

THOMPSON VILLAGER

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Paws spreads awareness of cat overpopulation “crisis”



Jason Bleau

Paws in Putnam depends heavily on volunteers to assist its roughly 120 cats in its shelter. They are hoping to raise awareness of the overpopulation crisis to help those they cannot house.

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

PUTNAM — The population of stray cats and kittens in the Quiet Corner has increased dramatically over the past few years, leaving local animal control and shelters struggling to control a situation that has been deemed a “crisis.”

One of the leading organizations working to help put an end to the overpopulation is Paws Cat Shelter, a non-profit, volunteer-operated shelter in Putnam that has launched initiatives to assist locals with low

cost spay and neuter programs and help educate the community on how to respond if they find a family of cats and kittens that need to be rescued or fixed.

Cases of animal abandonment or lack of proper care to animals has seen an increase, especially in recent years as the cost of vet bills have proven difficult for fixed income families forcing owners to either release their pets or avoid paying to have them fixed. This has resulted in cats breeding in the wild creating dangerous situations for the animals by encour-

aging increased activities of predators and the spread of diseases among these populations. While Paws as the local shelter tries to help, the organization’s President Fay Beriau admits the problem has become an “epidemic” that has been hard to manage due to their limited space and resources.

“There are so many stray cats out there reproducing, and it’s to the point where we get so many calls for mothers with kittens and we can help fix the mom, but we can’t take the kittens. We’re turning our focus

more to getting animals spayed and neutered. We’re working with Lebanon Vet who has set up a lot of programs – It’s a struggle, but we have to balance our shelter’s needs and our community’s needs especially with our finances,” Beriau said.

Paws takes in whatever they can, but with roughly 120 cats in the shelter they are at capacity and unable to shelter many of the strays especially kittens. The sheer number of colonies have become overwhelming with reports of families as far south as Plainfield and as

far north as Thompson, some containing as many as 30 cats between the parents and the kittens. The number of calls Paws gets weekly is “astronomical,” says Beriau, leading the organization to launch public education initiatives and seek solutions through partnerships with vet programs in Connecticut and Massachusetts. These include low-cost spay and neuter programs, providing guidance for anyone who locates a colony on their property, and trap-neuter-return (TNR) efforts that may not solve the existing kitten pop-

ulation problem but can prevent continued breeding. Beriau calls this effort “Cats in Crisis,” and said there are real risks of continued population growth not just for these cats, but for the entire region.

“When they keep reproducing you have illness. You have predators out there. It’s not healthy for the cat. TNR does work. We have a colony we know is down to two now after being up to thirty after all these years. They need to be fixed. It will stop that population

SEE JUMPWORD PAGE 10

Killingly seeks grant to expand afterschool programs at KCS

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The Killingly School District has formed a new partnership in hopes of receiving a state grant that will expand afterschool programs for Killingly Central School (KCS).

The district is seeking funding through the CT Afterschool Grant, which requires a partner for municipalities to qualify. In June, the Killingly Board of Education approved a partnership with Mentor My Health, Inc. which would create a Healthy Heroes Afterschool Program for two years with potential for grant renewal if the town’s application is successful. Assistant Superintendent of Killingly Schools Jeffrey Guiot said the organization has long considered expansion into the region and the grant provides the perfect opportunity for both parties to create a new, expansive afterschool program for local students.

“They’re extremely interested in bringing their work to the eastern part of Connecticut. They’re already working a little bit with the seniors through the senior center and community center. Basically, it’s healthy eating, physical activity, improving lifestyles, enhancing academic performance in literacy and numeracy, improving social emotional outcomes, and the big part is providing family engagement opportunities to Killingly and the surrounding communities,” said Guiot.

The organization will work with Killingly collaboratively in hopes of earning a \$200,000 grant that would fund a daily afterschool offering as early as the next school year. The new program would include two and a half hours a day after school Monday through Thursday, or nine total hours of afterschool activity each week. Guiot made sure to clarify that this would not be a “daycare” service, but rather a compliment to the students’ education in Killingly schools. The program would be open to any student at KCS. While the school currently hosts smaller afterschool clubs that operate once or twice a week, the new program would be a much larger commitment by the families but one that school officials feel would be beneficial to the continued growth, socializations and education of the students.

If the grant is successful, the district would roll out a 30-week course to start tentatively in September. The program would include Killingly teachers who would serve as academic support and the hiring of a community resource specialist to help families with their needs and allow every student their best chance to be involved. A certain percentage of the budget can be used for transportation if needed. The district could hear back about the grant as early as next month.

Pluck-A-Duck raffle event is bigger than ever

PUTNAM — Quack Quack! The Putnam Business Association proudly announces the 2025 Pluck-A-Duck Raffle Event is taking place on Sunday, Aug. 10 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and Monday, Aug. 11 at noon, because one day simply isn’t enough for this unique fundraising event.

The PBA Pluck-A-Duck Raffle Event joins forces with the Town of Putnam’s Main Street Car Cruise on Aug. 10, where attendees will enjoy viewing more than 2,000

classic cars, live music & more, including the colossal Kids Corner in Rotary Park, where free family fun awaits! Kids of all ages will delight in Xen’s Critters Petting Zoo, Bounce Houses, Balloons By Bella, Art by Simone Facepainting, the Breezeline Photo Booth, Arts & Crafts Tent, Popcorn Station, games, vendors and exhibitors with fun activities and giveaways. The popular Wonderful Waddle treasure hunt returns this year, where young attendees will visit various activ-

ities and exhibitors to have their form stamped. Completed forms are turned into the Putnam Business Association’s Kids Corner tent, where one lucky winner will be randomly selected to receive a backpack filled with school supplies along with a BMX Kink Curb Bicycle from Putnam Cyclery, valued at \$450. The Wonderful Waddle forms will be available for download on the Putnam Business Association and Discover Putnam Facebook pages and day-of-event at the

Wall Of Wishes display.

Whether kids walk, waddle or fly, they can give the Fun Run a try! Partnering with Northeast Opportunities for Wellness (NOW), children can participate in this one-mile Fun Run, beginning at 10:00 a.m. from the Hale YMCA Youth & Family Center, 9 Technology Park Dr. in Putnam and race down the scenic walking path overlooking the Quinebaug river. The PBA Pluck-A-Duck Kids Fun SEE PLUCK-A-DUCK PAGE 11

Rectory School welcomes Julie Anderson as new Head of School



Julie Anderson

She brings with her a strong foundation in both teaching and administration, along with a lifelong commitment to fostering inclusive, purpose-driven learning environments. Anderson holds a Bachelor’s and Master’s degree in Liberal Studies from Wesleyan University and a Master’s in Education from

Southern Connecticut State University. Her professional journey—from Spanish teacher to Middle School Head, Academic Dean, and ultimately Head of School—reflects her holistic understanding of student development and school leadership. With a strong record in strategic planning, financial stewardship, and

faculty development, Anderson is poised to guide Rectory into its next exciting chapter. Her leadership arrives at a time of momentum, as the school prepares to open a new athletic facility and launches an ambitious strategic planning process this fall. “I am honored to join the Rectory community and continue the important work of building a joyful, inclusive, and future-ready school,” said Anderson. “From the moment I first stepped on campus, I was struck by the warmth of the people and the sense of purpose that runs through everything here. I’m thrilled to begin this journey together.” The Rectory School community is excited to embark on this new chapter under Julie Anderson’s leadership and looks forward to the energy, ideas, and heart she brings to campus.

