



Jason Bleau

Fairgoers take a ride on one of the many experi-ences available in the carnival section of the Brook-lyn Fair.

Quiet Corner towns confirm new budgets

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

REGION — It took longer than usual, but all local towns now have new budgets in place for the current fiscal year, after Thompson finally passed its new sending plan in August. Most other communities had their budgets confirmed before July 1, and while several towns took multiple attempts to gain public approval, voters eventually settled on numbers that will determine town services and tax rates for the rest of the fiscal year.

Here is how each town’s budget season fared:

THOMPSON

Thompson had by far the most contentious budget season in the Quiet Corner taking until the middle of August to finally confirm its spending plan for the new year. In the end it took four referendums for taxpayers to approve a new plan.

The season started in April with an initial vote for a proposed \$32.8 million budget that projected a 4.79 percent increase. The vote against the proposal was overwhelming, with 1,173 voting “no” and 510 voting “yes”, more than a two-third majority seeking changes to the numbers.

The second vote in May saw a revised proposal of \$31.9 million which would have been a 1.93 percent increase. That, too, was voted down by only a slightly smaller margin of 1,136 to 598. This eventually forced Thompson to enter the new fiscal year without a confirmed spending plan working with minimal funding and causing some town services to be limited and the town’s annual concert series to be cancelled. The next referendum in July, which presented a scant 0.49 percent increase, with a total spending plan of \$31.4 million, still failed to earn voter support although the margin shrank with 1,061 voting “no” and 728 “yes.”

The fourth referendum in August proved to be the final one as voters finally approved a spending plan more than a month into the new fiscal year. The final tally of 1,151 “yes” to 1,019 “no” secured the new budget of \$31.3 million by a relatively slim margin bringing with it a significant cut to the general government and a very small increase to education, which altogether totals a 0.01 percent increase year-over-year for the final spending plan.

KILLINGLY

Killingly’s budget season wasn’t near as dramatic as Thompson but did have its own fair share of complications as voters supported the initial general government budget numbers but forced the reversal of town meeting approved increases to education funding before giving their support to that half of the spending plan.

That process began in May during an annual town meeting that stretched into the late hours of the night resulting in cuts to the general government and adding \$1.1 million to education spend-

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Killingly officials praise response to fuel spill

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — Killingly town officials are praising local emergency responders for their quick and effective management of a fuel spill at Killingly Intermediate School in July.

On July 10, between 30 and 40 gallons of die-

sel fuel leaked from the school’s emergency generator forcing the cancelation of summer program Camp Wallaby for the day. Otherwise, the leak didn’t create any long-term delays or issues for the district. The generator serves to power the school in an emergency. Acting Town Manager Buddy Conroy provided an update to the

Town Council earlier this month explaining what occurred and how it was handled by local responders.

“The fire marshal did a really great job coordinating everything – Hazmat came right out. There was a pressure test done on it. It looks like it may have been an O-ring problem, we’re still waiting on the final say on that. It might have been a faulty switch issue also,” Conroy said.

He called the response a true team effort to keep the spill contained until HazMat could assess the situation. The generator is stored outside of

the building in a metal enclosure on concrete, meaning the spill was kept outside of the school itself. No contamination was reported inside the building and, because the spill was noticed by staff arriving in the morning, all programs were cancelled before any children accessed the school.

The town is working with their insurance company to resolve the issue with minimal impact to municipal funds. The incident is not expected to disrupt or delay the start of the new school year.

Free class offered for friends/family of people living with mental illness

DANIELSON — NAMI Windham County is offering its Family-to-Family class, a free, eight-session education program for family, partners, and friends of people living with mental illness. The course helps family members understand and support their loved one living with mental illness, while maintaining their own well-being. The program is taught by trained family members who know what it is like to have a loved one living with mental illness.

The class will be held at CT State Community College at Quinebaug Valley, 742 Upper Maple St., Danielson, beginning on Wednesday, Sept. 17 until Nov. 5. The class will run from 6:30 – 9 p.m.

Class topics include information about mental health conditions and treatments, help in finding and using local support and services for your loved one, listening and communication techniques, coping skills, and handling crisis and relapse.

Millions of people are affected by mental illness each year. Mental illness

also affects those around the person living with the illness. If you live with or love someone with mental illness, this class can provide the support and information you need.

People who have participated in previous Family-to-Family classes have stated:

“Before I took the course, I felt alone and overwhelmed dealing with my daughter’s mental illness. By taking this course, I have met others who are going through the same things I am and have learned about many resources that I never knew existed.”

“I wish I’d known about this seven years ago when the problem began. I felt safe in this class. I was able to talk about things I haven’t been comfortable expressing elsewhere.”

To register for this class, call 860-821-3543, email info@nami-windhamct.org, or go to <https://namict.org/support-and-education/mental-health-education/nami-family-to-family>.

NAMI Windham County is an affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness.



Courtesy

Congratulations to local Martial Arts students Gabriella and Faith Robitaille, Sam Bouzrak, and Bentley Boisse for receiving their 1st Degree Blackbelt in Cheezic Tang So Do under the teaching of Master Gary D. Guay 7th Degree Black and Matt G. Guay 3rd Degree Black.

Eastern professor honored with Connecticut State University Professorship

WILLIMANTIC — Daniel Donaghy of Willington, professor of English at Eastern Connecticut State University, was recently awarded a Connecticut State University (CSU) Professorship in recognition of his professional accom-

plishments, creative works, and contributions to Eastern and the greater Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) system.

No more than four faculty members receive this honor in a given year, and no more than twelve serve the role at a given time. Each recipient is recommended for the award by their respective university president and approved by the president of the Connecticut Board of Regents. Donaghy will retain the title of CSU Professor for the remainder of his tenure within the system.

“A CSU Professorship is the greatest honor a [Connecticut State University] professor can receive,” said Donaghy. “I’m going to work every day for the rest of my career trying to be wor-

thy of it.”

Among his accomplishments, Donaghy has published five books of poetry and is a lead organizer of Eastern’s annual Literary Festival for High School Students. He has further supported college-bound high school students by leading a poetry course for Eastern’s Pre-College Summer program and partnering with area high school teachers on dual enrollment initiatives. Donaghy also received the 2025 Allen Ginsberg Poetry Award.

Additionally, included with his application were letters of support from several Eastern colleagues and award-winning poets and scholars, including Margaret Gibson, Jose B. Gonzalez, Steve Myers, Maria Mazziotti Gillan, and Robert B. Hass.

“They are all outstanding writers whom I am proud to call friends,” he said.

While Donaghy now seeks to honor his heightened status as a CSU Professor, his mission of uplifting contemporary perspectives through poetry and creative writing stays the same. To this end, he will continue to teach, create, and consume literature the same way he has in the past.

“I’m going to continue to research and create poems, essays, short stories, and scripts about life in contemporary cities as I’ve been doing throughout my career,” he said. “I’ll also continue to

create work in various artistic media that brings to life important moments in American history that have been erased from our public memory.”

Aside from those whose perspectives he brings to light through his writing, Donaghy seeks to serve his students through each step of the process, stating, “I’ll continue to bring what I’ve learned through the process of my research and writing into the classroom and create assignments and opportunities for students to explore through creative writing issues that are important to them.”

Through projects such as “Here,” Eastern’s annual poetry journal that Donaghy founded in 2017, Donaghy joins forces meaningfully with other creative writers, allowing each the space to make their perspectives understood. In a collaborative sense, he said, the lecture hall is no different.

“I love collaborating with other artists and I see teaching as a daily act of collaboration between my students and me,” he said. “As students share their work with each other, they’re validating each other’s spoken and written voices as well as their own. They’re validating each other’s humanity.”

Donaghy submitted copies of several of his scholarly works with his application, including the fifth issue of “Here.” He is particularly proud of this issue because it showcases the creative writing strength of Eastern students through works centered on racial and environmental justice.

“We were proud to publish Eastern student poets alongside some of the most celebrated writers in the United States,” said Donaghy. “If I removed the names and showed you just the poems, you would be hard pressed to distinguish between the nationally celebrated authors and Eastern students.”

Donaghy began his position at Eastern in 2005. As he reaches the 20-year mark of his service to the University, he is filled with gratitude for the opportunities it presents him daily, to continue connecting with students, other creative writers, and underserved communities.

Donaghy’s career path was inspired by one of his former English professors at Kutztown University, Harry Humes, whom he called “the best teacher I’ve ever had.” Humes taught Donaghy the importance of expression in spite of his environment.

“I grew up in inner-city Philadelphia around men who didn’t talk about anything, ever,” he said. “They kept everything bottled up until it caused pain to them or those who loved them. Harry helped me find a path to a life beyond all of that bitterness, anger, and frustration.”

Douglas Ryan of Putnam graduates from University of Rhode Island

KINGSTON, R.I. — Douglas Ryan of Putnam is among the University of Rhode Island’s newest alumni. URI celebrated more than 3,500 of its newest alumni during the University’s 2025 Commencement. Nearly 3,600 undergraduate degrees and 600 graduate degrees were conveyed to students during the ceremonies which took place May 16-18.

Ryan received a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology & Criminal Justice.

Students who received the honor summa cum laude graduated with a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.7; students who received the honor of magna cum laude graduated with a GPA of at least 3.50; and students who received the honor of cum laude graduated with a GPA of at least 3.3.

To view ceremony highlights, visit: uri.edu/commencement/y2025/.

