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# THOMPSON VILLAGER

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Friday, June 26, 2026

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## Thompson to host NLE regulation public workshop

THOMPSON — The town of Thompson will host a public workshop on Neighborhood Limited Enterprise (NLE) regulations and is seeking input from town residents.

The workshop is Wednesday, July 1, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Thompson Public Library/Community Center – meeting room three, 934 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenor Dale, Conn.

What is a Neighborhood Limited Enterprise? A “Neighborhood Limited Enterprise” (NLE) is a new category of small business in Thompson that was introduced in the 2020 overhaul of the Zoning Regulations. Thompson is home to over 400 small businesses, the vast majority of which are entrepreneurial “kitchen table” operations run out of the owners’ homes. As is common in many communities, Thompson’s Zoning Regulations have always had standards allowing for these Home Occupations; but those rules only accommodate for the very smallest businesses. The NLE created a slightly more expansive category to meet the needs of businesses ready to grow, while remaining compatible with operating in residential neighborhoods.

Why are we doing this? Since the introduction of the NLE concept to the Zoning Regulations, there have been very few test cases to show whether those new regulations were “right-sized” to meet their intent. In 2025 and 2026, certain businesses did try to apply under these regulations. Although the businesses were viewed very positively by the Planning and Zoning Commission and several members of the public, after consideration it was determined that they did not meet the standards for this new home business category. This workshop is an opportunity for members of the public to learn more about the NLE concept and then discuss their preferences and priorities for businesses which may take root in Thompson’s residential and agricultural districts. Click here to view the current NLE regulations.

Why do we need NLEs? Thompson has structural challenges to attracting small businesses. The physical inventory of storefront properties that existed during the mill era have largely been lost. While efforts are underway to rebuild the historic downtown, that process will take several years to fully play out. In the meantime, roughly 85 percent of Thompson is zoned “Rural Residential Agricultural,” but, as noted above, we are still home to many small entrepreneurs. Additionally, some business types may be particularly suited to rural areas but currently lack a legal framework to locate here. The NLE is intended to bridge those gaps.

Who will participate? All members of the public are welcome to attend and participate but due to space limitations, attendance is capped at 42. Please use the Eventbrite registration link to sign up.

How will this work? Following a brief presentation about NLEs and the questions residents may wish to consider, participants will break out into smaller discussion groups. Guidance materials to facilitate meaningful discussion will be provided. At the conclusion, each discussion group will share their observations and preferences. Results of the workshop will be summarized and given to the Planning and Zoning Commission, to inform their annual regulations review process.

Please register to attend by Monday, June 29. Questions? Please contact Tyra Penn-Gesek at [planner@thompsonct.org](mailto:planner@thompsonct.org) or 860-923-9475.

## Putnam Hosts annual Fine Arts and Crafts Festival



Jason Bleau Photo

A vendor shows off their art pieces during Putnam’s annual Fine Arts and Crafts Festival

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

PUTNAM – Putnam continued its popular modern tradition on June 13 and 14 hosting its annual Fine Arts and Crafts Festival bringing together artisans from across the region and New England to show off their talents and goods on a day dedicated to the love of creativity and community.

The event is now four years strong and has quickly become a yearly must-visit for locals. While much of its personality has remained the same for its entire run, the festival continues to add new vendors and artists every

year expanding the types of products and art showcased all within the confines of the town hall green.

Oliver Williamson, a member of the Putnam Arts Council which organizes the event, explained how the event has become so popular because it combines two important values of the larger Putnam community: artistry and the bonds of community togetherness.

“Art still seems to be a pretty big deal here in Putnam. This town takes pride in it. This is a day where people can support local artists because these things still matter. It’s easy to stay indoors most of your life if you want to, but I think people who come out to something like this can embrace the community and art at the same time,” said Williamson.

The showcase featured a variety of art

from wood carvings to paintings, jewelry, and more. Also included were music acts, another annual staple that showcases local singers and instrumentalists, adding to the day’s entertainment and helping define the event as a celebration of all types of artistry, not just visual mediums.

“Seeing people out enjoying life is a great part of this event,” Williamson said of the day. “There are a lot of stressful things in life, and community events and art are a break from that.”

An estimated 66 vendors helped continue the Fine Arts & Craft Festival’s continued success as one of Putnam’s most beloved new traditions. The event is currently preparing for its five-year milestone in 2027.

## Killingly expands tax abatement privileges for first responders

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY – The Killingly Town Council has approved alterations to a town ordinance regarding tax relief for public safety volunteers, allowing those individuals to access relief sooner.

On June 9, the Council held a public hearing and a vote regarding town ordinance Chapter 14, Section 14-49 - Property Tax Relief for Public Safety Volunteers. According to Town Manager Brian Palaia, the proposal was to accelerate the already existing tax abatement privilege of those who volunteer with local fire departments and emergency responses.

“The purpose of it is to enhance recruitment for the volunteer fire departments in the town of Killingly,” Palaia said of the benefits of the change. “It was proposed by the fire departments through the fire marshal. The existing ordinance provides for

Turn To **ABATEMENT** page **A10**

## Trinity Episcopal Church celebrates 255th anniversary



COURTESY PHOTO

The Trinity Episcopal Church family celebrated the congregation’s 255th anniversary on June 14.

BROOKLYN — On June 14 Trinity Episcopal Church parishioners came together to celebrate the congregation’s 255th anniversary as a community of faith and worship. Rev. Dr. Gretchen Grimshaw officiated. The Eucharistic service was held at its original building, referred to as “Old Trinity,” 60 Church St., using the prayer book and music of 1771, when it first opened. This was followed by a picnic on the grounds with period recipes.

The public is invited to Eucharists at Old Trinity on July 5 for an Independence Day celebration of American music and July 26 with acoustic music, both at 10 a.m.

Guided tours of the church, the oldest standing Episcopal church in Connecticut, are being planned.

Currently weekly services are held at “new” Trinity at 7 Providence Road (intersection Routes 6 and 169) in Brooklyn Center on Sundays at 10 a.m. and online on Facebook.

The parish is holding a drive-through food collection for Friends of Assisi on Saturday, June 27, from 10 a.m. to noon at new Trinity. And vendors are welcome for the Fall Festival to be held Saturday, Oct. 3.

For information visit <https://www.trinityepiscopalchurchbrooklyn.org>.

# WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors, Dunn Marketing win two 2026 Communicator Awards

REGION — WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors and its agency of record, Dunn Marketing, have been honored with two 2026 Communicator Awards of Distinction at the 32nd annual Communicator Awards: one in the Advertising Campaigns — Financial Services category for WHZ’s television ad campaign, “Absolute Confidence. Unwavering Partnership. For Life.” and a second in the Publications — White Paper category for the consumer guide, Smart Strategies to Maximize Generational Wealth. The television campaign was filmed by creative production partner Schloss Films.

The Communicator Awards remains one of the largest and most competitive programs honoring excellence in marketing, communications, and creative work. The 32nd annual Communicator Awards received over 3,000 entries from ad agencies, global brands, digital agencies, production studios, in-house creative and communications professionals, graphic designers, design firms, and public relations firms across the United States and around the globe.

The awards are judged by The Academy of Interactive & Visual Arts (AIVA), an invitation-only body of over 1,100 industry leaders from top brands and agencies, including JPMorgan Chase & Co., FedEx, Netflix, National Geographic Society, Accenture Song, Critical Mass, NAACP, The Andy Warhol Museum, and many more.

“At WHZ, we believe that informed clients are empowered clients. We’re proud that both the emotional resonance of our brand campaign and the practical value of our generational wealth guide have been recognized at this level,” said James

Zahansky, Senior Managing Partner and Chief Strategist at WHZ. “It really speaks to the breadth and depth of our commitment to providing the best possible financial experience to our clients as well as financial education and empowerment to the larger community. We’re grateful that our partnership with Dunn Marketing has helped us to amplify those efforts even more,” Zahansky said.

The award-winning television campaign, filmed in collaboration with Schloss Films, brings WHZ’s brand promise — “Absolute Confidence. Unwavering Partnership. For Life.” — to life through authentic client stories and advisor relationships, conveying the deeply personal approach the firm takes to financial planning and wealth management. The campaign continues to anchor WHZ’s omnichannel marketing presence across Connecticut and beyond.

The second honor recognizes Smart Strategies to Maximize Generational Wealth, a comprehensive consumer guide developed to help individuals and families navigate the complexities of estate planning, wealth transfer, and inheritance — both as those leaving and those receiving wealth. The guide covers essential steps in building a financial strategy for legacy goals, developing an estate plan, and managing the practical and emotional dimensions of wealth transfer across generations.

“Being recognized twice in the same competition, in two very different categories, is a meaningful validation of the range of work we’re doing together with WHZ,” said Laura Dunn, CEO and Chief Brand Strategist at Dunn Marketing. “The television campaign and the generational wealth guide represent the two sides of great financial services marketing: connecting emotionally with people who need a trusted partner and equipping them with the knowledge to make confident decisions. We’re incredibly proud of both pieces and grateful to WHZ for the trust they place in us to bring their brand to life,” Dunn said.

These honors extend a growing record of marketing communications excellence for the WHZ-Dunn Marketing partnership. The pair previously won a 2025 Communicator Award of Distinction\*\* in the Financial Services Marketing Campaign Effectiveness category and a 2024 Gramercy Institute Financial Content Marketing Award in the Personal Investing, Business-to-Consumer category, where they tied with industry giant Vanguard.

WHZ also recently took home several distinctions from Forbes. James Zahansky, AWMA®, Senior Managing Partner and Chief Strategist; Laurence Hale, AAMS®, CRPS®, Senior Partner and Chief Investment Officer; and Leisl L. Langevin, CFP®, CDFA®, Managing Partner, Advisory, have all been named to the 2026 Forbes SHOOK Best-In-State Wealth Advisors list for Connecticut. Additionally, Langevin is among just 58 women advisors recognized with the Top Women distinction statewide and remains the only advisor from Windham and Tolland counties to receive it.

This year also saw Hale, Zahansky and Langevin once gain each named as a Five Star Wealth Manager. Hale has earned the Five Star Wealth Manager distinction for 12 consecutive years (2014-2025), and Zahansky and Langevin have also earned the distinction in every year that they were eligible (2019-2025 and 2021-2025 respectively).

For more information about WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors and its financial planning and wealth management services for individuals, families, executives, business owners, and institutions, visit whzwealth.com. For more information about Dunn Marketing and its omnichannel marketing services, visit dunnmarketing.com.

