



*Too early for Christmas,  
too late for tan.*



# KILLINGLY VILLAGER

©2025, Issue #43

Serving Killingly since 2006

Friday, October 24, 2025

Complimentary to homes by request

## Quiet Corner preps for Election Day

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

REGION — Election Day is upon us as towns prepare to select new leadership in biennial municipal elections. For some towns the contests will see both new and old candidates seeking seats on finance, education, and selectmen boards but others have much simpler Election Days with fewer contested races. At least one town will see a complete change of its highest elected board. Here is a roundup of all the candidates and seats on the ballot for each town in Northeastern Connecticut.

Sample ballots and voting information is available through each community's respective Town Clerk office.

### BROOKLYN

Brooklyn will see a three-way battle for the Board of Selectmen as the Republican and Democratic endorsed candidates are joined by a pair of petitioning candidates on the ballot.

Current Republican First Selectman Austin Tanner is seeking re-election with a new name as his running mate. Kayla Burgess, currently a member of the Board of Education and running for re-election to that seat as well, looks to make the jump to the town's highest elected board. The pair are challenged by the Democratic slate of Joe Bellevance, the chair of Brooklyn's Economic Development Committee, and Army veteran Sherri Vogt. Adding some extra drama to the race is a third slate of unaffiliated petitioning candidates, Michael Rekola for First Selectman and incumbent selectman Joe Voccio. This makes Brooklyn's selectman race the most competitive in the region.

The rest of the races are just between the two-party slates. The Board of Finance sees incumbent Rick Ives joined by Robert Smanik on the Democratic ticket and incumbent Sandy Brodeur is joined by David Fuss on the Republican ticket. For Board of Education incumbent Democrat Melissa Perkin-Banas stands alone on her party's ticket with three Republican challengers for only three available seats. Kayla Burgess is joined by fellow incumbent Justin Phaiah are Dann Stuyinski on the GOP ticket.

Rounding out Brooklyn's ballot is the Board of Assessment Appeals and Town Clerk, both of which should be relatively simple races. Incumbent Democrat Susan Wastrom and Incumbent Republicans Joanne Eiler and Justin Phaiah are all back on the ballot unchallenged for their seats. Kate Bisson has been cross endorsed by both parties for Town Clerk.

### EASTFORD

Eastford's election season looked relatively quiet early on after the two parties submitted their nominations, but a petitioning candidate has effectively created a contest for First Selectman.

While Deborah Richards was cross endorsed for reelection to the First Selectman seat, unaffiliated petitioning candidate Michael Schultz has created a contest as a challenger for the town's highest elected position. He has no running mate while Democrat Ashlyn Ellsworth and Republican Paul Torcellini, who are each running for reelection, are back on the ballot for another potential term.

The Library Directors feature four candidates, Republicans Armen Beermann, Seth Budd, and Mary Degostin, along with Democrat Meghan Matinez. The Constable race sees two Republicans, Nathaniel Fabian and Christopher Bowen, and two Democrats, Arvind Shaw and Randal Chinnock. Elsewhere the races are uncontested with Johanna Wolfe cross endorsed for Town Clerk, Christine Hustus cross endorsed for Tax Collector, and Republican Martha Burgess as the only candidates for Town Treasurer. Democrats Nancy Neff and Michael Bilica and Republicans Lauren Barlow and Stephen Bowen round out the ticket for Board of Education.

### KILLINGLY

In Killingly, Republicans hope to maintain their majority on the Town Council while the Democrats seek to cling to their numbers advantage on the Board of Education. Both races feature a mix of new and returning candidates for the available seats.

Four candidates from each party are seeking election to the Town Council with four available at-large seats, three of which are currently represented by Republicans and the fourth currently vacant. Current Council Chair Jason Anderson and incumbent member Michelle Murphy are joined by Jonathan Cesolini and Brian Briere on

Turn To **ELECTION** page **A11**

## Celebrating community and conservation at WLT's Third Annual Ride for Open Space



WOODSTOCK — On Oct. 5, the Wyndham Land Trust held its 3rd Annual Ride for Open Space fundraiser at our Cabbage Hill Preserve in Woodstock. It was a beautiful day filled with sunshine and community spirit. Riders enjoyed more than nine miles of scenic trails winding through Nightingale

Forest, a network that connects conserved lands and private properties.

We're deeply grateful to the generous landowners who opened their fields and trails for this event, allowing us to showcase the beauty of our shared landscape. This year's ride was our largest yet — and extra special as

we celebrated WLT's 50th anniversary!

Our dedicated committee — Sue Jackson (Co-Chair), Penny Foisey (Co-Chair), Penny Gladstone-Kaiser (Marketing), and Nina Kneeland (Fundraising) — worked

tirelessly to make it a memorable day for all.

We extend heartfelt thanks to our community sponsors whose support makes these events possible:

Turn To **OPEN SPACE** page **A10**

## Killingly negotiating with Frito Lay to ease impact on wastewater system

BY JASON BLEAU  
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The Killingly Town Council received a brief but significant update on Oct. 14 regarding the sewer mortarium and wastewater plant upgrade showing progress towards an eventual resolution to ongoing capacity issues even if the final is still potentially years away.

Town Manager Brian Palaia explained that the town has engaged in discussions with Frito Lay who have been brought to the center of the debate due to their significant use of the system. Looking ahead towards a larger resolution, Killingly also received the grant contract for wastewater planning work from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), which will help towards the design of a plant expansion to increase capacity.

Killingly continues to work under a moratorium preventing any new connections to its sewer system after they reached capacity last year. This limit has also impacted neighboring Brooklyn who is under a preexisting agreement with Killingly for hookups to the system. Both towns have acknowledged the situation has stalled economic

growth.

Over the course of the year, one major contributor to the system has come under special scrutiny — Frito Lay, which has led Killingly officials to engage in negotiations to reduce flow from the plant. In his report to the Council, Palaia confirmed those discussions are underway but far from concluded. Still, it seems the company has expressed a willingness to negotiate an interim agreement. The Killingly Water Pollution Control Authority was set to engage in a closed-door meeting with Frito Lay representatives on Oct. 15.

As for the wastewater plant upgrade itself, the town previously earmarked \$2 million for design and continues to pursue federal funding to help with the project. Palaia revealed that Killingly received a grant contract from CT DEEP for a matching grant for planning work which will help with some of the design phase. However, considering how processes are normally handled by DEEP and how carefully they examine funded projects, it could take at least a year for the actual grant to be turned over to Killingly.

"Broadly speaking, it's design, but it's really more

Turn To **FRITO LAY** page **A10**

## Ferncroft Wildlife Rescue brings possum program to Pomfret



POMFRET — While we're asleep, opossums are awake, exploring and searching for food. Learn all about these often misunderstood creatures of the night when Woodstock's Ferncroft Wildlife Rescue educational ambassador opossums return to the Connecticut Audubon Society's Center at Pomfret on Sunday, Oct. 26, at 1 p.m. Registration is recommended to ensure your seats for this very popular program. Adult admission is \$5 for CAS members; \$10 for non-members; free for children age ten and younger. Register online or call the Center at 860-928-4948. Center hours are Tuesday through Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.

Before meeting the ambassadors, you will learn from Pam and Bill Lefferts, Ferncroft's owners, about the natural history of opossums, which are not native to New England. With hairless ears, feet, and tails, they often suffer from debilitating frostbite. Hypothermia and starvation are also major problems. Learn how to support them (they still need to forage) in the coming winter, much as we do birds at our feeders, many of which have also expanded their ranges northward into the state.

Ferncroft's opossums are non-releasable and could not survive in the wild.

Pam explains, "Our primary goals are to rescue, rehabilitate, and release. Certain conditions, however, such as

Turn To **POSSUM** page **A10**





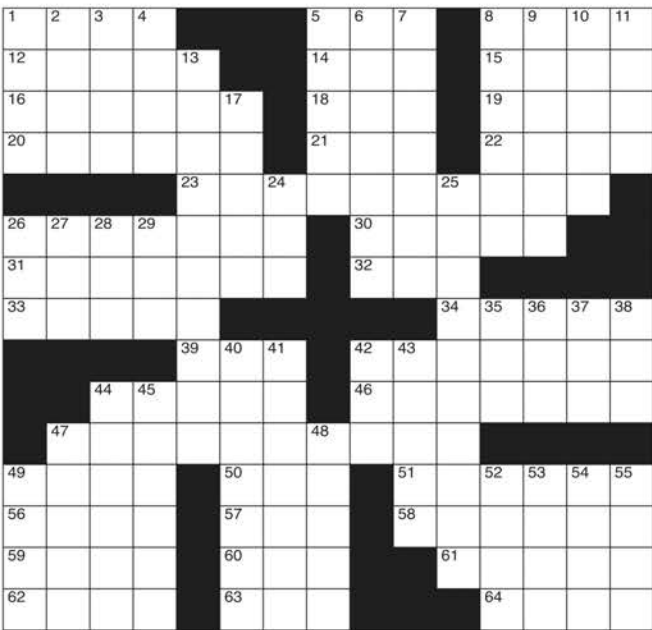
Courtesy

Recently, the Putnam Commission on Aging hosted local experts Mike Bogdanski and Linda Garcia for a self-defense program for seniors. The program, titled “Escape to Gain Safety,” guided participants through drills designed to enhance awareness, de-escalation, assertiveness, safe boundaries, and techniques to facilitate escape. Pictured here is one of the seniors breaking a board. A follow-up session is planned for the future.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Remark

5. Upper body part

8. Expression of dismissiveness

12. Alternate name

14. Popular beverage

15. Swiss river

16. Step-shaped recess

18. Rocker Stewart

19. Bright shade of color

20. Popular “street”

21. Wrath

22. Heat units

23. Nocturnal omnivorous mammals

26. Fall back into

30. Remove from the record

31. Sound a splash made

32. Popular Dodge pickup model

33. Jamaican river
34. Notable event in Texas history

39. Cool!

42. Subset of Judaism

44. Newly entered cadet

46. Duct in urinary system

47. Exterminator

49. Snatch quickly

50. Have already done

51. Less healthy

56. Therefore

57. What couples say on the altar

58. Mysteriously

59. Look angry or sullen

60. Bird’s beak

61. Taco ingredient

62. Square measures

63. Google certification (abbr.)

64. Singer Hansard

CLUES DOWN

1. Pubs

2. Wings

3. Popular BBQ dish

4. Small sponge cake

5. Open-roofed entrance halls

6. Organize anew

7. Type of wine

8. Forums

9. North Atlantic islands (alt. sp.)

10. Pond dwellers

11. Large integers

13. Signaled

17. Brief

24. Type of student

25. Tibetan monasteries

26. Revolutions per minute

27. NY Giants great Manning

28. Local area network
29. Residue from burning

35. Illuminated

36. Vasopressin

37. Notable space station

38. Wood sorrel

40. Adhering to laws

41. Chose

42. Hovel

43. Stood up

44. European city

45. Works ceaselessly

47. Mistake

48. Sun-dried brick

49. Sicilian city

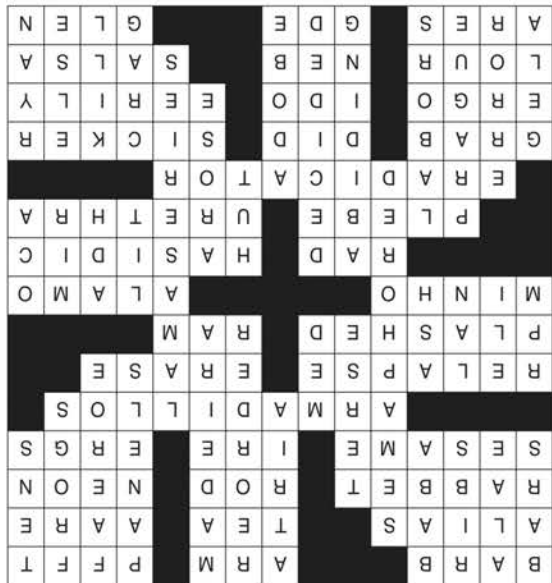
52. A steep rugged rock or cliff

53. Murder

54. Other

55. “Deadpool” actor Reynolds

PUZZLE SOLUTION



Alpine Elevator, Inc. begins operations, bringing transparent service to Northeastern CT and beyond



Courtesy

Matt Cote, founder and owner of Alpine Elevator, Inc., stands with one of the company’s service vehicles.

EASTFORD — Alpine Elevator, Inc., a new full-service elevator contractor specializing in service, maintenance, modernization, and installations, is officially serving commercial and residential properties throughout Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

The company was founded by Matt Cote, who brings nearly a decade of elevator industry expertise and a strong commitment to transparency, personal service, and freedom of choice to his clients.

“After close to 10 years of working in the industry for a major elevator corporation, I recognized a critical gap in the elevator service industry,” Cote said. “I saw a need for personal, transparent service. Building owners deserve better than impersonal call centers, restrictive contracts, and proprietary systems that lock them into single vendors.”