About the University of Rhode Island
The University of Rhode Island is a diverse and dynamic community whose members are connected by a common quest for knowledge. As a global education leader and the state of Rhode Island’s flagship public research institution, URI offers distinctive opportunities designed to meet the global challenges of today’s world and the rapidly evolving needs of tomorrow. Founded in 1892, URI now enrolls more than 18,000 students and offers more than 200 degree programs across nine schools and colleges. As a land- and sea-grant institution, URI is a key driver of economic development in Rhode Island and contributes significantly to the health and vitality of the state, the New England region, and the nation. To learn more, visit: uri.edu.

University of Rhode Island celebrates new graduates during 2025 Commencement

KINGSTON, R.I. — The University of Rhode Island celebrated more than 3,500 of its newest alumni during the University’s 2025 Commencement. Nearly 3,600 undergraduate degrees and 600 graduate degrees were conveyed to students during the ceremonies which took place May 16-18.

Among the graduates were:

David Fleck of Woodstock graduated with a Master of Arts in Communication Studies

Michael Sayers of Danielson graduated with a Master of Science in Computer Science

Kelsey Tichenor of Danielson graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science and Management

Kathia Gonzalez of Brooklyn graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Biology and a Bachelor of Arts in Marine Affairs

Michael Sayers of Danielson graduated with a Master of Science in Computer Science

Kelsey Tichenor of Danielson graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science and Management

Students who received the honor summa cum laude graduated with a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.7; students who received the honor of magna cum laude graduated with a GPA of at least 3.50; and students who received the honor of cum laude graduated with a GPA of at least 3.3.

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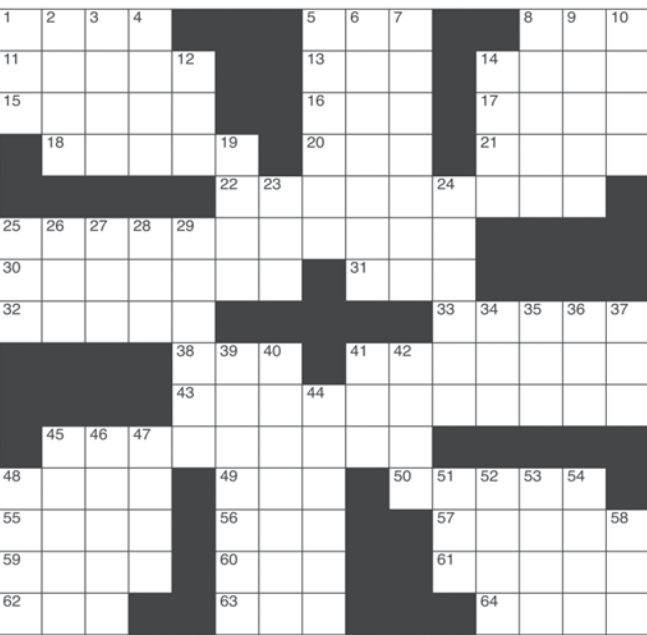
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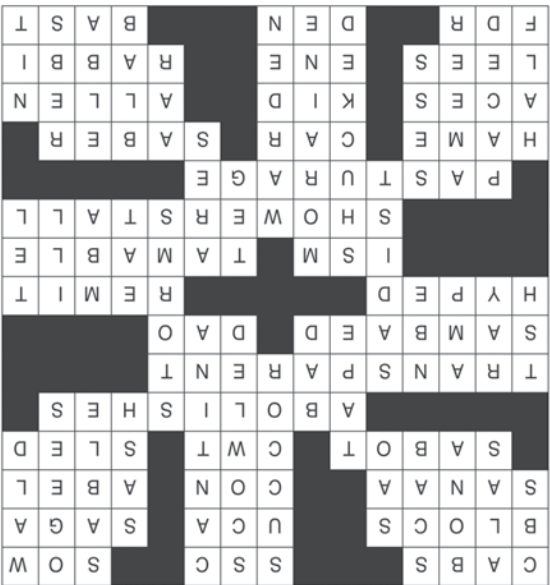
CLUES ACROSS

1. Taxis
5. Space Systems Command
8. Plant seed by scattering
11. Alliances
13. Fiddler crabs
14. Heroic tale
15. Yemen capital
16. Misleading gesture
17. Cain and ___
18. Simple shoe
20. Hundredweight
21. Children’s toy in the snow
22. Gets rid of
25. Free of deceit
30. Performed a dance
31. Chinese philosophical principle
32. Exaggerated
33. Refrain from inflicting
38. A doctrine
41. Can be subdued
43. A place to bathe
45. Land used for pasture
48. Curved piece of iron
49. Automobile
50. Fencing sword
55. Breezes through
56. Child
57. NBA legend Iverson
59. Horsley and Iacocca are two
60. Midway between northeast and east
61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
62. U.S. leader during much of WW2
63. Lair
64. Fibrous material

CLUES DOWN

1. Home of “60 Minutes”
2. Expression of sorrow or pity
3. ___ fide: legitimate
4. Immune response
5. Assistance and support
6. Glared
7. Spanish saloon
8. Pitch black
9. S-shaped lines
10. Statistical test
12. ___ Paulo, city
14. Graduation garb
19. A way to record
23. Not good
24. Weather events
25. A pituitary hormone
26. Jamie Foxx film
27. Rocker’s accessory
28. One point east (clockwise) of due north
29. One who obtains pleasure from another’s pain
34. Consume
35. Licensed for Wall Street
36. Sick
37. Israeli city ___ Aviv
39. Removed the husk
40. Mass of rocks and sediment
41. Two-year-old sheep
42. Area units
44. Prison overseer
45. Walked
46. Wartime escort aircraft carrier
47. Tax
48. 50 percent
51. Swiss river
52. Tattle
53. Actor Idris
54. Resist authority (slang)
58. Egg of a louse

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Interact Club is there to help

PUTNAM — Once again TEEG organized an amazing backpack distribution which was well attended Aug. 16, and Putnam Rotary Club's Interact Club was there to help. There was a mountain of backpacks to choose from, and tables of school supplies and the Interact Club provided help. Interact Club members helped children with their selection and ensured the tables were stocked with supplies. Just like last year, TEEG has implemented a program for free school shoes. Roberta Rocchetti, Interact advisor, had fun measuring the little ones for their shoe size. Then there were quite a few styles, sizes and colors to choose from. Elise Coyle from Woodstock Academy, along with her sister Julia, were set up in an adjoining room with gently used and new running shoes and cross



Interact members Calleigh Levesque and Billie Lewis man a table during the backpack distribution.

Courtesy

trainers that they have collected this past year to donate to people in need. Rocchetti thanked Ava Tucker, Shyla Beckett, Calleigh Levesque, Billie Lewis, Matthew Rybacki, Sam and Amelia Hachigian from Thompson and Elise Coyle and Julia from Woodstock and Paige Perry and Gabriell Cerasiello from Putnam. The Interact Club will be collecting new Halloween costumes at the Putnam YMCA from Aug. 18 through Oct. 7. TEEG will be having a costume distribution at its Fall Festival Oct. 13. The first Interact meeting for the school year will be at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 9 in the Putnam Public Library. Any student ages 12-18 from this region is welcome to join. For more information contact Roberta Rocchetti at 860-933-8603 or robertarocchetti4@gmail.com.

Award-winning author delivers haunting New England thriller in “Grabtown”

PUTNAM — When twin sisters return home to settle their mother's affairs, they discover a manuscript that could unlock a forty-year-old murder—or destroy their family forever. Award-winning author Sarah P. Blanchard's latest novel, “Grabtown,” weaves a gripping tale of secrets, loyalty, and the price of truth in small-town New England.

Set against the authentic backdrop of Winslow, a small mill town in northeastern Connecticut, “Grabtown” follows twins Cassie and Ana as they uncover a murder-mystery manuscript among their deceased mother's belongings. Written by their mother's longtime girlfriend AJ—a news reporter at the local radio station—the story begins in 1985 with the never-solved murder of a farmer near the abandoned village locals call Grabtown, and it features their mother as a key character. As Cassie digs deeper into the manuscript's origins, questioning whether it's fiction or confession, she finds a disturbing trail of abuse and unspoken crimes.

“An unsolved murder, bracketed by grief and abuse. Can there be justice, and what will it look like?” Blanchard asks in this masterful exploration of how the past refuses to stay buried.

When Cassie's husband demands she stop investigating, and a retired detective arrives with new questions about the old murder, the sisters realize someone believes the story is true—and will do anything to keep their secrets hidden.

Blanchard brings unique

authenticity to the story, drawing from her experience as a volunteer firefighter and radio news reporter. Her writing is informed by her deep understanding of small-town dynamics and the ways communities both protect and expose their own.

“Grabtown” marks another triumph for Blanchard, whose debut novel, “Drawn from Life,” won an 2025 Independent Press Award for New Adult Fiction and was shortlisted for a 2024 unpublished novel award by The Letter Review, among others. Her short fiction has earned recognition including the 1992 National League of American Pen Women's Dorothy Daniels Fiction Award, and finalist positions for the 2024 Porch Prize for Fiction and 2021 Doris Betts Short Fiction Award.

A novelist, short story writer, and poet living in Putnam, Connecticut, Blanchard taught English and communications at the University of Hawaii-Hilo and creative writing at the University of North Carolina-Asheville. She holds a B.A. in English from the University of Connecticut and an M.B.A. from Nichols College. Her previous works include “Drawn from Life” (2024, novel), “Playing Chess with Bulls” (2023, short

story anthology), and “river, horse, morning” (2024, poetry).

“Grabtown is a masterclass in slow-burning suspense, sisterhood, and buried secrets that refuse to stay silent,” raves Kathryn Dare of Seattle Book Review. “Blending emotional depth with chilling undertones, Sarah P. Blanchard weaves a gripping tale of grief, memory, and the haunting legacy of a town that was meant to be forgotten. Each page peels back layers of mystery with a visceral power that will leave readers breathless. This is a story that lingers long after the last line—beautiful, bold, and utterly unforgettable.”

