

# Empty Bowls returns to its roots with sold out dinners



Volunteers serve up soup during Empty Bowls on Saturday, Sept. 30.

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

THOMPSON — The annual Empty Bowls fundraiser has been a staple of the Quiet Corner for 18 years and on Sept. 30, the event returned to a stand-alone dinner helping raise money to fight hunger in the region.

Each year, Empty Bowls allows guests to purchase a ticket allowing them to select one of countless hand-made bowls provided by Sawmill Pottery and taste a variety of soups and treats donated by restaurants throughout the Quiet Corner. Sawmill Pottery of Putnam has served as the driving force behind the

event each year. Money raised from the event has traditionally gone back into the community to assist with resolving food insecurity through meal programs and assisting local pantries. While the 2020 dinner was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the dinner returned as a complement to Putnam's Savor the Flavor, another food-themed event, but in 2023 Empty Bowls once again became its own event with a new host partner in TEEG, a non-profit social service agency in Thompson.

Dot Burnworth, Owner of Sawmill Pottery who once again helped coordinate the dinner, said



Guests to Empty Bowls pick out their hand made bowls donated by Sawmill Pottery of Putnam.

she was happy to bring Empty Bowls back to its roots.

"When we had COVID, obviously we couldn't do the dinner, but I feel like we pivoted nicely and we teamed up with Savor the Flavor. We felt that matched our event because it was all about tasting what the community had to offer even though we were two separate events. I've been itching to get back to a stand-alone event and I had connected with TEEG for other reasons and after seeing their campus and all the things they are doing I was blown away. I felt everyone should have that opportunity to see what they're doing and

experience the amazing energy of all the staff and volunteers. I feel like there are a lot of people like me in the community who hear the name TEEG, but they don't know about what they're doing so I wanted them to have the opportunity to see it firsthand," said Burnworth.

The event was a sold-out affair with both dinners hosting a combined 200 ticketholders throughout the afternoon. Everything at the event was donated from the manpower to the food, the bowls, and even the large tent erected outside to compensate for the damp New England Weather. It was a true



TEEG volunteers prepare food in the social service agency's kitchen during Empty Bowls.

community affair which Burnworth said captured the spirit of what Empty Bowls, and being a business owner in general, is all about.

"It's my philosophy that as businesses we are members of the community and I believe that we should all be taking care of one another and help to give back," Burnworth said. "Empty Bowls is a great way that I, as a potter, can really make an impact. Empty Bowls is an international event. There are versions of this program all over the world and I've found that this is a great way that we as a pottery studio can give to our larger community."

Soups for the event were donated by 85 Main, ANYA, Chef's Table at Little Dipper Farm, the Courthouse Bar & Grill, G Seven Caterers, Grill 37, Jessica Tuesday's, Metro Bistro, Mill Town Grill, Jim Nowak, Sassy Soup Sisters, The Broken Crust, The Inn at Woodstock Hill, Vanilla Bean Café, and Woodstock Academy. The meal also included ice cream donated by Alamode Markey, Bogey's Ice Cream Buck's Soft Serve, Main Street Gelaro, Ra Ra's Ice Cream Shop, The Ice Box, and Woodstock Creamery while breads for the event were donated by Little River Bakery and Soleil & Suns Bakery.

## Local towns receive STEAP and education grants

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

REGION — The end of September brought plenty of good news for local towns and school districts, as Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont's office announced numerous grants benefiting communities throughout the state, including the Quiet Corner.

On Sept. 26, Lamont was joined by Education Commissioner Charlene M. Russell-Tucker to announce \$3.8 million in grants to allow 83 applicants from 89 school districts to implement dual credit offerings for high school students. The courses can be part of college academic pathways or career-oriented programs helping give students extra preparation for their future careers before graduation. Woodstock Academy and the Thompson School District were on the list of recipients. Woodstock Academy will receive \$48,830 to expand enrollment offerings through Eastern Connecticut State University and build partnerships with Quinebaug Valley Community College (QVCC) and the Connecticut State Community College. Thompson is receiving a \$10,000 that will also allow Tourtellotte Memorial High School to expand its own partnership with QVCC and enhance its Medical Sciences & Humans Services career pathway. The grant will also assist in launching a new culinary arts pathway that kicked off this fall.

"Dual credit courses enable students to earn college credits while still in high school, giving them a head start on their requirements to complete postsecondary education while also helping reduce the financial burden of higher education costs," Lamont said of these programs. "I am proud that we can support the expansion of these courses in our high schools and get students on the right track to begin successful, long-lasting careers."

Three days later, on Sept. 29, Lamont announced another round of state grants through the Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP). Sixty towns in Connecticut will each receive a share of \$24.5 million to help with infrastructure improvement projects including Brooklyn, Eastford and Thompson.

"Our small towns are an integral part of what makes Connecticut such a special place to live and work," Lamont said of the funding. "By working with them on these grants, the state can help get these vital projects completed so these towns can continue to grow, thrive, and attract businesses, while improving the quality of life for our residents."

Brooklyn will receive \$250,000 to help rebuild Church Street with \$20,000 matched from the town while Eastford will be granted \$156,616 to improve town parking lots and playground resurfacing and paving with a \$137,900 match from town funds. Thompson will receive \$500,000 which will assist with renovating the school district's track and athletic field with a \$1.04 million match on the town side.

## Fall Author Series to feature Philip and Philbrick

PUTNAM — The Putnam Library Author Series is pleased to announce its two fall authors. Both events will be free to the public and held at the Putnam Public Library.

On Saturday, Oct. 21 (1-2:30 p.m.) Leila Philip, author of the recent, nationally acclaimed "Beaverland: How One Weird Rodent Made America," will present from the book that Sy Montgomery (NYT best-selling author of "The Soul of an Octopus") has said will "break your heart – and then heal it with compassion, beauty, and wonder." Much of Philip's field research on the beaver was done in Connecticut's Quiet Corner. She and her book



Leila Philip



Nathaniel Philbrick

were recently featured on CBS Sunday Morning. Her presentation will be followed by an open Q&A and book signing.

Then on Saturday, Nov. 4 (1-2:30 p.m.), our featured author will be Nathaniel Philbrick. Philbrick is the author

of National Book Award winner "In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex" and nearly a half-dozen New York Times bestsellers, including "Mayflower: Voyage, Community, War" (Pulitzer finalist) and "The Last Stand:

Custer, Sitting Bull, and the Battle of Little Bighorn." P Few contemporary authors have written as much and so well on America's history. This event will be a conversation between series host Brad Davis and Mr. Philbrick. An open Q&A and book signing will follow.

The Putnam Library Author Series, now in its third year, aims to feature northeastern Connecticut authors (novelists, poets, nonfiction writers, and short story writers) who have had books recently published. The series offers two readings in the fall and two in the spring. The spring authors will be announced in late winter.

## Family Fun Day raises money for 4-H camp

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

WOODSTOCK — The Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp held a Family Fun Day on Saturday, Sept. 30 as volunteers, campers, and supporters spend the

damp afternoon at Buck's Soft Serve in Woodstock providing numerous amenities including cotton candy, baked goods, and a dunk tank. The popular ice cream shop also sold apple cider slushies with proceeds benefitting the

camp.

Camp Director Heather Logee said the event served dual purposes, to help raise funds to renovate the Camp's dam and also to increase awareness of the upcoming camp season. Logee

gave an update on the dam project, which will require nearly a million dollars for the renovation.

"We are making progress and have some plans in the works, finally. Hopefully, we will have some design work done soon. The big project is raising the money to fix the dam itself," Logee said. "The community has done a lot to support us and even though it sounds like we still need a lot we're still doing work. We keep spending the money we get, but still have the big cost of the construction to go, and every summer we have to monitor the dam. We just have to keep plugging along."

In addition to raising money for the dam, the event also served as simply a way for the 4-H Camp to get its name out



Jason Bleau

Campers and volunteers from the Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp serve cotton candy during a Family Fun Day at Buck's Soft Serve in Woodstock.



# Woodstock Dems confirm Trading Post as location for annnnual children’s Winter Boot Drive

WOODSTOCK — The Woodstock Democratic Town Committee invites area residents to support its fourth annual Winter Boot Drive to benefit children from Woodstock and neighboring towns. Once again, WDTC will partner with TEEG to help fill this special need.

This year's event will be held on Saturday, Nov. 4, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Woodstock Trading Post (formerly Sweet Evalina's Stand) at the corner of Route 169 and Joy Road in Woodstock.

Please bring new, unwrapped winter boots in children's sizes for either gender and in original packaging to the Woodstock Trading Post that day. Look for the TEEG truck near the out-

door pavilion. Volunteers will help unload your car.

TEEG Executive Director Anne Miller says, "Warm, winter boots are a basic need for children in our area, and are something that every child deserves. The boot drive fills this very important need for TEEG and the families we serve. We are so happy that Woodstock's Democratic Town Committee volunteers will make this happen again this year."

The Democratic Town Committee will turn over all donations to TEEG. In its role as a Youth Services

Bureau, TEEG will then distribute the donated boots to deserving families in Woodstock and neighboring communities.

Donors who prefer to contribute cash can bring donations to the boot drive on Nov. 4 or mail checks, payable to TEEG, to: WDTC, attn — Children's Winter Boot Drive, P.O. Box 813, Woodstock, CT 06281. Cash donations will be

used to purchase additional needed boots for area children.

In 2022, the Winter Boot Drive set records for total boots donated (90 pairs) and in cash contributions (\$950). In its first three years, boot drive supporters have contributed 211 pairs of boots and \$2,550 in cash to help TEEG purchase additional boots for children who need warm footwear for the winter. These results document how much the Woodstock

community cares, Anne Miller said.

"Families that struggle to afford food and rent often do not have a budget for children's footwear," Miller said. "WDTC's Winter Boot Drive makes sure that every child who needs boots gets them."

"We are pleased to once again partner with TEEG for this valuable community service in these still-challenging times," WDTC Chair Charles Super said. "And

we especially thank owners D'Andre Therecka and Dante Therecka for welcoming the WDTC Boot Drive to the new Woodstock Trading Post! The Trading Post is a spectacular location for this important event."

Event coordinator Greg Kline urges donors to "Please help us fill the TEEG truck with boots! Our goal is to receive at least 125 pairs of children's winter boots this year."

## Wheels to Learning rolls on

REGION — Wheels to Learning rolls on to support transportation costs for field trips for all K-12 public schools in Windham County for the upcoming 2023-24 school year. The program provides bus funding to specified field trip destinations. Wheels to Learning was widely used during the 2022-23 school year, providing \$28,000 to support field trips for 51 classrooms at 24 Windham County schools, enabling 3,400 students to participate in educational and enriching opportunities outside their classrooms.

Wheels to Learning was launched by The Scripps Family Fund for Education and the Arts and the Newell D. Hale Foundation in 2018. The program's funders believe that every child should have access to quality educational opportunities including those outside the classroom. The program addresses the prohibitive cost of transportation and ensures increased access to field trip learning experiences for Windham County public school students.

For the upcoming school year, Wheels to Learning will offer transportation

funding for an expanded list of designated venues. These organizations are:

- Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret, Pomfret
- Connecticut Capitol Building, Hartford
- Connecticut River Museum, Essex
- Connecticut Science Center, Hartford
- Connecticut's Old State House, Hartford
- Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, Hartford
- Hartford Stage, Hartford
- Mark Twain House and Museum, Hartford
- Mystic Aquarium, Mystic
- Mystic Seaport Museum, Mystic
- New England Air Museum, Windsor Locks
- Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, Mass.
- Performing Arts of Northeast Connecticut (formerly Opera New England)
- Samuel Slater Experience, Webster, Mass.
- The Three C's (Community Cultural Committee of Northeastern Connecticut, Inc.)

Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford

Wheels to Learning program and application information was sent to all Windham County public schools at the beginning of the school year. To access funding, teachers apply for transportation grants through a simple application process on the program's Web site.

Other New England states including Rhode Island and Massachusetts have state-wide programs that offer transportation funding for school field trips. In Connecticut, no such funding is available and school districts and the venues they visit often rely on private donations to support these costs. Feedback from other funders and program participants will provide insight to inform future decisions about the funding, scope, and structure of the program.

