving Putnam since 2005

©2026, Issue #27

Friday, July 10, 2026

Complimentary to homes by request



Rebecca Theriaque — Courtesy

## PUTNAM ROTARY CLUB ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

Putnam Rotary Club held its induction June 23. From left: President Martha Paquette, Secretary Emily Demers, Treasurer Fred Chmura, board members Cheryl Guillot, Jonathan Tremblay (also sergeant at arms), Madilyn Smith and Linda Lemmon, and Sergeant at Arms Barry Shead.

## Putnam voters approve WPCA project expenses

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

PUTNAM — Putnam voters approved a trio of Water Pollution Control questions during a referendum on June 30. All three questions sought investments with a combined price tag of \$11.6 million.

The referendum saw a small turnout. In total, only 114 voters cast a ballot during the referendum, less than 2% of the registered voters in the town. However, the results were never in question as the numbers came in with all three questions receiving nearly identical votes of support.

The first question sought to appropriate \$2.6 million for a Sludge Handling Improvement Project. This will include the construction of a new gravity thickener, the second at the plant. This passed by a 93-21 vote.

The most expensive question on the ballot was also passed by a 93-21 margin. This sought \$5.8 million for the Peake Brook Water Treatment Units Replacement Project.

The upgrades will include modernization of four treatment units through recoating, piping and valve upgrades, and monitoring and control equipment replacement.

Another question sought to appropriate \$3.2 million for the Lead Service and Replacement Program. This will involve removing any lead lines still in use in Putnam's water distribution system. This was the outlier of the three in terms of voting outcome earning 96 votes of approval to 18 votes against.

The Environmental Protection Agency's Lead and Copper Rule Improvements mandate requires that all municipalities submit plans for replacing lead pipes before Nov. 1, 2027. Towns will have until the end of 2037 to replace these lines. This approved funding allows Putnam WPCA to proceed with its own plans to identify and replace these pipes.

## Paws Cat Shelter to hold can and bottle drive

PUTNAM — Paws Cat Shelter is holding a Can and Bottle Drive on Saturday, July 11 from noon to 3 p.m. at the shelter, located at 74 School St. in Putnam. Please separate two-liter bottles. Pet food and donations are always welcome and greatly appreciated.

Paws is a non-profit, all volunteer organization caring for the cats of our communities. For more info or to make a monetary donation, contact Paws at 860-315-1228.

## Thompson mulls bridge replacement projects

THOMPSON — Nicholas Donohue, First Selectman, has announced that the Town of Thompson is contemplating projects to replace the Spicer Road Bridge Five Mile River and Brandy Hill Road Bridge over Quaddick Lake. The bridge replacement projects would receive federal funds under the Federal Local Bridge Program administered by the Connecticut Department of Transportation.

If undertaken, the project design would be expected to begin in early 2027, with construction likely in 2029 or 2030.

Donohue points out that local and state policy encourages early information to citizens on such projects and encourages people to raise any concerns with municipal officials

early in the planning process. Persons wanting additional information should contact Public Works Department at 860-923-2680.

The cost of the bridge replacement would receive 80 percent reimbursement from federal aid with the remaining 20% paid from state funds.

The federal aid for the project was authorized under the Moving Ahead for Progress

in the 21st century Act and/or Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act and/or Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, administered by the Federal Highway

Administration and the Connecticut Department of Transportation.

## Putnam unveils America 250 plaque

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

PUTNAM — The Town of Putnam celebrated the United States's 250th anniversary with the unveiling of a new commemorative plaque in Rotary Park on the 4th of July, acknowledging the town's place in history and the legacy of its namesake, General Israel Putnam, who was an essential leader during several famous conflicts during the Revolution including the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Spearheaded by the town's Americian250 Committee, the unveiling included a short ceremony celebrating the patriotism and colonial legacy of Northeastern Connecticut. Both local and state leaders turned out to speak at the event with most statements drawing from one simple idea: that together we as a people created this nation, and together we can continue to move it forward.

Mayor Barney Seney helped kick off the festivities reminding everyone of the men and women that fought to help us reach 250 years, and how important unity will be in continuing

the legacy of the United States.

"A lot of people forget what this country has gone through over 250 years. What they don't realize is that the veterans that serve are why we are here today," said Mayor Seney. "The forefathers had enough common sense back then to address the needs of the individual citizens of the country and I think we've lost a lot of that over the last 250 years. We don't have the compassion like we had before for our country, and today I can't understand why. Until you serve and you see what a third-world country is like, then you realize how good this country is."

Putnam's representatives in Hartford also contributed to the ceremony. State Sen. Mae Flexer wasn't able to attend the ceremony

in person but sent along a message which was read by Putnam America250 Committee member and Selectman Gloria Marion.

"As a town named for General Israel Putnam, this celebration carries special meaning," Flexer wrote. "He embodied the spirit of service and sacrifice that helped shape our nation. Putnam's own story reflects the same American spirit - Like so many communities across Connecticut, Putnam reminds us that America's story has always been built by people working together to create something better

than themselves."

State Rep. Chris Stewart's statements also captured the sentiment of the day, noting all the different kinds of people who make up the citizenship of the United States and how each one of us plays a role in defining the nation's identity.

"Our veterans, those that sacrifice for us just to sit here, those that work hours in hospitals to save lives and keep our country going, those that work on fire trucks and in police cars keeping us safe, those who are in classrooms teaching

Turn To PLAQUE page A11



Jason Bleau

A new plaque has been placed in Rotary Park in Putnam to acknowledge the 250th anniversary of the United States of America and the town's colonial legacy.

## FUNDRAISER + PIG ROAST

& CONCERT FEATURING 'THAT DOLLAR'S GONE'

\*\*\*A GUITAR DUO PLAYING HITS FROM THE 60'S-90'S\*\*\*

ALL DONATIONS WILL BE MATCHED 100%

RAISING \$10,000 TO BUILD A HOME FOR A FAMILY IN GUATEMALA

Partners In Dying™

TO PURCHASE

EVENT DETAILS

DATE: JULY 25 (RAIN DATE: 26TH)  
LOCATION: WOODSTOCK, CT  
TIME: 5-9 PM

TICKET DETAILS

PRICE: \$50/PERSON  
(10 & UNDER: \$10)

EXTRA DETAILS

TICKETS ARE ADVANCE PURCHASE ONLY. 150 PERSON CAPACITY

WITH QUESTIONS, CALL:  
MITZI DAVIS, 860-942-7546



# Your estate plan just got an upgrade: Here's what to do now

For a long time, estate planning conversations were shaped by one big question: "Will my estate be taxable?"

That question still matters for some families. But for many households, the bigger question now is more practical: "Will my plan actually work the way I want it to?"

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act, signed into law on July 4, 2025, made significant changes to federal tax rules, credits, and deductions. For estate planning specifically, the 2026 federal estate tax basic exclusion amount is now \$15 million per individual, up from \$13.99 million for 2025. Married couples may be able to protect up to \$30 million with proper planning. The annual gift tax exclusion also remains \$19,000 per recipient in 2026.

That is a meaningful update for many households, but it doesn't make estate planning less important. In some cases, it makes a review even more important and timely, because plans written under older tax assumptions may no longer fit the family's current goals.

Review old bypass and AB trust language before it becomes a problem

One of the first places to look is an older will or revocable trust that includes bypass trust, credit shelter trust, or AB trust language.

These provisions were commonly used when the federal estate tax exemption was much lower. The basic idea was to divide assets at the first spouse's death so that each spouse's exemption could be used efficiently. That strategy made sense for many

couples at the time.

Today, for families well below the federal estate tax threshold, that same language may create unnecessary complexity. It may force assets into a trust when the surviving spouse expected flexibility. It may create administrative costs, separate tax filings, or less favorable income tax treatment. And it may no longer provide much federal estate tax benefit.

That does not mean these trusts are always wrong. They can still be valuable for asset protection, blended families, remarriage concerns, creditor protection, or making sure assets ultimately pass to children or other intended beneficiaries. The key is not to assume the document is still right just because it was right when it was drafted.