Perfect for readers who enjoy high-stakes tales of sisterhood, strong women, and satisfying stories of justice and redemption, “Grabtown” delivers the authentic New England atmosphere and psychological depth that have become Blanchard's signature.

“Grabtown” will be released Oct. 15. The paperback edition is available to bookshops, libraries, and all online retail outlets through Ingram distribution beginning Oct. 1. It is also available immediately for e-book pre-orders from Amazon at <https://a.co/d/7LLAXpI>.

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New Al-Anon meeting in Pomfret

POMFRET — The recently formed Together We Can Do It Al-Anon Family Group is meeting at Christ Church in Pomfret (Route 169) on Tuesdays at noon. Enter the lower level through the door by the flagpole in the pollinator garden. This is an open meeting, meaning not only family and friends of people suffering from the effects of addiction are welcome, but also professionals who may have clients they would like to recommend attend the meetings.

Al-Anon is a worldwide program for people just like you, who are worried about someone with a drinking problem. This Pomfret group will also welcome folks concerned about someone suffering from drug addiction.

Utilizing the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous, the group will discuss the Steps, Concepts, and Traditions as well as offer support for your specific situation. No advice is given; understanding and support in a confidential setting are the largest benefits of membership in the group.

For more information about Al-Anon, visit www.al-anon.org. For information about the meeting in Pomfret, call 203-561-7954.

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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

So much more than fairs— Labor Day in the Quiet Corner

Labor Day weekend has long been seen as the unofficial end of summer, and in our little corner of Connecticut it carries a special weight. For many, it's the last chance to squeeze in a day trip, a cookout, or a lazy afternoon before routines return with the start of school and the shortening of days. Here in Connecticut's Quiet Corner, our communities know how to make the most of the season's closing chapter—without relying on the bustle of fairs.

This is a weekend tailor-made for exploring our region's outdoor beauty. Hikers can lace up their boots and head for the Nipmuck Trail or Bigelow Hollow State Park, where crisp mornings and the first hints of autumn colors make every step a reminder of why we cherish this corner of Connecticut. Cyclists and walkers will find the Airline Trail and the Quinebaug River Rail Trail perfect for soaking up nature at their own pace.

For those who prefer the water, our lakes and rivers offer peaceful escapes. Kayakers and canoeists can spend the long weekend gliding along the Quinebaug River, while families might opt for a picnic at Mashamoquet Brook State Park, where kids can climb Wolf Den rocks and everyone can cool off with one more swim.

The arts and history also shine this time of year. In Woodstock, Roseland Cottage invites visitors to step back into the 19th century with its striking Gothic Revival architecture and carefully preserved grounds.

And let's not forget the simple joys: live music on a town green, farmers' markets brimming with late-summer produce, or just an ice cream cone enjoyed under a fading August sky. Labor Day weekend in the Quiet Corner is not about rushing to crowded venues—it's about slowing down, reconnecting with neighbors, and remembering that the beauty of small-town life lies in the details.

As we say goodbye to summer, let's do it in true Quiet Corner fashion: with gratitude for our surroundings, pride in our traditions, and time well spent in the places that make this region feel like home.

Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author's name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A wonderful resource we're fortunate to have

To the Editor:
Last Thursday, I was riding my bicycle with the Connecticut Audubon Society's bike camp when my tire and tube blew out. I was anxious because I was scheduled to ride again the next day, and I wasn't sure what had caused both the tire and tube to blow much less if it could be repaired on very short notice.

I arrived at Cobble Classic Bicycle Shop in Putnam after 4 p.m. The staff was professional and friendly and had the bike fully repaired in less than an hour. We are very fortunate to have such a wonderful resource so close at hand.
Thank you,

JOHN FOLSOM
POMFRET CENTER

Why I'm running

To the Editor:
My name is Sara Garcia-Gomes, and I'm proud to announce that I am seeking re-election to the Pomfret Board of Education as an unaffiliated candidate.
When I first joined the board, I did so with one clear goal: to help ensure that every child in our district has access to a safe, supportive, and high-quality education. Over the past year, I've worked alongside a strong and dedicated team of board members, administrators, teachers, and parents. Together, we've made meaningful progress in key areas—promoting better communication from school leadership, strengthening behavioral expectations, and passing a responsible budget that directly supports students and staff.
Why am I running again? Because this work matters—and we're not done yet.
I believe in making thoughtful, informed

decisions that put students first. I believe in fiscal responsibility, ensuring that every tax dollar is used wisely and efficiently. And I believe that a Board of Education should be focused on education—not politics.
Children's needs aren't partisan, and neither is my commitment to them. That's why I've chosen to run unaffiliated. I want to continue advocating for what's right for kids, without political distractions or outside agendas.
I'm proud of what we've accomplished so far, but there's more to do. With your support this November, I hope to continue serving our community, listening to your voices, and helping our schools grow even stronger.
Thank you for the opportunity to serve.
SARA GARCIA-GOMES
POMFRET

Trumponomics preys on what you don't know

To the Editor:
In between getting lampooned as some kind of contrarian liberal edgelord, I sometimes get a chance to be the voice of reason who advocates for common sense. Let's just hope this is one of those times.
Trumpism is not that different than most nonsense I see from delusional social media influencers or celebrities where when you get rich enough or popular enough you can enforce your delusions via your army of followers. One of the key components of that is taking advantage of what MAGAs don't know or happen to forget about.
Protectionism and tariffs are a great example of that. Yet again, a tariff is a tax on imports. A tariff is a tax hike. Import tariffs in particular should ring a bell to us New Englanders because tea tariffs were a driving force behind the Boston Tea Party. People think I'm rage-baiting for saying this, but in our era the most protectionist country in the world is North Korea.
I'm not kidding or exaggerating when I call out North Korea for being protectionism on steroids. They are. They call it Juche, a local word meaning self-reliance, and reading the DPRK's propaganda about building their own stuff sounds very similar to America First and our supposed re-commitment to American manufacturing. North Korea is far from the only enemy of America to run their economy with a ton of politics muddying

everything though. We fought our revolution against the British Empire's mercantilism and fought World War II against the Axis powers whose Fascist economics subverted private enterprise under the heavy hand of the state.
Capitalism runs contrary to both. Let private individuals build up their businesses and let merit rule the day. What a concept, and what freedom to be able to build something up from scratch and be proud of your accomplishments.
Lastly, when the Trump administration brags about the rebirth of American manufacturing, see if they gloss over or try to avoid AI. AI has made plenty of progress. I don't think it's too far a leap for AI to be added to moving parts for industrial robots. China in particular is already experimenting with "dark factories" where there are so many robots they can just shut the lights off unless a person needs to go troubleshoot something.
Think what you want about "America Is Back!" I'd rather think of it as "America Is Skynet!" We may not have Terminators walking the streets, but the job market will definitely have more and more robots "proudly making things in America."
As always, stay suspicious, and always look for the strings at the MAGA puppet show.

JAY GERHART
PUTNAM

"Authoritarian" is too weak a word

the local authorities to control the situation. This is clearly not the case for what the tyrant is doing. His justification is clearly unfounded and illegal.
If hypocrisy were a crime, all these problems would go away. Tyrant, Vance, Kennedy, Miller and most of the GOP supporters would have been in jail long ago.
It's also amazing that tyrant recently said, "I'm a human being. I have feelings." Oh, please. The instigator of one inhumane action after another; the arrogant ignoring laws and the Constitution and the perverting of the judicial system is pleading for us to "understand" him? We might join this pity party if he ever exhibited the slightest compassion and desire to improve things instead of wholesale efforts to destroy everything.

STEPHEN ETZEL
PUTNAM

It's worse than we thought

wouldn't have to vote again? Occasionally, Trump lets the truth slip. Everything he's doing is following the authoritarian playbook that anyone can see if they just look.
Michael Flabonte's shocking letter in the Aug. 22 Villager illustrates either the ignorance or complicity that may further Trump's agenda. He said your readers should just shut up if they have criticisms of Trump. In other words, the First Amendment only applies to the beloved leader and his supporters. The law doesn't apply to Trump and those he likes and is a weapon against those he doesn't.
Sadly, we must battle Trump's authoritarianism at the same time that he aids Israel's starvation and slaughter of Palestinians, facilitates Putin's brutal war against Ukraine, kidnaps state legislators, builds a secret, masked police force, illegally enriches himself, destroys alliances crucial to US security and economic interests, pursues vendettas against his critics, and wastes billions of our money on gold paint, ballrooms and concentration camps. And all the while the convicted felon and sexual assaulter does nothing to relieve the enormous income inequality that has put the cost of housing, groceries and child care out of reach for millions. Is that what Mr. Flabonte wants?
BILLY G. TAYLOR
KILLINGLY

Summertime memories

The Brooklyn Fair is past and the Woodstock Fair is coming up. Anyone who has lived in our area for more than a year knows what that means: summer is over. There will be a few more hot days, perhaps even a week, but as the trees turn yellow and mums pop up at nurseries, there is no denying that summer of 2025 is effectively done. What do we recall about the past ninety days?



NANCY WEISS

Early one morning, as I was writing in my diary, I asked my husband how he remembers the time since Memorial Day. He looked up from reading the weekend WSJ and paused. He likes thinking about life and the passage of time is a frequent topic around our house. Time seems to move at warp speed and the end of summer has come far faster than it once did. Of course, that is foolish. Time moves at the same speed for everyone. It is just the perceptions that change, like the pockets of the rich, as Gertrude Stein allegedly said.

