



THOMPSON VILLAGER

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Friday, August 21, 2026

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*Emilio wins
50th District
Primary,
MacCormick
announces
Congressional
campaign*

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

REGION — The contest over who will represent the Republican Party in this year's 50th District State Representative race resulted in overwhelming support for a last-minute candidate after the party's original choice stirred controversy for his anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric.

Jadon McCormack was the initial endorsed candidate by local Republican Town Committees to challenge longtime Democratic incumbent Pat Boyd for the seat, which represents Ashford, Brooklyn, Eastford, Hampton, Mansfield, Pomfret, and Woodstock.

Back in June, MacCormack posted anti-LGBTQ+ statements on his social media coinciding with the celebration of Pride Month. The controversy also drew attention to past statements he has made in public forums including endorsing the use of capital punishment for members of the LGBTQ+ community. This led to calls from both parties for him to step down from the race.

MacCormack made it clear he was in the race for the long haul, leading the GOP to promote a new candidate, former Pomfret Selectman Tony Emilio, to challenge MacCormack in what quickly became one of the most publicized primaries in the region in years.

The primary was held on Aug. 11 where Emilio earned 458 votes to MacCormack's 122, a 78.97 to 21.03 percent split according to results posted by the Secretary of State's Office. Emilio also carried every single town in the district with the closest margin a 60 to 40 percent split in Mansfield where only 15 votes were cast.

Emilio responded to the win on social media, thanking the party for their support and pledging to put in a hard-fought race for the seat.

"Throughout this campaign, I have heard from residents who want a representative who will listen, work hard, defend our towns, and focus on results. I hope to bring integrity back to this role and provide the 50th District with the full attention, common sense, and steady leadership it deserves," Emilio wrote. "Public service is about much more than winning political points. It is about respecting every resident, listening to different perspectives, and working together to find solutions that strengthen our communities."

MacCormick did not shy away from embracing his controversial and aggressive approach in response to the loss. On his own social media pages, he lambasted the local GOP and directed negative comments towards Emilio. He also announced his candidacy for the 2028 race for Second Congressional District, a seat currently held by Democrat Joe Courtney who is being challenged by Republican George Austin in November.

MacCormack declared himself “the true winner in this Republican Party” and said the goal of his impending Congressional campaign was to “reform” the party and “Make

Turn To RESULTS *page* A10

Pomfret Historical Society hosts program on music of Connecticut's Revolution

POMFRET — The Pomfret Historical Society (PHS) will host a concert by tenor and harpsichordist Richard Donahue on Aug. 23 at 3 p.m. in the Pomfret Old Town House (OTH), 11 Town House Dr., Pomfret Center.

The concert is the last in the Summer Concert Series, "Music of the Revolution," sponsored by the Pomfret 250 Commission. The well-attended concerts at the OTH have explored multiple genres of music listened to and performed by America's Revolutionary heroes and ordinary people from the late 1700's to the mid 1800's.

What a Glorious Crash
They Made: Musick of
Connecticut's Revolution
features a collection of
"New Songs" and Hymns
published in Connecticut
during the American

Revolution. From the time of the Stamp Act through the British surrender at Yorktown, Connecticut's seditious colonists used these works to foment rebellion, commemorate victory, and give thanks for preservation. Music Historian Richard Franklin Donohue, will share his original research and explore this fiery repertoire that in the words of John Adams "cultivated the sensations of Freedom." The program spans the Revolutionary war years with selections like John Dickinson's "Liberty Song," William Billings' "Chester," Andrew Law's "Middletown," and several popular British tunes with "new" texts reflecting the cause of freedom.

Richard Franklin Donohue is a singer, private music instructor, and historian. A life-long per-

former, Richard specializes in historic music ranging from Middle English Carols to 19th century romantic music. He studied music at the University of Connecticut and has been teaching Piano, Voice, and Music Theory since 1992. He is the Town Historian in his hometown of Cromwell, Connecticut and has been the President and Program Director of the Cromwell Historical Society for twenty years. He is the author of "Rosetown Review," a monthly history article published in the Cromwell Life newspaper and presents historical lectures throughout New England on a wide range of topics.

The concert is one of many collaborations between the Pomfret 250 Commission and Pomfret Historical Society which

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Killingly loosens treatment plant moratorium limits

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The town of Killingly has received small but significant updates regarding their wastewater treatment plant capacity over the last couple of months. As plans continue to take form regarding an upgrade to the facility, town officials confirmed that they have loosened the moratorium and new applications for increased usage are currently being approved.

In July, Town Administrator Brian Palaia told the Town Council that staff had been working through versions of a basis of design memo from a consulting engineer which was set to be addressed by the Water Pollution Control Authority at their meeting later in the month. During the Town Council's Aug. 11 meeting, Palaia confirmed the WPCA had received the memo but had limited discussion. Among the major points was the consideration of bringing in a third party to review the consultant's draft.

Palaia described the memo as an examination of what could be built into the expansion.

"This is at least a discussion of how much additional capacity to plan for - is it a million gallons a day or two million gallons a day more," Palaia told the Council in August. "There are various flow projections in there based on a detailed analysis of what

Turn To LIMITS page A10

Chelsea Groton Foundation awards grant to Ragged Hill Woods program



POMFRET CENTER — As our summer camp program ends at the Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp, we move on to concentrating on our Ragged Hill

Woods Environmental Education Programs We are excited to acknowledge receipt of a \$5,000 grant from the Chelsea Groton Foundation to support our

Ragged Hill Woods program.

The Foundation's mission is to support their ongoing commitment in partnership to the long term growth in the local commu-

nity. We are very grateful for this award which will allow us to keep tuition costs as low as possible to allow access to more participants. This is the second year that we have received support from this Foundation and as you can see, it made a lot of campers smile.

Our fall homeschool days for children in second through fifth grades will run from 12:30 – 3:30 p.m. on Mondays as follows: Sept. 14 – Nature Detective Training, September 21 – Mapmakers and Trailblazers, Sept. 28 – Tree Time Travelers, October 5 – Forest Feasts: Seeds, Nuts, and Survival, Oct. 19 – Forest Floor Recycling Crew and Oct. 26 – Rocks, Roots and Hidden Trails. Cost is \$45 per child per class or \$250 for all six weeks. Topics are being selected for our six week Wednesday afternoon programs from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. for children from Kindergarten to grade 6 from Sept. 9 to Oct. 21. All programs are held rain or shine. You can email raggedhillwoods@gmail.com to inquire about topics and specific dates for this series.

TOWN OF POMFRET
POSITION OPENING – HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Qualified self-starter wanted for Town of Pomfret Highway Department. Must hold Class B CDL license/valid medical card and have a background in operating heavy equipment. Position includes, but is not limited to, assignments on all municipal road work including road grading, snowplowing, landscaping, building maintenance, and any other duties as needed and assigned. Five years of driving/equipment operation experience is preferred. Thirty-five hour work week but must be available to work nights and weekends as needed, able to lift up to 100 pounds, possess mechanical aptitude in heavy equipment repair, pass a DOT physical and drug screen, and consent to random drug/alcohol testing as required by the DOT. Salary dependent upon qualifications and experience. Attractive benefit package. Interested persons should forward resume/application and three references to the Selectman’s Office, 5 Haven Road, Pomfret Center, CT 06259 on or before August 26, 2026. Application form available at www.pomfretct.gov/first-selectmans-office . EEO/AA

TOWN OF POMFRET
PART-TIME ASSISTANT TREASURER

The Town of Pomfret seeks to hire a PT Assistant Treasurer. Responsibilities include receipt and deposit of town funds, reconciliation of accounts, processing purchase orders and invoices for disbursement, transfer of funds and entry of expenses into town’s accounting system, and perform any and all duties as may be required with this position and as required under CT General Statutes. Work in cooperation with municipal officials and provides financial reports as needed. Must be able to work independently. Flexible work hours. Offices closed on Fridays. Knowledge of Tyler Infinite Vision Accounting Software preferred. Five years of related experience in accounting/bookkeeping, municipal work is a plus. Salary dependent upon qualifications and experience. Interested persons should forward resume/application and three references to the Selectman’s Office, 5 Haven Road, Pomfret Center, CT 06259 or email Selectmansclerk@pomfretct.gov on or before August 31, 2026. Application and full job description is available at www.pomfretct.gov/first-selectmans-office . EEO/AA

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CLUES ACROSS

1. A vast desert in Africa

7. Reciprocal of a sine

10. Type of phone

12. Biblical figure

13. One who renounces a religious belief

14. Warren and Monroe are two

15. Wild ox

16. Dismounted a horse

17. Cave dweller

18. Where infants sleep

19. Popular type of shoe

21. Clumsy large person

22. Evil-like

27. Integrated circuit

28. Austin-based athlete

33. Postscript

34. Follows 18

36. People of Gambia

37. Popular actor Nicolas

38. Platform for a lectern

39. Taxi

40. American songwriter Sammy

41. Iranian city

44. Heavy clubs

45. One who is expelled

48. In bed

49. Lifelessness

50. Former CIA

51. Most slick

CLUES DOWN

1. Slovenly person

2. In addition

3.hovels

4. Pie ___ mode

5. Subway rodent

6. They ___

7. Indigenous S. American people

8. Fine sand

9. Central nervous system

10. Nightclub entertainment

11. The perfect example of something

12. Supreme Islamic leader

14. Pain

17. Binary-coded decimal

18. Projecting corner of an angle

20. “Succession” actor Brian

23. Dinner table decor

24. Ancient settlement in modern Turkey

25. You can call Paul Simon this

26. Opposite of a pro

29. Atomic #28

30. Type of drug (abbr.)

31. Arrives at

32. Nullifies

35. Bird’s beak

36. Partner to “oohed”

38. Ray-finned fishes

40. Taxis

41. Sat on and controlled

42. Sea eagles

43. Remain as-is

44. Chinese revolutionary

45. Tooth caregiver

46. Snakelike fish

47. Compensate

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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“Claws & Applause” launches call for performers and sponsors

PUTNAM — The stage is set, the music is ready and now Claws & Applause: A Lip Sync Battle for Paws is officially calling on local performers, business and community members to join the show!