Estate planning is not just for high-net-worth families

The higher federal estate tax exclusion may take many families out of federal estate tax territory, but proper estate planning is about much more than federal estate tax.

Most families still need a plan for who can act if they become incapacitated, who inherits specific assets, who makes healthcare decisions, and how beneficiaries receive money. That means reviewing durable powers of attorney, healthcare proxies, living wills, guardianship provisions for minor children, and beneficiary designations on retirement accounts and life insurance.

These documents are often where problems show up. A retirement account may still name an

## FINANCIAL FOCUS

JONATHAN MATTHEWS  
ASSOCIATE VP,  
CLIENT EXPERIENCE  
& RELATIONSHIPS

ex-spouse. A life insurance policy may list a deceased parent. A will may name a guardian who has moved away or is no longer the right fit. None of those issues require a taxable estate to create real stress for a family.

New rules also matter for everyday planning

Several OBBBA provisions affect families who are not traditionally considered high net worth. For example, the 2026 standard deduction is \$32,200 for married couples filing jointly, \$16,100 for single filers, and \$24,150 for heads of household. Taxpayers age 65 and older may also be eligible for an additional \$6,000 deduction from 2025 through 2028, subject to income phaseouts.

That matters because income taxes and cash flow are part of estate planning, especially for retirees. If a surviving spouse's tax filing status changes, income taxes can change too. If one spouse becomes ill or passes away, the household may need a plan for required minimum distributions, Social Security decisions, healthcare costs, and liquidity.

There are also new planning tools for families with children. Trump Accounts cannot be funded before July 4, 2026, but eligible children may receive a one-time \$1,000 federal contribution, and parents, guardians, employers, or others may make authorized contributions subject to annual limits. These accounts will not replace 529 plans or traditional estate strategies, but they add another

option for helping younger family members build long-term financial footing.

The adoption credit was also enhanced, with a portion becoming refundable for tax years after Dec. 31, 2024, which may matter for families growing through adoption.

Coordinate the legal document with the financial plan

A strong estate plan is not just a legal document. It is a coordinated strategy.

Your attorney drafts the documents. Your CPA helps evaluate tax implications. Your financial advisor helps connect the documents to your assets, account titling, beneficiary designations, investment strategy, insurance coverage, and retirement income plan.

That coordination is where many estate plans either succeed or fall short. A trust that is never funded may not accomplish its purpose. A will does not control assets that pass by beneficiary designation. A tax-efficient investment strategy may unravel if assets are titled incorrectly.

At WHZ, our role is to help clients see how all of these different pieces fit together. Estate planning should not feel like a one-time paperwork project. It should be part of an ongoing financial plan that adjusts as laws change, families evolve, and priorities become clearer. (For more information on this, see our step-by-step guide, Smart Strategies for Maximizing Generational Wealth, at whzwealth.com/WealthTransfer.)

If your estate plan was

written before the OBBBA, or if it has been more than a few years since you reviewed it, now is a good time to revisit it. The goal is not just to reduce taxes. The goal is to make sure your plan supports the people you love, reflects your wishes, and gives your family clarity when they need it most.

At WHZ, our goal is to help you move forward with Absolute Confidence, Unwavering Partnership, For Life. Schedule a discovery session with us at whzwealth.com or call 860-928-2341 to see how we can help you and your family.

Authored by Jonthan Mathews, CFP®. AI may have been used in the research and initial drafting of this piece. These materials are general in nature and do not address your specific situation. For your specific investment needs, please discuss your individual circumstances with your financial advisor. WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors does not provide tax or legal advice, and nothing in the accompanying pages should be construed as specific tax or legal advice. Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser. 697 Pomfret St., Pomfret Center, CT 06259 and 392-A Merrow Rd., Tolland, CT 06084, 860.928.2341. http://www.whzwealth.com.

## Local University of Rhode Island students named to Spring Dean's List

KINGSTON, R.I. — The University of Rhode Island is pleased to announce that several area students have been named to its Spring 2026 Dean's List. Among them are:

- Lily Hayes of Danielson
- Hailey Merritt of Danielson
- Elias Newall-Vuillemot of Woodstock
- Aubrey Rumrill of Eastford
- Linsey Arends of Brooklyn
- Emma Korsu of Brooklyn
- Emma Russell of Brooklyn

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 through 3.79 grade

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 through 3.79 grade 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 quest for knowledge. As a global education leader and the state of Rhode Island's flagship public research institution, URI offers distinctive opportunities designed to meet

the global challenges of today's world and the rapidly evolving needs of tomorrow. Founded in 1892, URI now enrolls more than 18,000 students and offers more than 200 degree programs across nine schools and colleges. As a land- and sea-grant institution, URI is a key driver of economic development in Rhode Island and contributes significantly to the health and vitality of the state, the New England region, and the nation. To learn more, visit: uri.edu.

## Local students named to University of Rhode Island President's List

KINGSTON, R.I. — The University of Rhode Island is pleased to announce that Kaya Pernini of Putnam and Brian Jameson of Woodstock have been named to its Spring 2026 President's List.

To be included on the President'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 3.80 through 4.0 grade 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 3.80 through 4.0

grade point average.

Students named to the President'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 quest for knowledge. As a global education leader and the state of Rhode Island's flagship public research institution, URI offers distinctive opportunities designed to meet the global chal-

lenges of today's world and the rapidly evolving needs of tomorrow. Founded in 1892, URI now enrolls more than 18,000 students and offers more than 200 degree programs across nine schools and colleges. As a land- and sea-grant institution, URI is a key driver of economic development in Rhode Island and contributes significantly to the health and vitality of the state, the New England region, and the nation. To learn more, visit: uri.edu.

## Joseph Danna of Woodstock earns Dean's List honor at NECC

HAVERHILL, Mass. — Congratulations to Joseph Danna of Woodstock on earning a spot on the Dean's List for the Spring '26 semester! Your hard work is paying off, and all of us at NECC are proud of your achievement.

To be included, students must attain a grade point average of 3.3 or higher within the term, carry six or more credits within the term, and be matriculated in a degree program.

Northern Essex Community College, the first Federally designated Hispanic Serving Institution in New England, is an education leader for the Merrimack Valley. Through a supportive learning environment and cultural inclusion, NECC embraces all identities and inspires initiative and excellence through top-notch affordable certificate and associate degree programs online and at campuses in Haverhill and Lawrence. NECC offers many bachelor's degree transfer options, workforce development and community education classes, and is host to the NECC Police Academy, MassHire Merrimack Valley, and Gallaudet University's Regional Center for the deaf and hard of hearing. Visit Northern Essex online at www.necc.mass.edu.

WWW.VILLAGERNEWSPAPERS.COM

**BEST WINDOW COMPANY**  
Beautiful, Efficient, Affordable  
**WINDOWS & DOORS**  
KUBALA HOME IMPROVEMENT  
Your Window & Door Experts



Lifetime Warranty 100% Financing Available  
CALL NOW FOR **50% OFF** WINDOW & DOOR INSTALLATION  
LIMITED-TIME SAVINGS  
**(508) 784-1550**  
MA CSL100114 | MA HIC150118 | CT HIC0619712

**THE SIDING STORE INC.**  
Siding • Roofing • Windows • Decks • Sunrooms  
**SPRING SPECIALS NOW IN EFFECT**  
**AFFORDABLE!**  
\$\$\$\$  
Financing available to qualified customers!  
thesidingstoreinc.com  
We take pride in our customer service!  
860.423.7771 860.963.9035  
860.886.1718 860.564.7088  
References Galore • Fully Licensed • Senior Discounts • Lead Safe

**WANTED TO BUY**  
**Antiques & Old Stuff**

- Bottles • Crocks • Jugs • Costume Jewelry • Pottery • Toys
- Pewter • Glassware • Sterling Silver • Coins • Gold
- Silver Plated Items • Watches • Typewriters • Sewing Machines
- Tools • Radios • Clocks • Lanterns • Lamps • Kitchenware
- Cookware • Knives • Hunting • Fishing • Military • Masonic
- Video Games • Advertising Signs & Much More

**CALL DONALD ROY 860-874-8396**

**Better Hearing Dream Team!**



Ralph Campagna, BC-HIS Stephanie Balducci, AuD Doctor of Audiology Jim Verge, BC-HIS

Call **860-315-9656** to schedule a hearing evaluation.