For our grandchildren, summer was a long stretch filled with days at various camps and endless hours of swimming, often in the pool that came with the house we bought ten years ago. Nothing makes me happier than hearing them splash into the water with screams of joy. This summer, three pups joined the families. One day, they leapt into the pool as well making us all laugh.

One grandson, who is six years old, is obsessed with fishing. His interest in bait, rods, fish traps and fishing spots has led me to places I never knew existed and reminded me of long ago days when my father took me fishing. Time slows down when waiting for a fish to bite. Standing by a murky pond, I can smell my father's cigarette once again and see the water sparkle on the blue gills my grandson catches. For a moment, many summers blend together.

This summer's assortment of wildflowers is among the best ever. Walking on the Airline Trail the array stops me in my tracks to scan my memory or the app on my phone to identify the colorful plants. I've memorized Patridge Pea, Boneset and Ironweed for the best splash of wild vigor. Japanese Knotweed threatens to finally topple the fading pink wall in front of a former ashram. The invasive plant is destroying a local landmark built by an heiress who allegedly said that she could not be served anything from her gardens with the slightest blemish – leading the servants to secretly carry home bruised strawberries for their children. Some stories seem right out of Dickens time.

Time moves so quickly as we grow older because much of what happens is familiar. Unless we pay attention to what is happening at a particular moment, it is all a blur. The sad pandemic years are hard to remember because nothing special occurred and that is all we wanted. Routine is comforting, but new experiences make the passing of time much more memorable. I suppose that is the joy of traveling or making new friends or catching a big fish.

As with many, I like the chill in the air and changing of the leaves. Apples are ripening and Lapsley's Orchard already has a few pumpkins. The sky will be filled with fireworks from the fair, which are a curtain call for the end of the season. I'll remember this summer as one of troubled feelings about big issues in our country and the world and small moments of splashes and the tug on a line.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Earth - Here Comes the sun! (part 1)

To the Editor:

The ancient Egyptians worshipped the sun, and called their sun god Ra. The Incas called theirs Inti. The ancient Greeks - Helios. The Navajos - Tsohanoai. Once upon a time, all humanity understood the source of the Earth's life energy was the sun. All they had to do was step out of the shade or look up in the sky. As we go deeper into the 21st century, some of our political leaders argue against the value of the sun and the enormous energy it provides. This foolish energy debate puts the U.S. out of step with the rest of the world.

Thirty years ago, solar energy was expensive compared to traditional power generation. But between 2009 and 2024 the cost of electricity from solar dropped 88 percent! Today, a kilowatt (kWh) of power is generated by solar far cheaper than nuclear, coal, oil and natural gas generation. That's why in 2025 more than \$2.2 trillion will be invested globally on clean energy, double that of fossil fuels. The energy race is over, and solar has won, by a mile.

Solar energy comes with many other benefits beyond cost. Solar arrays are quick and inexpensive to build, unlike the others, such as coal, where a 600-megawatt plant averages \$2 billion dollars to build. Solar is decentralized, and thus puts power in the hands of the individual and not the big corporation. Solar is more reliable and less vulnerable to terrorist attacks than huge centralized grids. Just ask the U.S. military which is rapidly building out solar on its bases worldwide. And of course, solar does not add pollution to our seas, groundwater, air and atmosphere, and thus, is vital to combating climate change. Older solar panels are now being recycled too and that industry will only expand. Those are powerful and compelling arguments for going solar, but there's one more - our sun will last another five billion years. All the other energy sources are shrinking pools destined to run dry on humanity. Yes, the energy race is over and done and the winner is a no-brainer. The numbers below tell the story.

Nuclear: According to a February 2025 article by the World Nuclear Industry Status Report, the cost of energy production by existing nuclear power facilities in 2023 averaged \$110/megawatt (MWh) Note, one MWh equals 1,000 KWh. The cost produced by solar in 2023 was half that price at \$55/MWh By 2050, nuclear power costs are projected to remain exactly the same (\$110/MWh). But the cost of solar power on the other hand, is projected to drop to \$35/MWh. Most other estimates project this number even lower. Winner: Solar!

Coal: A January 2023 article in the Guardian sums up the race with coal: "Coal in the US is now being economically outmatched by renewables to such an extent that it's more expensive for

99 percent of the country's coal-fired power plants to keep running than it is to build an entirely new solar or wind energy operation nearby." Today, it's safe to say that solar power's victory over coal is 100 percent. At a current cost of about 4.5 cents/KWh for solar and 12 cents/KWh for coal the winner is: Solar

Oil: Only about 0.5 percent of U.S. energy generation comes from oil. Oil usage is really about transportation, which comes down to a comparison of the efficiency of an electric vehicle (EV) versus an internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicle This comparison can be simplified into one metric - efficiency - and the results are overwhelming. According to Yale University's Climate Connection, EVs achieve an operation efficiency of 77 percent to 91 percent and ICE vehicles achieve an efficiency of 12 to 30 percent. Of course, we don't have extensive EV changing networks in the U.S. like we do gas stations. But there's a saying for this situation: "out with the old, in with the new" - let's build them and start living in the 21st century! Plus, you can charge your car with the solar system on your roof! As car batteries continuously become cheaper, more powerful and quicker to charge, our future will only get better and cheaper with EVs. Winner: solar!

Natural Gas: Like the other three old ways of making energy written about above, countless sources have their take on how natural gas compares with solar. According to the financial Advisement firm Lazards: "Solar and wind energy projects have a lower leveled cost of electricity (LCOE) than nearly all fossil fuel projects - even without subsidy." Per kilowatt, newly constructed solar is roughly 70 percent cheaper than newly constructed gas peaking plants and 20 percent cheaper than existing combined cycle gas plants. Winner: Solar

Solar energy clearly has arrived and is now the fastest growing source of energy on Earth. Every single day, China builds three gigawatts of new solar capacity, the equivalent of more than three coal power plants. Solar is rapidly spreading across Europe, Asia, Africa, South America and even the Middle East. More than 40 percent of homes in Australia have solar. The reasons for this rapid energy transition are numerous, but the easiest one to grasp is simply the fact that the new way of making energy is better than the old way!

In my next article (part 2) I'll write about an important event happening in hundreds of cities and towns across America on Sept. 21. The event called "Sun Day" celebrates the arrival of the clean energy revolution now spreading across the world. More information can be found at: sunday.earth.

KEN WOLSLEGEL
WOODSTOCK

Release the Epstein Files — and pass a real budget

To the Editor:

Congress skipped town early rather than face two things the American people deserve: a spending plan that works for us and the release of the Epstein files. The files have bipartisan support to be made public. A budget that puts the American people before politics? Not so much.

When lawmakers return in September, their chaos returns with them. They have until the 30th to pass a spending bill. If they fail, we'll see the same tired drama: a threat of a government shutdown that punishes ordinary Americans while politicians posture.

Shutdowns aren't abstract. They mean furloughed workers, delayed Social Security and veterans' benefits, shuttered national parks, longer TSA lines, and small-business loans on hold. Families waiting on checks and services don't get to treat it like a political game. For them, it's another blow in an economy already rattled by tariffs and uncertainty under the Trump/Vance administration.

Government shutdowns cost more than they save. Every time, Congress eventually votes to give federal workers retroactive pay, meaning billions of tax dollars go to waste while nothing changes. In the last 50 years, 21 shutdowns have left us with gridlock, not meaningful solutions.

This year's budget fight is particularly cynical. In July, Republicans, under pressure from President Trump, passed

a rescissions bill that clawed back \$9 billion Congress had already approved. The White House is pushing for another round. Democrats rightly don't trust a process where negotiated deals can be undone later. Even some Republicans privately admit rescissions undermine the Constitution's clear assignment of the "power of the purse" to Congress, not the White House. Yet the Republicans continue to cede power to Trump.

If lawmakers can't trust each other's agreements, how can the American people trust them to govern at all?

The solution isn't complicated: both parties need to come together and pass a responsible budget that serves the public, not billionaires and corporations. Americans are tired of manufactured crises that waste money and erode trust in government.

And while Congress is at it, they should release the Epstein files. The public deserves accountability on all fronts, from politicians who duck responsibility to powerful people who've evaded justice.

We can't shrug this off. Every call, every email to a representative is pressure they can't ignore. Tell them: enough chaos, enough games. Do your job. Fund the government. Release the files. We demand a government that works for us, not against us. Put the American people first!

LISA ARENDS
BROOKLYN

How to use business equity to build personal wealth



FINANCIAL
FOCUS
JIM ZAHANSKY
INVESTMENT
ADVISER

Running a successful business is an achievement worth celebrating. But your business success should fuel also your personal wealth, not just get reinvested back into operations. The challenge? Many business owners get so focused on growing their company that they miss strategic opportunities to build lasting personal wealth.

At WHZ, we've guided many business owners through this exact transition—helping them leverage their business assets to create a solid foundation for personal financial security that extends far beyond their company's walls.

How can a small business owner be successful? With a dual strategy.

Your business and personal finances aren't separate islands—they're interconnected systems that, when properly aligned, can accelerate your path to financial independence. Business owners who master this balance don't just build successful companies; they can build generational wealth. The key is understanding that your business equity isn't just a number on paper. It's a strategic tool that can fund your retirement, your children's education, real estate investments, and other wealth-building opportunities that don't depend solely on your business's ongoing performance.

How to pay yourself as a business owner? Strategic approaches to personal wealth building.