Further information about Wheels to Learning can be found at the program's website at [wheelstolearning.org](http://wheelstolearning.org). Please direct any questions to Linda Marshall at [Lmarshall@mbphilanthropy.com](mailto:Lmarshall@mbphilanthropy.com).

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# Local students graduate from University of Hartford

WEST HARTFORD — Congratulations to the University of Hartford Class of 2023, including Parker Kalafus of Pomfret Center and Bethany Chase of Woodstock.

Spread across seven dynamic schools and colleges, the University of Hartford has been guiding the purpose and passion of students for over six decades. On our 350-acre campus alongside Connecticut's capital city, approximately 4,000 undergraduate and 1,800 graduate students from 48 states and 45

countries come together for a common purpose: to collaborate across different disciplines, diversify perspectives, and broaden worldviews. We're a four-year private university focused on advancing the public good through meaningful connections within our communities. Our unique approach to comprehensive education gives us the critical perspectives that lead to impactful change, regionally and beyond. With degree programs spanning the arts, humanities, business, engineering and technology, education, and health professions, we focus on doing the work that matters. Visit [www.hartford.edu](http://www.hartford.edu) for more information.

## VILLAGER ALMANAC At CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of Sept. 26: Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Parula Warbler, Black and White Warbler, Pine Warbler, Blue-headed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, White-eyed Vireo, Hummingbird, Great Blue Heron, Wood Duck, Barred Owl, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Cedar Waxwing, American Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, Lincoln's Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, Swamp Sparrow. Visit [ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home](http://ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home).

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**VILLAGER NEWSPAPERS**  
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**PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER**  
FRANK G. CHILINSKI  
860-928-1818 EXT. 103  
[frank@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:frank@stonebridgepress.news)

**BUSINESS MANAGER**  
RYAN CORNEAU  
860-928-1818 EXT. 102  
[ryan@salmonpress.news](mailto:ryan@salmonpress.news)

**OPERATIONS DIRECTOR**  
JIM DINICOLA  
508-764-6102  
[jdinicola@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:jdinicola@stonebridgepress.news)

**EDITOR**  
BRENDAN BERUBE  
860-928-1818 x 323  
[news@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:news@stonebridgepress.news)

**PRODUCTION MANAGER**  
JULIE CLARKE  
860-928-1818, EXT. 305  
[julie@villagernewspapers.com](mailto:julie@villagernewspapers.com)

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# Pourings & Passages to host local author Ed Dempsey

DANIELSON — On Saturday, Nov. 11 at 10:30 a.m., Pourings & Passages Bookstore will host Ed Dempsey, who will discuss the book he has recently written about his father, "Remembering John Noel Dempsey."

As many local residents may fondly remember, John Dempsey served as Governor of Connecticut from 1961 to 1971. Ed will also be happy to sign copies of his book while at the local bookstore.

Pourings & Passages Bookstore, located at 103 Main St., Danielson, is open Wednesday to Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and can be reached at 860-774-1712.

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# Local college students begin first semester at Eastern

WILLIMANTIC — More than 900 new students are in their first semester at Eastern Connecticut State University this fall 2023. The new admits include 696 first-time students and 254 transfer students who are enrolled in undergraduate and graduate-level programs.

Among them are:

Taylor Hardacker of Brooklyn, a first-year student who majors in English and Early Childhood Education.

Stormy Sawallich of Brooklyn, a senior who majors in Sociology and Early Childhood Education.

Alyssa Thompson of Brooklyn, a first-year student who majors in Liberal Studies and Early Childhood Education.

Roman Azzolino of Brooklyn, a first-year student who majors in Art.

Allison Capuano of Brooklyn, a junior who majors in English.

Murphy Chace of Brooklyn, a sophomore who majors in Art.

Kylie Gregory of Brooklyn, a first-year student who majors in Psychology.

Jayson Ives of Brooklyn, a first-year student who majors in Computer Science.

Jack Marshall of Brooklyn, a first-year student who majors in Finance.

Kaelin Reilly of Brooklyn, a junior who majors in Psychology.

Geoffrey Vallone of Brooklyn, a graduate student who majors in Accounting.

Charlotte Ward of Brooklyn, a sophomore who majors in English.

Michael Flaherty of Danielson, a graduate student who majors in Early Childhood Education.

Joshua Larkin of Danielson, a junior who majors in

Computer Science.

Tate Larrow of Danielson, a junior who majors in Business Administration.

Jocelyn Madden of Danielson, a graduate student who majors in Secondary Education.

John Madden of Danielson, a sophomore who majors in Psychology.

Lauren Mayotte of Danielson, a graduate student who majors in Early Childhood Education.

Michael Newman of Danielson, a graduate student who majors in Management.

Angel Rodriguez of Danielson, a first-year student who majors in Art.

Ashley Rosado Sanchez of Danielson, a first-year student who majors in Art.

Aubrey Zannini of Danielson, a first-year student who majors in Exploratory - Undecided.

Ciara King of Dayville, a first-year student who majors in Exploratory Education.

Grace Gronski of Woodstock Valley, a sophomore who majors in Spanish and Elementary Education.

Cc LeBlanc of North Grosvenordale, a graduate student who majors in Early Childhood Education.

Chloe Manzo of North Grosvenordale, a first-year student who majors in Health Sciences.

Jack Smalarz of North Grosvenordale, a sophomore who majors in Computer Science.

Allison Thebeau of Thompson, a first-year student who majors in History and Theatre and Performance Media.

Nicholas Prouty of Thompson, a junior who majors in Psychology.

Zachary Willard of Thompson, a junior who majors in Business Administration.

Elizabeth Mard of Eastford, a first-year student who majors in Liberal Studies and Elementary Education.

Danielle Laurito of Eastford, a graduate student who majors in Early Childhood Education.

Elliot Lawrence of Eastford, a graduate student who majors in Elementary Education.

Sarah Tuttle of Pomfret Center, a junior who majors in History and Elementary Education.

Ava Basak of Woodstock, a first-year student who majors in Finance.

Alexandra Cloutier of Woodstock, a first-year student who majors in Social Work.

Ethan Craig of Woodstock, a first-year student who majors in Political Science.

Cody Currie of Woodstock, a sophomore who majors in Computer Science.

Ethan Ekman of Woodstock, a first-year student who majors in Computer Science.

Tanner Favreau of Woodstock, a first-year student who majors in Biology.

Tyler Green of Woodstock, a first-year student who majors in Exploratory - Undecided.

Nicholas Majewski of Woodstock, a sophomore who majors in Environmental Earth Science.

The most popular majors for the new students include psychology, business administration, health sciences, computer science, art and biology. The students come from nearly all of Connecticut's 169 towns and 21 other states. Outside of Connecticut, the biggest feeder states for the new students include Massachusetts, New York and Rhode Island.

These students join a student body of nearly 4,000 who are enrolled for the 2023-24 academic year. In total, 30 states are represented among them and approximately 30% are the first in their families to attend college.

## Pet Pals hosting low cost rabies clinic

DANIELSON — Pet Pals Northeast, a local animal welfare organization, is holding a low cost rabies clinic at the Quinebaug Valley Veterinary Hospital, Route 12, Danielson/Plainfield town line, on Oct. 21 from 2 to 3 p.m. Cost is \$15 (cash only) per animal. Pre-registration and appointment is required. No walk-ins, please.

For information, registration and appointment contact Pet Pals at 860-317-1720. This is the last clinic this year.

## Local veteran’s album reissued 52 years after initial release

PUTNAM — After his discharge from the US Army in Saigon, Vietnam in 1969, Roy Rutanen flew to Sydney, Australia and went from soldier to singer-songwriter. He performed on stage, in various clubs and coffee houses, TV shows, recorded an album of his songs two years later, and much to his surprise, re-released 52 years later: (On YouTube, too!)

Born in Putnam, where he now lives, grew up in Southbridge, Mass., and drafted in 1966. When he returned to the States he dropped music, attended broadcasting school in Boston, into radio in Poughkeepsie, an award-winning broadcast journalist at KENS-TV in San Antonio, Texas, back to school and graduated from UMASS Amherst.

## Scout Troops 25 & 66 hosting Open House Oct. 19

PUTNAM — On Thursday, Oct. 19 from 6:30-8 p.m., Boy Scouts from Troop 25 and Troop 66 will be conducting an Open House at Scout Hall in Thompson.

Climb mountains? Go whitewater rafting? Build a wilderness survival shelter?


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## Roseland Cottage to host 41st Annual Fine Arts and Crafts Festival

WOODSTOCK — Roseland Cottage's 41st Annual Fine Arts and Crafts Festival takes place Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 14 and 15, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. More than 150 juried artisans, live music, food court, first floor tours, and children's entertainment. \$5, free for Historic New England members.

Roseland Cottage is located at 556 Route 169, Woodstock. Please call (860) 928-4074 for more information.

### Join Aspinock Historical Society for Walktober event

PUTNAM — The Walktober event will Oct. 7 will start at the Municipal Complex (200 School St., Putnam) at 10 a.m. with town historian Bill Pearsall. We will walk around the town to show some historic buildings and events that have impacted our history. We will end back at the Complex with a tour of the museum. For more information, visit putnamaspinockhistoc.com.

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# Woodstock and the Post

Recently, there have been discussions about the possible closing, or at least move, of the South Woodstock Post Office. At one time, there were six post offices in town, a point made every so enthusiastically by former post masters Bill Farber and Richard Potter during the Woodstock Tercentenary Exhibit in 1986. As part of that exhibit, the U.S. Postal Service was touted for disseminating information, encouraging economic growth and developing a sense of democratic nationalism over the town's more than 300 years.

The Massachusetts General Court created a quasi-post office in 1637, by designating certain private homes as places to drop foreign mail. Later in the same century the Court officially sanctioned the establishment of a post office in Boston under John Howard. Thomas Neale, a royal advisor, was permitted to patent a postal system for the colonies in 1691. It was a monopoly with prescribes rates and procedures for appointing new post masters. Most of the colonies agreed to the Neale system but Massachusetts folks had concerns. They insisted that the system be amended to include a marking system on each letter

with the date it was received for mailing, imposing a level of quality control and the first "postmarking." The British Parliament rejected the Neale system and it never went into effect legally; however, it still managed to incur a deficit of 2,000 pounds in four years because the rates were so high and unregulated.

In 1710, Queen Anne's Act created a postal monopoly for the colonies and the profits were allocated as revenue for Queen Anne's War. This was well before the Stamp Act but the colonies still opposed financing England's conflicts and so they circumvented the system eliminating revenue to England. Benjamin Franklin was appointed Deputy Postmaster General in 1753. He was powerless to amend preset rates but did speed up service and strengthen the ties between colonies by establishing new routes, local delivery and introducing special rates for newspapers. His system had its first profitable year in 1761. But England still wanted its revenue and so increased the rates. The colonies continued to go around the system. The Stamp Act followed in 1766.

WOODSTOCK THROUGH THE YEARS  
.....  
CHARLENE PERKINS CUTLER



William Goddard developed the Constitutional Post in 1774, a short-lived system which encouraged each colony to maintain its own postal service. It did not work. The American Post Office was established during the 2nd Continental Congress in July of 1775, with Benjamin Franklin appointed as Postmaster General. Woodstock was the junction of at least three weekly postal routes that served southern New England. One ran south and west to Fairfield, a second south to New London, and a third northeast to Cambridge. Woodstock resident Ebenezer Smith was hired as a news carrier in May of 1775, so authorized by the Connecticut General Assembly. Such carriers could also be hired for personal service. Samuel Dexter wrote from Woodstock in September, 1775, "I have engaged the bearer who rides post from this place to Cambridge every week to go out of his way to deliver this letter to you..." (Bowen, 146).

The new postal

system was expensive to maintain but essential throughout the Revolution. It ran deficits that

were covered by Congress. Postal regulations were revamped in 1782, further organizing a relationship between postmasters, stagecoach contractors and mail carriers. Rates remained high, security of mail was an issue, and letters often arrived opened.

The Postal Act of 1792 was the first postal legislation enacted by Congress and required the postal service to be self-supporting, use all profits to expand services, and run on expanded routes created by Congress. Local service was not convenient. Woodstock residents could only mail letters if they could carry them to the Pomfret Post Office, established in 1795. The Louisiana Purchase marked a huge expansion of the national system but did little to improve postal service in Woodstock. Finally, the Woodstock Post Office was established on Dec. 22, 1810 when William Bowen was appointed postmaster. Fifteen years later, the West Woodstock Post Office came into service with Chauncey Kibbe as its first postmaster, and in 1829 Amasa

Carpenter accepted the position of postmaster for North Woodstock.