New Al-Anon meeting in Pomfret

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

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

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

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

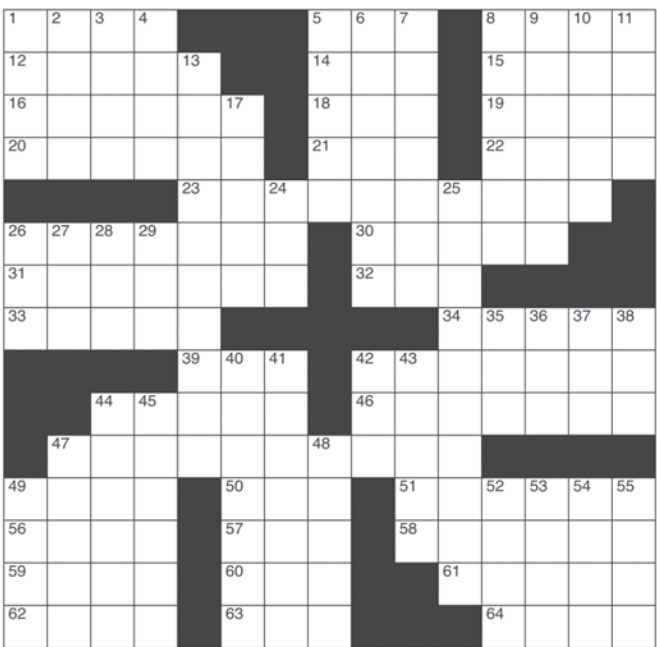


Courtesy

Members of Shannon Labonte's family met at the Putnam Public Library on July 3 to present a generous donation in her memory. The funds were some of the proceeds from the Shannon Labonte Memorial Artisan and Craft Fair which was held on June 14 at the Putnam Congregational Church. The money raised from the craft fair supports a variety of causes that were close the Shannon's heart. Shannon was a very special person and frequent library customer who passed away in 2018. She was a preschool teacher at Country Kids Child Care in Putnam and had a heart for children and learning. The funds will be used to purchase materials for the children's department of the library in Shannon's memory. Left to right, standing: Linda Pacheco, Roberta Solomon, library director Priscilla Colwell, Bettye Jo Pakulis and daughter Zoe Labonte. Seated: Ann Russo.

VILLAGER ALMANAC At CT Audubon

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of July 1: Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, American Kestrel, Common Yellowthroat, Red-tailed Hawk, Catbird, Wood Thrush, Veery, Baltimore Oriole, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Song Sparrow, Barn Swallow, Carolina Wren, Ovenbird, Eastern Towhee, Mockingbird, Cedar Waxwing, Great Blue Heron



- CLUES ACROSS
1. 50 percent

5. Records electric currents

8. Charlize Theron flick “___ Flux”

12. More frosty

14. Disfigure

15. Sky color

16. A thoroughfare in a town or city

18. Actress de Armas

19. Spend time in a relaxed way

20. California peak

21. Lodging option

22. Small amount of a thing

23. Expresses sorrow

26. Keeps an ear warm

30. Babies (Spanish)

31. A conceited and self-centered person

32. No seats available

33. Pouches

34. Hip joints

39. A place to bathe

42. Evading

44. Minute, one-celled unit

46. Losing one's hair

47. A country in W Africa

49. One point north of northeast

50. Pointed end of a pen

51. Extreme

56. Norse personification of old age

57. Doctors' group

58. Member of U.S. Navy

59. Mens' fashion accessories

60. A way to allow

61. Gloomy

62. Grads wear one

63. Between south and southeast

64. Jaguarundi cat

- CLUES DOWN
1. Snakes do it

2. Hormone

3. The standard monetary unit of Turkey

4. Fixed charges

5. Electronic communication

6. Artilleries

7. “Strangers on a Train” actor Farley

8. Burning

9. Makes ecstatically happy

10. Greek liqueurs

11. Tropical Old World tree

13. Someone who takes vengeance

17. Style of cuisine

24. Select

25. Immunized against disease

26. Old world, new

27. Honorable title (Turkish)

28. Court case: ___ v. Wade

29. Supervises interstate commerce

35. Not divisible by two

36. Twelve

37. Commentator Coulter

38. Encourage

40. Plumbing fixtures

41. Early

42. One point north of due east

43. King of Thebes

44. Short-tailed martens

45. Impose a penalty on

47. Consort of Poseidon

48. A way to lessen

49. Brooklyn hoops team

52. Female of a horse

53. Do as one is told

54. A way to prepare meat

55. Unit of measurement



Summer Sports Camp comes to Eastford



EASTFORD — Sports camp for kids is returning this summer to Eastford. The camp is for boys and girls ages four to 12, and offers sports coaching and fun, integrated with Bible-based teaching on personal and spiritual maturity. Sports include

soccer, basketball, flag football and cheerleading, with basic sports skills for the four and five-year-olds. This year's theme is “Go The Distance.”

The camp is a partnership between the Congregational Church of Eastford and Living Proof Church of Ashford. The program is led by a team of college-aged adults from Uncharted Waters Sports Ministry – athletes with special summer camp training. Church community volunteers will also staff the program.

“This will be our seventh outing,” according to Pastor Mike Moran of the Eastford church, “and every year the program has grown. It is a delight to watch the kids grow in skill, character and confidence and at the same time have a blast.”

The camp will run from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Monday through Friday, July 21-25, and will be held at Eastford Elementary School at 12 Westford Rd. in Eastford. There is a fee of \$60 per camper (“camper-ships” available upon request). Register at ccestford.org/sports-camp/. Register on or before June 30 and get a free tee shirt.

Quiet Corner Al-Anon group meets Wednesdays

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

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

Local resident graduates from Dickinson College

CARLISLE, Pa. — Noah Converse Salsich, son of James Salsich and Jessy White of Woodstock, graduated magna cum laude from Dickinson College on May 18 with a BA in environmental studies and political science. Other recognition included: dean's list. Salsich is a graduate of Woodstock Academy.

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Courtesy
Members of Putnam inland wetlands received a tour of Putnam’s Ash landfill last week in anticipation of their five year renewal. Left to right: Mike Bogdanski, Bruce Fitzback, Ted Altmeier, Adam Paquin, Scott Irwin, Cindy Dunne, landfill manager.

Killingly Public Schools offers free summer meals through National School Lunch Program

KILLINGLY — The Killingly Public Schools announces its participation in the federally funded Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). Under the SSO, nutritious meals are provided free of charge to all children 18 years and younger at the following sites:

Name and address of sites	Meals available and serving times	Meal service dates
Killingly High School 226 Putnam Pike Dayville CT 06241	Breakfast 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Lunch 11:50 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday	July 7 until Aug. 8

Persons interested in receiving more information should contact the Killingly Public Schools Food Service Department, c/o Timothy Mugan, 226 Putnam Pike, Dayville, at (860) 779-6792, ext. 1.

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letter must contain the complainant’s name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by: mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or email: program.intake@usda.gov This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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“Chicago Total Access” Al Fresco concert to rock Putnam’s Rotary Park July 19

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“Chicago Total Access” is New England’s premier tribute to the band, Chicago. Expect a hi-energy performance from this explosive show band dedicated to covering the band Chicago’s catalog that spans over 55 years with lots of songs from the “Old Days.” Enjoy “total access”

to the music of Chicago, and you will know every song! Sing along, dance, cheer, chair dance! Enjoy the concert and the positive energy! Stop “Searchin’ So Long” for good times. Just visit Putnam, often, and experience good times!

After the big performance on the stage is completed, turn your chairs to wind down and enjoy River Fire with mood music produced by WINY Radio 1350 am & 97.1 fm. River Fire begins after the performance at 8:30pm and stays lit until approximately 10:00pm.

“Chicago Total Access” Al

Fresco 2025 is powered by Centreville Bank, Spicer Propane & Oil, and WIN Waste Innovations.

Thanks to supporting event partners WINY 1350 am & 97.1 FM, with the fires aglow thanks to Spicer Propane & Oil and the Town of Putnam Public Works & Parks & Recreation Departments.

For your best experience, remember to bring a lawn chair or blanket to Rotary Park for memory making and “Wishing you Were Here” every night!

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Local student named to St. Lawrence University Dean’s List

CANTON, N.Y. — Dylan Mayo from Woodstock has been named to St. Lawrence University’s Dean’s List for achieving academic excellence during the Spring 2025 semester.

Mayo is a member of the Class of 2027 and is majoring in psychology. Mayo attended Woodstock Academy.

To be eligible for the Dean’s List, a student must have completed at least four courses and have an academic average of 3.6 based on a 4.0 scale for the semester.

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Some of the best memories are made in flip flops

Summer is in full swing, with everyone walking around with a sun kissed glow. Apart from mild weather, lush green forests, swimmable rivers and lakes and beautiful flowers, there are significant health benefits to these summer months.

Sunlight aids in regulating our systems. During the summer months, there is a reduced rate of heart attacks. One study revealed that those who suffered a heart attack during the summer had survival rates increase by 19 percent. Vitamin D is said to play a role in protecting the heart as well as regulating calcium and phosphorus absorption.