Let us check your insurance benefit. We are providers for: Anthem BCBS, United Healthcare, Aetna, Connecticut, Humana, Wellcare, Care Partners, Cigna, CT Medicaid, etc.

**amplisound**  
HEARING CARE CENTERS  
19 Quinebaug Ave, Putnam  
351 Merline Road, Vernon  
www.amplisound.com

## Villager Newspapers

P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

TELEPHONE: (860) 928-1818

FAX: (860) 928-5946

WWW.VILLAGERNEWSPAPERS.COM

FRANK G. CHILINSKI

PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE

EDITOR

# Investing before there is a crisis

Communities are often judged by the things people rarely notice.

When the water is clean, the roads are passable, the lights turn on and the toilets flush, it is easy to take the systems behind those everyday conveniences for granted. Most residents never think about wastewater treatment plants, aging water mains or treatment equipment unless something goes wrong.

That is exactly why Putnam's recent Water Pollution Control referendum deserves attention.

On June 30, voters approved three separate infrastructure projects totaling \$11.6 million. The work includes improvements to sludge handling, replacement of aging treatment units at the Peake Brook facility, and the continued effort to identify and remove lead service lines from the town's water system.

None of those projects is glamorous. None is likely to become the topic of conversation at a backyard barbecue. Yet each represents the kind of investment that keeps a community functioning safely and reliably for decades to come.

Infrastructure is often at its best when it is invisible.

The temptation for every municipality is to postpone expensive maintenance. After all, replacing equipment that still appears to be working rarely generates excitement. But history has shown what happens when communities wait too long. Deferred maintenance almost always becomes emergency maintenance, and emergency maintenance almost always costs far more.

Replacing equipment before it fails is simply good stewardship.

The lead service line project is perhaps the clearest example. Federal regulations now require communities across the country to identify and replace remaining lead service lines over the coming years. Putnam could have waited until deadlines were closer. Instead, voters authorized the funding necessary to move forward.

That proactive approach benefits everyone. Removing potential sources of lead from drinking water protects future generations while allowing the town to complete the work in an orderly, planned manner instead of rushing under tighter deadlines later.

The referendum results also reveal another reality that deserves discussion.

Only 114 people cast ballots.

While every referendum is different and specialized infrastructure questions rarely generate large turnouts, the fact remains that decisions involving more than \$11 million were effectively made by fewer than 2 percent of the town's registered voters.

There is no suggestion that the outcome was improper. The referendum was conducted according to the rules, and those who participated fulfilled an important civic responsibility. The projects themselves appear to have earned broad support among those who voted.

Still, local government works best when more residents take part.

School budgets, infrastructure projects, municipal borrowing and capital improvements all shape the future of a community as surely as elections do. They determine what services residents receive and how prepared a town will be for the years ahead.

Voting in these referendums is one of the most direct ways citizens influence those decisions.

Putnam's wastewater and water treatment systems may not be visible to most residents, but their importance cannot be overstated. Safe drinking water, environmental protection and reliable public utilities are fundamental to public health and economic development.

Investments like these rarely generate headlines for years afterward. If the work is done well, most people will never notice it at all.

And perhaps that is the highest compliment any infrastructure project can receive. When everything continues to work as it should, it means today's leaders and today's voters made decisions that will quietly serve the community for many years to come.

# OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### The view from Canada

To the Editor:

I write this on the eve of America's 250th observance of its founding from our neighbor to the north. It's always interesting to listen to Canadians' views about their neighbor to the south. Almost to a person, Canadians seem better informed about the events occurring in the US than US citizens are. They seem better able to distill the truth from the tidal wave of lies, nonsense, and conspiracy hypotheses spewing from the media and politicians.

No doubt Canadians feel obligated to keep informed because their economy and defense has become so integrated with that of the US over the past few decades. Canadians also thought that they shared important values with Americans. Citizens of the two countries moved freely back and forth across the border, married, worked, and many have dual citizenship.

Now, however, Canada understands that its relationship to the US has completely changed. Our president tore up the trade treaty that he negotiated and bragged about in his first term and instead illegally imposed crushing tariffs. He regularly threatens Canadian sovereignty and his ambassador taunts and insults his Canadian hosts. Canadian citizens have been illegally detained while traveling in America. The American administration is actively fomenting a small secession movement in Alberta (a Canadian province). The president belittles the importance of NATO after Canadians fought and died for our country in Afghanistan. Canadians are appalled at inhumane conditions in US concentration camps, especially for children. They see the US that they thought

they knew represented by the violence, corruption, waste, bullying, braggadocio, bluff, cruelty, stupidity, vulgarity, and chaos of the American Administration.

Prime Minister Carney recognizes that the US and the world has fundamentally changed and will not return to normal regardless of the result of future US elections. Canada now knows that the US is a threat rather than an ally. The US is very quickly abdicating its role as a leader of the democratic world. "Middle" powers such as Canada, France, the UK, and Germany are shifting their focus away from the US and forming diplomatic relationships and trading alliances with more reliable partners such as China and India. They are beefing up their militaries, shifting defense spending to non-US sources.

A word of caution to a President who fancies annexing Canada: if you think it was hard to make Iran submit to your will, you ain't seen nothing should you try to take over Canada. Canadians will make Afghanistan or Iran or Vietnam look like child's play. Canada is the most highly educated country in the world whose citizens will conduct all sorts of sabotage of US infrastructure just across the most porous border in the world. Given Canadian talent and connections in, and knowledge of the US, water systems, electrical grids, bridges, etc. will be easy targets.

The American Republic has endured dark periods in its history before. Here's hoping the people can preserve it.

BILLY G. TAYLOR  
KILLINGLY

### \$2.2 billion for him, empty pockets for us

To the Editor:

Americans are heading to the polls this November. Let's look at the facts on how the economy is performing under the Trump administration, not the version offered from media outlets espousing government propaganda, but the real version showing up in our paychecks and escalating bills.

On July 3, the financial world was shaken by the release of the June U.S. jobs report, which painted a less-than-rosy picture for the labor market. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the figures fell short of expectations. This led to a swift selloff of the U.S. dollar. The unexpected downturn broke the prevailing narrative of an economy marching towards recovery and rattled investors. (The Tech Advocate, CNBC) The nation's labor force has shrunk by more than 1.3 million people since January 2025. These are not signs of a robust economy.

The unemployment rate did tick down to 4.2 percent, but that's not good news. Reportedly the drop was driven by people leaving the labor force altogether, not by more people finding work. Labor force participation fell to 61.5 percent, the lowest level since March 2021. When Americans give up looking for jobs, they vanish from the unemployment count. That's not a recovery. (Moneywise, CNBC)

As for wages, NPR's chief economics correspondent noted, wage growth isn't matching the pace at which prices have climbed. Trump's war of choice with Iran has only made things financially worse for Americans. Gas and grocery costs

continue to squeeze families with no end in sight.

A June NPR/PBS News/Marist poll found that 33% of Americans approve of Trump's handling of the economy, his lowest rating ever on that question, while 60 percent disapprove. The disapproval number includes 65% of independents and 22 percent of Republicans. That figure is even lower than any economic approval rating Joe Biden received during his entire term.

Meanwhile, since returning to the White House, Trump's own finances tell a strikingly different story than the one facing most Americans. Trump's 2025 financial disclosure (a 927-page document), released by the U.S. Office of Government Ethics, showed more than \$2 billion in total earnings, a windfall driven substantially by \$1.4 billion in gains from his family's cryptocurrency ventures, businesses whose fortunes are closely tied to his own administration's policies. (American Faith, Moneywise)

So, how is your paycheck doing since January 2025? Are you finding it easier or harder to make ends meet? If the answer is "harder," you have the power to say so at the ballot box this November. Vote for candidates who will prioritize policies that strengthen the middle class, create good-paying jobs, lower costs for working families, fight for healthcare for all, protect social security, and expand economic opportunity for all Americans, not just the billionaires at the top.