1. Optimize your business income structure: How you pay yourself matters more than you might think. We work with business owners to structure their compensation in tax-efficient ways that aim to maximize personal wealth accumulation. This might involve:
- Strategic salary vs. distribution decisions that optimize tax efficiency
- Deferred compensation arrangements that help spread income across multiple years
- Performance-based bonuses timed to align with personal investment opportunities
2. Leverage business equity strategically: Your business equity is likely your largest asset, but it shouldn't be your only asset. We help business owners think strategically about when and how to access this equity. It may be through partial business sales or equity stakes that provide immediate liquidity for personal investments; business lines of credit secured by equity for real estate or other investment opportunities; or strategic partnerships that provide capital while maintaining control. The goal isn't to strip value from your business, but to thoughtfully diversify your wealth base while your business continues to grow.
3. Create tax-advantaged personal investment vehicles: Business owners have unique opportunities to maximize tax-advantaged

savings that many employees simply don't have access to: SEP-IRAs and Solo 401(k)s with much higher contribution limits; defined benefit plans that can allow six-figure annual contributions for high-income business owners; and cash value life insurance strategies that provide tax-free growth and access to capital. These aren't just retirement accounts—they're wealth-building tools that can provide liquidity for future opportunities while reducing your current tax burden.

4. Real estate investment strategies: Many of our business owner clients find real estate to be an excellent complement to their business wealth. The steady cash flow and appreciation potential create a nice balance to the sometimes-volatile nature of business income. Some options include commercial real estate purchases (sometimes including their own business premises), rental property portfolios funded by business cash flow, and Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) for those who want exposure without direct management. The key is making sure these investments align with your overall financial plan and don't overextend your liquidity.
5. Plan for business succession early: This might be the most important wealth-building strategy of all. We regularly see business owners who wait too long to plan their exit strategy, leaving significant money on the table. Early succession planning allows you to gradually transition equity to family members or key employees with favorable tax treatment. It also allows you to structure installment sales that provide steady income streams in retirement, and optimize the timing of your business sale to align with personal financial needs.

Basically, early succession planning gives you options. It lets you step away on your terms, whether that means passing the business on, selling it, or creating income during retirement. Most importantly, it helps turn a major transition into a strategic move for your long-term financial future.

A holistic approach makes all the difference.

What sets successful business owners apart isn't just their business expertise—it's their ability to think holistically about how their business success translates into personal financial security. This means looking at your business not just as an income source, but as one component of a diversified wealth-building strategy. It means making decisions

today that will pay dividends decades from now. And it means having a team that understands both the business and personal sides of your financial picture.

Business owners who implement these strategies are likely to find themselves well-positioned to not just retire comfortably—but also with the freedom to pursue their passions, support causes they care about and leave meaningful legacies for their families.

Whether you're in the early growth stages and want to set up the right foundation, or you're an established business owner ready to diversify your wealth, the strategies exist to help you achieve your goals. Your business success has given you unique opportunities that most people simply don't have. The question isn't whether you can build significant personal wealth—it's whether you'll take advantage of the strategic opportunities in front of you.

Ready to explore how your business success can accelerate your personal wealth building? Schedule a complimentary discovery session with our team and discover we can help you create comprehensive strategies to align your business and personal financial goals. Call us at (860) 928-2341 or book online at whzwealth.com. Together, we can create a strategy designed to give you Absolute Confidence. Unwavering Partnership. For Life.

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kids' corner

Book  **FACT:**

In English-speaking countries, the works of this playwright are widely studied in school.

Answer: William Shakespeare

What's the Difference?

Find the four differences between the two pictures.

A

B

Answers: Guinea pig on rug 2. Missing shapes on book cover 3. Child standing in background 4. Missing stars on wall

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

AUG

26

1883:

The volcano Krakatoa, located on an island near Indonesia, erupts.

1920:

The 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution is certified, giving women the right to vote.

1972:

The Games of the XX Olympiad open in Munich.

NEW WORD

SYLLABUS

an outline of the subjects in a course of study

How they say that in...

English:

Locker

Spanish:

Taquilla

Italian:

Armadietto

French:

Casier

German:

Schließfach

Did You Know?

Harvard University and the College of William & Mary are the oldest colleges in the United States, opening in 1636 and 1693, respectively.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: School bus

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to the school year.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 6 = S)

A. 26 18 25 21 20 7 26

Clue: Teach

B. 11 26 6 6 14 4 6

Clue: Plans for teaching

C. 21 11 20 6 6 12 14 14 13

Clue: Where students gather

D. 6 16 11 11 20 23 25 6

Clue: Course outline

Answers: A. educate B. lessons C. classroom D. syllabus

SUDOKU

9				2	8	1		
		4			5			
	5	2	9	1				
	4				7			
2				9		7		1
7	6	5	1		2	4		9
						3		
		1		3	6	5	9	2
3		8		7	9			4

Level: Beginner

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

4	6	1	9	7	5	8	2	3
2	9	5	6	3	8	1	7	4
8	7	3	4	1	2	6	9	5
9	3	4	2	8	1	5	6	7
1	4	9	3	6	5	7	2	8
6	8	4	7	5	1	9	3	2
7	2	8	6	3	4	9	5	1
5	1	6	9	2	7	3	8	4
3	8	2	5	9	6	7	4	1

ANSWER:



Anthony Edley was one of many musical artists that shared their talents with the Brooklyn Fair through-out the weekend on several stages.



A horse carriage allowed for a unique view of the fair as guests could join for the ride through-out the weekend.



A line of steers prepares to pull a carriage through the grounds, drawing a large crowd in the process.



The annual lawnmower races were a crowd fa-vorite as competitors took to the dirt track racing for glory and bragging rights.



It wouldn't be a fair without some small-town con-tests like art, vegetable growing and more. All these displays were shown off inside one of Brooklyn's many barns.



One of the coolest elements of the Brooklyn Fair is its annual showcase of classic machines, such as this rock grinder, showing the simple effectivness of technology of old.



Rude Dog Boxing showcased a demonstration on the Brooklyn Fair Main Stage.



Ekonk Hill Farm brought along several friends to meet and greet fairgoers including their Mammoth Donkeys who are often a popular draw.

Brooklyn Fair



Young sheep showers test their skills in compe-tition.



The performers of Aim High Canines meet and greet spectators after one of their many shows during Brooklyn Fair weekend.



Heidi Jo's Beef Jerky is always a popular stop as one of many vendors in the Better Living building at the fair.



Cows take a breather during a warm day in the Brooklyn Fair Ground's animal barn.

Killingly's Kaliedoscope

It's a Bald Eagle! Saturday, Sept. 6, 1-2:30 p.m., Putnam Public Library, 200 School St. Join Ginny Apple, a Master Wildlife conservationist with the State Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, who will present a slide show and talk about the bald eagle and its resurging population in Connecticut. Open to the public.

Author Talk & Book Signing sponsored by Putnam Public Library & the Aspinock Historical Society. Wednesday, Sept. 10, 6-7:30 p.m. Author Karen Warfield and "the Emancipation of Hannah Faythe Winslow: A Woman's Journey

in Colonial America. Historical fiction about the fate of a 12 year old orphaned girl in Connecticut after the Pequot-Mohegan War of 1637.

Author Talk and Book Signing sponsored by Putnam Public Library and the Aspinock Historical Society. Wednesday, Sept. 17, 6-7:30 p.m. Major General Israel Putnam, Hero of the Revolution by Robert Ernest Hubbard. Putnam Public Library, 200 School St.

Since I'm preparing a historical sketch for Killingly's new town manager, I thought I'd also refresh your memories (or maybe provide you

with a few new tidbits that you hadn't considered). I like to think of Killingly's history as Killingly's Kaliedoscope, with its many changing faces combining the old and the new. As in every community, natural resources and transportation networks were key ingredients which fostered settlement. Ancient Indigenous Peoples utilized the food resources of the Quinebaug River, making camps on its banks south of present-day Danielson. In more recent times it is known that the Narragansetts and Nipmucks also visited the banks of the Quinebaug to fish, and land in present-day South Killingly was owned by the Mohegans prior to the arrival of white settlers. (See Ellen D. Larned's "History of Windham County, CT, Vo. I," Book I).

For most of the 18th century, Killingly extended from Plainfield on the south to the Massachusetts border of the north. The Quinebaug was its western boundary; Rhode Island, its eastern boundary. State boundaries fluctuated for a number of years creating difficulties too numerous for this column (see Larned, op. cit.)

Killingly's first white settlers, Richard Evans, Sr. and Jr., arrived in 1693 and settled in what is now Putnam in the vicinity of Fox Road and Route 44. It is likely that a path to Providence went through their property. Peter Aspinwall from Woodstock (then in Massachusetts) began laying out a road from that town to Providence through present-day Killingly in 1691 and moved to the eastern side of the Quinebaug in the early 1700's. James Danielson of Block Island had seen the fertile Quinebaug valley during King Phillip's War and in 1707 purchased a 2000-acre tract of land, in present-day Danielson and Killingly between the Quinebaug and Five Mile Rivers. It extended to present-day Alexander's Lake. Additional families arrived in the early



KILLINGLY
AT 300
.....
MARGARET
WEAVER

1700's, and the town was incorporated in 1708. A large tract of land in present-day Danielson and South Killingly had previously been deeded by the Mohegan Owaneco to men from Plainfield. It, too, was incorporated into Killingly with its earliest inhabitants John Hutchins and family and Jacob and wife Hannah Spaulding arriving from Plainfield about 1720 and 1721. (Larned, op. cit., p. 143).

Early Native American paths were slowly widened into rude roads, suitable for carts and horses. Green Hollow Road-Broad Street and parts of Route 101 (the road from Hartford to Providence) are still in use today. Aspinwall's path to Providence wound around the base of Killingly Hill (now Putnam Heights), crossed the Five Mile River around present-day Ballouville/Pineville and continued to what is East Killingly. Following the incorporation of the towns, settlers first gravitated to land not far from these and other established paths.