Individuals tend to eat lighter and healthier in the summer, consuming more fruits and vegetables, which boosts our immune system. Produce is in abundance, whether it's at the local farmer's market or in our own back yards. Bring on the watermelon! The sun can also cure many skin issues, such as psoriasis, dermatitis and acne; however, this doesn't mean we can skip the sunscreen.

Summertime encourages us to get out and exercise. Getting the blood pumping creates endorphins and initiates and improves the flow of oxygen to the brain, which in turn lowers stress, and can aid in productivity in other areas of our lives. The longer days also afford us zero excuse to get out and get it done.

Because of the warmer temperatures, we automatically increase our water intake. This promotes digestion and flushes the toxins from our bodies.

Sleep disorders tend to fall by the wayside or improve during the summer due to the sun's early morning exposure. Experts say getting sunshine between 7 and 9 a.m. every morning will help you sleep better at night.

Spending time with friends, family and community increases in the summer which is key to our mental health. During summer months there are more outdoor activities that bring folks together such as band concerts, farmer's markets, campfires, which are all great places to catch up with our neighbors.

Most people tend to go on vacation during the summer, reducing stress and burnout. More and more people are realizing just how important it is to take a breather.

Summertime helps us to feel more footloose and fancy free. There is also an overall feeling of relaxation and joy, over simple things like reading a book on the front porch, sipping sun tea or the smell of fresh cut grass.

The rivers flow wildly in the mountains and the lakes remain calm for fisherman to drop a line and float about, letting all cares melt away as the sunlight dances off the small ripples and waves. Mountain summits are picture perfect with blue skies, white clouds, vibrant green trees with glistening rocks, oftentimes creating scenes that don't even look real.

Take advantage of the season and savor every moment. In the words of the great Henry James, "Summer afternoon-summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language."

Letter submission policy

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

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

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Woodstock saga ends

To the Editor:

The third time is the charm... at least for the Woodstock BOF. Another story for the taxpayers. On the 1st of July, eighteen hundred and forty seven (1847), voters turned out with 1025 in support of a 6 percent tax increase. Congratulations to all who participated, and thanks to those 800-plus who came out again to try to put a stop to the insane spending. If you didn't vote, you in effect voted yes, and get to pay like the rest.

As I have written previously, this 6 percent comes on top of 5.8 percent and 7.48 percent in the last two years for a total tax increase of just under 20.5 percent since the repeal of Prop 46 three years ago. What does this mean to you? Well, for the average taxpayer something in the neighborhood of \$250-\$300 in added tax for this year plus vehicles – and of course, every year hereafter. Over the next few weeks/months, you will get confirmation of your share in a supplemental tax bill – a moment of joy for Mr. Day and Mr. Lessig and the other spenders, but this is only the beginning.

The big overriding issue here is “No town

can sustain these levels of spending increases,” especially one that is adamant on being rural and staying rural. If you saw the video of the recent June 24 Special town meeting, you have seen, and heard, the reception a young man got near the end when he suggested that the town needs to encourage more development and bring in commercial business to increase revenue – the no's rang clear. No tar and feathers this time.

If this increase isn't enough for you, don't worry, this is a “re-val” year, so you have another chance to get whacked if your assessment is above the average increase for the town. You'll know by the end of year where you stand, but it may take a few weeks longer to get the town average number. Also, don't be surprised to see a push for some kind of bonding to cover other projects and expenses – the general fund is getting low and simply can't support continued withdrawals to cover open and to be opened projects. Hang in there and have a great summer. Next year should be a real hoot.

DAVE RICHARDSON
WOODSTOCK

Eastford deserves better than Deborah Richards

To the Editor:

Eastford First Selectwoman Deborah Richards should not be given another term in office because, in my opinion, she has created, and maintains, a hostile work environment. Here are just three recent examples:

1. Earlier this year, the library board supported the proposal that the two librarians attend a librarians' conference in Mystic on their day off. There is money in the library's budget for professional development. First Selectwoman Richards said she was OK with one librarian attending, but not both because of a town policy. She was unable to produce a copy of said policy. Again, the conference was on a day that the library was closed and both librarians were off.

2. During this year's budget process, First Selectwoman Richards objected to the number of thank you cards being sent to the library's donors and benefactors, and said she planned to cut the \$136 postage line in the library's budget. When the library board's draft minutes included a reference to this circumstance, First Selectwoman

Richards didn't want the minutes to be posted, demanded an immediate rewrite, and said the library board's minutes shouldn't be so detailed (which, of course, would be less informative).

3. Last fall, First Selectwoman Richards was asked if a children's story-walk could be installed on library grounds. Not only did First Selectwoman Richards approve the project, but she also suggested it be installed in the town park adjacent to the library. This project was realized through the time and talent freely given by volunteers, and the materials were generously donated by a local business and the school. The project's footprint was laid out along the brush-line so as not to impede town mowing. Just before the official unveiling, First Selectwoman Richards threatened to have the entire story-walk ripped out.

Town employees, town volunteers and town residents deserve better.

DANIEL BELANGER
EASTFORD

Communication board, memorial benches should be reinstalled at Roseland Park

To the Editor:

In early 2023, I spearheaded a campaign to develop and install a communication board at the playground at Roseland Park. This board allows children and adults with complex communication needs to communicate with others by pointing to pictures. Because of generous monetary donations from the public, as well as Centreville Bank, we were able to install the board in the spring of 2023. We also raised enough money to install two memorial benches, one of which was dedicated to a four-year-old member of our community who tragically passed away in her sleep.

In the fall of 2024, I was notified that the board had been taken down in order to protect it during park renovations. As of the writing of this letter, the board and benches have still not been reinstalled, and no renovations have been done in that area. Multiple emails to the

Roseland Park Board of Trustees asking for an update have gone unanswered. The new park caretaker has responded to me, but all she can tell me is that when, or if, the board will be reinstalled is up to the Trustees.

I have received numerous emails from people whose children used the board asking what happened to it and when it will be reinstalled. I wish I had an answer for them. These people donated to the fundraiser, and want to see the board they helped pay for be put back. To the Board of Trustees, please respect the wishes of your community and put the board and benches back. I would be happy to work with you to determine the best place to put them if you would like to reach out to me.

CHRISTINA COOK
WOODSTOCK

The hard-knock life in Connecticut, compliments of the Trump administration!

To the Editor:

The Trump administration is withholding billions in federal education funds allocated by Congress, and CT is among the casualties. According to Education Week, \$5.7 million allocated for CT schools is being withheld. That's money our towns desperately need.

If you've been to a town meeting, you know it's an annual struggle to fund school budgets. Now imagine covering that gap without federal aid. Where will the money come from? Higher property taxes? Towns are already raising rates due to property reevaluations. Connecticut taxpayers are getting squeezed by housing costs, groceries, fuel, and now, potentially, new tax hikes to make up for broken federal promises. This is on top of higher prices consumers are paying because of tariffs. For the average household in Windham County making a median income of \$72,068, this is a financial hit households can't afford.

The household pain doesn't stop at schools. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) slashes Medicaid (HUSKY in CT) and food assistance (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)). These programs support people already living below the poverty line. Connecticut Voices for Children estimates 156,000 residents are at risk of losing their health coverage. Still others will face higher co-pays.

When these dreadful cuts take effect, where will the uninsured go when they need medical care? The emergency room if it's still open? Rural hospitals like Day Kimball Hospital depend heavily on federal Medicaid dollars. If those funds dry up, closures are inevitable. It is an indisputable fact that the OBBBA will cause massive disruptions in health care.

The OBBBA does promise \$10 billion per year through 2030 to support rural hospitals, but according to Forbes, the math doesn't add

up. The fine print reveals it will be difficult for states to close budget gaps using common tools like provider taxes. The result? Less care, more closures, and higher pressure on the facilities that survive.

Meanwhile, OBBBA delivers permanent tax cuts to the wealthy, and temporary scraps for everyone else. Low-income households will be hit hardest as they see their estimated \$150 tax break wiped out by the loss of health care and food assistance.