Taking place Friday, Aug. 28 at Montana Nights Axe Throwing in Putnam, this fundraising event will bring the community together for an unforgettable night of over-the-top lip sync performances, outrageous costumes, audience voting and friendly competition.

And right now, organizers are looking for performers and sponsors ready to step into the spotlight!

Individuals, groups, businesses, organizations and friends are invited to form a team, choose a song and put together a show-stopping lip sync performance. Whether performers go for hilarious, dramatic, glamorous or completely over-the-top, no actual singing talent is required, just creativity, enthusiasm and willingness to have fun for a great cause! No professional experience necessary. If you can commit to the bit, work a crowd and have fun, there is a place for you on the Claws & Applause stage!

“We want people to come ready to laugh, cheer, compete and have an incredible night of fun, as we look to raise money to help shift our focus from constant crisis management to prevention and long-term care for the cats in and beyond our shelter” says event organizer Jennifer Lowell.

With more than 400 cats currently in care, including those placed in foster homes, Paws Cat Shelter continues to face tremendous demand for rescue, rehabilitation and rehoming services. The event aims to raise critical funding for a spay and neuter initiative to help address the cycle that contributes to overcrowded shelters in the first place.

Local businesses and community partners are also invited to become part of the event through a variety of sponsorship opportunities. Sponsorships range from \$100 – \$2,000 and offer opportunities for recognition through event signage, promotional materials, VIP experiences, stage recognition and more. Sponsors can make a meaningful community impact while helping Paws Cat Shelter work toward a long-term solution.

One Night. One Stage. All for the cats! Get involved today by forming a team, becoming a sponsor, purchasing tickets, voting for your favorite performers or making a donation.

Paws Cat Shelter is dedicated to rescuing, rehabilitating and rehoming cats in need while promoting compassionate animal welfare throughout the community. Through the support of volunteers, donors and local advocates, the organization continues to provide lifesaving care and adoption opportunities for homeless cats.

Windham Public Schools celebrates Natchaug Elementary as one of “America’s Healthiest Schools” for second consecutive year

WILLIMANTIC — Windham Public Schools is thrilled to announce that Natchaug Elementary School has once again been named one of America’s Healthiest Schools for 2026 by the Alliance for a Healthier Generation. This prestigious national award celebrates schools that have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to advancing the health, well-being, and academic success of their students.

This marks the second time Natchaug Elementary has received this distinction. The school made history in 2025 when it was the only school in the entire state of Connecticut to make the Alliance’s list, setting a gold standard for student wellness.

This year, Natchaug joins 1,377 K-12 schools nationwide in receiving the 2026 honor and has expanded its portfolio of excellence, earning awards in four distinct health-related topic areas: Strengthening Social-Emotional Health & Learning, Improving Nutrition & Food Access, Bolstering Physical Education & Activity, and Supporting School Health Services.

Superintendent of Windham Public Schools, Dr. Iris Gomero, praised the achievement.

“We are extraordinarily proud of the Natchaug Elementary community for achieving this national distinction for a second year in a row,” said Dr. Gomero. “Last year, Natchaug set the standard as the only school in Connecticut to make this list. Their expanded recognition in 2026 is a testament to our unwavering belief that true academic success is rooted in the physical, emotional, and nutritional well-being of every child.”

Natchaug Principal Jeannine Enamait added, “We provide our students access to culturally rich and engaging curriculum and instruction opportunities to produce knowledgeable, creative, and critical thinkers who will be lifelong learners. We believe in providing safe, joyful, and inclusive learning environments.”

The Alliance for a Healthier Generation’s annual award program, supported by Del Monte Foods, Kaiser Permanente, and Kohl’s Cares, recognizes schools for implementing evidence-based policies and practices that support lifelong well-being.

Windham Public Schools congratulates the students, families, and staff of Natchaug Elementary School on this extraordinary and hard-earned achievement.

Killingly begins construction on Brickyard Plaza

KILLINGLY — The Town of Killingly is pleased to announce the start of the first phase of construction for Brickyard Plaza, a transformational placemaking project located within the municipal parking lot at 128 Main St. in the heart of Historic Danielson.

Funded in part through the Connecticut Communities Challenge Grant Program, administered by the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, the Brickyard Plaza project represents a significant investment in creating a more vibrant, accessible, and welcoming downtown destination for residents, businesses, and visitors.

Construction will begin with improvements to the area identified as the first phase of the project. During construction, this section of the municipal parking lot will be temporarily fenced off to ensure the safety of the public and construction crews.

Once completed, Brickyard Plaza will feature a public parklet designed to encourage community gathering and enhance the downtown experience. Planned improvements include:

- ADA-accessible walkways that improve connectivity and accessibility for all users.
- Public art celebrating the character and culture of Historic Danielson.
- Decorative canopy lighting to create an inviting atmosphere during evening events.
- Artful wayfinding elements that connect visitors to Main Street businesses, attractions, and community destinations.

The Brickyard Plaza project is part of the Town’s continued commitment to investing in placemaking initiatives that strengthen the local economy, support small businesses, and create engaging public spaces that foster community pride.

We appreciate the support and cooperation of residents, businesses, and visitors during construction and will continue to provide updates as the project progresses.

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Joseph Botta, M.D. and Associates announces retirement, new staff, Sept. 19 open house



Dr. Ronald Klare, MD.

PUTNAM — Joseph Botta, M.D. and Associates, LLC, a concierge primary care practice serving the Northeast Connecticut community, today announced that Dr. Ronald Klare will retire from active clinical practice on Dec. 31, following nearly 50 years of caring for patients in the community where he grew up. Joining the practice to continue that legacy of care is Dr. Mae Wolslegel, a seasoned internist with more than 15 years of experience, who will begin seeing patients in early November 2026 and is now accepting new patients. The practice also announced the promotion of Suzanne Reardon from Registered Nurse to Nurse Practitioner, adding a fourth clinical provider to its care team.

The practice is holding an open house for the community to meet Dr. Wolslegel and Suzanne Reardon, FNP. The open house will be held on Sept. 19 from 10 a.m. to noon at the practice offices located at 24 South Main St. in Putnam.

Dr. Klare has served the region as both a primary care internist and a critical care physician, and has been a vital member of the medical community in northeastern Connecticut throughout his career. He began practicing alongside his father, Dr. Rudy Klare, establishing Woodstock Medical Group, before joining Joseph Botta, M.D. and Associates for the final years of his career. Over the course of nearly five decades, Dr. Klare has cared for multiple generations of families throughout the region, touching countless lives through his skill, compassion, and dedication.

“Dr. Klare’s contribution to this practice, and to this community, is impossible to overstate,” said Dr. Joseph Botta. “For nearly 50 years, he has cared for our neighbors with unmatched skill, compassion, and dedication, following in the footsteps of his father before him. We have been fortunate to benefit from his experience, knowledge, and mentorship these past several years, and while we are thrilled for him as he begins this well-deserved next chapter, his retirement marks the end of an extraordinary career of care for patients in our region and in our practice.”

To ensure continuity of care for his patients, Dr. Klare will remain with the practice through Dec. 31, working alongside Dr. Wolslegel to personally guide the transition of his patients into her care.

Dr. Wolslegel is a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine who earned her medical degree from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed her internship and residency at Frankford Hospital (Aria Health) in Pennsylvania. She is board certified by the American Osteopathic Board of Internal Medicine and brings more than 15 years of experience in internal medicine, including training in osteopathic manipulative treatment.

Most recently, Dr. Wolslegel served as an Internal Medicine doctor with Reliant Medical Group in Webster, Mass. Her comprehensive and caring approach is a natural fit for the practice’s own philosophy of patient care: emphasizing preventive health and treating the



Left to right: Dr. Mae Wolslegel, DO; Dr. Joseph Botta, MD; Dr. David Candow, MD; and Suzanne Reardon, FNP.

whole person rather than an isolated complaint. She will join Dr. Botta, Dr. David Candow, and Dr. Klare at the practice’s Putnam, Connecticut office beginning in early November 2026, and is currently accepting new patients.

In addition, the practice announced that Suzanne Reardon has been promoted from Registered Nurse to Nurse Practitioner, effective August 2026, becoming a fourth clinical provider at Joseph Botta, M.D. and Associates. Reardon holds an Associate Degree in Nursing from Capital Community College in Hartford, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Saint Joseph’s College of Maine, and a Master of Science in Nursing with a Family Nurse Practitioner specialty, also from Saint Joseph’s College of Maine.

Reardon has been a registered nurse for 11 years, with experience in the emergency department at Windham Hospital, where she worked for a total of 20 years, and most recently as a care management virtual nurse with Trinity Health of New England. She joined Joseph Botta, M.D. and Associates as a registered nurse in February 2026 before transitioning into her new role as a Nurse Practitioner in August 2026.