During the 1700's, the Congregational Church played a significant role in any town in Connecticut including its government. I consider the meetinghouses in the town the focal points during most of the 1700's. Killingly's first church was gathered in 1715, and its meetinghouse was located a little south of the present Killingly-Putnam town line on Route 21 (Thompson Pike) on the easterly side, north of Aspinwall's path to Providence. By 1730, the population in the northern part of town had increased enough that a second church society, called Thompson, was established. In fact, the church was so significant in the make-up of a Connecticut town throughout this colo-

rial period schools and militia were organized by each church society, not the town. The 1740's brought the need for a new meetinghouse in the original society and gave rise to much controversy as to its location (which had to be approved by the Connecticut Assembly). By 1745, Killingly had been divided into three church societies, North (Thompson), Middle (First, on Killingly Hill-Putnam Heights), South (on Breakneck Hill). The Baptist religion was gaining strength particularly in the eastern part of town. Congregational Separatists also worshipped in South Killingly. It was in the later 1740's, after these meetinghouse sites were determined, that the small villages such as South Killingly and Killingly Hill (now Putnam Heights) began to arise. In addition, the second generation of settlers had now reached adulthood and had acquired farms.

A number of men from the town participated in the French and Indian Wars, going to Lake George in New York. Some never returned. The early 1750's was a time of great sickness as was the 1773 time period. In the latter case, smallpox was prevalent in the Boston area and may have been one of the causes of so many deaths in Killingly.

The available waterpower of the Quinebaug and Five Mile Rivers and Whetstone Brook gave rise to a number of grist and sawmill sites during the 18th century. Some sites such as the ones at present-day Danielson, Elmvile, East Killingly (Chestnut Hill), and Daniels Village would be utilized by the infant textile industry in the following century. By 1760 William Danielson, later a colonel during the Revolution, had established an iron works in the vicinity of where

George's Galley is now located at the junction of Water Street and Route 12 in present-day Danielson. I wonder how many items it produced to aid in the Patriot cause 250 years ago?

During the 1760's discontent with the Mother Country began to surface, especially in Eastern Connecticut towns, Killingly included. The 1770's brought outright rebellious acts such as the Boston Tea Party. Many people in this area had close relatives in the Boston area. Militia companies in Killingly trained with greater zeal, and on Killingly Hill a large training field was acquired for the use of the troops. Today it remains as the Putnam Heights common (Route 21, near the meetinghouse). When conflict actually arose 146 men from Killingly answered what became known as the Lexington Alarm. Others may have joined troops from neighboring towns such as Plainfield and even Rhode Island. (If you think you have a Patriot, check multiple sources and ask the local DAR to assist you). Although Connecticut ceased to be a Colony and became a State after the Declaration of Independence, it was not until the end of the War and the 1780's that significant political (and boundary) changes came about. One era was ending and another was beginning. Killingly's Kaleidoscope was turning. What happened next will be covered in the next column.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, August 2025. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical Center at 196 Main St., Danielson, Wednesday or Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook www.facebook.com/killinglyhistorical-society.

Trinity Episcopal Church hosting Fall Festival

BROOKLYN — Trinity Episcopal Church will hold a Fall Festival on the church grounds on Oct. 11 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Church is located at 7 Providence Rd., at the intersection of Routes 6 and 169. They are currently looking for vendors to set up a table and sell crafts, food, etc. Table rental is \$30, or \$25 if you bring your own table. Reservations would be appreciated by September 12.

For more information, email: sheiladms@icloud.com.

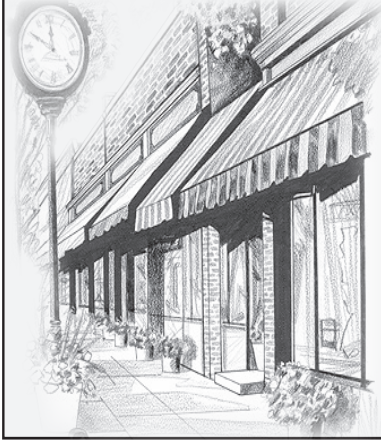
The church Web site is: <http://www.trinityepiscopal-churchbrooklyn.org>.

Trinity services are held Sundays at 10 a.m., and are available online at <http://www.facebook.com/trinity-churchbrooklyn>.

Thompson resident awarded prestigious scholarship

DUDLEY, Mass. — Alivia Dalpe of Thompson, a senior at Nichols College, was nominated by Nichols to receive the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) scholarship for the 2025-26 academic year.

The PCAOB chooses a certain number of colleges throughout the country to consider each year, and selects only one student to receive the scholarship.



Community Connection

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Grow a bee-friendly lawn

Boost the bee and pollinator appeal of your lawn by incorporating microclover, self-heal, creeping thyme, crocus, grape hyacinths and other bee-friendly flowering plants in your lawn. You'll create and enjoy a carpet of green with splashes of color and one that requires less ongoing maintenance. The pollinators will benefit from the nutritious sources of nectar and pollen your bee lawn provides.

Flowering bee lawns include traditional lawn grasses combined with other hardy grasses, like fine fescues as well as warm season centipede grass. Kentucky bluegrass and Bermuda grass also combine well with bee-friendly plants but require more ongoing care than fescues and centipede grass. You'll be creating a more diverse lawn that not only appeals to bees but also is more resilient to pests and environmental stressors than traditional lawn grasses. Consult your local university extension service for help in selecting the best lawn grasses and bee-friendly plants.

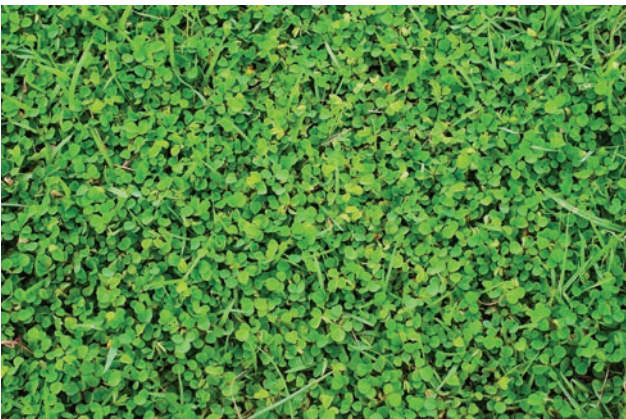
Like any new addition to the landscape or garden, it does require some effort. But once established, you'll be spending less time with ongoing care like watering, mowing and fertilization.

Start by evaluating your current lawn situation. If grass is growing well in the area, so will a bee lawn. This is not an all or nothing endeavor and like any new undertaking, starting small is always a good strategy.

Consider converting just lesser-used spaces. This allows bees and butterflies to forage in peace. And even though native bees are docile and typically don't sting, neither the kids nor bees want to share the same space.

Keep your neighbors in mind when selecting a space for your bee lawn. Those neighbors with pristine lawns may be less tolerant of your bee lawn. Selecting areas surrounded by walks and drives will also help keep aggressive plants inbound.

Consider starting your bee lawn by overseeding the white microclover into your existing lawn. Clover is adaptable, tolerates foot traffic and drought, and blooms for a long period, providing bees with high-sugar-content nectar and protein-rich pollen. Microclover can also be combined with other bee-friendly plants. You can seed these at the same time or add them later as you expand



Courtesy — Outsidepride

Boost the bee and pollinator appeal of your lawn by incorporating a microclover, like this Miniclover, found to attract and support a diverse group of native bees.

your bee lawn.

Sow microclover seed in late winter, early spring, or late summer in the south and early spring or late summer in the north. Outsidepride's Miniclover® with Nitro-Coat (outsidepride.com) aids in establishment and allows you to use no-till, minimum-till, and broadcast seeding techniques. Even though it is not native, research found clover attracts and supports a diverse group of native bees.

Once your bee lawn is established, mow high, at least three inches, so the flowering plants can bloom and support the bees and other visiting pollinators. Leave the grass clippings on the lawn. This is a good practice for both traditional and bee lawns. Short clippings break down quickly, adding moisture and nutrients back to the soil. Once established, you'll only need to water during extended dry periods, and seldom if any, fertilization. Skip the pesticides that can harm the pollinators you are trying to attract.

Increase your landscape's pollinator appeal further by growing more bee- and pollinator-friendly plants in your gardens. Helping these important members of our community is good for the environment and all of us.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Outsidepride for her expertise to write this article. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.



GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

Friends!

You can have the strongest mindset in the world, but hang out with the wrong people, and that mindset will begin to sink like an anchor.

I remember my parents drawing strict lines around who I could hang with—and it infuriated me. They were my friends, after all. But as I've grown, I've realized my parents understood something my youthful optimism didn't: the attitudes, habits, and moods of others seep into your life—unnoticed, until they've stuck.

I was a sneaky teenager, a little rebellious, always finding ways to hang out with my friends despite my parents' disapproval. Over time, I started to notice something strange—my thoughts, my behavior, even the way I talked started to sound less like me and more like them. Deep down, I knew something was off, because the way I was thinking didn't line up with how my parents raised me—it was more like I had borrowed my friend's mind without realizing it.

My dad took me to see the famous motivational speaker Jim Rohn one time, and I heard Mr. Rohn say, "You are the average of the five people you spend the most time with." At the time, it sounded like one of those catchy quotes you jot down and forget. But as the years have gone on, I've realized it was more than a nice line—it was a scientific truth.