The OBBBA also includes work requirements for Medicaid and for SNAP benefits which could disenroll millions across the country from both programs. Other tax provisions, like deductions for seniors, tips, and overtime, are all set to expire within three to five years (when Trump's term ends).

This OBBBA is not just unfair, unjust, and corrupt, it's expensive. The Congressional Budget Office says the bill adds \$3.4 trillion to the debt over 10 years, while the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget said it adds \$4.1 trillion. The conservative Cato Institute puts the figure as high as \$6 trillion. Even Elon Musk, the former head of DOGE, calls the bill a “disgusting abomination”. It raises the debt ceiling by \$5 trillion, pushing a huge tax burden onto future generations.

What can we do?

Make your voices heard locally, statewide, and nationally. What's happening in Washington directly affects our towns, our schools, our health care, and our budgets. Speak up. Let your representatives know that policies that punish working families, cut school funding, and strip health care are unacceptable. Elections are coming up. Vote like your community depends on it, because it does.

Lisa Arends
Brooklyn

Sportsmanship

My favorite sporting event was the Kentucky Derby. Part of its allure is that it takes about two minutes, the horses are beautiful, and I love big hats. In recent years, the race has become fraught with horrifying accidents and accusations of drugging the horses. It has lost its luster. Far better is watching my grandchildren play sports in their respective towns. I pay close attention, cheer happily and hope no one gets hurt. The experience of team play and membership for kids is about learning sportsmanship, gaining athletic skills and falling under the tutelage of kind adults who become mentors in life.

In my childhood home, the only breakfast cereal was oatmeal. Only my father ate it. When Bob Richards, the Olympic pole vaulter appeared on Wheaties boxes, my mother bought it, because my brother, a high school and college pole vaulter worshiped Richards. The message was that great athletes were good people, great Americans and, above all, good sports. That's what I believed, however, something seems to have shifted.

My husband and I watched the French Open in a hotel restaurant in Spain. The two players were evenly matched as are all who get to such high levels of competition. The young men grunted and groaned as they whacked the ball at heart-splitting speed. When the match ended, Alcaraz, the winner, fell to the ground in triumph. Women players also pump their fists, grimace, fall down and cry in response to wins and losses. The emotional responses would be reasonable from regular people, but from high level stars, they are a bit much.

Golf, once the slowest and quietest sport, has changed too. Fans yell and catcall after successful shots and disrupt the tranquility of the great green expanses by rowdier behavior than was previously tolerated. It takes the edge off the tone of near sacredness that surrounds big golf matches, which always seems a bit stilted to me. Our oldest grandson has taken up golf and plays with his tween friends at a course that seems to welcome them. He is learning the rules of proper golf etiquette from his grandfathers and his dad, but those manners might be antiquated in a few years. I hope not. For all their exclusivity and male vibe, golf courses are beautiful places for quiet contemplation of the frustration of hitting a small nubby ball.

Our six-year-old grandchildren played t-ball in their town recreation program. They wore team shirts and hats. Their coaches were patient, clear about the few rules and the kids loved it. At the end of the season, they knew they had improved at hitting the baseball and knew which way to round the bases. They felt closer to their team mates, boys and girls. They are signed up for the next level in the fall, where they will likely have a good experience again.

Although they are young, our next generation of family have a deep sense of what is fair, just like all the other kids. From fairness springs the concept of sportsmanship, that is the bedrock of playing sports from t-ball to the French Open to the Kentucky Derby. Bob Richards on the Wheaties box was an icon of a very American ideal of behaving well win or lose.

Joseph Epstein in the WSJ wrote: “Sports once had a certain elegance that derived from athletes making the physically difficult look easy. This same elegance extended to their behavior while playing.”

Today's professional players are extraordinary. As current icons let's support those who demonstrate sportsmanship as the glue that holds it all together.



NANCY WEISS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

American stain

To the Editor:

I recently listened to a spoken word essay on YouTube by American professor, public intellectual and activist Noam Chomsky. It was 24 minutes long, and titled “The Harsh Truth About Trump.” Even though he brilliantly encapsulated all the reasons why Trump supporters may have voted for him, it did not negate the fact that the danger our country now faces can be attributed to those very votes. What it does say pierces the veil about who and what Trump, and ourselves on both sides, really are.

When I went back to replay it for my wife the following day, what I found was a video with the same title, but 40 minutes long. It delved even deeper into the mystery of how and why Trump rose to where he is now.

To Mr. Chomsky’s rationale, it seems the situations that millions of Americans found themselves in is what led them to this so-called savior. Even presented with clarity, it is still hard for me to fathom. Like the presentation suggests, “must watch.”

Just like so many, I have lived my life as an ordinary man who kept his head down and worked hard for a living. My wife and I have earned everything we have. The thought of Trump as some sort of saving hero is repulsive to me.

Want more reality? Watch Mr. Chomsky’s essay “How Trump’s Mega Bill Will Affect Americans.” It tells the sordid tale of how this bill was constructed with the aid of a fair share of lawyers and lobbyists. Trump probably doesn’t even know a fraction of what it contains, just as long as it meets his standard of cruelty.

You want apathy? A recent Washington Post/ Ipsos poll reports one third of those polled had little or no opinion of the bill, while two thirds knew nothing about it! You know I hate polls, but there it is.

And you may have thought the government left you by the wayside before? In 2027, you will experience real abandonment.

How about some sleight of hand: Do you realize that all those infamous cuts to the public welfare (take from the poor, give to the rich- the Republican credo) only go into effect after the 2026 mid-term elections? Yeah, Happy New Year from the Republicans who are counting on you to forget who is responsible for this assault. The Democrats had better keep pounding out the names of every rep, senator and House member who

voted for this.

It was said that some of their own constituents may die, but Rep. Jodi Ernst reminds us that “We all have to die some time.” Those who don’t will take heart with Rep. Mitch McConnell’s advice, “They’ll get over it.”

The provision to eliminate judicial contempt orders may or may not have made it through. If it did there will be no stopping Orange Putin now.

There were estimates (take your pick) of between \$75 and \$100 billion or more for ICE, making it the largest Federal Law Enforcement Agency in history. Wannabe cops will be lining up so they can play dress up and crack some heads.

MAGA Rep Marsha Blackburn is reportedly in the process of introducing legislation that will punish anyone revealing the identity of a masked ICE Gestapo with 5 years in prison. Especially the agents wearing night vision goggles on airplanes.

Russian dissident Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn was sent to a gulag for anti-Soviet propaganda during the Stalin regime. Maybe Trump had that in mind when he ordered “Ninotchka” Noem (I love it) to erect what is now being called “Alligator Alcatraz” in the Florida Everglades. Let’s see how that stands up to a Category 4. Trump joked about how an immigrant escapee would perhaps have a 1 percent chance with the gators. The President of our country talks like that.

The beacon of hope that once shone forth into the world is slowly being extinguished.

Jesus of Nazareth constantly preached the virtues of truth and dignity. I believe His voice is in the words composed by Noam Chomsky, even if the voice you will hear in the videos is computerized. Please listen. As bleak as our near future seems, he repeats not to give up hope nor the fight.

Trump lied his way into the presidency and now has total control of Washington, the Congress, and the Supreme Court, but not of all of us.

Recall the Revolution, Civil War, Suffrage, Civil Rights. This country has endured much in its short history because of beliefs. Trump cannot endure, but his stain on our history will.

Trump won on the backs of the working class. Those who voted for him were all betrayed.

RICK ROCHELEAU
DANIELSON

We are not subjects yet

To the Editor:

I attended the East Woodstock July Fourth Jamboree, an event skillfully modeled on celebrations of a century ago, with children’s games, hot dogs and strawberry short cake, music in the gazebo from local musicians and a parade led by our veterans and the fine East Woodstock Cornet Band, with antique cars, fire engines and kids on decorated bicycles. It’s a short trip around the common so we go around three times.

I’ve often appeared there as Uncle Sam on 30-inch stilts with 60-inch inseam striped pants. Stilts aren’t difficult, even for this 78-year-old. I just take a step in the direction I’m falling, trying to do it in cadence so it looks like I’m dancing rather than staggering. It’s a perfect metaphor for how I’ve tried to live.

My worst fear is losing my white, glued-on chin beard to the heat and sweat of the day.