In 1836, a new Postal Act passed Congress that more specifically defined the duties of the Postmaster General, the rules for making contracts with mail carriers, and restrictions for postal employees having a financial relationship with mail carriers. Rates were crazy: 18.5 cents for a letter to travel from New York City to Troy, N.Y., but a barrel of flour could travel the same distance for 12.5 cents. Prepayment of postage was adopted in 1840; stamps became mandatory in 1856. Rural delivery, the penny postcards and flat rate postage system came in the last quarter of the 19th century.

Once again, Woodstock found itself in an advantageous position when "The Great Mail" passed through on the Center Turnpike from Boston to Hartford. The North Woodstock Post Office changed its name to East Woodstock in 1853. A new North Woodstock Post Office was established that same day at the Village Corners (Route 169 and 197). The Woodstock Post Office became the South Woodstock Post Office on Dec. 19, 1862, and on the same day a new post office was established

on Woodstock Hill. The sixth post office in town was created in 1857 in Woodstock Valley with Thomas P. Leonard as the first postmaster.

A great deal of modernization, expansion of services and rates occurred in the 20th century, as well as the establishment of zip codes. In Woodstock, the six original village post offices were pared down to three: West closed in 1916 and North in 1976, followed by Woodstock Valley in the late 1980s (its zip code of 06282 is now delivered through the post office on Route 169). What will the 21st century bring?

Books on Woodstock history available at any of the town's four libraries:

Bowen, Clarence Winthrop. History of Woodstock. Boston: James R. Osgood, 1882.

Larned, Ellen D. History of Windham County, Connecticut. 2 vols. Worcester, Massachusetts: Printed by

Charles Hamilton, 1874.

Woodstock Tercentenary Committee. Heritage and Horizons, Woodstock Remembers 300 Years. Woodstock, CT, 1968.

# Finding inspiration in the life of Victor Frankl

A life that exemplified triumph over the deepest abysses of despair is that of Viktor Frankl. During World War II, Viktor Frankl was stripped of everything amidst the unimaginable horrors of Nazi concentration camps.

Frankl was born in 1905 in Vienna, Austria, into a Jewish family. By the time he was a young man, the Nazis rose to power, and their grip tightened on Europe; they enacted anti-Jewish laws in Austria, imposing severe restrictions on the Jewish community. These laws affected every facet of Jewish life.

Frankl, a practicing psychiatrist and neurologist, was barred from treating non-Jewish patients due to these oppressive policies. However, instead of being entirely sidelined, he took on a crucial role at the Rothschild Hospital in Vienna. This establish-

POSITIVELY  
SPEAKING  
.....  
TOBY  
MOORE

ment became the sole haven in the city that continued to admit and treat Jewish patients amid the growing anti-Semitic environment.

In 1942, he could have escaped to the United States and avoided The Holocaust's encroaching menace. However, unwilling to leave his beloved wife Tilly and his parents, he chose to stay with his family.

That year, the Nazis arrested Frankl, his wife, and his parents, uprooting them from their regular lives and forcing them into the Jewish Ghetto.

The Nazis deceitfully paraded the Ghetto as a "model" Jewish settlement. Of course, that was just a facade. It was overcrowded, with scarce food and clean water. Diseases ran rampant; fear and death were a constant companion.

The ghetto primarily

served as a transit camp, directing Jews to imminent killing centers and concentration camps.

The Frankl family faced their darkest hour when authorities ordered them to the notorious concentration camp Auschwitz.

Upon arrival, authorities forced them to relinquish all possessions, shed their clothing, shave every strand of hair, and don the crudest rags.

"We really had nothing now except our bare bodies -- even minus hair; all we possessed, literally, was our naked existence," a Frankl later remarked.

After the devastating loss of Frankl's mother to the Nazi's brutality, he and the love of his wife, Tilly, found fleeting solace in their shared embrace.

Tragically, the Nazis separated them, sending Tilly to meet her death in

a distant camp.

Despite his grief, Frankl noticed those who held onto a sense of purpose managed to endure their days with a hint of strength.

In contrast, those who lost touch with meaning quickly fell apart, their spirits shattered, and they died faster.

He noticed that even a simple dream, a memory, or the hope of seeing a loved one again could fuel an individual's drive to endure another day.

Despite losing his family and possessions, Frankl realized that one thing remained untouched: his power to choose his attitude, the truest possession anyone holds.

Miraculously, in 1945, allied soldiers freed Frankl from the concentration camps.

His experience inspired him to write "Man's

Search for Meaning," a seminal work in existential literature that resonated with readers worldwide.

Despite facing immense suffering, he found purpose in it all. He argues that life has meaning even in the most dehumanizing and pitiless conditions. He argued that the primary motivational force in humans is the pursuit of that meaning.

"Between stimulus and response, there is a space. In that space is our power to choose our response. In our response lies our growth and our freedom," he famously reflected.

After returning to Vienna, Frankl created a new psychiatric therapy named logotherapy, rooted in the belief that humanity's primary drive is the search for meaning.

Logotherapy posits that individuals find purpose and fulfillment

not in avoiding suffering but in how they respond to it. Through this lens, even the gravest challenges can be met purposefully, underscoring the innate human capacity to extract meaning from any situation.

Frankl's journey forces us to confront our existence and the situations that bind us. Perhaps your chains aren't as visible or as oppressive as those of a concentration camp, but they are chains nonetheless.

Can we, like Frankl, find that space between stimulus and response? For in that space, we too can decide.

The world, at times, seems devoid of meaning.

The life of Victor Frankl can be a guide to finding meaning in your life, helping to fuel your purpose with strength.

# Create your own garden soil

Fall is filled with preparing gardens for the following season, raking leaves, and harvesting. Use plant trimmings and fall leaves to create raised beds and a quality planting mix without disturbing the existing soil. When you minimize or eliminate tilling, you'll increase organic matter in the soil, maintain and over time improve soil health and structure, save water, and boost plant growth.

This no-dig gardening technique employs sheet composting, also known as lasagna gardening, to create planting beds. Plant trimmings are used to create multi-layered beds like you would when building a compost pile. The mixture used is not as precise and you do not turn it like you would a compost pile.

Start your lasagna garden by measuring and marking the garden bed. Edge the outline of the garden bed, if needed, to slow the infiltration of the surrounding grass and weeds. Cut any grass and weeds in this area



GARDEN MOMENTS  
.....  
MELINDA MYERS

very short and cover with moist newspaper or cardboard to smother these unwanted plants. The grass, weeds, and paper layer will eventually decompose adding organic matter to the soil.

Sprinkle a layer of compost over the initial layer, if needed, to hold the newspaper or cardboard in place. Top this with four to ten inches of plant trimmings such as fall leaves, plant-based kitchen scraps, herbicide-free grass clippings, straw, or other similar materials. Sprinkle a low nitrogen, slow-release fertilizer over this layer to feed the microorganisms that will help convert the trimmings to a rich planting mix. Cover with an inch of compost. Repeat the layers, just like making lasagna, until your garden is 18 to

24 inches high.

Fall is a great time to create your beds since you have an abundant supply of the needed ingredients. Or stockpile these ingredients until you have time to build the garden beds. You can plant transplants directly in your lasagna garden bed at the start of the season, even in a freshly built garden bed. Just sprinkle compost or potting mix on top of the beds when planting seeds.

Hügelkultur, or mound gardens, have been used in Germany for many years and take this one step further by placing the garden at a lower elevation and perpendicular to water runoff. The garden can be started in a trench or on the soil surface. Starting the garden below ground captures more stormwater runoff but may require extra tools, equipment or help with digging.

The garden can be any size and height depending on the available materials and your gardening goals. The sides can be steep or more gently sloped which reduces the

risk of freshly planted seeds washing out during rainfall.

The bottom layer is made of logs, branches, and fall leaves. Do not include black walnut, which is toxic to many plants, or cedar and black locust which are very slow to decompose. The rotting logs and branches absorb water, making it available to the plants in the garden. As the tree trimmings decompose, they add nutrients to the soil. Research and experience show these woody plant materials do not deprive plants of needed nitrogen. Instead, it will provide the plants with needed nutrients for five to ten or more years.

Next, add the layers of a lasagna garden atop the bottom layer. Then top it all off with several inches of soil.

You can also use these methods to create the planting mix needed to fill raised bed structures. Not only will you save money, but you will put landscape trimmings to work, creating a quality planting mix for growing your favorite vegetables and flowers.



Melinda Myers

The bottom layer of a Hügelkultur garden consists of logs, branches, and fall leaves.

These beds gradually settle but the benefits remain. Add compost or repeat the sheet composting process as needed to maintain the desired depth.

Building a healthy soil foundation is a long-term solution to growing productive gardens with fewer pest problems that require less ongoing maintenance.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recent-

ly released 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 her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.



# In the Studio

“In the Studio” features artists from the Quiet Corner-home to many artists and makers, some of whom have national or international recognition for their work in fine art, hand-craft, performing art, art education, and graphic art. In this series, we’ll talk with our artist neighbors and learn about their careers, current projects, and connections to our towns. We’ll also learn some “artspeak” terms in our conversations, demystifying some of those “artist words.”

In this interview, we’re meeting with photographer, Nancy Nielsen, formerly a resident of both Danielson and Woodstock. Nancy’s studio is in East Greenwich, R.I. Her work has been displayed and awarded numerous times, with group and solo shows in New England as well as Open Studio days in East Greenwich. Nancy’s photographs drew me to her booth at this June’s Putnam Fine Arts & Crafts Festival, and I wanted to share her work with Villager readers.

Hello Nancy and welcome to “In the Studio.” Thank you for sharing insights on your photography. You’ve taken close-up photography to a level where the viewer enters the colors and textures of a surface to a point where the ordinary becomes extraordinary. I particularly like your photos of paint in various stages of wearing down.

What can you tell me about these images?

I do not tell people what I take pictures of or where I take them, because I like it to be a mystery. It allows people to use their imagination and see what they see. I believe that once you put parameters on something, it limits the expansion of your mind and further exploration of the art. I used to kiddingly say, “If you buy it, I will tell you what it is,” but when a person bought it, they decided they didn’t want to know the answer. How cool is that?!

You mentioned having new perspectives/outlooks since taking a class called “Out of the Box” and getting behind the camera. Tell us about that.”

First of all, I will say that you are never too old to start something new. In 2011, I took a photography class, entitled “Out of the Box,” that was about seeing things from a different perspective. Homework assignments were to take pictures pretending I was an ant looking up, a bird looking down, and literally shooting from the hip. The instructor said to forget about the classic photography rules (rule of thirds, etc.) and just have fun taking pictures. I was off and running – crawling under things and climbing on top of things to get my photos. It was a blast! I started to notice things I had never seen before. The closer I got, the more interesting the details became.

By nature, I am a detail-oriented person, I like perfection, and have always followed the rules. My thinking is rigid, I see things as black and white, and I like a bottom line that is equal on both sides of the equation. These characteristics have made me the good bookkeeper that I have been for many years.

Taking this class got my whole life out of the box. It added a new dimension and my life became more balanced – left and right brain now both at work. I saw people and things from a different perspective and am now more open-minded in my thinking. I still respect rules, but have realized that sometimes they can be bent or not followed, new ones can be created, old ones discarded, etc. I have learned to let go and appreciate life by looking more closely at something. Inner beauty is revealed – the spiral of a broken shell, the rust and decay of an object, pieces of seaglass.

This change in my thinking and way of seeing has led to the abstract nature of the pictures I take. Macro photography allows me to take close up pictures that I can then share with others, showing the details that I have seen.

In our conversation before this interview, you mentioned that after doing your first show, you realized that your set-up/display needed to be upgraded. This is not an unusual stumbling block for artists starting out. What did you need and how did you go about getting it?

I needed racks. I put out feelers at an art association I belonged to, and was connected to an artist who was looking to get rid of her entire festival setup. I also looked on Craigslist, e-Bay, and did generic online searches (for tents, racks, display pieces). I attended festivals to observe other artists’ displays and asked where they purchased items

You’ve been doing shows now

## In the Studio



CYNTHIA SAARI

for over ten years. Any advice for first-time artist applicants?