Alpine Elevator differentiates itself through several key commitments:

- Non-proprietary equipment and systems that give owners the freedom to choose their service provider without vendor lock-in
- 90-day, no-questions-asked contract cancellation that demonstrates confidence in service quality

Direct, responsive communication with a promise to always pick up the phone

• Transparent reporting and pricing with no hidden fees or complex service agreements

• 24/7 emergency service with local technicians who respond quickly

• «Back to Base» program focusing on cost-effective equipment reconditioning to extend system life

• Proactive inspections to ensure ongoing compliance with state regulations

Alpine Elevator serves building owners, property managers, municipalities, schools, healthcare facilities, businesses, and homeowners. As a union signatory company, Alpine Elevator is licensed in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont. The company’s strategic location in Eastford, Connecticut is approximately 40 minutes from both Worcester and Hartford, positioning it to serve a wide geographic area with fast, local response times.

For more information

about Alpine Elevator’s services or to schedule a free consultation, visit [AlpineElevator.com](http://AlpineElevator.com) or call 877-ALP-ELEV (877-257-3538).

About Alpine Elevator, Inc.

Alpine Elevator, Inc. is a locally owned Connecticut startup providing full-service elevator solutions including maintenance, modernization, installations, and 24/7 emergency service. Founded on principles of honesty, integrity, transparency, and client freedom of choice, Alpine Elevator specializes in non-proprietary systems that give building owners control and flexibility. The company serves commercial and residential properties across Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont with personalized attention. Learn more at [AlpineElevator.com](http://AlpineElevator.com).

COMMUNITY  
CALENDAR OF  
EVENTS  
OCTOBER  
24–31

When pumpkins grin by candle’s gleam,  
And flannel rules the autumn scene,  
The Quiet Corner hums with cheer—  
Come see what’s brewing far and near!

Friday, Oct. 24  
At The Complex in Putnam, it’s Fright Night Fun, A costume dance for everyone—Doors swing wide at seven sharp, \$10 per ticket—bring your heart!

Saturday, Oct. 25  
In Woodstock, pumpkins meet their fate, At the Roseland Park Regatta of Late! A pumpkin race on the pond at noon, With cider music under the moon.

Meanwhile, Brooklyn’s Harvest Market Fair Brims with produce, crafts, and flair. From 9 to 3 on Town Green lawn, It’s fall’s finale before it’s gone.

Sunday, Oct. 26  
At Pomfret Audubon—birders unite! A guided hike in morning light. Meet at 9 a.m., dress for chill, They’ll trek the trails near Trail Wood Hill.

Monday, Oct. 27  
Eastford’s Library Book Club meets—With tales and tea and comfy seats. Starts 6 p.m., no fee to pay, New readers always welcome, stay!

Tuesday, Oct. 28  
The Thompson Historical Society hosts, “A Look at Railroads, Ghosts, and Posts.” 7 p.m. at the Town Hall room, For history buffs, a perfect tune.

Wednesday, Oct. 29  
Killingly Seniors share their craft—At noon they’ll lunch, then share a laugh. Senior Center, Broad Street lane, Bring yarn, your wit, and a bright refrain!

Thursday, Oct. 30  
Putnam’s Main Street Trick-or-Treat—From 5 to 7, candy sweet. Shops will glow with lights and song, While families stroll the streets along.

Friday, Oct. 31 — Halloween!  
Across the hills the jack-o’-lanterns burn, As witches fly and goblins churn. Keep porch lights bright for ghosts to call, And Happy Haunting to one and all!

VILLAGER ALMANAC

AT CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of Oct. 13: Blue-headed Vireo, Pine Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Palm Warbler, Lincoln’s Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Phoebe, Bald Eagle, Eastern Screech Owl, Barred Owl, Flicker, Hermit Thrush

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PUBLISHED BY STONEBRIDGE PRESS

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The Killingly Villager (USPS 025-004) is published weekly by Stonebridge Press, 10A Beeches Ln, Woodstock Ct 06281. Periodical postage paid at Putnam, CT and additional mailing office(s). POSTMASTER: send address changes to Villager Newspapers c/o Stonebridge Press, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550



# Mark the location of late emerging perennials



Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) has red, orange, or yellow flowers and can be late to emerge in spring.

## Paws Cat Shelter to hold can and bottle drive

PUTNAM — Paws Cat Shelter is holding a Can and Bottle Drive on Saturday, Nov. 1 from noon to 3 p.m. at the shelter located at 74 School St. in Putnam. Please separate 2-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.

help guide your cleanup efforts next spring. These late emerging perennials may have you worried they died overwinter. Linger winter weather and cooler than normal spring temperatures can further delay their appearance. Be patient and know this adaptation allows them to avoid damage from late spring frosts as they wait for the soil to warm and begin growing.

Hardy hibiscus, balloon flower (*Platycodon*), leadwort (*Ceratostigma*), *Crocsmia*, Red-hot poker (*Kniphofia*), whirling butterflies (*Gaura lindheimeri*), Butterfly bush (*Buddleia*), Russian sage (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*), and blue spirea (*Caryopteris x clandonensis*) are a few you may have growing in your garden. Many native plants like butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia*), Culver’s root (*Veronicastrum*), Indian pink (*Spigelia marilandica*), Joe-pye weed (*Eutrochium* spp. formerly *Eupatorium*), asters, liatris, and goldenrods can also be late to emerge. It’s easy to accidentally weed these out during spring clean-up.

These plants are worth the wait since they add extra color to our mid and late season gardens. They extend the beauty, pollinator appeal and food source for many insects, and songbirds visiting your gardens.

Try leaving the stems or a portion of the stems of these plants intact until the new growth emerges. Unfortunately, many of us have accidentally removed these, too.

Plant tags will identify the plant and mark their location but can be unsightly. Try placing a colorful dowel rod, golf tee or short bamboo stake at the base of these plants. Number each and mark them on your garden plans to help track the plant’s identity.

Stones or shells, where they are abundant, can be placed next to or surrounding these plants to mark the location. These tend to stay put and may be less obtrusive than plant tags. Just be sure to alert anyone helping in the garden of their purpose and that they need to stay put.

Or mark their spot with bulbs. Plant spring flowering bulbs like daffodils, hyacinths and alliums next to these plants to extend your garden’s bloom time and help prevent damage to the perennial plants.

Avoid tulips, crocus and other bulbs that animals love. Squirrels, chipmunks, rabbits and deer may move or eat your marker.

Consider using a mix of early, mid and late spring flowering bulbs to further extend the color in your garden. Or skirt these late emerging plants with early spring blooming perennials like woodland and creeping phlox, candytuft or rockcress. You’ll enjoy the added color as you wait for the other plants to make their appearance later in the spring.

When spring arrives, exercise patience as you wait for the return of beautiful, late emerging perennials.

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” streaming courses and the nationally syndicated Melinda’s Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and her Web site is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).



GARDEN MOMENTS  
.....  
MELINDA MYERS

**Daughters Of Isabella Annual Yuletide Festival, Craft Fair And Bake Sale**  
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WHZ,  
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**FRANK G. CHILINSKI**  
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

**BRENDAN BERUBE**  
EDITOR

# Autumn’s quiet work

The last rush of color along Route 169 tells the same story every year—Connecticut’s Quiet Corner slowing down to listen. The fairs are folding up their tents, the corn mazes are thinning out, and neighbors are turning their thoughts toward woodpiles, winter coats, and election ballots. October, in its hush, is a time for gratitude that hums beneath the day’s work.

In towns like Thompson, Putnam, Woodstock, Pomfret, and Killingly, the rhythm of the season is measured not by headlines but by habits—stacking wood, patching barns, voting on budgets, and looking in on older neighbors as the days shorten. These small acts are the glue that holds a rural community together. They rarely make the front page, but they make all the difference.

Autumn is also when local boards and committees do their quiet labor—the unglamorous but essential business of reviewing zoning rules, budgeting for the year ahead, and maintaining the buildings and roads we take for granted. It’s easy to overlook those evening meetings in the fire-house hall, but they’re where most of our towns’ progress happens.

This year, as political noise elsewhere grows louder, it’s worth noting that the best kind of leadership often comes without spectacle. It looks like a volunteer reviewing grant paperwork for a school HVAC upgrade, a librarian setting out craft tables for kids, or a selectman hauling chairs before a public meeting. The work is quiet, persistent, and uncelebrated—and it’s the truest form of service there is.

Before the first frost, take a walk through your town center. Notice the lights on at the library, the smell of coffee from the diner, the yellow bus parked for the weekend. Every one of those small scenes represents care—somebody showing up, keeping faith with their neighbors. That’s the real story of October in northeastern Connecticut.

### Letter submission policy

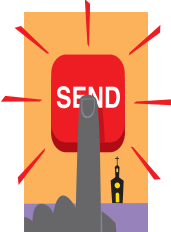
Letters to the Editor must include the author’s name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author’s name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will 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.

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# OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Brooklyn residents, your voice matters

To the Editor:

Our municipal government has the greatest impact on our daily lives. This November, you have an opportunity to affect your daily life.

As a candidate for first selectman, I have spoken with hundreds of town residents, and here’s what I know to be true - we all want similar things, a commitment to open spaces, public safety services when we need them and great schools for our children. It’s the same thing others want. Brooklyn has received over 30 new single-family housing permits this year. Why did our property taxes go up significantly? It’s a simple law of supply and demand. When supply is low, and demand is high, prices go up. This is why I am running for first selectmen. It’s time for a serious conversation about our community vision and creating a strategic plan for achieving it.

We live in a complex world. I have seen this complexity up close serving on several town commissions. Here’s what my experience has taught me - good ideas and community care is not a one-party idea. I have worked closely with committed colleagues from both parties on complex issues. And here’s one - the Route 6 corridor. It goes squarely thru our small town, connecting Providence to Hartford. This makes Brooklyn different from Putnam and Pomfret (towns residents compare us with frequently). This fact is our reality, but it’s also what makes us unique and offers an opportunity.

Every business vacancy on Route 6 is lost revenue. We need a serious effort to support our small businesses along Route 6. Every dollar they generate is one less dollar we need to generate in property tax revenue. When our small businesses thrive so does our community. And containing it to the Route 6 corridor will preserve our open lands.

We have a special community but it’s going to take difficult conversations, strong community involvement, and participation to maintain it. I believe it’s time for new energy to tackle the difficult challenges ahead. We won’t all agree on everything, but let’s start the conversation. Early voting begins Oct. 20, and Election Day is Nov. 4. I also encourage every citizen to come to two important meetings prior to the election: The Town Governance Committee is hosting a public meeting on Oct. 20 at the Brooklyn Middle School at 7 p.m. to share its recommendations for hiring a new town administrator. And on Oct. 28, our Economic Development Commission will also be at Brooklyn Middle School beginning at 6:30 p.m. to hear recommendations for making our community more economically viable for our small businesses. I am proud to have served on both committees and look forward to community feedback. So please make your voice heard. Then let’s roll up our sleeves, have some tough conversations and plan the future we all seek.

JOE BELLAVANCE  
BROOKLYN

### Help me shape a thriving Thompson

To the Editor:

For 25 years, Thompson has been my home, and my heart is deeply invested in its future. As a proud husband to Heather (born and raised here in Thompson) and father of Jackson and Gabby, I live each day committed to building a strong, vibrant community for our children and for every family in town.

Our family is closely tied to Thompson’s schools. Jackson is a graduate of Tourtellotte Memorial High School and now attends UConn, while Gabby is currently a sophomore at Tourtellotte. Like so many parents, I want to ensure Thompson continues to be a place where families thrive and where our children have every opportunity to succeed.

In my professional life, I serve as President and an Owner of W.T. Rich Company, a firm renowned for delivering excellence in new construction, historic restoration, and complex municipal projects. Over my 25-plus-year career, I have led many significant and complex projects, with our company averaging over \$270 million in annual revenue. I am proud to work alongside 125 dedicated professionals who share my values of integrity, quality, and accountability.

Here in Thompson, I’ve had the privilege of serving on the Planning & Zoning Commission for the past six years, contributing to the policies and decisions that shape our town’s growth. I also proudly serve on the Building Committee and have been directly involved in projects such as the new school track, Town Salt Building, school upgrades, the 65 Main Street renovation, and library roof & boiler improvements.

I believe in hard work, transparency, and clear communication. When someone, whether a resident, business owner, or visitor walks in the door, they deserve respect, full explanations, and earnest dialogue. I am committed to doing the research, listening to feedback, and being accountable for my decisions.

If you share my vision — one of smart growth, preservation of our rural and historic character, and inclusion in planning decisions — I would be honored to have your support. Together, we can continue shaping a Thompson that thrives for generations to come.

Thank you.  
Brian Santos  
Thompson

### My goal is to build a prosperous Thompson

To the Editor:

I am pleased to share that I am running for a seat on the Planning and Zoning Commission in Thompson. I have been a resident of Thompson for 30 years, and have been an active community volunteer for the past 15 years. Professionally, I spent 33 years with Charter Communications/Spectrum, retiring as Director of Engineering for New England and New York. I grew up in Webster and graduated from Bartlett High School. Over the past 25 years, my wife Karen and I have raised our family in East Thompson. Two of our children are graduates and one is currently a student in the Thompson Public School system. When our children were younger, we were involved with Cub Scout and Boy Scout Troop 66, for which I served as treasurer for five years. I have volunteered for the Superintendent of Schools search committee, volunteered with the construction of the TEEG building, and currently serve on the Thompson Building Committee.

