



# PUTNAM VILLAGER

Friday, February 12, 2021

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## TEEG, Thompson Rec, Girl Scouts partnering at the Garden By the River

THOMPSON — Three organizations serving kids in Thompson and the region received a welcome reminder that spring is on the way!

On Friday, Jan. 29, TEEG received word of a grant award through the KidsGardening.org 2021 Youth Garden Grant program, to support the proposal “Green and Growing Kids at the Garden By the River.” The award includes a package of tools, materials and supplies valued at \$500, plus a cash award of \$250. All materials and funds received under this award will be dedicated to support youth programming at the Thompson Garden By the River for three partner organizations: TEEG’s youth mentoring program, Thompson Recreation Department and Girl Scout Troop 65117. The proposal was written and submitted on behalf of TEEG and the other partners by Thompson’s Director of Planning & Development.

Planned and installed in 2019, and maintained in its first season by the founding volunteer group, Thompson’s Garden By the River is opened for plot rentals by Thompson residents as of Feb. 1. To further enhance its value to the community, a 30’ long section of the enclosed raised beds is being set aside for the three

partnering youth groups, each having compatible goals of teaching kids to grow, harvest and appreciate fresh foods as a part of their regular curriculum. Activities in the garden will enhance Thompson Recreation’s existing after-school and summer programs, while the Girl Scouts will develop activities that provide leadership opportunities for the Scouts with their peers.

For lead applicant TEEG, activities at the Garden By the River will augment their youth services in the following ways:

- Include food gardening as a part of TEEG’s well-established mentoring program for youth ages 6-18 with behavioral health concerns.
- Incorporate gardening as an activity in the All-Star Adventure Program, providing recreational summer opportunities for at-risk youth.
- Offer community service in the Garden By the River as a diversionary strategy of our Juvenile Review Board program, providing non-violent juvenile offenders with a non-punitive alternative for rehabilitation.

TEEG, Thompson Recreation and the Girl Scouts are looking forward to spring in the Garden By the River!



Photo Courtesy

Day Kimball Medical Group patient, Genevieve Brooker, 78, of Danielson, receives her first of two COVID-19 vaccines from Dr. Marguerite Davis, DKH Family Medicine physician with the Day Kimball Medical Group practice in Danielson, at the Day Kimball Healthcare Center in Plainfield on Friday, Jan. 29.

## Day Kimball Healthcare begins COVID-19 vaccinations for patients

PUTNAM — Day Kimball Healthcare (DKH) has begun its next phase of administering the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, and is now offering the vaccine to its Day Kimball Medical Group (DKMG) patients who qualify for phase 1b of Connecticut’s vaccination program.

DKH continues to follow guidelines and procedures put in place by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the CT Department of Public Health (DPH) for vaccine distribution. Because the COVID-19 vaccine is currently available in limited supplies, the state’s rollout plan prioritizes vaccination for people who are of highest risk of exposure or severe complications.

“We are following the state’s plan for distribution and we are committed to providing equita-

ble access to vaccination for our patients and the community as additional supplies of vaccines become available,” said Kyle Kramer, chief executive officer, Day Kimball Healthcare. “Since supply is limited it will take some time to provide vaccinations for everyone who wants them.”

In phase 1b of the state’s vaccination program, DKH will focus efforts on established patients of DKMG who are age 75 and older. Please note the following:

- The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine requires two shots that are spaced four weeks apart.
- DKMG is contacting patients who are 75 and older to schedule their vaccine appointments for both their first and second doses.

Please Read **DKH**, page **A4**

## Meeting to focus on Little River water quality

WOODSTOCK — Roseland Lake, Little River, Muddy Brook and Peckham Brook are four water resources in Woodstock with known water quality problems. They are not meeting recreation standards as determined by the CT DEEP. The source of the pollution is stormwater runoff. Stormwater carries nutrients and pathogens like E. coli to local streams. Because Little River is a source of drinking water for people and businesses in Putnam, addressing these issues is a priority for local, regional, state and federal authorities.

The Eastern Connecticut Conservation District (ECCD) will be hosting a meeting of the Little River Healthy Watershed

Collaborative on Feb. 23, beginning at 9 a.m. This 90-minute meeting will use a Zoom meeting format. The purpose of the meeting will be to overview previous efforts to clean up the water, and to get ideas and coordinate on what next steps are needed to address the water quality problems in the Little River drainage area. At this meeting, ECCD will highlight a new initiative focused on farmland conservation programs and available cost sharing opportunities to help do them. The meeting will feature a panel of local farm operators who will share the benefits they experienced after working with agency sourced funding to improve the conser-

Turn To **LITTLE RIVER** page **A3**

## LEGION CONTEST

Photo Courtesy

Despite the fact that the American Legion Department of Connecticut canceled the 2021 Constitutional Oratorical Contest due to COVID-19, Woodstock Post #111 held a local contest on Saturday, Feb. 6 in the Bowen Memorial Auditorium on the campus of The Woodstock Academy. The contest was held with appropriate social distancing. Pictured (l to r): former Post Commander and Past Department Commander Everett G. Shepard III, who served as contest moderator, contestants Owen Bland and Claire Beck, Post Commander Glenn Boies and District #4 Commander Ronald P. Coderre.



## Rotaract Club Trivia Night goes online

BY JASON BLEAU  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

REGION — The show must go on as they say and the Quinebaug Valley Regional Rotaract Club took that cliché to heart persevering through the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic to continue one of their most cherished annual fundraisers, the annual Trivia Night.

Normally considered a must-attend event that pits teams representing local businesses and organizations against each other in a trivia challenge, the trivia night was moved online to Zoom for 2021 raising \$6,000 to support local scholarships. Eleven teams participated in the eight-round event covering topics from movies and music to sports,

history, science and math, and history of the Quiet Corner with team Cats are the Superior Species winning the event while Competitive Raiders and BeastConn tied sharing the second-place honor. Winning teams received gift cards to local shops of their choice.

Prior to the event Rotaract members and even emcee Elle Goslin thanked everyone for

helping keep the Trivia Night tradition alive.

“The money goes to support student scholarships, so it means so much to us as Rotaract members, but it also means so much to the students that we support,” Goslin said. “Living in a pandemic, these funds are needed for local students more than ever, so we’re just really honored to be able

to give out those scholarships again this year.”

Rotaract members Kevin Davis also thanked participants touring the importance of continuing the scholarship as one of the biggest annual community efforts on the Rotaract’s calendar.

“We’ve tried to do what we

Please Read **TRIVIA NIGHT**, page **A3**



# What were you doing 50 years ago this month?



KILLINGLY  
AT 300  
.....  
MARGARET  
WEAVER

Do you remember what you were doing 50 years ago, in January/February 1971? I had the opportunity to look at microfilms of some old Windham County Transcripts from that timeframe. The Jan. 14 issue

announced that plans were underway for a “Mammoth Three-Day Spring Festival” that was expected to attract 30,000 participants and viewers. I’m sure most of you who lived in the area at that time recall going to the Springtime Festival Parades and/or other events. That seems like such a long time ago.

Perhaps you were still in school 50 years ago. The Jan. 21 Transcript contained a photo of the Ellis Tech cheerleaders: Gail Frechette, Terry Gaffney, Mary Rovero, Paula Lambert, Kimmie Fitzpatrick (mascot), and Mrs. Jennie Gaudreau, advisor. That made me realize that we have very little about what was happening at Ellis Tech in the Killingly Historical Center files. If you have old publications or memorabilia that could help improve that situation, please let me know or leave a message on the answering. We are able to photocopy items so you can keep the originals. Thank you.

“Dear Mr. President.” Students at Killingly Junior High were “doing their part in trying to improve conditions for prisoners held in North Vietnam. Under the guidance of Principal Joseph Dattilo, the students written letters to the President of North Vietnam, asking for the release of all names of prisoners of war and for their physical conditions and humane treatment, which includes medical aid to all who need it”. Many of the students were pictured at the Danielson Post Office as they mailed their letters. (WCT, Jan. 28, 1971)

Not to be left out, the same paper noted that Killingly High School students would be canvassing door to door on Jan. 30 and 31 soliciting signatures to be sent to the President of North Vietnam “protesting the treatment of American War prisoners.” Perhaps you were a student at one of the above schools and recall participating in this effort. If you have memories to share, please feel free to email me.

My curiosity keeps me returning to newspapers from 100 years ago. Following are a few clips from 1921. “Robert C. Keech of the Quinebaug Lake Ice Company said Saturday evening that the four houses of the company at the lake are filled to their capacity and that one of the houses is carrying more ice than ever before since it was built. The harvest was 2,000 tons, this amounting to 30,000 cakes. This is an ample supply for Danielson until the early part of 1922, by which time, it may

be expected, more ice will be available.” (Norwich Bulletin, Monday, Feb. 7, 1921, p. 6; newspapers.com).

“Temperatures up to 56 degrees marked the week end in Danielson. Off the state road, which are now beginning to show broken sections of surface through-

out this territory, travelers found themselves trying to negotiate seas of mud and not a few dollars were earned by the man who has horses available for hauling stalled motor cars out of the ruck. Great cakes of ice began to break loose and come down the Quinebaug river Saturday afternoon and Sunday, plunging over the dam in a manner to remind one of the period of spring freshets.” (Norwich Bulletin, Monday, Feb. 7, 1921, p. 6; newspapers.com).

“Judge J. N. Tucker, of East Killingly, has called attention to the fact that Miss Frances Upham, teacher of the primary grades at the East Killingly school, has recently come into possession of a very interesting historical document, the original commission issued to her great-great-grandfather William Warren, as a lieutenant in a company in Colonel John Nixon’s regiment of foot raised for the defense of the Massachusetts Bay colony. The commission is dated May 19, 1775, and is signed by General Warren, who was killed less than a month afterwards at the battle of Bunker Hill. The commission also bears the name of Samuel Freeman, as secretary. William Warren was sworn into the service June 16, 1775, by Jonas Dix, a justice of the peace, and the well founded assumption is that he participated in the battle on the following day.” (Norwich Bulletin, Monday, Feb. 10, 1921, p. 6; newspapers.com)

There were many Killingly and Northeastern Connecticut men who participated in the fighting in the Boston area and then responded to calls for troops as the War continued. From Killingly Conservation Commission chairwoman Donna Bronwell, I learned that Jean Palazzi knew of one such Killingly Revolutionary veteran who, according to tradition, was later honored in a special way. Jean sent an email with a summary. In the Old Chestnut Cemetery/Bateman Cemetery located in the former Palazzi orchard, there lies the grave of Zaccheus Brown. Adjacent to his tombstone is an enormous old tree, which supposedly was a seedling from Connecticut’s famed Charter Oak. The tree is considered one of the oldest and largest in Killingly.

I did a little research on the famed Charter Oak to refresh my memory. According to a Dec. 10, 2015 article by David K. Leff in the Hartford Courant, “The ancient tree was perhaps a thousand years old with a hollow trunk in which 27 men could stand, it was said, when a fierce storm felled it on Aug. 21, 1857. Fortunately, acorns were collected beforehand. Resulting Connecticut progeny may number close to 100, but there’s no definite count.” (Of course, there would be many descendant trees. Do we have one in Killingly?)

The tree (Charter Oak) received its special name because of an incident that occurred in the 17th century. “Seeking greater supervision over Connecticut in 1687, King James II sent Sir Edmund Andros and soldiers to seize control of the colony and its charter of self-government granted by his predecessor. According to legend, on the evening of Oct. 31 the charter lay on a table at a meeting of Andros and colony officials. Suddenly, candles were extinguished

and in darkness and confusion Capt. Joseph Wadsworth grabbed the document, hiding it in the great hollow oak. Although Andros took over by force, the preserved charter later continued as Connecticut’s governing document. Today, a round, globe-topped column of stone and a descendant of the venerated tree stand at the corner of Charter Oak Avenue and Charter Oak Place in Hartford, not far from where the original stood...By the turn of the 20th century, Charter Oak seedling descendants were regularly distributed to celebrate civic occasions. In 1932, George Washington’s 200th birthday was commemorated with charter oaks, and in 1962 the charter’s 300th anniversary included seedlings sent to the other original states and President John F. Kennedy. The new state constitution in 1965 and the nation’s 1976 bicentennial also included seedling dissemination. At the beginning of this century, two were sent to France for planting around the Palace at Versailles.” (www.courant.com).

The Killingly Conservation Commission would like to update its listing of old/very large trees in town. If you are aware of one, please contact Donna Bronwell via the Conservation Commission website (https://www.killinglyconservation.org/).

“Many flags will be displayed in Danielson today in honor of Abraham Lincoln, whose birthday is being observed throughout the nation” (Norwich Bulletin, Saturday, Feb. 12, 1921, p. 4; newspapers.com). I well remember celebrating both Lincoln’s and Washington’s birthdays, particularly in my tiny grade school in Pennsylvania. Our teachers would have us cut black construction paper silhouettes of the two presidents, which would then be hung in the classroom windows. An internet search revealed that Presidents Day as a Monday holiday was established as part of the 1971 Uniform Monday Holiday Act giving workers more three-day holidays. It’s hard to believe that we stopped celebrating the individual holidays fifty years ago! (www. History.com).

The mail and answering machine are being checked on a regular basis although the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center is closed to the public. Please send an email to the director or leave a message on the answering machine if you would like to donate items or have research questions.

*Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, February, 2021. Special thanks to Donna Bronwell and Jean Palazzi. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wed. or Sat. 10-4 (when it reopens) or www.killinglyhistorical.org. or call 860-779-7250 (when the Historical Center reopens). Like us at Facebook at www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety. Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center should be sent to PO Box 265, Danielson, Connecticut 06329*

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**VILLAGER ALMANAC**  
**At CT AUDUBON**  
Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of Feb. 1: Snow Bunting, Bald Eagle, Raven, Red-winged Blackbird, Mockingbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Goldfinch, House Finch, Flicker, Brown Creeper, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Song Sparrow, American Tree Sparrow, Black Vulture. Visit ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home.

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# NDDH announces expanded COVID-19 testing in Northeast Connecticut

BROOKLYN — The Northeast District Department of Health (NDDH), in collaboration with the State of Connecticut, Sema4, Quinebaug Valley Community College (QVCC), and the towns of Putnam and Killingly announce the expansion of COVID-19 testing services in northeast Connecticut.

A current site at QVCC, 742 Upper Maple St. in Danielson, will now operate on Wednesdays from 3 – 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. A new site also opened on Wednesday, Feb. 3 at the Putnam Riverview Market Pavilion, 18 Kennedy Dr. in Putnam. Testing services will be offered Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with the exception of Tuesdays and the first Thursday of each month, when the site will operate from 1 – 4 p.m.

“We are grateful for the many state, regional, and local partners who have worked together to make this happen in a relatively short amount of time,” said Linda Colangelo, NDDH Education and Communications Coordinator. “The expanded hours and additional site will offer added convenience to those seeking a COVID-19 test. Both locations also offer a priority workforce lane that provides priority access for childcare and early childhood staff, teachers, and first responders – those who need to get tested quickly, to ensure their workday is not interrupted.”

Priority workforce includes teachers, school staff and bus drivers, early childhood/child care, police officers, fire fighters, paramedics, EMTs, National Guard and Dispatchers.

Both locations offer drive thru or walk-up service at no cost with no appointment required. All ages are eligible for testing, though minors must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian who can provide consent. Individuals qualify for testing whether they are showing symptoms or not.