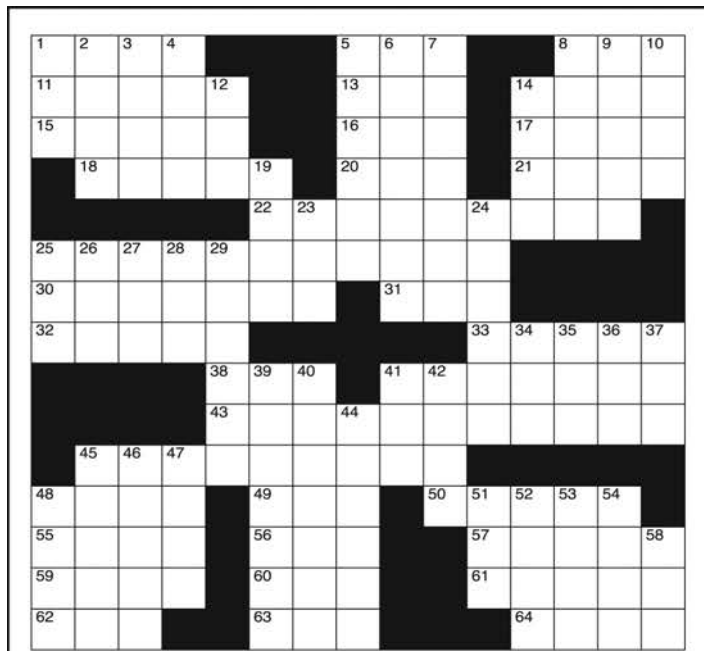
About WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors  
WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors (WHZ) is an independent investment services practice and partner of Commonwealth Financial Network®, a Registered Investment Adviser. Founded in 2006, WHZ offers more than 65 years of combined experience in the financial industry and provides wealth management services using a strategic process that encourages clients to Plan Well, Invest Well, and Live Well™. The advisors offer portfolio management and financial guidance to individuals, families, business owners and executives, and not-for-profit institutions in 25 states. They practice at 697 Pomfret Street, Pomfret Center, CT 06259 and 392-A Merrow Road, Tolland, CT 06084. They can be reached by phone at 860-928-2341. Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser. For more information, visit whzwealth.com.

About Dunn Marketing  
Dunn Marketing is a strategic brand development and omnichannel marketing agency dedicated to fueling the success of good people doing great work. Founded in 2018, the agency’s six-step Empathy-Driven Brand Building™ process and comprehensive suite of marketing services has fueled success for clients across a variety of life services industries including health-care, human services, education, finance, law, and the nonprofit sector. To learn more, visit dunnmarketing.com.

About The Communicator Awards  
The Communicator Awards recognizes excellence, effectiveness, and innovation across all areas of communication. For 32 years, the platform has provided an equal opportunity for companies, agencies, organizations, and independent creators to be honored, regardless of team size or project budget. The Communicator Awards is sanctioned and reviewed by the Academy of Interactive & Visual Arts (AIVA), an invitation-only body of over 1,100 industry leaders from top brands and agencies.

Five Star Wealth Manager Award is based on a rigorous, multifaceted research process that evaluates candidates using criteria such as industry experience, professional credentials, client retention, and regulatory history. A total of 3,641 Connecticut-area advisors were considered for the 2025 award; 236 advisors (6.5%) were recognized. Wealth managers do not pay a fee to be considered or selected for the award, although a fee is paid for use of marketing materials. The award is not indicative of future performance, and individual client experiences may vary.

For more information, visit [communicatorawards.com](https://www.communicatorawards.com).

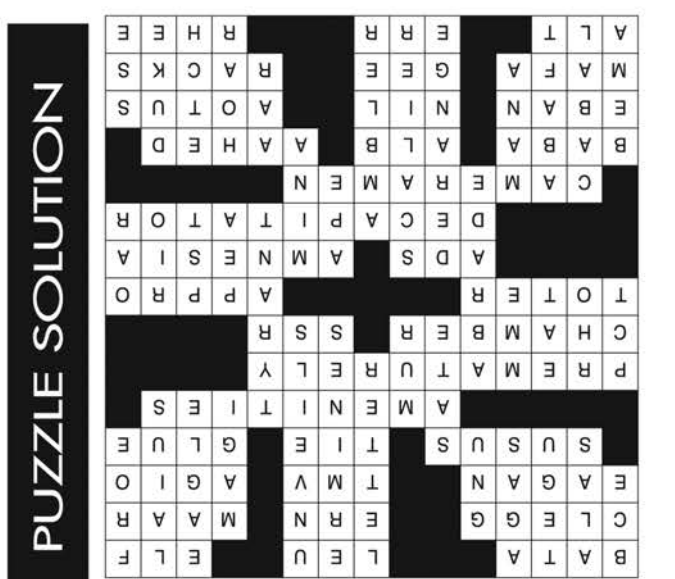


### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Egyptian bull god
- 5. Romanian monetary unit
- 8. Santa’s helper
- 11. Fictional Pink Floyd corporal
- 13. Sea eagle genus
- 14. Broad volcanic crater
- 15. Minneapolis suburb
- 16. Actual commercial worth (abbr.)
- 17. Exchange rate
- 18. Ethnic peoples in Guinea
- 20. Men’s fashion accessory
- 21. Craft material
- 22. Offerings
- 25. Early
- 30. Large room
- 31. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 32. One who hauls
- 33. Shorthand for accepting
- 38. Promotional materials
- 41. Loss of memory
- 43. One who beheads
- 45. Photographers
- 48. Small, rich sponge cake
- 49. White clerical vestment
- 50. Partner to “ooohed”
- 55. Abba \_\_, Israeli politician
- 56. Zero
- 57. Owl monkey genus
- 59. Lace bug genus
- 60. Mild expression of surprise
- 61. Storage devices
- 62. Keyboard key
- 63. Make a mistake
- 64. One-time Korean president

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Bridge building degree
- 2. Expression of sorrow or pity
- 3. Large, stocky, lizard
- 4. Rumanian river
- 5. Missive
- 6. Stout-bodied moths
- 7. Brings out
- 8. Bird of prey
- 9. King of Thebes
- 10. Cleaving tool
- 12. African antelope
- 14. Three are particularly famous
- 19. Satisfy
- 23. C. European river
- 24. Dictator
- 25. Portion of (abbr.)
- 26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
- 27. Consume food
- 28. Woman (French)
- 29. Scrape or wear away by friction
- 34. Popular vegetable
- 35. Pacific Standard Time
- 36. Brazilian state capital
- 37. Paddle
- 39. Cause to become insane
- 40. Drier and flakier
- 41. Mimic
- 42. ESPN host Kimes
- 44. One who moseys
- 45. Secret political clique
- 46. Behind the stern of a ship
- 47. Supernatural force
- 48. Sanctuary in Orthodox churches
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Grayish white
- 53. Engrave
- 54. UNC’s chief rival
- 58. Midway between south and southeast



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For more information, visit [communicatorawards.com](https://www.communicatorawards.com).

2026 Communicator Award of Distinction — Advertising Campaigns: Financial Services, and Communicator Award of Distinction — Publications: White Paper, created by the Communicator Awards and judged by the Academy of Interactive and Visual Arts. These awards are not specific to financial services provided and do not imply an endorsement, recommendation, or reflect the performance of the advisor.

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2024 Gramercy Institute Financial Content Marketing — Personal Investing Award, created by Gramercy Institute and presented in September 2024, was based on data gathered in the 18 months preceding the award date. An unknown number of candidates were considered for the award in the Personal Investing Business-to-Consumer category, and two were awarded. Participants pay a fee to apply for consideration. This award is not indicative of an advisor’s future performance, and your experience may vary. For more award information, visit <https://www.gramercy-institute.com/winners-2024-content-mktg-awards>.

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# Pomfret Library to host evening of music and history

POMFRET — Pomfret Public Library will host an evening of music and American history on Thursday, June 25, at 6:30 p.m. Join performer, lecturer and storyteller Michael Langlois for an engaging presentation exploring the story of our nation’s founding through two iconic American musicals, “1776” and “Hamilton.” This lecture and performance examines how each musical offers a distinct and contrasting vision of an American society at a crossroads, reflecting the values and tensions of their respective eras.

All programs at Pomfret Public Library are free to the public and are sponsored by The Friends of Pomfret Public Library. The library is located at 449 Pomfret St, Pomfret.

# Inflation vs. warnings: What today's market tug of war means for your investments

Every market environment presents a new set of challenges and opportunities. Whether driven by economic data, geopolitical events, or policy decisions, changing conditions can create uncertainty for investors. While the factors influencing markets may evolve, the principles that guide successful investing remain remarkably consistent with thoughtful planning, disciplined decision-making, and a long-term perspective.



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 INVESTMENT ADVISER

place greater pressure on economic growth and market valuations.

**How Inflation Is Affecting Consumers**  
 Many Americans received a reminder of rising prices over Memorial Day weekend, when the national average price of gasoline climbed to approximately \$4.55 per gallon, compared to \$3.20 a year ago. Even traditional holiday cookout staples became more expensive, with the cost of ground beef and hot dogs rising significantly over the past year.

Much of this inflationary pressure can be traced back to higher energy costs and tariffs. Following the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, the cost of oil and natural gas increased sharply, impacting everything from transportation and manufacturing to agriculture and consumer goods. Because petroleum products are used throughout the economy, higher energy costs often lead to broader increases in prices.

Tariffs have also contributed to rising costs. While intended to encourage domestic production and strengthen U.S. industries, many businesses have passed these additional expenses on to consumers through higher prices on a variety of everyday goods.

**Measuring Inflation and Interest Rates**

One of the most widely followed measures of inflation is the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which tracks changes in the prices consumers pay for goods and services. In April, the CPI increased 3.8 percent compared to the same period a year earlier, remaining above the Federal Reserve's long-term target of 2 percent.

Inflation and interest rates are closely connected. As inflation rises, interest rates often move higher as well. While higher rates can create attractive opportunities for savers and income-focused investors, they

also increase borrowing costs for consumers and businesses.

The yield on the 10-year U.S. Treasury has risen significantly from the historically low levels seen during the pandemic; it currently stands at approximately 4.3 percent. Interest rates remain one of the most important indicators to watch when evaluating the broader economic environment.

**Strong Earnings Continue to Support Markets**

Historically, higher interest rates have placed pressure on stock valuations because they reduce the present value of future earnings. However, investors have largely looked past this concern as companies continue to deliver strong financial results.

Earnings for S&P 500 companies are projected to increase by roughly 27 percent in the first quarter compared to the same period last year, while full-year earnings growth is expected to approach 24 percent.

Technology companies continue to be among the strongest contributors to this growth. Ongoing investment in artificial intelligence, data centers, and semiconductor infrastructure has fueled significant demand throughout the sector, resulting in projected earnings growth of more than 47 percent this year.

The key question for investors is whether earnings growth can continue to outpace the challenges created by inflation and higher borrowing costs. For now, strong profitability remains a powerful support for equity markets.