Since June 2019, I have been an active participant in a majority of the monthly and special sub-committee meetings. My fellow Commissioners showed their confidence in me when I was elected Secretary of the Commission in 2023.

It is my goal to continue working with residents, developers, and town staff to help build a prosperous Thompson that has strategic direction for the future. It is the responsibility of each Commission and Board to work together to continue to build on the progress each has made. Thompson has key districts where growth and development are appropriate and desirable; but our community also needs to take special care of our open spaces and natural resources, which we all treasure.

During my six years with the Planning & Zoning Commission, I have made a point of soliciting discussion and feedback from my colleagues and from fellow residents. I take great pride in being an active part of the team that updated the Zoning Regulations and the Subdivision Regulations. I admire and applaud the commitment made by my fellow Commissioners to review comments and suggestions regarding the Zoning Regulations every year, to ensure they are always responsive to the needs of the community.

Looking forward, my goal is to continue to serve the Town as an honest and fair Commissioner who is true to the Town of Thompson and all its residents. Planning and Zoning must always find the balance between property owners’ rights and the welfare of our community. There are times where the two can collide, but through thoughtful deliberation, that balance can be maintained, to the benefit of all.

I ask you to consider casting your vote for me in November.

DAVE POPLAWSKI  
THOMPSON

### Vote Republican to keep Putnam moving toward the future

To the Editor:

For almost ten years now, Putnam has experienced significant improvements across the board in all our infrastructure. Whether it was the sorely needed new town hall, the new library and historical center, repaved roads or new sidewalks, the Republican leadership in town made it all happen after years, even decades, of neglect.

Yes, it has come with a cost, but all things in life do. The trick is to prioritize what is needed the most and start there, and only spending what is actually needed. This is precisely what the Republican majority in Putnam has done since they were originally voted in eight years ago, and as a very fiscally conservative individual, I was happy to vote for them while I was a Putnam resident and eager to endorse them now as just a taxpayer in Putnam.

Please vote for the entire Republican ticket so Putnam can continue to boldly move into the future...all the while respecting and protecting our rich history.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and may God Bless America.

DOUGLAS CUTTER, JR.  
KILLINGLY

### Our communities are fired up

Based on merely my own impressions, there have rarely, if ever, been more political signs in our region than for the upcoming local races. Regardless of the town, there are bright square placards everywhere. Some emblazoned with smiling photos of the candidates, always with the position they are seeking and rarely any indication of party affiliation. Most are red and white, red, white and blue with a flag motif, blue and white, or close-ups of the candidates faces. A few urge voters to support a party.

On one hand, the proliferation of placards may point to the polarization of our country, but I prefer to see it as an indication that individuals, for whatever reasons, are fired up about politics and are willing, even passionate, about seeking political positions in area towns. The old phrase – “all politics is local”, often associated with former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representative, Tip O’Neill, but according to Wikipedia not originated by him, referred to the concept of constituent service. If a politician wants to be elected they promise they will to make life better for their constituents. In local races schools, pot holes, trash handling, veterans, old people and, the real biggie – taxes are what matters.

Our local races are often about the biggest cost towns face which is education. The older the population the less voters want to spend educating children, but the actual or perceived quality of the public school systems has a profound impact on the value of the real estate in the community, even as fewer buyers have school aged children. Boards of Finance are pivotal to the future of any town and the members need to understand a plethora of complex regulations while dancing on the tight rope of local revenue streams.

As with every major question in life, the issues are complicated. They can’t be solved with simple answers and that is where the really hard work of serving in town positions comes in, but, people step up and serve, some for decades. Most meetings are in the evening and many last for hours. Most are unpaid. All place residents face-to-face in stuffy rooms to hash out the best plans. Emotions can be heated and despite all the hard work required to come up with a plan, people who have spent little time thinking about the issue can trash it.

Nonetheless, people are running for office. Look at the signs and marvel at the familiar names and the new ones that have appeared. The recent death of Pomfret resident and retired judge, John Boland, referenced in his well-written obituary his devotion to public service. He served on a number of town boards, regional and cultural heritage and health organizations and enjoyed talking about politics and area issues with an analytical view and a sense of humor. He knew the tedium and the sense of accomplishment that comes when people work together to move our hometowns forward.

There is an added element to our local races. The national scene and the enormous changes and stalemates happening every day make issues on a town basis more partisan than in the past. Politics is hot and exciting. Our region is brimming with letters to the Editor, call ins to the radio station and people confident that they know the truth. This passion may have motivated them to run. The winners will take their places around tables in our town halls and, one hopes, practice again the historic process of managing our area towns and preserving the integrity of processes developed 250 years ago by locals much like us.



NANCY WEISS



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Less chaos, more Killingly

To the Editor:

I’ve had the honor of serving on the Killingly Board of Education for the past two years. During that time, I’ve learned a lot and witnessed the growth we can achieve by working together. We’ve seen higher staff retention, improved test scores, and better student attendance. Additionally, the mental health clinic has not only been implemented but expanded due to the needs in our schools.

One of my goals moving forward is to increase public understanding of the school budget, which is complex and layered. I’m committed to continuing efforts to improve both student and staff satisfaction and morale. There’s still more to do, and I would be grateful for the opportunity to remain part of the ongoing progress in our district—where great things happen.

Susan Lannon’s leadership has brought positive changes. We’re seeing more calm, constructive conversations take place. Buzz Nelson has been a fantastic addition to the board, offering both knowledge and a thoughtful approach. I’m also excited to see what Kyle Provencher will bring with his fresh perspective and experience.

Together, we believe the Board of Education should rise above politics and focus on what truly matters: working collaboratively for the benefit of our students, staff, and the entire Killingly community.

Please come out on Nov. 4 to support Susan, Buzz, Kyle, and myself as we continue working for the success of Killingly Public Schools. Less chaos, more Killingly.

MISTY MURDOCK  
KILLINGLY

Woodstock needs Dave Fortin

To the Editor:

The Town of Woodstock faces difficult economic times. A grand list which shows little movement, costs of services increasing, and the safeguards of Prop 46 are gone. Now more than ever, we need the long time public servant, Dave Fortin.

I had previously served on the Board of Finance, and have witnessed Dave’s efforts studying, and analyzing our town finances. Through his 10 years of service to the board, he possesses the skills required to understand budgeting

and spending issues. He utilizes analytical thinking, asks well thought out questions, and arrives at sound financial conclusions. He’s never afraid to ask difficult questions to clarify a situation. He is a leader on the board for several years and has served our town well.

Please join me in voting for the person who is dedicated to always weigh the town’s needs to the best interests of the town’s citizens and taxpayers, Dave Fortin.

BARRY SHEAD  
WOODSTOCK

John Lenkky has been a humble, hardworking servant to Thompson

To the Editor:

Over my many years of serving the Town of Thompson as a Building Official, a Zoning Officer, and a Commissioner on Thompson’s Planning and Zoning Commission, I have come to know John B. Lenkky quite well. He has exhibited exemplary knowledge in various fields, including but not limited to waste management. His years of experience running a family-owned waste management company have provided him with critical insight into the construction parameters and technical guidelines necessary to navigate the control of waste disposal properly. John also has 40-plus years of experience working as a commercial project crane operator. When it comes to construction, John’s hands-on-experience working on projects throughout New England and beyond is second to none.

In recent years, John has served as Vice Chairman on the P&Z Commission. When the Chairman as been absent, John has

assumed that seat. He has exhibited a firm technical understanding of local zoning laws and regulations. His leadership is grounded by experience; his grasp of Connecticut General Statutes is admirable. He will be the first to tell you that his mission is to serve the residents of Thompson, not to “police” them. His respect for what the people wants for their town, including privacy and maintaining the history of rural agriculture within our borders, is what makes him tick.

John is now running for a third six-year term on the Planning and Zoning Commission in Thompson. John is a humble, hard-working, knowledgeable servant. I highly recommend that you vote for him in the upcoming municipal election.

Sincerely,

ALVAN R. HILL  
THOMPSON

Together, we can ensure that our children succeed

To the Editor:

My name is Shawn Brodeur, and I’m excited to officially announce my candidacy for a seat on the Woodstock Board of Education.

As a lifelong resident of this region and a parent who deeply values the role of public education in shaping strong communities, I am passionate about supporting our schools in a meaningful way. I bring a unique perspective to the table—one that is grounded in hands-on experience managing the very buildings, systems, and environments where our children learn every day.

For the past four years, I have served as a Director of Facilities and Security for a public education service agency, where I have overseen everything from capital improvement projects and long-term maintenance planning to school safety protocols and emergency preparedness. I understand how the condition of our

facilities directly impacts student learning, staff morale, and community trust.

Running for the Board of Education is not about politics for me—it’s about partnership. I believe in collaboration, transparency, and practical problem-solving. If elected, I will work to ensure our students have access to safe, healthy, and inspiring learning environments, while also being a responsible steward of taxpayer resources.

I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming months, listening to your concerns, and sharing more about my vision for supporting our schools. Together, we can ensure that every child in our district has the opportunity to succeed.

Thank you for your time, your trust, and your support.

Warm regards,

SHAWN BRODEUR  
WOODSTOCK

An open letter to Woodstock residents

To the Editor:

I hope you will join me in supporting and voting for our outstanding candidates for the Board of Finance.

Dave Fortin has served on the Board since 2014, and brings a deep understanding of both the Town and Board of Education budgets. With more than two decades of service on various boards and commissions, Dave has demonstrated unwavering dedication to Woodstock. He takes great pride in our community and continues to serve with integrity and commitment.

Phil Parizeau, now completing his first term on the Board, is a successful business owner with a Bachelor’s degree in Accounting and Business Administration. His professional background and practical experience make him a valuable voice for fiscal responsibility and sound financial

management.

Wendy Costa, a Certified Public Accountant, specializes in budgeting and financial analysis. Her expertise ensures that every dollar is carefully and wisely spent in the best interest of Woodstock residents.

Together, Dave, Phil, and Wendy represent proven leadership, financial expertise, and a strong commitment to our town’s future. Let’s keep these dedicated residents on the Board of Finance—working hard to safeguard our tax dollars and maintain Woodstock’s financial health.

This election, I hope you will join me and vote row B.

Best Regards,

DWIGHT RYNIIEWICZ  
WOODSTOCK

Peace in the Middle East — promise kept

To the Editor:

When Trump took out Iran’s nuclear weapons program, some people actually complained that he did not have Congressional approval. It is hard to criticize the Middle East Peace Plan. More than 30 world leaders showed up in Egypt to show their support for Trump’s peace plan. Each took turns taking photos with Trump. The narrative that world leaders do not like Trump falls flat once again. The process will be slow, and Hamas will push the limits, but Trump did something neither Biden nor Harris would ever have accomplished. I am sure someone will find something to complain about on how this was handled but for now we can enjoy the peace.

In his letter last week, Mr. Rocheleau skipped over the part about Chuck Schumer and the Connecticut Senators shutting down the government and went on the attack about Jan. 6, of all things. He ignored all of the good things Trump has done and lived up to the criticize and condemn part. I would like to point out the hypocrisy in Mr. Rocheleau’s rant about Trump’s Flag Burning Executive Order. In response to protests against the Vietnam War, Congress enacted the Flag Protection act in 1968. The penalty was - you guessed it - not more than one year in prison. Does that sound familiar? The Supreme Court

declared flag burning protected speech in 1989 by the slimmest of margins in a 5-4 decision. In Response the 101st congress passed the flag protection act of 1989. That act was challenged in another case - US Vs. Eichman (1990) and again it was a 5-4 vote to allow flag burning. The flag burning act was the law for 20 years and in two one 1 vote decisions the law was over-turned. Mr. Rocheleau’s contention is that Trump is trying to somehow destroy freedom of speech by raising the issue again is asinine. And the claim Republicans are sitting on their hands and watching? It is time to turn of MSNBC. This will again reach the Supreme Court and the result will be different this time.

I am assuming Mr. Rocheleau is enjoying lower heating oil costs, gas prices and lower egg prices, like most people. No one agrees with everything a President does. Even if you do not like Trump, it is okay to enjoy the benefits of having a competent leader and even say so every so often. Trump promised to close the border, lower the price of energy, fix the economy, bring down the rate of crime and end the wars. So far, so good and he has three more years to finish the job.

TIM PIETTE  
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

Our schools are stronger thanks to Kelly Martin

To the Editor:

I’m writing to ask for your support and your vote for my mom, Kelly Martin, for re-election to the Killingly Board of Education.

Having gone through the Killingly school system myself, I’ve had the privilege of watching my mom devote countless hours—not only to her family but also to the community she loves. Her compassion, integrity, and tireless commitment have inspired me and my sisters to be the people we are today. She approaches every challenge with an open mind, a kind heart, and

a determination to find the best solution for all involved.

I’ve seen firsthand how deeply she cares about the success and well-being of every student and family in this town. You can always count on her to do her research, listen thoughtfully, and make smart, informed decisions.

Please join me in voting for Kelly Martin for the Killingly Board of Education on Nov. 4. Our schools—and our community—are stronger because of her dedication.

Devin Simoneau  
Putnam

Join me in voting for Kyle Napierata

To the Editor:

This letter is being written in support of Kyle Napierata for Killingly’s Board of Education. Here are a few reasons why I will be voting for Kyle Napierata:

Kyle can debate and disagree without vilifying or harassing people with opposing viewpoints.