The most perilous part is reaching way down with my white-gloves to shake the reaching hand of a six-year-old while thanking them for choosing to wear Uncle Sam’s favorite colors: red, white and blue.

“Happy Independence Day,” I say.

Thinking to find a few words or a phrase to speak to reference the actual document that we celebrate on July 4, I went back through the 1,300 words of the original Declaration Of Independence, the document that states -famously - at the beginning of the second paragraph: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal and Endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights - among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happi-

ness.”

What I found further on made me angry and sad. It’s a document of outrage and specific complaints for the ways King George III had treated his subjects in his colonies. Many of those kingly offenses are much like the ones Donald is visiting on us in his second reign. Do any of the following sound like the authoritarian playbook we have experienced the past few months?

“He (King George III) has endeavored to prevent the population of these states: for that purpose obstructing the laws for naturalization of foreigners: refusing to pass laws to encourage their migrations hither....

He has made judges dependent on his will alone, for the tenure of their offices....

He has erected a multitude of new offices and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, standing armies, without the consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the military independent of and superior to the civil power.

...for cutting off our trade with all parts of the world...

...for depriving us, in many cases of the benefits of trial by jury...

...for taking away our charters, abolishing our most valuable laws and altering fundamentally the forms of our governments.”

These are some of the ways kings have controlled their subjects, but we are not subjects, not yet.

G. LESLIE SWEETNAM
WOODSTOCK

Let us buy stuff, Trump

To the Editor:

Is it the Liberals’ turn to support free markets and being able to buy whatever the heck you want?

I thought we were past the rest of this noodling with tariffs nonsense now that we’re past the 4th of July. So did Wall Street as we’ve seen with the recovery of the index funds while trade deals were inked and the uncertainty that freaks out the markets was dealt with. With Trump, however, the chaos is the point.

Now he’s picking tariff fights with Japan and South Korea. Really? Our allies? We only helped Japan rebuild from the rubble after World War II. Japan’s one of the reasons why anyone in our country thinks we can win at nation-building. Then there’s South Korea, keeping the despots in the North at bay for over a half century while blossoming into a democratic ally and a

tech partner.

I don’t know. Should I enrich the lives of Communists if we give China and Vietnam a better deal?

Sometimes, based on logistics and talent, we’ll see certain products, services, and industries flourish in certain parts of the world other than around here. If we truly believe in Capitalism, should we really punish our democratic allies for succeeding at something we supposedly value?

I’m not going to apologize for liking Samsung phones and TVs or being curious about LG air conditioners after years of GE’s. I’m also not going to apologize for anything else I happen to like from other parts of The Free World.

It’s my money. I worked to get it. Get the government out of my way and let me actually enjoy the fruits of my labor.

JAY GERHART
PUTNAM

Congratulations, GOP

To the Editor:

Well, congratulations, all you GOP’ers. By your sitting on your butts and refusing to show any courage, you’ve allowed legislation ensuring the destruction of the finest attempt at civilization humanity has ever seen. I hope you’re proud that your prejudice, arrogance, ignorance and fear has succeeded in dismantling the framework of our republic instead of sustaining and improving it.

One of the most outrageous aspects of the huge bill is the ICE budget is to be increased from \$3 billion to \$30 billion immediately, and another \$45 billion to be added in 2029. That will be \$75B being spent to impose dictator rule. Don’t try to convince anyone that this isn’t establishing a private army with no Congressional, legislative or judicial oversight or control. This is exactly what was done in 1933 Germany.

STEPHEN ETZEL
PUTNAM

Absurdity

To the Editor:

The absurdity that characterizes America today seems largely lost on Americans but is crystal clear to the Canadians with whom I’ve visited recently. They are trying to understand how America has gone off the rails.

Consider how silly Americans look celebrating their revolution to free themselves from King George III’s rule while their president assumes autocratic powers.

Or reconcile Trump’s desire to deport some American citizens who commit crimes and denaturalize others when he is also a convicted felon.

Or can it be more absurd than the president of the United States targeting universities for allegedly not combating antisemitism while calling bankers “Shylocks” and entertaining white supremacists at his Florida home?

Or how about starting a trade war to purportedly bring manufacturing

jobs back to America when 80 percent of Americans don’t want those jobs?

The idea, constantly voiced by Trump and commonly accepted by white Americans, that they are somehow the victims of minorities, illegal aliens, and other disadvantaged groups is the height of absurdity. MAGA is a victim when they control all three branches of government?

And, just try to fathom how a president could claim to target alleged rapists for deportation when he, himself, is a rapist.

The absurdity of America’s self-delusion and self-destruction is apparent to those north of the border but somehow not to enough of us. That’s inconsistent with reason and sound judgment, qualities that once characterized the United States.

BILLY G. TAYLOR
KILLINGLY

Finding the good in “the other side”

=To the Editor:

(And now, to quote Monty Python’s Flying Circus: “And now for something completely different.”) Yes, I’m a Republican; however, there are several Democrats that I’ve come to know, like and have to show respect for.

Let’s start with Thompson Selectman, Ken Beausoleil. He’s a friend and I’m satisfied with having him in the mix. When I had an issue with that “pellet guy,” he listened to my concern, gave his advice, and though he didn’t have that “magic wand” to do much more, I was able to realize and accept that. When he was running for re-election, he’d always come knocking on my door and that’s something I appreciated. (And besides, he likes my band.) Aileen Witkowski has been a personal friend for over 50 years now, and I commend her for the work she does for our town. (And by the way, my friendship with her and family members dates well before our now occasional meetings at the Town Hall.)

I was also friends with Mr. Danny Rovero, and when I’d see him at the St. Joe’s Funfest we’d have a pleasant, non-political conversation and he’d always give me the thumbs-up while my band was playing there. When I had a problem with an LLC, Mr. Rovero connected me to Richard Blumenthal’s office and an attorney (and her escort) was sent to Danielson to represent me in court, and on that day I witnessed a different side of our judicial process. While there, we went into a private room and the court officers stood up when we walked in, they called me “Sir” and asked if there was anything that I needed. My case was quickly heard and I was awarded judgment. (Yes, I did offer to buy lunch, but the offer was respectfully declined.) And in addition to being most grateful for Mr. Rovero’s help, I also have to give Mr. Blumenthal, and of course that

attorney, my gratitude and respect.

Does anybody know who Mr. Suad Anwar is? In addition to representing Connecticut’s Third District in the State Senate, he is also my allergy doctor and a man whom I respect and like. It was reported that Mr. Anwar was visiting Iraq on a “personal visit” when airstrikes from Israel targeting Iran prompted airspace closures, and as a result he was stranded there and thankfully he is now back home and safe. When I first heard that news on a social media site, I mentioned that I was a republican and expressed my concern for his wellbeing. However, in addition to seeing a bunch of negative comments about him and about why he was even there, I received flak from a person who said that “he is not on our side.” (Imagine that, me taking flak for defending a democrat politician, and how dare I put his party affiliation, or his political choices aside for even a moment and instead give my best wishes for a friend?) Now for the kicker, my wife recently visited a local business, and when asked what her name was, she said DeLuca, and the reply she received was do you know Ed DeLuca? My wife said yes, he’s my husband, and that was (basically) met with “he’s from the other side.” Go figure!

Yes kids, that “other side” exists, but then maybe - and even if it’s just for a moment - you can also find the good in it.

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East Woodstock Congregational Church hosts annual Jamboree

WOODSTOCK—The East Woodstock Congregational Church marked the 4th of July as they always do, with the annual East Woodstock Fourth of July Jamboree bringing countless guests to the church’s grounds for a day of fun, music, food, and fellowship. The annual event is a staple of Independence Day in the Quiet Corner offering many longstanding traditions including a book sale, strawberry shortcake, and the Attic Treasures sale inside the church itself. The event is not only an opportunity for the church to welcome the community to its grounds, but also a chance to the community at large to celebrate the most patriotic holiday of the year.



Jason Bleau

The annual book sale accompanying the Jamboree is always a popular draw. It’s one of many “sale” elements of the day-long event.



Sarah Jo Burke was the first of many musical acts to entertain the crowd on the 4th of July.



Local kids came together for a childhood classic, the parachute, in the children’s activities section of the Jamboree.



Volunteers serve up a popular lunch time treat, walking tacos, for waiting customers.



