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# Plainville Mourns the Passing of “A Legend”

## HELEN BERGENTY

(BROCKZKOWSKI)

August 4, 1929 ~ January 29, 2024



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Our Beloved

# HELEN BERGENTY

## (BROCKOWSKI)

August 4, 1929 ~ January 29, 2024

Helen (Broczkowski) Bergenty, a remarkable woman known for her selflessness and volunteerism, bid farewell to the world on January 29, 2024, at the age of 94. She was the wife of the late William Sisto Bergenty for 68 years, who she now joins in eternal peace.

Born and raised in Plainville, Helen was a proud member of her tight-knit community. She graduated from Plainville High School in 1947 and made her mark on the basketball court as a valuable player for the championship-winning Blue Angels, inducted into the prestigious Plainville Sports Hall of Fame in 2018. Upon graduation, she landed her first job at Allied Control in Plantsville as foot press operator from 1947-1949. Following her passion for real estate, Helen established her own agency, Starline Agency, where she excelled as a Real Estate Broker and Insurance Agent from 1954 to 1974.

A Justice of the Peace for 21 years, Helen's dedication to public service was evident in her lengthy involvement with the Republican Town Committee and her active participation in town and state politics for more than 60 years. She proudly served Plainville for seven terms on the Town Council, working tirelessly to make a positive impact on the lives of her fellow residents, and was the first woman candidate for Office of the High Sheriff of Hartford County in 1990.

A strong-willed and forward-thinking woman, who lived a life dedicated to the betterment of her hometown, she was a member and Past President of the Junior Women's Club and AARP Chapter 4146 and a member of the Women's Club of Plainville. Helen was instrumental in the establishment of the Plainville Community Fund, a testament to her commitment to helping others. She was also the driving force behind the revitalization of the local newspaper, Plainville Hometown Connection, where she could often be spotted with a camera around her neck, capturing the essence of her beloved community

at countless events. Helen devoted much of her time and energy to Our Lady of Mercy Church, where she was a lifelong member and served as an active volunteer in various capacities.

Known for her infectious energy, her unwavering loyalty, and unmistakable laugh, her passion and enthusiasm were boundless, leaving a lasting impact.

She leaves behind her son, William F. Bergenty, II, and his wife Carla; and her grandchildren and great-grandchildren that brought her endless joy, William C. Bergenty, his wife Kristin and their children, Charles "Zeke", Reagan and Avery; and Adam R. Bergenty, his wife Courtney and their sons, Sisto "Sonny" and Nico.

She also leaves her sister and best friend, Patricia Lostocco; her brother-in-law,

John Bergenty and his wife Audrey; her sister-in-law Joyce Hayes; and she was an adored Auntie Helen to many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her brother, Joseph Brow and her sister, Anne Robideau.

Family and friends gathered in celebration of Helen's life on Friday February 2nd at the Plainville Funeral Home, 81 Broad St, Plainville. Funeral services were held on Saturday February 3rd from the Plainville Funeral Home, with a Mass of Christian Burial at Our Lady of Mercy Church. Committal followed at St. Joseph Cemetery, Plainville. For online expressions of sympathy, please visit [www.PlainvilleFuneralHome.com](http://www.PlainvilleFuneralHome.com)

Helen may be remembered with contributions to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation at [www.JDRF.org](http://www.JDRF.org)

Our staff here at the Hometown Connection are truly heartbroken at the loss of our friend, Helen. Not only did she put her heart and soul into every issue since it began back in 1997 but she so enjoyed every minute of meeting the wonderful people of our Town and photographing every event, big or small, so that every household could see just how special this little Town is!

**The March issue will be dedicated to Helen and will be posted on-line at: [plainvillehometownconnection.com](http://plainvillehometownconnection.com) If you would like to advertise or have any stories or memories you'd like to share, please email them to us at: [plainvillehometown@gmail.com](mailto:plainvillehometown@gmail.com) or drop them off at the office: 27 Sherman Street, Plainville by **FEBRUARY 22, 2024. THANK YOU!****





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This paper is published monthly as a service to the citizens of Plainville, Connecticut by Plainville Community News, Inc. It is a non-profit, 501C, all volunteer group of residents who are interested in informing our citizens of community activities and local news. All positive contributions are welcome and will be printed subject to the approval of the staff on a space available basis.

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*Thanking you in advance!!*

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**2/2 GROUNDHOG DAY**

**2/12 LINCOLN’S BIRTHDAY**

**2/13 MARDI GRAS**

**2/14 VALENTINE’S DAY**

**2/14 ASH WEDNESDAY**

**2/19 PRESIDENTS DAY**

**2/22 GEORGE WASHINGTON’S BIRTHDAY**

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**Town Council Meetings**

**Can be seen on: Nutmeg TV Channel #96**

**Friday & Sunday Evenings**

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**with the Council or a Councilor, just call**

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**Leave your name, phone number, and**  
**the Councilor you wish to contact you.**





# MICHAEL PAULHUS, TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT TO TOWN COUNCIL

## January 2 and January 16, 2024

### Town Council Notes

### January 2, 2024

**Honor Heights Sewer Project**

- The outstanding items that require further discussion:
- a town facilitated process for suggesting contractors for laterals and possible incentive (loan) package to pay for installation.
- what penalties would apply for those homes that choose not to hook up.
- Decision on three-family residence.
- Decision regarding possible waiver for newer systems installed or repaired in the last 5 or 10 years.
- Clarification on the eligibility for deferment of the assessment.
- There is an item under Old Business to set the final assessment and other financial terms.

**Shuttle Meadow Pump Station Project**

- The project was put out to bid and received 5 responses. The bids ranged from a low of \$3,045,885 to a high of \$4,222,856. The low bid was submitted by Kovacs Construction Corporation.
- Tighe and Bond has reviewed and evaluated the bid information submitted by Kovacs Construction and believes the bid is reasonable and competitive.
- There is an item under New Business to award the Shuttle Meadow Pump Station Project to Kovacs Construction Corporation as the lowest qualified and responsible bidder in the amount of \$3,045,885.

**White Oak Redevelopment Project Update**

- Remediation and environmental clean-up were completed on the interior of the building to remove hazardous building material. Remediation was performed by Enviro Consultants & Recyclers, Inc. stripping the interior down to the studs.
- A topographic analysis of contaminated soil mainly in the back of the property behind the buildings was performed. The study will result in identifying a well-defined area of contamination which will be used to write bid specifications for clean-up.
- Cal Hauburger is working with Tighe and Bond on preparing a second application referred to as a (“Capper Grant”) to CT DEEP. These additional funds are necessary to finish the environmental clean up before we can transfer title of the property to the developers.
- Enviro shared pictures of the demolition which are included for your review.

**Happenings**  
by

**Andy Cirioli, Assistant Town Manager**

**REVENUE (TAX) COLLECTION**

Starting January 1, 2024, the Town will be collecting the second installment of Real Estate and Personal Property taxes. Additionally, the Town will be collecting the Motor Vehicle Supplemental bills. All bills are delinquent after February 1, 2024.

**PUBLIC LIBRARY**

For information on Library programs, including registration, call the Plainville Public Library at 860-793-1446 or visit [www.plainvillect.com/library](http://www.plainvillect.com/library).  
Sensory Exploration, presented by the CAP Lab of UCONN

- Thursday, January 4th at 9:30 am
- Ages 0 - 11 months with caregiver
- Everyday household items become tools for building curiosity and engagement in this musical sensory exploration for infants.

Rosie the Riveter: Connecticut's Working Women in WWII

- Tuesday, January 16th at 6:00 pm
- For adults and teens

The Connecticut Museum of Culture and History will discuss Rosie the Riveter - the most iconic image of working women during World War II - and the impact she had on women in Connecticut.

**SENIOR CENTER**

For information on Senior Center programs, call the Plainville Senior Center at 860-747-5728. All programs are free and open to the public unless otherwise indicated.

**Caregiving Connections**

- Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 10:00 AM
- Connect with other caregivers at the Senior Center to support one another on our journeys and recognize the challenges and frustrations of 24/7 caregiving.
- Call to register.

**AARP Income Tax Preparation**

- Sign ups begin on January 17th for free income tax preparation assistance. This program is hosted by AARP.

**Snappy Seniors Photography**

- Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 10:00 AM
- Members with all kinds of cameras, and various levels of experience are welcome to join.

**Vaccination Clinic – Open to the Public**

- Monday, January 22, 2024 from 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM
- Vaccines for COVID, flu, RSV, shingles, pneumonia, and tetanus will be provided in partnership with Stop and Shop.
- Appointments are required.

**Help for Veterans**

- Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 10:00 AM
- By appointment only, call Jason Coppola, Veterans Service Officer at 203-805-6340.
- Open to Veterans of all ages who live in the 5th Congressional District.

### Town Council Notes

### January 16, 2024

**Honor Heights Sewer Project Update**

- Now that the Water Pollution Control Authority has established the Statutory Final Assessment Value of \$5,000.00 per property, a payment plan, and incentivespackage, the process will move forward internally withstaff. Listed below are some of the action items we will be working on:
- Engineering/Town Clerk/Town Attorney – Prepare and file Assessment Documents on the land records– Target Date February 1, 2024.
- Town Manager/ Engineering – Prepare and distributemailing to residents summarizing previous actions andthe process moving forward – Target Date February 1,2024.
- Finance/Tax/Assessor– Develop and implement the process for payment of the final assessment and loan program – loan documents will need to be prepared.
- Town Manager/Engineering – Finalize and distributec contractor’s list – Target Date February 8, 2024. Coordinate outreach and discussion with interested contractors.
- Clarification on the eligibility for deferment of the assessment.

**Robertson Airport Projects Update**

- There has been progress on a number of projects at Robertson Airport over the past six months. These improvements have been crucial in enhancing the safety,functionality, and overall efficiency of the airport andinclude PAPI,

AWOS, Segmented Circle, and Wind Cone Project

- The Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) system is designed to ensure accurate and reliable guidance for pilots during approach and landing. This system is new to the airport. These lights are installed at both ends of the runway and require a FAA flight check prior to approved utilization.
- The Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS)provides pilots with continuous, real-time information andreports on airport weather conditions. This system is newto the airport and is fully operational.
- The installation of a new, illuminated wind cone andsegmented circle enhances visibility of wind direction and intensity, assisting pilots in making informed decisionsduring takeoff and landing. This system is an upgradefrom the former wind cone, and the system is fully operational.

3. Financial Dashboard

**Happenings**  
**Reported at the Town Council**  
**Meeting on January 16, 2024**  
**Andy Cirioli, Assistant Town**  
**Manager**

**PLAINVILLE FAMILY RESOURCE**  
**NETWORK (PFRN)**

The mission of PFRN is to deliver nurturing multi-dimensional programs and services for all children, all families. They offer Play & Learn groups designed for parents and caregivers that focus on literacy and social skills through a combination of free play, age-appropriate activities, and gently structured story times. Groups are held at Linden St. School, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 11:00am and Monday evening from 6:00-7:15.

**PUBLIC LIBRARY**

For information on Library programs, including registration, call the Plainville Public Library at 860-793-1446 or visit [www.plainvillect.com/library](http://www.plainvillect.com/library).

**Lightsaber Training**

- Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 11:00 AM or Ages 6-10 years old with a caregiver
- Young Jedis will learn the ways of the lightsaber.

**The Ten Warning Signs of Alzheimer’s**

- Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 2:00 PM
- The Alzheimer's Association of Connecticut will help patrons recognize the warning signs of the disease and what comes next.

**Middle School Gaming and Pizza**

- Wednesday, January 24, 2024 from 1:30 PM – For grade 6-8
- Attendees are welcome to play board, card, and video games while snacking on pizza.

**Showing of Documentary, Mercury 13**

- Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 6:00 PM
- This documentary takes place in 1961 and spotlights a group of skilled female pilots that were not permitted to participate in spaceflight despite completing laborious testing.
- No registration necessary.

**SENIOR CENTER**  
**Continued page 5**



Happenings continued...

SENIOR CENTER

For information on Senior Center programs, call the Plainville Senior Center at 860-747-5728. All programs are free and open to the public unless otherwise indicated.

Movie Matinee—’80 for Brady’

- Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 2:00 PM
- A fun afternoon of a movie matinee and popcorn.

Income Tax Preparation Appointment Sign Ups Begin Wednesday, January 17, 2024

- The Plainville Senior Center will host AARP Tax-Aide, a free program that provides income tax preparation assistance by certified volunteer tax counselors for low to moderate income taxpayers.
- Appointments will be Tuesdays, February 6 through Tuesday, April 9. Appointments are required.
- Call the Senior Center beginning Wednesday, January 17 to schedule an appointment.

Snappy Seniors Photography Group

- Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 10:00 AM
- The group uses all kinds of cameras and members have various levels of experience.
- Plainville residents 60 and over are welcome to join.

Memory Café at the Senior Center

- Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 2:00 PM
- Memory Café is a warm and welcoming program for individuals with memory loss. Anyone experiencing memory loss is welcome to attend with their loved ones or caregivers.

Vaccination Clinic at the Senior Center in partnership with Stop & Shop – OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- Monday, January 22, 2024 from 9:30 AM—12:30 PM
- Clinic includes a COVID, high dose Flu, RSV, Shingles, Tetanus, and Pneumonia Vaccines.
- Appointments are required and you must bring your insurance card.

Veterans Social Hour

- Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 10:00 AM
- Conducted by Sherri Vogt, Veteran’s Liaison for Hartford HealthCare Senior Services. FOR ALL VETERANS OVER 60 AND THEIR SPOUSES.

Book Buds Books: “American Dirt” by Jeanine Cummins & “The Last Storyteller” by Frank Delaney

- Friday, January 26, 2024 at 10:00 AM, Members only.
- Coffee & tea provided. Book available at the library main desk.

Pre-Diabetes and Diabetes Support Group and Education

- Monday, January 29, 2024 from 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM Diabetes, What, Why, the Basics by Betsy Gaudian MSN, RN-BC, RDN, CDCES
- Monthly Monday Morning Meetings through June 24
- Whether you are new to or have pre-diabetes or diabetes, if you would like updated information, tips, tricks, support, these sessions are for you!