Kyle makes it his priority to be at school board meetings; where we elected him to be, on time, each time.

Kyle is financially responsible with our town’s money.

Kyle opposes any “Woke” infiltration to our school systems.

Kyle supports important school programs for our children: technology,

agriculture, world languages, music and fine arts.

Kyle knows that student success depends on a firm foundation of reading, writing, and arithmetic.

Kyle supports biological boys and girls on separate sport teams, locker rooms and bathrooms.

Kyle supports parental notification and involvement.

Kyle believes in a safe environment for all students and staff.

Vote for Kyle Napierata for the Board of Education on Nov. 4.

Thank you,

KENNETH PETERSON  
DANIELSON



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Building a better Brooklyn starts at the ballot box – vote Row A!

To the Editor:

It’s that time of year when we make important choices about our town’s future. Municipal Elections are held in odd-numbered years. These elections have the biggest impact on our daily life and shape our communities. In Brooklyn’s Municipal Elections this year, we are casting votes for First Selectman, Board of Selectmen, Town Clerk, Board of Finance, Board of Education and Board of Assessment Appeals.

There are now more ways than ever to make your voice heard. Connecticut has joined the rest of the nation in offering Early Voting, becoming the 47th state to do so after voters overwhelmingly approved a constitutional amendment in 2022. Early Voting this election year runs from Oct. 20 through Nov. 2, with Election Day on Nov. 4. Absentee ballots are also available.

Brooklyn’s Early Voting site is at the Clifford B. Green Building, 69 South Main St., where Same-Day Registration will also be offered. You can find more information, including your voting options, at MyVote.ct.gov.

Early voting provides all voters across the state with more flexibility and access to cast their votes, ensuring that your voice is heard and your civic duty is fulfilled while avoiding potentially long lines and challenging personal scheduling conflicts.

Voting is the cornerstone of our democracy and one of our most fundamental rights. By showing up, we shape the kind of community we want to live in. I hope you’ll join me in voting for proactive leadership, protecting our quality of life, and working together for a better Brooklyn.

Vote Row A!

LISA ARENDS  
BROOKLYN

To vote Republican at any level is to aid and abet crime

To the Editor:

Robert Reich is a professor at Berkeley, and was Secretary of Labor under Bill Clinton. He wrote a recent article (alter-net.org/amp/trump-machine-2674207841) claiming that while Donnie Despot would normally be at the top of the government organizational chart, in reality, no one really reports to him. The functional org chart is topped by a troika of Stephen Miller, Russel Vought and JD Vance who wield the real power. The fourth addition to this elite group is RFK Jr. As Reich put it, “Their joint goal appears to be to destroy American democracy. Their power comes from their knowledge, tenacity, connections, and fanaticism — and from Trump’s apparent willingness to sign off on whatever they want to do.”

Reich goes on to show how the Cabinet is aligned and who reports to whom. He wrote, “Under Miller are Kristi Noem, Homeland Security; Howard Lutnick, Commerce; and Pete Hegseth, Defense (or war). Under Vought are Scott Bessent, Treasury, and what remains of Musk’s DOGE. Under Vance are Pam Bondi,

Attorney General; Kash Patel, FBI; Linda McMahon, Education; and Marco Rubio, Secretary of State. Under RFK Jr. is a vast (and increasingly dysfunctional) public health system including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health.”

This emasculation of Presidential power is a de facto palace coup. A coup supported and funded by greedy and power hungry billionaires. A coup including the corruption of the Supreme Court. The upshot is that none of the troika or the billionaires are accountable to anyone or anything. Sadly, I feel that all the No Kings protests and anti-MAGA efforts have little effect on changing the direction of these people. In fact, the troika just goes ahead ignoring the Constitution, working to destroy the fabric of our Republic and refusing to acknowledge the cruelty and inhumanity of their agenda. To me, refusing to understand what is going on and voting GOP at any governmental level would be abetting a criminal operation.

STEPHEN ETZEL  
PUTNAM

Kelly Martin has been an unwavering voice for our children

To the Editor:

I first met Kelly Martin about 15 years ago, when our daughters were ready to begin their journey in Girl Scouts, and the troop was in need of leaders. Without hesitation, Kelly and I stepped up to the challenge and started our own troop. From the very beginning, Kelly poured countless hours of her own time into helping these young, impressionable girls grow into the confident, capable, and compassionate young women they are today. She never once complained about the time or effort it took—she approached every task with unmatched passion, enthusiasm, and heart.

Throughout the years, Kelly has continued to dedicate herself to helping others, serving in many volunteer roles—including as a wish granter for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Her compassion truly knows no bounds. Four years ago, Kelly took that same selfless spirit and decided to give back to her community in an even greater way by running for a seat on the Killingly Board of Education. It came as no surprise that she won by an overwhelming margin—because people know Kelly to be genuine, kind, and deeply committed to doing what’s right.

As both her close friend and business partner, I can personally attest that Kelly embodies integrity, perseverance, and a tireless dedication to serving others. She has proven herself time and again to be a true advocate for students, families, and the greater community. It is with the utmost confidence and pride that I wholeheartedly recommend Kelly Martin for re-election to the Killingly Board of Education.

On Nov. 4, I humbly ask that you join me in voting for Kelly Martin—a compassionate leader, trusted friend, and unwavering voice for our schools and our children.

Sincerely,

MELISSA COZZA  
DAYVILLE

Why calling for an Ethics Commission without cause damages Pomfret

To the Editor:

The recent claim by the Republican Town Committee that Pomfret “needs an ethics commission” sounds constructive on its face. In reality, when no misconduct has been shown, the mere allegation does real harm — not to candidates, but to the town itself. It is nothing more than a desperate attempt to confuse the voters right before an election.

1) It implies wrongdoing where none exists.

Pomfret has had years of clean, professional, independent financial audits. There is no record of hidden deals, corruption, or violations. To demand an ethics board in the absence of any evidence is to publicly suggest that Pomfret cannot be trusted. That accusation alone injures our reputation and jeopardizes our grant applications.

2) It demoralizes — and insults — the people who keep the town running.

The people who work in Town Hall, the highway department, land use offices, and Pomfret Community School are neighbors serving neighbors. They are known for doing the work without fuss, without profit, and without scandal. Bringing up baseless ethics claims in an election year sends a message to those employees that their integrity is in doubt simply because a Republican candidate wants to win a campaign.

3) It makes it harder to attract — and retain — good people.

High-quality municipal employees and educators can choose where to work. If Pomfret is portrayed as a town under suspicion — not for what has happened, but for what someone has implied for political advantage — good candidates will think twice before applying. Reputational harm

has hiring consequences.

4) It is not governance — it is a campaign tactic.

If there were evidence of misconduct, the appropriate remedy would be fact-based reporting to existing oversight bodies, not political advertisements. Raising an “ethics” issue only in the weeks before a November election, and not after any documented event, reads not as reform but as a desperate political tactic.

5) It is the opposite of what has made Pomfret trusted and respected.

For generations Pomfret has been recognized for civil, transparent, non-sensational local government — precisely because people have shown up and done the work, not because of commissions created to referee baseless accusations. Preserving that culture matters.

Demanding an ethics commission without any evidence does not produce better ethics — it erodes trust, disrespects the people who serve, weakens Pomfret’s reputation, and injects suspicion where none exists. That is not an investment in better government; it is an injury to a functioning one.

This November, vote for the Democratic ticket — the team with a proven record of integrity, transparency, and steady, responsible service. Do not reward a slick campaign built on unfounded accusations and tear-down tactics. Send a clear message that win-at-any-cost politics has no place in Pomfret.

Vote ‘no’ on the creation of an ethics commission at the Pomfret Special Town Meeting on Monday, Oct. 27 at PCS at 7 p.m.

Sincerely,

HOWIE BURSEN AND SALLY ROGERS  
POMFRET

I am proud to support Austin Tanner

To the Editor:

As a resident of Brooklyn, I am pleased to announce that I am voting for Austin Tanner for First Selectman. Here’s why:

First, Mr. Tanner has demonstrated consistent leadership and service to our community. He currently serves as First Selectman of Brooklyn and is ex-officio member of all boards and commissions, charged with the day-to-day operations of the town. Over the years he has earned the trust of citizens: in the 2023 general election, he won 61 percent of the vote against his opponent. His experience matters.

Second, Austin is accessible and responsive. The town’s official site lists his contact information and emphasizes his open-door approach. That willingness to listen and engage with residents is critical for a town like ours, where local government is close to the people.

Third, Brooklyn faces important challenges and opportunities—whether it’s maintaining our roads, managing municipal finances, sustaining our historic and agricultural character, or promoting responsible growth. Under Austin’s leadership our town

government is better positioned to address those. The First Selectman’s office notes that Brooklyn has “approximately sixty miles of road” and features a scenic byway route, its revolutionary history, farm industry and recreation opportunities. Austin Tanner brings the continuity of leadership we need to steward these assets wisely.

Fourth, I believe we need stability and fresh ideas. Because Mr. Tanner is already in office and familiar with our systems, he can hit the ground running. At the same time, he has shown willingness to engage community boards and commissions, which gives me confidence he will incorporate resident voices and not simply rubber-stamp business as usual.

In short, for these reasons—and because we all want a town government that is transparent, accessible, efficient and aligned with our community values—I am proud to support Austin Tanner for First Selectman of Brooklyn.

Sincerely,

JR EILER  
BROOKLYN

Re-elect Fortin, Paquette, and Mayhew

To the Editor:

I know Dave Fortin. Dave is a friend of mine. I worked with Dave for many years when I was Chairman of Woodstock’s Planning & Zoning Commission. I work with him now in my role as a State Senator. Dave Fortin has my support, my endorsement, and my vote for re-election to Woodstock’s Board of Finance.

Now, more than ever, we need someone who understands the big picture and the fine details of town finances. You need someone who works for you asking the important questions getting the needed answers, and putting it all together to make the commonsense decisions about the Town of Woodstock. You need someone who has a track record of doing these things year after year, looking at each town budget on an annual basis and looking ahead about the long-term sustainability of town government. It isn’t easy. I deal with it on a state level as a State Senator who serves on the legislature’s Appropriations Committee. Like me, Dave endeavors to work with others to find meaningful ways to tackle financial problems, keeping uppermost in mind you the taxpayer. I have seen Dave Fortin do it in Woodstock. He has done it 10 years on the Board of Finance.

David Fortin has earned my vote. I ask that you support Dave’s work and vote to re-elect him to the Board of Finance.

I know Chandler Paquette and Chris Mayhew. Chandler has a long history of working for the Woodstock community as a Selectman and now as a First Selectman. Chris is a current serving Selectman. Both Chandler and Chris have shown that they roll up their sleeves, work collaboratively, and get things done. Public service can be a 24/7 work effort. Both Chandler and Chris share with me an ethic to do what is needed to get done, whenever it needs to get done, keeping in mind the interests of the community. Serving on a Board of Selectmen is important work. I have seen Chandler and Chris do that work. I worked with Chandler many years when we both served at the same time in Woodstock town government. As a State Senator, I have been working with both Chandler and Chris. I have seen the work they do.

I ask that you support Chandler’s and Chris’ work and vote to re-elect them to the Board of Selectmen.

Every election is important. Be informed about the candidates. I am fond of saying that it is not just what we do that matters, but also how we do it. It is about working for and working with people, getting things done, and continuing to move Woodstock forward.

Vote for the Republican candidates on Row B.

SEN. JEFF GORDON  
WOODSTOCK

Republican proposed “Ethics Commission” could bust Pomfret’s budget

To the Editor:

The Pomfret Republican Town Committee (PRTC) has demanded a Special Town Meeting on Oct. 27—just one week before the municipal elections—to vote on establishing a municipal “ethics commission.” This eleventh-hour demand harms Pomfret. How?

The PRTC proposal is not a genuine effort to improve town governance; it’s an election-year ploy that damages the town’s reputation. By falsely implying municipal misconduct, the PRTC is directly compromising Pomfret’s qualifications to win federal and state funding grants. Furthermore, this action makes it even harder to recruit and retain dedicated employees and volunteer members for town Boards and Commissions.

PRTC’s proposed “ethics commission” is also financially irresponsible. The only people who truly benefit from an ocean of “ethics investigations” are the lawyers.

The filing of any citizen complaint will immediately require Pomfret to hire an attorney to advise the commission. Does the PRTC believe Pomfret taxpayers would agree to pay higher taxes to cover these functions? As a taxpayer, I wouldn’t. Would PRTC members?

However baseless the complaint, any Pomfret employee or volunteer accused of wrongdoing will likely feel compelled to retain their own lawyer for independent representation and advice. Will Pomfret pay for that lawyer as well? If not, the heavy financial burden will fall on the employee or volunteer. Who would volunteer or work for Pomfret in the face of such risk?

Let’s stop this costly and damaging political nonsense now.

I ask all Pomfret citizens to attend the Special Town Meeting on Monday, Oct. 27 at 7 p.m. at the Pomfret Community School and vote “No” on the creation of an ethics commission.

Respectfully,

BARRY REINGOLD  
POMFRET CENTER

Values unite, issues divide?

To the Editor:

I saw this slogan on a sign by Fiberoptics on Route 244. It puzzled me; what values do we all share? I hope we all value our democracy, our Constitution and freedom of speech.