“As someone who recently survived



The Northeast District Department of Health (NDDH), in collaboration with the State of Connecticut, Sema4, Quinebaug Valley Community College (QVCC), and the towns of Putnam and Killingly announce the expansion of COVID-19 testing services in northeast Connecticut.

a very serious case of COVID-19, I know first-hand how important it is for people to get tested,” commented Putnam Mayor Barney Seney. “Getting tested for COVID-19 and knowing what to do if you test positive can save lives. It can protect your health and the health of many others. The Putnam site was established to serve people from throughout the northeast corner, so I hope people will take advantage of this important service.”

The expansion supplements other testing services in the area offered by Generations Family Health Center, Day Kimball Healthcare, and other providers. Discussions are also currently

underway to bring testing services to the town of Plainfield.

PCR testing in both locations is conducted by Sema4, a patient-centered health intelligence company based in Stamford, CT. Collection samples are processed in their state-of-the-art laboratories and results are typically returned in 2-3 days.

For more information on Sema4 test sites and other testing locations, and to download a Sema4 fact sheet and Test Form that can be completed prior to arrival for a test, visit: <https://www.nddh.org/services/emergency-preparedness/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/>.

Photo Courtesy

# Day Kimball among hospitals receiving state funding

BY JASON BLEAU  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

PUTNAM – Day Kimball Hospital is among 25 hospitals in Connecticut that received funding from the state to support COVID-19 response as the vaccine rollout process continues.

Gov. Ned Lamont announced in a Feb. 4 press release that \$40 million was being allocated to acute care hospitals across the state from Connecticut’s Coronavirus Relief Fund. Day Kimball, located in Putnam, received \$2,883,521 through that distribution. Hospitals the qualified for the funds had to meet specific requirements based on applicable costs and expenses incurred as a result of the pandemic that began in early 2020.

“This funding recognizes the front-line role Connecticut’s hospitals and their dedicated employees have played throughout this pandemic,” Lamont said in his statement. “It is not an overstatement to say that this role has been heroic and continues to be indispensable as we all work together to defeat the virus. Our hospitals have needed to adapt to new protocols and infection control measures, while also ceasing elective procedures during the crest of the first wave of COVID-19, which

had the effect of increasing costs and decreasing revenues, not to mention the physical, mental, and emotional toll this pandemic has taken on their staff. While these hospitals have received direct federal aid during this crisis, some of them and their affiliated practices are still experiencing financial hardship. This \$40 million will help those providers through this difficult time and recognizes the critical work and dedication they have demonstrated.”

“Connecticut hospitals and their staff have been the backbone of the state’s response to the pandemic,” Jennifer Jackson, CEO of the Connecticut Hospital Association, said in the release. “They have provided lifesaving care to COVID-19 patients by building out critical care capacity and staffing to meet unprecedented patient care needs. They have provided essential, ongoing public health support by engaging communities, promoting public education, deploying statewide COVID-19 testing and, most recently, accelerating the dissemination of lifesaving vaccines. These extraordinary actions have also come at extraordinary expense, resulting in historic financial losses. The partnership with the state has been important to hospitals’ ability to

respond so effectively to the pandemic and Governor Lamont’s offer of much needed financial assistance will help keep our hospitals strong. We look forward to continuing our close working relationship as we continue to care for patients and protect our communities.”

The same day the governor announced the funding, Day Kimball sent out its own release revealing that Day Kimball Healthcare had entered the next phase of vaccinating patients of the medical group and its branches. Day Kimball is utilizing the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine and began administering to patients that qualified under phase 1b of Connecticut’s vaccination program which includes patients aged 75 or older.

“We are following the state’s plan for distribution, and we are committed to providing equitable access to vaccination for our patients and the community as additional supplies of vaccines become available,” said Kyle Kramer, chief executive officer, Day Kimball Healthcare. “Since supply is limited it will take some time to provide vaccinations for everyone who wants them.”

Information on vaccinations and COVID-19 safety protocols can be accessed by visiting [daykimball.org/coronavirus](http://daykimball.org/coronavirus).

ACCURACY WATCH

The *Villager Newspapers* is committed to accuracy in all its news reports. Although numerous safeguards are in place to ensure accurate reporting, mistakes can occur. Confirmed fact errors will be corrected at the top right hand corner of page A3 in a timely manner.

If you find a mistake call (860) 928-1818 or e-mail [charlie@villager-newspapers.com](mailto:charlie@villager-newspapers.com).

Windham-Tolland R-H

Camp hosting open house

POMFRET — On Sunday, Feb. 21 from 2-4 p.m., visit the Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp Open HHHouse at 326 Taft Pond Rd., Pomfret. Meet the director & other camp staff, take a camp tour, registration materials available. Social distancing and face masks required. Smiles still encouraged!

We are also looking for summer camp staff. Must be 18 or graduating high school this June and interested in working with kids in an outdoor environment. Call 860-974-1122 for questions or apply online under “work at camp” tab at [www.4hcampct.org](http://www.4hcampct.org).

TRIVIA NIGHT

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can here and there throughout the pandemic. We wanted to make sure we still had this event in some way so we could keep our scholarships going. It’s one of the events that we’ve had since our inception. It’s one of our longest running traditions,” said Davis.

The Rotaract Club will provide five \$1,000 scholarships to local graduating seniors thanks to the funds raised through the Trivia Night. Applications for the scholarship are due in March with winners announced in May. Information on scholarships applications and for how to donate to the Rotaract or get involved with the club can be found at [qvrrotaractclub.com](http://qvrrotaractclub.com).

LITTLE RIVER

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vation methods used on their farms. Local stakeholders, especially agriculture producers, hobby farmers and horse owners that operate in the watershed, are encouraged to attend this meeting.

To for more information, review the meeting agenda or to pre-register for this meeting, please visit the ECCD Web site at [www.ConserveCT.org/Eastern](http://www.ConserveCT.org/Eastern), click Current Projects in the left-hand column, then select Water Quality Investigations. You will find the project description for the Muddy Brook and Little River Water Quality Improvement Plan Update under the Water Quality Investigations heading. Pre-registration for this meeting using the link on the ECCD website is required in order to obtain the Zoom meeting login information.

For additional information, contact Maura Robie at [Maura.Robie@Comcast.net](mailto:Maura.Robie@Comcast.net).



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# Day Kimball Healthcare names Mark Dieterle Employee of the Month



Mark Dieterle

PUTNAM — Mark Dieterle, materials management technician at Day Kimball Hospital in Putnam, has been named employee of the month for January by Day Kimball Healthcare (DKH). Dieterle, who has been in the materials management field for more than 30 years, began working at Day Kimball in October 2014 as a housekeeper before transitioning into his position as materials management technician in February 2015. In his current role, Dieterle is responsible for overseeing the operations of the hospital's store-room, which includes, ordering, receiving and distributing supplies. According to Dieterle's supervisor, Craig Nelson, supply chain manager, Day Kimball Hospital, "Mark is an energetic, passionate and dedicated member of the materials management team. He is always available to go the extra mile for any and all departments at Day Kimball which helps ensure the highest standard of care. I am so proud of him and this honor is well deserved."

In response to being named employee of the month, Dieterle said, "I take great pride in being honored as the employee of the month. For the past six years I have given my all in providing help to all those that need it." When asked what he likes most about his job, he said, "All of the great friends that I have made and get to work with every day. It's an honor for me to provide service and help." In 1986, Dieterle obtained his bachelor's in business administration from Fitchburg State College. He was born and raised in Attleboro, Mass. Dieterle currently resides in Putnam with his younger brother Joe and their three Chihuahuas. Day Kimball Healthcare's employee of the month program is sponsored by Foxwoods Resort Casino in Mashantucket. "The Mashantucket (Western) Pequot Tribal Nation and Foxwoods Resort Casino has been focused on taking care of the people that serve within our com-

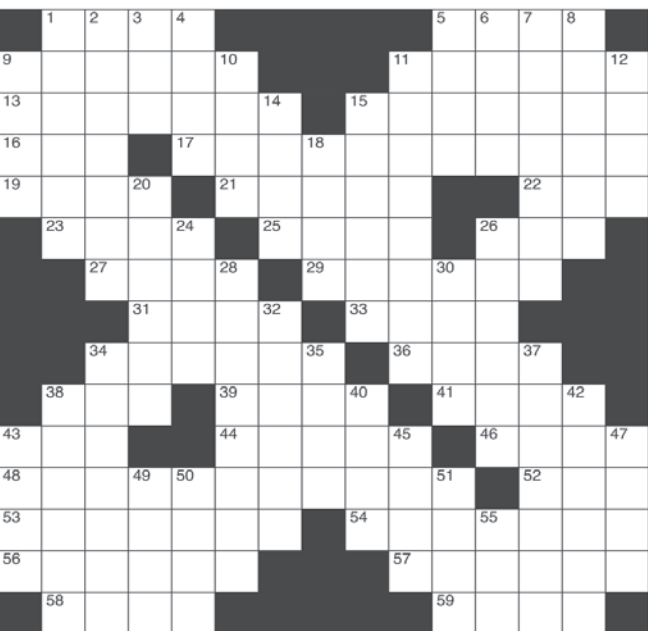
munity, and we appreciate everything Day Kimball Healthcare does," said Foxwood's Director of Sponsorships and Partnerships Roy Colebut-Ingram. "Supporting meaningful employee recognition programs like that at DKH is just one way that we feel we can express our appreciation." About Day Kimball Healthcare Day Kimball Healthcare is a nonprofit community healthcare system comprised of Day Kimball Hospital, Day Kimball Medical Group, Day Kimball Healthcare At Home, and healthcare centers in Danielson, Dayville, Plainfield, and Putnam. Its service area includes Northeast Connecticut as well as nearby Massachusetts and Rhode Island communities. Day Kimball Healthcare's comprehensive network offers more than 1,000 staff including nearly 300 associated, highly skilled physicians, surgeons and specialists. Its Web site is [www.daykimball.org](http://www.daykimball.org).

## Eastern Art Gallery presents feminist exhibition 'HEROINE-ITY'

WILLIMANTIC — The work of several audacious female artists is on display at Eastern Connecticut State University's Art Gallery until March 5 in an exhibition titled "HEROINE-ITY." The gallery's first showcase of 2021 brings together a group of forerunning feminist artists who work in role-play, costume, impersonation and self-transformation to confront culturally entrenched forms of misogyny. Speaking to the theme of the exhibition, Gallery Director Yulia Tikhonova says, "(The artists) have in common a performative anchor... Their bodies are the center of their work - a personal act of resistance to a repressive patriarchal society. 'HEROINE-ITY' proclaims a feminine counterpart to the conventional male 'hero' who seeks victory and power for himself." The exhibition features Laura Elkins, Karen Finley, Katya Grokhovsky, Cindy Sherman, Martha Wilson, Suzanne Lacy and Andrea Bowers. Working as her own model for more than 30 years, acclaimed contemporary artist Cindy Sherman uses photography to capture herself in a range of guises and personas varying from amusing to disturbing. She

assumes the roles of photographer, model, makeup artist, hairdresser, stylist and wardrobe mistress. Martha Wilson is a pioneering artist who, over the past four decades, has created unique photographic and video works that explore her female subjectivity through role-playing, costume transformations and "invasions" of other people's personae. In "THIS EARTH: What She Is to Me," artists Andrea Bowers and Suzanne Lacy present a new collaboration honoring the work of eco-feminist poet Susan Griffin in a collective reading from the 1978 book "Woman and Nature: The Roaring Inside Her." Laura Elkins has developed the "self-portrait-as" into a distinct genre of figure painting that blends her own reflection with that of her subjects. "The specific project determines the medium I use," explains Elkins, who uses paint on canvas for her series of self-portraits-as First Ladies and cardboard for her portraits in "America Povera" and "The Pussy Paintings" - "to reflect the perceived worthlessness of women in our culture." Working in a variety of mediums such as installation, video, performance, public art,

music and more, Karen Finley explains, "For my practice and research, I consider the premise of the artist as historical recorder. I use humor, direct action and also emotion to compel and challenge society." Ukraine-born and Australia-raised Katya Grokhovsky is a New York City-based artist, curator and founding director of The Immigrant Artist Biennial. "I am interested in undermining the dominators consistently in my work and life, from rejecting societal norms of existence, to moving overseas on my own for my art, to practicing as an interdisciplinary, hard-to-define artist, to creating curatorial spaces for marginalized voices," said Grokhovsky. "I tend to work best in opposition to what is considered the standard form of operation." The Art Gallery is located in the Fine Arts Instructional Center. Admission is free and open to the public during gallery hours Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information, contact the gallery at (860) 465-4625, Tikhonova at [tikhonovay@easternct.edu](mailto:tikhonovay@easternct.edu) or visit the «HEROINE-ITY» Web site at <https://www.easternct.edu/art-gallery/heroin-ity.html>.

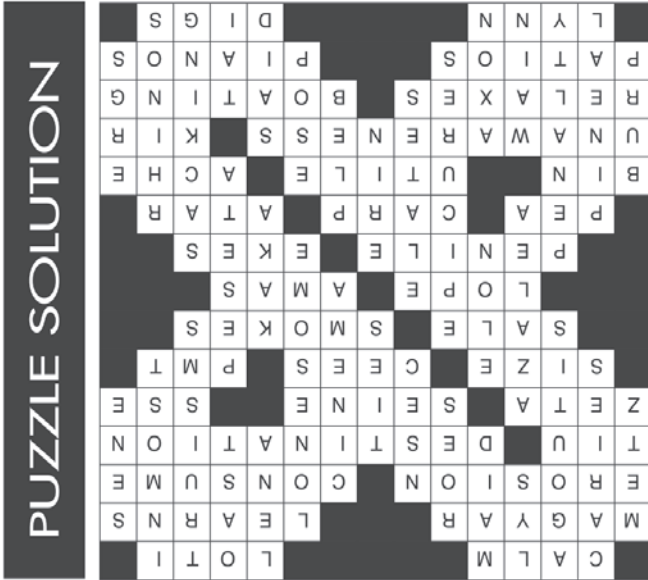


CLUES ACROSS

1. Composed  
5. Lesotho currency  
9. Ethnic group associated with Hungarians  
11. Gains knowledge of  
13. Gradual destruction  
15. Purchase  
16. Pharaoh of lower Egypt  
17. Where you're going  
19. The 6th letter of the Greek alphabet  
21. Fishing net  
22. Midway between south and southeast  
23. A way to sort  
25. C C C  
26. Popular sports podcast (abbr.)  
27. Discount  
29. Consumes tobacco
31. A way to run  
33. Popular musical awards show  
34. Pertains to the male sexual organ  
36. Supplements with difficulty  
38. Green veggie  
39. Deep-bodied freshwater fish  
41. Holy fire  
43. Usually has a lid  
44. Being of use or service  
46. Have a yen for  
48. Unknowingness  
52. Dry white wine drink  
53. Unwinds  
54. Traveling by sea  
56. Outdoor entertaining areas  
57. Stringed instruments  
58. \_ Redgrave, actress  
59. Moves earth

CLUES DOWN

1. Progressive decay of a bone or tooth  
2. Burrowing rodents  
3. French/Belgian river  
4. A professional cleaner  
5. A Russian river  
6. Kiln  
7. True statements  
8. Most private  
9. French city  
10. Masses of fish eggs  
11. Apart from others  
12. Monetary unit of Samoa  
14. Nanosecond  
15. Film  
18. Men's fashion accessories  
20. Flowering shrub  
24. North Carolina university  
26. Former monetary unit of Spain
28. Foodies  
30. New Zealand parrot  
32. Makes very happy  
34. A payment required for not fulfilling a contract  
35. Emerald Isle  
37. The act of terminating someone's employment  
38. Gland in some mammals  
40. Commoner  
42. Large animals  
43. Belch  
45. Employee stock ownership plan  
47. Work units  
49. Wagon  
50. Nerve fiber  
51. Proclaimed  
55. Japanese delicacy



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# Day Kimball Healthcare offers free mammogram, heart disease screening event

PLAINFIELD — Day Kimball Healthcare (DKH) invites eligible women to a free mammogram and heart disease screening and education event on Saturday, Feb. 13 from 8 a.m. to noon at the Day Kimball Healthcare Center in Plainfield.