Sleep Tips by Dr. Wendy Hurwitz – OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- Tuesday, January 30, 2024 from 2:30 PM—3:30 PM Come learn about tips to improve sleep and restorative rest. Please call to reserve your spot.
- For All Ages Par-Tea: Health Benefits of Tea
- Monday, February 5, 2024 from 10:30 AM—11:30 AM
- Join For All Ages Co-Founder Deb Bibbins and Gary Sekorski to explore the many health benefits of tea.
- Complimentary cup of tea & a snack.
- Plus, learn about For All Ages’ free, 12-week Tea @ 3 Intergenerational Friendship Community.

Middle School of Plainville and BOE Budget Update

The Plainville Town Council in conjunction with the Board of Education is planning a referendum in March 2024 for a Renovate Like New project at Plainville Middle School.

The latest cost estimate from the consultant CSG is \$62 million. Although the Board of Education has not applied for a grant which would trigger a reimbursement from the State, the Town Council is poised to place this question before the taxpayers. An \$11 million maintenance upgrade to the school was previously discussed yet the current Council has dismissed discussion of the smaller project and refuses to give the public a choice of which project they prefer.

A Steering Committee consisting of Town Council and Board of Education members has been meeting to strategize marketing the project to the community. Visits are planned with various civic organizations throughout the town to muster support from the community.

The Town hopes to receive approximately 62% reimbursement from the State of CT for the total cost of the project. The final reimbursement will not be determined until the project is completed and all invoices have been submitted. The Town must place the entire amount of \$62 million before the community for a referendum vote. Some of Plainville’s surrounding towns receive upwards of 90% reimbursement for school building projects. The State is currently evaluating school building requests and will triage those most in need based on age, need and conditions of structures. Many schools are 60+ years old and in dire need of repair.

BUDGET 2024-2025

The Board has been meeting the past few weeks and reviewing the Superintendent’s 2024-2025 budget request. The budget proposed by the Superintendent displays at 5.6% increase or \$2.4 million spending increase over the current year. The current year’s budget is \$43,071,797 and the proposed 2024-2025 spending plan is \$45,479,436.

The primary driver of this unusually steep increase is the end of COVID 19 stimulus grants. These dollars have been used extensively by the administration for ongoing operation expenditures. The expectation is that the budget will be referred to the Town Council without any adjustments.

This creates a scenario as to how the Council expects to pay for the largest capital project our Town has experienced. Is now the time for local massive tax increases during continued inflation? Food, energy and housing costs stay stubbornly at an all time high.

March and April are lining up to be a costly blow to the local taxpayers.

Jamie Dimon: Trump Right About NATO, Immigration, Economy

By Charlie McCarthy

President Donald Trump's policies generally were "right" for the country, JP Morgan CEO Jamie Dimon said.

During a CNBC interview conducted Wednesday at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Dimon discussed the current U.S. economy and politics with the 2024 presidential election little more than nine months away.

He said that many Trump supporters are backing the former president because of his policies, not necessarily his personality.

"I wish the Democrats would think a little bit more carefully when they talk about MAGA," Dimon said on CNBC. "When people say MAGA they're actually looking at people voting for Trump ... and basically scapegoating them, that 'you are like him'

"I don't think they're voting for Trump because of his family values. Just take a step back, be honest. He was kind of right about NATO, he was kind of right about immigration. He grew the economy quite well. Tax reform worked, he was right about some of China. I don't like how he said things about Mexico. But he wasn't wrong about these critical issues. That's why they're voting for him."

Dimon added that "people should be more respectful of our fellow citizens" and suggested to the CNBC hosts that they not just ask people whether they're supporting Trump, but also why.

"Not like it is a binary thing, you're supporting Trump or you're not supporting Trump," he said. "Why [are] you supporting Trump?"

Without being asked about MAGA specifically, Dimon ripped Democrats for their attack on Trump's supporters and said President Joe Biden's anti-MAGA obsession will hurt his reelection chances.

"The Democrats have done a pretty good job with the 'deplorables,' hugging on to their Bibles and their beers and their guns," Dimon said. "I mean, really? Can we just stop that stuff and grow up and treat other people with respect and listen to them a little bit.

"I think this negative talk about MAGA is going to hurt Biden's election campaign."

Dimon said he remains cautious on the U.S. economy over the next two years because of a combination of financial and geopolitical risks, CNBC reported.

"You have all these very powerful forces that are going to be affecting us in '24 and '25," Dimon said.

"Ukraine, the terrorist activity in Israel [and] the Red Sea, quantitative tightening, which I still question if we understand exactly how that works."

Quantitative tightening refers to moves by the Federal Reserve to decrease the amount of liquidity or money supply in the economy.



*If the freedom of speech is taken away then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter. ...*

*George Washington*

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Leave your name and phone number and ask for a Councilor to contact you.



## Fans, Football, and the Seasonal Shift

By: Francis Rexford Cooley

As the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend arrived so did the first week of the NFL playoffs. A weekend that once coincided with the playing of the actual Super Bowl through 1977 before moving to the third weekend in January with Super Bowl XIII. The game was awarded to warmer NFL cities not moving to cold weather cities with domes until 1992 when it was played in Minneapolis and finally outside with the 2014 game played at MetLife Stadium in New York City. For the majority of its history the NFL understood the inherent problems of playing an outdoor game during winter. While December can be problematic weatherwise January is proving the folly of the continual extension of the sports seasons past their seasonal norms all in the chase for television and digital revenues that is a number of barriers and turning off a number of longtime fans.

The longer the season, the longer the playoffs, the more games can be televised. The more games televised the more revenues, or so the thinking goes. However what is often forgotten is the potential problems such decisions can create for the traditional fanbase of the sport. NFL games are expensive. USA Today cited the average 2023 NFL ticket as being \$377. Playoff tickets are even more expensive. This weekend fans going to the Kansas City Chiefs v. Miami Dolphins game

were subjected to -4 degree F temperatures with a -27 degree F wind chill. It was so cold Chiefs QB Patrick Mahomes’ helmet cracked. The game was scheduled for an 8pm EST start to “maximize” ratings while maximizing the cold for the fans in the stands. For those not at Arrowhead Stadium the game was only available on Peacock making the game difficult for those fans to see. For them they could get a year subscription, or a one-time streaming fee for their phone (not exactly the best way to watch a game), or hope their local bar had ponied up the money for one game.

For fans of the Pittsburgh Steelers and Buffalo Bills their Sunday playoff game became a Monday playoff game due to the massive amount of snow dumped on Buffalo and continuation of storm conditions hitting the Lake Erie port city. Such conditions are fairly common for one of the snowiest cities in the United States. While the media and the NFL might note that Monday is a federal holiday how many ticket holders to the playoff game now scheduled for a 4:30 start will be able to make the game. For many individuals Monday will be a regular workday so attending or planning to watch the game on TV is problematic. The expansion of the regular season, bye weeks, and expanded creating a problem for those playoffs have put NFL games on the schedule throughout the month of January in cold weather cities that earn homefield, a number without domed stadiums. While this may be in the interest of the media to sell more games it is not necessarily in the interest of the fans.

Baseball has similarly expanded its season to earn more TV and streaming dollars. The

2024 season starts in March, not exactly baseball weather in most of the United States, and stretches The World Series to November 2nd if the series goes seven games. The October Classic is now a post-Halloween event and in northern cities prone to being a snowy classic. The NHL’s Stanley Cup now extends into June, not exactly the season for a game played on ice even in Canada. While the October Classic played in early to mid-October could entice fans of baseball to treat America’s Pastime as a last vestige of Summer and the Stanley Cup played in late April could be viewed by hockey fans as the end of a long winter season such thoughts are long banished from the minds of fans by the cold winds of November and searing temperatures of June respectively.

While the NFL and other major sports are making decisions to maximize revenues in the immediate future one must question whether these scheduling decisions are in their respective sports long-term interests. MLB has seen a drop in viewership for the World Series for years. The NHL has problems with a number of their franchises in the southern United States most notably the Arizona Coyotes who currently play in an arena with a 5,000 seat capacity. In both cases some argue the short-term chase of TV revenues have hurt both leagues overtime as the sports have been expanded beyond their traditional seasonal roots of the summer and winter. The NFL seems to be following the same pattern of moving its games beyond the traditional season of “Fall Football” in which it is played and may find itself facing many of the same problems the MLB and NHL is currently experiencing.

## The Suburban Woman’s Club of Greater New Britain (SWCGNB) is entering its 51st year of service to the Greater New Britain Community

We are proud members of the General Federation of Women’s Club. We are currently engaged in a membership campaign. We are hoping that after reading about us, you will want to explore joining our club. Over the years, our members have supported the Prudence Crandall Center; The Friendship Services Center; New Britain Consolidated School District Road to Recovery program; Tunnels to Towers; World Central Kitchen; The New Britain Industrial Museum; The New Britain Public Library, Warm the Children New Britain, and other local nonprofits organizations.

We conduct two fund raising events each year. Our first is our “April Showers Gift Card Raffle” in April. The proceeds from this fund raiser are allocated back into our community. In May, we hold our annual “Flags on the Green” on Memorial Day on the Franklin Square Green. We sell an American flag for \$10.00 and will personalize the flag with the name and service branch of a military member, or a first responder – active, retired or deceased. Proceeds from this are utilized to support Veterans organizations – Wreaths Across America New Britain; the Rocky Hill Veterans Home; Vets, Inc; and Boxes to Boots.

Our members volunteer their time throughout the year on their own, or as part of our club. We have an active book club, and periodically do “dinner and a movie” together.

The SWCGNB meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month (except July and August) at 6:45PM at the First Church of Christ Congregational located at 830 Corbin Avenue in New Britain. Please follow us on Facebook at “Suburban Woman’s Club of Greater New Britain”.

For more information, please contact Maureen Carlson, Membership Chair at: Carlson.maureen@comcast.net

Carin Mancini  
Publicity Chair

### New England 12th Bi-Annual Spring Benefit EXPO Scheduled for May 2024

The New England 12th Bi-Annual Spring Benefit EXPO to be held in May, 2024. The Holistic Community Professionals is accepting exhibitor applications for The Passport to Health & Wellness Expo. The event is scheduled for Sunday, May 5, 2023 from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM at The DoubleTree by Hilton 42 Century Drive Bristol, CT 06010. The Expo is FREE to attend. Donations are accepted for the benefit organization. Also the tea cup raffle will benefit the Children’s Health defense with items donated from all the exhibitors. The benefit Expo is presented by the Holistic Community Professionals and will feature speakers on the half hour beginning at 11:00AM, with the Keynote speaker at 1:00 PM. The event will have more than 75 vendors offering hands on body workers as well as holistic wellness products and treatments. A free Soundscape Collective ( bring your drums) with Katie Cavanagh will be offered at 4pm. For more information, call Shirley Bloethe at 860-989-0033, email YourHolisticEvents@gmail.com or visit <https://www.yourholisticevents.com/fairs-vendorspeaker-application/>

## Holistic Benefit EXPO

VFW Hall in Plainville  
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Sunday 12pm- 4pm

VFW Hall 7 Northwest Dr.  
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# “Lion’s Roar”

## Lions Made in 2023

1. Assisted in Collections for Salvation Army last December
2. Sponsored 4 Blood Drives
3. Held the Senior Picnic in June
4. Bees Fundraiser for the Low Vision Center in July
5. Held 2 Pancake Breakfasts, one in April and one in October
6. Awarded 5 Students scholarships in May for continued education
7. 828 Total KidSight Student Screenings in PreK and Elementary Schools
8. Added 3 new Fantastic Members
9. Performed roughly 50 deliveries of food from BigY to the Plainville Food Pantry
10. Donations to:
  - Norton Park Summer Concert Series
  - Plainville Parks & Recs Youth Day Camp
  - Plainville Food Pantry & Fuel Bank
  - Fidelco
  - Plainville Public Library
- f. CT Lions Eye Research Foundation
- g. Lions Clubs International Foundation



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15% OFF For New Clients

### Our Philosophy

At Marsi Hair Studio, we believe that beautiful hair starts with healthy hair. That's why we use only the best products and techniques to ensure that your hair is healthy, strong, and vibrant. We also believe that every client is unique, and we strive to create a personalized experience that meets your individual needs.

### Our Experts

Our expert stylist is passionate about hair and beauty. She stays up-to-date with the latest trends and techniques to provide you with the best service possible. Our stylist take the time to listen to your needs and preferences, and work with you to create a look that you'll love.

### Our Services

At Marsi Hair Studio, we offer a wide range of services to meet all of your hair needs. From haircuts and coloring and treatments, we have you covered. We also offer bridal and special occasion styling to make sure you look your best on your big day.

## ‘It was a mirage’: States face budget woes as huge infusions of federal cash run out

by: Paul Demko

The pandemic boom times are over for state lawmakers — and so is their ability to shower big buckets of cash on top priorities like K-12 education while also slashing taxes and socking away reserves.

State budgets swelled by roughly 30 percent over a three-year span as the country grappled with fallout from the public health crisis and Congress handed out federal funds to governments across the country.

Now, states from Massachusetts to Indiana to California are facing falling revenues or lower-than-projected tax receipts for the first time since the economy screeched to a halt in 2020. In some cases, they’re also seeing record surpluses vanish — and transform into looming deficits. It means state lawmakers and governors of both parties will face increasing political peril as they navigate rougher financial conditions.

“We cannot spend money we do not have. Pandemic funds from Washington have dried up,” New York Gov. Kathy Hochul, a Democrat, said during Tuesday’s State of the State speech. New York is facing a \$4.3 billion deficit in the fiscal year that starts in April. “It’s up to all of us to make the hard yet necessary decisions and use taxpayer dollars creatively and responsibly.”

The biggest driver of the last few years was massive injection of pandemic cash: States received nearly 60 percent more federal funding in fiscal 2023 than they collected four years earlier, according to the National Association of State Budget Officers.

But state coffers were also boosted by robust tax collections — general fund revenues exceeded projections in 46 states in fiscal 2023 — as the economy continued to defy dour expectations. Despite widespread predictions that the country was headed into a recessionary ditch, it now appears that the economy is poised for a soft landing from inflation spikes and ensuing interest rate hikes. Even so, state policymakers now face the politically challenging task of tightening the pursestrings.

The most eye popping example of this economic reversal is California: A nearly \$100 billion surplus in 2022 has morphed into a deficit projected to be as high as \$68 billion over two years.