Ever hear of mirror neurons? These are neurons in your brain that fire when you see someone else act or feel something. In a way, your brain

POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

TOBY
MOORE

copies them without asking permission. Studies show that if your friends are negative, lazy, or full of doubt, your brain begins to mirror that state. Your focus drops, your motivation decreases, and slowly, their reality becomes your reality. You begin to think and act like them.

And it doesn't stop with your closest circle. Researchers at MIT ran a study on the "hidden influence of social networks." They found that our moods, choices, and even levels of ambition ripple out three degrees. That means your friend's friend's friend—someone you've never even met—can still be shaping your outlook.

It's called emotional contagion. Emotions spread through groups like the flu. If your circle is pessimistic, it spreads. If they're optimistic, that spreads too.

There's also something called the Default Mode Network, or DMN, in your brain. Think of it as your mental autopilot—the backdrop of your identity, self-image, and the story you tell yourself about who you are. Neuroscience shows your DMN is highly malleable. Spend too much time around people who doubt themselves, and you'll doubt yourself too.

But here's the flip side. Mirroring isn't destiny. Just as negativity rubs off on you, so does passion. Hang around people who are building, creating, chasing their vision, and your brain taps into that energy too. Watch someone take bold risks, and your own neural circuits for courage light up. Inspiration isn't magic—it's your brain being

reshaped by the people around you.

That's why Warren Buffett once said, "It's better to hang out with people better than you. Pick out associates whose behavior is better than yours and you'll drift in that direction."

And it echoes an even older truth, passed down in different forms for centuries: "Show me your friends, and I'll show you your future."

Curate your circle like it's an investment in your future. Spend time with people who believe bigger, live with more discipline, and push themselves further—not because they're flashy, but because their habits rub off on you. Their standards become your standards. Your brain literally rewires itself to match the company you keep.

So before you beat yourself up for not living up to your full potential, pause and look around. Who are you spending most of your time with? Their doubts—or their dreams—are setting the boundaries for what you believe is possible.

If your people are impatient dreamers, grounded believers, creative disruptors—keep them close. If they're dragging you into doubt, laziness, or "good enough" thinking, let them go—gently, but firmly.

Your brain is wiring itself every single day. Intentionally choose people who light sparks—not just for your mood, but for your mind, your vision, and your future.

Toby Moore is a columnist, the star of Emmy - Nominated A Separate Peace, and the CEO of Cubestream Inc.

Summer antiquing



We are nearing the end of the summer, but there are still plenty of opportunities to do some antique hunting before the cold weather sets in.

September is a good time to take in the Brimfield Antique Flea Market. The last of three Brimfield shows takes place Sept. 2 through Sept. 7. The flea market itself is nearing antique status. The first show took place in 1959, over 65 years ago. Here are some insider tips if you plan to attend. Serious bidders get there early. A lot of the best finds are found when the dealers first start putting out their wares. Be ready for any kind of New England weather. It can be incredibly hot and dry one day. The next day there may be torrential rain, and the fields could be flooded. I've been there overnight in the fall and there was frost on the ground during the night. Be ready for lots of walking and say hydrated. The food court and several other places offer you a nice play for a midday break after all the walking.

Marriers-Palmer Antique Flea Market runs prior to Brimfield during all three sessions. Their last session runs from Aug. 28 to Sept. 1. I've seen Brimfield dealers set up there prior to Brimfield and dealers and buyers hunting for items prior to Brimfield. The Web site for Elephant's Trunk in New Milford, Conn. says that it's the largest weekly flea market in New England. They are open every Sunday from April to December. The gates open for dealers at 4:15 a.m. Early buyers can enter from 5:30 to 6:45 a.m. for a \$20 entry fee. General admission from 7 a.m. on is \$7. Elephant's Trunk claims to have a different mix of vendors

every week.

The Mansfield Flea Market at the Mansfield Drive-Inn in Connecticut is listed as Eastern Connecticut's largest flea market. Their website lists antiques and new and used items among the offerings. Admission is \$3 per car and runs on Sundays from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm.

The Grafton Flea Market's website says that it's been in business for over 40 years. It's located in Grafton, Mass. and runs from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. It also has a mix of antiques, new, and used items.

The Rietta Flea Market in Hubbardston, Mass. opens for vendors at 5 a.m., and is open to buyers at 6:30 a.m. on Sundays. Their Web site describes it as "one of the largest and most popular outdoor and indoor flea markets in the Northeastern United States."

Todd Farm Flea Market in Rowley, Mass. has an antiques focus. The flea market is open to customers on Sundays from 5 a.m. to 2 p.m. from April to November. I have yet to attend but many reviews mention their food offerings of coffee, scones, donuts, and burgers. So, even if you don't find the antiques you wanted, you won't go away hungry.

Our online auction of the Harlansburg Transportation Museum in Pennsylvania is running and ends on Sept. 9. We continue to work on the Laurel and Hardy memorabilia auction and Civil War memorabilia auction. We are accepting quality consignments for other upcoming auctions. Please visit our Web site, <https://centralmassauctions.com>, for links to upcoming events.

Contact us to consign items or for auction information at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique, Collectibles Auctions and Appraisal Services info@centralmassauctions.com or (508-612-6111).

Vu Bui completes intensive research project

WORCESTER, Mass. —VuBui, fromThompson, Connecticut, a member of the class of 2027 majoring in Data Science at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), was a member of a student team that recently completed a professional-level research-driven project titled "Optimizing Post-Disaster Logistics in Istanbul."

Known as the Interactive Qualifying Project (IQP), this project is a core part of the innovative undergraduate experience at WPI. Centered around project-based learning, this hands-on approach offers students opportunities to help develop thoughtful solutions to open-ended problems. These real-world problems affect the quality of life for people in the communities where students work, giving students a chance to make a difference in the world before they graduate. All WPI undergraduates are required to complete an IQP, usually in their junior year, through which they apply science and technology to address an important societal need or issue. About two-thirds of WPI students complete their IQP at one of the university's

more than 50 off-campus project centers located in more than 30 countries around the world.

"The WPI project-based curriculum's focus on global studies brings students out of the classroom and their comfort zones and into the global community to apply their knowledge and to solve problems," said Professor Kent Rissmiller, professor of International & Global Studies and associate dean of The Global School. "Students are immersed in all aspects of a different culture-from the way people live and work to the values they hold to the foods they eat, all valuable perspectives for surviving and thriving in today's global marketplace. They also learn the meaning and magic of teamwork; make a real and meaningful difference in their host community; and gain a competitive edge for any resume, or graduate or professional school application."

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute

WPI is a top-tier STEM-focused research university and a recognized pioneer and global leader in project-based learning. 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, WPI's continued mission is to transform lives, turn knowledge into action to confront global challenges, and revolutionize STEM through distinctive and inclusive education, projects, and research. WPI's 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. Today WPI offers more than 70 bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. To help address ongoing challenges, improve lives, and help create a more sustainable world, WPI faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research in such areas as the life sciences, smart technologies, materials and manufacturing, and global initiatives.

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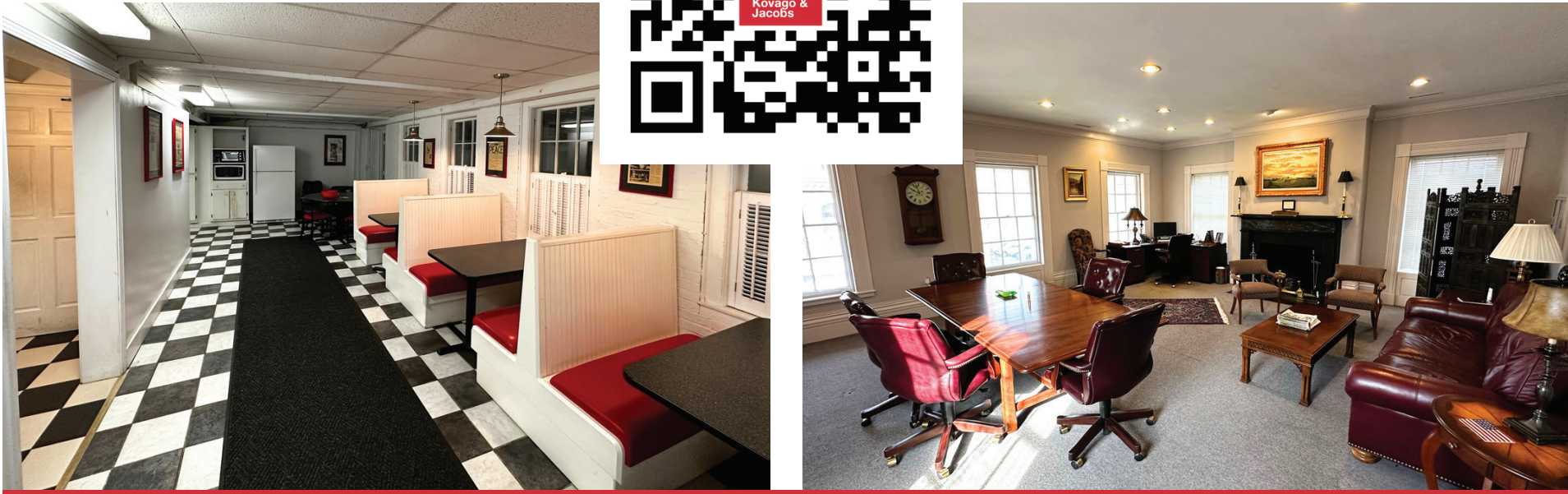
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FOR SALE



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



- Listing price: \$550,000
- Building size: 9,536 SF
- Lot size: 13,939 SF
- Loading docks: (1) tailgate height
- Basement: partial | Unfinished



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Principal

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Vice President

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BUDGETS

continued from page A1

ing. The referendum that followed approved the general government plan by a slim margin of only 27 votes, but the education plan failed by an even thinner margin of 17 votes. Killingly's voting process seeks voter input when they select "no" on their ballot, and the results indicated the budget number was too high. The \$23.6 million general government plan that passed was actually a decrease while the initial proposal of \$49 million for education would have been a 3.49 percent increase.