**Maintaining Perspective in a Changing Environment**

While inflation, interest rates, and market sentiment will continue to shift over time, the importance of a well-designed financial plan remains constant. Market cycles are temporary, but the decisions investors make during those cycles can have lasting effects on their financial future.

At WHZ, our commitment is to help clients navigate changing environments with

thoughtful guidance, disciplined portfolio management, and a focus on long-term outcomes. By combining strategic planning with evidence-based investment decisions, we strive to provide the clarity and confidence needed to make informed financial choices. Schedule a complimentary discovery session on our website at whzwealth.com, or call us at (860) 928-2341 to see how we can help to provide you with "Absolute Confidence. Unwavering Partnership. For Life."

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**Watching the Tug of War Between Inflation and Earnings**

Tariffs and the ongoing conflict with Iran have contributed to a rise in inflation, which has, in turn, pushed interest rates higher. Tariffs imposed on imported goods have increased costs for manufacturers and retailers, many of which have been passed on to consumers.

At the same time, disruptions to oil and natural gas shipments through the Strait of Hormuz have driven energy prices higher, increasing costs across a wide range of products and services. Consumers continue to feel the effects of these developments in their daily lives, from higher gasoline prices and grocery bills to increased borrowing costs on credit cards and loans.

Despite these headwinds, equity markets have remained resilient. Investors have largely focused on strong corporate earnings growth rather than the impact of higher inflation. Analysts currently expect companies in the S&P 500 to grow earnings by approximately 24% this year, while earnings in the Information Technology sector are projected to increase by an impressive 47.2 percent.

As long as earnings remain strong, markets may be able to absorb higher inflation and interest rates. But investors should monitor these trends closely, particularly as Treasury yields approach levels that could

## McNeill sworn in as new Danielson Fire Chief



Keven McNeill was sworn in as the new fire chief for the Danielson Fire Department.

DANIELSON — The Borough of Danielson Council is pleased to announce the appointment of Keven McNeill as the new Fire Chief of the Danielson Fire Department.

Following a thorough and competitive selection process, the committee carefully reviewed a number of highly qualified candidates. All applicants demonstrated exceptional credentials, leadership abilities, and dedication to the fire service. After extensive consideration, the committee determined that McNeill possesses the strongest vision for leading the department forward

and continuing its growth in a positive direction.

McNeill has served as Interim Chief, during which time he has demonstrated outstanding leadership, professionalism, and commitment to both department members and the community. Under his leadership, the department has expanded community outreach efforts, strengthened relationships with neighboring fire departments and partner agencies, and emphasized transparency in its operations.

In addition to these accomplishments, McNeill has worked diligently to foster a

culture of teamwork, professionalism, and mutual respect within the department. His ability to address challenges constructively and bring members together has helped create a more collaborative and supportive environment.

A significant factor in his success has been his experience with the Quiet Corner Peer Support Group. This background has provided valuable insight into conflict resolution, member wellness, and community relations, helping the department navigate difficult situations while maintaining a strong focus on communication, accountability, and service.

"The committee was impressed by all of the candidates who applied for this position," said Heidi Clifford, President of the Borough Council. "However, Keven's vision for the future, combined with his proven leadership as Interim Chief, distinguished him as the best candidate to lead the department forward. We are confident that under his leadership, the department will continue to strengthen its service to the community while building on the positive progress already achieved."

The Danielson Fire Department looks forward to continued growth and success under Chief McNeill's leadership and is excited for the future of the organization and the community it serves.



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FRANK G. CHILINSKI  
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHERBRENDAN BERUBE  
EDITOR

## The empty chair at the table

There are few experiences more universal, and yet more deeply personal, than the loss of a parent. And that sense loss came home to us earlier this week, as we had to bid farewell to a loved one in the midst of preparing the paper you hold in your hands.

No matter our age, losing a mother or father changes the landscape of our lives. It may come after a long illness, giving families time to prepare, or it may arrive suddenly, leaving questions and unfinished conversations in its wake. In either case, the loss creates an absence that cannot truly be filled.

Many of us spend our younger years believing our parents will always be there. They are the voices we call for advice, the people who remember our childhood stories, the steady presence at holidays, graduations, weddings, and countless ordinary moments. Even when relationships are imperfect, parents often serve as the living connection to our earliest memories and to the generations that came before us.

When that connection is broken, something shifts.

The first holidays can be especially difficult. A familiar seat at the dinner table sits empty. A birthday phone call never comes. A favorite recipe appears on the table, but the person who always made it is missing. The calendar continues moving forward, but grief has a way of slowing time, reminding us that life is divided into a before and an after.

What often surprises people is that grief does not follow a schedule. There is no deadline for healing and no single right way to mourn. Some find comfort in sharing stories. Others prefer quiet reflection. Some shed tears for months, while others feel numb before the emotions arrive later. Each journey is different.

In small communities like the ones we call home, we are fortunate to have fellow travelers around us that understand this reality. Neighbors deliver meals. Friends stop by for coffee. Churches, civic groups, and local organizations offer support. A simple card, a kind word, or an invitation to talk can mean more than we realize. These gestures do not erase loss, but they remind grieving families that they are not carrying the burden alone.

The loss of a parent also teaches lessons that are easy to overlook in the rush of daily life. It reminds us to make the phone call. To ask the questions about family history while we still can. To listen to the stories we have heard a hundred times before. To say "thank you" and "I love you" a little more often.

Most importantly, it reminds us that relationships are life's greatest treasure. Careers end, possessions wear out, and accomplishments fade into memory. The people we love are what endure.

For those who have recently lost a parent, the days ahead may feel overwhelming. Grief has a way of arriving unexpectedly, triggered by a song on the radio, a photograph tucked into a drawer, or a familiar scent that brings back a flood of memories. Yet alongside the sadness comes something else: gratitude.

Gratitude for the lessons taught, the sacrifices made, the traditions passed down, and the love shared over a lifetime.

The pain of loss never disappears entirely because love never disappears entirely. The two are connected. We grieve deeply because we loved deeply.

And while an empty chair may remain at the table, the influence of a parent continues to live on in the values they instilled, the memories they created, and the countless ways they helped shape the people we become.

In that sense, those we lose are never truly gone. Their stories continue through us, one generation to the next.

# OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Running out of oil is a real possibility says President Trump

To the Editor:

At the G7 summit in France last week, Trump said, "We run out of reserves at about four weeks. You know, there are reserves all over the world, and we would really run out, and there'll be a time when you wouldn't be able to get it." He called the alternative "bedlam." The president openly admitted on the world stage how close the U.S. is to an energy catastrophe. (The Hill) Trump also suggested at the G7 that he can manipulate markets, which has raised concerns among many about the consequences of his statements.

Think about what an oil shortage starting in July means for you, your family. Your truck. Your car. Your tractor. Your commute to work. The delivery of food to grocery stores.

Analysts project that commercial oil storage tanks could reach critically low levels by early July. According to commodity expert Jeff Currie at the Carlyle Group, "I would say, Asia, you're there. Europe, give it about another month, and look for July being a problem in the U.S." (Investing.com)

The Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR), America's emergency backstop, created after the 1970s Arab oil embargo is nearly empty. The effective shutdown of the Strait of Hormuz in late February has derailed more than 1.2 billion barrels of crude, according to S&P Global Energy. U.S. commercial crude inventories have erased their entire 2026 build, with massive SPR releases masking a far steeper supply drawdown. (Yahoo Finance!)

The energy industry warned the White House in March that oil and supply disruption in the Strait of Hormuz would create volatility in global energy markets. By June, American Petroleum Institute CEO Mike Sommers publicly said, "We're sounding the alarm on these inventories going to record lows. We have to solve this problem in the Strait of Hormuz." (International Business Times)

To the Editor:

We lost Joe Norton a few weeks ago. Joe and I had been friends for more than 60 years and I couldn't let him pass without saying a few words.

Joe was a unique character. You couldn't ignore him. When he roamed the halls of KHS he did a lot of good with common sense as evidenced by the outpouring of genuine kind, fond memories left for him on social media after his passing. But many knew little of his background or who he was outside his role as "hall monitor" at KHS.

Joe grew up in Rogers where his early athletic adventures started in Little League. Rogers had an excellent team and Joe was always a key player. His next love was golf at the long-closed but not forgotten Pomfret Golf Club, a hidden gem of a mom and pop operation that was one of the finer 9-hole courses in the country. Over the years I can't tell you how often the Rogers Little League and the Pomfret Golf Club would come up and Joe would literally light up at the mention of those times.

Most people probably recall seeing Joe "the runner". His focus could be intense and he could be seen trodding the roads of Killingly at any time of year and in any type of weather. Most would be surprised to find that Joe ran in many competitive road races and even completed the Newport Marathon.

Joe also possessed an off-beat sense of humor saying things you wouldn't expect in a way that only he could. Joe was an acquired taste, which could be off-putting to strangers. It took time to learn to read those Irish blue eyes to determine if he was serious or joking. If he wasn't appreciated immediately, he would be in retrospect. Put his different perspective on the world together with his love of running and golf and you will come

To the Editor:

According to what we see and hear, Social Security benefits will run out of money in less than 10 years. If our government would keep their fingers out of the money put aside for Social Security there would be no problems. But they see the money sitting there doing nothing so why don't we use it. We people on Social Security have worked a lot of years to enjoy our retirement and now they want to cut what we worked for and deserve, it just isn't fair.

Maybe what we need is a Social Security

Americans have been told that the U.S. has achieved energy independence. Yet, one-fifth of the world's oil consumption has stopped flowing through the Strait of Hormuz as a result of the Iran war. Its closure has sent oil prices spiking over the last few months, raising prices at the pump for U.S. consumers. The obvious reality is that the U.S. is not energy independent.

Trump acknowledged at the G7 that he did not want to see an "economic catastrophe," admitting that the markets forced his hand with the war driving up inflation and energy costs. What irony. Trump spent years criticizing Biden for rapidly depleting the reserves. He is now drawing them down faster, in a war of choice that his own administration launched. (National Security Journal)

Those of us who remember the gas lines of the 1970s know exactly where this road leads. The situation today carries an unsettling echo of that era and the 250th anniversary of American independence may be a painful moment to rediscover those lessons at the pump.

When the SPR runs out, we will feel it, not in increased stock market portfolio values, but in lines at gas stations. Americans deserve leaders who look out for the well-being of the "we the people," not billionaires. The November mid-term elections will be here before you know it.

Voter turnout matters. Imagine 100 percent of voters exercising their right to vote. Massive voter participation can alter election outcomes and ensure constituent representation. Just look at Hungary's 2026 election which had the highest voter turnout in its history. So, vote like your well-being depends on it, because it does. Vote for people over party in the 2026 mid-term elections and again in the Presidential election in November 2028. (Assuming we still have elections.)