Maryland lawmakers will need to address a \$761 million deficit in the next fiscal year, which is projected to swell to \$2.7 billion by 2029. Gov. Wes Moore, a Democrat, has been emphasizing fiscal responsibility in recent months, including \$3.3 billion in proposed transportation cuts — a dramatic turnabout from his first year in office, which was marked by a big boost in education spending.

“Extra money in the short term never fixed the budget. It was a mirage,” Moore said in a recent speech before the Maryland Association of Counties, noting that 17 of the state’s last 20 budgets have required cuts to balance the books. “Now, we’re forced to reckon with structural challenges that have plagued our state for years, and the reality is we are not alone.”

Even states with flourishing economies and swelling populations are showing signs of financial stress. Arizona faces projected budget shortfalls for the next three years, while a recent report on Florida’s long term financial outlook warned that “a structural imbalance may be emerging.”

It’s a challenge many state lawmakers who entered office during the recent years of overflowing coffers have never faced.

“This is certainly the first year since 2020 where we’re seeing states with widespread budget problems,” said Josh Goodman, a senior officer at The Pew Charitable Trusts who scrutinizes state budgets. “The things that supercharged state tax revenues and gave states this direct boost are over.”

The near-term financial picture for states remains remarkably positive. That’s in large part because they stockpiled massive amounts of cash in recent years. States were sitting on fund balances of more than \$400 billion at the end of fiscal 2023 — or nearly four times the amount they held in reserve just three years earlier, according to the National Association of State Budget Officers.

“We’re starting to see a decline in that, but rainy day funds remain at or near all-time highs,” said Brian Sigriz, director of state fiscal studies at NASBO. “States still have high rainy day funds that they will be able to tap when [revenues] slow down.”

Still, the increasingly grim economic news for state policymakers has continued to emerge in recent days.

### NOTE:

The State of Connecticut and specifically the Town of Plainville are also facing these fiscal stresses.

Esser and ARPA funds (Federal COVID relief funding) will expire by the end of 2025. The upcoming budget cycle for Plainville will struggle with the prospect that these funds will no longer available for ongoing operational costs. Pay attention to the soon to be released budget numbers to understand the impact this will have on local tax dollars

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Crossword

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
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- CLUES ACROSS**  
1. BLEATED  
6. SNAKELIKE FISH  
9. DATABASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM  
13. RUSSIAN-AMERICAN VIOLINIST  
14. WENDY’S FOUNDER THOMAS  
15. ANCIENT ITALIAN-GREEK COLONY  
16. NEGATIVES  
17. RESCUED  
18. SELF-IMMOLATION BY FIRE RITUAL  
19. ASSIGNS TASKS TO  
21. ISLAND NATION NATIVE  
22. TRADE  
23. DETERGENT BRAND  
24. FAMED NY GIANT  
25. BEFORE  
28. SPLIT PULSES  
29. EXTREMELY ANGRY; HIGHLY INCENSED  
31. BODY PART  
33. AMERICAN STATE  
36. DAVID \_\_, US PLAYWRIGHT  
38. MOVE ONE’S HEAD SLIGHTLY  
39. SECRET RENDEZVOUS  
41. IMPROVED  
44. A PLACE TO EXERCISE  
45. 18-YEAR ASTRONOMICAL PERIOD  
46. AUTOMOBILE
48. YOU CAN TAKE IT  
49. A RADIO BAND  
51. JAWS OF AN ANIMAL  
52. SHORT-BILLED RAILS  
54. CHINESE PROVINCE  
56. SHAMELESS AND UNDISGUISED  
60. HORIZONTAL PASSAGE INTO A MINE  
61. ADULT MALES  
62. FAIL TO ENTERTAIN  
63. DRIED-UP  
64. CITY IN NORTH-CENTRAL UTAH  
65. SOUTHERN U.S.  
66. GERMAN RIVER  
67. OXYGEN  
68. MAKE LAW
- CLUES DOWN**  
1. CURVED SEGMENT  
2. WINGS  
3. FROM PENTANE (CHEMISTRY)  
4. GRADUALLY GETS INTO (ABBR.)  
6. OVERHANG  
7. CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR’S HAVE THEM  
8. TYPE OF BULB  
9. LACKING A PLAN  
10. TATTLE  
11. ROCKERS LIKE IT “HEAVY”  
12. ONE WHO’S BEEN CANON-IZED  
14. INDICATE TIME AND PLACE  
17. NOBEL PRIZE WINNER IN PHYSICS  
20. THE VOICE OF OLAF  
21. FRAGMENTED ROCK  
23. THEY \_\_  
25. MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY  
26. BACKSIDE  
27. LANDMARK HOUSE IN L.A.  
29. AN ACT OF UNDUE INTIMACY  
30. FROM WHICH A LATER WORD IS DERIVED  
32. EQUAL TO 10 METERS  
34. NEITHER  
35. COMPUTER LANGUAGE  
37. SACRED BOOK OF JUDAISM  
40. A WOOLEN CAP OF SCOTTISH ORIGIN  
42. A WAY TO DEDICATE  
43. CHALLENGES  
47. BRITISH AIR ACES  
49. LARGE, INFLUENTIAL BANK  
50. PORTENDED  
52. CAVALRY-SWORD  
53. VACCINE DEVELOPER  
55. NAPOLEONIC WARS GENERAL  
56. ITALIAN SEAPORT  
57. HIP JOINT  
58. \_\_ CLAPTON, MUSICIAN  
59. INSECT REPELLENT  
61. DECORATIVE SCARF  
65. DELAWARE

Answer on page 27

“HAPPY & HEALTHY

BIRTHDAY TO ALL!!”

FEBRUARY

- 2ND
- 3RD
- 5TH
- 8TH
- 10TH
- 12TH
- 13TH
- 15TH
- 16TH
- 17TH
- 18TH
- 19TH
- 20TH
- 21ST
- 25TH
- 28TH
- 29TH
- MARK CHASE
- RITA SUSCO
- PAT BEVERLEY
- PAT MINER
- BARBARA WOOD
- NANCY DEVOE
- CARL STERNER
- KRIS DARGENIO
- DAVID BROW
- ROBERT BEVERIDGE
- DOMENICK D’ONOFRIO
- LAURIE PETERSON
- JOHN BERGENTY
- KATHY PUGLIESE
- GARY EISENHAUER
- HONEY MASTRIANNI
- GAYLE DENNEHY
- KATHY STERNER
- ED PRIOR
- LAREN MADIGAN
- SUE DZIURA
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# “Ask Sheila”

Q-1) I have had Medicare Part A for many years and just never signed up for Part B. Can I sign up now? If I do, will I get a Penalty?

A-1) You can sign up for Part B now, since it is the General Enrollment Period. The Penalty part of the question has a variety of answers, based on your circumstances. If you have had Employer Insurance through yourself or your spouse, then you would not have a penalty. If you are eligible for 'Extra Help' from the State of CT, you would not have a penalty. If you not had any medical coverage except for Part A, you may be subject to a penalty based on the time period that you didn't have any Credible Medical Coverage. Thes are just a few of the possible scenarios.

Q-2) I am currently 67 and I had planned to work until I turned 70, but was laid off just after Christmas. I've started looking for a job; but have found anything yet. Should I enroll in Medicare?

A-2) If you lose credible Insurance coverage due to loss of employment you should enroll in Medicare within 63 days of the loss, to avoid any gaps in your Medical coverage.

Q-3) I enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan during AEP. I have recently diagnosed with cancer and will soon begin Radiation and Chemo therapy. I think the co-pays will be very high and I'm afraid of the total out-of-pocket costs; What can I do ?

A-3) I'm sorry to hear about your Diagnosis. Your Advantage Plan has an Out-of-Pocket Maximum, but this can be anywhere from \$4,900 to \$8,300 depending on your Insurance Provider. Since Jan 1 through March 31st is the Medicare Advantage OEP, you do have the option of dropping the Advantage Plan and going back to Original Medicare and then purchasing a Supplement Plan and Stand-alone Drug Plan. This would stabilize your out-of-pocket medical costs and may be a viable option for you.

If you have any specific questions, or would like to talk about Medicare, please feel free to give me a call 860-965-0091 Sheila

Happy Holiday's

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## PLAINVILLE RESIDENT JAXSEN BAILEY WINS USAW YOUTH FOLKSTYLE WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP



Jaxsen Bailey, 13 yr old Plainville resident wins the 102 lbs USAW Youth Folkstyle Wrestling Championship. Jaxsen Bailey competed on January 27, 2024 in Fort Wayne, Indiana at the USAW Folkstyle Youth Wrestling Championship. Jaxsen first round win 5-2 against an Oregon wrestler. Then he took out the tournaments #1 seed from Indiana with a second left for a 1-0 victory. Jaxsen Third match was another nail biter winning 4-1 at the end. The finals was the match of the day. Jaxsen against the number 1 NY wrestler who won this last year. The match was nothing but intense, Jaxsen was down 5-0 with 40 seconds left. He threw a Greco toss which changed the match. Then he scored 3 more points with a takedown and backs to tie it up.

They went into 2 overtime matches with no winner. In the sudden victory overtime, Jaxsen had to hold him down to take it all, NY got up but didn't get out of Jaxsens grasp, then he had one more chance at it with 8 seconds on the clock and Jaxsen flattened him out to win the National Belt and Title of the 2024 Youth Folkstyle Wrestling Championship.

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## Women's Club of New Britain Meeting

The Women's Club of New Britain will meet at 2:00 PM on Thursday, February 1, 2024. The meeting will be at the First Congregational Church, 830 Corbin Ave. New Britain, CT. The name of the program is: " SNOW LEOPARDS" Dr. Richard Benfield, a professor from CCSU, will present a summary of his almost 20 years in snow leopard research, beginning with a detailed exploration and rarely seen pictures of the mystical Snow Leopard. Following the program, coffee, tea and cookies will be served.

Guests are welcome to attend for a \$10.00 fee. New members from The Greater New Britain Area are welcome to join the club.

## Fellow American

Parents have a fundamental right to choose a school that is best for their child. Every child is different, and families shouldn't be forced into a corner without options when deciding the best way to meet their child's education needs.

One-third of the states in America have no active school choice programs whatsoever, and other states have only limited programs available. But all children should be able to enjoy education freedom. Do you agree?

Should every family be able to send their child to a good school? Katie

American Patriot Poll Team  
PO Box 455  
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## Main Street Community Foundation Accepting Applications for Scholarships

As students begin to prepare for and continue their academic and career journeys, financial support is available. Main Street Community Foundation is now accepting applications for over 90 scholarship funds. These scholarships are available to graduating high school seniors, current college students, and adult learners who are or will be attending two- or four-year colleges, as well as technical schools and career certification programs. There are also scholarships available for students attending elementary and secondary private schools in Bristol.

The deadline for all application submissions is March 8, 2024. A full list of available scholarships, their eligibility criteria, and links to the online application are available on the MSCF website: [mainstreetfoundation.org/apply-for-scholarship](http://mainstreetfoundation.org/apply-for-scholarship).

Each scholarship fund has specific eligibility criteria defined by the donors when the fund was established. Criteria includes items like interests and career goals, academic standing, financial need and town residence. A volunteer selection committee will then review each application and recommend the recipients based on the established criteria. All applications are reviewed through a competitive, blinded application process which ensures the selection committee is not biased in their determinations.

If you have any questions or would like more information, contact Samantha Rajotte, Scholarship & Program Officer, at 860.583.6363 or [samantha@mainstreetfoundation.org](mailto:samantha@mainstreetfoundation.org).

The Main Street Community Foundation is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for both present and future generations in the communities served by encouraging and promoting gift planning, prudent stewardship of assets, effective grantmaking and community leadership. A nonprofit public charity, created by private citizens, the foundation works with donors in Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott who wish to build permanent charitable endowments to support their communities. Since its founding in 1995, the foundation has provided over \$27.5 million in grants and scholarships.

## Make My Day

by: Raymond Cormier

### THE NIGHT NURSES

In the still of the night when all the world is sleeping, I can assure you that on floor C-5 at the Hospital of Central CT in New Britain, the night angels are busy. I know for sure because recently I was there after a major "plumbing tune up" performed by an amazing surgeon.

All of the nursing staff and physicians were professional and excellent. But for me, it was in the middle of the night that I needed special attention when Natesha and Ana, my night nurses, met that challenge.

I knew immediately that I was in good hands when Natesha signed in, smiled and introduced herself. Her caring "I got this" attitude insured my safety and I was not wrong.

Ana ran her legs off in the early morning hours, getting me up and back to bed every 20 minutes, changing my nightie, my socks, cleaning up, trying another system and doing whatever needed to be done. She did it quietly and patiently all the time reassuring me. She even called for a new bed when she discovered that mine wasn't working properly and the nurse call didn't work. It was only a few minutes before another came rolling in.

We made it through the night, Natesha, me and Ana. When Ana finally tucked me in around 4 a.m., I was comfortable, clean and tucked out. She then went on to finish her shift on a busy full moon night. They both came in to bid me goodbye and express their best wishes.

I am forever grateful to the staff at HCC for their excellent care and my wonderful chance for a new lease on a life.

.....Janice Eisenhauer

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# P-l-a-i-n-v-i-l-l-e

Here are some of your favorite places, people or things around town to rave about this month

**Susan Raves:** I received a Gift Certificate for a Helicopter ride at the HTX Helicopter Service located at Robertson Airport. Believe me if you have never been in a Helicopter it should be on your **Bucket List**. It was one of my best Birthday Gifts that anyone could believe!

**Jack's Favorite:** Yes, **Pagliacci's Restaurant** always was my favorite restaurant and always will be. Since Dennis retired after almost 30 years of being the manager, the owners have returned to serve their customers. I believe they learned from Dennis that service, best food and hospitality is the secret to success. Try it, you will love it.

If you don't have a computer and have a Fave or Rave.....

Call 860-747-4119 and leave your message OR

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# PLAINVILLE REPUBLICANS THANK LAURIE PETERSON FOR 12 YEARS OF SERVICE



Plainville Republican members celebrated a well deserved recognition for PRTC member and former Board of Education member Laurie Peterson. Laurie served for 12 years on the Plainville BOE. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to Plainville Community Schools

Shown in photo: Laurie Peterson, Jacob Rocco RTC Vice Chair and Gayle Dennehy, RTC Chairperson



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•	Certified medication management staff.
•	Call system in every room and bathroom with sit down showers.