A Windham resident, Reardon will work alongside the practice’s physicians as a physician extender, assisting with patient care. She particularly enjoys direct patient care and taking the time it takes to care for people and treat them like family.

“Dr. Candow and I are truly excited to add Suzanne to our provider team after decades of exceptional work as a nurse in our region,” said Dr. Botta. “And we are thrilled to welcome Dr. Wolslegel to our practice as well. Her depth of experience in internal medicine, and her commitment to unhurried, whole-person care, reflect

exactly the kind of personalized medicine our patients have come to expect from us. We know she will be a wonderful fit for our community, and we are grateful that her arrival gives Dr. Klare’s patients a seamless and caring transition to their next physician.”

Patients of Dr. Klare will be contacted directly regarding the transition of their care, and current and prospective patients with questions are encouraged to contact the practice.

About Joseph Botta, M.D. and Associates, L.L.C. Joseph Botta, M.D. and Associates, L.L.C. is a membership-based concierge primary care practice located in Putnam, Connecticut, offering personalized, unhurried adult medical care. The practice’s physicians, Dr. Joseph Botta (board certified in Internal Medicine and Geriatrics), Dr. David Candow (board certified in Family Medicine), and Dr. Ronald Klare (board certified in Internal Medicine and Critical Care Medicine), together with Nurse Practitioner

Suzanne Reardon, FNP, provide comprehensive primary and preventive care along with specialized services including cardiovascular health, geriatric care, chronic care management, medication management, and medically supervised weight loss. The practice is located at 24 South Main St., Putnam, CT 06260. For more information, call 1.860.315.9026, or visit www.mydoc-torct.com.

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Pomfret Board of Education
Announcement of Vacancy

Pomfret Board of Education has an interim vacancy to fill
The appointed member will serve until the next Biennial Election (November 2027)
Interested candidates please send a letter of interest to:

The Pomfret Board of Education
Pomfret Community School
20 Pomfret Street
Pomfret Center, CT 06259

Deadline 8/24/2026

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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Planning today for Killingly’s capacity tomorrow

Infrastructure rarely attracts much attention when it is working properly. Pipes are underground, treatment systems operate largely out of public view, and most residents have little reason to think about wastewater capacity until there is not enough of it.

That is why the recent developments surrounding Killingly’s wastewater treatment plant are more significant than they might initially appear.

The town remains in the middle of determining what a future expansion of the facility should look like. Town Administrator Brian Palaia told the Town Council that the Water Pollution Control Authority has received a basis of design memo examining potential expansion scenarios, including how much additional capacity Killingly should build.

That decision deserves careful consideration.

The difference between adding one million gallons of capacity per day and 2 million gallons is not simply an engineering calculation. It is ultimately a decision about what Killingly expects to become in the decades ahead.

Wastewater capacity can determine whether new businesses can open, whether existing employers can expand and whether housing and other development envisioned under current zoning can actually be accommodated. Build too little, and Killingly could find itself confronting the same constraints again sooner than expected. Build too much, and ratepayers and taxpayers could be asked to support infrastructure that exceeds the community’s realistic needs.

Getting that balance right is precisely why the planning taking place now matters.

The basis of design process reportedly includes an analysis of what properties within the sewer district could potentially accommodate under existing zoning. That is a sensible place to begin. Decisions involving a project of this scale should be based on realistic projections rather than either overly optimistic assumptions about future growth or an overly cautious approach that leaves little room for it.

There is also nothing troubling about the possibility of having a third party review the consultant’s work. For a project that could carry a substantial price tag and influence development for decades, another set of qualified eyes could provide useful assurance before the town commits itself to a particular course.

At the same time, there is encouraging news for property owners and smaller businesses that cannot wait years for the larger project to be completed.

The interim memorandum of understanding signed by Frito-Lay has allowed Killingly to loosen some of its restrictions, with additional flows of less than 2,000 gallons per day now being considered. Palaia reported that numerous applications have already been approved quickly.

That is meaningful progress.

A wastewater moratorium can have consequences far beyond the treatment plant itself. A relatively small business expansion, redevelopment project or change in property use can become difficult when additional sewer capacity is unavailable. Allowing smaller users to move forward, where the system can safely accommodate them, relieves some of that pressure while the community works toward a permanent solution. Still, the interim arrangement should not distract from the larger task.

Killingly needs a long-term wastewater strategy that gives residents, businesses and prospective developers reasonable certainty about what the town can support. That means determining the appropriate capacity, identifying the necessary technology, establishing credible cost estimates and explaining how the project would be financed.

Palaia indicated that a town meeting will likely be held once officials have reached a tentative decision. That public discussion will be essential. Residents should be given understandable information about the alternatives, their costs and what each option would provide Killingly in return.

Wastewater treatment may not be the most exciting subject discussed at Town Hall, but it is among the most consequential.

The encouraging part is that Killingly appears to be moving in two directions at once: providing some immediate relief for smaller users while methodically planning for the community’s longer-term needs.

The next challenge is making sure the eventual investment is large enough to serve Killingly’s future without asking the community to pay for a future that is unlikely to arrive. That is the kind of decision worth taking the time to get right.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It’s time to demand more from our candidates

To the Editor:
What kind of candidate am I looking to vote for in the upcoming midterm elections?

I want a candidate who respects the rule of law, speaks in substance rather than slogans, and treats democratic integrity as non-negotiable.

I want a candidate who plays by the rules but dreams of a bolder progressivism—someone willing to challenge the party establishment, stand unapologetically for democratic values and progressive principles, and not fear the label “socialist” when advocating policies that serve the common good.

I want a candidate committed to a decent standard of living for every American, not just the wealthy; someone who welcomes people of every race and gender and immigrants who dream of becoming Americans.

I want intelligence, judgment, and governing

experience without another tired establishment figure. I want someone strong and practical, but also empathetic and compassionate—not rude, crude, or deliberately offensive.

And then I want us to argue about the issues. Debate taxes, spending, immigration, health care, education, climate, and the proper role of government. That is what democracy is supposed to look like.

But first, we should be able to agree on something more fundamental: the rule of law matters. Democracy matters. Character matters. The common good matters.

It is time to grow the heck up, stop mistaking grievance and slogans for political principles, and start expecting more from our candidates—and from ourselves.

PAUL COTNOIR
PUTNAM

Lamont may be “awake,” but are you?

To the Editor:
Reported by the CT INSIDER was that a new study found Connecticut ratepayers paid a \$1.8 billion premium on electricity over 10 years. A jab by the State Republican Caucus added: “This is 31 percent over what it actually costs to generate their power. The energy procurement process is broken and it’s costing people real money.” Take that for what it’s worth, but I doubt the Democrats would even want you to know about that study. If somebody could only find a way to turn all these politicians’ expelled hot air into an energy source, the supply would be never-ending.

It’s funny that Lamont has been in office for close to the last eight years now, but according to him and the democrats everything that’s now wrong in this State is President Trump’s fault? (And that’s something they’ll repeatedly tell you, but how long has Trump now been President for?) But never fear, Lamont’s “rolling up his sleeves” and “now” he’s going to fix everything. (Spoken like a true politician in an election year.) He claims to be “awake,” but are the voters of

Connecticut?

A bunch of no-Ned’s came out before the primary and said they twice voted for Lamont but aren’t going to do so now. Maybe you also saw those commercials on TV? One person for a reason cited that Lamont “kissed Trump’s ring at his inauguration.” (Proof positive that Trump lives rent free in the heads of the disgruntled.) And though others dragged Trump into it as well, one didn’t even mention Trump and put all the blame on Lamont - how refreshing! Yup, there are some people in this state who are awake and among them were those who’ve helped show John Larson the door. In that case the call for “generational change” finally canned the career of the veteran Democrat; apparently, there is a form of term limits. I hope Lamont, Tong, and that blue-haired dinosaur will be the next to go, but then, this is Connecticut.

ED DELUCA
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

Plainfield deserves a voice

To the Editor:
As a Plainfield resident, I am deeply concerned about the proposed trash plant and, equally important, about the process being used to determine whether it moves forward.

The company is seeking a declaratory ruling from the Connecticut Siting Council. I believe a project with the potential to affect our health, environment, property values, quality of life, and the future of our town deserves the full certification and public review process — including an in-person public hearing right here in Plainfield.

The people who will live with the consequences of this decision deserve a seat at the table. We deserve the opportunity to ask questions, hear the facts, express our concerns, and receive answers before a decision of this magnitude is made.

There is also a larger issue that our state legislators need to address. Connecticut law should provide stronger protections against placing facilities of this nature in residential areas and against

concentrating multiple facilities in one community. Plainfield already has a wood-burning plant on Route 12. How much should one small community be expected to absorb?

This isn’t simply about being against one project. It is about standing up for transparency, responsible decision-making, and the right of residents to have a meaningful voice in what happens in their own community.

I encourage my fellow residents to contact the Connecticut Siting Council and our state legislators. Ask them to oppose the declaratory ruling, require the full certification process and an in-person public hearing, and work toward stronger laws protecting Connecticut communities.

Decisions made today could affect Plainfield for decades. Our voices deserve to be heard before those decisions are made.