The patriotic silent auction included a variety of American classics including a rocking horse, picnic set, and more.



A group of patriotic youngsters prepare to explore the grounds of the East Woodstock Congregational Church during the annual Jamboree.



One of the most popular elements of the Fourth of July Jamboree is the Attic Treasures event inside the East Woodstock Congregational Church. Everything from toys to antiques, books, furniture and more was for sale as guests sought a new conversation piece.



The dessert of the day, strawberry shortcake, was served up fresh by volunteers on demand.



AT LEFT: Visitors to the Fourth of July Jamboree stake their claim on the church’s grounds to watch the many musical acts that accompanied the festivities.



Why reading is essential to prevent the Summer Slide

BY CLAUDETTE STOCKWELL
DIRECTOR
KILLINGLY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Summer break is a time for relaxation, adventure, and fun—but for many students, it can also lead to a setback in learning. This phenomenon,

known as the “summer slide,” happens when students lose academic progress simply because they aren’t engaging in educational activities. What is one of the best ways to prevent this learning loss? Reading.

Reading over the summer helps students retain and strengthen their literacy skills, ensuring they return to school ready to build on their knowledge instead of struggling to catch up. Studies have shown that students who read consistently during their time off from school maintain or even improve their reading comprehension, vocabulary, and critical thinking skills.

Beyond academics, reading fosters curiosity, creativity, and a lifelong love of learning. Whether students choose novels, graphic novels, nonfiction books, or even magazines, every reading experience exposes them to new ideas, cultures, and perspectives. It also keeps their minds active, preventing the regression that comes with inactivity.

So, whether it’s a trip to the library, an audiobook during a road trip, or a quiet moment with a favorite book before bed, reading is the key to

keeping minds sharp and ready for the new school year ahead.

The library is buzzing with an array of exciting programs designed to engage and inspire people of all ages from story times to book clubs, crafting sessions, virtual author talks, and much more. Our special July events include Sport Stacking Fun with Special Guest, Glen Costello, Speed Stacks Ambassador of CT on Tuesday, July 15, uncov-

er the secrets of forest life by exploring real animal clues at our Goodwin Forest Wildlife Program on Thursday, July 17, and you won’t want to miss Creative Hooping Games with Special Guest, Judi Jones, on Thursday, July 24. Connect with us at 25 Westcott Rd., Killingly, online at killinglypl.org, or call 860-779-5383. A heartfelt thank you to the Friends of Killingly Public Library for their support of our summer reading program.

Summer Reading 2025 continues

BY JARED JACAVONE
DIRECTOR
THOMPSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

It is July, and we are at the height of summer! Barbecues, beach days, and ice cream for these hot days are in full swing. At the Thompson Public Library, we are at the midway point of our Summer Reading Program, and we still have many awesome events coming up this month. You will not want to miss out!

With over 150 children signed up for the Summer Reading Challenge, we are excited to see how many books our youngest patrons have read this summer. If you have not already signed up for the Summer Reading Challenge, the last chance to register and receive your reading log is July 14. Prizes for completing the Summer Reading Challenge include a free book, toys from Floyd’s treasure trove, a free ice cream from Bogey’s, and a free doughnut from Dunkin’ Donuts. In order to receive your prizes at the Summer Reading Dragon Party on July 31, make sure to submit your reading log by Monday, July 28.

This upcoming week promises to be exciting for all ages as Xen’s Critters will visit the Library with some furry friends, patrons can make some cool slushies for Make It Monday, and our teens can stick around for the After Hours Library Lock-in with games and exciting activities. See below our full list of events for this week:

Make it Monday- DIY Lemonade Slushies on Monday, July 14 from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., open to all ages

Summer Stories- Tuesday, July 15 at 10:30 a.m., for ages five and under

Crafternoon- Tuesday, July 15 from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., open to all ages

Roll and Play Campaign- Wednesday, July 16 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., ages 12 to 17

Summer Stories- Thursday, July 17 at 10:30 a.m., for ages five and under

Stay and Play- Thursday, July 17 after Summer Stories, for ages five and under

Read to Me with Xen’s Critters- Thursday, July 17 at 6 p.m., open to all ages

Family Movie Matinee with Free Popcorn- Friday, July 18 at 2:30 p.m., open to all ages

After Hours Library Lock-in- Friday, July 18 from 5 to 6:30 p.m., open to ages 12 to 17

Here is the hint for our Family Movie Matinee: this film is based on a best-selling children’s chapter book that follows an artificial being that learns to get in touch with the natural environment. Have a great week, and we hope to see you at the Library!

Everybody has dreams they wish they could accomplish. It could be to find the perfect job, an ideal partner, or a beautiful home. Launching a business, scoring the game-winning shot, or maybe even standing on stage with the crowd roaring. Dreams are a part of being human, and we all know there’s a big difference between dreaming and doing. Between wishful thinking and what Napoleon Hill called “Applied Faith.”

He thought that most people have a passive hope when it comes to their dreams. They wish for better circumstances but never move toward them. They believe, sort of—but they don’t demonstrate that belief by taking action. It’s like saying you trust the parachute but still refusing to jump.

Those who achieve extraordinary results don’t just wish—they move. They practice applied faith. That means they believe so strongly in the outcome that they start living like it’s already on the way. That kind of faith doesn’t sit still. It works.

Hill thought that applied faith is not something you have or don’t have; it’s something you grow, like a muscle. So,

how do you develop applied faith?

It starts here: have absolute belief in your definite purpose. Not a vague hope but a precise, focused goal that sets your soul on fire. Once you lock in a purpose that you’re passionate about, you’ll find it much easier to take the following steps.

Build a plan. Faith needs a blueprint. It requires a calendar, a checklist, and a schedule. Applied faith isn’t just saying, “I know it’ll happen”—it’s saying, “Here’s how I’m making it happen.” Even small steps become acts of faith. Faith without a plan is just fantasy, but faith with a plan—that’s how dreams take form.

Next, you need to take immediate action despite uncertainties. Waiting for the perfect moment is wishful thinking because that moment never arrives. Move forward while the path is still foggy. Every step you take—even the wobbly ones—sends a message that you’re serious. Courage isn’t the absence of uncertainty; it’s the decision to act despite uncertainty.

You’re going to suffer defeats and setbacks, but even when the storm

hits, keep going. That’s when the real test shows up—not when everything’s smooth, but when your plans hit a wall when doors close, and when nothing seems to be working. Most people quit there. But applied faith says, “This is just part of the process.” It doesn’t crumble under pressure—it doubles down.

Temporary defeat isn’t a failure. It’s feedback. It’s training. It’s proof that you’re on the field. Stay in the game, and your breakthrough will come.

It’s crucial to surround yourself with believers and supporters. Faith multiplies in the presence of people who see your vision, even when it’s just a seed. You don’t need a crowd, just a few who remind you of your capabilities. Doubters drain you. But believers? They lift you. Applied faith grows stronger in the company of good people.

Faith needs fuel. Read scripture or uplifting books. Watch videos of people who’ve walked through fire and come out shining. Listen to podcasts that keep the fire burning inside. Put quotes on your bathroom mirror. Fill your space with reminders that your dream is on the way.

When doubt knocks, let inspiration answer the door.

Express gratitude as if success is already yours. Speak it out loud—daily, confidently—as if the breakthrough has already happened. Say things like, “I’m so thankful for the opportunities lining up for me right now,” or “It feels so good to be living in alignment with my calling.” Begin each morning with, “Thank you for letting me achieve my dream.”

Gratitude doesn’t wait for results—it calls them forward.

When you apply faith directly, something powerful happens—doubt disappears. Fear dissolves and transforms into courage. And the obstacles? They start to look like stepping stones.

Applied faith doesn’t sit around hoping things work out. It expects success and plans accordingly. It’s not blind optimism; it’s belief with a backbone.

The next time you catch yourself dreaming, turn that vision into a plan. Turn that plan into action. And back it all with unshakable faith—not the kind that waits for a miracle, but the kind that moves like the miracle’s already on its way.

Estate jewelry, gold, diamonds, and gold watches



We’ve neared the top of our top 10 list with number 2 today, which is estate jewelry, gold, diamonds, gold watches.