Have fun. Be patient-it takes a while to develop a following. Be flexible; I still learn new things at each festival I do, because there are things that

are out of my control such as weather, equipment breaks, car won’t start, festival coordinator changes booth orientations/locations.

It’s not for the faint of heart. It is time consuming, costly, and physically demanding. However, it’s also rewarding to have your artwork validated by compliments and purchases. There are many intangible rewards-meeting new people and making new friends (artists and customers), connecting with old friends; sharing your work with like-minded souls, laughter.

What are some of the most memorable comments you’ve received about a photograph?

It looks like a painting. It’s not typical photography. It has so much depth. Very colorful and unique. Those are some of my favorite comments. From a couple observing peeling paint photo : (she) Wow! So beautiful, colorful, details are gorgeous! (he) Looks like it needs a coat of paint! (me) Laughter!! (the best medicine ever). One gentleman who does a lot of restoration work told me that when viewing a peeling paint photo, he was brought right back into the experience of restoration, including the smells, while being reminded of the joy/beauty of both “the before and after look.”

You’ve given me links where readers can see more of your work:

<http://westbayopenstudios.com/nancy-nielsen.html> <https://westerlyarts.com/nancy-nielsen/> <https://www.facebook.com/nanseastudio>

What upcoming shows do you plan to participate in?

Scituate Art Festival (Rhode Island) Oct. 7-9 , Booth 24B (near gazebo) West Bay Open Studios Tour – Oct. 21-22

Thank you so much for joining us today. Any closing thoughts or comments?



I hope my artistic designs will inspire viewers to see life in a new way – full of color, detail, uniqueness, wonder, and creativity....and bring a sense of peace and happiness.

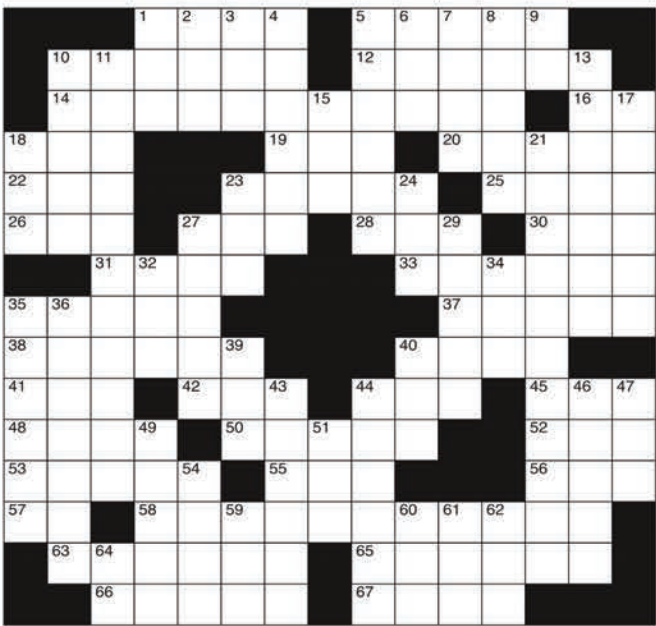
If interested in being on my mailing list and/or visiting my studio, contact me at: [nanseastudio@gmail.com](mailto:nanseastudio@gmail.com) (401) 323-4846.

Word of the day: Macro photography, also known as close up photography, is the art of making small things look big, or macro. In technical terms, macro images reproduce the subject at a magnification ratio of at least 1:1, where the image in the camera sensor is the same size or bigger than the real-life thing. [for-



mat.com]

About the writer: Cynthia Saari (Woodstock) is a nationally recognized framework glass artist. She has exhibited her work & taught for over 20 years; her glass beads have been included in numerous publications & invitations. Significant projects include costume work for the Santa Fe Opera, and framework demonstrator at the Peabody Essex Museum. Cynthia offers talks & workshops in the Quiet Corner; she is an adjunct professor of art at a local college.



### CLUES ACROSS

1. Flat tableland with steep edges

5. Byproduct of fire

10. Talked

12. Unique skill

14. Unembarrassed

16. Where teenagers go

18. Boxing’s GOAT

19. Used to anoint

20. Reproductive structure found in rust fungi

22. Auburn great Newton

23. Some are for Christmas

25. Dried, split pulses

26. Self

27. Where to get your mail

28. High schoolers’ test

30. Flightless bird

31. Expectorated

33. Practice of misrepresenting the truth

35. Type of patch
37. French river

38. Told on

40. Hillside

41. Peyton’s little brother

42. Soviet Socialist Republic

44. Progressive country musician

45. Witness

48. Brews

50. Yellowish-brown

52. Arctic explorers (abbr.)

53. Mexican agave

55. Type of “cast”

56. Popular breakfast food

57. Atomic #52

58. Position north or south of the equator

63. Gadget

65. Another recording

66. Irregular bulges in cell membranes

67. Dark brown

### CLUES DOWN

1. Licensed for Wall Street

2. Partner to flow

3. A very large body of water

4. Accumulate on the surface of

5. Central cores of stems

6. Angry

7. Spanish stew: \_\_ podrida

8. Fastened with a pin

9. On your way: \_\_ route

10. Soviet labor camp system

11. Enmities

13. B complex vitamin

15. Go quickly

17. Toast

18. A team’s best pitcher

21. Philly culinary specialty

23. Small child

24. Unhappy

27. Trims away

29. Full of tears
32. Touch softly

34. Former OSS

35. A person’s chest

36. Came from behind

39. Fall back

40. Nellie \_\_, journalist

43. A part of a river where the current is very fast

44. Weather

46. Sports broadcaster Ian

47. Electroencephalograph

49. Phenyl salicylate

51. Web of Things

54. Ship goods as cargo

59. The bill in a restaurant

60. Young female

61. OJ trial judge

62. One’s grandmother

64. West Siberian river

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# SPORTS

## Richardson, Clark, Mathewson are key in Woodstock Academy's victory



Woodstock Academy's Eric Mathewson attempts to maneuver through the Montville defense.

Jason McKay photos



Teddy Richardson of Woodstock Academy throws a mid-air pass to Gabe Luperon-Flecha while being tackled by the Montville defense.



Woodstock Academy's Gabe Luperon-Flecha plows through two Montville defenders while making his way down the field.

BY DEAN P. ST. LAURENT  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

WOODSTOCK — The time clock began ticking under 6 minutes, 20 seconds in the opening quarter when Woodstock Academy senior quarterback Teddy Richardson corralled the shotgun snap, sold the counteraction perfectly, and sprinted for a 30-yard touchdown run to begin the offensive explosion for the now 2-2 Centaurs on Saturday, Sept. 30.

Woodstock scored on their first three possessions of the game to jump out to a 20-0 lead and kept rolling from start to finish to defeat visiting Montville

High (2-2) on Homecoming, 46-13.

"It starts with Teddy, having Teddy back at quarterback this week, which allows us to put Sam (Clark) back at tight end," stated Woodstock head coach Sean Saucier. "That is where we want to be. So, we struggled last week a lot with Teddy being out with his injury, but it was great to have him back and a lot of that was him, with his confidence and his performance this season. It was great to have him back."

Richardson accounted for 107 yards rushing and two scores and also connected with Clark for

a 51-yard touchdown pass in the second quarter. The play was beautiful, Richardson rolling left on play-action and launching a pass on the run to a wide-open Clark in stride.

Clark accounted for this long touchdown on offense but also anchored the defense in the contest. The junior also tallied two interceptions on defense, one of which was a 90-yard pick-six that was called back due to a penalty.

"He is a dude, we call him a dude," stated Saucier. "He is just a football player, he is our tight end and is a linebacker. He is our backup quarterback. He is just a fantastic kid and a



Woodstock Academy's Zack Majewski pounces forward in an attempt to tackle a Montville offensive runner.

great football player."

Much of the success on Saturday was on the ground for Woodstock, gaining 294 yards rushing. The offensive line controlled the trenches and played a big part in the victory.

"Offensive line, it was just a healthy unit that got to practice together all week," Saucier stated. "Number eight (Eric Mathewson) is a first-year senior football player. This is the first time he has played before. We knew he was a great athlete and to see his confidence grow week to week is fun to watch."

Mathewson ran hard and finished the day with 129 yards and two touchdowns on 13 carries.



Henry Wotton of Woodstock Academy kicks off during the second quarter of the game.

## Hot start for Quinebaug Valley Pride, who slow down and drop decision to Platt Tech

BY DEAN P. ST. LAURENT  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

DANIELSON — Less than a minute into the second quarter, junior running back Deven LaMothe corralled a handoff from quarterback Sebastian Edward Hanshaw and sprinted in for a 5-yard touchdown to give the Quinebaug Valley football team a

two-touchdown lead. Following an extra point the Pride led 15-0 early.

"We have a play called power, where we run up the middle and break outside," explained LaMothe about his team's early success. "That play was hitting for 20-30 yards at a time, but in the second half, I was getting closed down and couldn't do

anything."

LaMothe tallied 77 of his 120 rushing yards on his team's first two drives that led to scores.

However, the offensive outburst early from Quinebaug Valley wasn't enough and they were unable to find the end zone for the rest of the contest. This gave Platt Tech chances when the

two met on Sunday, Oct. 1. The Pride had glimpses of success and many opportunities, but not executing in certain situations gave all momentum to Platt Tech. Platt scored 28 unanswered points and defeated Quinebaug Valley 28-15.

"I felt like we came in with a good offensive game plan," stated

Quinebaug Valley head coach Joe Asermelly. "We need better execution and there were just a lot of missed opportunities. There were opportunities in this game and you know it at the moment and we were unable to execute in those pressure moments and that left the door open and credit to Platt Tech, they wanted it

more than us today."

Quinebaug's other touchdown came on a pass from Hanshaw to Lyric James Teevan for a 14-yard touchdown. Hanshaw rolled to the right on a play action pass and hit Teevan in stride a couple yards before the end zone. Teevan did the rest.

If Quinebaug Valley plays like they did early, they're a fun team to watch and will have success going forward. Junior leader LaMothe expressed the things he knows the team needs to focus on heading into the rest of the season.

"Our blocking and our defense," LaMothe emphasized. "We have to stay strong on defense. We get tired quickly, it is what we have to work on. The little things are hurting us."

### FUN DAY

continued from page A1

to the public and hopefully bring in new campers for the 2024 season. Logee explained that once registration begins, slots will fill up fast.

"Obviously, our big goal is summer camp and getting kids outside, away from technology. The more we can do events like this, not just for fundraising but to get our name out there, the more we hope that when parents start to look at camps, they look to us and send their

kids to Pomfret. Registration starts in January, so it comes up fast. It's not too early to ever start thinking about camp. We had a great summer in 2023 and we're looking forward to 2024," said Logee.

Next year will also be a milestone for the camp as it celebrates 70 years as part of the Quiet Corner with a variety of events planned to mark the occasion. Those hoping to learn more about the camp, register a child, or to donate to the dam project can visit [www.4hcampct.org](http://www.4hcampct.org).



A bake sale helped raise money to support the dam project during the Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp Family Fun Day.



SPORTS

Killingly boys' soccer plays New London tough before losing in OT

**BY DEAN P. ST. LAURENT**  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — Late into the second half, Killingly junior Landon Lesage set up from the 35-yard line for a free kick. Lesage stepped toward the ball and lofted it beautifully into New London's penalty box and with perfect timing fellow junior John Fitzgibbons leaped and pierced the net, squeezing the ball just past the goalkeeper. That gave Killingly a 1-0 late into the contest in a hard-fought defensive battle.

But the lead did not last

long, as New London tied the game with a rocket of a long shot from one of their midfielders with eight and a half minutes left in regulation. The two teams remained knotted at 1-1 and were forced to enter a 10-minute overtime period at the end of regulation.

In the extra period, Killingly had their chances, including another free kick that took a miraculous save by the New London keeper to stop, but despite the offensive pressure and effort, New London (5-2) ended the game with a goal with

just under two minutes left in the extra period to defeat Killingly (1-2-2) 2-1 on Thursday, Sept. 28.