MARY SILVESTRI
PLAINFIELD

ICE has never been about law and order

To the Editor:
My Irish grandfather and his brothers and their wives immigrated to Boston in 1900 with nothing but a medical check. They worked for the city and the precursor of the MTA, and their children gained graduate degrees and served our country in peace and in war. I think of them while commercial and private contractor crews who have worked on my property this decade usually speak with accents or have no English at all. Their work has always been flawless.

All of us here in the Quiet Corner have had that experience. That is now threatened by lawless gangs of thugs.

Saturday, Aug. 10, unmarked cars and men who refused to identify themselves arrived at a West Cornwell, Vt. farmhouse and, without warrants, arrested two of the roofing crew while the rest fled into the woods. Alex and Angel were transported to Massachusetts, away from their families and supportive communities. The homeowner is unable to find competent workers to finish her roof.

The Vermont state senator reporting this action had helped pass several relevant bills to protect the rights of people in Vermont, including Proposal 4, the Equal Rights Amendment to the

Vermont Constitution which includes protections based on race, ethnicity, and national origin; Act 87 which explicitly gives Vermonters the ability to sue the federal government for depriving them of rights; Act 150 which prohibits civil arrests in sensitive locations; and Act 125 to establish protocols for immigration enforcement at schools.

We’ll see if state’s rights can trump federal authoritarians, but anyone who has witnessed illegal ICE arrests or murders can see that they are not about law and order. Our country has enacted many levels of legality other than full citizenship, but ICE is disregarding anything but accent and skin color.

As Connecticut’s political candidates plead for your campaign funds and votes this fall, take the opportunity to ask how they propose to protect Nutmegers working in construction, maintenance, healthcare, child-and elderly care, agriculture or any of the other places we desperately need good workers. ICE has never been about our laws, but about pure racism and cruelty. It’s unworthy of our national traditions and history, and we must guard our state’s rights to our own safety and growth.

G. LESLIE SWEETNAM
WOODSTOCK

Take me out to the ballgame!

The Importance of Connecticut to the Revolution. LiR-QV Open House. Friday, Aug. 21 at 1 p.m. Killingly Community Center Auditorium, 185 Broad St., Danielson. Noted storyteller and journalist Mike Allen, former host of the popular podcast Amazing Tales About History will walk through the key people and events in Connecticut during

our nation’s tumultuous march to independence, 250 years ago. LiR-QV is for adults who enjoy learning in a stimulating and social environment. The talk is free and open to the public. Limited Seating!



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• • • • •
MARGARET
WEAVER

Take me out to the ballgame! I thoroughly enjoyed Jeffrey Lawrence’s recent presentation at the Putnam Public Library on “Baseball’s Own Civil War.” The forerunners of modern baseball date back to 14th century England. Early settlers brought games such as cricket and stoolball to this country. Stickball and games such as “One Cat,” “Two Cat” were popular precursors of our modern game. A “cat” represented a base or designated station, and that game could be played with just a few players. (See AI). By the 1850’s two main variations of baseball were being played on the East Coast of the United States—Massachusetts ball and New York or “Knickerbocker” baseball. Both the layout of the fields and the rules differed greatly. First, let’s think of the present-day playing field, the baseball diamond. In Massachusetts ball, the first three bases were similar to today. However, the fourth base did not go “home.” Instead, it went in a straight line down from third so there were both a batter’s spot at what we think of as home and that extra fourth base. It was considered a rough and tumble game compared to the New York or Knickerbocker style of baseball, which was considered “gentlemanly.” Lawrence noted that Massachusetts ball was “codified by the Massachusetts Association of Base Ball Players in 1858 at Dedham, MA. There were 10 known teams in 1858 and 20 by the following year. Clubs as far away as Buffalo, NY were known to be playing this style of baseball. New York “Knickerbocker” rules were first codified in 1845 and were updated in 1848. There were 16 clubs in 1857; 25 in 1858; 50 in 1858; 62 in 1860. Railroads and newspapers helped greatly in the spread of both versions of the game.

Rules of the two baseball games varied greatly. Pitching was underhand in New York ball; overhand in Massachusetts. New York ball used heavier bats and larger balls. In Massachusetts ball, outs were made by tagging the runner, “soaking” (hitting) the runner, or by balls caught on the fly. There were no force outs. In New York ball the runner could be out on a fly ball, by being tagged, by a force out, or by three swinging strikes.

The Civil War helped New York “Knickerbocker” baseball become the dominant form of the game. Men in the military camps with down time would play ball, more frequently using the Knickerbocker rules. Following the War baseball soon grew into a money-making sport. If you are interested in more details, much is available online and there are a number of books in print on the older versions of the game. Your local library will be happy to help you find them.

Did you know that an early professional baseball player was born in Putnam? George “Candy” LaChance, the son of George and Salome (Jabotte) LaChance was born on Valentine’s Day, Feb. 14, 1870 (parents from baptisms St. Mary Church, Putnam). Not much is known about his early days or when the family moved to the Waterbury area. Putnam Adult Services Librarian Nicole Nichols researched “Candy”

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.

We need true leadership

To the Editor:

The utter futility and inept planning of Donald Trump’s unneeded war was laid bare this week, as it becomes abundantly clear that Iran has not only survived the conflict, but that the regime is stronger than ever. Their missile stores remain intact along with the underground facilities that produce them as opposed to US forces who have wasted nearly 80 percent of its stockpile. What’s more the Iranians have processed the engagement at a fraction of the \$100 billion that American taxpayers have lost (not to mention the billions of dollars it will cost to repair all the damage to our bases in the region).

We are also learning of the physical and mental toll straining US troops as reports of poor conditions on our premier naval carrier, the USS Lincoln flood the media. The ship has been at sea far longer than military standards suggest, breaking the record number of days at sea without a port stop. All this because the War Department failed to protect our main harbor from enemy damage. We also are unable to guarantee safety at other regional ports. This leaves our sailors without basic supplies or simple shore leave. Secretary Hegseth feels this is appropriate. The President says it is “not nearly long enough.” The Stars and Stripes magazine, an independent American newspaper dedicated to the military and their families describes that both are suffering exhaustion and declining morale. Our government calls them liars.

We have also heard from Trump that Americans need to live with higher gasoline prices to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. Hogwash. The price of gas was under \$3 a gallon in February before the attack. At this point the strategy is to seal off Iran’s ports and place sanctions “like we never seen before.” So the question would be why didn’t try this before bombing? The price of gas would still be low, we’d have saved billions, the Strait of Hormuz would be open, and no lives would have been lost.

Vice President Vance has further mud-died the administration’s approach by saying the number one goal is to “keep oil and gasoline cheap for Americans.” Huh? It was cheap. You went to war which caused the price to go up. More incredibly the goal number two is to ensure Iran never gets a nuclear weapon.” This is gaslighting at its finest. We could have done this by simply continuing negotiations. And by negotiations, I mean using experienced officials from our diplomatic corps, not at couple of corrupt businessmen.

We could have also kept the price of oil and gas down by promoting other energy sources such and wind and solar power, by enforcing previous automobile emission standards, and by expanding our EV fleet.

But now we are also left with record lows in our strategic oil reserve.

So for now, our best strategy is to strangle the Iranian economy and wait for total collapse. Ultimately, this will happen, but as we have seen in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, Lebanon and Gaza, the oppressive regimes care little about their citizens so it will take a while.

Another more chilling option, of course, is the nuclear option. In this case the literal nuclear option. With a depleted cache of conventional weapons one way to end this before November is to drop an atom bomb. Only a madman would do this, but a desperate Donald Trump fits the bill. He now after all is completely out of touch with reality in thinking he can declare the Strait of Hormuz an American territory.

All this spells trouble for Republicans in November whose apparent strategy is to label the Democratic party Socialists, Communists and antisemites. I would counter that Republicans are Fascist, Authoritarians and real anti Semites. Addressing the latter, they misconstrue criticism of Israel with hatred of Jews. Not so. Sen. Sanders is Jewish, yet critical of Israeli policy and one could easily argue that their current treatment of the West Bank is both illegal and immoral. On the other hand, the Republican lieutenant governor of Indiana wants to change his state’s Constitution to bar non -Christians from holding public office. Nick Fuentes has praised Hitler, asked Jews to convert or leave the country and questioned both the Holocaust and the Hamas atrocities on Oct. 7. Other MAGA deviants spreading perverse tropes include Candace Owens, Andrew Tate, and popular pod caster Theo Von. This is real antisemitism.

Still, with countries such as Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and Turkey forming their own military alliance, Israel remains and has always been America’s one true ally in the Middle East. The new Democratic Progressives must not forget this.

November approaches, and the President seems more concerned about building his billion dollar ballroom, repairing his reflecting pool debacle, carving his name into the Kennedy Center, expanding his cryptocurrency empire and starting an illegal stock market insider trading service. In the midst of record heat, wildfires, flooding and drought, infect diseases, inflation, a looming health insurance apocalypse, and Russian incursion into Europe, he is more interested in making his buddies money and his golf game. We need leadership!

America can do better. America must do better. And God willing, next Election Day, America will do better.

LEE WESLER
WOODSTOCK

“Winter is Coming” for American healthcare

To the Editor:

Trump’s “One Big Beautiful Bill Act” (OBBBA) was signed into law July 4, 2025. Republicans made sure the deepest Medicaid and Medicare cuts wouldn’t take effect until Dec. 31, after the November mid-term elections. It was their attempt to avoid blame for what’s coming.