Voter turnout is more important than ever. Change begins at the ballot box!

LISA ARENDS  
BROOKLYN

### Celebrating the decent America

To the Editor:

What a lovely Fourth! Tea party at the Pink House, old timey baseball game, incredible soccer games on TV all weekend, happy, skipping children, birthday wishes from across the globe on America's 250th: France, Japan, Ukraine, Uganda, Hungary, Barcelona, Romania, Norway, among many others.

And yet. And yet. And yet. All weekend my mind kept veering to words from the German philosopher Hannah Arendt: "This constant lying is not aimed at making the 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."

The America that those countries were celebrating, and that most of us were celebrating? The America without the lies, without the mindless, incessant cruelty, without the hate. The America with decency. Decency? I remember that...

JOHN A. DAY, JR.  
WOODSTOCK VALLEY

### The Last Green Valley is just a pipe dream

To the Editor:

"No More Distribution Centers!" those silly little signs say. "Save The Last Green Valley!"

Killingly has an industrial park, and the distribution center proposals are either near the industrial park or near the highway. This whole Last Green Valley thing is just a sad reminder that our part of Connecticut doesn't know how good we have it and if we really did what those people want our area would be a lot worse.

First off, it's not worth it to put transportation facilities like distribution centers too far from the highway. Second, what the people screeching and peppering all these little signs around town don't want to acknowledge is that "protecting our rural town" is just a smokescreen for wanting to have no money or make the cost of living more expensive by requiring people to travel further just to get the same rudimentary day-to-day stuff done.

Before my family moved to Connecticut when I was a kid I was growing up in a place more rural than our area is. As I grew up, I often wondered if things would have been better over there.

Lo and behold, one day, my Dad showed me a newspaper article about my old hometown.

The young people there felt like their lives were meaningless, and they'd stand by the railroad tracks every day screaming at trains because they couldn't find anything better to do. Years later, my Dad and I took a trip up there just to see what we missed.

The newspaper article was just the tip of the iceberg.

The downtown was gone. All the small businesses - including the pizza places - gone. The only businesses still doing anything downtown were a laundromat and liquor stores, so if you wanted to get drunk or wash your clothes, you had options.

We noticed very quickly just how much extra driving we were doing just to get the most basic things done. Now imagine that in the Winter with snow and ice. That's what you'll sign up for versus living around here.

We have a highway. Let's benefit from it. Let's adopt the Rhode Island model where we joke about living on a farm a mile from the truck stop by 395.

JAY GERHART  
PUTNAM

## An unexpected connection to history

Celebrate America 250 Killingly/Putnam: Visit the circa 1745 Cady Copp Cottage on Putnam Heights (Killingly Hill until 1855) Saturday, July 11 between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. NO PARKING ON THE SITE. For reservations for the bus leaving the Putnam Municipal Complex at regular intervals email [william.walsh@putnamct.us](mailto:william.walsh@putnamct.us) or call the Putnam Rec Department at 860-963-6811 by Friday, July 10.



KILLINGLY AT 300 MARGARET WEAVER

D A R Book Club (16 and older). Killingly Public Library. Friday, July 17, 1-2 p.m. Join DAR members for a special historical fiction book read/discussion on *A Girl Called Samson* by Amy Harmon. You do not have to be a member to participate. Pick up a copy of the book at the circulation desk beginning June 15. Amazon had this to say, "Deborah (Samson), impassioned by the cause, disguises herself as a soldier and enlists in the Continental army. Her impressive height and lanky build make her transformation a convincing one, and it isn't long before she finds herself confronting the horrors of war head-on."

I hope that all of you have had a most enjoyable Fourth of July, and have celebrated America's 250th birthday in some fashion. I had to chuckle because I received an email from Family Search saying that I am related to William Williams, a Signer of the Declaration of Independence. He is my sixth cousin eight times removed. Obviously, my genealogical skills are not anywhere near good enough to have figured that one out. William Williams happened to be another of Connecticut's signers. He was born in Lebanon in 1731, the son of minister Solomon Williams and his wife Mary (Porter) Williams. He attended Harvard with plans to be a minister like his father. However, with the onset of the French and Indian War in 1754, he joined the militia and fought for the British. After the war he became a merchant, opening a store in his hometown. "Williams was an early critic of British policies and an activist. He joined the Sons of Liberty, supported the non-importation agreements of 1769 and was sorely disappointed when some of Connecticut's leading merchants began to ignore their commitment to non-importation once most of the Townshend Acts were repealed. His marriage, in 1771, to the daughter of Connecticut's Governor Jonathan Trumbull, the only royal governor to support independence, reinforced his own growing belief that independence was essential." Williams was not appointed a delegate to the Second Continental Congress until July 11, 1776. However, following his arrival in Philadelphia on Aug. 2, he signed the Declaration. (<https://constitutioncenter.org/signers/william-williams>)

I had the great privilege of helping with the dedication of Putnam's America 250 Semiquincentennial plaque in Rotary Park on July 4. I thought it was most fitting that it was placed adjacent to the sheep since men from Northeastern Connecticut, including Israel Putnam, drove sheep to Boston after the port was closed by the British following the Boston Tea Party. The plaque itself says, "Putnam Celebrates

Turn To KILLINGLY page A5

**KILLINGLY**

continued from page A4

America 250. Many colonists living in this area, now known as Putnam, actively resisted British rule. When the British closed the port of Boston in 1774 following the Boston Tea Party, men from northeastern Connecticut, including the town's namesake Israel Putnam, helped supply the city by walking sheep to Boston. At the time, present-day Putnam was part of the towns of Killingly and Pomfret. In 1774 local patriots erected a Liberty Pole on Killingly Hill, now Putnam Heights. In January 1775, they purchased the nearby common as a training ground for their militia. After the Lexington Alarm on April 19, 1775, local militia members marched to Massachusetts in defense of colonial rights. At the Battle of Bunker Hill in June 1775, Israel Putnam is traditionally credited with

urging the troops, "Don't fire 'til you see the whites of their eyes." Following the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, residents here proudly supported the new nation. Some served in the militia and Continental Army; others supplied food, weapons, and materials; women made clothing and knit socks for the soldiers. From this community came determined patriots who helped secure the birth of a new nation, The United States of America." The next time you're in Rotary Park, stop and read the plaque for yourself and reflect on all that went on here in Northeastern Connecticut during the Revolutionary era.

I had an email from former Killingly resident Dave Doiron, who reads my column online, asking about a Fourth of July parade in Killingly and reminiscing about years gone by. "I was wondering if there will still

be the traditional (at least from my days in Danielson) 4th of July parade in Danielson. I remember it being a pretty big event in the 1950s and '60s. I have pictures from one year when the Nike air defense unit in East Killingly participated, towing a Nike missile in the parade and another photo of a popular kids' show personality, Rex Trailer from Boston's WBZ-TV's Boomtown show. He rode his Palomino horse Goldrush and wore his buckskin costume, waving to the cheering and waving kids lining the parade route. After the new old Westfield Ave. high school was built, there was an impressive fireworks display from the fields between it and Killingly Memorial School. We lived on Hutchins Street at the time and just lay down in our back yard to watch the show. Of course, this was years before the Owen Bell Park was developed,

and town commerce was still centered around Main Street Danielson, where the family really could find whatever we needed, from records and everything musical at Oliver's Music on lower Main Street to a small millinery business in a house on nearby Reynolds Street that I remember my mom taking us sons to in the mid-1950s while she shopped for a hat." (email 6/27/2026). Perhaps some of you remember the old parades and can share more memories and even photos.