LISA ARENDS  
BROOKLYN

## Remembering Joseph Norton

up with memories like this -- After we played a round of golf one day he decided to play another 18 holes by himself but using only two clubs - and running between every shot. For no particular reason other than it was something he decided he wanted to do. And he did it. In 52 minutes shooting an 82. An incredible feat that might normally take three hours.

To say that Joe was "Mr. Killingly" was an understatement. He lived for the town, the people, the athletic teams, and when given any athletic gear - hats, shirts, jackets - you would have thought someone gave him gold. It was Killingly Killingly 16 hours a day assuming he slept eight hours. Voice of the Killingly Redmen Football games for 28 years, a time keeper and electronic scoreboard keeper/wizard, he was in his element. He gained great admiration from Killingly teams, opposing teams, coaches, and even officials as his attention to detail made their jobs that much easier.

How do you sum up a person's life after 77 years? Well, did he make a difference? Yes he did. Was he happy doing it? Ecstatic. Did he live on his own terms? You bet. Every decision/choice in life has pluses and minuses and you live with it. And that is exactly what Joseph Benedict Norton did.

And I knew him. I mean I really knew him, and I'm better off for it. I wouldn't change a thing looking back. Yeah, I loved this man and if he didn't know it then I hope he knows it now and I hope he sees the outpouring of tributes that number in the hundreds.

You deserve it all, Kid. Did he make a difference? Beyond the shadow of a doubt.

STEVE COSGROVE  
WINDHAM, NH

## SSI running out

Committee to be a watchdog over how the money in Social Security is spent. The committee should be picked by the people and not the government. This way the people on the committee will be for the people and not for the government.

If there is anyone one there with a different idea, let's hear from you, all good ideas are welcome. So if you have a good idea put it on paper and mail it to this newspaper.

DOROTHY JUDY  
PUTNAM

## 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.

## Celebrate America 250

Closed: The Killingly Historical Center will be closed on Saturday, July 4th. It will be open as usual on Wednesday, July 8.

Celebrate America 250/Killingly at the Red, White and Blue Celebration Friday, June 26 at Owen Bell Park. Food court, music. Event begins at 5. Fireworks at approximately 9:15 (weather permitting).



KILLINGLY  
AT  
300  
MARGARET  
WEAVER

Celebrate America 250 at 11 a.m. on the 4th of July at Rotary Park in Putnam. Join in honoring Putnam's part in America's Semiquincentennial with the dedication of a commemorative plaque, speeches, and more. All are welcome.

Open: The Gertrude Chandler Warner will be OPEN as usual on July 4th weekend from 11-4 both Saturday and Sunday. For additional information, please call (860 )207-6044 and leave a message.

DAR Book Club (16+). Killingly Public Library. Friday, July 17, 1:00p.m.-2:00 p.m. Join DAR members for a special historical fiction book read/discussion on A Girl Called Samson by Amy Harmon. You do not have to be a member to participate. Pick up a copy of the book at the circulation desk beginning June 15. Amazon had this to say, "Deborah (Samson), impassioned by the cause, disguises herself as a soldier and enlists in the Continental army. Her impressive height and lanky build make her transformation a convincing one, and it isn't long before she finds herself confronting the horrors of war head-on."

Celebrate America 250/Putnam: CT Tunes and Tales of the Revolution, Wednesday, July 8, 6:00-7:00 p.m. with singer-songwriter Kent Besocke at Putnam Public Library. Co-sponsored by the Aspinock Historical Society.

Celebrate America 250 Killingly/Putnam: Visit the circa 1745 Cady Copp Cottage on Putnam Heights (Killingly Hill until 1855) Saturday, July 11 between 11 a.m. and 2p.m. NO PARKING ON THE SITE. For reservations for the bus leaving the Putnam Municipal Complex at regular intervals email william.walsh@putnamct.us by Friday, July 10.

I've been busy with activities related to celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States so naturally I have been curious about what was done in 1876 for the nation's centennial. The June 29th, 1876 Windham County Transcript posted an invitation for local individuals to attend events which were being planned by the Danielson Fire Department. "We, the Warden and Court of Burgesses of the Borough of Danielsonville,, hereby endorse the efforts of the Fire Department to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of American Independence and cordially invite the public to be present at the entertainment-- The festivities of the day will be entirely under the control of the department, and all may be assured that the utmost propriety will prevail on and about the premises. Signed, L. M. Rickard, Warden, Jeremiah Hill, Geo J. Clark, F. E. Baker, B. A. Bailey, Jarvis Wallen, Court of Burgesses... The Danielsonville Fire Department, assisted by the ladies, will hold a grand picnic at Quinebaug Lake, on July 4, 1876, to which the public are cordially invited. An old-fashioned R. I. clam-bake will constitute one of the features

Turn To KILLINGLY page A10

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### A visit to history

To the Editor:

As we pass Memorial Day and approach America's 250th year, the moment calls for both remembrance and celebration. Memorial Day honors those who gave their lives in service, while the 250th anniversary marks the nation's founding we remember that our nation was preserved not by ideals alone, but by the courage of men and women who gave everything for them. Among those nearly forgotten by time stands my third great-grandfather, General Robert Nugent of the Irish Fighting 69th, whose service and leadership helped shape the legacy of one of America's most storied regiments. His memory reminds us that the greatness of the United States has always been built on sacrifice, duty, and love of country.

My great-grandmother passed down the story that the 69th was once not receiving pay for its soldiers. General Thomas Francis Meagher brought Nugent with him to President Abraham Lincoln's office to raise the issue. Lincoln ensured the regiment received its funds before they left—a small but telling example of leadership recognizing sacrifice. After the battle of Fredericksburg, Lincoln recommended Nugent's promotion to General.

Nearly 250 years into our nation's history, we can look back to words spoken by General Nugent himself. On July 2, 1888, at Gettysburg, during the dedication of a monument in the National Military Park honoring the Irish Brigade—the 63rd, 69th, and 88th New York—he addressed those gathered:

"Mr. President, comrades and survivors of the Irish Brigade: I am honored by your distinguished invitation to address you as chairman of these proceedings. I am but a soldier, not given to speech, and can ill address you in a manner befitting this illustrious occasion, commemorative of the services of our historic dead.

Through the generosity of the Empire State and the many friends of the Irish soldier, we meet here to decorate the graves

of our fallen comrades and to erect this beautiful monument in honor of their gallant service.

On this spot, 25 years ago today, that brigade of which we are the only survivors took part in this great battle of the war and fought with a gallantry whose story has echoed from north to south, and from east to west. The Irish Brigade, like the famous old Brigade at Fontenoy, lives in the hearts of every true Irishman the world over. Its name and its deeds are enrolled among the immortal military organizations that took part in the great conflict on this field.

I will not recount the story of its many engagements, leaving that to the distinguished orator who will follow me, but will briefly refer to the beginnings of the organization which afterward became so well known as the Irish Brigade.

On the morning when the 69th Militia returned to New York from the battlefield of Bull Run, in the armory of that regiment, General Thomas Francis Meagher and I conceived the idea of forming the Irish Brigade. We intended that its first commander be the fearless soldier General James Shields. However, owing to his absence from the country and our inability to reach him, we were compelled to place command upon that gallant soldier, the Irish patriot whose life is forever honored—General Thomas Francis Meagher.

From that time until the close of the war, the Irish Brigade took part in nearly all the battles in which the gallant Second Corps—under Sumner, Couch, Hancock, Warren, and Humphreys—was engaged.

The brigade originally numbered about 5,000 men. The losses sustained on the battlefields where it bore so prominent a part so reduced its ranks that when it returned to New York after the war, fewer than 100 answered the roll call.

The Battle of Fredericksburg nearly destroyed it. My own regiment entered that battle with 210 muskets and 18 officers. Of these, 141 were killed or wounded; of the officers, two were killed and 14 wounded. The losses in the other regiments were equally severe.

In conclusion, I can only say that it gives me great pleasure and satisfaction to know that the only legacy I can leave to my children is the fact that, in the wisdom of Divine Providence, I was once the commander of the Irish Brigade—which never lost a color, nor had one of its flags stained by the hands of the enemy."

General Nugent died June 20, 1901 from wounds he had received at Fredericksburg. He is buried at Cypress Hills National Cemetery.

TONY EMILIO

### Woodstock is the place to celebrate America this July, please join us

To the Editor:

There are three amazing events in July to celebrate all things wonderful about America in beautiful historic Woodstock. You are invited to join us in the festivities.

A special America 250 event where you can experience history at the Roseland Cottage Garden Tea Party and Picnic will be held on Friday, July 3. Garden Tea was a Bowen family tradition on the eve of Independence Day which hosted a lavish celebration that included four US presidents over the years. Starting at 4:30 p.m., you are invited to bring a picnic or takeout dinner and enjoy the beautiful grounds of Roseland Cottage while listening to live jazz music with the very talented Rockwell Valentine. There will be outdoor games set up for all ages, traditional tea service and a showcase of student artwork for your enjoyment. A limited variety of light refreshments will be available. Then, starting at 6 p.m., the Woodstock Hilltopper vintage baseball team will take on the Lisbon Tunnelmen on the Woodstock Hill Common. If you have never seen a vintage baseball game, this is the perfect time to have that experience. These teams play with no gloves, following old rules and in character of the times. Hot dogs, popcorn and cotton candy will be available for purchase while you watch the game. This evening is not an annual event, it is a special event that you won't want to miss.

The America 250 Year is the perfect time to attend the 70th East Woodstock

Congregational Church Jamboree. This annual full day event of old-fashioned fun includes live music, face painting, hayrides, flag ceremony, children's games, cake walk, parade, fireman's water polo, food and more. Don't miss out on the one of a kind finds at the attic treasures and antique sale, book sale and silent auction. The Jamboree is the perfect day to slow down and really take part in a community event so bring a lawn chair and spend the day in beautiful East Woodstock. The schedule of events for the Jamboree has something for everyone to enjoy.

Another special July event is the '76 Celebration at Roseland Park. This event celebrates the 150th anniversary of Roseland Park, the 250th anniversary of America and the Community in general. The day begins at 10 with Touch-A-Truck including the Woodstock Fire Departments and continues through 4 p.m. with live music, a patriotic boat parade, hot dog eating contest, heritage and history activities, ice cream and food trucks, and more. There will be community organizations set up to share participation opportunities and offering a variety of fun activities for all ages. Everyone is invited to spend the day at the beautiful Roseland Park where we will celebrate and embrace our local community on July 19.

Spread the word, bring your friends. We hope to see you in Woodstock this July.