# Francis Cooley Seeks Second Term



After a successful first term in office, State Rep. Francis Rexford Cooley serving in the Connecticut General Assembly representing the 22nd House District covering the town of Plainville and portions of Southington and Farmington announced he plans to run for a second term this November.

This has been an honor of a lifetime. Representing the people of Plainville, Southington and Farmington is an awesome responsibility and I'm running again because there is so much to do," said Rep. Cooley. "We need to protect the taxpayers from some in Hartford that yearn to end the fiscal safeguards, like the state spending cap. Safeguards that guided our state during a pandemic and led to historic relief tax." In his first term, in the House of Representatives, Cooley served as a member of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement and Environment Committees. He also serves as the voice of the 22nd District on the Education Committee.

In 2023, Cooley proudly supported the largest tax cut in Connecticut history which reduced the bottom two marginal tax rates – from 3% to 2% and from 5% to 4.5% - with full benefit going to single filers earning under \$105k and joint filers earning under \$210k. And, also eliminates the benefits cliff on their pension and annuity income. The plan phases out the income tax exemption on those earnings post-retirement gradually, permitting many seniors to remain and retire in Connecticut.

In Education, Cooley advocated and supported a budget proposal to bolster the state's Education Cost Sharing (ECS) funding which directly infuses our local schools with additional tools to strengthen our children's education.

Cooley has made a reputation in his first term at the State Capitol as an independent common-sense thinker who looks to build bi-partisan consensus to pass legislation.

Right now, Cooley has staked out a position on behalf of his constituents opposing the governor's plan to ban gas-powered cars and trucks, which would devastate Connecticut's economy.

Cooley stood with advocates throughout the legislative session to support new laws to better protect domestic violence victims.

Also, Cooley supported funding to improve safety and training for local firefighters were included, assisting in promotion from Firefighter I to Firefighter II, an additional \$5 million in firefighter cancer relief funding, and helping to remove PFAS, which contains dangerous carcinogens, from standard use in fire service operations.

In addition to working at the State Capitol, Rep. Cooley spent countless hours communicating with residents through email and phone conversation while also having regular office and coffee hours, always making sure he was getting the true pulse of the district and what they wanted.

# Gift of Time

There comes a time in life when all gifts fall short in comparison to the ever priceless gift of time.

Throughout our adult life, we shower our parents and our elders with expensive & luxurious material commodities. At the receiving end, our parents and our elders are not so very touched by the price tag of these gifts, but the gesture they represent. The gesture of love, care, and thoughtfulness.

Now fast forward a few decades, a pattern begins to emerge. Knowingly or unknowingly, as we become increasingly engrossed in our own lives, the very cause of our existence and thriving lives, our very parents and our elders, become the last people on our mind!

As kids, the absence of our mother for as little as a few short hours, would turn our worlds upside down. At that point no candy, cookie or toy could bring us any comfort until we catch the glimpse of our mothers. Yet sadly as matured adults, days, weeks, months and at times even years may go by without us speaking to our parents, let alone holding their hands and hugging them.

Our once strong and invincible parents, now have grown frail. It is not so much the material gifts that they look for, rather spending some quality time with their children.

We cannot turn the clock back, but we can amend our ways going forward. Let's start exercising some good old fashion remedy to bring back smiles on the long awaiting and tired faces.

Let's share the single most priceless gift, the gift of time with our parents and our elders.

Let them recall and share those long forgotten anecdotes of our childhood, they so tightly have hung on to as the most precious savings of their lives.

Let's never underestimate the power of spending time and giving that human touch to our elders.

A simple "hello, how are you, how was your day" can be the most potent medicine they need.

In the process, we will discover how much we can learn about them and from them to yet better our own lives.





### PHS HOSTS BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS



The Plainville High School Physical Education Department recently hosted a "Breakfast Of Champions" for all ninth and tenth grade students who passed all four sections of the Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment. Students in faculty member Jonathan Dunlap’s Culinary classes made breakfast for this special recognition event!

### PHS HONOR STUDENTS VISIT LINDEN AND TOFFOLON SCHOOLS



Approximately 40 Plainville High School National English Honor Society student members visited Linden Street School and Louis Toffolon Elementary School to read to first and second graders and facilitate literacy activities that the high school students designed. The elementary students wrote their own stories, worked on finding text evidence, and honed their opinion writing skills.

### UBI PARTNERS WITH READING PROGRAM



Plainville elementary school students who participate in the school district's Reading Partners Program, together with students from Plainville High School, made over 100 holiday cards for local veterans to be handed out at the Veterans Hospital in Newington, Connecticut for the holiday season. The UBI Federal Credit Union in Plainville generously donated the cards.

### MSP (KIM) COLLECT HYGIENE ITEMS



Participants from the Middle School Kids In the Middle (KIM) Program recently collected hygiene items to help families in Plainville. The group filled two large boxes donated by U-Haul of Plainville. "We often think of families in need of food, but rarely remember we need supplies for our personal health," explained Plainville Youth Services and KIM Program Coordinator, Dayna Snell.

### TOFFOLON SCHOOL CHOIR PERFORMS FOR HOLIDAYS



Louis Toffolon Elementary School's Choir, comprised of 66 fourth and fifth graders, and led by faculty member Greg Wilfrid, recently hit the road for their annual caroling field trip! Students traveled to Apple Rehab in Plainville, the Plainville Senior Center, and the Jerome Home and Arbor Rose in New Britain. They performed holiday songs and spread holiday cheer for the residents, visitors and staff. Toffolon preschoolers also made holiday cards that the Choir students handed out at the venues. This was the Toffolon Choir's first performance of the year.

### FEBRUARY 2024 CALENDAR

19 President's Day  
16-20 Winter Recess



### LINDEN SCHOOL STUDENTS SPONSOR TOY DRIVE



Linden Street School fourth graders sponsored a Toy Drive from November 27th-December 11th. Students and staff collected toys to benefit the United Way of West Central Connecticut. With over 4,000 requests for toys this year, the United Way expressed their gratitude for the generosity of Linden's students and families.

### MSP HOSTS “PJ DAY FOR THE KIDS”



Plainville Community Schools, led by Middle School of Plainville faculty member, Karyn Bacinkas, once again participated in “PJ Day for the Kids” raising funds to support pediatric cancer research and kids fighting cancer at the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center in Hartford. This year, the Plainville school district raised over \$7,835, placing the district in the Top 5 in Connecticut for fundraising again this year. Adam Rivers, a local DJ on KC 101 and Kiss 95.7, travels to schools around the state every “PJ Day,” and visited the Middle School this year! The statewide initiative, supported by schools and businesses across Connecticut, has raised over 3 million dollars since 2011.

### Fifth Graders Attend Leadership Conference



Fifth graders from Plainville elementary schools attended the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) Annual Elementary Level School Leadership Conference held at Naugatuck Valley Community College on January 9th. The students participated in three sessions focusing on leadership skills, teambuilding, and communication skills.

*I Pledge Allegiance to the Flag....*





# Schools in Review



## PLAINVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS HONORED WITH "STUDENT ROCKS AWARD"

Plainville High School students Zoe Weimer and Phillippe Brochu have been named recipients of the first semester "Student Rocks Award" recognizing their outstanding contributions to Plainville High School.

The Student Rocks Award was established by three teachers in 2010 as a way to honor those students who "do the right thing" every day without looking for acknowledgement. Once a semester, teachers nominate and then vote for students they believe are worthy of this award.

Weimer, a senior, was nominated by high school faculty member Todd Helming with supporting comments shared by several faculty members. "Zoe's presence lights up a room; she is positive, friendly, diligent, and kind. She works hard and clearly cares about everything that she is involved in.

Brochu, a junior, was nominated by high school faculty member Jeff Smedick, with supporting comments shared by several faculty members.

"Phillippe Brochu is the exemplar of a student rocks winner, kind, courteous and helpful. He truly cares about his education, his school and his community," noted faculty member TJ Riccardo.

"Listening to the reasons why Zoe and Phil received this award was inspiring and hope inducing," said Superintendent of Schools, Brian Reas.

## PHS Students In Honors Choirs



On January 12th and 13th, Plainville High School students Audrey Vandermark and Veronica Dropa will represent Plainville High School in the Honors Choirs at the Connecticut Music Education Association's Northern Region Music Festival. Both Audrey and Veronica completed an extensive audition process and independently prepared five advanced choral pieces to be a part of this Honors Ensemble. Audrey will be part of the Alto section in the Treble Choir and Veronica will be a Soprano in the Mixed Choir Ensemble.

"Audrey and Veronica are top students musically and across our entire school," said Director of the Plainville High School Choirs, Todd Helming.

## DECEMBER 'ALL STAR' ANNOUNCED



The December Plainville Community Schools "All-Star" award winner, Plainville High School faculty member Emily Wasley, was recognized at the December 11th Board of Education meeting. The "All-Star" award recognizes students, faculty, staff and community members who go above and beyond in modeling the school district's Portrait of the Graduate characteristics and demonstrating excellence in alignment with the school district's team goals.

**In photo:** Superintendent of Schools Brian Reas, Plainville High School faculty member Emily Wasley, and Plainville Board of Education Chair, Becky Tyrrell

## January "All Star" Award Winner Announced



The January Plainville Community Schools "All-Star" award winner, Plainville High School Paraprofessional, Shannon Rivera was recognized at the January 8th Board of Education meeting. The "All-Star" award recognizes students, faculty, staff and community members who go above and beyond in modeling the school district's Portrait of the Graduate characteristics and demonstrating excellence in alignment with the school district's team goals.

**In photo:** Plainville High School Principal Jennifer DeLorenzo, Superintendent of Schools Brian Reas, Plainville High School Paraprofessional Shannon Rivera, Plainville Board of Education Chair, Becky Tyrrell and Plainville High School Assistant Principal, Kelly Hickey.

## NEW STUDENTS CELEBRATED



The Middle School of Plainville's School Counseling Department held a "New Student Celebration" in November to recognize all middle level students who were new to the school district. The theme was RESILIENCE, which the new students regularly demonstrated as they adapted to a new school setting.

## ELIZABETH H. NORTON TRUST FUND GRANTS SUPPORT DISTRICT INITIATIVES

Several school district programs and initiatives received a boost this year, thanks to grants received from the local Elizabeth H. Norton Trust Fund.

Volunteer Coordinator Sue Bradley received a grant to support the district's Reading Partners Program. Specifically, the grant funding supports the purchase of individual holiday books for the program's student participants to keep and bring home. "The students enjoyed listening to a guest reader share the story of Pete the Cat's 12 Groovy Days of Christmas at school and then they were able to take the book home to keep and continue to read it with their family members," said Bradley.

The district's Music Department received a grant to fund the commissioning of a new piece of music for the upcoming All-Town Band Concert. Each year the All-Town Concert features either the bands or the choirs from the school district. This year, the bands will present their work, and at the end of the concert, all of the school bands will combine to play a single piece.

Adult and Continuing Education Program Coordinator, Jill O'Brien also received a grant to support an English Conversation Club (ECC). The ECC will provide English Language Learners (ages 16+ ) with time devoted to speaking English, at the Plainville Public Library this spring. The ECC is inclusive, meeting the individual needs of English language learners, while providing volunteers with an opportunity to learn about individuals and diverse cultures, making a positive and helpful impact.

Additionally, the Plainville High School Unified Sports Program, led by faculty members Mikayla Wells and Jennifer Jambard, received a grant to increase the amount and types of sports equipment to match the needs of the program's increasing numbers. "Plainville currently hosts three seasons of Unified Sports: Soccer in the fall, Basketball in the winter, and Track & Field in the spring. We also actively participate in friendly games of kickball, volleyball, and bowling," explained Wells. amount of equipment we currently have to match our increasing numbers, as well as to expand the variety of sports we can offer our team."

"These grants give our students innovative opportunities that they would not have otherwise," said Superintendent of Schools, Brian Reas.



of the United States of America!



# Queen of the Apostles Preparatory Academy



Queen of the Apostles Preparatory Academy is a Classical Academy is faithful to the Magisterium of the Catholic Church. Students can enroll in grades Pre-Kindergarten to Twelfth grade. The Academy utilizes a Classical Curriculum, a curriculum that has been successfully utilized by the Church throughout the ages. All students receive instruction in Math, Science, History, Latin, Greek, Literature/Writing, Great Books, English, Theology/Sacramental Prep, Art/Music, Shakespeare/Drama, and more. The Academy also provides various extracurricular activities, such as Pickleball, Debate, Speech, Storytelling, and Film Production. Queen of Apostles' high schoolers are also linked with a program that affords them the opportunity to graduate with an Associate's Degree or up to 75 college credits towards a Liberal Arts or Theology degree. QOTA's middle and upper grades have opportunities to attend national conferences on leadership in business, politics, debate, and ethics. Queen of the Apostles also has an exceptional teaching staff where all educators are extremely dedicated to the academic and spiritual growth, as well as the formation of the students. In fact, all of the educators have extensive teaching experience/advanced degrees, and most have extensive experience in Catechesis as well. Queen of the Apostles' is very proud of the academic accomplishments of its students. Some of our students have received numerous scholarships to various colleges and universities, as well as nominations to West Point Academy and perfect scores on the Standardized College Admission exams.

**Scholarships of \$1000 are available for all student's 6th grade and up who enroll for the 2023-2024 or the 2024-2025 academic year.**

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While Common Core focuses on math and language arts and often relies on standardized testing to measure success, classical education takes a more holistic approach, emphasizing the importance of critical thinking, the study of classic literature, history, and philosophy, and the development of moral character. It is an approach to education that seeks to cultivate lifelong learners who are able to think critically and creatively, and who possess the knowledge and wisdom necessary to navigate an increasingly complex world. It nourishes the soul in truth, goodness, and beauty, defying the dictatorship of relativism that oppresses our age. This is the beauty of Queen of the Apostles Preparatory Academy. The children are happy and thrive in learning more about this beautiful world.

Please, join us for one of our Open Houses in February or apply today at [www.qota-prep.org/apply](http://www.qota-prep.org/apply)-today There are \$1000 scholarships available for students who transfer from their education in grades 6-12th for the academic year of 2024-2025. Call today to find out more at 860.793.2525.