However, it only took one more referendum to confirm the budget. The \$1.1 million added during the annual town meeting was cut bringing the spending plan to \$47.9 million, low enough to earn the voter's support by a 598 to 404 vote margin and securing a budget before the July 1 deadline.

WOODSTOCK

Woodstock just barely made the deadline for its new spending plan, approving the budgets on July 1 after being forced to make cuts following voters' rejection of the initial funding proposals.

The first referendum in May saw a 589 to 564 decision send the proposed \$30.4 million spending plan back to the Board of Finance who immediately cut the plan down to \$30.3 million. A second referendum in June had a larger turnout but the same result as the proposal failed 824 to 784.

After additional cuts that trimmed the plan down to \$30.1 million, the third referendum finally earned enough votes, 1,024 "yes" to 822 "no," to secure the budget, and just in time as the final vote took place on the first day of the new fiscal

year. The new spending plan is an increase of \$145,733 over the previous budget with increases to both general government and education spending.

PUTNAM

Putnam does not normally hold a referendum on its budget. They settle the matter at town meeting and in May the new spending plans both earned support from the majority.

The general government budget was confirmed in a 70 to 50 vote. This portion of the spending plan totals \$9.7 million, an increase of a little more than 2 percent. The education budget saw an even wider margin of victory, 77 to 34, although it saw a larger increase of 5.62 percent, resulting in a figure of \$22.1 million for the new year.

POMFRET

Pomfret also decides its budget through an annual town meeting and, like Putnam, had little trouble securing the numbers to confirm a new spending plan.

Separate articles addressed the general government budget of \$3.4 million and the education spending plan of \$11.7 million, both earning overwhelming support. The general government numbers got a larger majority with 210 "yes" votes to 72 "no." The education budget still earned a respectable margin with 190 voting in favor and 92 against. The spending plans represent a 1.61 percent increase to general government spending and a 3.27 percent increase to education, respectively.

BROOKLYN

Brooklyn had a relatively quiet budget season, passing both spend-

ing plan proposals well before the new fiscal year started. Voters had their say on the plans during a referendum in May.

The general government figure came in at \$6.8 million, a 2.24 percent increase over the FY 2025 plan, and was supported by 430 voters while 325 voted against the plan. The education budget was a much larger percentage increase but earned even more voter support. The \$23.8 million plan was a 5.96 percent jump with 454 voting "yes" and 307 "no" effectively securing a new budget for Brooklyn with little drama or significant public debate.

EASTFORD

Finally, Eastford also had a relatively simple budget season. Like Putnam and Pomfret, their spending plan was decided at an annual town meeting. Both the general government and education spending plans were approved in June.

The general government budget now sits at more than \$2 million which is a rather large increase comparative to other communities. While Eastford has a much smaller government budget than other area towns due to its size, the increase relative to the Fiscal Year 2025 budget was more than 10 percent, the largest single increase purely in terms of percentage year-over-year of any spending plan in the Quiet Corner. Even then, that represents only \$208,571 added to the budget.

This is also the only circumstance in the region this year where the education increase was smaller than the general government increase in terms of percentage. Eastford's new education budget is \$4.7 million, an increase of just under 4 percent.

OBITUARIES

Charles Stephen "Charlie" Bowen, 58

Charles Stephen "Charlie" Bowen, 58, of Eastford, Connecticut, passed away on August 15, 2025, in Eastford. He is remembered by his wife, Pathumma; his sons, Benjamin and Michael; and his granddaughter, Nala. He also leaves behind his siblings: Pamela Desaulnier, Christopher D. Bowen, and Richard O.

Bowen.

A graveside service will be held on September 3, 2025, at 11 am Eastford Grove Cemetery.

May his memory bring comfort to those who knew him.

Hope Fitz 1934 - 2025



Woodstock, CT - Hope Fitz, 91, beloved mother, friend and professor, passed away on August 9, 2025.

Hope was born in California, where she lived, earned her Ph.D in Asian and Comparative Philosophy and taught philosophy, until she moved to CT in 1988 to embark on her journey to ultimately become Professor Emerita of Comparative Philosophy at ECSU, published author of two books and numerous articles in scholarly journals and

an international speaker.

Her family, beloved dog, friends, neighbors, students, writing and her work as the Director of the Peace and Human Rights Committee at ECSU are what brought her the most joy.

Hope leaves two daughters, two sons, 7 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren and her most cherished Great Pyrenees.

According to Dr. Hope Fitz, her greatest legacy was all those (students, readers, etc.) for whom she was privileged to enlighten and share her vast knowledge, wisdom, kindness, courage, humor and often ultimately engaged in spirited scholarly discussions.

We all lost a brilliant, spirited, hard-working, funny and absolutely unique individual, who left an indelible imprint on everyone she met, whether in person or through her life's work. She will be sorely missed, as she embarks on her next transcendental adventure.

Hope would have been ecstatic to know that in lieu of flowers, a gift to Paws Cat Shelter Inc. would mean extra care, food and treats for unloved cats in her community. Paws is a 5013c, Woodstock cats.org.

There are no calling hours. Funeral services and burial are private. Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home and Cremation, 48 School St., Webster, is directing he arrangements.

Send all obituary notices to
Stonebridge Press, PO Box 90,
Southbridge, MA 01550, or by e-mail
to obits@stonebridgepress.news



Paws holding can and bottle drive

PUTNAM — Paws Cat Shelter is holding a Can and Bottle Drive on Saturday, Sept. 6 from noon to 3 p.m. at the shelter, located at 74 School St. in Putnam. Please separate two-liter bottles. Pet food and donations are always welcome and greatly appreciated.

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

Quiet Corner Al-Anon group meets Wednesdays

WOODSTOCK — An open Al-Anon meeting meets at the East Woodstock Congregational Church every Wednesday from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

The Quiet Corner Al-Anon Family Group is open to anyone affected by alcoholism, family or friend. Any enquiries can be directed to 860-634-3271.

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LEGALS

**TOWN OF KILLINGLY
BOROUGH OF DANIELSON
SOUTH KILLINGLY FIRE DISTRICT
TAX AND SEWER USE NOTICE**

The first quarter installment of real estate and personal property taxes for the Town of Killingly, the Borough of Danielson, and South Killingly Fire District listed on the October 1, 2024 Grand List are due August 1, 2025. Also motor vehicle taxes are due August 1, 2025. Taxes will become delinquent after September 2, 2025. All bills are subject to interest at the rate of 18% per annum, 1.5% per month or any fraction of a month, from the due date of August 1, 2025. A minimum of \$2.00 interest will be charged for each delinquent bill and installment. FAILURE TO RECEIVE A BILL DOES NOT RELIEVE OR EXCUSE THE OBLIGATION OF TAX OR INTEREST DUE PER STATE STATUTE 12-130. Payments will be received in the

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

Please visit our website for full details and online payments at www.killingly.org.

April Lamothe, CCMC
Revenue Collector
Town of Killingly
July 25, 2025
August 8, 2025
August 29, 2025

**TOWN OF KILLINGLY
METERED USE
LEGAL NOTICE**

Payments will be received in the Revenue Office, 172 Main Street Killingly CT 06239, as follows: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8-4:30pm, Tuesday 8-5:30pm, and Friday 8-11:30am. By mail, online, or in our

drop box.

The first installment of metered use is due September 1, 2025. If payment is not received on or before October 1, 2025 the installment becomes delinquent and subject to interest at the rate of 18% per annum, 1.5% per month, or any fraction of a month, from the due date. A minimum of \$2.00 interest will be charged for each delinquent tax bill and installment. Please visit our website for full details and online payments www.killingly.org.

April Lamothe, CCMC
Revenue Collector
Town of Killingly
August 29, 2025
September 5, 2025
September 26, 2025

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF KILLINGLY
BOARD OF ASSESSMENT
APPEALS**

The Board of Assessment Appeals of the Town of Killingly will be in session at the Killingly Town Hall, Room 102, 172 Main St., Danielson, CT, on the following day:

Tuesday, September 9, 2025,
at 5:30 PM

For the purpose of hearing appeals for the October 1, 2024, motor vehicle assessments only.

Appeal forms are available in the Killingly Assessor's Office or at www.killingly.org/assessor under Forms and Applications.

Dale Dauphinais
Kevin Gaudreau
Russell Lavigne
Board of Assessment Appeals
August 29, 2025



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²Plan 4521. Subject to credit approval. Rates range from 14.26% - 21.19% APR (interest rates range from 15.99% - 24.99%). Loan amount and rate will vary based on your income and creditworthiness. Monthly payments are not required during the Promo Period. Loans for the GreenSky® consumer loan program are provided by Synovus Bank, Member FDIC, NMLS #408043, without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability, or familial status. GreenSky Servicing, LLC services the loans on behalf of your lender, NMLS #1416362. www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org. GreenSky® is a registered trademark of GreenSky, LLC and is licensed to banks and other financial institutions for their use in connection with that consumer loan program. GreenSky Servicing, LLC is a financial technology company that manages the GreenSky® consumer loan program by providing origination and servicing support to banks and other financial institutions that make or hold program loans. GreenSky, LLC and GreenSky Servicing, LLC are not lenders. All credit decisions and loan terms are determined by program lenders.