Issues divide is a bit tricky. I believe in order to continue to create a more perfect union, we do have to face issues. It gets tricky if cannot have a dialogue and be civil with one another. Do we always have to fight and create “the other”?

I’ve lived here for 30-plus years and have been really happy living in our town. I do remember that the last time things got sticky was when there was the road paving issue during the last GOP administration. If you want to talk about issues, how about that one?

Let’s not make a tempest out of a teapot.

I’m going to support Maureen Nicholson and the Democratic slate. I think we have lots to be proud of. I think we’ve got exceptional governance and have kept our wonderful town in good shape financially and every other way.

Regarding the proposal of having an ethics committee, I don’t want to be subjected to slicing and dicing in order to blame and shame anybody. We’re all in this together. Let’s just keep a dialogue going. Anybody who wants transparency can attend board meetings. I suggest attending the special town meeting that’s going to going to be held at Pomfret Community School on Monday, Oct. 27 at 7 p.m.

I intend to vote no.

MARLENE HEALD  
POMFRET CENTER

Additional Letters to the Editor, See Page A-8 & A-9



# Great Pumpkin Fest brings fall spirit to Putnam



The Putnam Business Association’s annual scarecrow contest saw Rotary Park filled with fun and inspired creations with the ultimate contest winner being this “Iron Man” scarecrow sponsored by Northeast Placement Services.



Bank Hometown added some traditional and fitting fall fun to the Great Pumpkin Festival allowing kids to pick their own tiny pumpkin to decorate as they chose.



The Putnam Middle School Ban provided music throughout the morning and afternoon at Rotary Park, many embracing the Halloween spirit by playing while in costume.



The official Great Pumpkin this year weighed in at 1,903.5 pounds.



Day Kimball Hospital set up a booth to provide details about their services in the upper lot along Main Street in Putnam.

PUTNAM — Putnam continued its annual fall tradition hosting the Great Pumpkin Festival on Main Street featuring plenty of pumpkin and fall themed activities for all ages. Complimented by the Putnam Congregational Church’s Harvest Festival and the Putnam Business Association’s annual Scarecrow Contest, the event was actually a three-in-one with vendors, music, crafts, and more capping off a delightful day in the heart of Putnam.



Romeo Blackmar continued his longstanding duties at Putnam’s official Town Crier wondering through Main Street for photo ops.



Sawmill Pottery continued its tradition of providing in-person demonstrations during Putnam’s community events.



The ladies of TEEG in Thompson set up shop on main Street providing crafts and story readings for youngsters at the Great Pumpkin Festival.



The Putnam Family Resource Center provided free books for kids to choose from, as well as a selection of fun fall activities for families all event long.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trump is a man of power, not of peace

To the Editor:

Let’s give credit where credit is due. President Trumps’s Israel-Gaza peace initiative will be a monumental achievement, even though at the moment, it remains a big if. This would not just for create calm between the Israelis and the Palestinians, it would transform the entire region. By involving Muslim nations, swords will be changed into plowshares throughout the Middle East. It may take a generation or two, but Israel would no longer have to survive a perpetual state of war while the Palestinians could finally live regular lives. At best the flame of radical Islam, a bane to the entire world, would be reduced to a mere afterglow.

The other remarkable and unique factor is that Trump did not do this through patient mediation; he did this through brute force. His initial haphazard “bob and weaving” culminated in outright bullying. After declaring victory even before he was sworn in for his second term, he used the threat of American might to bring both sides to the table even though each boycotted the signing ceremony. More importantly, he did what was really needed. He is tasking the world community, including America, to place peacekeeping troops on the ground and assure no cheating.

Will this work? Already, Hamas vermin have crawled out of their tunnels and started executing “disloyal” Gazan citizens in broad daylight. They have already violated the fresh ceasefire and killed Israeli soldiers. They have also refused to lay down their arms something that the Palestinian Authority, the potential new Gazan government, has called for. Israel remains an international pariah for their indifference towards Gazan citizens. It would help if the world started including Hamas in its ire.

Still, everything may go right. This begs the question (which Trump has been campaigning for since his first run), does all this warrant a Noble Peace Prize? At face value the answer is yes. True peace in the Middle East has been the world’s white whale. President Obama received the award without really doing anything. But this is an accolade not for the outcome, but rather to recognize an individual whose efforts symbolize the finest of human qualities. In this, Mr. Trump falls woefully short.

To begin, he has announced on multiple occasions that he deserves the prize even though he had no substantive basis for it. In the past he has claimed that the committee is rigged against him. Indeed, he has gone so far as to so sue the Pulitzer Prize board for defamation of character (the case remains active) and MAGA supporters have focused their wrath at Norway (even though the country itself is not involved in Nobel decisions).

There is also the fact that Trump is currently involved in many things that are not very peaceful. Take the random bombing of alleged drug traffickers in the Caribbean or the threats of war with American bombers flying off the coast of Venezuela. Then there is the use of military troops against his own citizens based on entirely made-up aver of wild urban rampages. In reality the only violence against governmental authority occurred Jan. 6, 2021, and Trump allowed all those convicted to walk free of the consequences.

Winning a Nobel Peace Prize is akin to entering the Baseball Hall of Fame. Pete Rose, Joe Jackson, Roger Clemens and Barry Bonds were all superstars of their generation. They all more than deserved to be enshrined based on their play. But because of personal defects such as cheating, gambling, and drug use they have been denied the honor. Trump is a convicted felon and a sexual predator. He is also a pompous narcissist. His reaction to this year’s Peace Prize winner, Maria Corina Machado, was not one of congratulations. It was to condemn the committee and to brag in public that she made a private phone call to dedicate the award to him.

Is what he is trying to do huge? Yes, but only if it actually comes to fruition. Would he deserve monuments, statues, streets, and buildings (wait he has these)? Yes. But the Nobel Peace Prize is more a recognition of distinguished character and not necessarily a successful outcome. In other words, it is the selfless effort. Trump is not a man of peace; he is a man of power. His motive is not self-sacrifice it is self-promotion. It is this personal temperament which makes him unworthy of this prestigious award.

LEE WESLER  
WOODSTOCK

Bellavance and Vogt have the vision and experience  
Brooklyn needs

To the Editor:

I am writing to support Joe Bellavance and Sherri Vogt for First and Second Selectmen of Brooklyn. They have the vision and experience that Brooklyn needs for a bright future.

Joe has proven himself with direct community work and engagement, as vice president of the Brooklyn Business Association, Chair of the Economic Development Commission, and member of the Brooklyn Town Governance Committee. Sherri Vogt has been an advocate for our town and region, and makes a positive difference. She was a Congressional Constituent Aide for Joe Courtney and Elizabeth Esty, and is

currently the veteran’s health liaison for a statewide healthcare organization.

Joe and Sherri have a record of working directly with people and organizations, solving problems, and being active in our community. They are leading a slate of well qualified and dedicated individuals that includes Bob Smanik, Melissa Perkins-Banas, Rick Ives, Kate Bisson, and Susan Wasstrom. Please join me in supporting the candidates on Row A of the ballot on Nov. 4, or early voting beginning Oct. 20.

DONALD WILLIAMS  
BROOKLYN

Industrial parks vs. wide open space

To the Editor:

Every two years, so claimed educated & experienced business people tell us how to solve all of Thompson’s financial problems. With grants from state and federal (taxpayers’ money ) and industrial parks (every town in the USA is trying to do that). Has that solved their problems? Do you want Thompson to become Norwich, Warwick or Worcester? The more Thompson receives in revenue, the more Town Hall spends.

Thompson’s Fire & EMS do a wonderful job and the same can be said for the Highway Department. If Thompson bought 10 shiny new fire trucks, would we be any better off? Thompson has agreements with surrounding towns. Case in point: Thompson has one of the most expensive school systems in the country (per student).

Fact. Are the pupils the smartest in the USA?

After the disastrous 2026 budget (I am told some taxes on single family residences increased by \$4,000), why would you vote the same people back on the Board of Finance?

Are you willing to trade rolling hills, beautiful farmlands & lakes with trails for industrial parks and strip malls? Most people moved to Thompson for those enduring qualities, and [it is] why many of us remain.

Thompson does not have a tax revenue problem, Thompson has a spending problem. Let’s keep the Quiet Corner quiet and affordable.

Best to all,

LEE LANDRY  
THOMPSON

Actually, I’m voting for Dave Coderre

To the Editor:

There are a few fundamental things in play with our democracy in the town of Putnam. First, our leaders should take a lesson from George Washington and be humble enough to pass the torch, as opposed to what we saw in the last administration with President Biden running himself into the ground. Second, power to rule comes via the consent of the governed.

The betrayal of trust we see with the recent fiasco over traffic cameras and license plate readers, plus the timetable involved, cements my decision to support the challengers this go-round. This decision wasn’t made due to anything in the election, but the mayor and town’s behavior when they thought the coast was clear, as it

should be with all the voters. I don’t care where the money came from either. What matters is what was done and how it was handled. The tech gaffe with thinking passive signs and data-collecting cameras and readers should be regulated the same in the Special Services District was just the icing on the rotten cupcake.

I don’t need the WINY debate to convince me it’s time for change in Putnam. I need only see the freedom of the press in action blowing the lid off of something that was done behind our backs. Here’s to hoping the next administration understands that consent of the governed means exactly that.

JAY GERHART  
PUTNAM

Pomfret doesn’t need an Ethics Commission,  
just a reality check

To the Editor:

You’ve got to hand it to the Pomfret Republican Town Committee — they’ve mastered the art of accusation without evidence. False claims, no proof, and a whole lot of finger-pointing. It’s like a political magic trick: “Look over there!” while they trip over their own mess.

Now they’re demanding an ethics commission. Adorable. Pomfret doesn’t need an ethics commission — we need the RTC to stop pretending they’ve uncovered Watergate in a town of 4,200 people. The only thing unethical around here is the RTC wasting everyone’s time on make-believe scandals. Creating an ethics board for this is like setting up a crime lab to investigate missing socks — overkill in search of a scandal that doesn’t exist.

Let’s be honest: the proposal is not about ethics — it’s about ammunition. The RTC would use it as a brand-new tool for harassment, disruption, and reputational

hit-jobs against people they disagree with.

If such a commission is approved, the Pomfret Republican Chair will certainly be filing weekly complaints calling for ethics investigations against this Democrat on BOE, or John Doe on BOF, or that Democratic member of the Planning and Zoning Commission. All immediately posted on social media. Naming and blackening names. No results, but never-ending slurs.

Pomfret residents deserve better than manufactured suspicion and made-for-Facebook outrage. Beware of candidates selling “transparency” while pushing to create a permanent machinery of accusation.

Vote “No” on creating an Ethics Commission at the Special Town Meeting Monday, Oct. 27, 7 p.m., at Pomfret Community School.

Sincerely,

RAY WISHART  
POMFRET

Tammy Wakefield – a voice for all of Killingly

To the Editor:

Fellow Killingly residents: My name is Patti Larrow George. I invite you to vote for my friend and colleague Tammy Wakefield for an At Large seat on the Killingly Town Council. Tammy has served on the Council for 12 years, the last two as Vice Chair.

For this election, she became an unaffiliated candidate to make a bold clear statement. When elected to the Town Council we work for everyone; not just a party. Tammy grew up here, and is 100 percent dedicated to what’s right for Killingly. She is fully invested in the future of Killingly. We need common sense governing, fiscal responsibility and experience. We also need compassion and a plan to find solutions to our most pressing issues; sewer moratorium, homeless issues, food insecurity and public safety. We also need someone who understands the fine balance between economic growth and protecting the smalltown

way of life we are lucky enough to have here.

We need representatives that have all of our best interests at heart and ones who are willing to do the heavy lifting. Division has hurt our country over the past couple of decades. Let’s keep national politics in the background not the foreground. Let’s work on behalf of our town. Tammy will continue doing just that without the fear mongering and noise. Tammy is the voice Killingly needs.

I will be voting for Tammy Wakefield Town Councilor at Large on Nov. 4. Please join me and vote for Tammy as the number one choice for Killingly. Please remember to fill in 6C and write her name “Tammy Wakefield” in the box.

PATTI GEORGE  
DAYVILLE

I am proud to call Mike Bogdanski a friend

To the Editor:

I have known Michael Bogdanski for over 40 years as a friend, fellow martial artist, and mentor. Michael was my first karate instructor when I lived in Putnam in the early 1980’s. He quickly became a good friend and role model for me as I progressed as a person and martial artist. His expert teachings gave me physical and mental confidence that allowed me to continue pursuing a variety of martial arts and other challenging endeavors. Even more notable was the fact that even after I moved away from Putnam, Michael always kept in touch with me, helped arrange places for me to train, and always took a personal interest in my continued success. Michael is directly responsible for helping me to become a responsible, respectable man. After my father, I consider Mike to be one of the most positively influential men that I have ever had in my life. I later went on to enjoy a great career in police work, father three wonderful children, and now enjoy my retirement.

After all this time, Michael has always

remained in contact with me and has always made a genuine effort to see that I was doing okay and provide any help if needed. I was recently diagnosed with aggressive, life threatening cancer and, just as I would expect, Michael was one of the first people to reach out to me and provide moral support.