"We have been working on the set pieces and corners," stated Killingly head coach Derek Ponciano. "The boys came a long way, it was a great run by John Fitzgibbons there and a good ball from Landon, but all together the way they have been practicing helped. I thought we did great in the second half, they had a little more possession, but they got that wind from that great shot that they had. No one is

to take that away from them, that was an absolute rip."

Despite the loss, the effort for Killingly was not in question and as the game went on, they only got stronger. They started to create chances on the offensive end and the defense slowed the New London offense down and forced their playmakers to make tough shots.

"New London has come a long way and they have a great coach," Ponciano expressed. "From watching the film we knew they were going to be tough, they're very pos-

session-based and they do a very good job with it. At halftime we were talking, I am the coach, but it is those boys that get the job done out there and I think in the second half they did a good job picking it up. That is all it was, no tactic change, they helped each other out and got a goal. That is what they do. They are dogs out there, so they get it done."

The whole defensive unit played well all night and they were anchored by goalkeeper Trent Pichie who finished the game with 11 saves.

As the season goes forward, Ponciano expects his team to continue to flourish and develop.

"We are a young team, so we are still learning. We lost six starters from last year. New positions for people, people we have not played the sport at all. They're doing a great job. They just have to stay positive, that is what our focus is on and something we will keep focusing on because we have a lot of potential and we are getting better each game," said Ponciano.

HIGH SCHOOL NOTEBOOK

Killingly High School

Field Hockey (3-4-1)

Killingly HS field hockey gets their third win in a row with a 1-0 win vs Woodstock Academy on Tuesday, 9/26. Sophomore Josie Sanchez scored her first goal of the season in the second quarter. Goalkeeper Jill Beach recorded another shutout win with 4 saves.

Killingly field hockey tied EO Smith Saturday 1-1 on Saturday, 9/30. The lone goal was scored by junior Lila Beaudreault. Senior goalkeeper Jill Beach made 6 saves.

Girls' Volleyball (4-6)

Varsity defeated Plainfield 3 sets to 2, 20-25, 25-19, 25-10, 20-25, 15-9 on Tuesday, 9/26. Shanaya Brown had 6 kills; Chloe Yip had 30 digs; Shyah Baker had 35 assists; Grace Deslauriers had 5 aces, 9 kills; Jocelyn Crowley had 3 digs, 4 aces, 5 kills; Emmas Miller had 4 blocks, 6 kills; Emma Rainville had 4 blocks, 4 kills; and Addison Montville had 47 assists to lead Killingly. Killingly was back in action on Wednesday, 9/27 but lost 3 sets to 2 to Lyman.

Varsity lost to Montville 1 set to 3, 25-21, 21-25, 21-25, 15-25 on Friday, 9/29. Shanaya Brown had 10 kills; Chloe Yip had 13 digs, 2 aces; Shyah Baker had 16 assists; Grace

Deslauriers had 2 aces, 3 kills; Emma Miller had 3 blocks, 3 kills; Emma Rainville had 4 blocks, 3 kills and Addison Montville had 20 assists to lead Killingly.

Football (2-2)

Soren Rief ran for 276 yards and 6 touchdowns, along with a 2-pt. Conversion.

He also caught 1 pass for 28 yards. Killingly trailed early 7-0 but rallied to score 29 points in the 2nd quarter to go into halftime up 29-21. Killingly began the 3rd quarter with the ball and scored on a Rief 5 yard run. The drive was highlighted by a 28-yard pass from QB Quinn Sumner to Rief on a 3rd and 10. Killingly finished the night with 404 total yards of offense.

Anthony Oates led Killingly's defense with 7 tackles, 2 sacks, and 1 interception as they shutout NFA in the 2nd half.

Girls' Varsity Soccer (4-2)

Killingly girls soccer faced a tough Bacon Academy team on Tuesday, 9/26 and lost 3-1. Killingly went into the half down 0-1. In the second half Bacon scored a goal from half that popped over Erika Horne and off of a pk in the box. Killingly's Laura Farquhar was able to take it down the line and

slip it into the middle to Molly Crabtree who was able to score the lone goal for Killingly.

After a tough fought game and some injuries Killingly girls soccer lost 5-1 against Waterford on Thursday, 9/28. Killingly's lone goal was scored by Laura Farquhar off of an assist by Molly Crabtree. Erika Horne faced a lot of pressure in net ending the game with 16 saves.

Killingly girls soccer won against Windham 1-0 on Saturday, 9/30. Laura Farquhar scored early in the first half for Killingly and the team had many other attempts but was held to 1-0 to end the game. Erika Horne had 3 saves in net for Killingly.

Ellis Tech/Putnam

Girls' Varsity Soccer (7-0)

Ellis Tech/Putnam girls soccer remained undefeated this week with two shut-out wins against Goodwin/Innovation, 7-0 and Bullard Havens. Five different players contributed goals in the contests. Tori Iozzi scored 9 goals in both games combined.

Woodstock Academy

Girls' Varsity Soccer (3-2-2)

Woodstock Academy 1 Plainfield 0 The Centaurs were

dominant as they pelted the Panthers goal with 30 shots including three that hit the post, but nothing went in until just three minutes, four seconds was left in regulation.

Juliet Allard took a pass from Kendall McCormack and converted to raise Woodstock Academy's record to 3-1-2 with a 1-0 win over Plainfield on Saturday, 9/30.

The news was good at the start for the Centaurs. Junior Leah Costa scored her first two goals of the season with the first coming off an assist from Rita Rawcliffe just a little under nine minutes into the contest. Just a little over four minutes later, Woodstock Academy (3-2-2) was awarded a penalty kick and Costa converted again, but the Bacon Academy Bobcats rebounded for their sixth straight victory. Bacon Academy cut the Centaurs lead in half with a goal just before the break and then added three more tallies in the second half for the win, 4-2 on Monday, 10/2.

Varsity Field Hockey (2-5)

The Centaurs nearly got a goal from Georgia Lukachie in the second quarter but a nice defensive play and a long clearance by Killingly resulted in a strong counter. Joselinne Sanchez took advantage of that as the

sophomore rolled one in from just inside the shooting arc with 3 minutes, 19 seconds left in the first half to give Killingly the 1-0 win on Tuesday, 9/26.

The Centaurs hung in under the lights against the East Lyme Vikings down by the shoreline. East Lyme took a 2-0 lead in the first half despite five defensive saves by Woodstock Academy's Abby Converse and three saves in the cage by Madison LaVallee.

Both teams mustered just one second half goal with Sophie Petrella getting the Centaurs' tally off an assist from Clara Dowdle. East Lyme defeated Woodstock 3-1 on Thursday, 9/28.

Girls' Varsity Volleyball (7-3)

The Woodstock Academy Centaurs made it three wins in a row with a 25-14, 25-17, 25-20 sweep of the Fitch Falcons on Monday, 9/25. Liliana Bottone had eight kills, Mia Sorrentino added seven and Cassidy Ladd had 14 digs and five aces in the win for Woodstock Academy.

The Centaurs completed their first journey against their three Eastern Connecticut Conference Division I opponents undefeated with the 25-19, 25-20, 25-16 win over the Norwich Free Academy Wildcats

on Wednesday, 9/27. The hitting was good up front for Woodstock Academy with junior Liliana Bottone getting 20 kills, the majority of those coming off assists from classmate Sophie Gronski who finished with 27.

Sophomore Kaylee Bundy added seven kills and 12 digs while junior Cassidy Ladd contributed 11 digs and five assists.

The Centaurs posted their fifth straight victory with the shutout win over the Bacon Academy Bobcats on Friday, 9/29. Woodstock Academy posted victories of 25-15, 25-21 and 25-16 in the three sets. Liliana Bottone paced Woodstock Academy with 14 kills while Vivian Bibeau added eight from the opposite side. Setter Sophie Gronski dished out 27 assists while Emma Kerr had 10 digs.

For the fourth match in a row, the Centaurs pitched a shutout to keep their winning streak alive at six and improve their record to 7-3 against Ledyard on Monday, 10/2

Mia Sorrentino had six kills and two blocks in the 25-13, 25-15, 25-18 win over the Colonels. Junior Libero Cassidy Ladd added seven digs and seven service aces.



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**FRANK G. CHILINSKI**  
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

**BRENDAN BERUBE**  
EDITOR

# Tales of haunting mystery from New England’s history

New England, with its quaint villages and rich history, is a region that seems to harbor more than its fair share of ghostly tales and supernatural encounters. As the leaves turn to vibrant shades of orange and red, and the cool winds of autumn rustle through centuries-old trees, it’s the perfect time to delve into the chilling world of New England ghost stories.

New England’s colonial past and revolutionary history provide fertile ground for tales of restless spirits. Historic cities like Boston and Salem, with their cobblestone streets and centuries-old buildings, are said to be home to ghosts from bygone eras. From the spirit of Paul Revere at the Old North Church to the infamous apparitions at the Salem Witch Trials Memorial, these stories are a captivating blend of history and the supernatural that permeate into the small towns to the northern and southern points of New England.

Along the New England coastline, lighthouses stand as beacons of safety for sailors, but they also carry their own eerie legends. Tales of haunted lighthouses, where the spirits of keeper’s past are said to roam, have fascinated residents and visitors for generations. These stories illuminate the lonely and mysterious lives of lighthouse keepers.

New England has also inspired some of the most iconic ghost stories in literature. The works of authors like Nathaniel Hawthorne, H.P. Lovecraft, and Edgar Allan Poe are steeped in the eerie atmosphere of the region. Salem’s House of the Seven Gables, made famous by Hawthorne’s novel, is itself said to be haunted.

These ghostly tales aren’t just for those seeking a thrill; they’re also a significant part of New England’s tourism industry. Ghost tours, haunted inns, and paranormal investigations draw visitors from all over the world, allowing them to explore the spectral side of the region’s history.

As we approach the Halloween season, it’s important to remember that New England’s ghost stories are not just about scares and shivers. They are a testament to the enduring power of storytelling, the fascination with history’s mysteries, and the unique blend of the past and the supernatural that characterizes this region.

Whether you’re a believer in the paranormal or a skeptic, New England’s ghost stories are a testament to the enduring allure of the unexplained. As we gather around bonfires and tell spooky tales this October, remember that these stories are not just about fear but also about our fascination with the unknown, the mysterious, and the timeless spirit of New England.

### 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

### Julie Rhaim Blouin will make a positive impact

To the Editor:

I am writing this testimonial letter in full support of Julie Rhaim Blouin, and to highlight the best reasons why you should cast your vote for her for Putnam board of education.

I have known Julie and her family for decades, and have seen what kind of a great person she is. Julie is a remarkable individual who embodies the qualities of a gifted and dedicated mom, a hardworking career woman, and an actively involved community member. Her attributes of being motivated, dependable, and loyal to Putnam make her an exceptional candidate deserving of your vote.

First and foremost, Julie Rhaim Blouin is an extraordinary mom. Her dedication to her family is unparalleled. I have had the privilege of witnessing her dedicated efforts to provide a loving and nurturing environment for her children. She consistently goes above and beyond to ensure their well-being and happiness. Her role as a mother is not just a responsibility; it is a passion that drives her to excel.

In addition to being a dedicated mom, Julie is a hardworking career woman. She has demonstrated an impressive work ethic and an unwavering commitment to her professional endeavors. Her motivation to succeed is evident in the way she approaches her career with enthusiasm and determination. Julie is a shining example of how one can balance the demands of both family and career with grace and excellence.

Julie’s involvement in the community is commendable. She is not just a resident of Putnam; she is an active participant in its betterment. Her loyalty to Putnam is unwavering, and she continually seeks opportunities to give back. Whether it’s volunteering for local causes, supporting small businesses, or advocating for community improvements, Julie’s dedication to the well-being of Putnam is evident in her actions.

Julie Blouin’s motivation, dependability, and loyalty are qualities that set her apart. When she sets her mind to a goal, you can trust that she will pursue it with unwavering determination. Her dependability is a testament to her strong character and her ability to follow through on commitments. Julie’s loyalty to Putnam is unwavering, and she is a true advocate for the community’s growth and prosperity.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse Julie Blouin as a candidate deserving of your vote. Her qualities as a gifted and dedicated mom, a hardworking career woman, and an actively involved community member make her an exceptional choice. Her motivation, dependability, and loyalty are qualities we need in our leaders. Please consider casting your vote for Julie Rhaim Blouin for Putnam board of education to make a positive impact on our community and beyond.