States will face difficult choices: raise taxes, cut other services like education and roads, or make even deeper cuts to their Medicaid programs. Rural hospitals will face a perfect storm as a result of the law. They’re heavily dependent on Medicaid revenue and serve as the economic backbone of their communities. The American Hospital Association projects that rural hospitals will lose billions in federal Medicaid funding while millions of rural residents will lose their health insurance coverage. In large rural states, losing a rural hospital means creating healthcare deserts where the nearest emergency room is hours away. (GovFacts)

Nationally, the law cuts \$1 trillion in Medicaid and the Congressional Budget Office projects it will leave 16 million more Americans uninsured. “For context, the Affordable Care Act, when it was fully implemented, reduced the number of uninsured Americans by about 20 million. This law is projected to move in the opposite direction, increasing the uninsured population by 16 million.” (GovFacts)

What’s the impact in Connecticut as a result of the cuts? “Large increases in state costs, significant decreases in state revenues, and tax relief primarily benefitting the state’s wealthiest residents,” according to a report from the State Comptroller’s

office. The report projects \$13 billion in cuts to state Medicaid, with 103,000 to 171,000 residents projected to lose HUSKY coverage. “Much of those losses will result from otherwise eligible people getting kicked off the program due to red tape.”

In addition, the report also noted that while the state will receive less federal Medicaid funding, it will have to spend more to implement it as a result of OBBBA’s new requirements for Medicaid recipients. The state estimates spending an extra \$20 million to \$50 million to keep track of work requirement compliance and run eligibility determinations twice as often.

Healthcare is a human right. The U.S. is one of the richest countries by GDP in the world. Yet, “the U.S. healthcare system is the most expensive in the world. Healthcare affects nearly every American’s finances and well-being, influencing premiums, access, and out-of-pocket costs.” (GovFacts) Healthcare should not be a privilege for the wealthy to keep and for the rest of Americans to lose.

The OBBBA cuts to Medicaid and Medicare were made so billionaires could get tax breaks they do not need. Winter is coming and so are huge healthcare cuts for everyday Americans. More than half of Americans say that healthcare costs are a high worry for them when voting. (Kaiser Family Foundation)

Republicans made a bet that voters would forget by November. Don’t forget. Vote for Democrat candidates who will defend your human right to healthcare.

LISA ARENDS
BROOKLYN

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Communist paranoia is rich coming from the MAGA crowd

To the Editor:

Edward Clement can’t seem to get that Communism/socialism monster out of his mind. Once again (Villager, Aug. 14), Mr. Clement tries to tar Democrats with the C (communist) and S (socialist) words, without providing any actual discussion of various candidates’ views or platforms, instead framing his argument with the disingenuous: “Free competition has made the USA strong and prosperous — we need a strong (Pro-American) Democrat Party and a strong Republican Party to keep our blessings. Socialism/Communism will take that away.” Well, where to start? After some thought, it seems best to suggest a few ways for him to clarify, not least for his own peace of mind, whether or not the current crop of progressive Democratic hopefuls are actually socialists or communists, and whether in fact his own party (presumably Republican) is best situated to “keep our blessings” in the coming days and years. First, when referencing a particular candidate’s political philosophy, it first might be a good idea to read about that candidate’s political philosophy and positions on his/her website and be familiar with independent interviews and statements discussing those things. Quotes would be particularly helpful. In Mr. El-Sayed’s case, he’s been quite clear that he is neither a socialist nor a communist and, in fact, his signature issue is universal healthcare, in the form of an expansion of our current Medicare system. Of course, once that was established, it might be a good idea for Mr. Clement to decide if he considers Medicare (or Social Security, for that matter) a socialist or communistic program and whether or not he’s happy that he’s either going to be receiving benefits from those programs or actually does so now. And if he, like some 86% of Americans, is happy with Medicare, he might like to consider whether the rest of America under the age of 65 would like a chance to feel similarly. Second, it also might be a good idea when tossing around labels like “Communist” and “socialist” to understand their meaning, how they differ, but mostly, how they have been used throughout American history to impede, or attempt to impede, progress, as well as to unfairly target loyal Americans. Familiarity with the First Red Scare (1917-1920), which included the Palmer Raids and resulted in the warrantless arrest of thousands of supposed radicals, anarchists, and immigrants, with many detained and hundreds deported, would be important. So too would be an understanding of what is termed the Second Red Scare, or what is generally referred to as the “McCarthy Era.” And particularly enlightening would be some recognition of how the terms “socialism” and “communism” were used to quash Harry Truman’s plan for universal health care with the help of the American Medical Association, and, in fact, were also used by the same coalition (aided by Ronald Reagan speaking about the “evils of socialized medicine”) to nearly block the adoption of our current Medicare system. And, no less important would be to remember and understand that the civil rights movement was often referred to as “un-American” or “communist-inspired” in an attempt to oppose desegregation without explicitly defending racism. Third, Mr. Clement implies that we are less likely to “keep our blessings” and lose access to “free competition” under Democratic leadership — that we are in serious danger of sliding right into a Communist hellhole. That may or may not have been true 50 to 100 years ago, but now, in 2026, consider the following: In 1947, labor’s share of GDP

was 70 percent. In the 2020’s so far, it has been 55.5 percent. And, in the third quarter of 2025, it was 53.8 percent. Between 1979 and 2025, net productivity grew about 90 percent while typical worker compensation grew only about 33 percent. S&P 500 CEOs averaged \$22.8 million in pay in 2025 — 312 times the median U.S. worker’s wage, up from 285-to-1 in 2024. In other words, the rich are getting a whole lot richer and the poor, relatively, are getting poorer. So, what do the Republicans do? They pass the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which is estimated to increase the number of uninsured Americans by 1.3 million in 2026, and on up to 8.6 million by 2029. When Mr. El-Sayed suggests an expansion of the current Medicare system available to those over 65, in order to cover all Americans, is that really being a socialist or a communist...or is that actually caring about the average citizen? The fact is, currently, under Republican/MAGA leadership, there’s precious little level-playing-field competition. The little guy doesn’t stand a chance. It’s all insider baseball. In so many ways the United States in 2026 behaves like an oligarchy. In 2014, political scientists Martin Gilens and Benjamin Page analyzed 1,800 policy outcomes and found that the preferences of economic elites and organized business interests had substantial independent influence on policy while average citizens’ preferences and little to no independent effect when elite preferences diverged from theirs. Since then, things have only gotten worse. Take, for instance, Truth API, the Trump Organization’s latest gambit: for \$60-100,000/month you can get the President’s Truth Social posts a few seconds before the rest of the country, plenty of time in our electronic age to make a few trades based on the fact that the Strait of Hormuz blockade has been lifted or reimposed. In 2021, Capitol One closed more than 300 bank accounts linked to Donald Trump following an anti-money laundering review. Three hundred bank accounts? Who among us has 300 bank accounts? And the recent news that the U.S. Treasury is going to permanently dismantle and erase the federal database designed to keep track of the true owners behind anonymous shell companies hardly gives one confidence that the interests of the little guy are being looked after, that yours and my access to capitalism’s competition and a level playing field is being safeguarded. So...it’s all a bit rich when we hear from Republicans that Democratic candidates who want to regulate cryptocurrency and shell companies or who have a problem with the fact that Donald Trump has made between \$2.2 and \$2.3 billion, the majority of it from cryptocurrency, since Jan. 20, 2025, and now want to expand a successful healthcare program so that all Americans can receive adequate care, are socialists or Communists, and will lead us down a road to ruin. As John McEnroe said, “You cannot be serious!”

JOHN A. DAY, JR.
WOODSTOCK VALLEY



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THE WOODSTOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This month’s installation of
*Crazy for Quilts is the latest in our series of small
spotlight exhibitions of quilts by local quilters*

Also on view is our major exhibition
*Woodstock Through the Camera’s Eye
in Post-Civil War America*

Will are open on Sundays from 10 am. to 1 pm.

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Courtesy

On Wednesday, Aug. 12, members of Putnam Cub Scout Pack 21 visited the Gertrude Chandler Warner Boxcar Children Museum on South Main Street. Director Pat Hedenberg led the Cubs on a guided tour of the circa 1938 railroad boxcar, since turned into a museum, which shows the life and work of long-time Putnam author and elementary school teacher, the late Gertrude Warner, who wrote "The Boxcar Children" and 18 other related popular books for children. This is just one of the fun and educational things Pack 21 does throughout the year, guided by trained and experienced adults. Pack 21 welcomes boys and girls ages five through ten. To join, call John Ryan, at (860) 928-5873 and leave a message.



Your business and yourself: Finding the right wealth extraction strategy

Here’s something I find myself saying to business owners all the time: the company you built and the personal wealth you’re trying to build are not the same thing. They feel like the same thing — it’s all “your money” — but the value sitting inside your business doesn’t do much for your retirement, your family’s security, or your long-term plan until you get it out, efficiently and on purpose.

That process, moving value from the business into your personal life, is what we call wealth extraction. And it’s one of the trickiest, most tax-sensitive corners of owner planning. So let’s build a framework. We’ll cover the levers you can pull, the factors that decide the right mix, how the new tax law changed the math, and the two very different roads your exit can take.

The six levers: How value comes out

There are six primary ways value leaves a business and lands in your pocket, and each one carries its own tax treatment:

First, salary and bonus: Straightforward W-2 compensation — deductible to the business, ordinary income to you, and subject to payroll taxes. For S-corp owners especially, the IRS expects “reasonable compensation” before distributions, so this lever isn’t fully discretionary.