This free mammogram and heart disease screening and education event is supported by the Connecticut Early Detection and Prevention Program (CEDPP)\*, and the Connecticut Well Integrated Screening and Evaluation for Women Across the Nation Program (WISEWOMAN).

To be eligible for a free mammogram, a woman must have income at or below 250 percent of the federal poverty level, be 40 or more years of age, haven't had a mammogram in the past 12 months, and must have no health insurance. Individuals who have an insurance deductible of \$1,000 or more are eligible for the CEDPP program if additional screenings and tests are required after their initial preventative mammogram.

WISEWOMAN focuses on screening lower-income, uninsured, or under-insured women ages 30-64 for heart disease and provides lifestyle counseling and interventions to navigate women to a healthier life. Through



Registration is required and mam-mogram appointments are limited. For more information and to deter-mine eligibility for the free mammo-gram screening and education event, please contact Morgan Clark, commu-

nity health navigator, at (203) 814-2369, or Dawn Hippert, RN, BSN, women's health system and clinical navigator, at (860) 963-3864.

To learn more about early detection and women's health services at DKH visit [daykimball.org/women](http://daykimball.org/women). For more information about diagnostic imaging at DKH visit [daykimball.org/diagnos-tics](http://daykimball.org/diagnos-tics).

\*The Connecticut Early Detection and Prevention Program funded by the Connecticut Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control for the period of January 1, 2019 through June 30, 2023.

About Day Kimball Healthcare

Day Kimball Healthcare is a nonprof-it community healthcare system com-prised of Day Kimball Hospital, Day Kimball Medical Group, Day Kimball Healthcare At Home, and health-care centers in Danielson, Dayville, Plainfield, and Putnam. Its service area includes Northeast Connecticut as well as nearby Massachusetts and Rhode Island communities. Day Kimball Healthcare's comprehensive network offers more than 1,000 staff including nearly 300 associated, highly skilled physicians, surgeons and specialists. Its website is [www.daykimball.org](http://www.daykimball.org).

## LOCAL ARTISTS FEATURED AT BOOKLOVERS' GOURMET



*Photo Courtesy*

Thompson, Conn. artists Ann C. Rosebrooks and Donna O'Scolaigh Lange are partici-pating in "New Hope," an art exhibition Feb. 2-27, at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 East Main St., Webster. The show may be viewed during regular business hours Tues.—Sat., 10 a.m.–5 p.m. For more information, call 508-949-6232.

## QVCC partners with United Services Inc. to provide paid internships for Human Services majors

DANIELSON — Quinebaug Valley Community College has announced its partnership with United Services, Inc. to provide up to 20 Human Services majors with paid internships for the Spring and Fall 2021 semesters. Funding for each of the \$1,000 internships is made possible by a generous grant to United Services, Inc., by the Jeffrey P. Ossen Foundation.

"United Services is excited to work with QVCC and grateful to the Ossen Foundation for supporting this educa-tional and experiential partnership," said United Services President/CEO Diane Manning. "Work in the human services field is both hard and reward-ing and we are excited to help students learn that first-hand as we deliver behavioral health and wellness pro-grams to our community."

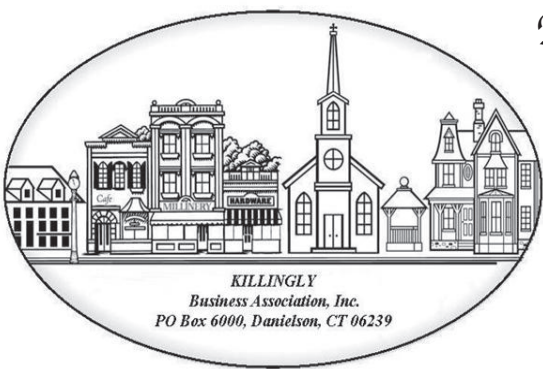
United Services is the local mental health authority for 21 towns in north-eastern Connecticut, delivering more than 30 behavioral health, wellness, and family service programs.

Interim QVCC CEO Rose Ellis notes that "the experiential learning that stu-

dents will gain through the program's internships provides them with both vital career preparation and a mar-ketable advantage when applying for jobs. Financial support for these intern-ships makes it possible for students with limited financial means to engage in such experiential learning opportu-nities without the burden of simulta-neously taking on additional employ-ment to support themselves through the semester."

The internship requires that stu-dents successfully complete 120 hours of field work along with all course obli-gations. The Spring course starts on Feb. 22.

Students who are Human Service or TAP: Social Work Studies majors, have met the Field Work I course pre-requisites, and are interested in par-ticipating in this opportunity should contact June Dunn, Associate Dean of Student Outreach & Enhanced Learning, [jdunn@qvcc.edu](mailto:jdunn@qvcc.edu), for more information.



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# LEARNING

## Regina Treveloni named to Fall 2020

Dean's List at Stonehill College  
EASTON, Mass. — Regina Treveloni, of North Grosvenordale, a member of the Class of 2021, has been named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at Stonehill College.  
To qualify for the Dean's List, students must have a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better and must have completed successfully all courses for which they were registered.  
*Stonehill is a Catholic college located near Boston on a beautiful 384-acre campus in Easton, Massachusetts. With a student-faculty ratio of 12:1, the College engages over 2,500 students in 80+ rigorous academic programs in the liberal arts, sciences, and pre-professional fields. The Stonehill community helps students to develop the knowledge, skills, and character to meet their professional goals and to live lives of purpose and integrity.*

## Regan Stuyinski named to Dean's List at Stonehill College

EASTON, Mass. — Regan Stuyinski, of Brooklyn, a member of the Class of 2023, has been named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at Stonehill College.  
To qualify for the Dean's List, students must have a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better and must have completed successfully all courses for which they were registered.  
*Stonehill is a Catholic college located near Boston on a beautiful 384-acre campus in Easton, Massachusetts. With a student-faculty ratio of 12:1, the College engages over 2,500 students in 80+ rigorous academic programs in the liberal arts, sciences, and pre-professional fields. The Stonehill community helps students to develop the knowledge, skills, and character to meet their professional goals and to live lives of purpose and integrity.*

## Local students earn Fall 2020 Dean's List honors at Stonehill College

EASTON, Mass. — To qualify for the Dean's List, students must have a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better and must have completed successfully all courses for which they were registered.  
Lauren Hovestadt of Woodstock, Class of 2023  
Jacob LaFiandra of Woodstock, Class of 2021  
Graham Sweetnam of Woodstock, Class of 2021  
*Stonehill is a Catholic college located near Boston on a beautiful 384-acre campus in Easton, Massachusetts. With a student-faculty ratio of 12:1, the*

College engages over 2,500 students in 80+ rigorous academic programs in the liberal arts, sciences, and pre-professional fields. The Stonehill community helps students to develop the knowledge, skills, and character to meet their professional goals and to live lives of purpose and integrity.

## Brooklynn Saracina of Woodstock graduates from the University of New Hampshire

DURHAM, New Hampshire — Brooklynn Saracina of Woodstock graduated from the University of New Hampshire in December 2020. He/she earned a BS in BusAdm: Accounting.  
Students who received the honor Summa Cum Laude graduated with a GPA of 3.85-4.0: Students who received the honor of Magna Cum Laude graduated with a GPA of 3.65-3.84; and students who received the honor of Cum Laude graduated with a GPA of 3.50-3.64.  
Students are only graduated after the Registrar's Office has certified that all degree requirements have been successfully completed. Participating in the commencement ceremony is the act of honoring and celebrating academic achievement.  
The University of New Hampshire, founded in 1866, is a world-class public research university with the feel of a New England liberal arts college. A land, sea, and space-grant university, UNH is the state's flagship public institution, enrolling 13,000 undergraduate and 2,500 graduate students.

## Jennifer Nelson named to Becker College Dean's List

WORCESTER, Mass. — Becker College is proud to announce that Jennifer Nelson, of Putnam has been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2020 semester.  
The Dean's List recognizes all full-time students (24 or more credit hours earned for the academic year; 12 minimum each semester - September through May) whose term grade point average is 3.50 or higher with no grade below a B- and no incomplete (I) or withdrawal/failing (WF) grades.  
Founded in 1784, Becker College is an undergraduate and graduate, career-focused private college, providing a supportive and inclusive learning community that prepares graduates for their first to last careers. Nearly 1,700 students from the United States and around the world attend Becker College, which has campuses both in Worcester and Leicester, Massachusetts. With nationally recognized programs in nursing, game design and animal studies, Becker has been consistently ranked as a "Best

College" for undergraduate education by The Princeton Review.

## Anna Grace Murphy named to Dean's List at Elon University

ELON, N.C. — Anna Grace Murphy has been named to the Dean's List for the 2020 fall semester at Elon University. The Dean's List is composed of students with no grade below a B-minus and a grade point average of at least 3.50 in a minimum of 12 semester hours.  
Murphy is the daughter of Mr. Raymond F. Murphy III and of Putnam and Ms. Emily J. Murphy and of East Woodstock.  
Elon University has built a national reputation as the premier student-centered environment for experiential learning, with an emphasis on strong personal relationships between students and their faculty and staff mentors. Elon's 6,291 undergraduate and 826 graduate students come from 46 states and 49 countries. Elon's rigorous curriculum is grounded in the arts and sciences and complemented by nationally accredited professional programs.  
Elon is ranked among the top-100 National Universities by U.S. News & World Report, with a #2 ranking for excellence in undergraduate teaching and #10 for innovation. Elon is the only university in the nation recognized by U.S. News for excellence in all eight academic programs "Focused on Student Success." Included are #1 rankings for study abroad and learning communities and #2 rankings for first-year experiences and service learning.

## Sydney Fisher named to College of the Holy Cross' Dean's List

WORCESTER, Mass. — Sydney Fisher of Pomfret was named to the College of the Holy Cross Fall 2020 Dean's List. A member of the Class of 2021, Fisher is majoring in Multi-Disciplinary.  
Fisher was among more than 1,453 students named to the Dean's List for outstanding academic achievement during the fall semester of the 2020-21 academic year.  
To qualify, students must pass four or more letter-graded courses with no failing grades during the semester and earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.  
About Holy Cross  
The College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester, Mass., is among the nation's leading liberal arts institutions. A highly selective, four-year, exclusively undergraduate college of 3,100 students, Holy Cross is renowned for offering a rigorous, personalized education in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition. Since its founding in 1843, Holy Cross has made a positive impact in society by gradu-

ating students who distinguish themselves as thoughtful leaders in business, professional and civic life.

## Sarah Douglas of Thompson graduates from the University of New Hampshire

DURHAM, New Hampshire — Sarah Douglas of Thompson graduated from the University of New Hampshire in December 2020. He/she earned a MS in Occupational Therapy.  
Students who received the honor Summa Cum Laude graduated with a GPA of 3.85-4.0: Students who received the honor of Magna Cum Laude graduated with a GPA of 3.65-3.84; and students who received the honor of Cum Laude graduated with a GPA of 3.50-3.64.  
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## Jacob Antos of North Grosvenordale named to UA President's List

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Jacob Thomas Antos of North Grosvenordale was named to The University of Alabama Presidents List for fall 2020.  
A total of 13,128 students enrolled during the fall 2020 term at The University of Alabama made the Dean's List with academic records of 3.5 or above (on a 4.0 scale), or the President's List with academic records of 4.0 (all A's).  
The UA Dean's and President's lists recognize full-time undergraduate students. The lists do not apply to graduate students or to undergraduate students who take less than a full course load.  
The University of Alabama, the state's oldest and largest public institution of higher education, is a student-centered research university that draws the best and brightest to an academic community committed to providing a premier undergraduate and graduate education. UA is dedicated to achieving excellence in scholarship, collaboration and intellectual engagement; providing public outreach and service to the state of Alabama and the nation; and nurturing a campus environment that fosters collegiality, respect and inclusivity.

# Low light, low maintenance houseplants



GARDEN  
MOMENTS  
.....  
MELINDA  
MYERS

Don't let a lack of brightly lit windows stop you from gardening indoors. Include some low maintenance, low light houseplants and maintenance strategies to boost your success.  
Low maintenance gardening starts with proper plant selection. Match the plant to the growing conditions and your gardening style.  
ZZ plant is a favorite low light, low maintenance plant. You will see it in hotels and shopping malls where light and care are often limited. Avoid over-watering that can lead to root rot and death of this plant.  
You will need to do a bit of searching to find a few of the newer ZZ plant varieties. Zenzi is compact with curled leaves while Raven has dark purple black foliage that contrasts nicely with green and chartreuse leaves of nearby plants.  
Peace lily is another popular low light plant found in a variety of public places. It requires moist soil to thrive, making it the perfect plant for those that tend to overwater. Increase your success by mixing organic Wild Valley Farms' wool pellets (wildvalleyfarms.com) into the potting mix. This sustainable soil additive retains moisture, reducing watering by up to 25 percent. It also adds air space, improving the growing conditions for all indoor plants

and helps reduce the risk of overwatering.  
Pothos and philodendron are traditional low light favorites. New cultivars provide a fresh look to these indoor beauties.  
Neon pothos has vibrant neon green foliage sure to brighten any spot in your home. Pearls and Jade has smaller cream and green variegated leaves. It is slower growing but just as tough as other pothos. Show off their trailing habit in a hanging basket, container displayed on a shelf, or set upon a pedestal.  
You'll find a variety of philodendrons for your indoor garden. Brasil has dark green heart-shaped leaves with a golden stripe down the middle. Brandi, another trailing philodendron, has olive green heart-shaped leaves with silver splashing. These can be allowed to trail or trained up onto a trellis.  
Golden Goddess has larger chartreuse leaves that make a dramatic statement in a home or office. When small, it is great for desks and tabletops, but you will need to transition it to a floor plant as it climbs its support, growing up to six feet tall. Or add a subtle touch of orange with Prince of Orange. The new leaves of this shrubby philodendron emerge a coppery orange and eventually age to green. It grows 24 or more inches tall.  
The name says it all. Cast iron plant is tough and tolerant of low light and benign neglect. Individual long strappy leaves sprout from the ground to create a mass of greenery. This growth habit has made it a popular groundcover in milder climates. Variegated varieties with splashed or striping can be difficult to find but add to its beauty.



Photo Melinda Myers

**Aglaonema 'Siam Red' (Red Chinese Evergreen) is a popular low light plant that can brighten up any space with its beautiful foliage.**  
New varieties of Chinese evergreen have found their way into many garden centers. Their green leaves may have silver highlights like those of Calypso. Cecila and Golden Bay. Or add a bit of red to your indoor garden with be Red Gold and Ruby Ray Chinese evergreen.  
Low light indoor plants allow you to add greenery where you once thought it was not possible. Their added beauty will help lift your spirits, reduce stress, and increase focus while improving your indoor air quality.  
Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the nationally-syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Wild Valley Farms for her expertise to write this article. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.



# Beware of the telephone scam



BY KATE CERRONE  
NORTHEAST LAW CENTER  
PUTNAM

It was announced recently that a Montreal man by the name of Martin Hogan, was criminally charged in New York for making false claims to people he called, informing them that they had won Canadian lotteries and sweepstakes. This was a multimillion-dollar telemarketing fraud.