I’ll start by discussing estate jewelry, vintage and antique jewelry. Estate jewelry is generally meant to be any jewelry that was previously owned regardless of age. Antique jewelry uses the same timeframe as most antiques, that they must be 100 years or older. Some consider any jewelry less than 100 years old to be vintage. Others say it must be at least 50 years old while others consider 20- or 30-year-old jewelry to be vintage. Some nicely designed, scarce,



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

signed costume jewelry brooches have sold in the low thousands of dollars but I’ll be discussing jewelry with precious metals and gemstones in this column.

As with coins, the gold or platinum is worth at least the scrap value of the metals. Platinum jewelry is typically 85 to 95 percent platinum with the rest being alloys. The platinum price is around \$1,400 per ounce as of July 5. With gold, the number of karats indicates purity. 10k gold is 41.7 percent gold, 14k is 58.3 percent gold, 18k is

75 percent gold, and 24k is 99.9 percent (or nearly pure gold). Gold price is well over double the price of platinum as I write this at \$3,346.50.

While gold and platinum prices are strong, diamond prices have been declining. Reasons being cited are fewer weddings, less demand for luxury goods, and lower demand in China. The biggest reason for the decline though is the decreased price of lab-grown diamonds. Reports show lab grown diamonds have dropped in price between 75 and 85 percent over a 10-year period.

There are several factors to consider if you are selling precious metals or diamonds. Most of us are familiar with the 4 Cs of diamonds; cut, clarity, color and carat weight.

The size, weight, age, percentage of gold, and design all play a factor in gold jewelry value.

Auction has proven to be a great method to sell gold jewelry, watches, and other valuables, especially when you are unsure of its value. In 2021, we sold a Rolex Oyster perpetual wristwatch with box for \$3,600. Last year we auctioned an antique 14K gold necklace with three black opals and two mine cut diamonds for over \$11,000. In October 2024, an 18K gold Tiffany & Co. necklace with green tourmaline stones brought \$27,600 in one of our auctions. In 2016 we sold a three and a half carat diamond ring for \$30,000.

Although diamonds may have lost a little of their sparkle, gold is

shining brighter than ever making fine jewelry prices remain strong.

We will be offering gold jewelry, some with diamonds, in our fall/winter sale. We continue to work on a Civil War auction, Laurel and Hardy memorabilia auction, and will be announcing another major auction soon. We also continue to accept consignments for future sales. Please visit our Web site, <https://centralmassauctions.com>, for links to upcoming events.

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

Bring the garden to your next gathering



Edible nasturtium blossoms brighten up this salad.

Make every dining experience fun and flavorful by including garden fresh herbs, vegetables and flowers in your meals. Allowing guests to harvest and season their drinks, entrees and sides from the garden or container creates an interactive experience they are sure to remember.

Start your gathering with a review of the menu and a tour of the gardens. Provide guests with a harvest basket and snips so they can collect all their favorite ingredients. Or gather an assortment of herbs and vegetables in advance and display them in containers for your family and guests to make

their own selections.

Include a few herbs and vegetables that can be blended, muddled or added to yours and your guests’ favorite beverage. Use the hollow stems of lovage as a straw for tomato juice or bloody Mary. You’ll enjoy the celery flavor this edible straw provides. Provide mint, basil or rosemary leaves to flavor iced tea and lemonade. Just set the herbs near the beverage table for easy access, provide needed utensils, and herbal cocktail recipes.

Bring the garden to the party by placing a few containers of herbs, edible flowers and vegetables on your balcony, patio, deck or near the grill. Use small herb containers as edible centerpieces and add a pair of garden scissors or snips. Label the plants, offer seasoning suggestions, and allow

your family and guests to season the meal to their taste when it arrives. Remind guests to adjust the quantity of herbs used to allow for the difference in flavor intensity of fresh vs. dried herbs. In general, you will need two to three times more fresh than dried herbs.

Add a bit of color and unique flavor to the meal with edible flowers. Pick the flowers early in the day when they are at their peak and taste best. Wash them by dipping the flower in a bowl of water and gently shaking. Remove the bitter tasting base of the petal and the reproducible parts from larger flowers before preparing.

Make sure the flowers you select are edible and free of pesticides. Let your guests know they can eat the flowers, or you’ll end up with a pile of petals on the side of

every plate. Try nasturtium and daylily blossoms stuffed with cream cheese; calendula, pansy, and borage petals sprinkled on salad; chive flowers for baked potatoes; and mint leaves on top of a slice of chocolate cake.

Harvest your garden and containers regularly to keep plants looking good and producing. Cut the outer leaves of leaf lettuce when they are four to six inches tall to keep the plant growing new leaves. Pick peppers and tomatoes when fully ripe, so the plant continues flowering and forming new fruit. Remove faded flowers as needed to keep flowering plants covered with blooms.

Dress up your table with a bouquet of your favorite garden flowers. Pick a few extras to send home with



GARDEN
MOMENTS
• • • • •

MELINDA
MYERS

your guests and they’ll surely remember your special gathering filled with homegrown flavor and beauty.

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

Midyear financial checkup: Essential steps for 2025

We’ve just passed the midpoint of 2025 – the perfect time to pause and evaluate your finances. Just as you might schedule regular health checkups, your financial plan deserves the same attention. This year’s midyear checkup is particularly important given the evolving economic landscape, potential changes to tax laws, and continued market volatility.

Adjusting financial goals based on performance and life changes

Your financial plan should evolve as your life circumstances change and as you gain clarity about what’s most important to you. Review how your investments have performed relative to your expectations and benchmarks. If performance has been stronger than anticipated, you might be ahead of schedule for certain goals. Conversely, if returns have been disappointing, you may need to adjust savings rates or timelines.

Midyear is an excellent time to evaluate whether significant life changes warrant adjustments to your financial strategy. Some things to consider include career developments or job changes; family changes like marriages, births, or children leaving home; health considerations or insur-

ance needs; real estate purchases or moves; inheritance or unexpected windfalls

Along the same lines, adjusting your finances also requires a look at your goals. Life is about tradeoffs, and your financial plan should reflect your current priorities. Regular reviews ensure your money is working toward what matters most to you now, not six months, one year, or three years ago.

Tax planning is another big reason why a mid-year financial review is so critical. With potential TCJA changes looming, tax planning has become more important than ever. You should also Review your taxable accounts for opportunities for “tax loss harvesting,” which is a strategy that allows you to realize losses in order to offset gains and reduce tax liability. You may also want to consider bunching charitable contributions to maximize itemized deductions or using appreciated securities to avoid capital gains.

Finally, revisit and review your retirement accounts. With uncertainty about future tax rates, converting traditional IRA funds to Roth IRAs while rates remain rela-

tively low could provide long-term benefits.

Finding your optimal asset allocation

Your asset allocation—the mix of stocks, bonds, and other investments—is an important determinant of your long-term investment returns. While rules of thumb provide a starting point, your optimal allocation should consider multiple factors:

Risk tolerance: How would you feel if your portfolio dropped 20% in a year?

Time horizon: When do you need to access these funds?

Income stability: Is your job secure, or do you need more conservative investments?

Goals and priorities: Are you saving for retirement, college, or other specific objectives?

Your strategic allocation is your long-term target based on your fundamental circumstances, while tactical allocation involves making short-term adjustments based on market conditions.

Why portfolio rebalancing matters more than ever

Portfolio rebalancing involves periodically

adjusting your portfolio back to your target asset allocation by selling investments that have performed well and buying those that have underperformed. This disciplined approach forces you to “sell high and buy low”—the golden rule of investing.

The first half of 2025 has brought unique challenges with ongoing discussions about Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) provisions set to expire at year-end, Federal Reserve policy adjustments, and geopolitical uncertainties. Maintaining proper portfolio balance has become more critical than ever.

Why rebalancing works

When one asset class significantly outperforms others, it becomes a larger percentage of your portfolio than originally intended, potentially exposing you to more risk than you’re comfortable with. For example, if stocks have performed exceptionally well, they might now represent 80 percent of your portfolio instead of your target 60 percent. Rebalancing would involve selling some stocks and purchasing bonds to return to your strategic allocation.

Rebalancing requires discipline because it often feels counterintuitive—it’s human nature to want

to hold onto winning investments. However, this emotional approach often leads to buying high and selling low.