The greatest challenge to Catholic education in the United States today, and the greatest contribution that authentically Catholic education can make to American culture, is to restore to that culture the conviction that human beings can grasp the truth of things, and, in grasping that truth, can know their duties to God, to themselves and their neighbors.

– Pope St. John Paul II, Ad Limina visit of the Bishops of Chicago, Indianapolis, and Milwaukee, 1998 –

In Christ,  
Karen Roche, Director  
Queen of the Apostles Preparatory Academy

[www.qota-prep.org](http://www.qota-prep.org)

## Contact Us

We encourage you to submit an inquiry form to find out more about Queen of the Apostles for your student.

19 South Canal St  
Plainville CT 06062  
860.793.2525  
[admin@qota-prep.org](mailto:admin@qota-prep.org)

## Support Queen of the Apostles

A Queen of the Apostles classical education is only possible thanks to the generous support of donors and friends.

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# THIS AND THAT.....

## “Thank You Mentor Day” Hosted in Plainville



The Plainville school district celebrated volunteer mentors on "Thank Your Mentor Day" with a breakfast held at Plainville High School on January 25th. January is National Mentoring Month and the perfect time to say thank you for making a difference in the life of a child. The Plainville Community Schools Mentor Program is currently in its 33rd year. If you would like to serve as a volunteer mentor to a Plainville student, please contact Volunteer Program Coordinator, Sue Bradley, at 860-793-3210 x6110.

## Cooley Hails Reform and Diversionary Program

State Rep. Francis Cooley (R-22) received a legislative update on the state's Treatment Pathway Program (TPP) which is a state-of-the-art court-based pretrial diversionary initiative that offers court-based assessment and referral services.

Rep. Cooley said, "I was pleasantly surprised by the successes individuals in the new program achieved. I fully support the effort by the state to stop petty theft and stem the tide of drug abuse by putting people on a better path."

In the program, court-based clinicians work with the Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division (CSSD) Bail Services Unit identify and serve defendants with substance use disorders who are in custody. These individuals are assessed in lockup prior to their arraignment to be safely released are immediately connected with clinical and recovery support services in the community.

The goal is to break the cycle of low-level criminal behavior mostly fueled by drug dependence. The program is funded with money Connecticut received due to the settlement with the Opioid manufacturers.

Treatment Pathway Program services include substance use disorder and mental health treatment and support services, medication assisted therapy, housing assistance, enrollment with entitlements, access to medical care, access to employment services, access to social supports, and access to peer support.

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## Aldi To Open Store In Plainville

Michael Lemanski, Patch Staff



Aldi is an international grocery chain based in Germany, but featuring stores throughout the world, with a store now being planned for Plainville. Aldi is an international grocery chain based in Germany, but featuring stores throughout the world, with a store now being planned for Plainville. (Scott Anderson/Patch)

A prominent shopping plaza in Plainville will have a major hole filled in the form of an international grocery chain coming to town.

That's because an Aldi supermarket is planned for the Connecticut Commons plaza at 282 New Britain Ave., Plainville. There are currently 31 Aldi's in Connecticut.

The store was announced earlier this month by the real estate broker involved with the deal, Fairfield-based True Commercial Real Estate LLC.

True said the deal was finalized by representatives Tyler Lyman and Jason Wuchiski for the store, which is expected to be 21,070 square feet.

In a statement, Lyman said the location is perfect for the area, given its proximity to a major highway in the area.

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“Connecticut Commons is a regional center, drawing customers from a large territory due to its proximity to I-84,” Lyman said.

"The one glaring missing piece was the fact that there was no grocer in the project. We made that use a priority and are excited to add ALDI to the tenant mix."

The Plainville location off I-84 is surrounded by Farmington, Southington, Bristol and New Britain.

ALDI was represented by Tim McNamara & Kevin Daly of Cushman & Wakefield, while Tyler Lyman and Jason Wuchiski represented the landlord — Site Centers.

True has brokered 13 deals with Site Centers, according to True officials.

The site has been vacant since 2019, when an A.C. Moore crafts retailer shuttered.

The project now goes before town land-use boards for final approval before the store can be built and open.

Aldi is based in Essen, Germany, and has made significant gains in recent years in the U.S. and Connecticut.

The store offers off-brand and brand grocery items at significant discounts and is popular for people on a budget.

## The United States of Pizza: New Haven + Stamford Ranked as Having the Best Pizzerias in America (Study of Google Reviews)

New Haven was the top placed city in Connecticut (24th place overall).

Infographic showing the top 250 cities for pizza in America, based on average Google review scores. The craft of pizza-making has been honed and perfected for centuries, and when it comes to the debate over which city serves up the best slice of pizza in the U.S., the discourse is as heated as a wood-fired oven.

A recent study by Pizzello.com has sought to uncover which towns and cities across America the best pizzas can be ordered from. This wasn't just a frivolous foray into flatbreads; it was an in-depth analysis of average Google reviews from the nation's 500 most populous towns and cities. The result was a definitive list of top-tier pizza destinations, revealing which towns and cities across America the best pizzas can be ordered from.capturing the essence of Southern culinary traditions.

#1 NYC (4.68)

At the top of this list, New York City proudly sits with an average Google rating of 4.68. This might not come as a shock to many, given the city's storied association with the beloved dish. The legacy of pizza in New York also cannot be ignored. It's home to America's first pizzeria, Lombardi's, which fired up its ovens in 1905. This long-standing tradition means that New York doesn't just make pizza; it lives and breathes pizza. This is evident in the generations of family-owned pizzerias that dot the cityscape, each with its own story and a secret recipe that's a slice of New York's history.

#24 New Haven (4.52): The birthplace of the American white clam pizza, New Haven's pizzerias continue to innovate while honoring their rich pizza heritage, with chewy, charred crusts that are a hallmark of the city's pies.

#188 Stamford (4.44): Stamford's pizzerias are as sophisticated as the city itself, offering a mix of upscale pies and authentic, cozy Italian spots.

## PLAINVILLE STUDENTS WIN CONNECTICUT FIRE PEVENTION POSTER CONTEST

Fire Marshal Ronald Dievert announced two winners from Plainville for this year's Connecticut Fire Prevention Poster Contest. Dievert said that the local contest winners are

- Emi Blanco, the Fourth-Grade winner from Frank T. Wheeler Elementary School
- Taylor Carrier, the Fifth-Grade winner from Toffolon Elementary School
- **CONGRATULATION TO EMI AND TAYLOR!!!**

To Submit Class Reunion Announcements and/or Pictures

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plainvillehometown@gmail.com or Mail to:

Hometown Connection, 27 Sherman Street, Plainville, CT 006062



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# Life With Wanda

Life With Wanda

This week I found there are still some caring people in this world. My husband had an appointment with a new doctor at the end of January and the doctors' office was in a large medical facility in Florida, where we now live. Not wanting to be late for this appointment, as the hospital was some distance from our home. My husband insisted we make a dry run, time how long it would take us to get there and locate the proper parking garage as well as the doctor's office. Before leaving my husband thought perhaps, I might need my walker but then we decided we had an old wheelchair and that might be better suited for this excursion. Dusting off the chair we put it in the car and off we went. Now neither of us was dressed to be out in public as we had on our jeans and our around the yard work clothes. After about an hour and a half we arrived at the hospital and found a parking space right by the elevators. My husband got the wheelchair out of the trunk and I climbed in. I didn't really want to go into the hospital but he insisted we find the doctor's office. We entered the elevator and as he turned the wheelchair around to exit, the rubber wheel fell off the chair; it was dry rotted as it had been stored in our old barn for more than twenty years. Just then the doors of the elevator opened and my husband picked of the rubber wheel and plopped it in my lap and we exited. He pushed me over to the side of hall and tried putting the rubber tire back on but it was too far gone. I noticed a man, who was obviously part of the hospital staff, looking at us as we tried to fix this old chair. The man said nothing and walked away. Just inside the door to the hospital was a line of wheelchairs so my husband went over and got one of them for our use and we proceeded up the hall to find the doctors' office. As we waited to speak to the doctor's receptionist the man at the elevator came over and asked about the chair we had left by the elevator and did we want the hospital to dispose of it. Feeling a little embarrassed I said that would be nice but if the hospital wanted we would get it on our way out, put it in our car and perhaps my husband would attempt to fix it when we got home. He said he would be back and he would check on what might be the best solution. After the receptionist called my husband in for some other information the gentleman returned with another wheelchair and asked me to try it. So I got out of the hospital chair and got into the smaller chair he had brought me. Yes, I said it was indeed a nice chair and with that he said it was a "trade-in" for my old chair I had left in the hall. I couldn't believe it. He explained many times people have chairs they have no further use for so they give them to the hospital and this hospital reconditions them and gives them to people in need. I questioned him about this gift and he only replied, "Have a blessed and Happy New Year". After we returned to our car and were on our way home I started to think about this act of kindness and what might have prompted it. I then pictured what we must have looked like getting off that elevator; two old people, right off the farm, with me holding the rubber wheel of this broken-down wheel chair in my lap, trying to find a doctor.



## CANNABIS CONVERSATION

with  
**Dr. Paulina Miklosz**  
**DNP, APRN**

A 2024 study by Forbes surveyed 1,000 US adults and found "improved fitness" to be the number 1 resolution for 2024, with 48% of respondents setting fitness related goals for the new year. Is cannabis something that can potentially help to support your resolutions to improve your fitness?

The use of cannabis in fitness is a topic that has gained attention over the last few years, with star athletes like Rob Gronkowski, Megan Rapinoe and former heavyweight boxer Mike Tyson promoting CBD's benefits for recovery and injury support. Keep in mind that the effects of cannabis (including CBD) can vary widely between individuals; it should be used with intention and a bit of caution especially when first introducing cannabis into your regimen. Below are some examples of how cannabis may be used in the context of fitness:

- 1. Pain Management**  
Some individuals use cannabis, particularly strains with higher levels of CBD (cannabidiol) and lower THC (tetrahydrocannabinol), as part of their pre-workout regimen to help reduce pain or discomfort during exercise. Cannabis may also be used post-exercise to alleviate soreness and speed up recovery.
- 2. Reducing Inflammation**  
Cannabis, particularly CBD, is known for its anti-inflammatory properties. A challenging workout will result in some muscle tearing which induces local inflammation. While inflammation is a natural response to exercise, using cannabis can help reduce exercise-induced inflammation and may help relieve DOMS (delayed-onset muscle soreness) sooner.
- 3. Relaxation and Stress Reduction:**  
Whether before or after a workout, cannabis can help promote relaxation and may help increase stress tolerance. Cannabis products and strains with a balanced CBD to THC ratio (1:1) or higher CBD content may be preferred for stress management.
- 4. Focus and Mind-Body Connection:**  
The Mind-Muscle connection is the ability to consciously engage and focus on a specific muscle or group of muscles during resistance training or any form of physical activity. By bringing your

awareness to the muscle you are working, feeling its contraction and relaxation, you recruit more muscle fibers and make your workout more effective. Many report enhanced focus and an improved mind-body connection when using cannabis which is especially beneficial for activities that require concentration, such as yoga or strength training.

**5. Improved Sleep**  
Good quality sleep is imperative for physical (and mental) recovery. As discussed in our October '23 article, cannabis can promote bodily relaxation, help clear your mind and support better sleep. Certain cannabis strains are high in terpenes that promote relaxation and rest such as b-Myrcene or Linalool.

**6. Creativity & Mood Enhancement**  
Cannabis can be a great tool for those who are looking to get more enjoyment out of physical activities like hiking, cycling and other sports. Be mindful of your tolerance to cannabis and begin with CBD-based products until you've gained some experience with using cannabis for fitness.

**7. Increasing Appetite**  
Muscle growth requires increased caloric intake, and for those who struggle with eating enough or have a poor appetite, cannabis may help to stimulate hunger signals and support adequate nutrition. It's important to approach cannabis use responsibly and be aware of its potential side effects, including impaired coordination and cognitive function. If considering the use of cannabis in a fitness context, it's recommended to consult with a healthcare professional, especially if there are pre-existing health conditions or concerns. Always be aware of and comply with the legal regulations regarding cannabis use in your location.

Dr. Paulina Miklosz is a doctorally-prepared Family Nurse Practitioner with over 10 years of experience in primary care, population health and advanced diabetes management. She is the owner and medical director of Higher Med, a Plainville-based health clinic specializing in Cannabinoid Medicine. For more information, please refer to HigherMed.org or call (959)900-8206.

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EASY WAYS TO SAVE ENERGY AT HOME

**Turn things off**

That doesn't just mean hitting the light switch when you leave a room (although that's important, too). You should also make sure your television, computer, video game consoles, cable boxes, and digital video recorders are switched off when you're not actively using them—or unplugged completely, if they light up or otherwise use energy even when powered down. Chargers for cell phones, tablets, and other cordless devices also use small amounts of energy even when they're not charging. Plug items you use regularly into a power strip, so you can easily switch them all off at once.

Computers can also be set to sleep or hibernate mode, which use much less power than when they're on and active; program yours to do this automatically after 10 to 15 minutes of inactivity. And skip the screen savers; they're not necessary to protect modern monitors, and it's much more efficient to simply set your monitor to switch off when it's not in use.

**Buy smarter bulbs**

An LED light bulb costs as little as \$5 at home improvement stores, and it can save more than \$100 over its lifetime. LEDs use up to 85 percent less energy to deliver the same amount of light as incandescents, and they come in many different shapes, colors, and intensities. They also reach full brightness instantly and can work with dimmer switches. Check to see

whether your local utility offers a rebate for energy-efficient bulbs, which would bring their cost down even further.)

**Don't use more energy than you need**

Don't run the dishwasher when it's not full, set your washing machine to the appropriate water level, and wash clothes—except for the dirtiest of loads—in cold water. Set your refrigerator temperature between 28 and 42 degrees Fahrenheit and your freezer between 0 and 5, and make sure both are sealed tightly. (If a dollar bill shut in the door is easy to pull out, replace the gaskets.)

The clothes dryer is one of the largest energy users in the home, often consuming as much as a new refrigerator, dishwasher, and clothes washer combined. Air-dry clothing when possible, and when you have to use your machine, be sure to clean the lint filter after each use, use the auto-dry or moisture-sensor setting, and don't add wet items to a load that's already partially dry.