Traditionally, telephone fraud schemes have impacted the elderly more than any other demographic. “According to research by the Stanford Center on Longevity and the Financial Industry Regulatory

Authority’s Investor Education Foundation, those over the age of 65 are more likely to have lost money due to a financial scam than someone in their 40s.” The Fraud Examiner: Elderly Fraud Scams: How They Are Being Targeted and How to Prevent It, Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, [acfe.com/fraud-examiner.aspx](https://www.acfe.com/fraud-examiner.aspx). However, with today’s pandemic restrictions, we are all at home more and may be more likely to answer calls that we may have otherwise ignored.

In the U.S. Magistrate Court in Rochester, New York on Monday February 1, 2021, Martin Hogan pleaded not guilty to an eleven-count indictment including wire fraud, wire and mail fraud conspiracy and money laundering conspiracy. Hogan was extradited from Jamaica to attend the plea hearing and will remain in custody in New York. According to evidence against Hogan, he phoned victims to inform them that they had won the lottery or sweepstakes in Canada. He told them that, in order to receive the winnings, they would first have to pay taxes, customs charges and

other fees. Thirty-seven victims transferred an average of \$50,000 each (one person even took out a reverse mortgage on her home to fund the payments) because they believed that in exchange for tens of thousands of their own money, they would claim millions.

This case demonstrates not only the amount of the victims’ money at stake in this scam, but also the extreme difficulty in charging and prosecuting these criminals. The apprehension of Hogan involved coordinated efforts by Canada, the United States and Jamaica, as well as major investigation efforts into a conspiracy involving many individuals.

The best way to protect yourself from these scams is to pay attention to your caller ID. Do not accept phone calls from unknown numbers. Most phone companies can set up caller ID on your landline, and mobile phones will let you know if someone is calling from your contact list or is an “unknown caller.” There are also apps for mobile phones which collect information on originating numbers and will provide a warning of potential scams along with the caller

ID. I have an app that flashes red if it has information that the caller makes scam calls. If there is a caller who has a legitimate purpose for calling, you can screen them by listening to their voicemail message and then returning legitimate calls. Mobile phones will also allow you to block suspicious numbers from being able to contact you again in the future.

Another good rule of thumb is: legitimate businesses or government agencies will not request information from you over the phone. Never provide identifying information such as your address or social security number or account numbers over the telephone if you cannot verify the caller. For example, if a caller states that they need to verify your credit card information, hang up and call the number on your credit card to make sure you are speaking with the company and ask them whether they were trying to reach you.

If you are surprised to hear that you won a prize in a sweepstakes or event for which you do not recall enrolling, it is most likely a scam. I once received a call telling me that I won two tickets for a cruise.

The caller was shocked when I informed him that I did not want the tickets and proceeded to hang up. Also, never provide money or funds or links to any accounts in order to claim a prize. That is the essence of the scam. If it seems too good to be true, your best protection is the disconnect button on your phone.

*Presented by Attorney Kathleen M. Cerrone. Sources: U.S. Charges Montreal Man with Defrauding Elderly in Lottery Scam By Jonathan Stempel, REUTERS 2/02/2021; The Fraud Examiner: Elderly Fraud Scams: How They Are Being Targeted and How to Prevent It, Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, [acfe.com/fraud-examiner.aspx](https://www.acfe.com/fraud-examiner.aspx). Kathleen M. Cerrone is a partner at the law firm of Borner, Smith, Aleman, Herzog & Cerrone LLC d/b/a The Northeast Law Center, with two locations: 155 Providence Street Putnam Connecticut 06260 and 124 Wauregan Road Danielson Connecticut 06239. Kathleen (best known as “Kate”) can advise you on civil litigation matters. Ask Kate about her Corporate Care Plan.*

# Tax law changes that could help you make the most of your retirement savings at any age

Retirement savings are, of course, a long-term investment – but they’re not a “set it and forget it” type of proposition. Maximizing your savings and putting them to work for your best interests requires regular evaluation of your investments, your long-term financial goals and your current financial health. This is particularly important at tax time each year.

Whether you’re just starting to save for retirement or you’re already in retirement, there are some important changes to retirement savings tax laws to be aware of as you prepare to file your 2020 taxes.

What to know if you’re already at retirement age

The SECURE Act and the CARES Act each include provisions that allow for greater flexibility with regard to required minimum distributions (RMDs) as well as contributions:

The age at which individuals are required to withdraw a minimum amount from their retirement plan each year increased from 70 and a half to 72 (with the exception of Roth IRAs, which do not require withdrawals until after the death of the owner). So, if you turned 70 and a half in 2020, you are no longer required to take a minimum distribution from your retirement plan if you don’t wish to do so, and you won’t be required to take one until April 1 of the year after you turn 72. Deferring the distribution can create greater tax efficiency for you.

If you’re over the age of 70 and a half, you can also now continue making contributions to Roth IRAs, a change that will allow those who are still working or do not yet wish to tap into their retirement account to continue building up their savings. If you didn’t make

any contributions to your Roth IRA in 2020 because you reached age 70 ½ and thought you were ineligible, it’s not too late – you can make contributions for the 2020 tax year up until April 15, 2021.

What to know if you’re early in your career, just started a family, or are not yet retired

Beginning this year, graduate or post-doctoral students who receive payments from fellowships, stipends or other such payments can now treat those payments as compensation for the purpose of making IRA contributions, allowing them to begin saving for retirement earlier. (You generally can’t contribute more than you earn in compensation in any given year – so individuals who only have these types of earnings were unable to make any contributions at all, since these earnings were not considered compensation.)

Beginning in 2020, individuals who had a baby or adopted a child can take a payout of up to \$5,000 from their IRA or 401(K) within one year of the child’s birth or adoption, without having to pay the usual 10 percent penalty for withdrawals made prior to the age of 59 and a half. This payout is not considered a loan and is not subject to strict repayment requirements usually imposed on early retirement account payouts. It is, however, still taxed as income.

Having these funds available to pay for costs incurred from the birth or adoption of a child or to supplement income while taking unpaid family leave can be a real boon to many. However, you should carefully weigh those benefits against the drawback



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of reducing your long-term retirement savings in order to make the best choice for you and your family. Income limits for Roth IRA contributions and deduction phaseouts for traditional IRAs both increased in 2020 – and it’s not too late to make contributions. For Roth IRAs, the income limit at which you are eligible to contribute increased by \$3,000 for couples to between \$196,000 and \$206,000 adjusted gross income (AGI). For single filers the AGI limits increased by \$2,000, to between \$124,000 and \$139,000. If you have a traditional IRAs, the phaseout for taking a deduction on contributions increased by \$1,000. The deduction now phases out for couples with an AGI between \$104,000 and \$124,000 and for single filers with an AGI between \$65,000 and \$75,000.

If you haven’t maxed out your contributions to your IRA according to these new guidelines, it’s not too late – you can make contributions for the 2020 tax year up until April 15, 2021.

What to know if you’ve been impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic

Provisions in the CARES Act may allow you to take a retirement account payout of up to \$100,000 without having to pay the usual 10 percent penalty for withdrawals made prior to age 59 and a half if you, your spouse or a dependent was diagnosed with the coronavirus in 2020, or if you have experienced adverse financial consequences as a result of the pandemic.

The distribution must be counted as taxable income, but the Act also provides that you may choose to spread

out that income in equal installments over a three-year period – to do this, you must attach Form 8915-E to your tax return. However, be aware that you must also replace the funds from the payout back to your retirement account within that three-year period or you will be subject to the 10% penalty.

Tax Planning Well = Plan Well

Starting the new year off right financially is an essential ingredient to rebuilding or accelerating your life financial goals. Revisiting and establishing a forward looking and achievable financial plan that includes tax efficiency is a basic component to Planning Well. If you need assistance prioritizing your finances to help you work toward your long-term financial life goals visit our website at [www.whzwealth.com](http://www.whzwealth.com) or give our office a call at 860-928-2341. Together, we can leverage our Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well process to help you get to the financial fearlessness you desire.

*Presented by Principal/Managing Partner Laurence Hale, AAMS, CRPS®. Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser. These materials are general in nature and do not address your specific situation. For your specific investment needs, please discuss your individual circumstances with your representative. Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors does not provide tax or legal advice, and nothing in the accompanying pages should be construed as specific tax or legal advice. 697 Pomfret St., Pomfret Center, CT 06259, 860-928-2341. <http://www.whzwealth.com>.*

# The Serenity Prayer

It is one of the most well-known prayers of our day. It was written by Reinhold Niebuhr, who was an American theologian and commentator. He was one of the leading intellectuals in the United States during the 20th century, who received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1964. He wrote this prayer for a sermon that he preached at Heath Evangelical Union Church, in Massachusetts. It was used in sermons in the church beginning in 1934, and, in 1951 it was published in a magazine. Since then, “The Serenity Prayer” has been popular with Christians of many denominations. But most people are probably familiar with it because it is used in Alcoholics Anonymous meetings all over the world.

Before reviewing the prayer, let’s consider why people in AA meetings have found the prayer to be such a comfort. Alcohol has been a social problem since the beginning of time. The website [www.webmd.com](http://www.webmd.com) describes the problem Americans have with alcohol like this:

It is estimated that between 18 million – or one in 12 adults – in the U.S. abuse alcohol or are chronic alcoholics. Nearly 100,000 Americans die each year as a result of alcohol abuse, and alcohol is a factor in more than half of the country’s homicides, suicides, and traffic accidents. Alcohol abuse also plays a role in many social and domestic problems, from job absenteeism and crimes against property to spousal and child abuse.



BEYOND  
THE PEWS  
• • • • •  
BISHOP JOHN  
W. HANSON

The immediate physical effects of drinking alcohol range from mild mood changes to complete loss of coordination, vision, balance, and speech – any of which can be signals of acute alcohol intoxication, or drunkenness. These effects usually wear off in a matter of hours after a person stops drinking. Many law-enforcement agencies regard a .08 percentage of alcohol in the bloodstream as evidence of intoxication. Larger amounts of blood alcohol can impair brain function and eventually cause unconsciousness. An extreme overdose, alcohol poisoning, can be fatal.

That academic description cannot begin to convey the grief and pain cause by people who are bound by alcohol. Neither can it begin to capture the frustration, shame, fear and helplessness experienced by those caught in its grip.

In 1935, two men set out to help people whose lives had been marred by alcoholism. They established a faith-based, twelve-step program called Alcoholics Anonymous. Bill Wilson and Bob Smith

founded the first group in Akron, Ohio. The idea was to invite people to admit their need for help, turn to a higher power and then take steps toward overcoming the addiction. AA has been in existence for 80 years and there are now over 115,000 groups world-wide.

Each time a group meets, they recite the Serenity Prayer, so there is no telling how many people have prayed this prayer. This prayer is effective because it is based on biblical truths and because of the sheer volume of people who have prayed it. Here is the most commonly used version of the Serenity Prayer:


“God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,  
Courage to change the things I can,  
And wisdom to know the difference.”

The Serenity Prayer personifies how Believers can rest in God through prayer. We can have peace because, through prayer, God will help know what we need to do and what we need to leave up to Him. Prayer works and is powerful because the God to whom we pray is so big... and powerful... and full of mercy and grace. Because we pray to an all-powerful God, we can enjoy serenity, even in difficult circumstances.

*Bishop John W. Hanson oversees Acts II Ministries in Thompson. For information about service or the many prayer groups that meet in the area, please visit [www.ActsII.org](http://www.ActsII.org).*

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**FRANK G. CHILINSKI**  
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

**BRENDAN BERUBE**  
EDITOR

# Why we listen to the groundhog

Tuesday, Feb. 2 was Groundhog Day, and it was reported that Punxsutawney Phil came out of his burrow at Gobbler’s Knob, where he saw his own shadow. This means that we will have six more weeks of winter. We’ll take it!

This North American tradition is derived from the Pennsylvania Dutch superstition that if the groundhog sees it’s shadow due to clear weather, it will go back to its den and winter will last just a few weeks longer. If the animal does not see it’s shadow due to the clouds, spring will come early.

This lore originated from German speaking areas where the groundhog is considered the most accurate forecasting animal. Each year, a Groundhog Day ceremony is held in Punxsutawney, Pa., and is always well attended.

The Pennsylvania Dutch, immigrated from German speaking parts of Europe. Groundhog in German is ‘grun’daks.’ In Europe, the Germans had an existing tradition of marking Candlemas as ‘Badger Day,’ where if a badger appeared on a sunny day, casting a shadow, winter would be extended. In some areas a bear or a fox took on the forecasting responsibility.

In Irish folklore, St. Brighid’s Day, Feb. 1, is the first day of spring, which begins the farmer’s year. Seeing a hedgehog was a sign of good weather.

The earliest mention of Groundhog Day appeared in 1840, in the diary of James L. Morris of Morgantown, Pa., who was talking about his German neighbors. In 1886, the observance of Groundhog Day was mentioned in the Punxsutawney Spirit newspaper. It noted, “Up to the time of going to press, the beast has not seen its shadow.” One year later, a group of townspeople went to Gobbler’s Knob in search of the groundhog and so began the tradition. Pre-COVID, gatherings to celebrate in Punxsutawney grew as large as 40,000.

Clymer Freas, who was born in 1867 and passed away in 1942, is said to be the one who created the idea of Groundhog Day. Freas was the Editor of the Punxsutawney Spirit. In 1899, a Groundhog Club was formed in town including a hunt and a feast. It is said that groundhog tastes like a cross between chicken and pork. We’ll pass on finding out.

In 1993, Bill Murray and Andie MacDowell starred in the comedy “Groundhog Day,” which is now considered a cult classic. We must admit to enjoying Mr. Murray more in “What About Bob?” but that’s an editorial for another time. Baby steps.

## LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor may be e-mailed to [Brendan@villagernewspapers.com](mailto:Brendan@villagernewspapers.com)

*Please include your place of residence and phone number for verification, not publication. Letters must be received by noon on Tuesdays.*

# OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Bravo, Billy Taylor

To the Editor:  
Bravo, Billy G. Taylor; well done! And to all who have, in the past, or continue to put the bully in his place, thank you.  
I respectfully ask the Villager Newspaper to make an exception to the submission policy

### Republicans have a lot of work to do

To the Editor:  
Trump is gone (hopefully for good), but the foul odor of his presidency is going to linger for a while. He brought out the worst in people, and brought out the worst people from the shadows of society. White supremacists, Neo-Nazis, anti-American anarchists, and the dangerous idiots who spread wild and crazy conspiracy theories.  
The Republican Party has some work to do to regain credibility. They need to weed-out

### Let’s be more creative with our terminology

To the Editor:  
I am as aggravated as anyone with certain situations in our world, but when I express these frustrations, I don’t often find myself using the word “whore” to describe those I disagree with.  
A recent letter by Mr. Deluca and a response by Mr. Taylor contained this moniker to help describe certain rascally politicians, and I am wondering if, in future, we could all reach for something equally colorful but without offending and casting aspersions upon women. I mean, fellas, it’s been done.