Sincerely,

MIKE BOGDANSKI  
PUTNAM

### Vote for Chloe Markley to move Killingly’s schools in the right direction

To the Editor:

I urge all residents of District 4 to vote for Chloe Markley this November. If you are interested in overhauling and improving Killingly’s Board of Education, supporting and voting for Markley in District 4 is a positive step in that direction.

The present BOE has the town’s school system in a condition of terrible disarray. Chloe Markley would be a step in the right direction in moving forward and improving the school system. We need to turn the school system around to benefit the children, to provide a new forward looking BOE to deal with today’s problems. This will give the children/students a better chance in succeeding in today and tomorrow’s world. She will have a positive impact on moving forward. She has the proper skills and willingness to learn and work with others quickly, to make the Education in this town better. The present BOE has moved the Town backwards, not

realizing that the students mental health is not essential in today’s world. This is just one thing of many missteps they have made. Moving forward, with new and better ideas are very much needed at this time. She is very capable in these areas. Progress is essential in improving our children/students education to compete in the world of the future. If the Town is to grow and make the town more favorable to people looking into moving to Killingly, education is usually at the top of their list. Keeping this BOE as is a danger to the Town and the students of its residents.

Therefore, I ask all residents of District 4 to come out on Tuesday, Nov. 7 and vote for Chloe Markley. She will give us a voice in moving the Educational system forward. We need it and it will help in reducing the town being the butt of jokes statewide.

DAVID CASSETTARI  
KILLINGLY

### Return Jen Hegedus to Killingly’s Board of Education

To the Editor:

We are writing in support of Jennifer Hegedus in her bid for the Killingly Board of Education seat.

Having known Jen for almost 20 years, we know her to be a woman of great integrity and a consummate educator: being a middle school teacher starting her 25th year. We have had many conversations over the years about her educational philosophies and we find them to be squarely in the realm of the highest American ideals. She brings these same ideals, devotion and energy to her position on the Board of Education. We would be proud to have her teaching our grandchildren!

Jen is the most patriotic person we know, as evidenced by her helping to spearhead Wreaths Across America. She is instrumental

in coordinating involvement in local parades; specifically Memorial Day and VJ Day, and ceremonies; including Flag Day, Memorial Day, 9/11 Remembrance, and Veterans Day. She is also helpful in coordinating local veterans activities in the town as well. Each spring, Jen heads the group of volunteers and walks many miles to lay an American Flag and an Elks Flag on the graves of our deceased members.

We are extremely proud to recommend Jennifer Hegedus for election to the Killingly Board of Education and please ask you to consider returning her to the board that she is so passionate about by casting your vote for her on Nov. 7.

Thank you for your consideration.

JACK & MARY JANE BURKE  
DAYVILLE

### Kerttula is committed to Killingly

To the Editor:

It’s an honor for me to endorse Kevin Kerttula for re-election on the Killingly Town Council.

I’ve had the pleasure of knowing Kevin for several years and over this time Kevin has shown professionalism, respect for others on the council, and an unsurpassed knowledge of the Town of Killingly.

Kevin’s commitment to the residents of

Killingly can be seen in many facets of his community involvement. I encourage all Killingly residents to vote for Kevin Kerttula this November for Town Council.

BRIAN MAYNARD  
CHAIRMAN  
PUTNAM REPUBLICAN TOWN COMMITTEE

### Proud to endorse Ulla Tiik-Barclay

To the Editor:

I am delighted to endorse Ulla Tiik-Barclay for re-election to the Killingly Town Council.

Ulla and I have been friends for many years. She has a lot of great qualities that make her a great friend and person. She is nurturing and supportive, caring and compassionate, and honest and trustworthy. She is the type of person that goes out of their way for others and puts her all into everything she does. She is dependable and reliable. She has good judgement, great determination, and boundless energy. I am proud to call her my friend.

From the first time I met her, I knew Ulla and I would become great friends. For all the reasons listed above, I endorse Ulla Tiik-Barclay without reservation. She is intelligent, competent, dedicated, and determined. I am confident that if re-elected, she will continue to add value to the position and the town of Killingly.

SINCERELY,  
MAGGIE SARGELIS  
SALEM

### What do dress codes say about us?

I bought a long, flowing dress currently in style. I took it on a recent trip, as I thought it was chic. Getting out of a taxi, I got snarled up in the fabric. I thought about dress codes. What do clothes say about us? How do clothes define us and influence how we behave?

My thoughts were underlined by the recent dustup in the Senate over dress codes. Sen. John Fetterman, a Democrat from Pennsylvania, often wears a Carhartt sweatshirt and baggy pants, sometimes shorts, while working on the floor of the Senate. Senate Leader Chuck Schumer authorized the whiff of a dress code to lapse ostensibly to accommodate Fetterman’s health challenges.

Oh my, the reaction. Senators Joe Manchin III, of West Virginia and Mitt Romney of Utah proposed, and the Senate unanimously passed, a resolution on a dress code. Men are to wear coats, ties and slacks when on the Senate floor. Finally, there was something the contentious body could agree on.

Dress codes have been with us forever. I can recall the days when one’s skirt could be no shorter than the bottom of one’s longest finger. Shorter than that, and you would be sent home from school.

When I started college, girls, especially girls majoring in home economics, were required to wear dresses and skirts to class. Of course, that included stockings, which in those pre-panty hose days needed complex undergarments. For job interviews, black skirt, black jacket and low heels were de rigueur. Men had similar rules. Banks, law firms, courts and brokerage offices were probably the most exacting.

Many of my friends went to Catholic schools, and wore uniforms every day. They managed to personalize them a bit, but overall, they knew what they were going to put on five days a week. I admired their ease at getting dressed.

When a godson of mine went to a private high school, I knew exactly what he needed, and went to Filene’s Basement in Boston. I found a salesperson and she brought out the chino slacks, the blue blazer, blue Oxford cloth shirts and two ties. He was set for the year if he didn’t grow too much. No one knew by the look of him if he was the scion of a wealthy family or the scholarship student.

When I entered the workforce, there was a debate about women wearing pant suits. It seems ludicrous now, but certain professions and fancy restaurants took offense at women wearing pants. Until recently, female lawyers and female judges were discouraged from wearing pants in court.

I’m amazed at what people wear to go out to dinner. Given the expense of meals, the special venues and the pleasant nature of eating out, it is worth a little effort to get dressed up, or at least change one’s t-shirt.

We are in a time of great flux. The body positivity movement is a good thing and akin to the days when women cast away corsets and campaigned for the vote. More rules about dress focus on females, i.e. no bare arms in the House, but norms changed for men as when JFK didn’t wear a hat at his Inauguration. Now we have casual Fridays and men’s ties gather dust in the closet.

Our clothes say plenty about us, but not everything. Casual is not going away and dress codes provide yet another source of conflict. A person in a coat and tie can be just as shady as one in a hoodie. The quality of one’s character is what matters more than the length of one’s skirt.



NANCY WEISS



# Laura Lawrence will give Killingly’s parents a voice

To the Editor:

I have lived in Connecticut for 10 years since moving from Rhode Island. Being a new mom, sending her child to a new school, all while navigating the way of the Connecticut Education system was a difficult transition. The board of education was a phrase I would hear tossed around in emails and times of voting but never really paid attention to until I came to Killingly.

My children have been in the Killingly school system for several years now, and as of late, I have been paying close attention to the BOE and their decisions and discussions. I truly believe that there is some change that is desperately needed, and this is where Laura Lawrence comes in.

Laura, whom I have known for several years now, is a passionate, dedicated mother and resident of Killingly, who wants what is best for all children. With mental health and bullying at an all-

time high, her ideas and visions align with many of us parents who are deeply seeking a change to provide safety for our children. She is a very levelheaded person who often sees all sides of any situation and listens prior to coming up with a plan. She and her family are very involved in the community. You will often see her cheering on the family members on the sideline of youth sports or providing support to the volunteer firefighters in town.

Laura would be a tremendous asset to the board of education with fresh views and a passionate personality. She will put in the work and educate herself on whatever is needed. Laura truly is what we in Killingly need as the voice of the parents!

SINCERELY,  
KRISTIE BARNETT  
DANIELSON

# A day to remember

To the Editor:

On Sunday, Oct. 1, Thompson held its rescheduled Community Day at Riverside Park in North Grosvenordale—and what a day it was!

Thanks to the efforts of so many folks, it was a huge success. Thompson Together and Thompson Recreation managed all the details most effectively. Community members, town departments, and civic organizations shared their talents in a wide variety of craft and information booths. The Republican-endorsed candidates for Thompson were all there in attendance. The Town’s Public Works Department helped with set-up. Our fire departments brought equipment for display and their members circulated throughout the event. Adults and children alike enjoyed seeing all the equipment. Due to the rescheduling of the event, singers from the school department were unable to attend. In the spirit of community togetherness, First Selectman Amy St.

Onge stepped up and shared a beautiful a cappella rendition of our national anthem. Retiring Tax Collector, Rene Morin, was honored for his years of service. (It was the first time that many of us who know Rene could ever remember him being at a loss for words!) Kevin and Jane Beno, owners of American Rent-All, were recognized as the Thompson Business of the Year, a well-deserved award for their years of generosity to the community. Sue Vincent received the Thompson Volunteer of the Year Award for all her charitable work throughout Northeast Connecticut. Our inaugural Poet Laureate, Steve R. Veilleux, was also named, and he shared some of his poetry with those gathered.

It’s a day such as this that really allows Thompson to shine, demonstrating how our community comes together to celebrate its own unique character! Thank you again to everyone involved.

DONNA REYNOLDS LYNCH  
THOMPSON

# Killingly deserves ‘Straight A’s’

To the Editor:

Killingly “deserves straight A’s” and with that, I encourage you to vote ‘line A’ in the upcoming election on Nov. 7.

These A-line candidates are endorsed by the Killingly Democratic Town Community (KTDC), but they come from various political backgrounds: democrat, republican and unaffiliated. What matters most is that they have the best interests of Killingly at mind and in heart. In fact one of the last questions the DTC asked potential candidates when interviewed was, “What is your political affiliation” – because truly, politics do not belong on the Board of Education.

The KDTC supports these individuals for the Board of Education as they support the core values of the school system, have confident decision-making abilities, are approachable, dedicated, inquisitive, and are willing (and excited!) to work cohesively with the Board of Education, district and town leadership, and the community to better our town and schools. They will bring much needed balance, stability, insight and change!

On that note, many people will agree that Killingly needs change...

...I remind you, change doesn’t happen by chance; it happens by choice...

...Kevin Marcoux, Misty Murdock, Meredith Giambattista and Danny Rovero are ready to be the change!

With their individual and combined skill sets and dedication, Kevin, Misty, Meredith and Danny will bring positive changes to the Killingly Board of Education and will allow our town to move forward in the direction our citizens, and particularly, our students, deserve:

Danny Rovero and Kevin Marcoux have shown their dedication to Killingly Public Schools through their years of service to our community and school district. Both are familiar names and faces to the school district and understand the day-to-day needs of students, staff and families and also understand the demands of the position.

Meredith Giambattista and Misty Murdock bring fresh ideas and positive intent to the Board of Education. As parents, community partners and active volunteers, they are dedicated to our community and students.

It would be my honor to sit beside Kevin, Danny, Misty and Meredith on the Board of Education. I am confident in their abilities and admire their strong desire to serve our community.

Our children are watching, please make the choice to give our students “Straight A’s” with your vote of support on Nov. 7!

In partnership,

SUSAN LANNON  
KILLINGLY

# Join me in supporting Thompson’s Republican ticket

To the Editor:

As we come closer to Election Day, I can’t help but think back to when I was elected to the position of First Selectman in Thompson. I have often told people that my first day behind the First Selectman’s desk was one of the most sobering days of my life. I was no longer responsible for just myself, my family, and friends. Now, I was responsible for making decisions that could affect everyone in our entire community, decisions that would affect people even long after I was out of office.

I believe that there are three types of people that run for the First Selectman’s position. First, there is the person that wants the title but won’t put the effort in to advance the community. He or she wants to let people know they are the First Selectman but won’t attend meetings and functions throughout the community. They show up in the afternoon, check to see if anything is happening, and then go home.