AMY MONAHAN  
WOODSTOCK

### Murdock: Pomfret wasteland on Route 101

To the Editor:

The level of ignorance exhibited by the Coyles, Chris and Melissa, is exceeded only by their persistent negativity. Yes, Coyles there is a Murdock Farm. It's on Peterson Road. Milks 82 to 84 cows and runs young stock. Been there for eons, long before they moved here from Montana.

The Murdock Property, on the other hand, is a big patch of town owned wasteland on Rt 101 near the Quinebaug River and town border with Killingly. You know the piece crossed by massive overhead high tension/voltage lines. Far, far from some mythical paradise.

But now comes an absolute gift to

Pomfret. A small solar array. Half a million bucks a year from something we will never see, no trucks, no pollution, might stabilize our tax bills, and certainly will help our community. And the Coyles are against this? Fighting tooth and nail promoting some fantasy of 'paradise lost on the Quinne?'

Get real and let's get this done. We need the money. Maybe the Coyles don't. Maybe they want to move back to Montana. Good idea, that.

Hopefully,

TIM McNALLY  
POMFRET

### Election choices led to budget increases

To the Editor:

Lee Landry is correct that the Thompson town budgets started to greatly increase three years ago. The reason being is that the two fiscally Conservative Republican members of the Board of Finance retired that year.

We attempted to replace them with two very fiscally and financially qualified Conservative Republicans. At the same time, we attempted getting budget-minded and taxpayer sensitive candidates on all the boards and commissions. The Conservative wing of Thompson's Republican party put up a full slate of candidates for the town elections.

We were challenged by a full slate of candidates from the Liberal wing of Thompson's Republican party.

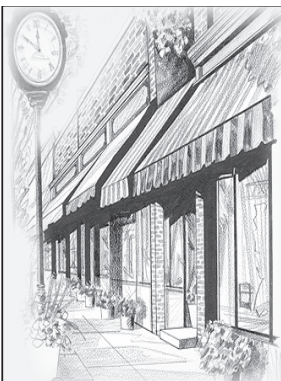
At the Republican primary, the Liberal Republicans won and went on to win in the townwide election, and here we are with 8 percent budget increases every year since.

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THOMPSON

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# Pathways to success: Tourtellotte seniors earn recognition, credentials, and career opportunities



**Congratulations to the Class of 2026 members who completed a Career Pathway in one of the fourteen nationally recognized career clusters.**

**Welding and Manufacturing**

- Kayd Akana
- Dylan Bryniarski
- Alex Davis
- Aidan Ford
- Cole Hopkins\*
- Colby Ormerod
- Tyler Parkin\*

*\*OSHA-10 and Youth Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative Certified*

**Business and Finance**

- Jenna Valby
- Laci Sinni
- Gaige Smith\*

**Visual Arts**

- Isabella Stewart
- Noelia Reed
- Briana Martin
- Amaya Munoz\*

**Performing Arts**

- Jadyn Ward
- Deanna Burress\*
- Makenna Sheridan
- Kevin Vescera

**Culinary**

- Deanna Burress\*\*
- Quintin Cabral\*\*
- Nick Cunningham\*
- Vivianna Hill\*\*
- Colby Lewis\*\*
- Victoria Patterson\*
- Tyler Shead\*\*
- Ava Tucker\*

*\*ServSafe Certified*

**Architecture and Construction**

- Quintin Cabral\*
- Tyler Shead\*
- Jordan Fitton

**Healthcare**

- Vivianna Hill\*\*
- Julia Lewis\*
- Ember Merrill\*
- Amaya Munoz\*\*
- Gaige Smith\*\*

*\*CNA Certified*

**A/V Technology and Communication**

- Cristian DeJesus
- Colby Lewis\*
- Joshua Tackson

**★ Completed more than one pathway**

access to career exploration opportunities, deepened partnerships with local industries, strengthened pathway programming, and provided more personalized support to help every student develop a clear and achievable plan for success after graduation.

As Tourtellotte wraps up the 2025–2026 school year and looks ahead to the future, they are proud to report the following achievements:

- 100% of TMHS students participated in work-based learning experiences.
- 100% of applicants who participated in the Electric Boat Interview Day at TMHS were hired
- 72% of seniors completed a Career Pathway.
- 49% of seniors earned industry-recognized credentials or certifications.
- Over the past three years, more than 35 students have earned their CNA certification, including 14 students this year alone.
- 9 of our newly certified CNAs will continue their education in advanced healthcare programs, and many are already employed as CNAs.
- 5 seniors have secured well-paying welding positions.
- 2 seniors earned the Youth Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative certification, completing 150 pre-apprenticeship hours while also earning college credits and a substantial stipend.
- One of Chef Zentgraf's Culinary Pathway students has been accepted to Johnson & Wales University this fall.
- A sophomore in Mr. Joyce's Welding program won the Eastern Maritime Welding Competition with Project MFG, outperforming more than 40 competitors from local high schools and advancing to the national competition in San Diego.

Most importantly, the combined impact of TMHS's innovative programs and opportunities, coupled with the unwavering dedication of its faculty and staff, has ensured that every member of the Class of 2026 leaves with a well-defined path forward. Through personalized guidance, one-on-one mentoring during Capstone Senior Showcases, and targeted Career Development Workshops, students have been empowered to identify their goals and develop meaningful plans for success beyond high school. Congratulations, Tigers.

For more information on Tourtellotte's Career Development and Career Pathways Program please visit: <https://sites.google.com/Tourm/thompsonk12.org/career-development/>.

NORTH GROSVENORDALE — Career readiness took center stage at Tourtellotte Memorial High School's end-of-year assembly on June 5, as 31 seniors were recognized for completing an impressive 38 Career Pathways—demonstrating their commitment to building meaningful futures beyond high school. Through engaging coursework, industry-recognized training, and hands-on work-based learning experiences, these students gained the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to succeed in college, the workforce, and their chosen careers. Seniors earned pathway recognition in Manufacturing and Welding, Architecture and Construction, Business and Finance, Performing Arts, Healthcare, Visual Arts, Performing Arts, A/V Technology and Communications,

and Culinary. Several students completed multiple pathways, demonstrating a strong commitment to expanding their skills and preparing for a variety of future opportunities.

Tourtellotte's Career Pathways program empowers students to transform their passions into opportunities, connecting classroom learning with real-world experiences and opening doors to future success. They are designed to align with the skills needed in today's local workforce and are developed with input from schools, colleges, employers, and community leaders. These pathways also outline coursework that can lead to industry certifications, licenses, and employment opportunities after high school.

Hands-on, work-based learning experiences remained at the heart of Tourtellotte's Career Pathway program this year. Throughout the

year, students worked alongside industry professionals in manufacturing, welding and culinary, attended career fairs and workshops in manufacturing and healthcare, competed in regional welding competitions, participated in the Youth Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative, attended business and leadership events, and earned valuable industry-recognized certifications, including CNA, EMR, CPR, and

OSHA-10 credentials. Students also had the opportunity to network with graduates at the Alumni Career Fair, gaining firsthand insight into career and college pathways. Perhaps most significantly, every senior completed a career-focused job shadow, bridging the gap between classroom learning and the professional world while helping students plan their next steps with greater confidence.

The addition of a Career Pathway Development Coordinator and the launch of a new Career Development website further strengthened the program's impact. These enhancements expanded student

## Day Kimball Health doctor honored as Healthcare Hero

PUTNAM — Day Kimball Health (DKH) is proud to announce that Anthony Chieffalo, MD, assistant medical director, Day Kimball Health's Hospitalist Program, has been honored with the 2026 Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) Healthcare Heroes Award.

The 2026 CHA Healthcare Heroes Award celebrates and recognizes the invaluable contributions of exceptional healthcare workers, both to their field and to the community at large. This year, CHA presented the award to a cohort of heroes from hospitals across the state.

For nearly four decades, Chieffalo has provided care to patients across northeastern Connecticut while serving as a physician leader at Day Kimball Hospital. He joined the organization in 1988 and cared for patients through his Woodstock-based practice before transitioning to the hospitalist program, where he now serves as assistant medical director of that program.

Widely respected by colleagues for his collaborative approach and commitment to patient-centered care, Chieffalo has played an important role in advancing quality improvement efforts and strengthening communication across care teams. Throughout his tenure, he has served in numerous medical staff leadership roles and on committees focused on quality, utilization review, stroke care and medical records. He has also mentored new physicians and helped support the next generation of hospitalists at DKH.

"Dr. Chieffalo's dedication to his patients, colleagues and the community has had a lasting impact on Day Kimball Hospital and the people we serve," said Kyle Kramer, CEO, Day Kimball Health. "For nearly 40 years, he has exemplified compassionate care, clinical excellence and servant leadership. We are proud to see his

**ELEVATING EXCELLENCE**  
**2026 Healthcare HERO**  
CHA CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

**Anthony Chieffalo, MD**  
Assistant Medical Director,  
DKH Hospitalist Program  
Day Kimball Health

contributions recognized for this well-deserved honor." Since 2022, CHA has included a celebration of healthcare heroes as part of its Annual Meeting. This year's meeting, which took place on Thursday, June 11, 2026, included the recognition of healthcare heroes who represent all types of care from every corner of Connecticut. Heroes received a certificate from CHA and a proclamation from the Office of Governor Ned Lamont recognizing their outstanding leadership.

Read more about each of the 2026 CHA Healthcare Heroes on CHA's website.

Day Kimball Health is a non-profit community healthcare system composed of Day Kimball Hospital, Day Kimball Medical Group, Day Kimball Health at Home, and healthcare centers in Danielson, Dayville, Plainfield, and Putnam. Its service area includes Northeast Connecticut as well as nearby Massachusetts and Rhode Island communities. Day Kimball Health's comprehensive network employs more than 1,000 staff, including nearly 300 associated, highly skilled physicians, surgeons, and specialists. Its website is [daykimball.org](http://daykimball.org).

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COURTESY PHOTO

## GOOD CITIZENSHIP

Putnam Selectman Mike Bogdanski gave a special talk about good citizenship to Cub Scout Pack 21 of Putnam, Conn. during the regular pack meeting on Wednesday, June 17, at their chartered organization, the Albert J. Breault VFW Post 1523. Then VFW Post 1523 Commander and Scout Leader Hans Lowell taught the Cub Scouts how to properly fold an American flag. Good citizenship is a basic principle that Pack 21's Cub Scouts learn, guided by trained and experienced adults. This was also part of Pack 21's celebration of America's 250th birthday. Pack 21 welcomes boys and girls ages five through 10. To join, call John Ryan at (860) 928-5873.



# KILLINGLY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Plant a Seed, Read

Claudette Stockwell, Director of Killingly Public Library

This summer, the Killingly Public Library is inviting the community to grow, explore, and connect through its Summer "Plant a Seed, Read" program. Designed to be flexible, low-pressure, and welcoming to all ages, the program encourages residents to engage with the library in whatever way works for them — reading, attending programs, borrowing materials, or simply stopping in.