### “Real news” is in the eye of the beholder

To the Editor:  
To Billy G Taylor, thanks for that most diversionary reply, which was nothing more than a way to avoid answering my questions; a “best defense is a good offense” strategy indeed. You are totally correct when you say that you don’t have to answer these questions; however, one question that seems to have been answered had to do with feathers.  
In addition to cult, cult, cult, whats already been mentioned numerous times before is that we’re being “fed lies from the right wing media,” and I could ask where you get your (real?) news from, but it doesn’t matter at this point. I could also say that Biden is a liar because he said that he’s for jobs, but then suspended the pipeline that will lead to job losses. And then one Rep made the ridiculous suggestion that they could now go make solar panels.  
I do suppose, however, that one thing we

### What does the Republican party stand for?

To the Editor:  
It would be a welcome change to these pages if, going forward, the various apologists for the amoral, destructive individual who was our 45th President actually made an attempt to marshal verified facts supporting their beliefs, rather than engaging in school-yard taunts (repeating another letter writer’s name multiple times in a single letter, say) and ad hominem attacks directed at other letter writers, as well as insulting the “Democrat” Party generally in various childish ways. Even more welcome would be some effort on the part of these writers to explain just what it is that the Republican Party of 2021 stands for: what kind of health system it would like to see enacted (repeal and replace? with what?); how would it deal with Russian cyber warfare; how would it deal with climate change; how would it deal with the rise of White Nationalism; how does it think those who engaged in the attack on the Capitol

to attend one week on then E-learning the next with a rotating schedule. While some parents have opted to keep their children home and E-learning 100 percent, teachers on the other hand have been full time in person.  
Has Tantasqua ignored the science? The statistics at Tantasqua are as follows: Since Sept. 11, 2020, there have been 63 total number of Covid cases of students and staff combined. Of the 63 cases, only 19 were from individuals who had been in the building; the remaining 44 cases were from people who were E-learning/teaching. These statistics can be found at [tanta-squa.org](http://tanta-squa.org). My wife has knowledge of only one teacher who has contracted Covid, and it was not contracted in school.  
Teachers are essential workers, and kids are essential kids. My concern with the manner we are teaching our children is certainly shared by many. I am inspired

and permanently ban Ed DeLuca from the Letters to the Editor column.

LOUISE DAVIS  
WOODSTOCK

TODD PATRIE  
POMFRET CENTER

KAREN WARINSKY  
WOODSTOCK

ED DELUCA  
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

JOHN A. DAY, JR.  
WOODSTOCK VALLEY

JEFF CHILD  
WOODSTOCK

# Learning new skills

Recently, my husband cut my hair. Soon after, I cut his. This isn’t a big deal, but it was another new skill in our lives. For many years, I went to Boston for haircuts, not because there aren’t perfectly capable hairdressers nearby, but because it gave me a good reason to visit a city I know and love. I would book my next appointment and I plan another visit to the MFA or the Huntington Theatre. Soon, I’ll visit the cultural spots and skip the salon.

As I snipped away at my husband’s hair, which is more challenging to cut than my simple bob, he reminisced about his visits to barbershops. He loved the smell, the conversations and the rituals of the largely all-male world of the barber shop.

In recent years, his hair has been groomed by a very competent woman at a salon that serves everyone. I’m sure he will return as my efforts are just passable.

One of the most pleasant aspects of the quiet life we now live is the chance to spend time every morning watching the birds at the feeders. Bird seed brings squirrels as well and they are dazzling. We have two resident squirrels. One is easily identified as it has a short tail, the result perhaps of an accident or frostbite. They defy gravity with their antics and their determination to get to the birdseed.

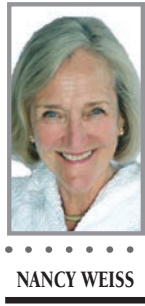
The other squirrel is agile. He can hang upside down by a claw on a tube-shaped feeder as it blows in the wind and stuff his face. He is so cocky that I can look into his eyes through the window pane without scaring him away. Only the shadow of a big hawk or a focused assault by birds manage to distract him. If he didn’t eat so much seed, he would be a charming visitor on a winter morning.

Several friends celebrated birthdays this month. For one friend, we met at a viewing platform on a high hill for cake and prosecco. It was windy and cold, but fun for a few minutes. On another occasion, we sat by a fire pit for cake and sparkling cider followed by sledding down a nearby hill. The snow was perfect for a short, fast ride. Next we hauled out thick blankets for a birthday lunch on the porch, timed to take advantage of the winter sun. Soup, hot gin toddies, cake and coffee, mixed with the pleasure of being with old friends, took the chill away for a while.

We were masked. We were outside. We were bundled up. Best of all, we were able to keep some cherished traditions going. I look forward to a time when all the joyous events in our lives can be celebrated in style and warmth. In the meantime, we can improvise.

I watch the Super Bowl every year to learn about popular culture. The ads and the half time show are key. This year I was completely perplexed. When Weeknd, strode across the field with a band of bandaged dancers, I didn’t get it. I didn’t get the beer ads. I didn’t understand the doubles ads. I’m not sure I learned anything except that I am not their target audience. Maybe next year...

February 2021 is giving us time to learn new skills, such as how to give a haircut. We can stare into the eyes of squirrels and admire them. We can share warm hearted celebrations in chilly temperatures. We can know that while there is much we don’t understand, the world keeps turning and February turns toward spring.



NANCY WEISS





LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Watch the Trump speech, and watch your own

To the Editor:  
For those who believe that former President Trump incited violence at the Capitol during his speech at the rally in DC...you are wrong. Watch it... read the transcript. I did both and did not find any call to violence or storming of the Capitol. Quite the opposite. Trump said, "I know that everyone here will soon be marching over to the Capitol building to peacefully and patriotically make your voices heard." This is not insurrection, but a constitutional right.  
By contrast, what we saw over the last year were cities being burned and looted, small businesses and business districts being destroyed. Our law enforcement was told to "stand down," threatened with defunding, many murdered and many more seriously injured. Offers by then President Trump to send in support to keep the peace were refused. The Big Lie was, and is, continuing to call these violent riots "peaceful protests." This

destruction of our cities was not done by Trump supporters. In fact, some of the criminals who committed these crimes were bailed out of jail by our new Vice-President.  
In last week's Villager, I appreciated the letter from the editor, although I didn't find it unusual or shocking that two individuals had a nice conversation and got along. Most of us do. What I did not appreciate were the consistently hateful letters printed by the editor, calling those who supported Trump - cult-following, Kool-Aid drinking, lacking in intelligence, lawless followers, anti-semites and white supremacists in three different letters. I also thought it in very poor taste for the editor to print the letter with a vulgar word in it three times. Yeah, I get it...."artistic expression," which means according to Wikipedia "deviation from fact or form for artistic purposes." There is nothing artistic

Turn To **WYKES** page **A10**

Let's tell Democrats in the Legislature that enough is enough!

To the Editor:  
Living and raising a family in Connecticut is expensive. The cost of living continues to increase. You feel it. You feel it even more if you have lost a job, cannot find a new job, or are working reduced hours. You feel it if you run a small business.  
Yet, the Democrats in the legislature (State Representatives and Senators) have made things more difficult for you by making Connecticut more expensive for you. This is a big problem in and of itself. To compound things, Democrats in the legislature are adding salt to your wounds by proposing more and new taxes for you to pay.  
If Connecticut's cost of living is squeezing hard working people like you and job creating small businesses in our communities, then why do the Democrats have a fetish with taxing you more and a zeal for taking away more of your hard earned money? Aren't you the own best able to decide what to do with your money?  
When you work, you see money

taken out of your paycheck. When you use the money that remains for your family and you, you see more money taken away from you because of many different taxes. When you buy things, you pay many sales taxes. When you fill up your car with gas, you pay three different taxes on each gallon. If you own property or a home, then you see more money taken away in property taxes. The end result is that a growing share of the money you earn goes to paying taxes. This leaves less money for you, squeezing your budget and making things difficult for your family and you.  
The pandemic has not helped. Many people have lost jobs. Many businesses that create jobs are closed or struggling to stay open. The current economic outlook is not rosy. In January, the U.S. economy gained only 49,000 new jobs. This is good only if you are one of the 49,000. But, it is not good overall because it represents a troubling economic situation. Compared with one year ago, the U.S. has 9.8 million

Turn To **GORDON** page **A11**

Good luck, Mr. Biden

To the Editor:  
I applaud Mr. Wesler's most recent letter to the Villager. An insightful, well constructed, thought provoking analysis and commentary; free from verbal carnage, character assassination, finger pointing and disparaging comments.  
Objectivity is a great thing, yet difficult to master and maintain over a lifetime. All too often, personal biases, opinions and life experiences manage to creep their way into our psyches, making it extraordinarily difficult to view situations with objectivity and ultimately arrive at some semblance of "balanced perspective."  
Our newly elected Pesident has his work cut out for him. Quite frankly, it appears clear that his administration will inherit issues, problems, chaos, confusion and a boatload of unexpected crises, many either directly or indirectly generated via past administration policies, or resulting from profound political polarization. Suffice if to say, "it ain't easy."  
Never been one who attempts to say, "gee....why can't we all just get along." Never have subscribed to "Kumbaya," yet clearly recognize the profound divisiveness, partisanship, animosity and generalized distrust of elected officials, regardless of what political persuasion or party one happens to be affiliated with...or subscribed to. For all practical purposes, we are in crisis mode. A floundering economy, a public health crisis, a disjointed, erratic foreign policy, civil unrest, racial and gender inequality...pick one, pick all. It isn't going to be fixed overnight, nor remedied in four years...and quite frankly, it appears moot as to whether the person elected is a Democrat, Republican, independent, butcher, baker or candlestick maker. No one person can do it, nor can one person be held ultimately responsible for all problems, concerns or issues. People make choices.  
Fortunately, we don't (at least not now, anyway) live in a society where people put a weapon to your head and demand that you go along with a policy proposal, or vote a particular party line. We chose our representatives. We did it...no one coerced or threatened us. Ergo, we are all responsible, either directly or indirectly. Unfortunately, few of us get "a do-over"...and if we're lucky enough to get it, how many of us utilize it effectively? There will be no finger pointing, nor armchair, wine sipping, cigarette smoking critiquing from this end. We choose...we make the decision as to who gets elected, and regardless of what any of us may think in our quiet, self reflecting moments...let's face it folks...we did it!  
That being the case, it really is our responsibility as citizens not only to question, to express, too voice and too

complain...but rather, to propose viable, workable, effective solutions to the myriad of problems confronting all of us. And this demands objectivity...with the fullest recognition that none of us have all the answers, nor solutions, nor cures for all issues confronting us.  
I can't even begin to express how much I enjoy reading the letters to the editor in the Villager. I admire the passion and perspectives. I respect the opinions expressed, regardless of whether they're polar opposite to my perception. Perhaps as I get older and grayer, "being right" means a whole lot less than. "doing the right thing." Not quite sure when or how or why that changed...but it did change. The beauty of our current system (and how long it will continue, I really can't say) is that we do have avenues for self expression and opinions. The reality is, we can all agree that we disagree and still make an attempt to strive for the collective good...at least for the time being! How long will this last? I don't know.  
At the risk of voicing my opinion (knowing full well there will be repercussions), we're on a slippery slope. This has nothing to do with historical perspectives or comparisons. We're entering an exceedingly dangerous period in our constitutional republic, where polarization, increased dependency on state and federal government is no longer the exception, rather, fast becoming the accepted norm. I'm sure all of us can provide oceans of facts and statistics, outlining the necessity of direct federal intervention. How to pay for it? Quite frankly, at this point, does it matter? The federal deficit is above and beyond anything any of us could possibly imagine. Yet a significant per cent of the population is suffering. So what do we do, recognizing fully the enormous disparity in income among the "haves and have nots?" Do nothing? Not an option. Skew the statistics? Not an option. Throw unlimited resources? Not an option. So what do you do? I do not envy the position Mr. Biden is in. Congress and the Senate? Can't really comment on that, without personal bias or jaded perspective...other than to say..."we got what we deserved, since we voted for them.". Not in a position to critique, unless I have viable, constructive, workable alternative. (hey, that's how I was raised).  
To those writers of the Villager who submit on a weekly basis? I salute you. You reinforce that freedom of speech continues to exist, despite the political climate. May we all continue to agree that we disagree on certain topics and that our republic will continue to be a viable and durable entity.

ERNRICH PLACE  
KILLINGLY

The Grand Old Party of conspiracy theories

To the Editor:  
It must have been a bad week in No. Gros. this past week. The Cowardly Cult leader turned down an opportunity to answer charges against for inciting riots at the Capitol on Jan. 6, and QAnon has taken over the Republican party. The party that used to stand for balanced budgets, limited government, holding the line against Communism, is now basically a conspiracy party.  
Republicans voted more to back the QAnon lady than someone who voted her conscience over the impeachment of a president. They agree more with Jewish lasers starting fires in California in 2018, that 9/11 bombings and Sandy Hook were false flags and never really happened, or that our government was behind them. Add to that the Vegas shooting in 2017 was staged to take away Second Amendment rights. The topper being that Democrats have a ring of people who eat babies ran out of Pizza houses'. One more major thing they want to take over the government by force. This

is the fall out of the Trump presidency. What a legacy.  
The people on Jan. 6 charging the Capitol were not Antifa, BLM or other groups; it was people who were affected by the 'big lie.' Mostly white militia groups and white separatists. A lie repeated over and over and over again by the Cowardly Cult leader, his supporters and some misguided folks. Please Read Monday Feb. 4th extensive article in the New York Times about how and the why these people stormed the Capitol. Encouraged and supported to do so by the Cowardly Cult leader. There are helpers in this pursuit by Fox News, Sen. Mitch McConnell, Newsmax, Facebook and more, that kept telling and retelling the lie over and over again. It may be a while before the whole story comes out but there is some evidence of an inside job to this siege/insurrection or pure treason by some people in the Capitol. It was not Nancy Pelosi,

Turn To **CASSETTARI** page **A10**

Did I ever tell you Black Lives Matter?