**Tweak your TV settings.**

Although today's high-definition televisions use around 60 percent less energy than earlier ones, some Internet-ready models consume excess power after they're turned off, thanks to a "quick start" feature that allows them to boot up a few seconds faster. Disable that option in your television's settings—and while you're there, see if your model has an automatic brightness control, or ABC, sensor, which will adjust the picture brightness to the level of light in the room.

Since most TV viewing occurs at night, this can make a big difference in energy consumption.

If you want to stream movies and use services like Netflix or YouTube, consider buying an Internet-ready television or a small add-on device—like Apple TV, Google Chromecast, or a Roku box—which uses very little power. Avoid streaming video through game consoles like PlayStation or Xbox, which can use up to 30 times more energy. (If you do use a game console regularly, at least set it to "auto power down" mode.)

**Measure your electricity**

An electricity monitor meter, such as a Kill A Watt Meter, measures how much energy each gadget in your home uses, when on and when ostensibly turned off. These typically cost less than \$30 at home improvement stores, but can provide many aha moments. For example, one could show that your "turned off" DVR set-top box from the cable or satellite company is drawing around 20 watts even though you're not watching or recording a show.

**Close up the cracks**

If you add up all the gaps around the windows and doors in an average American house, you have the equivalent of a 3-foot by 3-foot hole in the wall. Caulk and weather-strip to seal off these air leaks, and use window putty to seal gaps around loose window panes. And stop heated or cooled air from escaping under doors by attaching "sweeps" or "shoes" to their bottoms.

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# Letters to the Editor.....

Dear Editor,

It has been along time since I have left Town Council meetings both confused and disappointed and it is because of that I am writing this letter. Let’s start with the easiest first. During the election process, one of the items to be voted on was for a Town Manager to not have to reside in Plainville and to that point the tax paying voters said no. He/she must be a resident in Plainville. Well folks, to this day, the town Manger still does not live in Plainville and when I presented this concern to the Town Council, it appears nothing is being done to abide by the Town Charter requirement! My question is simple - why?

Secondly, the Town Council is considering a four day work week for our town hall operation. I do know now what prompted that thought, but I cannot help but wonder if there is a connection to a Town Manager not having to reside in Plainville? Also, once working for a living myself, hearing of less working days could have been a signal of an over staffed operation, which prompts lay offs?

In addition, a study was once taken that showed the longer you work in a given day, the less efficient you become!

I will conclude this letter with a final thought. The High School is in need of and will receive a new boiler system. After reading this, I could not help chuckle, isn’t this the way the proposed Middle School project unfolded. A new boiler system requirement leading to build a new project?

Lou Frangos

## Main Street COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

This past summer, Main Street Community Foundation announced that it received a fundraising challenge to further build the Men & Boys’ Fund endowment. Two anonymous donors joined together in offering to match every dollar donated up to \$5,000 donated by December 31. You not only met the challenge but you exceeded it!

THANK YOU to every single donor who gave. The impact the Men & Boys’ Fund has had in Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott has been great, but growing the endowment in this way will ensure that support for local men and boys will not only continue but grow – forever.

The Men & Boys' Fund was established in 2016 by a group of committed community leaders to make it possible for men and boys to improve the quality of their lives, increase self-sufficiency and make a positive difference in their communities. The Fund encourages philanthropic giving; educates residents on the needs of men and boys; and provides support for programs and organizations that serve men and boys in various areas. Since its establishment, over \$63,000 has been awarded from the Fund in program and immediate response grants.

www.mainstreetfoundation.org  
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Main Street Community Foundation | 120 Halcyon Drive, P.O. Box 2702,  
Bristol, CT 06010

**New England 12th Bi-Annual Spring Benefit EXPO**  
To be held in May, 2024. The Holistic Community Professionals is accepting exhibitor applications for The Passport to Health & Wellness Expo. The event is scheduled for Sunday, May 5, 2023 from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM at The DoubleTree by Hilton 42 Century Drive Bristol, CT 06010. The Expo is FREE to attend. Donations are accepted for the benefit organization. Also the tea cup raffle will benefit the Children’s Health defense with items donated from all the exhibitors. The benefit Expo is presented by the Holistic Community Professionals and will feature speakers on the half hour beginning at 11AM, with a Keynote speaker at 1:00 PM. The event will have more than 75 vendors offering hands on body workers as well as holistic wellness products and treatments. A free sound healing closing ceremony with Zentastic Wellness ( Fred Maerkle will be offered at 4pm. For more information, call Shirley Bloethe at 860-989-0033, email YourHolisticEvents@gmail.com or visit https://www.yourholisticvents.com/fairs-vendorspeaker-application/ Warmly, Rev. Shirley R Bloethe



Daniel M. Levine of Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 14 recognized by General Assembly

During a public ceremony in which his successor was installed, Daniel M. Levine of Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 14 in Plainville was formally recognized by the Connecticut General Assembly for the community service projects he and his lodge performed during his stewardship in 2023. Among the highlights of Mr. Levine's year in office were orchestrating a food drive in conjunction with Gnazzo Food Center, educating the public with a ceremony on Flag Day, providing a free haunted house for the community during the Plainville PumpkinFest, and a charitable donation to Brian's Angels, a Bristol homeless outreach center.

This honor was bestowed by State Representative Francis Cooley (R-District 22), who read the citation to those assembled. In part, it read that the General Assembly recognizes Mr. Levine "for eight years of service... to the fraternity, citizens, and communities of the Town of Plainville and City of Bristol" along with their best wishes for continued success.

Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 14 shares the sentiment of our General Assembly and looks back on 2023 with great pride, while also looking forward to following Mr. Levine's exemplary year by continuing these good works in 2024 and beyond.

Photo caption: Outgoing Frederick Franklin Lodge No. 14 Master Daniel Levine (center) presented with his official citation by State Rep. Francis Cooley (right) and his successor, Andrew Bronson (left).



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# OBITUARIES

## ~Arnold F. Andre ~



81, of Plainville, formerly of Bristol, passed away peacefully after a lengthy illness on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at UCONN in Farmington. He was the devoted husband of Sandra (Sandy) Andre for 24 years. Arnold was born on

November 2, 1942 in Brockton, Massachusetts son to the late John and Helena (Hannant) Andre. Following high school graduation, Arnold enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was honorably discharged after proudly serving our country. Using his talented handy man skills along with his extensive knowledge in mechanical operations, Arnold worked for Foxboro Company retiring after 34 years. He was able to deconstruct, fix, and reconstruct just about anything he set his determined mind to and there was not a problem he couldn't resolve.

Arnold enjoyed spending time outdoors and spent many hours birdwatching, gardening and fishing. He truly enjoyed cooking, especially a lobster boil. He also loved to go on driving adventures and spend quality time relaxing by the water. With a keen eye for historical artifacts, he would spend hours exploring antique shops, unearthing hidden treasures that spoke to him in profound ways. He could often be seen with his antiques at Collinsville Antiques. His collection served as a testament to his appreciation for the past and his ability to find beauty in the most unexpected places. Arnold's legacy of hard-work, determination and devotion to his family will fondly be remembered and cherished.

In addition to his wife, Sandy, Arnold is survived by his sons, Ron Andre and his wife, Tina, Jeff Andre and his wife, Stacy, William Clark and his wife, Jill, and Brian Clark; his grandchildren, Thomas Andre, John Andre, Drew Andre, Clara Andre, Calvin Andre, Victoria Clark, Hunter Best, Sophia Clark and Viviana Clark; and lastly, his loveable, energetic Bernedoodle, Brody. He was predeceased by his first wife of 24 years, Shirley Andre.

Services in celebration of Arnold's life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Arnold can be made to the Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research, 320 W Ohio St., Suite 300, Chicago, IL 60654 (stopsarcoidosis.org). For more information or to leave online expressions of sympathy, please visit [www.PlainvilleFuneralHome.com](http://www.PlainvilleFuneralHome.com).

## A Mother's Prayer

Dear Lord,

Thank you for my mother. She is always loving, encouraging and providing for her children and those around her. She serves as a wonderful example of what it means to nurture and live out love for those around her. I ask that you guide her with your wisdom as she carries on along Your path. In Jesus' name I pray, amen.



## ~ Frank Colao ~



76, of Plainville passed away peacefully on Friday, December 8, 2023 at Hartford Hospital surrounded by his loved ones. He was the devoted husband and life partner for 52 years of Carolyn (Pacyna) Colao.

Frank was born on September 22, 1947 in Tarrytown, New York son to the late Salvatore and Mary (DeMarco) Colao. He grew up in New York, attended local schools and graduated from Sleepy Hollow High School in Tarrytown. Frank went on to attend CCSU, preparing to become a teacher, however he shifted gears to pursue his calling of becoming a police officer. He went on to complete the police academy and eagerly began his successful career with the New Britain Police Department in 1973. Through the years with the police department, he ran the Explorers program and worked his way up the totem pole, highly respected in his profession. In 1982, he earned the rank of Detective and in 1987 was promoted to acting Detective Sergeant in charge of the Vice Squad and was a hostage negotiator. He retired after 23 dedicated years to the community. Following his retirement from the force, he began a new career as an investigator for the State of Connecticut within the Division of Public Defender Services. He retired for the second time after 23 continued years of dedication to the community.

Frank had a profound love of sports and finding joy in inspiring young athletes, Frank was a former football coach at Plainville High School, committing 11 years to the team and athletes.

Friends, family and colleagues were blessed to be impacted by Frank's infectious personality and unwavering loyalty. Above all, Frank undoubtedly loved his family deeply, always proud to hold the titles of husband, father and grandfather. Frank was a selfless, passionate, trustworthy and humble man whose hard-working hands are at rest and his dedication to his family and public service will be fondly remembered, cherished and appreciated.

In addition to his wife, Carolyn, Frank is survived by his son, Todd Colao, his daughter, Kim Allen and her husband, Aaron, his grandchildren, Hunter Colao, Hannah Colao, and Ava Allen, his sister, Fran Carlini and her husband, Peter Carlini, his sister-in-law, Beverly Chambrello, and several nieces, nephews, and extended family members. Frank also leaves behind his colleague and longtime friend, Wayne Zalaski. He was predeceased by his brother, Ralph Colao and his wife, Barbara, his sister, Rose Kosilla and her husband, Frank, his brother-in-law, Carmen Chambrello, and his best friend and partner, James Ahern.

Family and friends gathered at Plainville Funeral Home, 81 Broad Street, Plainville. Words of remembrance were shared during the gathering. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Our Lady of Mercy Church, 94 Broad Street, Plainville. Everyone is asked to meet directly at the church. Burial will follow in Saint Joseph Cemetery, Plainville. Donations in memory of Frank may be made to American Heart Association, PO Box 840692, Dallas, TX 75284-0692 (heart.org), or to New Britain Police Athletic League, 544 Osgood Ave, New Britain, Connecticut 06053 (nbpal.org) or to Scoops for Troops in support of the Travis Mills Foundation, 647 Castle Island Road, Mt. Vernon, Maine 04352 (scoopsfortroops.org).



## ~ Naomi Jane (Baker) Goldsmith ~



92, of Plainville, passed away peacefully on Sunday, December 10, 2023 surrounded by her loving family. She was predeceased by her devoted and loving husband, Dean Alfred Goldsmith, with whom she shared 66 years

of marriage.

Naomi was born on April 4, 1931 in Plainville, CT. She was the daughter of Paul and Lillian (Valley) Baker. After graduating from Mary Immaculate Academy, she worked at Russell and Erwin Manufacturing and Middle Atlantic Trucking Company. Naomi's favorite activity was reading romance novels and, in her later years, watching Hallmark movies because they "always have a happy ending." She loved family vacations in Florida and West Dennis, MA where she always wanted to "pack a lunch and explore." She loved listening to and conversing with friends and family who would come to visit her. In her later years this was especially true, as they were her connection to the world outside her home.

Naomi is survived by her children, Barbara Abbott, Edward Goldsmith (Lorri), Sharon LeSuer (Stephen), all of Plainville, Karen Rodjenski (Tom), of Bristol; her grandchildren, Alex Grandy (Annie), Nick Grandy (Chrissy), Lauren Grandy (Kevin), Jillian Goldsmith (Andrew), Abby Goldsmith (Ryan), Megan Pushard (Alycia), Allison (Petit-LeSuer) Spurr (Casey), Jenna, Jake, and Emma Rodjenski; and her great-grandchildren, Jackson and Hannah Grandy, and Nora Grandy. She is also survived by her two sisters, Joan Barilari and Barbara Buchanan, of North Carolina, several nieces and nephews; and her life-long friend, Ruth Mantak, with whom she shared many fun times. She was predeceased by her brothers, Edward and Richard, her sister-in-law, Shirley Goldsmith, her brothers-in-law, Alden Goldsmith, Walter Barilari and James Buchanan, and her son-in-law, Ronald Abbott.

The family wishes to thank the Hartford Healthcare Hospice Staff, especially Kathleen, Sharon, and Kelly for their wonderful and compassionate care; and Tracie LaRue of Hartford Healthcare Medical Group - Reach Program.

Family and friends gathered at Plainville Funeral Home, 81 Broad St., Plainville. Funeral services were from Plainville Funeral Home with a Mass of Christian Buria at the Church of Saint Patrick, 110 Main St., Farmington. Burial at Saint Joseph Cemetery, Plainville took take place immediately following the Mass. In memory of Naomi, donations may be made to the Plainville Public Library, 56 East Main Street, or the Plainville Food Pantry, 54 S. Canal Street, both in Plainville, CT 06062. For more information or to leave online expressions of sympathy please visit [www.PlainvilleFuneralHome.com](http://www.PlainvilleFuneralHome.com).

## Prayer to St. Jude

St. Jude, patron of the desperate and Saint of the impossible, I turn to you in trusting prayer.

Centurues of Christians have found you to be a mighty helper in overcoming seemingly impossible barriers.

I entrust to you my present need. Pray that I never lose heart when the way seems dark and dreary.

I await your help and praise God for guiding me to seek your help in especially difficult situations. **AMEN.**

*Franciscan Mission Associates*



# OBITUARIES

## ~ Gordon L. “Gordie” Erling ~



73, of Bluffton, SC went on to the heaven he knew awaited him on December 16, 2023 with family right by his side. A proud Bristol native of Cedar Lake, Gordie was a man who never met a stranger. His bright blue eyes and willingness to converse with people from all walks of life

will be remembered and admired by the many who knew and loved him.