Now for several interesting tidbits which I came across while researching recent columns. Did you know that a famous 19th century sculptor came from Killingly? "We are pained to announce that Henry Dexter, the well-known sculptor, died on Friday at his home in Cambridge. He was one of the best-known sculptors of Boston, and much of his work has achieved wide reputation.

In his youth he worked as a blacksmith in this town. He has a brother now living in this village." (WCT July 6, 1876, p.2). Wikipedia provided a short biographical sketch. "Henry Dexter was born in Nelson, New York on October 11, 1806. He was apprenticed to a blacksmith shortly after his father's death when his family moved to (Killingly) Connecticut. Dexter taught himself to paint, but was aided in the process by artist Francis Alexander who was his wife's uncle. He moved to Boston in 1836 and opened his own portrait studio. Two years later he began to sculpt famous people, starting with the Reverend Dr. Anderson.] Dexter was completely self-taught and did not seek to study the European or classical Greek styles of his compatriots; for this reason he is considered among the first true American sculptors. Henry Dexter sculpted

over 200 busts in plaster and marble between the years of 1838 and 1875. Some of his most famous sculptures are his portraits of Charles Dickens and President James Buchanan. His depiction of President Buchanan was later used to model his U.S. postage stamp which was part of a series depicting the presidents of the United States."

*Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, July 2026. Special thanks to Dave Doiron for sharing his memories. 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. For Windham County Transcripts, visit https://killingly.historyarchives.online.*

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Pettiness or principle?**

To the Editor:

I would like to respond to Richard Adams' characterization of Gov. Ned Lamont as "petty" for declining to support President Trump's proposed 250th State Fair, citing funding concerns.

I have no way of knowing whether Gov. Lamont's decision was motivated solely by fiscal considerations or whether it also reflected a political statement. If it was intended, in part, as a political statement, I commend him for it.

In my view, President Trump's repeated disregard for constitutional norms and the freedoms that define our democracy

makes his sponsorship of a celebration of America's 250th anniversary ring hollow. A commemoration of our nation's founding should honor the principles of liberty, the rule of law, and respect for democratic institutions—not simply wrap itself in patriotic symbolism.

Mr. Adams may see Gov. Lamont's decision as petty. I see it as a principled stand. History, I believe, will judge Governor Lamont not as a partisan obstructionist, but as someone who chose principle over political theater.

PAUL COTNOIR  
PUTNAM

**Roger Williams University  
announces Spring Dean's List**

BRISTOL, R.I. — Select students have been named to the Spring 2026 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I. Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a GPA of 3.4 or higher are placed on the Dean's List that semester.

- Garrett Bushey of Woodstock Valley
- Cameron Loeber of Brooklyn
- Patrick Martineau of Putnam
- About RWU

Roger Williams University offers professional studies and liberal arts programs, with campuses in Bristol and Providence, Rhode Island. We provide real-world learning that empowers students to become the changemakers and leaders our world needs next.

**Area residents graduate  
from Roger Williams University**

BRISTOL, R.I. — Roger Williams University is proud to announce that Patrick Martineau, of Putnam, graduated with a B.S. in Finance and Christina Mozzi of Pomfret Center earned a B.S. in International Business in May as part of the Class of 2026.

About RWU

Roger Williams University offers professional studies and liberal arts programs, with campuses in Bristol and Providence, Rhode Island. We provide real-world learning that empowers students to become the changemakers and leaders our world needs next.

FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION

CALL 860-928-1818 EXT. 326

EMAIL: MIKAELA@VILLAGERNEWSPAPERS.COM

**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.



**Community  
Connection**

**Talbot**  
Celebrating 20+ Years in Business  
**Talbot Embroidery Shop**  
Custom Embroidery & Heat Transfer  
We're here to service all of your heat transfer and embroidery needs, jobs big and small!  
508-764-0555

**Cormier JEWELERS**  
**WE BUY GOLD**  
Trusted with Appraisals, Custom Design, Repairs, and more since 1947!  
42 Central St, Southbridge MA  
(508) 764-7415 | www.Cormiers.com

**Crooked Creek Farm**  
East Brookfield, Massachusetts  
**Stock up now!**  
**Retail Cuts, Quarter, & Half sides of Beef Available!**  
To purchase your meat packages  
CALL/TEXT: (774) 200-7308  
www.crookedcreekfarmma.org  
**FREE LOCAL DELIVERY!**

**Morin JEWELERS**  
Fine Jewelry & Gifts  
The Jewelry store where you buy with confidence  
**WE BUY GOLD**  
Specializing in Custom Designs  
All types of Jewelry Repairs  
MASTER JEWELERS  
BRILLIANCE YOU DESERVE®  
409 Main St. Southbridge, MA  
morinjewelers.com • 508-764-7250  
Located at CVS Plaza

**Morse Lumber Co., Inc.**  
Building Materials & Supplies  
Lumber • Insulation • Mouldings  
Drywall • Ceilings • Flooring  
Hardware • Cements • Siding • Roofing  
Windows • Doors • Concrete Block  
Sawmill Products  
Rough Sawn • Dimension Lumber  
Boards • Timbers • Industrial Lumber  
994 North Woodstock Road  
(Rt. 169) - 1/2 mile from CT line  
Southbridge, MA 01550  
www.morse-lumber.com  
Toll Free 1-800-764-3231 or 508-764-3231  
"Quality Materials and Service Since 1951"



# We're putting windows & doors back in your BUDGET



## How you save money with us:

- **Most contractors and small window companies can't offer the larger discounts that we do** because they don't have the 123-year history or resources that our parent company Andersen provides.
- **Our low monthly payment options are so great** that many customers who thought they'd pay with cash chose to finance all or part of their project instead.
- We're a national company right here in the community that offers **flexible financing options** for all kinds of budgets. And many customers pay off their projects early.

Now until July 31

# Pay NOTHING for 18 MONTHS!<sup>2</sup>

NO Money Down • NO Payments • NO Interest

Interest is billed during promo period but will be waived if the amount financed is paid in full before 18-month promo period expires.

if paid in full

**and SAVE \$600 + SAVE \$1,500**  
 on every window<sup>1</sup> on every door<sup>1</sup>



Call before July 31 to book your FREE Window & Door Diagnosis

**959-456-0067**

<sup>1</sup>Subject to availability, on a total purchase of 6 or more windows and/or 2 or more entry or patio doors. Cannot be combined with other offers. To qualify for discount offer, initial contact for an appointment must be made and documented on or before 7/31/26 with the purchase then occurring on or before 8/10/26. Products are marketed, sold and installed (but not manufactured) by Renewal by Andersen retailers, which are independently owned and operated under Southern New England Windows, LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Southern New England. CT HIC.0634555. MA 173245. RI 36079. All residents of islands will be subject to an island surcharge. See complete information and entity identification at www.rbaguidelines.com. ©2026 Andersen Corporation. ©2026 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved. <sup>2</sup>Plan 4531. Subject to credit approval. Rates range from 13.63% - 19.90% APR (interest rates range from 15.99% - 24.99%). Loan amount and rate will vary based on your income and creditworthiness. Monthly payments are not required during the Promo Period. Loans for the GreenSky® consumer loan program are provided by Synovus Bank, Member FDIC, NMLS #408043, without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability, or familial status. GreenSky Servicing, LLC services the loans on behalf of your lender, NMLS #1416362. www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org. GreenSky® is a registered trademark of GreenSky, LLC and is licensed to banks and other financial institutions for their use in connection with that consumer loan program. GreenSky Servicing, LLC is a financial technology company that manages the GreenSky® consumer loan program by providing origination and servicing support to banks and other financial institutions that make or hold program loans. GreenSky, LLC and GreenSky Servicing, LLC are not lenders. All credit decisions and loan terms are determined by program lenders.



Courtesy

Members of Putnam Cub Scout Pack 21 visited Sterling Farm in Sterling on Wednesday, July 1. Farm owner Sally Smith told the Cub Scouts how she grows vegetables, both in her traditional gardens and in her special greenhouse, where she uses only water and nutrients, with no soil. The Cubs also beat the heat under the farm's sprinklers and sampled some cucumbers. Field trips like this are part of the fun and active things that Pack 21's Cub Scouts do, guided by trained and experienced adults. Pack 21 welcomes boys and girls ages five through ten. To join, call John Ryan at (860) 928-5873.