I recently learned of a picture book titled "Have I Ever Told You Black Lives Matter," by Shani King. I immediately ordered it to add to my collection of racial and social justice picture books for children. The book is described as "a tender and powerful affirmation that Black lives have always mattered," but I particularly like the bold statement beneath the description:  
Black lives matter. That message would be self-evident in a just world, but in this world and this America, all children need to hear it again and again, and not just to hear it but to feel and know it.  
Black Lives Matter. It is a seemingly benign statement yet can spawn outrage and vitriol in so many white Americans. Especially those who have been smitten by the oh-so-clever rhetoric of white supremacy. Even those who haven't jumped into the culture wars of right-wing extremism, behave as though their whiteness is going to be cancelled out or tarnished by one simple phrase. Black Lives Matter is the emotional button pushed by that big old white elephant in the room that Americans don't want to talk about. Instead, the collective "we" rant and rave like tempestuous children and blame Black Lives Matter for "triggering" the errant behavior. It goes to show that we will do anything to avoid discussing systemic racism, so deeply entrenched in our history. However, it must be discussed if we are going to overcome the wound of America's past – slavery.  
The reaction to Black Lives Matter reminds me of the fifth-grade girls who were outraged if I encouraged or complimented another girl in my classroom. Usually, the "other" girl would happen to be the one they were currently ganging up on in the on-going "odd-girl out" game. As their teacher, I couldn't keep up with who was in and who was out, but I did my best to educate them about bullying and tried to curb the posse with lessons in kindness. Like the white reactions to Black Lives Matter, the girls would become vitriolic if I happened to give their victim attention. They would accuse me of favoritism and unfairness, even though they received just as much attention (if not more) because they felt entitled and demanded it.  
It would be comical if it were not so pathetic that white Americans are so darned fragile, when it comes to talking about racism. Unfortunately, we have a long history of white supremacy resistance in America. Like those fifth-grade girls, we the collective do not want to be knocked off our self-imposed pedestal labeled "we are better than them." You and I wouldn't say that as individuals, but it is the underlying mantra throughout American history, that whites are superior. The proof is in the pudding of policies enacted to keep African Americans "in their place" from the policing of slave laws to the policing of the New Jim Crow justice system. Every step forward in the march toward civil rights and justice has been met with a violent force pushing us ten steps backwards, and the reaction to Black Lives Matter is no different. White supremacist push-back became virulent when millions of white allies stood by the Black Lives Matter movement in the summer of 2020. Right wing extremists responded with insurrection and placed the Confederate flag and a hangman's platform in the Capitol, both symbolic of the terrorism inflicted upon African Americans during the Jim Crow South. The current push-back from the uber right during Black History Month is to curb the teaching of Black History in public schools. Cloaked in terms like Cancel culture, the rhetoric would like you to believe that the teaching of Black History cancels out American History. Now if that doesn't sound like one of those fifth-grade girls! Black History enriches American History. Black Lives Matter enriches all lives.  
The fifth-grade girl analogy is not limited to modern times. In 1832, Sarah Harris, a young black woman from

Canterbury, approached Prudence Crandall. She asked if Miss Crandall might admit her to the Canterbury Female Academy, an exclusive school for white girls from well-to-do families. Sarah, who came from a successful family of black abolitionists, wanted to "get a little bit more learning" so that she could become a teacher. She could afford the tuition. Equal education was already a movement among the black middleclass of the 1830's. Besides, Sarah's friend, Mariah Davis, frequently sat in on Miss Crandall's classes. She was an employed servant at the school, but Miss Crandall allowed her to attend the lessons if her chores were completed. None of the students appeared to mind.  
Prudence Crandall did not make her decision easily. She knew it would raise the ire of her Board of Visitors and the parents of her students. But after a sleepless night and substantial prayer, she admitted Sarah Harris to the school. After all, "Sarah Harris was a good, intelligent girl who could afford the tuition..."  
Perhaps the other students didn't notice at first. After all, they were used to Mariah sitting in on the classes. They may not have even mentioned it to their parents at all were it not for the fact that Sarah Harris was beginning to outshine them. Miss Crandall herself may have made the mistake of complimenting Sarah in front of the other girls. It didn't take long before outraged parents visited the school and demanded that Miss Crandall dismiss Sarah Harris. It was an affront to their own social status to have their daughters attend school with a black girl.  
After weeks of harassment from the parents and her Board, Prudence Crandall closed the Canterbury Female Academy and opened "The Canterbury School for Little Missus and Young Ladies of Color". That was when the real trouble began. Vitriolic and hateful letters to the editor in newspapers throughout Connecticut attest to the outrage of its white citizens. Their white superiority had been challenged. Arguments were made in court against the full humanity of Miss Crandall's students and "wasn't it a cruel thing to give them the false hope of education." Phrenologists were brought into the courtroom to prove the "inferiority of the negro brain"; and, of course, the old property value argument was used to put pressure on Miss Crandall's neighbors to boycott the school. The townspeople tainted the well with manure, the shops refused to do business with the school, the church barred its doors, and the doctor refused to treat the black students. Eventually, a mob destroyed all the windows in the school and Prudence had to close the school to protect the students from further violence. I have no doubt that Prudence Crandall knew that Black Lives Matter.  
We Americans like to think that we have come a long way. And we have. We'd all like to believe that our neighbors wouldn't behave like the people of Canterbury in the 1830's, and that we would have stood up for Prudence Crandall and her students. Yet. And yet, we have turned a blind eye to the persistence of white supremacy. We ignore the coded language of politicians, with their voter suppression policies. We assume that the slow drip of hate exuding like sludge from the uber right will go away with a different President. In Northeast Connecticut, where the Confederate flag waves above the "Back the Blue", some folks are afraid to put a Black Lives Matter sign on their lawns. After all, nobody wants to be accused of "hating the police" simply because they speak out for reasonable justice. And then there are the angry white men who posture pseudo patriotism in their pick-up trucks bedecked with flags, and the armed local militia posing as a "neighborhood watch." This is why we need the reminder that Black Lives Matter.

DONNA DUFRESNE  
POMFRET



# OBITUARIES

## Mary Larson Seney, 91

On Wednesday, February 3rd, Mary Paterson Larson Seney passed away at Pierce Memorial Baptist Home in Brooklyn, Ct at the age of 91 with family at her side.



Mary was born on Feb 8th, 1929 in Middletown, Ct. She was the daughter of Rev. Arthur and Harriet Paterson. Mary grew up in Middletown and after a year attending Simmons College in Boston she transferred to UConn to be with Robert E Larson, whom she married in 1950. Mary, now a farmer's wife, left her senior year at UConn to start their family. She was "Mom" to six children in the next eleven years, living in Portland, CT, Columbia, SC, and then moving to Woodstock in 1961. Mary and Bob purchased the Town Farm in Woodstock, CT in 1962 and made that their home. Once her youngest child, Mark, was in school full time, Mary continued her college education and graduated from the University of CT in the spring of 1969, the same year her oldest son, Richard, graduated from high school.

A teaching position was available in Woodstock and Mary was hired by Edmond Seney, principal at Woodstock Elementary School. A year later, she taught kindergarten in Union, Ct, a half day position so she could dedicate more time to her family and civic interests. Mary taught in Union for 18 years, retiring in 1990. Mary and Bob remained friends with her former principal over the years and when Mary and Ed each lost their spouses, a new relationship began and they were married in 2004.

Mary was very active in her church, the First Congregational Church of Woodstock. Over the years she was the Superintendent of Education, President of the Women's Fellowship, Deacon, and a representative to the Eastern District Women's Fellowship of the United Church of Christ.

Mary was a founding member of the Quiet Corner Garden Club in 1978 and remained active in the club for over 40 years. She also participated in the Woodstock Beautification Committee, the Palmer Arboretum Committee, and the Woodstock Historical Society. On Labor Day weekend she was the superintendent of the floral department at the Woodstock Fair for many years. Mary also maintained beautiful vege-

table and flower gardens around her home.

Mary was very active in the local 4-H clubs, as a 4-H Leader for many years and also as a host for the International Farm Youth Exchange program. She was President of the Woodstock PTO, worked at the Woodstock town hall as a poll counter during elections, was active in Ct Farm Bureau Women's Board, and the local Theft Detecting Society. For many years Mary was a member of the Woodstock Lions Club and the Woodstock Republican Town Committee. In her free time she enjoyed traveling the US and Europe, watching UConn basketball, and playing bridge.

In her retirement, Mary became a Justice of the Peace. In this capacity she officiated at many weddings and enjoyed sharing her love for life and family with the couples that she married. Mary was always involved in family, town, and statewide activities. Her presence will be missed by many.

Mary was preceded in death by her first husband, Bob Larson, who died in 2000. She was also predeceased by her two brothers, Arthur and Rev. John Paterson. She is survived by her husband, Edmond Seney and her six children: Richard Larson (Cynthia) of Wells VT, Karen McFarlin (Peter) of Putnam Ct, Susan Kimball (partner Richard) of Woodstock CT, Patricia Fox (Dennis) of Muscatine IA, Paul Larson (Joyce) of Woodstock CT and Mark Larson (Fran) of Coventry CT. Mary also leaves behind her stepchildren Derek (Korey) Seney of Danielson CT and Monique (Robert) Horan of Putnam CT. With 31 grandchildren and 37 great grandchildren, along with lots of nieces and nephews, Mary was the matriarch of a large family. Her family gatherings were always a time to celebrate life, and that Mary did well. She lived and died with grace.

Mary's family would like to thank Gail Beausoleil and the staff at Creamery Brook for the excellent care she received during the time she and Ed called Creamery Brook their home. Her family would also like to thank the nursing staff at Pierce Memorial Baptist Home for the care she received during her final week. Due to Covid a memorial service to honor Mary's life will be held later this year. Burial will be private at the family plot in Center Cemetery in Woodstock. Arrangements are in the care of Smith and Walker Funeral Home Putnam CT. Share a memory at [www.smithandwalkerfh.com](http://www.smithandwalkerfh.com)

## Wanda Mahan, 97

Wanda Mahan, 97, formerly of Danielson, passed away on Sunday, January 31, 2021 at Matulaitis Nursing Home in Putnam. She was the wife of the late Howard E. Mahan, Jr. who died July 25, 1964. She was born in Brooklyn on May 16, 1923 and was a lifelong resident of Danielson. She was a communicant of Saint James Church in Danielson. She worked most of her life in the retailing business. At one time she and her husband ran a coffee shop in Danielson. She also worked as a bookkeeper for Danielson Federal Savings Bank. She managed a branch of the Debutant Shop of Norwich until

it became Reid & Hughes of Brooklyn until her retirement in 1985. She was a member of the Quinebaug Valley Senior Center where she worked as a volunteer. She enjoyed playing bingo, was an avid fan of the UConn Women's Basketball team and enjoyed watching the Yankees. Wanda is survived by her son, Kevin Mahan and his wife Pauline of Danielson; two granddaughters, Sarah Bouchard and her husband Chad of Brooklyn and Kellyn Mahan and her fiancé Mark Hecox of Brighton, MA; two great-granddaughters Sawyer and Payton Bouchard, and two nieces, Frances Maloney of Quincy, MA and Evelyn Kozec, with whom she shared a special bond, of Cranston, RI. She was predeceased by two sisters and a brother. Funeral services will be private. [tillinghastfh.com](http://tillinghastfh.com)

Words do have consequences. They just never fall on Trump. Seems like all people around him get in trouble. Looking for 17 Republican Senators to grow a conscience and think more about their country than party. You will be surprised how history will look upon you.

Thankfully, President Biden is more concerned with getting out vaccines to the country and in an attempt to get us back running and living again. If the Cowardly Cult leader had spent the last 77 days of his presidency working on this, our country would be so far ahead instead of encouraging those people who believe in conspiracies. More people may have survived and be alive with their families.

DAVID CASSETTARI  
KILLINGLY

## Victor I. Moses

Victor I. Moses, born March 17, 1938, left this world on January 30, 2021 at the age of 82 after suffering a stroke. He spent his final days in the loving care of the nurses at UMass Worcester and the amazing Beacon hospice team; we are thankful for the comfort and dignity they provided him. Vic only recently retired from the Bar after a nearly 60 year career practicing law in Manchester. He served his clients tirelessly while building, what at one point, was the highest volume independent real estate law practice in the state. He served his community through decades of volunteer work.

Vic grew up in Hartford and often reminisced of his Cabot Street neighborhood, Manny's Deli, and various associated shenanigans. He attended Weaver High before heading off to UConn and then Boston University Law School. Our grandparents sent our mom to Lesley College in the hope that she'd meet a Harvard boy; but they had to settle for a nice boy from BU.

He spent the last few years of his life living with his brother, Henry, their dog Elsa, and a yet to be explained chicken named Gertrude. Vic and Henry were the quintessential "Oscar and Felix", in virtually every way. However, the time they had together was precious and the family is forever grateful for the love and companionship Henry provided Vic. Their late in life bond should remind us all; don't ever hesitate to hug someone important to you, and don't let a day go by that you don't tell them you love them.

Vic leaves his daughter Carrie and her husband Manuel, his son Michael and his wife Beth, his granddaughters Sarah, Jennie, and Rebekah, his brother Henry, and his sisters, Merle and Bobbie. Vic also leaves many dear friends in the communities where he made his home, from Manchester, to West Hartford, to Mystic, and Brooklyn. You all know who you are, and we thank you for the love and companionship you provided him.

The good times and related memories were numerous, and here are just a few.

He and Judy loved Sinatra, but the memory of them "dirty" dancing to Notorious B.I.G. is a horrifyingly beau-

tiful memory

Long, martini laden evenings with our neighbors and friends, Peter and John

His odd fixation with incimate weather and where everyone in his life was located during a storm

Every Thanksgiving, High Holiday, and Seder back in the day when the entire family celebrated together - albeit some of us relegated to the "kids" table, measured by maturity of course. Tony and Henry, good times!

His angst at having to attend family events, balanced with the joy he felt after enduring them.

Vic cherished his immediate family, close friends, the Red Sox, UConn basketball, martinis with a glass of ice and 2 olives, peanuts, fresh ground pepper on everything, toasted sausage grinders from Vic's Pizza (only on Sundays while watching the Giants), tuna on toast from Shady Glen, escargot at Cavey's, celebrations at the Old Lyme Inn, and shrimp cocktails at Cherrystones.

A special thanks to 85 Main, the Vanilla Bean, Baker's Dozen and especially Sweet Peas for befriending Vic these past years. They were very special in his weekly jaunts that kept him smiling so much.

He especially loved and cherished his three "poopsies", Sarah, Jennie and Rebekah.

While we are all saddened by our loss, we are at peace knowing he is together with Judy again, most likely hand-in-hand, strolling down the Champs-Élysées. The countless journals and photographs diligently recorded by our mom that memorialized the joy of a life well-lived have provided us the foundations of what our family will continue to celebrate.

In that spirit, and as was his wish, services will be private with a celebration of life to be planned post-COVID, this coming summer. If you would like to make a donation in Vic's memory, please donate to an organization most meaningful to you.

I would like to be remembered as a man who had a wonderful time living life, a man who had good friends, fine family - and I don't think I could ask for anything more than that, actually.

- Frank Sinatra

## Arlene L. Froehlich, 88

WOODSTOCK VALLEY, CT- Arlene L. (Barie) Froehlich age 88 passed away Feb. 1, 2021 at the Matulaitis Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center after a short illness.



Arlene was born in Brockton on May 14, 1932 daughter of the late Arthur Barie and Viola (Belanger) Barie Hall. Arlene was predeceased by her devoted husband Robert A. Froehlich who died in 2014. She was also predeceased by her brother, Edgar Barie.

She also leaves a son Robert E. Froehlich and his wife Lori Lynn of Lake City, FL; three daughters, Joanne Jacobson and her husband Lee of Webster, MA, Diane Froehlich and her companion, Nick, Christine Lepine and her companion Michael of Woodstock Valley, her grandchildren Lisa Cote, Nickole DiGregorio and Candice

Jowers, Ryleigh Froehlich, Brett and Robert Jacobson, six great grandchildren, Chad, Travis, Mykela, Sydney, Nathan and Elijah. She also leaves a sister-in-law Elaine Barie of Halifax, MA and many nieces and nephews.

Arlene was employed by Day Kimball Hospital as a Nurse's Aide for many years. After retiring she spent much of her time with her family. She enjoyed going to 10 pin bowling and doing framework puzzles.

There are no calling hours. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Bungay Fire Dept. 1256 Rt. 171. S. Woodstock, CT. 06267. A graveside service will be held at later date to be announced by the family.

Funeral Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home. A guest book is available at [www.shaw-majercik.com](http://www.shaw-majercik.com) where you may offer condolences, share a fond memory, or light a candle in remembrance of Arlene.

evidence of this claim?

Keep doing what you're doing, as painful and hurtful as it is to watch, read and hear. As the old saying goes, "You are speaking so loudly, I can't hear what you're saying." And, last I knew, free speech does not include or condone hate speech. Unlike the author of the manure letter, I do mind the smell. It's been a tough four years trying to drain the swamp.

I can't wait to see the letters pour in with your exuberance and joy over our new President and his administration. I'm just perplexed as to why it's taking so long...

TAMI JO WYKES  
BROOKLYN

### CASSETTARI

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President Biden or congress people who represent their districts, who happen to be black or Muslim. Sorry Mr. Deluca. Yes we are all scared of what more damage that the Cowardly Cult leader could and would do if he had 4 more years. Elect a clown, expect a circus.

Why is Trump the Cowardly Cult leader; he will not testify in his own defense. His lawyers are justifiably afraid of putting on the stand not knowing where his lies would take him, Contempt/Perjury. Now there seems to be some blow back on the Cowardly Cult followers as Fox news, Rudy and misfit lawyer friends, Lou Dobbs and others are either being sued or terminated from their positions.