Second, distributions: For pass-through entities (partnerships, S-corps, most LLCs), distributions of already-taxed profit generally avoid a second layer of tax and skip payroll taxes — which is exactly why the salary-versus-distribu-

tion balance matters so much.

Third, dividends: In a C-corporation, profits are taxed at the corporate level and then again when paid out as dividends — the classic “double taxation.” Qualified dividends get favorable rates, but the two-layer structure shapes the whole strategy.

Fourth, fringe benefits: Health coverage, retirement plan contributions, and other benefits can move value to you in tax-advantaged ways — often an underused lever, particularly a well-designed retirement plan.

Fifth, deferred compensation: Nonqualified arrangements let you push income — and the tax on it — into future, potentially lower-rate years. Useful, but remember these are unsecured promises that carry company credit risk.

Sixth, equity monetization: The big one: turning ownership itself into cash, through a sale, a recapitalization, or a transfer. This is usually where the largest dollars (and the largest tax consequences) live, and it’s deeply tied to your eventual exit.

What determines the right mix

The optimal blend depends on four factors: your entity structure (a pass-through and a C-corp face completely different rules), your personal tax situation (bracket, state, other income), your retirement and personal goals (how much you need out, and when), and your exit or succession timeline, which often quietly drives everything else. Get these four



FINANCIAL
FOCUS
JIM ZAHANSKY
INVESTMENT
ADVISER

lined up, and the vehicles above start to sort themselves into a sensible order.

How the new tax law changed the math

A few OBBBA provisions matter a lot for extraction. The 20 percent QBI deduction for pass-through owners is now permanent, with expanded phase-in ranges in 2026 — so more owners qualify, and the salary-versus-distribution decision now has a permanent variable baked in.

QSBS also got a real upgrade: for qualifying C-corporation stock issued after July 4, 2025, the law introduced a tiered gain exclusion — 50 percent at three years, 75 percent at four, 100 percent at five — raised the per-issuer cap to \$15 million, and lifted the gross-asset ceiling to \$75 million, a meaningful incentive to evaluate entity structure now.

And for those in the 37 percent bracket, the new “2/37 rule” caps the value of itemized deductions at roughly 35 cents on the dollar, so you’ll want to time big income events, like an equity sale, deliberately.

Two roads at the end: Next generation vs. outside sale

Here’s where strategy splits in two, because the smartest path depends on where your business is headed.

Path one: keeping it in the family. If you plan to transfer the business to the next generation, extraction blends into estate planning. OBBBA permanently raised the federal estate and gift tax exemption to \$15 million per person (\$30 million for a couple) beginning in 2026. Tools like gifting minority interests (often with valuation discounts), grantor trusts, and buy-sell agreements shift future appreciation out of your taxable estate. Here, you may deliberately take less cash out today to preserve value for the transfer.

Path two: selling to an outside party. If the plan is a third-party sale, the game becomes maximizing and protecting the proceeds. Where enhanced QSBS rules, deal structure (asset versus stock sale, lump sum versus installment), and timing relative to your other income drive the outcome. Here you might do the opposite of path one: position the company and your ownership well in advance to capture every available exclusion when the check clears.

Most owners don’t know for certain which road they’re on until they’re closer to it — and that’s fine. But the road shapes the strategy, so the sooner you name the likely destination, the sooner your plan can work toward it.

Extracting wealth efficiently isn’t a one-time decision. It’s an ongoing strategy that belongs at the center of your financial plan, revisited each year as the business, the tax law, and your goals evolve. This is exactly the kind of work

where you want your financial advisor and your CPA in the same room, coordinating within the current tax year, because the best moves here are planned, not reactive.

At WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors, helping business owners turn what they’ve built into lasting personal wealth is at the heart of our “Plan Well. Invest Well. Live Well.” process. If you’d like a second set of eyes on your extraction and exit strategy, schedule a complimentary consultation at whzwealth.com or call us at (860) 928-2341 — that’s how we work to deliver “Absolute Confidence. Unwavering Partnership. For Life.”

Authored by WHZ Senior Managing Partner & Chief Strategist James “Jim” Zahansky, AWMA®. AI

LiR-QV Open House

DANIELSON — The public is welcome to attend a Fall Open House sponsored by Learning in Retirement (LiR-QV) on Friday, Aug. 21, at 1 p.m. in the Killingly Community Center, 185 Broad St., Danielson.

All are welcome to hear about the Fall programs and enjoy a presentation by noted storyteller and journalist Mike Allen, on The Importance of Connecticut to the Revolution. Connecticut played an important role in winning independence from the British Empire. Many local figures contributed to the formation of the new country, while Connecticut earned the nickname “the provision state” because of its supplies of food and ammunition to the Continental Army. Light refreshments will be served following the program.

LiR-QV programs are held on Monday and Fridays, from September through November. Space is limited. For further information about LiR visit lir-qv.org



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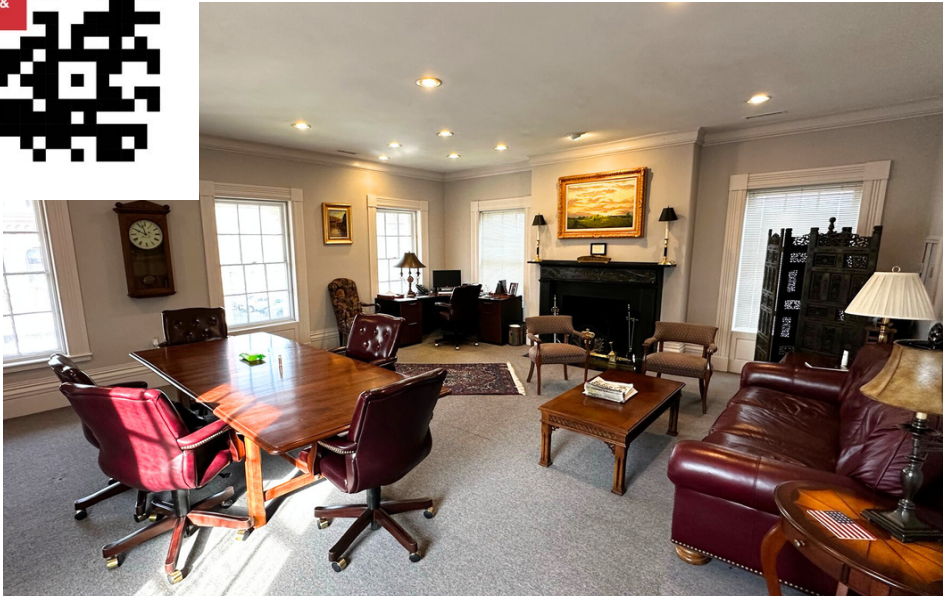
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Livestrong’s 343-mile First Responder Ride for Resilience to pass through area

THOMPSON — Ahead of the 25th anniversary of Sept. 11, Livestrong, a non-profit dedicated to improving the daily lives of cancer survivors, is hosting a landmark First Responder Ride for Resilience, a five-day, 343-mile cycling journey from Boston to the 9/11 Memorial in New York City honoring the 343 firefighters lost on September 11, 2001. Riders will move through northeastern Connecticut on Monday, Sept. 7. Local residents are invited to cheer on riders,

volunteer at a water stop, or donate to show their support. According to research from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, firefighters are nine percent more likely to be diagnosed with cancer and 14 percent more likely to die from it than the general public. The ride brings together first responders, cancer survivors, and community members to raise funds benefiting Friends of Firefighters, the Boston Fire Cancer Foundation, and Livestrong, expanding

access to cancer survivorship and mental health programs for first responders and their families. “This ride wouldn’t be possible without the communities that welcome it along the way,” said Suzanne Stone, President and CEO of Livestrong. “Every stop gives people an opportunity to honor the firefighters and first responders affected by September 11 while supporting organizations that continue to serve them. We hope people will see this as a chance to come together

around something that matters: honoring the heroes we lost, and standing with those still fighting today.” “Friends of Firefighters was born out of 9/11 with the promise that firefighters would never have to face the weight of the job alone,” said Nancy Carbone, Executive Director of Friends of Firefighters. “In the last 25 years, we have lost nearly 800 members of the FDNY to September 11th and 9/11 cancer, and job-related cancer remains one of the greatest risks our

firefighters face every single day. Whether you ride, volunteer, or donate, you’re providing hands-on support for the physical and mental toll cancer takes on our first responders.” To register, volunteer, donate or view the local route through northeastern Connecticut, visit 911ride.org. About Livestrong Founded in 1997, Livestrong has supported more than 10 million peo-

ple living with, through, and beyond cancer, providing the trusted information, programs, and community that help survivors navigate every stage of the journey. Livestrong helped establish survivorship as a formal field of study in cancer care and continues to expand access to the practical and emotional support that cancer survivors and their families deserve. Because surviving is just the beginning. To learn more or to donate, visit Livestrong.org.