### Jacqueline Barbour of Pomfret Center graduates from University of Hartford

WEST HARTFORD — The University of Hartford is pleased to announce that Jacqueline Barbour of Pomfret Center was awarded a Professional Certificate in Paralegal Studies.

1,093 students were awarded graduate and undergraduate degrees this spring as part of the Class of 2026.

We congratulate all our students for their hard work and academic success!

The University of Hartford blends raw passion with emerging talent, offering intentional preparation across six career-focused schools and colleges so every student can thrive. Located on a 350-acre campus neighboring Connecticut's capital city-and positioned midway between New York City and Boston-the University is home to approximately 4,300 undergraduate and 1,700 graduate students from 42 states and 53 countries. Here, students are guided to discover their place, their people, and their purpose.

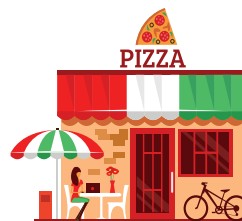
### Adrianna Randolph named to Elms College's Spring Dean's List

CHICOPEE, Mass. — Adrianna Randolph, of Danielson, was named to Elms College's Spring 2026 Dean's List.

Randolph was among 406 students named to the Spring 2026 Dean's List.

Elms College is a co-educational Catholic college offering a liberal arts curriculum that prepares students holistically for a purposeful life in a diverse and interconnected world. Founded in 1928 by the Sisters of St. Joseph, Elms College has a tradition of educating reflective, principled and creative learners, who are rooted in faith, educated in mind, compassionate in heart, responsive to civic and social obligations, and capable of adjusting to change without compromising principle.

**ALL WE KNOW IS LOCAL ~ VillagerNewspapers.com**



Erica Groh — Courtesy

### THOMPSON CELEBRATES THE 4TH

Thank you to everyone that joined Thompson's America 250th parade in Thompson on July 4. The Parade Committee consisting of members Erica Groh, Nicola Chrzanowski, Brian Lievense, Ida Ransom, Steve Benoit, John Szamocki, Nick Donohue, and members of Thompson Historical Society had been planning this event for quite some time! Even on such a hot day, the turnout was incredible! Special shout out to Ted Reynolds for opening the parade by singing the National Anthem. It was a wonderful day in Thompson celebrating America's 250th!





**NAI** Glickman Kovago & Jacobs

# 25 ELM STREET | SOUTHBRIDGE, MA



## 9,536-SF HISTORIC OFFICE BUILDING FOR SALE



- Historical building, also known as Tiffany-Leonard House, built in 1832
- Large Executive Offices with Elegant Finishes and High Ceilings
- Large Open Concept Cubicle Areas

- Listing price: \$450,000
- Building size: 9,536 SF
- Lot size: 13,939 SF
- Loading docks: (1) tailgate height
- Basement: partial | Unfinished



MORE INFO:



**JAMES GLICKMAN**  
Principal

508-769-5007

[jglickman@glickmankovago.com](mailto:jglickman@glickmankovago.com)



**JONAH D. GLICKMAN**  
Vice President

508-868-3765

[jdglickman@glickmankovago.com](mailto:jdglickman@glickmankovago.com)

**PLAQUE**

continued from page A1

out youth bringing them up so they can go out with the knowledge to keep our country going – all of those things are pieces to the greatness of the greatest country in the world. I want to make sure that today you take a moment to reflect on your piece. Each of us has

had a piece in the greatness of this country," said Stewart.

The ceremony concluded with the unveiling of the plaque and the reading of its text which notes that the colony that would become Putnam, Connecticut actively resisted British rule. Local patriots set up the Liberty Pole on Killingly Hill in 1774, today known as Putnam

Heights, and the following year the area hosted training for the militia which eventually marched into Massachusetts following the Lexington Alarm. The plaque also tells of the legacy of Israel Putnam himself and will forever serve as an acknowledgement of the "determined patriots" who helped fight for the birth of a nation.

**Local students named to Dean's List at Plymouth State University**

PLYMOUTH, New Hampshire — Lilly Verraneault of Pomfret Center and Catherine O'Brien of Brooklyn have been named to the Plymouth State University Dean's List for the Spring 2026 semester. To be named to the Dean's List, a student must achieve a grade point average between 3.5 and 3.69 for the Spring 2026 term, be a matriculated student with at least 12 credits, at least nine of which must confer grade points at the time the list is finalized. Verraneault is majoring in Social Work 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).

**Local students named to President's List at Plymouth State University**

PLYMOUTH, New Hampshire — Students have been named to the Plymouth State University President's List for the Spring 2026 semester. To be named to the President's List, a student must achieve a grade point average of 3.70 or better for the Spring 2026 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.

The following local students have been named to the Presidents List:

- Matthew Siegmund of N. Grosvenordale
- Logan Gagnon of Thompson
- Deidrea Hanshaw of N. Grosvenordale
- Shannon Breen of Brooklyn

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).

**OBITUARY**

**Johanne Charlotte Wenger, 79**



Johanne Charlotte (Davis) Wenger, 79, passed peacefully into the arms of Jesus on June 17, 2026.

Born on November 26, 1946, in Putnam, Connecticut, Johanne was raised in South Woodstock, where she developed a lifelong love for family, faith, and serving others. A Licensed Practical Nurse by training, she dedicated her life to caring for others and faithfully served alongside her husband, James Wenger (2025), in pastoral ministry for more than five decades. Through her gifts of music, hospitality, encouragement, and prayer, she quietly touched countless lives.

Johanne is survived by her daughters,

Katherine Wenger Kinnear and her husband, Brian, of Hillsboro, Oregon, and Suzanne Wenger and her husband, Rafael Frutos Fernández, of Madrid, Spain; her grandchildren, Evelyn and Russell Kinnear; and her twin sister, Jennifer Simms of Campbell Hall, New York.

She will be remembered for her gentle spirit, unwavering faith, steadfast prayers, ready smile, and her constant reminder to choose "kind words."

"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." — Philippians 1:21

A complete obituary, including service information, may be found on the Smith and Walker Funeral Home website.

A Graveside Service will be held Sunday, July 12, 2026 at 2:00 PM at Quasset Cemetery, Woodstock, CT. Share a memory at [SmithandWalkerfh.com](http://SmithandWalkerfh.com)

**How to Submit an Obituary**  
*Guidance in Your Time of Need.*

Posting an obituary is a meaningful way to honor the life of someone who has passed, share the loss with the community, and support the grieving process. It celebrates their life, family, memories, and accomplishments while bringing people together in remembrance. An obituary also helps loved ones find comfort and closure during a difficult time preserves the individual's story as an important part of the family's history and legacy.



**We offer easy placement and publications throughout the area**

Just drop us an email, be sure to include a photo if you would like. Include your publication choice and provide a contact number for prepayment.

Deadline is Monday at noon for this week's edition.

Our Rates: \$ 250 per newspaper for 400 words or less.

Photos and symbols included at no extra charge.

For obituaries over 400 words, the charge is \$ 250 for each additional 400 words or less.

Please note this price is per newspaper.

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

If you have any question please call Julie at 508-909-4105

**Stonebride Press Newspapers**

Your Local News. In print and online.

PO Box 90 | Southbridge, MA 01550

508-909-4105 | [www.stonebridgepress.com](http://www.stonebridgepress.com)

*Gilman & Valade* 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Funeral Homes and Crematory

"Living Up to a Tradition Started 100 Years Ago"  
~ Bob Fournier

1919 2019

"A century of dedication, compassion and guidance."