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# OBITUARIES

## Francois Laurier Lemieux, 82

Francois Laurier Lemieux, 82 Danielson passed away February 3, 2021. He was born February 7, 1938 in Putnam son of the late F. Raymond and Lorette (Bernier) Lemieux. Lem



graduated from St. Francis High School in Biddeford, Maine in 1957. He joined the Marines after high school and served three years being honorably discharged as Corporal in 1960. He then became owner/operator of Lem's Texaco Service/Gas Station on Main Street in Danielson. Later he sold his business and was employed at various local businesses driving and maintaining trucks for Jolley Concrete Block and BGR Radiators. Lem lead a full life of hobbies. He had his own boat and often went deep sea fishing, water skiing, downhill skiing, hiking, and participated in pitch tournaments. He liked to read books on many subjects in history. He and some buddies each made their own Hydro planes and competed with one another. He frequented Georges Galley in Danielson almost daily where he met many friends and shared stories on the

history of Danielson. Many crossword puzzles were solved with help from others and Holley the owner. He loved bantering with the cook about sports and what team was the best, etc. He was proud of living in town where his family owned and operated the former Sunshine Card, Book and Gift Shop where he helped out. He was a member of the Paul C. Houghton Marine Detachment # 681 where he was a paymaster among other volunteering positions. He chaired the Fritter booth at the Woodstock Fairgrounds for years as a fund raiser and helped with the Annual Marine Corps League Birthday Ball, picnics, and yard sales. He was part of the Color Guard marching in various parades in the area. He was a friend for life. Searching for his High School classmates and initiated reunions at his cottage on Quaddick Lake. He loved having gatherings at the cottage with family and friends giving us boat rides with a guided tour and sometimes speeding up to give us a thrill. Also New Year's Eve sleep overs. He was always kind and would share anything he had. His sister Marguerite shared that when he was young and his playmates came over, he would give them the best of his military toys to use and he would keep the least good one for himself. That's just how he was. His garage at home, the Man Cave, a sign his neighbors Wayne and Donna's daughter Brittany made for him which

he hung immediately over the door, was just that and all his friends would join him for a beverage and tell stories. It was also a fix it shoppe, for anyone that needed a repair or a part, of course for free. Just mention you are looking for something and he would try to find it for you. He would repair it, rebuild it or build you a new one if he could. He lived life simply. Never wore a watch but was always on time. Never wanted a birthday cake because he said that would make him one year older. When he was in the hospital for a week or more, too far away for Della his "Babe" as he called her, to travel, the reunions when he got home was a kiss hello and the longest tightest hugs you can imagine, beautiful. This time Della was by his side every day and twice a day before his passing which she was grateful that she could be with him. All that knew him felt blessed for knowing him. He was very sensitive but strong willed. It has been said "That a man is a man because he can cry." That was Lem and he was admired for that. He was thankful for the friends and family in his life and would say so. You blessed us all by just being "Lem". You will be missed more than you probably expected because you were humble. May you rest in Peace. Lem is survived by his partner of 30 years, Della Mae McCulley, sisters Marguerite Dumaine of Danielson, Claudette and Kenneth Sell of PA.

Nieces, Danielle and John Williams of RI, Noel Shephard and husband Dick of WA, Theresa Piscicella and husband Rich of PA, and a nephew Paul Lagace of TN. Great nieces Emily Williams of RI, Victoria Piscicella and husband Ben Dickey, Jacqui Piscicella and fiancé Beckett Lemley. Great nephews Tony Piscicella and wife Julia, Ricky Piscicella and friend Stephanie Trimboli. His extended family of Della, daughters Judy and husband Daniel Poprosky of Bozrah, Thelma Dawson of Sterling, grandsons, Daryl and wife Tina of Bozrah, Jake Franklin and Amanda of MA, Nathan Franklin and wife Julie of Sterling, Parker Franklin and Melina of Griswold, Michael Dawson and Le'la of Putnam, Benjamin Dawson and Patrick Dawson of Sterling. He was predeceased by a sister Theresa & Maurice Legace, Robert Dumaine, husband of Marguerite, Della's son Russell (Ticky) Franklin. Many thanks to the nurses, doctors and staff at the Day Kimball Hospital for all their care and kindness. Also, Lem's Friends and neighbors and family including but not intentionally excluding any, Donna and Wayne Bennett, Leo Joyal, Bill Hall, Jake Franklin, and Phyllis Noel. Funeral services with full Military Honors will be held in the spring. Please omit flowers or donations at this time. [tillinghastfh.com](mailto:tillinghastfh.com)

# The guiding power of influence

I've spent my week reading and pondering the guiding and power of influence. The influence others have on us as well as the influence we have on others. Influence is power and it is a double-edged sword. There's of course positive as well as negative influences, and we must choose who we associate with wisely.

The late Motivational/ Inspirational Speaker, Jim Rohn, said, "You are the average of the five people you spend the most time with."

This is going to be a working column, as I am going to ask you to do more than just read. I'd like you to participate. Ask yourself, "Who are the five people you spend the most time with now," and "who were the five people you spent the most time with during your formative years as a child?"

This exercise will help you understand the influence people had on you and are having now. When you were young, if the kids you hung around with smoked, you are/were probably a smoker. If they were shoplifting, you probably joined



POSITIVELY SPEAKING  
GARY W. MOORE

in. And if they were good students who took their education

seriously, you were probably a good student.

Our greatest childhood influencers were usually your caregivers ... your parents and guardians. My sisters and I laugh and often talk about how we are still influenced today by our parents. It's unavoidable. As Rohn said, we are the average of the five people we spend or spend the most time with.

My mother certainly understood the power of influence, as I can hear her saying, "Don't hang around that kid. He'll only lead you into trouble." She understood, not from education but from experience.

Like I said, I spent the week focused on influence. I made an honest and sobering list of what and who has influenced my life. My second request is that you do the same, but let's

begin with a reflection of now. Who do you hang around with? Who are the five people you spend the most time with?

Once you have the list, take each name, and make notes. Do I want to imitate them? Is their quality of life what I want for mine? What are they doing to me? How are they influencing me? Has my time with them changed me? And is that okay?

If you will take a hard, honest, and serious look into your associations, you will be surprised. Positive influences and examples will have a profound influence on your life. So will negative influences. Both will take you somewhere ... but ask yourself, "is it someplace you really want to go?" It's easy to dismiss the influence of others but its not honest. Make a list and examine each name.

Everything matters. Every word spoken. Every action taken leads us somewhere and impacts our lives. Ignorance is never your best policy. Understanding who and how you are being influenced is.

What am I becoming? I don't care how old you are, we are all on a journey somewhere.

Is your journey taking you where you want to go? Ask yourself, "Who has power over you? Who is influencing my journey?"

Now, take positive and decisive action.

If you have participated so far in this exercise, you should have a clearer idea of who and how you are influenced. Now let's talk about the three steps you can take to improve your life.

Disassociation (hard choice) Get the losers out of your life.

Limited association – people you enjoy but add no real value to your life.

Increased association. Associate on purpose with people of positive substance.

These actions should be clear, so I won't spend too much time on them. Dump the people who are negatively influencing you. Limit the time you spend with casual friends who add nothing to your life and seek out people whose influence will improve your life and add to your success.

Never spend major time on minor things. Spend major time on/with positive influences. Spend more time with people of accomplishment and high character. It's your life. You can spend your time with whomever you want, but you must always weigh the time against what kind of

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## GORDON

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fewer jobs, which represents less than half of the jobs lost when the pandemic crashed the economy. Making matters worse, the number of people who have left the workforce and who are not seeking jobs has increased by more than 400,000. Here in Connecticut, the economic situation is likewise poor. Thousands of people remain unemployed or under-employed. Thousands more cannot find a job at all. Thousands of businesses are closed or barely surviving.

Why, during the current economic and pandemic hardships, have the Connecticut Democrats added new taxes for you to pay? A slew of new taxes went into effect at the start of 2021. Now, why are Connecticut Democrats proposing for you and others to pay even more new taxes? There is call by them for a statewide

property tax, an increase in the gas tax, an increase in the income tax, for highway tolls, and for assessments on towns like yours to pay money to cities elsewhere in the state. Gov. Lamont and Lt Gov. Bysiewicz have taken Connecticut into the regional Transportation and Climate Initiative, which adds a fourth, big tax on each gallon of gas up to 17 cents. The big electricity tax hikes were allowed to happen by Connecticut Democrats. More unfunded mandates and requirements put onto the towns mean an increase in property taxes to pay for them. You pay for them. More expensive rules and burdens on businesses invariably get passed on to you by increasing the costs of good and services you buy. These small businesses generate the lion's share of jobs in your community. Less jobs means a weakened economy, which means more difficulties dealing with Connecticut's expensive cost of living.

It does not make sense for Connecticut Democratic State Representatives and Senators to make things more difficult for you. People and small businesses literally cannot afford to pay more. Now is not the time to be adding to your financial burden. Now is not the time to make Connecticut a more expensive place to live.

We need common sense. You need to be protected from the Connecticut Democrats' plans to take more of your money and to decrease small businesses' abilities to create more jobs for you and for others all across Connecticut. If we do not act now and say to them, "enough is enough – stop," then they will continue their taxation madness. It is your money. You earned it through hard work. You need it for your families and you.

JEFFREY GORDON  
WOODSTOCK

# LEGALS

## Town of Thompson Board of Assessment Appeals LEGAL NOTICE

Citizens of Thompson are hereby informed that the Board of Assessment Appeals for the Town of Thompson will hold its sessions on the following dates: March 2nd, 2021 6:00 – 8:00 pm, 2nd Floor Town Hall  
March 11th, 2021 6:00 – 8:00 pm, 2nd Floor Town Hall  
March 16th, 2021 6:00 – 8:00 pm 2nd Floor Town Hall  
March 18th, 2021 6:00 – 8:00 pm 2nd Floor Town Hall  
Such sessions are held for appeals on Motor Vehicles, Personal Property and Real Estate.  
The appeal forms are available on the Town of Thompson's web site under the Assessor's office. If you need a

form mailed, please call the Assessor's office at 860-923-2259. Sessions will be held in the Assessor's Office, 2nd floor at the Town Hall located at 815 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale, CT.  
Notice given of sessions to conform to Section 12-110 of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut.  
Board of Assessment Appeals  
Erica Groh – Chairman  
Daniel Santerre  
James Clark  
February 12, 2021

## TOWN OF WOODSTOCK

On February 3, 2021, Woodstock Inland Wetlands Agent granted wetlands approval for application #02-21-08 – Jay C. Hibbard, 261 Lyon Hill Road – new single-family construction with

deck, driveway, septic and well.  
February 12, 2021

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Philip R. Lajoie (20-00420)  
The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast probate Court, by decree dated February 2, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Alysia Casiano, Clerk

The fiduciary is:  
Daniel P. Lajoie,  
c/o EDWIN C HIGGINS, BACHAND, LONGO & HIGGINS, HIGGINS • 1  
68 MAIN ST., P.O. BOX 528, PUTNAM, CT 06260, (860)928-6549

February 12, 2021

## TOWN OF WOODSTOCK

The Planning & Zoning Commission has scheduled a Public Hearing for Thursday, February 18, 2021, at 7:45 p.m., to be held in accordance with Governor's Executive Order 7B, conducted as a web-based virtual meeting via Zoom. Login information will be contained on the agenda found at the [Woodstockct.gov](http://Woodstockct.gov) website. SP-96-04-M – GED Enterprise, LLC dba Bradford Standing Seam – 130 Brockway Road – Modification to a Special Permit.  
Chairman Jeffrey Gordon, M.D.  
February 5, 2021  
February 12, 2021

### To place an In-Memoriam, Card of Thanks, Birthday or Anniversary Greeting, in the Villager Newspapers

the deadline is Monday at noon for that week.

Ad prices are \$15 for a 2x3 (actual size 2.4" x 3") or \$25 for a 3x4 (3.7" X 4") or 4x3 (5" x 3"). You can add a photo at no additional cost.

To send by mail, please mail to  
**Villager Newspapers**  
**P.O. Box 90**  
**Southbridge, MA 01550**  
Personal checks, Visa, Master Card, Discover and AMEX are accepted.

**For more information, please call 508-909-4126 or email [mikaela@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:mikaela@stonebridgepress.news) and she'll be happy to help!**





ANTIQUES,  
COLLECTIBLES  
& ESTATES  
• • • • •  
WAYNE TUISKULA

There has been a lot of antique news since my last antique and collectibles news column. Three important antique finds have been reported within the past month, beginning with some coins that were literally uncovered in Poland. The Archaeological Institute of America reports that medieval coins were recently found in a Polish cornfield. Archaeologist Adam Kędzierski was researching the 1935 discovery of a hoard of coins when a local priest informed him that it was rumored that there were additional coins still buried in the field. Kędzierski found a "900-year-old hoard, stored in linen pouches placed in a pot, includes Czech, Danish, Hungarian, and German coins; lumps of silver; fragments of lead; and four gold rings." The more than 6,000 pieces were believed to have been the dowry of Maria who was a sister of Princess Zbysława of Russia. Maria was also believed to be the "daughter of Svyatoslavovich Isiaslovovich, Prince of Kiev" according to the Archaeological Institute of America. It is believed they were buried "during a time of turmoil in 1146." Further investigation of the

area is being planned.

The Smithsonian Magazine reports that a Geneva, N.Y. man (David Whitcomb) found a treasure trove of photographs in the attic of a building that he recently purchased to open his law practice. The two previous building owners were unaware of the attic's existence because a drop ceiling had been added to the top floor decades ago that hid the view of the attic. Along with the photographs, Whitcomb found frames, old cameras, and backdrops. The Smithsonian reported that "according to Ben Hooper of United Press International (UPI), the items probably belonged to James Ellery, or J.E., Hale, a prominent photographer active during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Hale's name was written on many of the objects in the attic, including letters and photographs, and he once owned a studio next door to the New York building." Two of the photos were of famous figures from the women's rights movement, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony. Hale took the photo of Susan B. Anthony in 1905, a year before she died. David Whitcomb consigned the collection to a nearby auction house. The collection is expected to sell for \$100,000.

The Canadian Broadcasting Company (CBC) reported that an Edmonton, Alberta antique dealer (Alex Archibald)

recently purchased a home that had belonged to a hoarder. He paid \$10,000 for the property, sight unseen. The home and contents were the estate of a local piano teacher (Bette-Jean Rac) whom Archibald had known before she passed away. A grand piano initially caught his attention. He has turned up many more valuable objects since he purchased the home and has been searching through it. Archibald found typical things you would expect to find in an old estate including clothes, shoes, books, and magazine. He found many more valuable objects as well though. Archibald said, "our most impressive finds included wallets full of cash, a 100-ounce silver bar, and bags full of gold and diamond rings." He found some of the clothing to be valuable pieces by well known designers. The estate items were sold in three auctions which ended up bringing \$400,000. Archibald kept the grand piano and moved it to his antique shop. He may not be able to hit a higher note than he already has though.

We are still accepting quality consignments for our spring multi-estate online auction such as gold jewelry, sterling silver flatware, antique paintings, coins, and other older collectibles. Our online auction with paintings from the estate of equestrian artist Fay Moore ends on February 17th. Our next online auction Session 2 of antique, vin-



tage, and contemporary toys will soon be available for bidding.

Contact us at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique Auctions, Estate Sales and Appraisal Services [www.centralmassauctions.com](http://www.centralmassauctions.com) (508-612- 6111) [info@centralmassauctions.com](mailto:info@centralmassauctions.com)

**February 2021**

THOMPSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
"FREE MEALS" for ALL CHILDREN 0-18!  
Children DO NOT have to be enrolled in our School System to receive these meals!