Dayville resident Liliana WongKam completes intensive research project

WORCESTER, Mass. — Liliana WongKam, a member of the class of 2027 majoring in Architectural Engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), was a member of a student team that recently completed a professional-level research-driven project titled Campus Accessibility Mobile Application. Known as the Interactive Qualifying Project (IQP), this project is a core part of the innovative undergraduate experience at WPI. Centered around project-based learning, this hands-on approach offers students opportunities to work in interdisciplinary teams to help develop thoughtful solutions to open-ended problems. These real-world problems affect the quality of life for people in the communities where students work, giving students a chance to make a difference in the world before they graduate. All WPI undergraduates are required to complete an IQP, usually in their junior

year, through which they apply science and technology to address an important societal need or issue. An intensive hands-on experience, an IQP is instrumental in students’ development of personal, professional, and technical skills that last throughout their careers. About two-thirds of WPI students complete their IQP at one of the university’s 50+ off-campus project centers located in more than 30 countries around the world. “WPI’s project-based curriculum engages students as agents of positive change in the world. Working to connect their STEM expertise with humanistic inquiry, community engagement, and robust social science methods, the IQP invites students into a global community to apply their knowledge and to solve problems,” said Sarah Stanlick, associate dean of The Global School. “Students are immersed in all aspects of place at our Global Projects Centers - ethics, culture,

food, and nature - building their own core of global intercultural competence and cultural humility. They also learn the meaning and magic of teamwork; make a real and meaningful difference in their host community; and gain a competitive edge for any resume, or graduate or professional school application.» About Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) is a top-tier, STEM-focused university with an R1 research classification and global leadership in project-based learning. Founded in 1865, WPI’s distinctive approach integrates classroom theory with real-world practice, preparing students to tackle critical challenges through inclusive education, impactful projects, and

interdisciplinary research. With more than 70 bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments and over 50 global project centers, WPI advances knowledge and innovation

in fields such as life sciences, smart technologies, advanced materials and manufacturing, and global innovation. Learn more at www.wpi.edu.

Quiet Corner Al-Anon group meets Wednesdays

WOODSTOCK — An open Al-Anon meeting meets at the East Woodstock Congregational Church every Wednesday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. The Quiet Corner Al-Anon Family Group is open to anyone affected by alcoholism, family or friend. Any enquiries can be directed to 860-634-3271.

Woodstock Legion post welcomes veterans, families to free breakfast

WOODSTOCK — The Benson-Flugal American Legion Post 111 is holding a free breakfast for veterans and family on Saturday, Aug. 22. Come see our post and meet some of our members. All veterans are welcome.



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MUSIC

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have brought monthly educational programs to the region in celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The Pomfret America 250 celebrations will culminate with the Revolutionary Pomfret Reenactment and Living History Event at the Pomfret Recreation Park on Oct. 3 & 4. Reenactor groups from Southern New England will be encamped at the town Rec Fields beginning on Friday, Oct. 2. Visitors will experience the Revolution through a local lens as we reenact the muster/enlistment of the 11th regiment at the Abington Congregational Church, a debate between Loyalist Godfrey Malbone and Patriot Israel Putnam, a Visit with General Israel Putnam and Connecticut Hero Nathan Hale, and the laying of a wreath for the 60 Revolutionary soldiers buried in the Old Abington Burial Ground. There will be quality craft vendors, textile demonstrations, a food court, church supper, music, and military demonstrations by the reenactors.

The monthly programs and the reenactment have been generously sponsored by The Last Green Valley, Centreville Bank, CT America 250 Commission, local civic organizations, and Pomfret’s citizens. Join us on August 23rd as we celebrate America’s Revolutionary evolution through music and as we gear up for the Revolutionary Reenactment in October.



RESULTS

continued from page A1

America Straight Again.” The statements were posted on his personal Facebook page and shared on his 50th District and Congressional Campaign pages.

“A small district race with fewer than 500 votes cast is a clear reflection of the Republican Party’s failure. Thirty-plus uncontested Democrat seats across the state, while the GOP scrambles to field a candidate in three days, tells the whole story,” MacCormick wrote.

It should be noted that this statement was posted

before the final vote tally was complete and had yet to reach its final 600-plus vote count.

“God is on my side, and I know many supporters remain,” he continued. “As for Troubled Tony: you may have won the battle, but go back to the retirement home you came from. We do not need leaders with one foot already in the grave.”

As for the 50th District race, the contest will commence on Nov. 3 in conjunction with the national mid-term elections. Emilio is seeking his first term in the State House while Pat Boyd is seeking his sixth consecutive term

LIMITS

continued from page A1

each property within the sewer district could potentially build out to under our current zoning.”

Palaia said they were about halfway through the process and looking at different upgrade options in terms of how much they want to increase the capacity and plan for the future.

“Once they zero in on that decision, we can start to look at the technical solutions to accommodate those flow options and price estimates in accordance with what they designate,” Palaia said. “Once they’re fairly ready to have a tentative decision, they’ll probably have a town meeting to explain things to the public, what they’re going to cost, and what it’s going to get us.”

Meanwhile, the town has begun loosening its limitations for new usage thanks to Frito Lay signing an interim memorandum of understanding. This now allows for additional flow for users under 2,000 gallons per day.

At the August Town Council meeting, Palaia said they had already seen numerous applications which were “getting approved quickly” taking some of the pressure off smaller users waiting for a long-term solution to fully materialize.

WEAVER

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LaChance in conjunction with the upcoming 2028 Putnam Mural Fest. She noted, “It seems likely that he played baseball on a factory baseball team, and later on a regional team. Showing his dedication to the game as a teenager, it is said that he and a friend walked nine miles over a peak in Southington, CT to play in a Hometown League game because ‘we didn’t have the price’ for public transport.” George earned the nickname Candy because “he preferred to chew on peppermints rather than chewing tobacco like most of his fellow baseball players” (Nichols’ research).

The Friday, Aug. 19, 1932 issue of Watertown Daily Times (Watertown, N.Y.) reported his passing. The article provided a partial summary of his career. “Waterbury, Conn. Baseball has lost another of its old timers---George ‘Candy’ LaChance, first baseman on the 1903 world’s championship Boston Red Sox team. The veteran player, who began his professional career as a catcher with the Portland, ME, club of the old New England league in 1891, died last night at the age of 63 years, after a year’s illness. LaChance, converted from a catcher into a first baseman by the late Charles Ebbets, owner of the Brooklyn Robins, went to the Boston Red Sox in

Danielson Martial Arts leader receives prestigious G.O.A.T. Honors Award

DANIELSON — Master Daryl Laperle of Danielson has been selected as a recipient of the prestigious 2026 G.O.A.T. Honors (Greatest of All Time) Martial Arts Award, recognizing his exceptional lifetime of leadership, teaching, and service to the martial arts community.

The G.O.A.T. Honors Awards, founded by Grand Master Lawrence Arthur, recognize distinguished martial artists from around the world whose lifelong commitment to excellence, leadership, instruction, and service has made a lasting impact on generations of students and instructors. The 2026 awards ceremony was held on July 25, 2026, in Lynchburg, Va.

Master Laperle began his martial arts training at the Danielson Martial Arts Academy in 1986 and earned his Black Belt in 1990. At just 18 years old, he became Chief Instructor of the academy in 1994 and has since dedicated more than three decades to teaching and mentoring students. A 7th Dan black belt in the Cheezic Tang Soo Do Federation, he set multiple federation records as its youngest 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th Dan master, reflecting his lifelong commitment to technical excellence and leadership.

Throughout his distinguished career, Master Laperle has competed nationally and internationally as a member of Team USA, earning victories throughout the United States, Bermuda, Australia, the former Soviet Union, and most recently a Silver



Medal at the 2025 World Martial Arts Games in Oslo, Norway. His many honors include multiple inductions into the Action Martial Arts Hall of Fame, the USA Martial Arts Hall of Fame, as well as the Golden Gate Hall of Fame, and numerous federation awards recognizing his outstanding service and dedication to Tang Soo Do. As of 2026, he has promoted more than 110 black belts and numerous master belts, leaving an enduring

legacy through his students.

“Master Daryl Laperle exemplifies everything the G.O.A.T. Honors were established to recognize,” said Grand Master Lawrence Arthur, Founder of the G.O.A.T. Honors. “His lifelong dedication to teaching, competition, leadership, and the development of future generations of martial artists has made an extraordinary impact. We are honored to recognize

his remarkable accomplishments and lasting legacy.”

The G.O.A.T. Honors Awards celebrate martial artists whose influence extends beyond the dojo through education, mentorship, leadership, innovation, and community service. Honorees are nominated by their peers and selected based upon their enduring contributions to the martial arts profession.

Pomfret hires boys squash coach with top prep school experience

POMFRET — Pomfret School is excited to announce that Ryan Tyree has been appointed head coach of the boys’ varsity squash team for the 2026–2027 season.

Coach Tyree brings a wealth of experience and success to Pomfret’s squash program. He most recently served as the boys varsity squash head coach at Deerfield Academy, where he oversaw one of the top programs in New England for three seasons.

Prior to Deerfield, Coach Tyree served as the inaugural director of squash at Mercersburg Academy in 2019, where he elevated both the boys’ and girls’ programs. The girls’ team secured a US Squash Division IV National Championship in 2022



Ryan Tyree

before playing alongside Division II schools such as Middlesex, Choate, and Exeter. The boys team progressed from competing in Division V to Division I over three seasons.

Tyree has also coached at

Eaglebrook School and later at Williston Northampton School, where he led the boys squash team to a US Squash Division VI National Championship. His coaching philosophy has been shaped by the mentorship of legend-

ary Trinity College Men’s Coach Paul Assaiane, whose emphasis on leadership and team building has had a lasting influence on his approach to developing student-athletes.

Beyond the court, Tyree is an accomplished English educator, holding a Master’s degree in secondary education from the University of Phoenix and a Master’s degree in English literature from Middlebury College, where he was twice awarded the Robert Haiduke Poetry Prize.