Gilman Funeral Home and Crematory  
104 Church Street, Putnam, CT 06260 • 860-928-7723 • [GilmanAndValade.com](http://GilmanAndValade.com)

**SMITH AND WALKER**  
Funeral Home and Cremation Service  
148 Grove Street, Putnam, CT 860-928-2442  
[www.smithandwalkerfh.com](http://www.smithandwalkerfh.com)

~ ~ ~

**GAGNON AND COSTELLO**  
Funeral Home and Cremation Service  
33 Reynolds Street, Danielson, CT 06239 860-774-9403

Funeral Directors  
Timothy Farner, Steven Farner, Andrew Farner  
*Serving ALL Faiths with Dignity*

**LEGALS**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF**

**Wayne David Tanson (26-00256)**  
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated June 29, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:  
Christine Tanson  
c/o IAN TYLER SULLIVAN,  
ST. ONGE & BROUILLARD,  
50 ROUTE 171,  
WOODSTOCK, CT 06281  
July 10, 2026

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF**

**Alice Elizabeth Uhler Hale, AKA Alice U Hale, AKA Alice E Hale, AKA Betty Hale (26-00258)**

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated June 29, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk  
The fiduciary is:  
Laurence N Hale, II  
c/o JOHN F SHORO, BOWDITCH & DEWEY LLP, 446 MAIN STREET, SUITE 1101, WORCESTER, MA 01608 JOHN F SHORO, BOWDITCH & DEWEY LLP,

446 MAIN STREET, SUITE 1101, WORCESTER, MA 01608  
July 10, 2026

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF**

**Francoise G Gauthier (26-00262)**  
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated June 29, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:  
Nicholas R Scola  
c/o NICHOLAS ROBERT SCOLA,  
NICHOLAS R. SCOLA, LLC,  
286 MAIN STREET,  
DANIELSON, CT 06239  
July 10, 2026

**LEGAL NOTICE WOODSTOCK PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION**

The Woodstock PZC will hold Public Hearings on Thursday, July 16, 2026 at 7:30 p.m. at Woodstock Town Hall, 415 Route 169, Woodstock, for the following:

a. #677-06-26 (5781-52-15) – 429 RT 169-Woostock Academy-Bentley Athletics: Replacement of Existing Tennis Courts

b. #676-04-26(5779-64-17)- 292 RT 169-Scranton Shops LLC-Josh Biando: Change of Use

The public may speak and submit written communications until the close of the public hearing. Details of the

application are available from the Town Planner, [landuse@woodstockct.gov](mailto:landuse@woodstockct.gov) or available in the Land Use Office.

David Morse  
Chairman  
July 3, 2026  
July 10, 2026

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF**

**David M Thomas (26-00219)**  
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated June 26, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:  
Barbara J Thomas  
c/o FRANK GERARD HERZOG,  
BORNER SMITH ALEMAN HERZOG & CERRONE,LLC,  
155 PROVIDENCE STREET,  
PO BOX 166,  
PUTNAM, CT 06260  
July 10, 2026

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF**

**Merrill P Simpson, AKA Merrill Paul Simpson (26-00220)**  
The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated June 29, 2026, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may

result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:  
John J Simpson  
c/o ALLISON T POIRIER, KAHAN KERENSKY & CAPOSSELA, LLP,  
45 HARTFORD TURNPIKE,  
VERNON, CT 06066  
July 10, 2026

**TOWN OF KILLINGLY SEWER USE NOTICE**

The first half of the Sewer Use is due July 1, 2026 and will become delinquent after August 3, 2026. The Sewer Use will be subject to interest at the rate of 18% per annum, 1.5% per month or any fraction of a month, from the due date. A minimum of \$2.00 interest will be charged for each delinquent bill and installment.

FAILURE TO RECEIVE A BILL DOES NOT RELIEVE OR EXCUSE THE OBLIGATION OF TAX OR INTEREST DUE.

Payments will be received in the Revenue Office, 172 Main Street Killingly CT 06239, during the posted hours, by mail, online, or in our drop box.

Please visit our website for full details and online payments [www.killingly.org](http://www.killingly.org).

April Lamothe, CCMC  
Revenue Collector  
Town of Killingly

June 26, 2026  
July 10, 2026  
July 24, 2026

## KILLINGLY HIGH SCHOOL ANNOUNCES HONOR ROLL

KILLINGLY — Killingly High School has released its honor roll for the fourth quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

The following Seniors achieved High Honors in Quarter 4: Layla Calleigh Adams, Emma Sophia Belliveau, Ezekiel David Benoit, Isaiah Ryan Benoit, Gavin Robert Bessenaisre, Samantha Megan Bourque, Kianalisse M Camacho, Elizabeth Ann Carlson, Alena Taylor Clayton, Gavin William Corrao, Kane Christopher Geddis, Brianna

Sue Gervais, Christopher James Graff, Kristine Maria Hamilton, Melody Rayne Hutchinson, Emerson Grace Joly, Evan Michael Kozey, Alex Thomas Murdock, Kenneth Ashley Mykiety, Lily Sophia Peckham, Mackenzie Rose Pothier, Cheyenne Reed Reynolds, Brian Joseph Smith, Samantha Smyth, Amaya Charlene Spadola, and Ryan Daniel Webster.

First Honors: Peityn Emilee Adams, Hayden Robert Allard, Michael James Allen, Samantha Elizabeth Baker, Lillian Avis Beach, Aurora Sarin Beggs, Jaliyah Madgejorie Blair, Chase Morgan Conklin, Kalynn Madison Dombkowski, Jayden Lyn Durand, Selena Marie Gonzalez, Joseph Michael Gould, Alexa Kristine Gregoire, James Riley Hogan, Lacie Elizabeth Keegan, Savannah Laura LaFlash, Isaac Adam Lake, Nickalus Michael Lavoie, Joseph James Mackie, Madison Elizabeth Moreau, Riley Nicole Ritchotte, Julianna Marie Rodriguez, Kendall Lee Rosen, Talia Jolie Santese, Sebastian James Sierakowski, Tyler Charles Smith, Quinn Matthew Sumner, and Mariette Julianna Vien.

Second Honors: Hunter Leo Allard, Amirah Jocelyn Alston-Madison, Jalen Aron Audet,

Aniyah Jaloni Basehore, Jace Erik Basinet, Brady Alexander Brezniak, Eva Madison Briere, Nicholas Caron, Savannah Ruth Christensen, Hailey Grace Collins, Abbey Mae Danielson, Neishalie Delbrey, Kiara Elizabeth Delvalle, Morgan Sue Deojay, Shannon Elizabeth Donovan, Ella Grace Dunn, Michael John Fabiano, Roman Alexander Garcia Colocho, Madisyn Lyn Golbranson, Matthew James Guenette, Siobhan Grace Ellen McAuley Hart, Lilli J Herbrandt, Angelina Rose Hitchew, Amber Lee Hunt, Christopher Michael Jankowski, Teagan Marie Klewin, Adam Thomas Klosowski, Logan Foster Lamontagne, Aiden Russel Lamotte, Michael Andrew

Maheu, Grace Catherine Main, Ashleigh Elizabeth Mendoza, Ella Violet Moyer, Owen James Murray, Walter John Okoney, Jordan Tyler Parker, Ella Marie Pereira, Zachary N Phillips, Klaus Resulaj, Giuliana Nevaeh Rheau, Kingston Irving Rhodes, Jake Sengphachanh Sangasy, Hailey Faith Therrien, and Sophia Yvette Tomany.

The following Juniors achieved High Honors in Quarter 4: Logan Anthony Brooks, Chloe Rose Cesolini, Dammi Lynn Irene Gonzalez, Tomas Arturo Gutierrez, Addyson Marilyn Larkin, Edward John Purcell, Trevor Richard Remillard, Athena Maria Soler, Sophia Amelia St. Germain, Kendall Ann Ternowchek, Cydney Renee Thompson, Allegra Louvi Turbayevskiy, and Mason James Yuill.