I am proud to call Michael Bogdanski my friend, and can attest to the fact that he is a true outlier in the most positive aspects of the word. His own accomplishments throughout his life speak to his extraordinary intelligence and abilities. And I can confirm through my four decades long friendship with him that he is of unquestionably high moral quality, trustworthy, and has tremendous judgement and integrity of character. To sum it up, Michael is one of my favorite people of all time.

I know that Michael would serve honorably, intelligently, and respectfully in any capacity of local, state, or federal government.

MIKE GREEN  
CROMWELL

It’s been nothing but politics from the Democrats

To the Editor:

Regarding the Killingly Board of Education, let’s cut through a bit of the never-ending bull from some quarters. First of all, the slogan “People over Party/politics.” Seriously? The past few years has been nothing but politics by most (but not all) Democrat politicians in the town of Killingly, but certainly by Susan Lannon and the other BOE candidates. Claims that Democrats were responsible for things the previous board accomplished is the most outrageous part.

The Republican controlled board appointed Dr. Susan Nash as Superintendent. Dr. Nash is, in large part, the reason for the rejuvenation of the Killingly Schools. This had absolutely nothing to do with the agenda of the Democrats on the board, which was to take credit for everything accomplished, lying about it through their teeth to win an election, and then reversing everything that they could once in power.

Democrats did not institute mental health counseling at KIS or KHS, that was in place before they took over. In fact, Susan Lannon’s interference was in large part responsible for a previous potential provider pulling out of negotiations, delaying the process. Republicans initially held out to make sure parents were involved in any medical decisions.

They did not improve recruitment and staffing, that was well on the way before they took over. The schools went from dozens of openings, to a handful by the time they had control of the board. Absenteeism was on the decline due to actions taken by Dr. Nash, again, before the board was taken over.

Bullying was addressed due to the unrelenting insistence of board members

Kelly Martin, Laura Dombkowski, Laura Laurence, and Kyle Napieratta. I watched the meetings at the time. Without their efforts, nothing would have been done.

Their big push at the time of take-over was for the Democrats to add to board legal fees by paying \$100 more per hour for legal representation, with the sad litigated resolution of adding financial burden to the Town’s people per new mandates in staffing.

After this, they moved on to eliminating the Redmen name. When a new team name was voted on, Kevin Marcoux, as the Chair of the selection committee, arbitrarily decided to weigh votes with different standards of value, rejected the name with the highest number of votes, and personally picked the second choice of the voters as the new team name. Democracy in action! If you watch these meetings, you would see almost every proposal by Republican members voted down in unison by these partisans out of nothing but spite. Even the most innocuous proposals were never even discussed in many cases.

How did you like your recent tax increase? Do you think that Susan Lannon and her followers considered your expenses when they proposed their latest school budget this past spring? If not for the good sense of the majority of voters, it would have been much worse. What do you think they will propose if returned to their seats this fall? Let’s stick together, get out in mass, and vote for the people that consider the schools and your tax bill. Vote Republican (Diane Summa, Kyle Napieratta, Kelly Martin, and Steve Schroth) on Nov. 4. (Early voting is already under way at the Killingly Town Hall.)

LISA DANBURG  
DAYVILLE



# The Revolution turns 250

Mark Your Calendars: Saturday, Nov. 1 at 1:30 p.m., the Killingly Historical Society will present “The Web They Wove”; Women and their Wardrobes during New England’s Revolution by Dirty Blue Shirts. There will be a short business meeting at 1 p.m. All are welcome. 196 Main St., Danielson.

Putnam Library has received a grant for programming from PBS/WETA Studios in conjunction with the release of “The Revolution” by Ken Burns, Sarah Botstein and David Schmidt. There will be a showing of an exclusive preview of the docuseries on Oct. 25 at 12:30 p.m. at Putnam Library, 200 School St., in the Putnam Municipal Complex.

Putnam Library will sponsor a Korean Lotu Lantern workshop on Saturday, Nov. 8 from 1-2:15 p.m. Two women in traditional dress will speak of the Korean culture and lead the workshop. Space is limited. Registration is required. Call Putnam Public Library at 860-963-6826 to reserve your spot.

We are not many months away from 2026, the 250th anniversary year of the founding of our country. I reiterate that Putnam Library will have an exclusive preview of the docuseries “the Revolution” by Ken Burns, Sarah Botstein, and David Schmidt on Saturday, Oct. 25 at 12:30 p.m. Nicole Nichols, adult services librarian, provided me with a summary of



KILLINGLY  
AT 300  
MARGARET  
WEAVER

topics that will be featured during the presentation. I’m sure many of you will find them interesting. The Overture/intro “explores the places, communities, and ideals that inspired the union of the American colonies and were subsequently impacted by the conflict.” The segment on Bunker Hill should hit especially close to home since many individuals from Northeastern Connecticut were involved in that conflict. “British troops storm Breed’s Hill again and again until Americans run out of ammunition and are forced to retreat. Despite the British tactical victory, the colonists inflict heavy casualties on the British Army. The losses on both sides are devastating.” The docuseries then switches to Philadelphia as “Congress wrestles with unity...and navigating the formation of a republican government independent from Britain... Abigail Adams urges her husband John and other men in Congress to ‘remember the ladies’ who will not hold themselves ‘bound by and Laws in which we have no voice, or Representation.’” Segments on the conflict against the British at Germantown, Washington’s winter at Valley Forge and the assistance of Fredrich

Wilheim von Steuben in transforming the troops follow. Did you know a total eclipse of the sun occurred during the Revolution on June 24, 1778? I somehow missed that. Reflections on the Revolution’s “enduring legacy” and the Battle of Yorktown propel the viewer into the 1780’s. A discussion period will follow. Do consider taking the time to visit the preview. It is free, and all are welcome.

Ladies, what did you put on this morning? A tee shirt and faded blue jeans to work around the house, a comfy sweatsuit to go jogging, a nice pair of slacks, top and perhaps a warm sweater to wear for work? How many put on a dress? What fabrics were they made of? Think back to the days of the Revolutionary period. Let’s say 1774-1783. What would you have worn? How many petticoats would you have put on? (If you’re my age, you’ll remember many petticoats again were popular in the late 1950’s). In 1776 what fabrics would your clothes have been made of? What colors might they be? Keep in mind that due to the War, we were no longer importing the fancy, fashionable fabrics that had come from Europe. Come to the Killingly Historical Society program: “The Web They Wove: Women & their Wardrobes during New England’s Revolution” by the presenters “Dirty Blue Shirts” on Saturday, Nov. 1 at 1:30 p.m. at the Killingly Historical & Genealogical

Center, 196 Main St., Danielson. The following is from their promotional materials, “Underpinning the sensationalism of battle reports & broadsides is the often silent steadiness of women’s work with textiles. From the mythology of homespun to legends of midnight rides in red cloaks & calashes, costumed historians share stories of the women who waged war on multiple fronts as well as a look at what they wore as their worlds turned upside down. This Semiquincentennial fashion and fabric show includes reproduction clothing pieces and cloth samples as well as a PowerPoint presentation with images of extant originals.” The program is free and open to the public.

October is Family History Month. It is a good time to tell and write down a few “stories” (spooky, perhaps) and a good month to begin to work on your family history if you have

not started. (Tell your grandchildren what you did for Halloween). Staff at the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center will be glad to help you. We have charts you can use to get started, family history files, genealogical works on various families from all over, numerous vital and church records, Massachusetts and Rhode Island materials and more. The Center also has a subscription to Newspapers.com through Ancestry.com. You might locate obituaries of relatives which will give you clues about unknown relatives. Census records are available from 1790 through 1950. I love the variety of unexpected resources one finds. For example, while helping Avery Tillinghast research an individual, I came across a Feb. 7, 1917 World War I draft paper, signed by F. E. Withee, military census agent. Not only did it ask for the individual’s

age, it wanted the height and weight, marital status, citizenship information, etc. I found the following questions most interesting, “Can you do any of the following: Ride a horse, “Yes”; Handle a team, “Yes”; Drive an automobile, “No”; Ride a motorcycle, “No”; Understand telegraphy, “no”; Operate a wireless, “No”; Any experience with a steam engine... etc. Documents like these add a little more to the family history and are fun to find.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, October 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/killinglyhistoricalsociety.

## Simulation Theory

During an interview years ago, Elon Musk famously claimed there’s a “one in billions” chance that this is base reality. In other words, he believes it’s far more likely that we’re living in some simulation than in the original, foundational universe.

But what kind of simulation? A digital computer program? A spiritual matrix? That idea may sound bizarre—after all, everything feels real, doesn’t it?

Yet this isn’t just late-night dorm room talk. Some of the world’s most respected thinkers are taking the idea seriously. It’s not about rejecting science—it’s about following it to its farthest, strangest conclusions.

Let’s start with String Theory. It’s a theoretical framework in physics proposing that the fundamental building blocks of the universe aren’t particles, but tiny vibrating strings. These strings, depending on how they vibrate, give rise to all particles and forces—even gravity.

The math checks out, even if we haven’t proven it experimentally yet. It’s one of the best candidates for a “Theory of Everything” that could unify quantum mechanics with general relativity.

At the 2011 Isaac Asimov Memorial Debate titled “The Theory of Everything,” theoretical physicist Sylvester James Gates, Jr. dropped a bombshell. He revealed that he found something astonishing embedded in the equations of string theory: patterns of “error-correcting codes”—the same kind used in computer programming to detect and correct mistakes.

Sitting next to him, astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson reacted with stunned amazement: “You’re blowing my mind right now!”

Why would error-correcting codes appear in the fabric of the cosmos? Gates himself admitted he doesn’t know the implications yet. But the mere presence of such codes leads to a wild yet serious question: Could the universe itself be structured like a vast, intelligent computation?

That’s where the idea of the simulation arises.

On late-night television, when asked if he thought we were living in a simulation, Neil deGrasse Tyson replied, “I wish I had a good argument against it, but I don’t...”

And while the science doesn’t prove this, it pushes our imagination into territory that philosophers, mystics, and spiritual traditions have been exploring for millennia: that reality is deeper than it appears.

It doesn’t mean we live in a video game controlled by aliens.

It might mean that the universe is information-rich, consciousness-infused, and governed by principles far beyond our current understanding.

My friend, physicist and laser pioneer Dr. Mani Bhaumik, wrote about this in his book “Code Name God.” He argues that modern physics, far from disproving a creator, points toward a transcendent source of intelligence.

That’s a powerful idea: that our minds are just beginning to awaken to truths already embedded in nature.

Dr. David Selbie, interpreting the implications of quantum physics, has emphasized: Our choices and behavior as conscious observers—not the accumulation of material goods—are what matter. Those things are transient illusions. True immortality lies in evolving consciousness beyond the physical hologram.

ness beyond the physical hologram.

Similarly, Dr. Amit Goswami, a quantum physicist known for his explorations of consciousness, has stated: “Contrary to what they tell you, you are not a limited material being.”

This idea echoes something timeless. Whether through the lens of physics or philosophy, the message is the same: You are more than you think you are.

Quantum physics shows us that particles don’t even exist in fixed states until observed. They remain in a state of possibility. In a strange and very real way, attention shapes outcome. This isn’t just a metaphor—it’s physics, though interpretations vary.

So what does this mean for us?

It means we live in a participatory universe. That our focus, our awareness, our very act of observation—matters. That we are not passive passengers in reality, but active participants.

No, quantum physics doesn’t promise we can manifest Lamborghinis with our thoughts. But it does suggest something far greater: that we are wired into the very structure of existence, and our consciousness has weight in the world.

And that, perhaps, is the most hopeful message of all.

We are not powerless. We are not accidents. We are not limited.

We are participants in something vast, intelligent, and alive.

The universe is not outside us. We are part of it. And the deeper we look, the more we realize:

We are more than we think we are.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Wakefield needs a wake-up call

To the Editor:  
As Chair of the Killingly Republican Town Committee, I would like to respond to Tammy Wakefield’s Villager letter.  
In the Oct. 3 issue, Tammy says “I am running as the only unaffiliated Killingly Town Council At-Large candidate...I stepped away from my party affiliation, as I feel Killingly needs a town councilor whose sole focus and loyalty is to the Town of Killingly and its residents. Personal and party agendas/platforms have no place in the local level...I am still a fiscal conservative.”  
Tammy Wakefield is the District 1 Town Council Representative. She will hold that seat for two more years, until 2027, regardless of the results of this year’s at-large election. District Council members can vote on “at-large” issues for the town. So why suddenly run for an “at large” seat when she holds an existing seat, and will continue to hold that seat for another two years?  
What is really going on here? And who paid for her signs? Aren’t those the campaign signs from her last election that were paid for by the Killingly Republican Town Committee?  
I am not ashamed to say that I believe in the policies of the Republican Party — small government, limited taxation, local control, parental authority, education not indoctrination, etc.