Moving forward with confidence

A thorough midyear financial checkup provides the foundation for making informed decisions during the second half of 2025. By rebalancing your portfolio, optimizing your asset allocation, and adjusting your goals based on current circumstances, you can enter the remainder of the year with confidence.

Remember, successful financial planning isn’t about perfection—it’s about making consistent, strategic adjustments that keep you moving toward your long-term objectives.

At WHZ Strategic Wealth Advisors, our “Plan Well. Invest Well. Live Well.™” process includes regular portfolio reviews and strategic adjustments to keep you on track toward your goals. We’re committed to being your partner every step of the way – that’s how we work to deliver on our promise to help provide you with “Absolute Confidence. Unwavering Partnership. For Life.” Contact us for a complimentary consultation at whzwealth.com or call

(860) 928-2341.

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FINANCIAL FOCUS
LEISL L. LANGEVIN

Memories of Main Street

Saturday, July 12, the Killingly Historical Society will hold a Christmas in July Sale at the Killingly Historical Center, 196 Main St., Danielson, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Decorations for other holidays and Killingly yearbooks will also be available. Rain or shine.

Chicken BBQ: Support Killingly Grange #112 at 801 Hartford Turnpike. Saturday, July 12, 5-7 p.m. Half chicken, corn on the cob, potato salad, roll, slice watermelon. \$15. Dine in or take out. Call 860-884-1813 to reserve your meal. Tickets are limited. The Grange is also collecting non-perishable foods for local food pantries

Those of you who grew up in Northeastern Connecticut probably have some fond memories of Danielson’s Main Street--memories of the many shops and people who are no longer with us. Let’s take a stroll down memory lane! Sit back. Close your eyes and relax. Let old images and memories come to mind.

Let’s start at the South end of Route 12 near where Maple Street, Route 12, Water Street, Franklin Street, and Route 6 all intersect. Before you are two rivers--The Quinebaug and Five Mile River, the Assawaga

to the Native Americans. Long before the arrival of our earliest white settlers this area was frequented by Native peoples who came to fish at the falls.

James Danielson of Block Island had seen this fertile river valley as a soldier during King Phillip’s War (ca. 1676) and in 1707 purchased 2000 acres extending to present-day Alexander’s Lake. In the 1700’s his descendants established saw and grist mills in the vicinity of what we call Water Street. Prior to the Revolution, his grandson William (later a Colonel in that war), established an ironworks in the vicinity of present-day George’s Galley. The seeds of Danielson’s industrial heritage were being sown. Water power was a valuable asset in the late 1700’s and soon much more than an iron works and grist and saw mills existed.

The late 18th century brought the first known textile mill to that area. William Cundall’s woolen works on the Five Mile River, operational by 1787, was one of only four in Connecticut. The success of the cotton mill

in Pawtucket, R.I. in 1793 had investors searching for potential millsites in nearby Eastern Connecticut. By 1810 another James Danielson, along with Comfort and Ebenezer Tiffany and others had opened a small, wooden cotton mill on the Five Mile River not far from Cundall’s woolen works. (Think of the area across from the Danielson Post Office near where Friends of Assisi Food Pantry is located). The mill fostered the growth of a small mill village. Some of the businesses associated with it were on Franklin Street, which was the stage road from Providence to Hartford.

Let your mind’s eye move to at the lower end of Main Street, to Water Street, across from the present George’s Galley. How many of you remember The Spinning Wheel Gift Shop which was located in a small wooden building during the 1970’s and 1980’s? Perhaps you recall it when it housed Eatmore’s Lunch? The Killingly Business Encyclopedia by Natalie Coolidge lists that busi-

ness from 1946 until 1964-65. The 1954 Danielson Business Directory gave George Calomeris as the owner of the restaurant. Johnnie’s Market was also located in that small building during the 1950’s and early 1960’s. John Maximowicz was the owner. The Business Encyclopedia indicated that he left Danielson and moved to 51 South Main Street in Brooklyn (1964-65 Telephone Book). The 1991 Historic Survey of that section of Danielson noted that the wooden building was erected about 1870 soon after the “new” Danielson Cotton Mill on Maple Street was completed (1868). Through the 1930’s the future home of the Spinning Wheel Gift Shop housed a grocery store operated by the mill. By the 1930’s the mill itself was being operated by Powdrell and Alexander, which eventually owned six mills in Killingly (Vol. VII, Survey #66).

The opening of the railroad in 1840 was the catalyst for change, for growth in a different direction. The Danielson business district quickly began to spread north along present-day Main Street to the depot. For many years there was a small Greek Revival & Italianate 2 ½ story house on the east side of the street (across from

the present George’s Galley). During the 1840’s it was the office of Dr. Samuel Hutchins. In 1853 Hannah Bennett (b. ca. 1816) opened a millinery shop there. It became a fish market in 1881. Unfortunately, the building was destroyed by fire earlier in this century. If you recall other businesses which were once located in the building, please email me.

Hats were big business during the 1800’s and well into the 1900’s. Women always wore them to church. Going north on that same easterly side of the street one sees the 2-story Romanesque style Cyr Building which was erected by Valerie Cyr (Mrs. Joseph Cyr) in 1893 who was also a milliner. Valerie had been born in Canada in March, 1859. That she was able to have a successful business block erected is in itself a tribute to a female French-Canadian immigrant. She occupied part of the building but rented spaces to Church Clothing Store and a shoe store. Doctors offices occupied the upper floor. It has been home to Bonneville’s Pharmacy, Puritan Clothing, Busy Needle Upholstery, Todds’s House of Carpets, and many other stores. (Downtown Danielson Tour researched by Marilyn Labbe). From

FindaGrave I learned that Madame Cyr passed away July 3, 1925.

For a photo of the lower end of Danielson’s Main Street in the 1930’s see p. 45 of Images of America Killingly Revisited by Natalie L. Coolidge. Businesses included the A & P, Downyflake Doughnuts, Star Bakery, Boston Meat Market, Danielson Fruit Company, Charon’s Department Store, Keech’s Department Store, Bonneville Pharmacy, a Shell station, and Reeve’s Gulf Station. (Caption to photo).

Both Images of America Killingly, by Natalie L. Coolidge and Robert A. Spencer, and Killingly Revisited may be purchased at the Killingly Historical Center during regular business hours.

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



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Daniel Johnathan Ryan Sr.
July 25, 1938 - July 1, 2025



A man of few words but much wisdom, Dan served in the U.S. Navy Air from 1956 to 1959 and received accom-

Relatives and friends are invited to Saint Mary's Church of the Visitation at 218 Providence Street, Putnam CT, where they may visit with family from 1pm to 2pm, followed immediately by a Funeral Mass. Flowers can be accepted by Gilman Funeral Home. Dan gave to many charities. Donations can be made to your favorite charity in his name. For his memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.



J. Gloria (Paquin) Lee, 87



Gloria, a cancer survivor, was active in her community, particularly through Our Lady of La Salette

Gloria is survived by her sons, Patrick Bryan and R. David; grandchildren, R. Tyler (Katelin) and Alyssa; brother-in-law, John (Anne); sister-in-law, Sandra; and several nieces and nephews. Gloria was predeceased by and is now reunited with her parents, Harvey and Cecile; brother, J.N. Ronald and his wife Lucille; husband, Robert E.; and sister-in-law, Patricia. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Thursday, July 17, at 10:00am at Our Lady of La Salette Church in Brooklyn. The burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Our Lady of La Salette Church at PO Box 211, Brooklyn, CT 06234. tillinghastfh.com

continued from page **A1**

Making a splash once again is the Celebrity Dunk Tank, where local celebs like Attorney Kate Cerrone of The Northeast Law Center; Rob Challinor of VFW Auxiliary Post 1523; and thirteen area business owners and professionals will tempt event-goers to donate a minimum of \$5 for two chances to make our celebrities take the plunge. Or donate \$20 or more for a guaranteed dunk! The three celebrities that

Thousands of rubber ducks will be released at our secret duck pond on Monday, Aug. 11 at noon, swimming

A portrait of Dr. Robert A. M. Munn, a man with short, wavy white hair, smiling. He is wearing a blue V-neck sweater over a white collared shirt and a dark patterned tie. The background is a solid light blue.

Anyone who knew Barry, quickly

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