Gordie is survived by his wife of 48 years, and the love of his life, Michele Millerick Erling, their son Benjamin Erling and fiancée Nicky Rivera of Norwalk, and daughter Ashley Erling of Providence, RI, along with his siblings Evelyn Palmisano (William), Kenneth Erling (Carol), and Robert Erling. Gordie also will be grieved and sincerely missed by his brothers-and sisters-in- law: William and Gail Millerick; John and Kathy Millerick, and James and Susan Millerick, along with his many nieces and nephews, grand-nieces and nephew, cousins, and his dear, steadfast and lifetime friends John Krajewski, James Poucher, Wayne Kozlowski, Tom Downs and Court Wilson, and their spouses and loved ones.

Gordie was predeceased by his parents August and Phyllis Lynn Erling and his in-laws Eugene and Sylvia Millerick. As a long-time part of the Millerick clan, Gordie enjoyed frequent daily, weekend or ad-hoc gatherings with the Millerick family including ski vacations to Loon Mountain, NH, and Steamboat Springs, CO, and memorable trips to Myrtle Beach, SC.

During his lengthy career, Gordie was a sales and marketing executive in the high-security hardware industry. Managing sales forces for his companies, he traveled across the country before retiring from Ingersoll Rand. He was on the Board of Directors and President of the Lock Museum of America for several years.

Gordie loved Bristol’s Cedar Lake where he grew up, built his dream home, and raised his family. He shared his love of this lovely lake and setting with everyone he could, especially his children, taking them waterskiing, sailing, and later, on long rides on his pontoon boat, often picking up friends along the way. He served on the Board of Directors of the Cedar Lake Owners’ Association and co-wrote the Cedar Lake newsletter for many years. A fisherman since childhood, first on Cedar Lake and then fly fishing on the Farmington River, Gordie also enjoyed many sailing and fishing trips along the coast of Long Island Sound, Block Island, and deep-sea fishing elsewhere on the Atlantic Ocean. He loved to teach children of friends and family how to fish. Seeking warmer climes and retirement bliss, Gordie and Michele relocated in 2016 to Sun City Hilton Head where they made many long lasting friends who supported him throughout his declining health journey.

Some family members insist Gordie arrived in heaven after a beautiful, peaceful drive on his pride and joy:his 2003 Harley-Davidson Road King Anniversary model. A Harley rider since he was 17, Gordie celebrated his love of motorcycles with his brothers-in-law and many friends. He loved long road trips with Michele and friends all over New England and spent many happy hours in retirement exploring new places. He also loved classic cars and took great joy in working hand-in-hand with his son Ben to complete restoration of Ben’s 1970 Volkswagen Beetle.

Always happiest in a one-on-one conversation, Gordie was a man of great faith, perseverance, humility, and patience. He loved, took great pride in, and genuinely enjoyed his children’s accomplishments – from their concerts, plays, recitals and swim meets, to their impressive careers and professional achievements. And to the end, Michele was the center of his life and home.

The family wishes to express their gratitude and

## Erling continued....

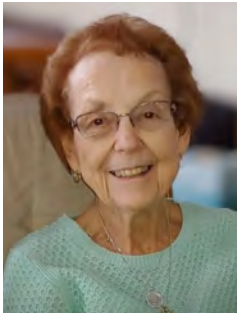
thanks to the entire staff of Benton House Memory

Care Assisted Living who provided loving care and respect to Gordon during the last six months.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Gordon’s name may be made to the Petit Family Foundation at Petit Family Foundation or PO Box 310, Plainville, CT 06062 or Memory Matters at My Memory Matters or PO Box 22330, Hilton Head, SC 29925.

Funeral services in celebration of Gordie’s life were held from Plainville Funeral Home, 81 Broad St, Plainville, with a Mass of Christian Burial at Our Lady of Mercy Church. Committal followed at St. Joseph Cemetery. Family and friends gathered on at the funeral home. For online expressions of sympathy, please visit Plainville Funeral Home.

## ~ Charlotte (Harris) Karabin ~



94, of Plainville, loving mom, grandma, and friend, passed away peacefully after a brief illness on Sunday, December 10, 2023 in Augusta, Maine surrounded by her beloved family. She is now reunited with dear husband of 40 years, Walter M. Karabin, who predeceased her in 1996.

Charlotte was born on March 2, 1929 in Middletown, CT daughter of the late Richard and Gladys (Hurlbut) Harris. She grew up in Middlefield, CT and following high school graduation pursued her calling of becoming a Registered Nurse. Charlotte enrolled in one of the first nursing programs offered at UCONN, graduating with her bachelors of science in 1951. A natural caregiver, along with her kindness and passion to help others, Charlotte worked at Bristol Hospital as a nurse, positively impacting the lives of many patients, while creating lasting relationships with her colleagues and her patients’ families. She retired after many dedicated years in the profession, continuing to care for her family at home.

Charlotte and her husband built a family on the foundation of love and loyalty, always appreciating the many blessings that enriched their lives. Family was very important to Charlotte and as the matriarch of her family, she was always there for every milestone, big or small, and family gathering. She enjoyed daily chats with her family members, always keeping up with what was going on in everyone’s lives. Charlotte, with her witty sense of humor and kind heart, welcomed all with open and loving arms, along with an ear to listen and wise words of wisdom to offer. She was very personable, attentive to all with whom she spoke and always found a way to be the peacemaker. Free spirited, she enjoyed being involved in family fun times, especially traveling to the family cottage in Woodstock, CT or the cabin in Mount Vernon, ME. She loved completing jigsaw puzzles and playing games with the family, creating many cherished memories over the years.

Charlotte was a longtime member of the Congregational Church of Plainville, UCC, and dedicated many years serving on committees and helping with the church’s Thrift Shop. She enjoyed the beauty of nature and admired the scenery of each season. Charlotte was an avid bird watcher, enthralled with the hummingbirds, and loved flowers in bloom. She will be missed tremendously, leaving a legacy of love, kindness, and compassion.

Charlotte is survived by her son, Richard Karabin and his wife, Annette, of Plainville; her three daughters, Patricia Wozniak and her husband, Martin, Donna Zapatka and her husband, Timothy, all of Plainville, and Susan Stewart and her husband, Jeffrey, of Virginia Beach, VA; her grandchildren, Venessa Martinez and her husband, Jerry, Martin Wozniak and his wife, Brittany, Cory Zapatka, Ashley Botelho and her husband, TJ, Eric Zapatka and his wife, Lynsie, and Allison Stewart; her great-grandchildren, Xavier, Aria, and Logan Martinez and Weston and Brinley Botelho; her sister, Margaret Stielau; and numerous nieces, nephews and extended family members. She was predeceased by her brother, Richard Harris.

Family and friends gathered at Plainville Funeral Home, 81 Broad Street, Plainville. A service in celebration of Charlotte’s life was held at The Congregational Church of Plainville, UCC, 130 W. Main Street, Plainville. Burial will be held privately.

In memory of Charlotte, donations may be made to the Book of Remembrance, c/o The Congregational Church of Plainville, UCC, 130 W. Main Street, Plainville (UCCPlainville.org).

## ~ Marlene (Zahnke) Hoerle ~



left this earthly world on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at the age of 89. A remarkable woman of incredible spirit, courage and stamina, she faced each of life’s obstacles with an admirable strength and grace.

Remembering Marlene....In her own words:

Marlene was born in Bristol Connecticut on September 25, 1934, daughter of the late Gertrude Johnson Zahnke and G. Theodore Zahnke. She was a graduate of Dana Hall School, Wellesley, MA. and Wellesley College Class of 1956.

She was married and divorced from Frederick Oliver Hoerle who died in 1991. Her beloved family survives: her daughter Elizabeth Fangiullo and granddaughter Allison Fangiullo of Plainville, daughter Virginia Hoerle of Bloomfield, and son, William Hoerle and grandchildren Olivia Hoerle and Ethan Hoerle of East Granby.

Marlene’s life was spent in the nonprofit world trying to increase health services for Central Connecticut. She was a founder and leader of the Wheeler Clinic in Plainville and was the second woman inducted onto the Board of Directors of New Britain General Hospital. She was a longtime active leader of the Congregational Church in Plainville.

In her 40’s she went to graduate school. She received a master of counseling from St. Joseph College and a Master of Divinity from Yale University. She then worked as a psychotherapist at Women’s Workshop in Bloomfield Connecticut.

In 1998 her brain was struck by the herpes simplex encephalitis virus. She was in a coma for seven weeks and two doctors said that she would be a vegetable. She reclaimed her life thanks to her Power of Attorney, Dr. Michele Toomey, her family and herself, later writing a book about her journey, “Riches To Rags to Riches” (available on Amazon Marlene’s Book) the story of a financially rich accomplished woman who became a financially poor, brain-damaged, independent woman.

She cared deeply about truth, fairness, helping others and being kind.

Gifts in her memory may be sent to the Wheeler Clinic, 91 Northwest Dr. Plainville, CT 06062, <http://www.wheelerclinic.org> or to a local senior center. Please visit the following link for tributes from her Wheeler Clinic family:

Remembering Marlene Hoerle-Wheeler Clinic

Family and friends gathered in celebration of Marlene’s extraordinary life. at Plainville Funeral Home, 81 Broad St, Plainville. Prayers and Words or Remembrance were shared led by Reverend Dr. Jay Terbush. Committal followed at West Cemetery, Plainville. For online expressions of sympathy, please visit: [www.PlainvilleFuneralHome.com](http://www.PlainvilleFuneralHome.com)

## WEST CEMETERY

The groundwater and faucets will be turned off throughout the Cemetery for the Winter starting at the end of October.

Water will be available at the faucet in front of the Office Building.

Fall / Leaves Clean-up is from September through November.

No plants or decorations on flat marker until after Fall Clean-clean-up.

Christmas decorations may be placed after Fall Clean Up until March 1, 2024. All items not picked up, will be removed by Staff in March

Thank you,  
Plainville Cemetery Association



# OBITUARIES

## ~ Rose M. (Thibodeau) Mercer ~



91, loving wife, mother, and friend, of Plainville passed away peacefully on Wednesday, January 3, 2023 at Bristol Hospital. She is now reunited with her beloved husband of 61 years, Robert F. Mercer, and her cherished daughter, Christina M. Mercer, who both predeceased her in 2018.

Rose was born on May 16, 1932 in Saint Francis, Maine daughter to the late Daniel and Rebecca (Jandreau) Thibodeau. Rose grew up in Maine and was the youngest of six children in her family. She attended schools in Maine and after her marriage to Bob, they settled in Plainville, where they resided for many years and raised their daughter. Rose worked as an assembler for Superior Electric for several years, however, being a wife and mother was Rose’s most treasured role in life. Family was the center of her world and she was undeniably proud of all her daughter and husband’s accomplishments. Rose had a profound love for animals and treated the family pets as her babies. She had a love for the outdoors and spent many hours in her garden, enjoying the fresh air and the beauty of the colorful flowers. Rose was a bit of a spit fire at times with a spunky personality and a heart of gold. She will be deeply missed as those she leaves behind take comfort in knowing she is reunited with the two most important people in her life, Bob and Chrissy, with whom she has yearned to reunite with.

Rose was predeceased by her husband, Robert F. Mercer, her daughter, Christina M. Mercer, her parents, and all of her siblings. She is survived by her friends who became family, Roberta Lauria and her husband, Anthony and their son, Billy, several nieces and nephews, and her furry companion, Tiger Lily. Family and friends gathered at Plainville Funeral Home, 81 Broad Street, Plainville. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Our Lady of Mercy Church, 94 Broad Street, Plainville. Rose will be laid to rest with her husband and daughter in Saint Joseph Cemetery, Plainville. Donations in memory of Rose may be made to Our Lady of Mercy Church c/o Parish Center, 19 S. Canal Street, Plainville. For more information or to leave online expressions of sympathy, please visit [PlainvilleFuneralHome.com](http://PlainvilleFuneralHome.com)

## ~ Joseph Matteo Monzillo, Jr. ~



81 of New Britain, formerly of Berlin, passed away on December 21, 2023. He was the husband of the late Joanne (Nizeul) Monzillo who predeceased him in 2018.

Joseph was a graduate of E.C. Goodwin Technical School, where he honed his cooking skills and discovered his lifelong passion for the culinary arts. A milkman in his younger years, his career evolved into contracting and home design. He lent his expertise to companies such as Variety Homes, Lowe’s, and Home Depot where his creativity and eye for detail were evident in the countless homes he beautifully designed and renovated. Beyond his professional accomplishments, Joseph was known for his diverse interests and hobbies. He was an avid pool player, sharing his skills and knowledge by teaching his children the game he loved and participating in local leagues with his daughter. Joseph’s musical talents shone bright as he played the guitar with soulful melodies that captivated those around him. In his spare time, Joseph found joy in the virtual realm, and made friends across the country through online gaming. Joseph’s love extended beyond people to animals, particularly his grand-dogs, whom he adored and pampered with affection. Joseph had a sweet tooth that was evident to all who knew him and his love for donuts was legendary. He touched the lives of many with his kindness, talents and zest for life and will be dearly missed.

He is survived by his children, Joseph Monzillo and his wife Staci, Sarah Monzillo and Matthew Monzillo; his grandchildren Amber and Emily; and extended family. He was the last surviving of his siblings.

In lieu of flowers, Joseph’s love for animals may be remembered with contributions to the Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Rd, Newington, CT 06111.

Family and friends gathered at Plainville Funeral Home, 81 Broad St, Plainville. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Paul Church, 461 Alling St, Kensington. Burial will be held privately at a later date. For online expressions of sympathy, please visit [www.PlainvilleFuneralHome.com](http://www.PlainvilleFuneralHome.com)

## ~ Leaond (Len) Hollins Noble ~



devoted Father and Papa, hardworking businessman, and car enthusiast, passed away peacefully at his home, surrounded by the love and laughter of his family on January 8, 2024.