The second type is the politician like Bill Warner. He will tell you he is going to fix all the problems that he thinks accumulated over the past 20 years. He will say he is going to lower your taxes (this is what everyone wants to hear) and he is going to increase services. People, we all know that this is just not possible! The only thing he will do is take care of his personal agenda. At a recent Republican Town Committee meeting, Warner interrupted someone while the citizen was speaking, telling him that the citizen may have the right to speak, but Bill didn’t have to listen to him. I can’t imagine what a Board

of Selectmen’s meeting would be like under his direction. One of the most important things a First Selectman must be able to do is to listen—to hear what is important to your constituents and let them know that you understand their needs, while working with them to resolve their issues.

The third type of First Selectman is the one that will put the effort into making meaningful changes for our community. This person is not running for a title or for a personal agenda, but rather to make a difference. This person goes to meetings day and night, attends our community functions, and, most importantly, responds to people when they need answers, good or bad. Amy St. Onge is this type of person! She has spent countless hours over the past four years trying to make our community better.

In this November’s election, there is no doubt that we need to reelect Amy St. Onge and Susanne Witkowski if we want to keep Thompson moving forward. There are always a few voters that will say negative things about the candidates they don’t want to get elected. However, if you take the time to really evaluate the performance of Amy and Susanne, you will find they worked hard, listened to Thompson citizens, and accomplished a lot of positive projects for the Town of Thompson. On Nov. 7, please join me in supporting the entire Republican-endorsed ticket on line two to keep us moving forward.

BRYAN LYNCH  
THOMPSON

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# Please consider me for Killingly Board of Education

To the Editor:

Greetings, fellow residents of Killingly! My name is Laura Lawrence, and I am excited to share with you my passion and determination to make a positive impact on our community’s education system by running for the Killingly Board of Education.

As a devoted mother, I understand firsthand the crucial role education plays in shaping the lives of our children. Witnessing my own children navigate their academic journeys has ignited a fire within me to ensure that every student in our town has access to the best possible education. I believe that strong schools are the backbone of a thriving community, and I am committed to working tirelessly to enhance the educational experience for all our young learners.

My journey as an active community member has allowed me to deeply connect with the needs and aspirations of our town. I have been a proud resident of Killingly for close to a decade, having two kids already graduating from KHS and three more still in school, engaging in various community initiatives that promote unity, growth, and progress. Through volunteering at local events, collaborating with fellow community members, and currently serving on the board of education, I have gained insights into the diverse perspectives that shape our town’s fabric. As such, when asked to join the BOE in May 2022 due to a vacancy, I readily accepted, and now I am running to continue to improve the educational system in Killingly.

Running for the Killingly Board of

Education is an extension of my dedication to the growth and prosperity of our community. I firmly believe that by fostering open communication between educators, parents, and community stakeholders, we can create an educational environment that nurtures innovation, critical thinking, and a love for learning. I am committed to advocating for resources that empower our educators to inspire excellence in the classroom while also ensuring that our students’ unique needs are met.

My vision for the Killingly Board of Education is to bridge the gap between families, schools, and the broader community. By facilitating discussions that prioritize collaboration, inclusivity, and continuous improvement, we can create a learning ecosystem that prepares our students not only for academic success but also for responsible citizenship and personal growth.

As I stand on the threshold of this new endeavor, I am humbled by the support of my friends, family, and fellow community members. I am determined to be a steadfast advocate for our children’s education and a voice for all residents who share the goal of a stronger, more vibrant Killingly. I am determined to be a steadfast advocate for our children’s education and an advocate for parental authority for their child. Together, let’s shape a brighter future for our town by ensuring that our schools remain a beacon of excellence and opportunity. Thank you for your trust, and I look forward to the journey ahead.

I humbly ask for your consideration and vote on Nov. 7.

LAURA LAWRENCE  
SOUTH KILLINGLY

# The Democratic slate will keep Thompson moving toward a prosperous future

To the Editor:

We are finally pushing forward with the project to renovate the River Mill here in Thompson. It’s hard to believe that this project has been ongoing since 2016.

Yes, that’s right. 2016 is when First Selectman Beausoleil was advised that the demolition rights to the mill had been sold, and it would therefore be stripped of its valuable timbers and historic millwork, eventually reduced to another pile of bricks and contaminated soil. Ken Beausoleil worked quickly to involve the public in petitioning to halt the demolition. He and the Town’s planner at the time, Mary Ann Chinatti, got the danger to the River Mill in front of Federal and State Agencies like the US EPA, CT Department of Economic and Community Development and the State’s Historic Preservation Office.

This proactive effort led saved the mill from the wrecking ball and prevented Thompson from being saddled with another demolished mill like the one at 630 Riverside.

We now have a jewel of a building that, once it is renovated, will provide beautiful market-rate housing and valuable business space in a Town that doesn’t have much existing business real estate. We have Mr. Beausoleil’s quick thinking to thank.

Leaders who work to involve the public important projects like these demonstrate that Thompson is stronger when we work together. Please join me in supporting the entire Democratic slate in moving Thompson to a stronger, more prosperous future.

JASMIN ARMY  
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

# Question what you hear from MSDNC

To the Editor:

Recently, Villager readers were dared to watch and basically take what MSNBC (a.k.a. MSDNC) has to say as being the truth, but that brings to mind a line from a movie where an actor playing a politician said: “The truth is what I say it is!” MSDNC (and Democrat) blabbermouths pushed and milked the Russian collusion hoax, and when that “big lie” blew up in their faces, did any of them have the decency to admit they were wrong? The Hunter Biden laptop story that they said was Russian disinformation and labeled it as a “nothing to see here” issue has also backfired on them, and you want me to believe the truth is what they say it is? Furthermore, I don’t listen to Fox News, but that’s the first thing the libs will accuse you of doing especially if you are a Trump supporter.

You can watch what you will, you can believe whatever and whoever you want to, but how about taking the «two sides of the coin» approach while you’re at it? May I «dare you» to listen to the Chris Plante show that’s on WMAL News Talk Radio, or the Kuhner Report, the Grace Curley Show or the Howie Carr show that are on WRKO (AM Radio 680)? (You can download the i Heart media app to get these.) Yes, these people are pro-Trump, but they report what MSDNC won’t, you’ll hear from them what MSDNC doesn’t want you to hear, and they often bad-mouth republicans. If you want to present to them what you’ve been fed by any liberal media news source as being gospel, they do take phone calls. One thing I will admit about the people I’ve named is that they will admit it when they’ve made a mistake.

My guess is that MSDNC only reports what the Democrat Gestapo wants you to hear. Did MSDNC, or their weekly 4 p.m. show, ever mention that American citizens are being thrown out of their residences to make room for illegals? Did they tell you about Mr. Frank Tammaro, a 95 year-old Korean War veteran who was told to leave his nursing home room at Island Shores Senior Residence (in New York) to make room for them? Did they report about the bimbo-Biden administration’s attempted plan to construct migrant encampments (now being referred to

as “Biden Parks”) in National Parks and on federal land? I sincerely doubt MSDNC mentioned any of it, but the people I previously spoke about did. What is MSDNC saying about the border crisis, have they ever mentioned the daily numbers of encounters or any of the many instances where illegals have harmed American citizens? Did they report that the Border Patrol Union ripped the “corrupt” Biden administration for the “worst crisis ever seen at our border?” (But what do the people who are actually patrolling the border know, right?) In a news piece titled “Even to Stupid for CNN,” squad member, Ayanna Pressley (D-Massachusetts) had Jake Tapper stunned when she said that the “border is secure” and “the situation is under control,” after he questioned her about the millions of people who are crossing illegally. Imagine that, even CNN is starting to wake up; will MSDNC be next? Illegals (or migrants if you’d prefer) are being housed at the La Quinta Hotel in Auburn, Mass. A long-time patron there (who flies in from Kentucky on business) told me - in addition to his other eye-witness accounts there - that the price of a room has gone up since it happened. You want another dare? Try to convince me that the border is secure, or that illegal immigration isn’t having any effect on hard-working and taxpaying American citizens?

Earlier, a wise and open-minded letter writer said we should «question» what we are hearing as fact, and that is true. However, when it comes to our news sources, we’ll all continue to drink our own preferred flavor of Kool-Aid, but after hearing from lap-dog liars like Mayorkis, Wray, Garland, Schiff, Pelosi and now Pressley, it’s hard for me to believe that anything coming from the democrats is in any way the truth. I will say though that if you get your news from either the left or from the right, that they are all a bunch of party-pushing mouthpieces which is probably the biggest truth of all.

(This letter is for the fine gent who I met at my band gig last Saturday.)

ED DELUCA  
NORTH GROSVENORDALE







# How the extension on Roth catch-up contributions could totally change your retirement

The IRS recently granted a two-year delay on new limitations to retirement plan catch-up contributions. If you're 50 or over and eligible for catch-up contributions this could be a game-changer for you in terms of how much you're able to save before you retire. Here's what you should know to take advantage of this potentially valuable opportunity.

What are catch-up contributions and what are the limits?


Catch-up contributions allow workers who are age 50 and over (or who will turn 50 during the year) to make contributions to their qualified retirement plans in excess of the standard limit.

In 2023, the standard contribution limit for IRAs (both traditional and Roth combined) is \$6,500. But those who are 50 or older can contribute an additional \$1,000.

The standard limit for a traditional 401(k) is \$22,500, with an additional \$7,500 in catch-up contributions allowed, and the standard limit for a Roth 401(k) is \$22,500, with an additional \$5,500 in catch-up contributions allowed.

What is a Roth account?

A Roth retirement account is a type of retirement account – either an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or an employer-sponsored 401(k) – in which contributions are made with after-tax dollars. This means you don't enjoy the tax break that you'd get from contributing to a traditional IRA or 401(k) with pre-tax dollars. However, qualified withdrawals from a Roth account are typically tax-free in retirement. This makes Roth accounts a popular choice for individuals who anticipate being in a higher tax



FINANCIAL FOCUS

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LAURENCE HALE INVESTMENT ADVISER

tions on a Roth basis – meaning individuals would no longer get a tax break on those contributions in the current year.

This change was set to kick in on Jan. 1, 2024, but there's been a recent development. In September, the IRS announced that it would postpone the mandatory Roth IRA catch-up contribution requirement for high-earning participants until 2026.

How can I benefit from the delay of the Roth catch-up contribution rule?

The delayed implementation of this rule offers a golden opportunity for those who are eligible for catch-up contributions to maximize those contributions with pre-tax dollars in the next couple of years. Thanks to compounding interest and the historically favorable long-term performance of the stock market, those

additional funds could turn into a much larger nest egg to rely on, especially for those who are still on the younger side of the catch-up contribution age requirement, with decades likely still left to live.

As you near retirement, it's important to understand how much you can (and should be) contributing to your retirement plan, as well as other tax and deferral implications. Working with a qualified financial advisor can be illuminating as you prepare for this important life milestone. Here at Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Financial Advisors, we can help you make a strategic retirement plan using our Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well™ process. You can request a complimentary consultation on our Web site at [whzwealth.com](http://whzwealth.com) or call us at (860) 928-2341.

## Delving into Mohegan culture

I had the great pleasure on Sept. 21 of seeing and hearing David Eichelberg,, outreach and tradition specialist for the Tantaquidgeon Museum, speak and drum at Learning in Retirement at QVCC. His presentation was on the culture of the Mohegan Tribe, which has its museum in Uncasville.

Dressed in his tribal regalia, including deer hoof rattles, a turkey feather fan and war club, David drummed, sang and danced, explaining that for many, many years this was how the stories and traditions were passed on to the younger generations since they had no written language. Many songs and dances have religious significance to the tribe so cannot be sung/drummed in a public, educational presentation. He said, however, that he as he taught drumming, words could be used in those teaching, practice sessions. Women, as part of the circle, had important parts in ceremonies and used rattles while the men drummed. David brought samples of a number of items utilized by the early Mohegans--wampum (used in lieu of money for exchanging goods), baskets, and dried corn. He explained how once dried, the corn could be pounded into a fine meal, mixed with a little water, and eaten as "survival" food when away from the main

camp. They tried to waste nothing. Corn husks were fashioned into dolls, and the corn silk was saved, dried, and used to help start fires.