Please join us in welcoming Coach Tyree and his family to the Pomfret community. He will begin his duties as an English faculty member at the end of August and can be reached at rtyree@pomfret.org.

and Providence in the old International League and Waterbury and New Haven in the Connecticut League. He was survived by his widow, Mrs. Mary LaChance, two sons George J. and Charles H., one daughter, Gladys M., and four brothers and four sisters all of Waterbury”. (Newspapers.com, Hartford Courant, Aug. 19, 1932, p. 15).

While researching this column, I also discovered that “modern-day” baseball player, Bruce Boisclair, who played for the New York Mets, was also born in Putnam. Because he was a graduate of Killingly High School, I had always associated him with that town. Bruce was born December 9, 1952 in Putnam, and starred

in football, basketball, and baseball at Killingly High School. He was drafted in 1970 by the New York Mets. He made his major league debut on September 11, 1974 and played outfield and pinch hit for the Mets through 1979. Bruce was a lefty in both batting and hitting. Boisclair “also played for the Hanshin Tigers of Nippon Professional Baseball in 1980.” (Baseball-reference.com; Wikipedia).

Northeastern Connecticut has other individuals associated with professional baseball---Walt Dropo, Roger LaFrancois, and umpire Frank Dascoli. However, I’ve run out of space. I believe I’ve written about them before. I’ll have to check.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, August 2026. Special thanks to Nicole Nichols for information on Candy LaChance and to Michael Weaver for taking shots of the baseball presentation. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical Center at 196 Main St., Danielson, Wednesday or Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety. For Windham County Transcripts, visit killingly.historyarchives.online courtesy of the Killingly Public Library.

American Legion Post 67 needs you

HISTORIC POST FACES POSSIBLE LOSS OF CHARTER UNLESS LOCAL VETERANS STEP FORWARD



THOMPSON — For more than a century, American Legion Post 67 has represented the military veterans of Thompson. Now, after 106 years, that tradition is in danger of disappearing.

Post 67 was chartered in 1920, in the aftermath of the First World War, when communities across America were welcoming home a generation of young men who had served their country overseas. During the decades that followed, the Post became a familiar part of community life in Thompson.

Today, however, Post 67 faces a crisis that money alone cannot solve.

Its membership has declined dramatically, and the Post no longer has enough qualified members who are willing and able to assume the leadership positions necessary to keep the organization functioning.

Officials from the American Legion Department of Connecticut and the Legion’s 4th District, which serves Northeastern Connecticut, are working to preserve Post 67. But unless qualified veterans from Thompson step forward to assume responsibility for the Post, its charter may ultimately have to be revoked.

If that happens, Thompson could lose something that can never truly be replaced.

More than a Legion Post

The military history of Thompson did not begin with the American Legion.

Men from this community have answered their country’s call for generations. Thompson’s tradition of military service reaches back to the earliest settlements of the region and continued through the colonial wars, the American Revolution, War of 1812, Civil War, Spanish-American War, two World Wars, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, Iraq, Afghanistan and the conflicts of the modern era.

Post 67 became one of the institutions through which that tradition was remembered and passed from one

generation to another.

The veterans who founded the Post in 1920 could not have known what the next century would bring. They could not have imagined Pearl Harbor, Normandy, Iwo Jima, the frozen mountains of Korea, the jungles of Vietnam or the deserts of Iraq.

But they understood something important.

They knew that military service creates an obligation not only to remember those who served, but also to preserve their memory for generations that follow.

That remains one of the most important purposes of the American Legion.

Legion posts help communities remember the meaning behind traditions Americans sometimes take for granted. Memorial Day is more than a three-day weekend. Veterans Day is more than another date on the calendar.

They exist because generations of Americans put on a uniform and served.

Some never came home.

Local veterans’ organizations have traditionally been among the people making certain their communities remember them.

Post 67 has also supported community activities, including involvement with the Tri-Town American Legion Baseball Team, continuing another longstanding American Legion tradition of supporting young people and community life.

A building worth saving
There is another reason for urgency.

Post 67 possesses something increasingly uncommon among small veterans’ organizations: its own substantial building and property, located at 17 Thompson Hill Rd, Thompson, CT 06277

The building contains approximately 9,000 square feet between its two levels and has tremendous potential.

The ground floor includes an attractive bar area and large recreation rooms with pool tables and games. Upstairs is a spa-

cious dining and function room capable of accommodating 100 or more people, together with a large, fully equipped commercial-style kitchen.

Men’s and women’s restrooms are located on both floors.

Outside is a very large paved parking area, approximately a dozen picnic tables and a covered barbecue pit.

The wood-frame, vinyl-sided building has an asphalt-shingle roof that appears to be in good condition. Heat is supplied by an oil-fired boiler and hot-water baseboard system. Three air-handling units for air conditioning are present, although they are presently not operational.

This is not simply an old meeting hall.

It is a community asset with real possibilities.

With responsible management, the facility could potentially host weddings, anniversary parties, birthday celebrations, reunions, banquets, fundraisers, club meetings, veterans’ events, a quinceañera, community dinners, youth activities and other private and public functions.

The building has the potential to generate revenue rather than simply consume it.

But first, there must be an organization—and people—willing to manage it.

What happens If Post 67 closes?

The consequences of losing the Post’s charter could extend far beyond removing the number “67” from the American Legion’s rolls.

If the charter is revoked and the Post ceases to exist, control of its assets would be handled according to applicable American Legion rules and legal requirements. The building could ultimately pass under the control of the American Legion Department of Connecticut and potentially be sold, with proceeds applied as required to outstanding liens, debts and other obligations.

Once the property is sold, the opportunity may be gone forever.

A building that Thompson veterans spent generations

establishing and maintaining could pass out of veterans’ hands.

And Thompson would lose its American Legion Post.

That outcome is not inevitable.

It doesn’t take hundreds of veterans

Saving Post 67 does not necessarily require hundreds of new members.

What is desperately needed is something much simpler:

A small group of qualified, responsible and civic-minded veterans willing to become actively involved.

The immediate need is for veterans capable of accepting leadership responsibilities, restoring effective management and developing a realistic plan for the future of the Post and its property.

There may also be opportunities for financial or organizational assistance if a credible group of veterans steps forward with the willingness and ability to rebuild the Post.

The building itself provides an enormous head start.

Imagine Post 67 once again busy with veterans’ meetings. Imagine a Saturday evening wedding reception upstairs, a community dinner, a veterans’ breakfast, a fundraiser for a Thompson family, an American Legion Baseball event or a Memorial Day gathering.

Imagine younger veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan sitting at the same tables once occupied by veterans of Vietnam, Korea and World War II.

That is possible. But buildings cannot preserve organizations.

People do. Thompson still has veterans

There are still hundreds of military veterans living in Thompson.

They served in different branches, different places and different generations. Some spent careers in uniform. Others served one enlistment and returned home. Some served during wartime; others served during periods of peace.

They share something relatively few Americans

experience: they raised their right hand and accepted an obligation to serve their country.

Post 67 now needs some of them to serve once again—this time at home.

The commitment does not require carrying a rifle, deploying overseas or leaving one’s family.

It requires attending meetings, accepting responsibility, managing an organization, maintaining accountability and working with fellow veterans and the community.

It requires leadership.

Those qualities should sound familiar to anyone who has worn the uniform.

What will Thompson veterans leave behind?

There is a larger question facing Thompson’s veterans.

When the last World War I veterans were gone, the veterans of World War II carried the Legion forward.

As that generation aged, Korean War and Vietnam veterans increasingly assumed responsibility.

Today, those generations are disappearing.

The question is whether younger veterans will pick up what they left behind.

A charter issued in 1920 has survived the Great Depression, another World War, Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War, the Persian Gulf War, September 11, Iraq and Afghanistan.

It would be a terrible irony if Post 67 survived all of that only to disappear because no one was willing to take responsibility for it.

Future generations of Thompson residents may someday ask what happened to their American Legion Post.

The answer has not yet been written.

A few good men and women

There is still time.

Post 67 does not need someone to rescue it single-handedly. It needs a team.

It needs a few good men and women—military veterans who are responsible, energetic and civic-minded—to sit down together, examine the finances, evaluate the property, work with American Legion leadership and determine what can be done.

Perhaps the Post can be reconstituted and revitalized.

Perhaps its building can once again become a busy gathering place.

Perhaps new members can be recruited.

Perhaps Post 67 can begin its second century with a renewed purpose.

But none of those things can happen unless someone steps forward.

More than a hundred years ago, Thompson’s World War I veterans came home and established American Legion Post 67 for themselves, their fellow veterans and the generations that would follow them.

They did their part. Now it is our turn.

If you are an eligible military veteran living in Thompson—or a veteran with ties to the community—this is the time to become involved.

Don’t wait until the doors are locked, the charter is gone and a “For Sale” sign appears in front of the building.

By then, it may be too late.

Thompson American Legion Post 67 has stood since 1920. Whether it will stand for another generation may now depend upon a handful of veterans willing to answer one more call to service.

“Veterans Needed — How to Help”

Contact American Legion District 4 Commander John Whetton, phone: 860-990-5432, or email: jhwhe@outlook.com, or Putnam’s Post 13 Commander Michael Rocchetti, phone 860-933-5193, or email: michael.j.rocchetti@gmail.com. They would be glad to set up an informational meeting to further explain the needs of Post 67.