As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States, we're also celebrating the communities that have helped the nation grow. Just as seeds flourish when nurtured, our town thrives because of the people, stories, and small businesses that make it unique.

To honor that spirit, participants will have the chance to win \$20 gift certificates to local shops, restaurants, and makers - supporting the local businesses that help our community flourish. It's the library's way of recognizing that strong neighborhoods grow the same way strong readers do; with care, connection, and time. By purchasing these gift certificates, the Friends of the Library are reinvesting in the community while offering patrons something exciting to look forward to.

The library's goal is to help the community bloom — both through reading and through supporting the local businesses that make Killingly special.

Do kids and teens get anything special? Yes.

Families that want to participate with their children will receive a literacy kit that includes:

- A Summer Reading Bag
- Stickers
- Tree-themed activity pages
- Reading log
- A Wooden Plant Growing Kit
- A Book of Their Choice

Teens that participate will have the option to win either a gift card to a local business or a special library experience event including the option to have a pizza party with friends, a movie night, after hours laser tag, and many more unique opportunities.

Join us for a summer of reading, growth, and community as we celebrate 250 years of American life — one book, one seed, and one local business at a time.

Connect with us at 25 Westcott Road, Killingly, online at killinglypl.org, or call us at 860-779-5383.

## Ken DiPietro appointed Interim Superintendent of Schools for Killingly

KILLINGLY — The Killingly Board of Education is pleased to announce the appointment of Ken DiPietro as Interim Superintendent of Schools, effective July 1. DiPietro will lead the district during the transition period while the board conducts a comprehensive search for a permanent superintendent who will assume leadership of the district for the 2026-2027 school year. A distinguished educator with more than 50 years of experience in public education, DiPietro previously served as Superintendent of Schools in Coventry, R.I., for eight years and in Plainfield, Conn., for 11 years. Following his retirement in 2023, he served as Interim Superintendent of Schools in Putnam, Conn.

"The board is confident that Ken's extensive experience, proven leadership, and deep understanding of public education will provide stability and continuity for the district during this important transition period," said Susan Lannon, Chair of the Killingly Board of Education. "His familiarity with the region and demonstrated ability to lead school districts through periods of change make him exceptionally qualified to serve our students, staff, and community." DiPietro, a Killingly resident since 2017, stated that an interim superintendent must fulfill all the responsibilities of the position while ensuring the district remains focused on its goals and is well prepared for the arrival of a permanent leader.

The Killingly Board of Education has retained a professional executive search firm to conduct a comprehensive search for the district's next permanent superintendent. The search process will include opportunities for stakeholder engagement and community input as the board seeks a leader who will build upon the district's strengths and guide its future success. The board remains committed to maintaining high-quality educational opportunities for all students and ensuring a smooth and successful transition in district leadership.

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ATTIC TREASURES & ANTIQUES BOOK SALE SILENT AUCTION



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- 10AM - PATRIOTIC DEDICATION
- 11AM - EAST WOODSTOCK CORNET BAND
- 1PM - PARADE
- 2PM - FIREMANS WATER POLO
- 3PM - CAKE WALK
- 3:30PM - FLAG CEREMONY



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# NCEF supports medical programs at Connecticut State Quinebaug Valley

REGION — The Northeast Connecticut Education Foundation (NCEF) proudly announces its support of students enrolled in two medical programs at Connecticut State Community College Quinebaug Valley. Thanks to a generous \$30,000 grant from the Scripps Family Fund for Education and the Arts (SFFEA), the NCEF will divide the funds equally to cover costs for both the Quinebaug Valley Allied Health and Practical Nursing programs, addressing unmet needs that can present financial barriers for students to complete their studies.

The funds applied to the Allied Health program will be used to support Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) and Medical Assistant (MA) students. Many of these students work full-time while enrolled as part-time students. The funds will assist returning students by covering costs for mandatory items, such as background checks, licensure exams, and textbook costs. These costs are not covered by Financial Aid and can prevent students from graduating and securing a full-time job with benefits. Starting salaries for MLT positions

typically range between \$58K-\$63K per year, with the MA starting salary rang-

ing between \$41K-\$46K. This can be life changing for these students in their

continuing healthcare education journey. Now entering its second

year, the Practical Nursing certificate at Connecticut State Quinebaug Valley is

an intensive four semester (14-month) in-person program. The SFFEA funds will support both students who need books at the start of the program and those who will successfully complete their course work in August 2027 but do not have the funds to register for licensure exams. Students who successfully complete the program and become Licensed Practical Nurses can start working at approximately \$63K per year. The salary differential from part-time minimum wage to full-time salary with benefits is one part of a transformative difference this program can achieve.

The mission of the Northeast Connecticut Education Foundation is to provide scholarships and other financial support to residents of Northeast Connecticut who want to pursue higher education. To learn more about the NCEF, visit [www.necteducationfoundation.org](http://www.necteducationfoundation.org). For more information on how to support local students at CT State Quinebaug Valley, please contact Director of Institutional Advancement Monique C.K. Wolanin at (860) 932-4174 or [monique.wolanin@ctstate.edu](mailto:monique.wolanin@ctstate.edu).



COURTESY PHOTO

Interim Academic Division Director of Nursing for Connecticut State Community College Anne Lamondy poses with President of Connecticut State Quinebaug Valley and Three Rivers Mary Ellen Jukoski, and Connecticut State Quinebaug Valley Director of Institutional Advancement Monique Wolanin.

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# Putnam Legion holds annual awards banquet

PUTNAM — The Mayotte-Viens Post 13 American Legion of Putnam, Conn. recently held their annual Awards Banquet and Installation ceremony for the incoming slate of officers for 2026-2027. The event was held on Thursday evening June 18th at the Elks Lodge in Putnam. Approximately 50 people were in attendance. The food was provided by G-7 caterers. The Master of Ceremonies was Past Commander Michael Vassar and the ceremony was presided over by Everett Shepard, the Past State Commander, and National Sergeant-at-Arms. Other dignitaries included Police Chief Chris Ferace, Fire Chief Robert Campbell, and Tammy Szyrka of Putnam Emergency Medical Services. The Elks were represented by Jim Eccleston and the Danielson Veteran's Coffee House was represented by Fred Ruhlemann and Bruce Hay.

Christopher Steinbrick received Post 13's Legionnaire of the Year Award. Alden Adams was the Putnam Firefighter of the Year. Kyle Maheu was the Putnam Police Officer of the year, and Katie Webster was the Emergency Medical Technician of the Year. Legionnaire Frank Tremont was also recognized for his long service to the Post as the Sergeant-at-Arms and as a member of the Color Guard.

The new officers sworn in include Post Commander Michael Rocchetti, Senior Vice Commander Brian Maynard, Junior Vice Commander Tina Lajoie, Finance Officer Charles Mackenzie, Chaplain Pierre Desilets, and Sergeant-at-Arms Frank Tremont. This will mark the 4th consecutive year that Michael Rocchetti has served as the Post Commander.

In his acceptance remarks, Commander Rocchetti expressed his appreciation and admiration for the award recipients and their service to the community. He also spoke proudly of Post 13's local programs including donations toward repairs at the Veterans Park, scholarships, Boys & Girls State, State Police

Youth Academy, Tri-Town American Legion Baseball, the Veterans-in-Need fund, and local Americanism observances such as Memorial Day, Flag Day, and Veterans Day.

The American Legion is the nation's largest veteran's organization. Founded in 1919, it stands on four pillars - veteran's affairs and rehabilitation, national security, Americanism, and children & youth programs. The Mayotte-Viens Post 13 has been active in Putnam since 1919. Post #13 meets the 1st Monday of each month at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall room 201. We welcome any veterans who would like to join our Post to attend.

Christopher Steinbrick has been chosen as Putnam's Mayotte-Viens Post #13 Legionnaire of the Year for 2026.

Chris joined the American Legion in 2017. He has been an active member of the Post - especially as a Color Guard, participating in numerous events throughout the town and the local area. He always presents a good image of the American Legion and his military bearing always conveys a strong sense of Americanism and Patriotism. He is also very reliable, always lending a hand at all of the many Post events - such as the Golf Tournament, the annual Veteran's Night, the Memorial Day Parade, the Putnam Dazzle Light Parade, the Beirut Bombing Remembrance, and the Wreath's Across America Observance. From 2023 until 2026 he served as the Senior Vice Commander, and has filled that role admirably. One year, when our membership numbers were down, he generously donated his own money to pay the dues for dozens of members who couldn't afford to renew their annual membership. As a member of the Post's Executive Committee, his opinions and counsel were always sought after and valued. He has been an integral part of all of the Post's decision making.

Mr Steinbrick, a lifelong resident of Putnam, served in United States Navy from 1985 till 1989. After ini-



L-R: Francis Tremont, Michael Rocchetti, Brian Maynard, Tina Lajoie, Charles Mackenzie, Pierre Desilets



L-R: Mike Vassar, Katie Webster, Mike Rocchetti



L-R: Mike Vassar, Kyle Maheu, Mike Rocchetti



L-R: Mike Vassar, Alden Adams, Mike Rocchetti



Christopher Steinbrick

tial "Boot Camp" training at the U.S. Navy's Recruit Training Command (RTC) located in Great Lakes, Illinois, he was then sent to Dam Neck Annex (Virginia Beach, VA) for additional training as an Operations Specialist. Operations Specialists are essentially the "eyes and ears" of the fleet, operating radar, navigation, and communica-

tions systems in the Combat Information Center (CIC) to track aircraft, ships, and missiles. After his training was complete, he was stationed on the USS Saginaw (LST-1188) out of Little Creek VA. The Saginaw was a Newport-class tank landing ship which supported amphibious operations globally. As a crewman on the Saginaw, he did two

Mediterranean cruises and one in the North Atlantic, traveling to places such as Puerto Rico, the Bahamas, Cuba, Kenya, Italy, Somalia, Egypt, Spain, England and Denmark.

He's a proud father of three. He has served on the Putnam Board of Education, on the Republican Town Committee and as a Justice of the Peace.

He currently works as the Shipping/Receiving Supervisor for a local manufacturing company. Unfortunately due to the demands of his job, he has recently resigned as Senior Vice Commander, but we sincerely hope that in the not-too-distant future he will be able to return to a leadership role in the Post.

## Murphy named to University of St. Joseph's Dean's List

WEST HARTFORD — Kaden Murphy of Woodstock has been named to the University of St. Joseph's Dean's List for the Spring of 2026.

Students named to the Dean's List must maintain a GPA of 3.5 or higher to be recognized. This marks the sixth straight semester that Murphy has been named to the list.

Murphy is on schedule to graduate in the spring of 2027 and is majoring in Criminal Justice.