They made their home at what is now called Fort Shantock, near the Thames River. Allying themselves with the early "English" settlers, they were a odds with the other Native tribes in our greater area. As time went on they began to try to construct a written language. Unfortunately, even during the 17th and 18th centuries they were marginalized being forbidden to wear Native dress, speak their language, etc. Through it all, they managed to survive as a tribe. As an example, in the 1850's Emma Baker, established a "women's sewing circle" which was really a front for teaching the culture and traditions to younger women. Of course, if the authorities came sniffing, they were sewing. Once they had left, the women could again discuss tribal affairs. The fact that they sent birthday and Christmas cards from the Mohegan tribe to others, helped prove that they were still a viable tribe when applying for Federal recognition.

Hoping to "share

Eastern woodlands history and traditions from a Native American perspective," in 1931, during the Great Depression, John Tantaquidgeon and his children Harold and Gladys constructed the Tantaquidgeon Museum in Uncasville. It is the "oldest Native American owned and operated museum in the United States. Outside you can explore a replicated Mohegan village that is contained inside a stockade fence. This village features a traditionally framed wigwam and longhouse covered in tulip popular bark along with our Three Sisters' Garden that consists of corn, beans, and squash. Along the path you will find a dugout canoe, memory pile and our Granny Squannit herb garden." (Museum flyer).

Much has been written in the Colonial Records of Connecticut about the various dealings of the white settlers and the Natives. Through it all, the Mohegans and other Native Peoples sold/lost much of their land to the English. All of us live on lands that were once utilized by the Native peoples in their seasonal rounds. THEY WERE HERE long before we were.

In recognition of the earliest inhabitants of the United States, we now celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day in place of Columbus Day as an October holiday. According to Wikipedia, "South Dakota became the first to officially celebrate the day (calling it Native American

Day) in 1990. The city of Berkeley, California, embraced Indigenous Peoples' Day in 1992 as a protest to the 500th anniversary of Columbus' arrival. Now, numerous states and more than 130 cities observe the holiday (on the second Monday of October)"-- this year, October 9, 2023.

Two years ago, President Joseph Biden became the first United States president to formally recognize this day by issuing a proclamation: "The Federal Government has a solemn obligation to lift up and invest in the future of Indigenous people and empower Tribal Nations to govern their own communities and make their own decisions. We must never forget the centuries-long campaign of violence, displacement, assimilation, and terror wrought upon Native communities and Tribal Nations throughout our country. Today, we acknowledge the significant sacrifices made by Native peoples to this country — and recognize their many ongoing contributions to our Nation. On Indigenous Peoples' Day, we honor America's first inhabitants and the Tribal Nations that continue to thrive today. I encourage everyone to celebrate and recognize the many Indigenous communities and cultures that make up our great country. NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 11, 2021, as Indigenous Peoples'

Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I also direct that the flag of the United States be displayed on all public buildings on the appointed day in honor of our diverse history and the Indigenous peoples who contribute to shaping this Nation". ([www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/---issued-October-8,2021](http://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/---issued-October-8,2021)).

So this year, on Monday, October 9, remember all the contributions that the Native Americans have made to our country and how much they have to offer.

Remembering John Noel Dempsey: A Man Who Did Good by Father Ed Dempsey is now available locally in paperback at M's Boutique 75 Main St., Suite #3, Putnam for \$11.95 plus tax. The store is open Thursday from 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday & Saturday from 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday from noon-5 p.m. 860-315-9126.

A New Book for Sale: New England's Haunted Route 44. Have you heard of the White Ghost Train in Putnam? Do you like ghost stories, tales of hauntings, etc.? The Killingly Historical Center now has the book "New England's Haunted Route 44" by Thomas D'Agostino and Arlene Nicholson for sale for \$20. Stop in at the Center on Wednesdays and Saturdays during regular hours (10 a.m.-4 p.m.). If you would like to have a copy mailed to you, please send a check

for \$20 plus \$5 shipping and handling made out to the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 265, Danielson, CT 06239. There are a number of "haunted" sites in Putnam, Pomfret and the surrounding vicinity. Note: the PO Box is 265. It was incorrect in last week's article.

Support a Killingly National Register Property. The Danielson Lions Club and Killingly Grange 112 are hosting a spaghetti supper at the Grange (corner of Dog Hill Road and Route 101) on October 12 from 4:30-6:30. Limited number of meals. \$15. Dine in or take out. Call 860-884-1813.

The Grange will also be holding an Indoor Yard Sale Saturday, October 14 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Tables are \$20. Call 860-377-1391 or email [clgou@aol.com](mailto:clgou@aol.com).

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, Octoberber 2023. Special thanks to David Eichelberg. For additional information email me at [margaret-mweaver@gmail.com](mailto:margaret-mweaver@gmail.com) or visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wed. or Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or [www.killinglyhistorical.org](http://www.killinglyhistorical.org) or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook at [www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety](http://www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety). Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center should be sent to PO Box 265, Danielson, CT 06329.


## Opportunities hidden in difficulties

I can't count the number of times I stood in the rubble of my half-finished renovation, discouraged at what my latest gut-job was revealing. It had always been a dream of mine to remodel an old house. Now I had that opportunity. I was remodeling a house built around 1790; it was a project that would last eight years.

In one of the early phases of that remodel we began removing the sagging lathe and plaster on the walls and low ceiling, just inside our front door. My goal was to spruce things up a bit, but as we uncovered the studs we found termite

damage, proof of "innovative building practices" and a lot of mouse skeletons. We also found evidence that the main staircase had been moved, and that part of the second story had been reconfigured in a way that made a portion of the upstairs space unusable.

It was discouraging. I felt like I might be biting off more than I could chew. At times I regretted tackling the project. Everything seemed to turn out to be more complicated or difficult than expected. The bones of the house were petrified,



BEYOND THE PEWS

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JOHN HANSON

to a new assignment, I even questioned whether I had made the right choice. I reasoned that if I was following God, He would be helping me out a little more than He seemed to be helping.

But we pushed forward. We "made do." We were forced to become more creative and resourceful. We prayed a lot. We worked long hours. We problem-solved and self-talked ourselves into believing for better days. Then, little by little, we made progress. Things actually began working out better than expected.

For example, we decided to remove part of the second floor near the front door and relocate the stairs to their original place. That combination allowed us to create a grand entry and a balcony at the top of the stairs. We were also able to expose the original, hand-hewn, peg-secured, beams. The end result was stunning compared to the original. We ended up with something much nicer than we had set out to create.

So, we began with a plan... that turned into a bigger problem than we expected... which caused us to seek creative solu-

tions... which resulted in a something better than we had planned. It was an opportunity hidden in difficulty. If we had not persevered when we encountered problems, we would have never enjoyed the better home. People of faith persevere, believing that God will help them work through their difficulties. And they believe that often, the end result will be even better than they imagined.

*Bishop John W. Hanson oversees Acts II Ministries in Thompson. For more information or to discover books and online videos, please visit [www.ActsII.org](http://www.ActsII.org).*



# Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors ranks 12th in Hartford Business Journal’s Annual Wealth Management Firms List



The WHZ team at the firm’s Tolland office, located at 392-A Merrow Rd.

TOLLAND/POMFRET CENTER — Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors (WHZ) has ranked 12th in the Hartford Business Journal’s annual ranking of the top wealth management firms in the greater Hartford area. The rankings were assigned according to each firm’s number of local licensed financial advisors as reported to the Hartford Business Journal in a self-reported survey. The ranking includes 21 firms. WHZ was the only wealth management firm in eastern Connecticut (including Windham, Tolland, and New London counties) to be ranked.

(2023 Hartford Business Journal’s Annual Wealth Management Firms List, created by Hartford Business Journal. Presented in June 2023 based on data reported to HBJ in May, 2023. WHZ was ranked 12th on a list of 22 Hartford-area investment advisory firms, ranked by number of local advisors

employed by the firm. Not indicative of advisor’s future performance. Your experience may vary. For more information, please visit <https://www.hartfordbusiness.com/lists-data>.)

There are five local, licensed financial advisors on the WHZ team: Principal, Managing Partner and Chief Investment Officer Laurence Hale, AAMS®, CRPS®; Principal, Managing Partner and Chief Goal Strategist James Zahansky, AWMA®; Senior Vice President, Financial Advisor Leisl L. Cording, CFP®, CDEFA®; Vice President, Associate Financial Advisor Michael Baum, CFP®, RICP®; and Holly Wanegar, CFP®, Associate Vice President, Wealth Advisor.

“We’re really proud of our advisory team and the comprehensive, long-term financial strategy and guidance we provide to our clients,” Hale said. “It’s a really hands-on, personalized approach

and a long-term coaching relationship that we build with our clients and I think that’s what differentiates us from a lot of firms.”

Zahansky attributes the firm’s recent growth to those factors as well.

“We’ve been serving clients across the state and around the country from our office in Pomfret since 2006, and we were thrilled to expand our geographic footprint with the opening of our Tolland office earlier this year. Our team is growing, our presence is growing, but our relationships with our clients continue to grow too, and that’s really been the driver behind our success,” he said.

This ranking is the latest in a series of positive milestones and accolades for the firm and its advisors.

In March, Cording was featured as a “Five Star Wealth Manager Under 40” by FORTUNE and in January the firm announced that for the ninth consecutive year,

all of its financial advisors eligible for the Five

## WHZ IS THE ONLY FIRM IN EASTERN CONNECTICUT TO BE RANKED

Star Wealth Manager Award<sup>1</sup> (Laurence Hale, James Zahansky and Leisl Cording) were selected to receive it for 2022 – a distinction granted to just 10 percent of Connecticut wealth managers who were considered for the award.

The 2022 Five Star Wealth Manager Award is created by Five Star Professional and was presented in November, 2022 based on data gathered between February, 2022 and September, 2022. A total of 2,950 Connecticut-area advisors were considered; 290 (10 percent) of advisors were recognized. Advisors do not pay a fee for the award, but do pay a fee to hold out marketing materials. The award is not indicative of an advisor’s future performance, and your experience may vary. For more information, visit [fivestarpf.com](https://www.fivestarpf.com).

WHZ was founded in 2006 as an independent fiduciary asset management and investment firm. Today the firm offers wealth management and customized financial planning services to individuals, families, business owners, executives, and not-for-profit institutions in 25 states from its offices in Pomfret and Tolland, Connecticut. The firm is a partner of Commonwealth Financial Network®, one of the largest privately-owned independent Registered Investment Advisor/broker-dealers in the United States. (\*As of Sept. 22, based on self-reported AUM data from 47 participating firms in the 2022 Financial-Planning.com/IBD Elite survey.) To learn more, visit [www.whzwealth.com](https://www.whzwealth.com).

## Expert returns to discuss bears in the Quiet Corner



POMFRET — Paul Colburn returns to discuss black bears on Saturday, Oct. 14 at 2 p.m. at the Connecticut Audubon Society (CAS) Center at Pomfret, 218 Day Rd., Pomfret Center.

Colburn is a graduate of the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) Master Wildlife Conservationist Program. Adult admission is \$5 for CAS members; \$10.00 for non-members. There is no charge for children 12 and under.

During his presentation, Colburn discusses the history of black bears in Connecticut, their habitat, diet, behavior, reproduction, and current research studies. He also will offer some practical recommendations for peaceful coexistence as the state’s black bear

population grows and expands.

Dale May is the former director of the CT DEEP Wildlife Division and a Quiet Corner resident.

He says, “There is a great deal of unoccupied excellent bear habitat in Windham County. While we have had bear sightings here for decades (usually dispersing young males), we are seeing an expansion of breeding females into northeastern Connecticut, primarily from Massachusetts to the north. As expansion continues, we can expect to see a dramatic increase in the number of bears in the county. Bear sightings and interactions will become much more common.”

By looking at the northwestern part of the state and the Farmington River Valley, May sug-

gests, we can learn what to expect.

“Connecticut’s bears are very healthy, productivity is high, and mortality is low,” he explained. “While bears are comfortable living close to humans, proximity creates problems. Windham County citizens will be doing bears and themselves a favor by proactively adopting habits that discourage close interaction with bears. They should make food attractants, especially birdseed, unavailable to bears and also, try to make bears uncomfortable in the presence of humans with loud noises, etc.”

Colburn, our speaker, and May agree that the bottom line is bears will be living among us and they must be kept as wild as possible.

Sarah Heminway,

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

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