It is OK to say there are some ideological differences in the party, and at times they come in to play on a local level. Believing this does not make me less loyal to the town of Killingly and its residents.  
And as far as I can see, the Town Council Democrats and Republicans often seem to work well together on many issues; the Westfield Ave. project, the Killingly Memorial Project, funding for seniors etc.  
Where was she during the fully packed, bipartisan, planning and zoning meetings that discussed four housing units per acre in our rural zones? And what about the July 9th (2024) meeting where she insisted that the \$50,000, that had been cut twice already by the citizens of Killingly, should be added back into the budget over the people’s wishes. Do her disagreements with the majority of Killingly citizens on these issues somehow make her feel more loyal or focused on the Town of Killingly, than the Republicans?  
I could go on, but first, Tammy needs a wake-up call (wink, wink).

NORM FERRON  
DANIELSON

### Lies, distractions and Trumpstein

To the Editor:  
In response to all of the major problems in the US and the world, the President and his minions flood the media with ever-increasing lies and distractions. The President is desensitizing Americans to his crude, juvenile behavior, his non-stop lies about anyone he disagrees with, his illegal and cruel detention of American citizens without cause, his obscene enrichment of himself and his family using illegal powers, and his total disregard for the economic plight of ordinary Americans.  
The President’s Press Secretary made the following claim in response to the millions of Americans who peacefully demonstrated their opposition to the Administration: “The Democrat (sic) Party’s main constituency are made up of Hamas terrorists, illegal aliens, and violent criminals.” That lying, despicable response clearly represents the disdain and the hatred that the President has for anyone with whom he disagrees.  
I’m sick of being characterized

falsely as, “scum. terrorists, criminals, Communists, Hamas,” etc. by our rapist Commander-in-Chief and his sycophants. Decent people of all political inclination should be speaking out against the President’s actions and behavior. But no, Republicans in Congress have been bullied into submission. Nary a peep is heard from Republicans in Northeastern Connecticut and the rest of the state. Have they no decency?  
Of course, the flood of lies and distractions serve multiple autocratic purposes. But the President and Speaker of the US House are desperately trying to keep information about Jeffery Epstein’s horrific sexual trafficking of women secret. Why are they so worried? The only logical conclusion is that the President, and/or prominent Republicans, were engaged in illicit sexual activity abusing underaged women. How much lower can the presidency sink before decent Americans say enough?

BILLY G. TAYLOR  
KILLINGLY

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brendan@villagernewspapers.com



# SPORTS

## Killing High School Weekly Sports Wrap-Up

**Girls Soccer**  
On Thursday night, Oct. 16, the Killingly Girls Soccer team took the field under the lights to face Stonington. We honored our four seniors with heartfelt recognition before kickoff, celebrating their leadership and dedication.  
At halftime, Stonington held a narrow 1-0 lead. The final score was 4-0, but our team’s effort and heart were undeniable.  
Samantha Podgorni recorded 15 saves in the first half, and McKenna Mulvey added 13 more in the second—both keepers delivered outstanding performances.  
The team delivered a commanding performance on Saturday morning, Oct. 18, defeating New London with a flurry of goals and sharp teamwork. Adalyn Malarkey led the charge with five goals, followed by Gracie Pekarovic-West with two and Lylah Connetti, who celebrated her first goal of the season.  
The team’s offensive

rhythm was fueled by strong assists from Ashley Boudreau (2), Nina Purcell (2), Kezlee Morrarty (1), and Lianna Hutchinson (1).  
Under the lights in Plainfield Monday, Oct. 20, the girls delivered a thrilling performance to cap off their regular season with a hard-fought 3-2 win.  
Adalyn Malarkey opened the scoring for Killingly, finding the back of the net off a well-placed assist from Ashley Boudreau. Kezlee Morrarty added to the momentum with two goals of her own, one of which was set up by Gracie Pekarovic West. By half-time, Killingly held a 3-1 lead.  
Plainfield battled back in the second half, narrowing the gap with another goal, but Killingly’s defense held strong to secure the win. With this victory, Killingly finishes the regular season with an impressive 10-4-2 record, setting a confident tone heading into postseason play.



**Girls Volleyball**  
The Killingly Volleyball team hosted Windham Tech on Wednesday, Oct. 15. 2 sets to 0, 25-11, 22-25, 25-16  
  
The New Player team finished their season at 5-4, with a win against Windham Tech  
  
The JV record rose to 13-6, defeating Windham Tech, 2 sets to 1, 25-11,

22-25, 25-16.  
  
Killingly 3, Ellis Tech 0  
Killingly 12-6  
Windham Tech 7-11  
25-18, 22-25, 25-16, 25-13  
  
The Varsity record rose to 13-6, defeating Windham Tech 3 sets to 0, 27-25, 26-24, 25-23. Danielle Veillette had 8 digs, 3 aces; Kalynn Dombkowski had 9 assists; Teagan Klewin

had 3 blocks, 5 kills; Kendall Rosen had 4 aces, 5 kills; Jaliyah Blair had 3 blocks, 3 aces, 4 kills; Shyah Baker had 5 aces, 6 kills, 11 assists; ; and Jayden Durand had 2 digs, 4 aces, 3 kills to lead Killingly.  
  
Once again congratulations to the seven seniors (Shyah Baker, Jaliyah Blair, Kalynn Domkowski, Jayden Durand, Teagan Klewin, Kendall Rosen and Danielle Veillette).  
  
**Football**  
The Killingly Trailblazers (5-0) beat Masuk High School Friday night, Oct. 17 in a battle of defending State Champions 42-7. Killingly’s Kaiden Guertin blocked a punt on Masuk’s first possession which set up a Hayden Allard 1 yard run to make it 7-0. On the next possession, Hayden Allard, intercepted a pass and returned it 17 yards for a touchdown. This was Allard’s 4th straight game with an

interception returned for a touchdown, tying a state record. It was also his 5th career interception retuned for a TD tying him for the state record. Hayden Allard added another touchdown run to put the Trailblazers up 21-0 in the 1st quarter.  
  
Hunter Allard completed a 24-yard touchdown pass to Aiden Lamotte to start the 2nd quarter and then caught a 32-yard pass from Quinn Sumner before the half to go up 35-0. Hayden Allard completed the scoring in the 4th quarter with another touchdown run.  
  
Killingly played its best defensive game of the season, holding Masuk to under 50 yards in the 1st half while forcing 2 turnovers. Walter Okoney added an interception on a screen pass. Callan Senecal had 2 sacks to go with his 4 tackles, while Kaiden Guertin added 8 tackles. Joseph Mackie added 7 tackles and a sack.

## The Week in Sports at Woodstock Academy

**Girls Volleyball**  
  
Woodstock Academy 3  
Conard 1  
It wasn’t a walk in the park but the Centaurs got past the Class LL Red Wolves on Senior Night at Woodstock Academy.  
Playing their last regular season home match, the Centaurs (13-5) won the first set 25-19 but then squandered an eight-point lead early in the second match and saw Conard (10-5) sneak away with the 25-20 victory.  
Woodstock Academy won the match by taking the next two sets by those same scores, 25-19 and 25-20.  
The outside hitters were dominant for the Centaurs as Kaylee Bundy had 19 kills and Kennedy McCooley added 14. Senior setter Lily Morgis returned from a brief injury absence to deliver 33 assists.  
  
South Windsor 3  
Woodstock Academy 2  
For the second time in two nights, the Centaurs were back on the gym floor,

this time on the road.  
The two teams split the first four sets before South Windsor sent Woodstock Academy (13-6) home with a loss with the 15-6 win in the decisive fifth set.  
Kaylee Bundy had 15 kills while Kennedy McCooley added 14 and Gianna Musumeci had 14 digs.  
  
**Boys Soccer**  
  
Waterford 4  
Woodstock Academy 0  
The Centaurs gave up an own goal and a penalty kick and lost to the host Lancers (6-7) who broke a two-match losing streak.  
The loss dropped the Centaurs to 2-7-4 on the season.  
  
Woodstock Academy 2  
NFA 1  
The Centaurs kept their Class L state tournament hopes alive with the win on the road.  
Tyler Odorski scored his second goal of the season halfway through the first half off a free kick by Zach Armbruster to

give the Centaurs (3-7-4, 2-4-2 Eastern Connecticut Conference Division I) the lead.  
Riley Quinn-Perkins then added a little insurance for his teammates with his first tally of the year with help from Phillip Feaney-Aleman with three minutes left.  
The Wildcats (7-6-2, 4-3-1) spoiled the shutout with a goal with three minutes left.  
  
Bacon Academy 3  
Woodstock Academy 1  
The Centaurs needed to win their last two matches to qualify for the state tournament.  
The Bobcats had other ideas.  
They played the spoiler role and finished the regular season with a 6-6-4 record with the win on the road.  
Owen McLaughlin gave Bacon Academy the first half lead with a goal 24 minutes, 46 seconds into the match.  
The Centaurs (3-8-4) tied it up with 22 minutes left in regulation play when Zach Armbruster scored on a penalty kick.

But the Bobcats put the win away when Stephan Stabach scored on a free kick from 22 yards out and Troy Johnson added the insurance goal, his 10th of the season, when he headed home a throw-in with 6:40 to play.  
  
**Girls Soccer**  
  
NFA 2  
Woodstock Academy 1  
The Centaurs were in a must-win situation to keep their state tournament hopes alive and they fell just short.  
Avery Danis had her second goal of the season off an assist from fellow senior Kaylee Saucier to tie the match at one for Woodstock Academy (3-9-3, 2-5-3 Eastern Connecticut Conference Division I) with 25 minutes left.  
But the host Wildcats (4-9-1, 3-6-1) scored for a second time with 2 ½ minutes left in regulation to play the spoiler role.  
  
**Girls Cross-Country**  
  
Centaurs, Langevin finish 2nd in ECC Championship

Woodstock Academy freshman Emelia Langevin finished second to her cousin, Lyman Memorial senior Hazel DeLucia, in the Eastern Connecticut Conference championship race at the Norwich Golf Course.  
Langevin finished in 19 minutes, 54 seconds to lead the Centaurs to a second-place overall finish.  
East Lyme won the race with 39 points followed by Woodstock Academy (88) and Lyman Memorial (91).  
Claire Bruneaux finished 18th and Isabel D’Alleva-Bochain was 19th for the Centaurs.  
  
**Boys Cross-Country**  
  
Centaurs finished 3rd in ECC Championship  
Woodstock Academy runners, used to hills on their home course at the Woodstock Fairgrounds, put together a strong showing at the equally hilly Norwich Golf Course.  
The Centaurs finished third overall, winning the tiebreaker with Fitch. East Lyme and Ledyard took the

top two spots.  
Sophomore Lucas Hecker led Woodstock Academy with a seventh-place finish in 17:16.  
Sam Greene was 16th and Harrison Durand 21st overall for the Centaurs.  
  
**Football**  
  
Woodstock Academy 36  
Windham 14  
The Centaurs did something they have struggled at all season, they finished drives and put the ball in the end zone.  
As a result, Woodstock Academy picked up its first win of the season in five games and also the first win in Division II of the Eastern Connecticut Conference.  
Dylan Phillips scored twice for Woodstock Academy, on a pass reception and fumble recovery.  
Griffen Bloom and Caydem Herlihy caught touchdown passes and Cooper Harris also scored while Wyatt Matulis had a field goal for the Centaurs.  
Windham slipped to 1-4 and 0-1 in Division II with the loss.

**OPEN SPACE**  
*continued from page A1*  
  
Presenting Sponsors: bank-Hometown, Bay State Trail Riders, New England Plasma, Pomfret Horse and Trail Association,  
The Inn at Woodstock Hill, and Weiss, Hale & Zahansky.  
Trail Sponsors: Green Valley Hospitality, Linemaster, Mackey’s, Triple Crown.  
Preserve Sponsors: Advanced Back & Wellness, Jewett City Savings Bank, Rocco’s Lawn Care, Spirol, and Stargazer Farm. Thanks to their generosity, every rider received a commemorative sweatshirt, and 100% of registration fees went directly to support WLT’s conservation mission. Lunch was provided by The Rolling Tomato, whose brick-oven pizza is always a hit, and We-Li-Kit Ice Cream generously donated a delicious dessert.  
We-Li-Kit has long supported our fundraising efforts, including the popular Ice Cream Ride — now in its second year — which takes riders from Legendary Farm to the We-Li-Kit shop. It’s hard to beat a trail ride that ends with an ice cream cone!  
Nightingale Forest spans more than 1,300 acres and features a well-established multiuse trail network originally created by Harry Townshend for bird dog trials. His family’s enduring appreciation for land stewardship

lives on through this forest, now a cornerstone of our conserved lands.  
In preparation for this year’s ride, WLT volunteers came together to replace a failing bridge — a significant project completed in just two days. The new bridge is safer, sturdier, and a testament to what can be accomplished when our community joins hands for conservation. We invite everyone to visit Nightingale Forest and experience its tranquility, wildlife, and natural beauty.  
Founded in 1975 by Virginia (Jimmie) Booth, Phil James, George Jackson, John Bigelow, Ben Williams III, Lois Orswell, and Dick Booth, the Wyndham Land Trust has spent five decades safeguarding the rural character and natural spaces of northeastern Connecticut.  
As board member Jeff Stefanik wisely notes, “If WLT is successful, the road views and landscape do not change — so it’s easy not to notice how much has been accomplished.”  
Our mission remains steadfast: to conserve land not only for wildlife and habitat, but for the enjoyment, health, and well-being of our community. Every acre protected and every trail maintained represents an investment in the shared future of our residents — where open space, clean air, and natural beauty remain part of everyday life.