## Morrison graduates from Emmanuel College

BOSTON, Mass. — Emmanuel College awarded a Bachelor of Science Nursing to Kayla Morrison of Putnam at the College's 104th Commencement on May 9.

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## Local students earn Dean's List honors at Eastern Connecticut State

WILLIMANTIC — Eastern Connecticut State University recently released its Dean's List for the spring 2026 semester, recognizing 1,216 students for maintaining high GPAs. Among the students are:

Olivia Hassett-Mellen of Putnam, a full-time senior majoring in theatre and performance media and political science.

Kylie McArthur of Putnam, a full-time junior majoring in elementary education and music.

Kai Rose Raymond of Putnam, a full-time first-year majoring in elementary education and women's and gender studies.

To qualify for Dean's List, full-time students must complete a minimum of 12 credits in letter-graded courses with an average GPA of 3.5 or higher in the semester. Part-time students are eligible if they've accumulated 15 or more credits of letter-graded coursework with an average GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Eastern Connecticut State University is the state of Connecticut's public liberal arts university, serving upwards of 4,000 students annually on its Willimantic campus. A residential campus offering 41 majors and 68 minors, Eastern offers students a strong liberal arts foundation grounded in a variety of applied learning opportunities. Ranked among the top 25 public institutions in the North by U.S. News & World Report in its 2025-26 Best Colleges ratings, Eastern has also been awarded 'Green Campus' status by the Princeton Review 15 years in a row. For more information, visit [www.easternct.edu](http://www.easternct.edu).

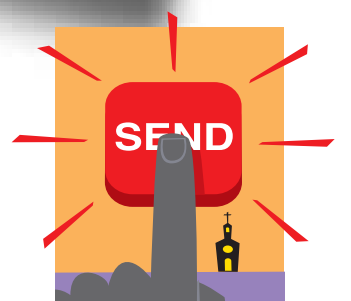
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**ABATEMENT**

continued from page A1

property tax relief for our volunteers up to an amount of \$2,000 over a period of years between zero and 20. What the amendment would do is accelerate the level of abatement so they would get up to 90 percent after their third year, and between the 10th year and on they could earn an additional hundred percent, but it does make the tax abatement accrue much quicker."

Town officials made it clear that the only language being changed in the document was the tax abatement qualifications for firefighters. The rest of the ordinance remains the same.

The change was very popular among members of the public, with several speaking favorably of the change as both a way to give back to emergency responders and enhance recruitment in a region that depends heavily on volunteer-staffed fire departments. One resident

called it a "wonderful" idea, and members of the Town Council reiterated it was backed by the fire marshal and supported by the departments.

That made the ensuing vote an easy one for the Town Council. Following the adjournment of the public hearing portion of the discussion, the council members addressed the item during their meeting proper. The Council voted unanimously to implement the change.

**KILLINGLY**

continued from page A1

of the day; also other eatable usually found on such occasions. A social hop will be in order during the day under the prompting of Mr. Gurdon Cady. After 7 o'clock, a.m. arrangements have been made for all passenger trains to stop at the Lake, so all may be accommodated..." (p.2). The Transcript of Thursday, July 6th, 1876 carried a follow-up. "Few people were on the ground till the arrival of the noon train from the north, which brought several hundred. Dancing commenced soon after noon and kept up until nearly seven o'clock...One accident occurred during the day. A party of ladies and gentlemen were enjoying a sale (sic) on the lake, when the mast to their sailboat broke, and they were obliged to drift around for some time, but finally reached the landing place in safety with the aid of other boats." (p.2).

It seems as though the ethnic groups celebrated separately. "The section of the Catholic Population that met in the grove near their church, we hear had a pleasant time, as did also the French people at their picnic in Hubbard's grove." (WCT 7/6/1876, p.2). Nearby Wauregan was also planning a celebration. "Gay Time at Wauregan. The Fourth---Father Desmond is making great preparations for the Centennial demonstration at Riverside Grove on the coming fourth. It will surpass all other efforts of this kind in richness and variety of programs. There will

be athletic and laughable games; stirring music, and a novel and thrilling contest called the "Tug of War," in which forty able-bodied men will take part. All are invited, 'without distinction of race, color, or creed.'"(p.2).

"President Grant has issued a proclamation calling attention to the Centennial anniversary of American Independence, and suggesting that the people should mark the event by some public thanksgiving to God Our village clergymen ought to make arrangement for a religious and patriotic gathering on the Fourth." (p.2).

"Several buildings in the village (Danielsonville) were decorated, the house of Mr. Augustus Bassett being the neatest of all we noticed. In the evening, there were fireworks and illuminations. Mr. O.P. Jacobs' house, was finely illuminated, as were the grounds and dwelling of Dr. Hutchins, Frank E. Baker, and others. We ought to have had a general illumination, and might have had if some patriotic soul had secured a general understanding about the matter." (WCT 7/6/1876, p.2). Keep in mind that this predated electric lights

The same Transcript reported that Woodstock also had extensive celebrations. "The day was opened by the ringing of bells and firing of canons. Early in the morning people from different sections of the town could be seen wending their way to the Common, where the celebration was to take place. At 9 1-2 o'clock Mechanics and East Woodstock bands

avored a large number with some excellent selections. At 10 1-2 o'clock Rev. E. H. Pratt called the assembly to order, introducing as the President of the Day, Hon. G. W. Phillips of Putnam. Mr. Phillips spoke briefly, fittingly referring to the beautiful town of Woodstock. Rev. Mr. Bronson offered prayer. Rev. Mr. Dick read the Declaration of Independence. The orator of the day, Rev. Dr. Commings of Middletown, then gave a very able and eloquent oration, his theme being the liberty and freedom of the Americans... After a collation, the exercises in the afternoon began with an interesting historical address from Hon. E. H. Bugbee of Killingly... "(p.2). I'm afraid my column doesn't have sufficient space to add what was being done in other local towns such as Putnam and Woodstock. Keep in mind that the entire region was in a celebratory mood. May that be the case this year. **CELEBRATE America's 250th birthday AND GIVE THANKS!**

*Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, June 2026. For Windham County Transcripts visit <https://killingly.historyarchives.online>. For additional information email me at [margaretmweaver@gmail.com](mailto:margaretmweaver@gmail.com) or visit the Killingly Historical Center at 196 Main Street Danielson Wednesday or Saturday 10-4 or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook [www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety](http://www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety).*

# OBITUARIES

## David W. Baker

September 7, 1961 - June 17, 2026



Woodstock - David W. Baker, 64, of Brickyard Road, passed away on June 17, 2026, in the comfort of his home and surrounded by his family. Born and raised on Long Island, New York, he

enjoyed cooking for his family. David is survived by his loving wife Dawn Marie Fennessy; daughter, Mackenzie Kate Walker of Plainfield, CT; daughter & son-in-law, Nevada Lee and Charles Nichols of FL; grandsons, Logan and Griffin Nichols; sisters, Rosemary Simino of New London, NH, Ruth Ann Baker of Smithtown, NY; nephew, Chase William Simino of New London, NH.

was the son of the late William and Stella (DePasquale) Baker. David graduated from Smithtown High School East and later attended Unity College and Eastern CT State University. He went on to be a Senior Engineering Assistant at Rogers Corporation for many years. David was an avid outdoorsman and was passionate about exploring the National Parks. Throughout his life he enjoyed hiking, camping, hunting, fishing, boating, kayaking, biking, golfing and gardening. David was also an artist and

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with David's family from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm on Saturday, June 27, 2026, in Gilman Funeral Home, 104 Church Street, Putnam, CT. A service will take place in the funeral home at 4pm. In David's memory, please consider making a donation to: Friends of Acadia at [friendsofacadia.org](http://friendsofacadia.org) or by mail at P.O. Box 45, Bar Harbor, Maine 04609. For memorial guestbook visit [www.GilmanAndValade.com](http://www.GilmanAndValade.com).

## Gerard "Jerry" Beausoleil

July 23, 1947 - June 17, 2026



Putnam - Jerry Beausoleil, 78, of Maynard St, passed away unexpectedly on June 17, 2026, in the comfort of his home. He was the loving husband of the late Susan (Crabtree) Beausoleil.

his greatest joys was watching his grandsons play sports; if he wasn't on the golf course or at the Elks, he was at a court or field watching one of the 'big' boys' or 'little' boys' games beaming with pride.

Born in Putnam, Connecticut, he was the son of the late Wilfred and Vivian (LeBlonde) Beausoleil.

Jerry is survived by two daughters, Andrea Devlin and Sean of Putnam, CT, Melissa Beausoleil of Ellington, CT; son, Gregory Beausoleil and Lauren of Putnam, CT; sisters, Martine Dorsey and Michael of Gill, MA, Jeanine Mauer of Putnam, CT; grandchildren, Brady Devlin, Nicholas Devlin, Greyden Beausoleil, and Kailer Beausoleil; and many nieces, nephews, and extended family.

Jerry proudly served his country in the Army National Guard, retiring with the rank of CW3. He dedicated 50 years of service to the Town of Putnam, beginning in 1968 as Recreation Director and retiring in 2018 as the Director of Public Works. A devoted member of the St. Mary's School and Church community, Jerry served on the School Athletic Association, the Board of Education, and as chairman of the Circle of Fun. He also volunteered for 25 years with the Putnam Fire Department.

A Funeral Mass of Christian Burial for Jerry will be held on Friday, June 26, at 11am at St. Mary Church of the Visitation, 218 Providence Street, Putnam, CT 06260. Burial to follow at St. Mary Cemetery, Putnam, CT. Memorial donations may be made to Putnam Little League, PO BOX 540, Putnam, CT 06260; Tri Town American Legion Baseball P.O. BOX 262, North Grosvenordale, CT. 06255 or PHSAAA, 71 Bibault St, Putnam, CT 06260. For memorial guestbook visit [www.GilmanAndValade.com](http://www.GilmanAndValade.com).

Jerry was a longtime member and past treasurer of the Putnam Lodge of Elks, where he formed many lasting friendships. Those who knew Jerry knew how much he loved the game of golf. He was a proud member of Quinmattisett Country Club in Thompson, where he spent many cherished days on the course. One of

## Vivian Reddy



Vivian Reddy (née Bousquet) died peacefully at her home at Alexander's Lake in Dayville, Connecticut on June 19th.

and always willing to go the extra mile to get the job done. After Brendan's death in 1996, Vivian moved back to northeastern Connecticut, the place she had always considered her true home.

Vivian is survived by her daughter, Ceallaigh, of Somerville, Massachusetts, son-in-law Mark Nevin, grandchildren Aaron and Cadi, nephew Robert Calderon, and her dear companion of many years, James H. Brown originally of Oneco. She is preceded in death by her husband W. Brendan Reddy, originally from Danielson, as well as her parents William and Bernadette Bousquet of Wauregan, and sister Therèse Calderon, of Ontario, California.