First Honors: Aiden Cole Anforth, Rowan Crousey, Quin Alexander Crowley, Gaighe

Joseph DeBella, Felicia Marianna Desabota, Justin Ioannis Dominguez-Bolaina, Kayla Lynn Drinkwater, Anna Swan Kelly, Zoe Lynn Labonte, Emilie Katharine Lecrone, Alisa Ann Libby, Esme Sophia Miller, Sarah Christine Owen, Gracie Olivia Pekarovic-West, Jaiden Alexis Rickell, Alexa Marie Rodriguez, Ayla Dianne Schaeztle, Maximus Anthony Shafer, and Presley Monroe Waterman.

Second Honors: Ellsie Grace Antobenedetto, Shai Baker, Jiyean Neville Baldwin, Alexandria Baron, Zachary Peter Blanchard, Danielle Sion Chiwaya, Haleigh Ann-Marie Clark, Alexia Collazo, Xavier T Cramer, Willow I Deary, Ashton Sue Dubeau, Maddux Spencer Duquette, Trinity Ciara Eldridge, Brady Oliver Girardin, Hailey Francis Gluck, Owen Matthew Hartley, Attilea Rain Jarvis, David William Joushua Kidd, Jacob Vincent Leblanc, Glen Allen Leveille, Addison Elizabeth Lucier, William Mancini, Brandon Harry Melmed, Taber Michael Mowrey, McKenna Renee Mulvey, Austin Newman, Riley William Nolin, Mason Jay Parker, Viviana Nicole Pearson, Dylan Alexander Pedersen, Arionna Jolene Pepin, Matthew Thomas Poirier, Mia Carmen Anita Rayta, Max Morgan Richardson, Lillian Rose Shippee, Christian Tyler Tremblay, Hailey Victoria Tursi, Leah Natalie Valentine, Atalia Elizabeth Vessello, Amiyah Auora Woodmansee, and Claire Maureen Zachow.

The following Sophomores achieved High Honors in Quarter 4: Ella Mae Adams, Riley James Anderson, Ashley Boudreau, Olivia Cora Cabral, Caitlyn Debra Cote, Kate Elizabeth Crowley, Corinne Elizabeth Daniels, Ev Analia Dos Santos, Marika Exarhoulias, Bethany Morgan Garvey, Michael Joseph Gottlieb, Lianna Rose Hutchinson, Jake Paul Jaworski, Samairy Isabelle Madera, Sophia G Moran, Madeline Shea Plumadore, Nina M Purcell, Reese Noelle Ritchotte, Kalia Bea Rosado, and Satya Thongsouvanh.

First Honors: Kylie Grace Anderson, Jaden Edward Barnett, Jake Edward Beaudreault,

Alexandria Caisse, Christopher Caron, Alyssa Lyn Chartier, Gabriel Kenyon Dombkowski, Bryce Brian Dumeer, Ava Elise Ellis, Zachary James Lackner, Liam Michael Lamotte, Loretta May Lannon, Victoria Lynn Liguz, Peyton Aaron Loeber, Jaynie Elizabeth MacQuarrie, Greyson Daniel Marquez, Lillian Rose McDonald, Graham Joseph Milot, Haley Elizabeth Nolet, Chloe Alyvia Oates, Rigel Thomas Pelletier, Daphne Lynn San Souci, Gianna Lynn Sanchas, Violet Elizabeth Schaefer, Makayla Ariana Stubbs, and Arianna Alivia Turner.

Second Honors: Alan Douglas Abbott, Gabriella Lily Adams, Claire Lynn Antunes, Graciella C Baublitz, Harris Dion Benjamin, Samuel Charles Berube, Bridget Elizabeth Brown, Hazel Jean Campbell, Andre Ward Louis Cardona, Delia Marie Chmura, Adisen Dakotah Clark, William Hargrave Clayton, Thailia Marie Collette, Ty Norman Crowley, Michael Giovanni DeAngelis, Antonio Vincent Demaio, Angel Andreas Dominguez Leon, Rowan Bernadette Frazer, Gabriella Lyn Grajales, Madison Marie Hardy, Katie Lynn Hill, Isabella Jeanne Jolley, Gavin Urbain Jonash, Aaden Bond Khamphoukeo, Ethan ManhLee Laoroyal, Scarlett Mae Laws, Benjamin Thomas Lemery, Jacob Jay Farrell Long, Emmanuel Martinez, Monty Niyomkham, Maximus Lee Normandie, Loxley Kellan O'Leary, Ava Rose O'Rourke, Jackson Olson, Jon William Palmer, Naitik Pandya, Cyncere Perry, Lyla Marie Rondeau, Brandon Antonio Sanchez, Jackson Parker Santese, Aaliyah Marie Shields, Chase Edward St. Jean, Ronald Brock Wood, and Rosalyn Elaine Worden.

The following Freshmen achieved High Honors in Quarter 4: Rosalie V Beach, Natalya-Rose Benoit, Gabriel Michael Covington, Makenzie Serenity Cutler, Everson Maze DeVillez, Hayden Michelle Frazer, A-ris Kuljancic, Bryce Patrick Lemovitz, Alexandria Margit Ann Magee, Adalyn Elizabeth Malarkey, Kezlee Claire Morrarty, Mabel Catherine Peterson, Gabriela Romero-Garcia, Liam Thomas Sierakowski, Jaclyn Elizabeth Suprenant, Emma Grace Young, and Lexie Grace Young.

First Honors: Ashley Rose Amosco-Gilbert, Abigail Josephine Andrade, Olivia L Barker,

Laylanie Chanel Benitez, Declyn Jacqueline Benjamin, Timothy Eugene Carlson, Olivia

Claire Cesolini, Kennadie Elisabeth DaSilva, Jayden Reilly Desimone, Lucy Marie Gavis, Jasper Aaron Gilbert, Kairah Leanne Guertin, Brandon Lavell Harrison, Autumn Skye LaCasse, Gabriella Noelle Lepine, Adam Bradford Lovendale, Avery Carol Main, Xavier Michael Mongeau, Emily Reanne Pedersen, Gianna Rose Peters, Layla Kaitlyn Raymond, Mariya Phamich Sarandi, Harrison James Seney, Ryane A Shutt, Andre Souriyamath, Piper Leigh Vose, Rosa Aria Wilson, and Emily Ann Zadora.

Second Honors: Alonte Christian Auger-Gibson, Lucien Joseph Bouthillier, Tayla Lee

Charron, Nathan Patrick Comtois, Larry Michael Cote, Alyson Mae Crockett, Peighton

Elizabeth Denomme, Zachary Fox Ferland, Christopher Fernandes, Melany Lynn Fortin,

Joxel Yahir Fuentes Ortiz, Alivia Mary Gagne, Aislynn Lyla Hassett, Josie Catherine Hebert, Asher Riley Jarvis, Cruz Joaquin Jimenez-Garvey, Carter Jameson Kane, Ayla Marie Laprade, Kaleb Robert Lavalley, Juan Esteban Martinez, Maria Jennifer Martinez, Haidynn Susanna Miller, Jose Antino Morente Uz, Naomi Arianna Nunez, Amani Ortiz, Williams Bismal Polanco, Brianna Enslin Robbins, Emma Ruth Robinson, Emmalyn Autumn Soullier, Dakota Grace St. Jean, Evah Bliss Thuotte, Nathan Daniel Toth, Lorelai Rayne Tyler, and Isabella Rose Weber.

## COUNTRY LIVING AT WESTVIEW COMMONS

*Catered Independent and Assisted Living Community*



~ THE GREAT ROOM ~  
Join us for a complimentary, chef-prepared lunch and a personal tour of our beautiful property. (Seating is Limited!)  
Call 860-428-2230  
to reserve your spot today!

### Designed Elegance

- Easy Month-to-Month Lease • No Waiting List Fees • No Assessment Fees • No Community Fees •
- One and two-bedroom units (available up to 1,075 sqft.) with kitchenettes •
- specialty finishes, such as coffered ceilings, oversized bathrooms, walk-out patio doors •
- washer/dryer hookups • weekly housekeeping and linen service • three chef-prepared meals daily •

Give us a call at 860-428-2230 to request more information or schedule your personal tour.

117 Ware Road (PO Box 488) Dayville, Connecticut, 06241 | 860-428-2230 | westviewcommons.com