**FRITO LAY**  
*continued from page A1*  
planning work,” Palaia said of the grant. “It’s really looking at a buildout analysis of the town, where we would like to have

**POSSUM**  
*continued from page A1*  
limited mobility, traumatic brain injury, blindness, or having no tail make an opossum non-releasable. Ferncroft has the federal permit required to keep non-re-

sewer and where we don’t, where we might need to have sewer because of failing septic systems, looking at the zoning all that stuff.”  
The grant totals \$150,000, with a matching component on the town’s side bringing the total

leasable opossums as educational animals.”  
After the presentation, you will have the opportunity to meet the opossums, Brandi and Brigitte, and even have a photo taken with them. Oliver, an ambassador-in-training, may also appear. Pam’s beautifully illustrated

investment to \$300,000.  
For now, the project continues to move slowly, and the sewer situation remains unchanged, but this latest update shows that progress, no matter how slow, is being made towards a resolution.

children’s book, “From Pouch to Couch: Why Lavender the Opossum Lives in a House,” will be available for purchase. In it, Lavender shares her journey from rescued joey (baby) to educational ambassador. The story compares her life with the lives of wild opossums.

Courtesy

American Legion Post 21 Danielson presented a check for \$1,000 to the Friends of Assisi Food Pantry to support their efforts to provide food to those in need in our community. Pictured are Post 21 Commander Dave Mulford, Program Director Jean Cyr, Assistant Director Mindy French, Food Coordinator Jen Litke and Post 21 Finance Officer Tom Gaylord.



ELECTION

continued from page A1

the Republican ticket while the Democratic nominees are James Rivers, John LaBelle, David Griffiths, and Peter Kostaras. Current Council Vice Chair Tammy Wakefield had stated her intention to run as an unaffiliated petitioning candidate; however, the Town Clerk’s office has confirmed she was unable to secure a spot on the ballot.

The Board of Education features two different contest, the first to fill three available full-term seats and a second to fill the seat left vacant by the passing of Democrat Danny Rovero. Returning candidates Misty Murdock and Susan Lannon represent the Democratic ticket along with Nelson King who was chosen to fill the vacancy left by Rovero’s passing until the election and now seeks to earn a full term on the board. Republican incumbents Kyle Napierata and Kelly Martin are joined by Stephen Schroth on the ballot. Democrat Kyle Provencher and Republican Diane Summa will contend to fill the vacancy left by Rovero.

Rounding out Killingly’s ballot is a contest for Board of Assessment Appeals. Incumbent Republican Kevin Gaudreau is challenged by Democrat Nancy Grandelski.

POMFRET

In Pomfret, the race for First Selectman once again goes unchallenged. Incumbent Democrat Maureen Nicholson has essentially wrapped up her latest campaign as the only candidate on the ballot. The battle for the remaining selectmen seats however is up in the air. Democratic incumbent Patrick McCarthy and unaffiliated petitioning candidate and incumbent selectman Alan Chubbuck are seeking re-election. They are joined by Republican nominee Martha Emilio who is hoping to earn enough support to give Republicans party representation on the board. Only two of the three will join Nicholson to

make up the new Board of Selectmen.

The Board of Finance includes two Democratic candidates and one Republican. The Democrats are supporting incumbents Norine Reingold and Christian Smutnick the latter of which is registered as a Republican representative on the Board of Finance website but has now been endorsed by the Democratic Town Committee. Heather Semenza is the lone Republican nominee. A vacancy on the board is also up for grabs but has no official nominees on the ballot.

The Board of Education has four seats opening, but five candidates seeking election. Democratic incumbents Leigh Grossman and Nicholas Stellitano are on the ballot along with Republican incumbent Brent Tuttle and new candidate Kathleen Sposato. A fifth candidate, current unaffiliated board member Sara Emilia Garcia-Gomes, is also on the ballot hoping to retain her seat.

The Planning and Zoning Commission is filling several seats this election. Incumbent Democrats Richard Huoppi and Barbara Hebert are back on the ballot joined by Republican challenger Bruce Dexter. Adam Burneau is the lone candidate for a two-year term to fill a vacancy, and Carlo Galante is the only candidate for an alternate position. Rounding out the ballot, the Board of Assessment Appeals features Democrat Raymond Wishart and Republicans Peter Mann and Anthony Emilio.

PUTNAM

In Putnam, all eyes will be on the Mayoral and selectmen races which features an interesting twist as current Mayor Norman “Barney” Seney, a longtime Republican, jumping to the Democratic ticket after leaving the GOP in 2024 and registering as unaffiliated. Seney seeks a fifth term as Mayor and will be challenged by the Republican Party’s new

nominee, current Board of Finance Chairman Dave Coderre.

Most of the other names on the ballot are familiar ones. The Republican slate remains the same with incumbents Roy Simmons, David Pomes, Michael “Tow Truck” Paquin, and Ricky Hayes all seeking reelection while the Democrats put forth incumbents Gloria Marion and J. Scott Pempek but also endorsed Mike Bogdanski who had previously sought an opportunity to join the Board of Selectmen seat in 2023 through a Republican primary.

The Board of Finance has three full-term seats up for grabs this election with a full slate of candidates. Democratic nominees Kerstin Forrester, Paula Hanlon, and Shane Donahue will contend against Republican incumbents Lisa-Jean Clifford and Julie Quinn who are joined by Walter “Scott” Irwin on the GOP ticket. Two alternate seats are also available with Democrat Linda Garcia contending against Republicans Christopher Steinbrick and Ronald Michael Stewart.

The Board of Education has a total of five seats up for grabs, four full time and one filling a vacancy. Incumbent Republicans James Purdon and Monique Mailloux will represent the GOP while incumbent Democrat Jon Chad Neal, is joined by Frances Bousquet, Elizabeth Beman, and Jamie Heath on the slate. Democrat Jill Zangerl, who is currently filling the board vacancy, will seek election as the lone candidate to fill that void for another two years.

The Special Services District Authority features a full slate with Democrats Ross Johnson, Stephen Etzel, Anne St. Onge, and Joe Carvalho contenting against Republican candidates Steven Gagnon, Brian Maynard, Earl Rosebrooks, and Norm Perron. Capping off the ballot are nominees for open seats and vacancies on the Library Trustees which include Democrats Donald Nelson, John Dignam and Victoria Baker

along with Republican Catherine Taylor.

THOMPSON

Thompson is the only local town guaranteed to have completely new leadership for its highest board. None of the current Board of Selectmen members are running for re-election with brand new slates presented by both parties for Election Day.

The Democrats have endorsed Andrew Irby and Geoffrey Bolte for First Selectman and Selectman respectively while Republicans put forth First Selectman candidate Nick Donohue and his running mate Larry Consiglio.

The Board of Finance sees three candidates on the ballot, Republican incumbents Robert Werge and Steve Herbert and Democrat Brian Loffredo. Loffredo is also the lone candidate for Board of Assessment Appeals. Current Democratic Selectman Ken Beausoleil is the lone candidate to fill a vacancy on the Board of Finance. The Board of Education has a slate of all new names with Democrats Amanda Lincoln and Melissa Dragon and Republicans Daniella Caverly and Rick Medeiros seeking open seats.

Planning and Zoning features five candidates: Democratic incumbents Brian Santos and Joseph Parodi-Brown as well as Republican incumbent John Lenky who is joined on the

ballot by Dan Bennett and David Poplawski seeking promotion from alternate members to full commission membership. Geoffrey Bolte is also seeking a spot as an alternate. The Zoning Board of Appeals has an interesting scenario where Democrat Leslie Lavallee and Republican Ross Dimock are running for both the main board and as alternates with no other opposition. Rounding out the ballot, Democrat Susan Salisbury and Republican Kenneth Sabourin are the candidates for the Water Pollution Control Authority, Democrats Aileen Witkowski and Linda Charlton are joined by Republican Donna Reynolds Lynch for Library Trustees, and Bernadette Quercia is a cross endorsed candidate to fill a Trustee vacancy.

WOODSTOCK

Woodstock doesn’t have too many truly contested races on its ballot as the town’s Democratic and Republican Town Committees made headlines earlier this year by cross endorsing sitting Republican First Selectman Chandler Paquette for reelection and numerous other candidates.

Paquette took over the seat after his predecessor, Jay Swan, passed away in 2024. The two current sitting Selectmen, Democrat Kate McDonald and Republican Christopher Mayhew, are also unchal-

lenged essentially preserving the existing board for another term. Both parties have also cross endorsed Christine French for Town Clerk, Philip Parizeau for Board of Finance, John Davis for Board of Assessment Appeals, and Sonia Greene for Board of Education, all incumbents for their respective positions.

Joining Parizeau on the ballot for Board of Finance is incumbent Republican David Fortin and Democrat Ivar McDonald. Two alternates for the board will also be filled, but each race includes only one candidate each from a different party. Democrat Margaret Wholean is on the ballot for a full term and Republican Wendy Costa is the lone candidate to fill an alternate vacancy.

Joining Greene on the Board of Education slate is Republican incumbent Judith Folkerts and Democrat Matthew Bennett. Democratic nominee Sue Swan and Republican Shawn Brodeur will contend to fill a Board of Education vacancy.

The Planning & Zoning Commission features a non-competitive slate with three Democrats, Joseph Polulech, Syd Blodgett and Joseph Adiletta, and one Republican, David Morse, all incumbents, seeking reelection. Democrat Amy Monahan is the only candidate to full an alternate position on the Commission.



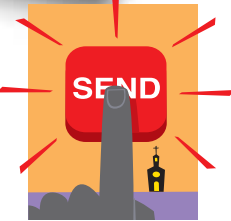
Courtesy

American Legion Post 21 Danielson presented a check for \$1,000 to the Veterans Ride for Free Organization, which transports veterans and wives or widows to medical appointments for no cost. Pictured here are Post 21 Finance Officer Tom Gaylord, Program Director Richard Conte, and Post Commander David Mulford.

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**TOWN OF KILLINGLY/BOROUGH OF DANIELSON/SOUTH KILLINGLY FIRE DISTRICT TAX COLLECTORS LEGAL NOTICE**

Payments will be received in the Revenue Office, 172 Main Street Killingly CT 06239, as follows: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:00-4:30pm, Tuesday 8:00-5:30pm, and Friday 8-11:30am. Also by mail, online, or in our drop box.

The second quarter installment of taxes for real estate and personal property becomes due on October 1, 2025 and becomes delinquent after November 3, 2025 and subject to interest from the due date. Interest will be charged at the rate of 1.5% per month with a minimum interest charge of \$2.00.

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

April Lamothe, CCMC  
Revenue Collector  
Town of Killingly  
September 26, 2025  
October 10, 2025  
October 24, 2025

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Charles S Bowen, Jr. (25-00363)**

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated October 14, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:  
Pamela Desaulnier,  
111 Old Colony Road,  
Eastford, CT 06260  
October 24, 2025

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Robert Matthew White (25-00376)**

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated September 24, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such

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

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:  
Melissa Weagle  
c/o MARK R BROUILLARD, ST ONGE & BROUILLARD, 50 ROUTE 171, WOODSTOCK, CT 06281  
October 24, 2025

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF William R Van Nieuwenhuyze (25-00375)**

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated October 10, 2025, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:  
Lynn M Davis  
c/o IAN TYLER SULLIVAN, ST. ONGE & BROUILLARD, 50 ROUTE 171, WOODSTOCK, CT 06281

October 24, 2025

**LEGAL NOTICE WOODSTOCK PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION**

The Woodstock PZC will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, November 6, 2025 at 7:45 p.m. at Woodstock Town Hall, 415 Route 169, Woodstock, for the following:

1. Application #668-09-25, Activity on a Scenic Road, 259 Quarry Road (MBL #6389/70/23). Applicant: Kings Highway Farm, LLC/Brian Sheldon.

The public may speak and submit written communications until the close of the public hearing. Details of the application are available from the Town Planner, [landuse@woodstockct.gov](mailto:landuse@woodstockct.gov) or available in the Land Use Office.

David Morse  
Chairman  
October 24, 2025  
October 31, 2025





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**31 DAY SALE**

31 DAY SALE



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PLUS

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**959-456-0067**

<sup>1</sup>Subject to availability, on a total purchase of 6 or more windows and/or 2 or more entry or patio doors. \$350 off windows and \$850 off doors discount valid during first appointment only. Cannot be combined with other offers. To qualify for discount offer, initial contact for an appointment with purchase must be made and documented on or before 10/31/25. Products are marketed, sold and installed (but not manufactured) by Renewal by Andersen retailers, which are independently owned and operated under Southern New England Windows, LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Southern New England. CT HIC.0634555. MA 173245. RI 36079. All residents of islands will be subject to an island surcharge. See complete information and entity identification at [www.rbaguidelines.com](http://www.rbaguidelines.com). ©2025 Andersen Corporation. ©2025 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.

<sup>2</sup>Plan 6148. Subject to credit approval. Loan term is 48 months at fixed rate of 0.00% APR. For example, assuming the full credit limit is used on loan approval date, for every \$1,000 financed at 0% APR, 48 monthly payments of \$20.84. This example is an estimate only. Actual payment amounts based on amount and timing of purchases. Call 866-936-0602 for financing costs and terms. 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](http://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.