Vivian was a generous person who loved dogs and was passionate about helping all those in need, human and nonhuman alike. She was a member of the Catholic Church and often found sanctuary and peace there, even when mass was not being held. She enjoyed quiet mornings, birds and flowers at her home on Alexander's Lake in Dayville, watching the ever-changing scenery and light as seasons changed.

Vivian was born in Wauregan and graduated from Plainfield High School she married Brendan Reddy, her high school sweetheart, and moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, where Brendan earned his PhD and taught psychology at the University of Cincinnati. Vivian worked for many years as a medical transcriber. Her Cincinnati friends remember her as a hard worker

A small memorial service for family and close friends will be held at a later date. The family would like to thank Day Kimball Home Health Care and Hospice staff for their outstanding work, as well as Camie Davis, for her dedicated and loving care.

If you would like to donate in Vivian's memory, please do so to Hospice and Palliative Care of Northeastern Connecticut at PO Box 632, Putnam, CT 06260, or to Best Friends Animal Sanctuary at 5001 Angel Canyon Rd, Kanab, UT 84741.

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# OBITUARIES

## Dianne Elizabeth Lane

August 22, 1932 – June 13, 2026



Dayville - Dianne Elizabeth Lane, 93, of Dayville, CT, passed away peacefully on the morning of June 13th, 2026, surrounded by her loving family. She was the heart and soul of her family, a source of endless love and devotion, and a bright light to all who knew her.

Dianne was born on August 22, 1932, in Bridgeport, CT, the first child of Phyllis (Bergere) and George Seeley Underhill.

Dianne grew up with a passion for helping less fortunate people. She loved to read. She had a flare for the dramatic and was witty with a dry sense of humor. Dianne wrote wonderfully colorful letters to everyone. She traveled all over the world, loved the beach, and loved taking photographs of everything she saw.

Dianne loved animals, especially horses and her beloved German Shepards. She had some unique pets ranging from a squirrel monkey, a blue fox, and all sorts of dogs and cats.

She enjoyed a wide range of hobbies with her children including camping, fishing, beach-going, scuba diving, snow skiing, sailing, motocycling and her favorites in her personal time of artistic painting and quilting. She built a life defined by devotion, kindness, warmth to her family, and her concern for others.

In her early years, Dianne resided in the Norwich, CT area, later moving to Key Largo, Florida in retirement for many years until she returned to Connecticut in the final years of her life. Her home was always open and her compassion left a

lasting impact on her family and her community.

Her professional achievements included earning a B.Sc. in Nursing from St. Joseph College, a M.Sc. in Nursing from the University of Connecticut and a career at Norwich State Hospital, retiring as Director of Nursing in the Geriatric Division.

Her greatest pride and joy were her family. She is survived by her children Kimberly (Peter Deary), Mark (Rosemarie), James (Linda), Darryl (Alison) and Martin. Dianne is also survived by her 17 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren, all of whom she held close to her heart. Additionally, she is survived by her beloved younger brother, David Underhill originally of Monroe, CT and for many years now of Delta Junction, AK, along with his six children. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Martin, her oldest son, Christopher and her brother David's beloved wife Carol.

A celebration of her beautiful life will be held in Key Largo, Florida in October while Gilman Funeral Home will handle arrangements locally with calling hours 4-7pm Friday June 19 at Gilman Funeral Home, 104 Church Street, Putnam, CT 06260 and a Mass of Christian Burial at St Mary's Catholic Church, 218 Providence Street, Putnam, CT 06260 at 10am on Saturday June 20.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that charitable donations be made in her memory to Hospice & Palliative Care of Northeastern Connecticut, PO Box 632, Putnam, CT 06260, or a charitable organization of one's choice. For memorial guestbook please visit [www.GilmanAndValade.com](http://www.GilmanAndValade.com).

## Donald P. Galenski, 78



Donald P. Galenski, 78, of Woodstock Valley, died Monday, June 15, 2026 at Villa Maria Nursing Home in Plainfield. Beloved husband of 56 years to Joan (Misiasek) Galenski. He was born in Putnam

on September 5, 1947, son of the late Peter and Mary (Anthony) Galenski.

He worked as an Account Executive for Travelers Insurance Co. for 39 years. Donald was a catcher for the varsity baseball team at Woodstock Academy which is where he graduated from. He was a lover of sports, especially the Boston Red Sox, Miami Dolphins, and Boston Celtics. In his younger years, he loved to hunt.

Besides his wife Joan, he leaves his Daughter Heidi Galenski of California, Brother-in-law Fred Misiasek of Putnam, and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his daughter Melissa Galenski, sister Joan Winslow, sister Bernice Fabian and nephew Douglas Fabian.

Services are private, his wishes were to be cremated and to be buried with his daughter Melissa in St. Mary Cemetery in Putnam. Arrangements entrusted to Smith and Walker Funeral Home Putnam, CT. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Make-A-Wish America 1702 E. Highland Ave, Suite 400 Phoenix, AZ 85016 or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. Share a memory at [SmithandWalkerfh.com](http://SmithandWalkerfh.com)

## Lisa M. Durand

November 21, 1959 - June 12, 2026



North Grosvenordale - Lisa (Kilborn) Durand, 66, of First Street, North Grosvenordale, passed away on Friday, June 12, 2026, surrounded by her family and friends. She was the loving wife of David

Durand. Born in Putnam, CT, she was the daughter of the late George and Lorraine (Mason) Kilborn.

Lisa lived the better part of her life in North Grosvenordale, CT. She retired from the Thompson School system where she was the Food Service Director. She was above exceptional at her job, evident from the efforts put in to build a long-lasting, fun, and nutritional environment for the students and staff. Her kindness and compassion extended to anyone that was lucky

enough to know her. A loving wife, the best grandmother and mother, Lisas beautiful and kind soul will be immensely missed, but will live on in her passions. She is in the music that we dance and sing to, the recipes we cook and share, and the laughs we have.

Lisa is survived by her daughters, Amanda Durand and Laura Durand; her sisters, Suzie Labonte, Linda Seele, and Laurie Bibek; her brother, Ron Kilborn; and granddaughter Lilah Alexander.

She was predeceased by her brother, Kevin Kilborn.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Memorial donations in honor of Lisa may be made to TEEG, P.O. Box 664, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255. For memorial guestbook visit [www.GilmanAndValade.com](http://www.GilmanAndValade.com).

## Raymond Edmond Bourque

September 9, 1955 – May 19, 2026



Putnam - Raymond Edmond Bourque passed away on May 19th, 2026. He was born in Putnam on September 9, 1955, to Rosario Bourque and Theresa Gagne Bourque.

Ray leaves behind his wife, Susan Calaman of Putnam, sisters Janet (Richard) Watson and Jean (Gary) McNally of Woodstock Valley, as well as numerous

nieces and nephews.

He worked at Pall Corporation for many years until his retirement. Ray took interest in hiking, wood carving, crossword puzzles, and local history.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Aspinock Historical Society, 200 School St., Putnam, CT 06260, or to the organization of your choice.

Arrangements will be private. For memorial guestbook please visit [www.GilmanAndValade.com](http://www.GilmanAndValade.com).

## Elsie Orilla Shippee, 96

Elsie Orilla Shippee, 96, of Danielson, passed away peacefully on June 14, 2026 surrounded by loving family. She was born on May 23, 1930 in Killingly, Connecticut. Elsie was the daughter of the late Jabez & Carrie (King) Adams and the wife of Everett Anthony Shippee. Elsie worked forty-two-six years at Day Kimball Hospital in Putnam. She was

adevoted wife and mother. She leaves her children, Anthony Shippee Sr., Sandra Beausoleil and James Shippee. Elsie is also survived by many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and a great, great-grandchild, along with many nieces and nephews. A Graveside Service was held on June 25, 2026 at 11:00am at Westfield Cemetery in Danielson. [tillinghastfh.com](http://tillinghastfh.com)

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

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~ ~ ~  
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# LEGALS

Town of Woodstock PZC  
On June 18, 2026, the Town of Woodstock Planning & Zoning Decision made the following decision:

Approved, Application: #676-05-26 (5781/51/1A) – Modification of Special Permit; Addition of warehouse building-Applcant: Linemaster Switch Corp  
Details of this approval may be obtained by contacting the Woodstock Land Use Department at [landuse@woodstockct.gov](mailto:landuse@woodstockct.gov)  
June 26, 2026

### LEGAL NOTICE WITCHES WOOD TAX DISTRICT TAX COLLECTOR'S NOTICE

The first installment of Real Estate bills listed on the October 1, 2025 Grand List become due and payable to the Witches Woods Tax District on July 1, 2026.

Payments must be postmarked by August 3, 2026 to avoid interest charges. Interest will be charged on August 4, 2026 on all delinquent payments at the rate of one and a half percent per month or a minimum charge of \$2.00 per tax bill, in accordance with Section 12-146 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Failure to receive a tax bill does not invalidate the tax or the interest. (Section 12-130 C.G.S.) If you did not receive a tax bill, please contact the Tax Collector immediately.

If you have any questions, please contact the Tax Collector's Office at [taxw-lake@gmail.com](mailto:taxw-lake@gmail.com) or the Assessor's office at 860-928-6929 ext. 326.

Payments must be sent to:  
WITCHES WOODS TAX DISTRICT  
PO Box 725, WOODSTOCK, CT 06281

Frederick Chmura  
Tax Collector  
June 26, 2026  
July 3, 2026  
July 24, 2026

### TOWN OF KILLINGLY SEWER USE NOTICE

The first half of the Sewer Use is due July 1, 2026 and will become delinquent after August 3, 2026. The Sewer Use will be subject to interest at the rate of 18% per annum, 1.5% per month or any fraction of a month, from the due date. A minimum of \$2.00 interest will be charged for each delinquent bill and installment.

FAILURE TO RECEIVE A BILL DOES NOT RELIEVE OR EXCUSE THE

### OBLIGATION OF TAX OR INTEREST DUE.

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

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

April Lamothe, CCMC  
Revenue Collector  
Town of Killingly

June 26, 2026  
July 10, 2026  
July 24, 2026

### TOWN OF KILLINGLY SEWER ASSESSMENT 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.

Sewer assessment bills are due June 1, 2026 and becomes delinquent on July 1, 2026 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

\$5.00.

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  
May 22, 2026  
June 6, 2026  
June 26, 2026

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Jean Bartelt (26-00168)

The Hon. Gabrielle Labonte, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated April 21, 2026, 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:  
Diana C Bartelt  
c/o MARK R BROUILLARD, ST  
ONGE & BROUILLARD, 50 ROUTE  
171, WOODSTOCK, CT 06281  
June 26, 2026

**For Legal Advertising Information, Call 508-909-4127  
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