**MONDAY** **TUESDAY** **WEDNESDAY** **THURSDAY** **FRIDAY**

**Did you know?**  
February 12th is Abraham Lincoln's birthday. The 16th president of the United States was born in a one-room, 16x18-foot, log cabin with a dirt floor.

<b>Lunch</b> #1 Chicken Nuggets/Sauce Dinner Roll/*Smart Balance Or #2 SunButter/Jelly Sandwich w/Cheese Stick <b>Breakfast</b> Cinnamon Roll	<b>Lunch</b> #1 Taco Salad w/Grahams Or #2 Yogurt Bag Lunch <b>Breakfast</b> Pancakes w/Syrup	<b>Lunch</b> #1 Mozzarella Sticks w/Marinara Sauce Or #2 Chef Salad w/Iced Sweet Potato Roll <b>Breakfast</b> Pop-Tart w/Cheese Stick	<b>Lunch</b> #1 Shepherd's Pie Breakstick Or #2 *Yogurt Bag Lunch <b>Breakfast</b> Apple Cinnamon Texas Toast	<b>(1/2 Day) Lunch</b> #1 Stuffed Crust Pizza Or #2 Tuna Wrap w/Lettuce Chips <b>Breakfast</b> Manager's Choice
<b>Lunch</b> #1 Chicken Patty/Bun (Mayonnaise) Or #2 SunButter/Jelly Sandwich w/Cheese Stick <b>Breakfast</b> Apple Cinnamon Roll	<b>Lunch</b> #1 Cheeseburger Mac & Cheese Dinner Roll/*Smart Balance Or #2 Yogurt Bag Lunch <b>Breakfast</b> Pancakes w/Syrup	<b>(1/2 Day) Lunch</b> #1 Hot Dog/Bun (Ketchup) Or #2 Chicken Fajita Salad w/Iced Sweet Potato Roll <b>Breakfast</b> Pop-Tart w/Cheese Stick	<b>Lunch</b> #1 Baked Potato Bar Chili ~ Cheese Sauce Breakstick Or #2 *Yogurt Bag Lunch <b>Breakfast</b> French Toast Sticks	<b>(1/2 Day) Lunch</b> #1 Stuffed Crust Pizza Or #2 Tuna Wrap w/Lettuce Chips <b>Breakfast</b> Manager's Choice
<b>NO SCHOOL</b> FEBRUARY BREAK	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> FEBRUARY BREAK	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY	<b>Lunch</b> #1 Cheeseburger/Bun (Ketchup) Or #2 *Yogurt Bag Lunch <b>Breakfast</b> Cereal Bar w/Cheese Stick	<b>(1/2 Day) Lunch</b> #1 Stuffed Crust Pizza Or #2 Tuna Wrap w/Lettuce Chips <b>Breakfast</b> Manager's Choice
<b>Lunch</b> #1 Chicken Nuggets/Sauce Dinner Roll/*Smart Balance Or #2 SunButter/Jelly Sandwich w/Cheese Stick <b>Breakfast</b> Cinnamon Roll	<b>Lunch</b> #1 Pasta w/Meat Sauce *Twisted Bread Or #2 Yogurt Bag Lunch <b>Breakfast</b> Pancakes w/Syrup	<b>Lunch</b> #1 Mozzarella Sticks w/Marinara Sauce Or #2 *Cobb Salad w/Iced Sweet Potato Roll <b>Breakfast</b> Pop-Tart w/Cheese Stick	<b>Lunch</b> #1 Shepherd's Pie Breakstick Or #2 *Yogurt Bag Lunch <b>Breakfast</b> Breakfast Pizza	<b>(1/2 Day) Lunch</b> #1 Stuffed Crust Pizza Or #2 Tuna Wrap w/Lettuce Chips <b>Breakfast</b> Manager's Choice

**DAILY SIDES**  
Monday  
"Red/Orange" Veggie ~ Fruit/Juice ~ Milk  
Tuesday  
"Green" Veggie ~ Fruit/Juice ~ Milk  
Wednesday  
"Legumes" ~ Fruit/Juice ~ Milk  
Thursday  
"Starchy" Veggie ~ Fruit/Juice ~ Milk  
Friday  
"Other" Veggie ~ Fruit/Juice ~ Milk  
\*ALL Meals Served include the above Daily Sides  
Ranch Dressing w/Fresh Veggies  
\*Smart Balance (Butter Substitute)  
\*Twisted Bread (Cheese Stuffed)  
\*Cobb Salad  
(Lettuce/Tomato/Egg/Chicken/Avocado/Bacon)  
\*Yogurt Bag Lunch  
(Yogurt/Cheese Stick/Chocolate Chip Muffin)

**Thompson Public Schools**  
785 Riverside Drive, N. Gros., CT 06255  
<https://www.district.thompsonk12.org>  
Food Service Department  
(860) 923-9581, x588

**Food Service Director:** Lisa Durand  
[ldurand@thompsonpublicschools.org](mailto:ldurand@thompsonpublicschools.org)  
**Assistant Manager:** Chris Murphy  
[cmurphy@thompsonpublicschools.org](mailto:cmurphy@thompsonpublicschools.org)

**FREE "Curbside" Grab & Go Meals**  
(for Children 0-18 only)  
Thompson Middle School  
M-F (12:00-1:00)  
(When School is in Session)

**MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

In the event Thompson Public Schools returns to "Full-Remote" learning due to COVID-19, you will be informed when Home Deliveries may begin again.

## MOORE

continued from page A11

return you are getting. Always be cautious and discerning about who and what you let into your mind.

Association can also be through the writing of positive people. We can't spend time with George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Billy Graham or Martin Luther King, but we can through their words and writings they left behind.

I asked you to participate and I hope you will. Even more so, I hope you'll talk to your children and grandchildren about the power of influence. Helping them understand at an early age will positively impact them for the rest of their lives.

Next week, let's talk about the power of influence you have on others.

Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, "Playing with the Enemy." Follow Gary on Twitter @GaryW Moore721 and at [www.garyw-moore.com](http://www.garyw-moore.com).



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Jo-Ann Szymczak 774-230-5044  
Diane Luong 774-239-2937  
Maria Reed 508-873-9254

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Linda Selligslap 508.864.3245 Vicki Bennett 774.633.6762

**55+ Community Development Opportunity**

**Dudley:** Ready for developer to go forward. Market is anxious for housing for seniors - This is a great opportunity! Seller will also consider dividing as 2 oversized lots suitable for custom homes.  
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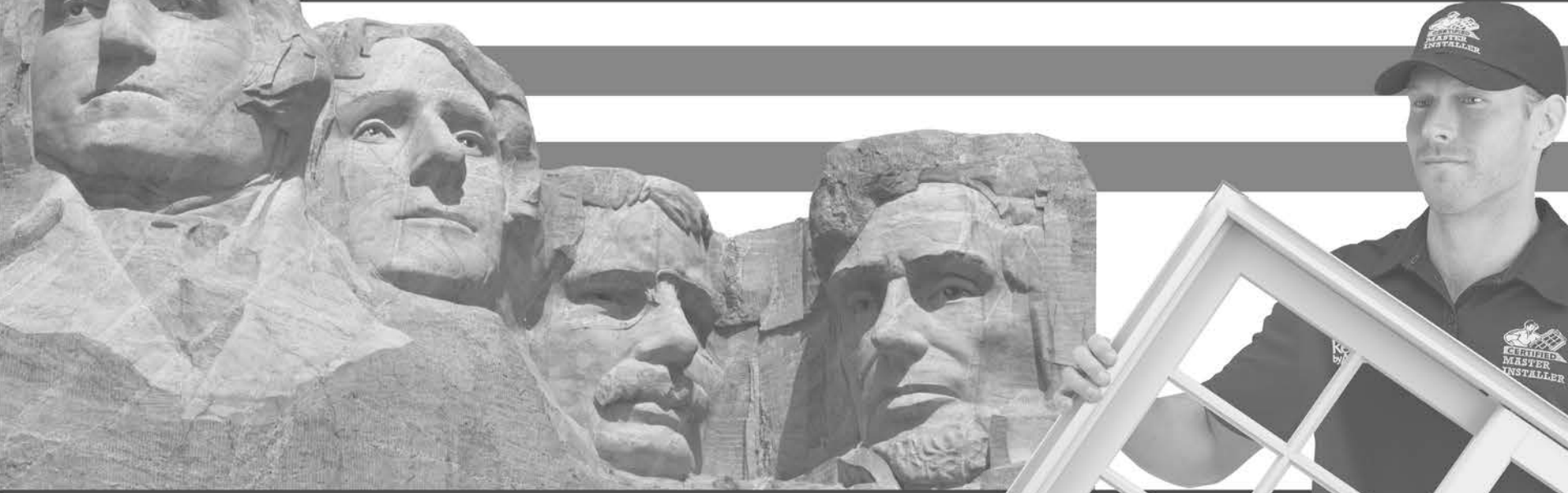
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# Ragged Hill Woods offering outdoor activity sessions at W-T 4-HCamp this winter

POMFRET CENTER — Start the year off right by getting your overly zoomed children out of the house to participate in some fun and educational sessions outdoors at the camp, 326 Taft Pond Rd in Pomfret.

February 16(PK & K) & February 17 (Grades 1 – 6) Hibernation (learn about animals that hibernate in the winter)

February 23 (PK & K) and February 24 (Grades 1 – 6) Hot & Cold (learn about the effects of temperature changes in the natural world)

March 2 (PK & K) and March 3 (Grades 1 – 6) Washed Away

(learn about erosion and how it effect the terrain around us)

March 16 (PK & K) and March 17 (Grades 1 – 6) All About Seeds (learn about seeds and how they move and kids plant their own seeds)

Sessions last one hour, \$12 per child (all four sessions \$40), held outside, masks and social distancing required. Pre-K and K sessions offered at 10 and 11:30 a.m. Grades 1 – 6 sessions are offered at 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. To register and get further info about time slots available, please call 860-974-1122 or e-mail [raggedhillwoods@gmail.com](mailto:raggedhillwoods@gmail.com).

# Brooklyn resident Thomas Nurse named to Worcester Polytechnic Institute’s Dean’s List

WORCESTER, Mass. — Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) has announced that Thomas Nurse of Brooklyn, a member of the class of 22 majoring in Robotics Engineering, was named to the university’s Dean’s List for academic excellence for the fall 2020 semester.

A total of 2,078 undergraduate students achieved the criteria required for WPI’s fall 2020 Dean’s List. The criteria for the WPI Dean’s List differs from that of most other universities as WPI does not compute a grade point average (GPA). Instead, WPI defines the Dean’s List by the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and projects.

“WPI’s academic programs are rigorous and require a level of independence beyond what is required in traditional courses. WPI students work on open-ended problems for communities around the world. The problems are important and the impact is real” said dean of undergraduate studies Arthur C. Heinricher. “Some of this nation’s best and brightest students come to WPI to study engineering and science and business and the humanities. Those named to the Dean’s List have excelled in all of their work, and we are exceptionally proud of these outstanding stu-

dents.”

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute

WPI, the global leader in project-based learning, is a distinctive, top-tier technological university founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems. Recognized by the National Academy of Engineering with the 2016 Bernard M. Gordon Prize for Innovation in Engineering and Technology Education, WPI’s pioneering project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world. WPI offers more than 50 bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degree programs across 14 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. Its faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research to meet ongoing challenges in health and biotechnology; robotics and the internet of things; advanced materials and manufacturing; cyber, data, and security systems; learning science; and more. [www.wpi.edu](http://www.wpi.edu)

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742 Upper Maple Street, Danielson, CT

Wednesdays, 3:00 – 7:00 pm  
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Pull into QVCC, turn left at the first stop sign. Follow the road to the back of the building.

### Putnam Riverview Market Pavilion

18 Kennedy Drive, Putnam, CT

Monday - Friday, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, except as noted:  
Tuesdays & 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month, 1:00 – 4:00pm

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Depending on demand and wait times, lines may begin closing prior to the end of the testing session.




Visit [ct.gov/coronavirus](https://ct.gov/coronavirus) for more information

### COVID-19 Vaccination Information

**Wait your turn. Take your turn. That’s how we turn the page on COVID-19.**



All COVID-19 vaccination sites follow Connecticut eligibility guidelines:  
Currently Phase 1a (healthcare and EMS workers) and Phase 1b – 75+ only.  
The next Phase 1b wave opens soon and will include ages 65 – 74.



- You must **live or work** in Connecticut to be vaccinated at any CT-based site.
- Each vaccine recipient must make a separate appointment.

**Moderna Vaccine** – approved for ages 18+ when eligible to receive. Two doses given at least 28 days apart.  
**Pfizer Vaccine** – approved for ages 16+ when eligible to receive. Two doses given at least 21 days apart.  
The first and second dose must be by the same manufacturer.

**Appointment options:** Online; by phone; or through the Vaccine Administration Management System (VAMS), which requires an email address and Internet access. Learn more about VAMS at <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Vaccinations---VAMS-Support> and <https://ecsu-bisaitp.org/>

**All sites are by appointment only. No walk-ins accepted.**

**Northeast District Department of Health COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic – VAMS - MODERNA**  
Requires VAMS enrollment. Second dose appointment booked when vaccinated at first dose appointment.  
**Location:** Quinebaug Valley Senior Citizens Center, 69 South Main Street, Brooklyn.  
For more info: <https://www.nddh.org/services/emergency-preparedness/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-vaccination/>

**Generations Family Health Center – VAMS – MODERNA – For more info:** <https://genhealth.org/>  
Eligible patients contacted directly and may call for more info. Eligible non-patients must be enrolled in VAMS.  
**Clinic Locations:** 42 Reynolds Street, Danielson, 860-774-7501 • 202 Pomfret Street, Putnam, 860-963-7917  
330 Washington Street – Suite 510, Norwich, 860-885-1308 • 40 Mansfield Avenue, Willimantic, 860-450-7471

**Day Kimball Medical Group (DKMG) Vaccination Clinic - MODERNA**  
Eligible DKMG patients contacted directly. Not accepting non-DKMG patients at this time.  
When accepting, eligible non-patients must be enrolled in VAMS.  
**Clinic Location:** 12 Lathrop Road, Plainfield Info: <https://www.daykimball.org/coronavirus-covid-19/#vaccines>

**CVS Pharmacy** – Clinic location: 57 Providence Pike, Putnam – **PFIZER Vaccine**  
Register at: <https://www.cvs.com/immunizations/covid-19-vaccine>. Cell phone required, email optional.  
Register by phone: 1-800-746-7287 (1-800-SHOP-CVS)

**Walgreens Pharmacy – PFIZER Vaccine**  
Clinic Locations: 203 Kennedy Drive, Putnam • 1093 North Main Street, Dayville • 20 Prospect Street, Moosup  
200 Westminster Road, Canterbury. Register: <https://www.walgreens.com/findcare/vaccination/covid-19>

**2-1-1 Online Directory of COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics:** <https://uwc.211ct.org/vaccine/>

**VACCINATION ASSISTANCE BY PHONE**  
**CT Vaccine Appointment Access Line (VAAL)** – 1-877-918-2224 – 7 days a week, 8 am – 8 pm  
For 75+ who cannot schedule online. Does not currently offer appointments at clinics in northeast CT, only at sites such as Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford. More sites being added. Phone line has heavy call volume.

**Many NE CT community agencies are standing up support systems and call centers to assist seniors and others needing help to register. Anyone wanting to be vaccinated will be in time and in turn. Vaccine providers are working hard – please be kind to them and THANK YOU for your patience.**