Born with an unwavering work ethic, Len embraced the value of hard work from a young age. A graduate of Hall High School in West Hartford, he dedicated his life to supporting his family and, for many years, owned and operated Oliver’s Supermarket in Prospect until his retirement in 2019. Additionally he proudly served his country in the National Guard as a Military Police Officer for seven years. Len’s love for cars was undeniable. He was the proud owner of two Hudsons, and found great joy in attending car shows, sharing his knowledge and comradery with fellow enthusiasts. Beyond his love for automobiles, Len’s active participation in the towns he resided and worked in demonstrated his dedication to giving back and his honesty and kindness made him an exemplary figure in the communities where he lived, worked and supported. A history buff, he’d spend hours engrossed in deep conversations about significant historical events and entertained friends and family with his captivating storytelling. He leaves behind a legacy of integrity, hard work, and a deep appreciation for family and community.

Len will be dearly missed by his children, Lori (Pierre) Cabrila, Kelly (Denis) Perrotti, and Michael (Kristyn Zygmunt) Noble and his grandchildren to which he was a proud Papa, Jake (Rachel) Cabrila, Jared (Amy Ieronimo) Cabrila, and Grace Perrotti. He also leaves his sister, Redempta Quinlan and her family, along with many special friends. He was predeceased by his son, James Noble and his Uncle Tony with whom he shared a special bond.

Honoring Len’s dedication to his community, he may be remembered with contributions to a local food pantry of the donor’s choice.

Family and friends gathered at Plainville Funeral Home, 81 Broad St, Plainville. A Celebration of Life led by Jesse Gnazzo was held. For online expressions of sympathy, please visit: [PlainvilleFuneralHome.com](http://PlainvilleFuneralHome.com)

## ~ John J. Palmisano Jr. ~



passed away peacefully on December 27, 2023, at the age of 74.

Born in New Britain on May 20, 1949, to the late John J. Palmisano, Sr. and Irma (Trevisan) Palmisano. He was the oldest of four children. John graduated in 1967 from Plainville

High School. He attended Catholic University in Washington DC, Northwestern Community College in Winsted, and University of Hartford. John had a thirst for knowledge and an unparalleled passion for reading. He had a vast collection of books and was a frequent visitor of Plainville Public Library. This quest for knowledge showcased John’s intellectual prowess and his never-ending desire to expand his horizon and get lost in a good read.

John was a member of the football team for PHS. This passion for sports continued throughout his life. As a proud owner of Great American Sports Cards in Middleboro, Mass where he shared his knowledge and enthusiasm with the community. A dedicated sports fan, John meticulously kept score and statistics for his favorite teams, including the Red Sox, Celtics, and Patriots. He traveled with his brothers to stadiums throughout the Northeast to cheer on the teams he held dear. With a vibrant personality and love for socializing John excelled in various sales

positions earning numerous awards. He utilized his friendly nature to connect with others effortlessly. Known for his unwavering loyalty, he formed lasting friendships. John was regarded as someone you could count on and took pride in his role as a devoted and supportive uncle, always eager to offer guidance and support to his beloved nieces, nephews and their families. John shared a mutual affection for his dogs, rarely without a faithful companion by his side that he rescued and provided a safe and loving home. He is now reunited with his beloved dog Buddy, and will be missed dearly by Beagley with whom he shared a special bond.

John’s memory will forever be treasured by his sister, Darlene Egan and her husband, Jeff; his brother, Leonard Palmisano and his wife Lorraine; and his nieces and nephews, Bethany Jenks, her husband Mike and their daughter Sophia, Jeffrey Egan, his wife Theresa and their daughter Claire, Derek Palmisano, his fiancé Emily and their daughter Mina and Lyndsey Paradis, her husband Richard and their children Austin, Brody and Summer. John was predeceased by his brother, Thomas Palmisano.

In lieu of flowers, John’s love for dogs may be remembered with contributions to Animal Rescue Foundation, 366 Main St. Terryville, CT 06786.

Family and friends gathered at Plainville Funeral Home 81 Broad St., Plainville, CT. A Mass of Christian Burial was held at Our Lady of Mercy Church, followed by burial at St. Mary Cemetery in New Britain.



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OBITUARIES

~ Ruth (Peterson) Pipkin ~



93, of Plainville passed away peacefully on Thursday, November 23, 2023 at Apple Rehab of Plainville. She is now reunited for the Holidays with her beloved husband of 55 years, Robert “Butch” Pipkin, who predeceased her on December 23, 2017.

Ruth was born on June 7, 1930 in Middletown, daughter of the late Roy O. Peterson, Sr. and Helen (Foley) Peterson. Raised in Middletown, Ruth was a graduate of Middletown High School and proudly was a majorette, accompanying the school marching band with her talented twirling performances. Ruth worked as a keypunch operator for many years for CL&P and IBM all while raising her family alongside her husband, Butch. Together they worked hard to provide for their family, building on the foundation of love and appreciation

Ruth had a witty sense of humor and was blessed with “the gift of gab.” She was known for telling endless stories, including some that never seemed to have an ending; however, they were enjoyed by all. Her attentiveness to detail was remarkable and she always made sure she got every word out that was on her mind, making you wonder what she was going to come up with next. There was always something to be said with Ruth around! Through the years, Ruth hosted many Holiday gatherings at her home for family and friends to come together to socialize, laugh, drink, eat delicious food and simply be happy to be in one another’s company.

Ruth was an avid reader and enjoyed her nightly end caps that she referred to as “Manhattan Hour,” this was her time to relax and unwind. Above all, Ruth was the happiest surrounded by her loving family, especially her adored grandchildren that held a special place in her heart. The matriarch of the family, she leaves countless stories, memories, and an abundance of love for her family to forever cherish and remember.

Ruth is survived by her son, Gary Pipkin and his partner, Heidi Samuelson, her daughter, Trudy Pelletier and her husband, Jimmy; her grandsons, Adam Pipkin and his wife, Erica, Jack Pipkin and his fiancée, Robin Friebur, Chad Pelletier and his wife, Rachel, and Josh Pelletier and his wife, Emily; her great-grandchildren, Mara, Ali, Abigail, Amelia, Ronan, River, Jared and Nathan; her sister, Jean (Peterson) Parmelee; her former daughter-in-law, Michele Procko, and several nieces, nephews, and extended family members. She was predeceased by her brother, Roy O. Peterson, Jr. and her sister, Muriel (Peterson) Ensing.

Ruth’s family would like to extend their appreciation to Ruth’s caregiver for many years, Daria, who took exceptional care of their mother. Daria’s kindness and companionship will always be remembered and valued. A heartfelt thank you also to the staff at Apple Rehab in Chester, where they made Ruth feel as if she was at home.

Family and friends gathered at Plainville Funeral Home, 81 Broad Street, Plainville. Prayers and words of remembrance were shared followed by a reception in celebration of Ruth’s life. Ruth will be laid to rest next to her husband in the CT State Veterans’ Cemetery privately at a later date. In memory of Ruth, donations can be made to her grandson Jack’s professional commitment to JoyRx Children’s Cancer Association at [www.joyrx.org/donate](http://www.joyrx.org/donate). The company JoyRx helps children who are fighting cancer and other serious illnesses. This non-profit is currently working with CT Children’s Medical Center in Hartford.

~ James Edward Prior ~



beloved husband of Linda (Zurell) Prior, passed away peacefully on Saturday December 16, 2023 at the age of 78. A loving husband, father, brother, and uncle, he leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, and kindness.

Jim was born in New Britain on April 20, 1945, one of two children to the late James Henry and Vera (Bell) Prior Caparrelli. Raised and educated in Plainville, Jimmy cherished his small-town roots and invested his heart into the community that shaped him. He was a graduate of Plainville High School, a place where he forged lifelong friendships that would stand the test of time. His commitment to serving others led him to become a devoted member of the Plainville Fire Company, and, deeply patriotic, he served in the US Army Reserves. At the young age of 18, Jim began his career as a truck driver for White Oak Corporation, dedicating himself to his craft for an astounding 45 years, where he could be relied upon for his strong work ethic and steadfast commitment. A NASCAR enthusiast, he traveled across the country following the adrenaline-pumping races and for two decades, Jim’s annual trips to Loudon became a tradition, allowing him to indulge in the thrill of the sport, surrounded by the friends who shared his passion. Jim and Linda shared 25 wonderful years of marriage filled with countless laughs and adventures, including annual trips to Florida and Maine to visit their beloved family and friends. Remembered for his story-telling, followed by his infectious laughter, he was the life of the party, exuding kindness and humility in every interaction. His humor and genuine nature brought joy to those around him, and will forever shine brightly in the hearts of those who loved him.

In addition to his wife Linda, he leaves his son, James Joseph Prior, his sister Patricia Gacek and her husband John; his brothers-in-law Roy (Beverly) Zurell and Ron (Ann) Zurell; and his nieces, Sheri (Rich) Ierardi, Cyndi (Scott) Parker and Wendi (Rick) Kerr.

In lieu of flowers, Jimmy may be remembered with contributions to the Plainville Fire Company, 77 W. Main St. Plainville, CT 06062 or the Alzheimer’s Association of Connecticut at [www.alz.org/ct](http://www.alz.org/ct)

Family and friends gathered. at Plainville Funeral Home, 81 Broad St, Plainville. Words of remembrance led by Life Celebrant Jesse Gnazzo will be shared at 12:00 p.m.

~ Daniel Roger Roy Sr. ~



60, of Bristol, passed away peacefully on Friday, December 1, 2023 at home surrounded by his loving family. He was the devoted husband and best friend of Michele (Boroski) Roy for 34 years.

Daniel was born on January 6, 1963 in Bristol, CT son to the late Roger Roy and Marsha Lemley. Dan was a mechanic by trade, highly talented in his profession and created many lasting relationships with clients who became friends over the years. He was trustworthy, honest and willing to help out anyone with his vast knowledge and profound love for anything automotive. A love for toys and wind therapy, Dan enjoyed drag racing, quadding, and especially snowmobiling the trails, always on a Yamaha although more recently on an Artic Cat, in upstate Maine with family and friends, a yearly tradition he looked forward to. The state of Maine held a special place in Dan’s heart, including Eagle Lake and St. Agatha. He was a longtime Harley rider and over the years went on many excursions with family and friends. Above all, Dan enjoyed spending quality time with his family, whether it be watching his pride and joy grandchildren, hanging with his nephews, or having a family gathering where all were together. He loved all of his children unconditionally and becoming a grandfather was one of his proudest moments, holding special relationships with each grandchild that came along the way. Their biggest supporter, he enjoyed watching his grandchildren play sports and cheering them on. A selfless, generous man, with a heart of gold, Dan will be missed beyond measure by all who were blessed to have known him. His hard-working hands are at rest and his family and friends take comfort in knowing that he is at peace, as they cherish the many wonderful memories they have shared over the years.

In addition to his wife, Michele, Dan is survived by his children, Michael Contrastano and his wife, Shannon, of Auburndale, MA, Daniel Roy and his wife, Nicki, of NC, Tony Contrastano and his wife, Heather, of Burlington, CT, and Jennifer Allocco and her husband, Jared, of Plymouth, CT; his beloved grandchildren, David, Blake, Lucas, John Henry, Lily, Levon, Mary, Daniel III, and Jolee; his sister, Debra Roy and her husband, Mike, of Bristol, CT; his grandmother, Gladys Roy, of Plainville, CT; his step-father, Earl Lemley, of Forestville, CT; his step-mother, Geri Roy, of Burlington, CT; and many extended family members and a large circle of friends. He also leaves behind his German Shepherd companion, “his buddy” Tommy. He was predeceased by his parents, Roger Roy and Marsha Lemley, and his grandson, Christopher Roy.

Family and friends gathered at Plainville Funeral Home, 81 Broad Street, Plainville. Burial with committal prayers was at Saint Joseph Cemetery in Bristol. Donations in memory of Dan may be made to Autism Speaks, P.O. Box 37148, Boone, IA 50037-0148 ([autismspeaks.org](http://autismspeaks.org)) or to It’s My Heart New England, P.O. Box 111, Danvers, MA 01923

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# OBITUARIES

## ~ Lee Ellen Jurgen ~



of Bristol, wife of the late Michael Perrotti, Sr., passed away peacefully on Friday, November 10, 2023.

Born in New Britain on May 2, 1943, she was a daughter of the late Ernest F. and Marie (Schneider) Jurgen. She resided in

New Britain and Old Saybrook during her younger years, before moving to Plainville, where she was a 1961 graduate of Plainville High School. She held a longtime career as a legal secretary, while continuing to operate her own typing service since 1977.

She is survived by her two aunts, Agnes Jurgen and Catherine Egan; two nieces and their families, Margo George and Tracy D'Amico; several cousins, including Walter Jurgen; Michael's three sons and their families, Michael Perrotti, Jr., William Perrotti and Denis Perrotti; and her best friend and road trip partner, Thomas Carney.

In lieu of flowers, Lee may be remembered with contributions to the Plainville Community Food Pantry, PO Box 233, Plainville, CT 06062

A celebration of Lee's life was held at Plainville Funeral Home, 81 Broad St. Plainville. For online expressions of sympathy, please visit: PlainvilleFuneralHome.comgrandchildren:

## ~ Mary Caroline (Ventrelli) Vasile ~



98 of Plainville, passed away peacefully on Monday December 18, 2023. The wife of the late Francis X. Vasile, Sr., she was a kindhearted woman whose life was marked by love for family, commitment to serving others, and a passion for music.

Born into a musically inclined family, she was one of three children to the late John and Minnie (Yacobellis) Ventrelli. Raised and educated in Plainville, she met the love of her life Frank, at Lake Compounce, and they settled in her hometown where they raised their three sons and shared nearly 70 devoted years together. Mary was member of the Community Chest, supported her sons and their many endeavors on the parents club and as a longtime band mother, and was by Frank's side at his many volunteer and community accomplishments. Her work life began as a payroll clerk at Trumbull Electric, and in 1969, she joined the Plainville Board of Education, having been a friendly and familiar face at both Trask School and Plainville High School for close to twenty years. At her core, Mary was a loving caretaker who poured her heart into making a difference in the lives of others. Whether it was preparing meals, being an ear to listen or providing unwavering love and encouragement, she devoted herself to caring for those she loved. Her presence will be deeply missed, but her memory will forever live on in the hearts of those who were fortunate enough to know her.

She leaves her sons Joseph Vasile and his wife Sue Gebo, Francis X. Vasile, Jr. and his wife Linda, and Thomas Vasile and his wife Carrie; her grandchildren, Zachary, Morgan, Alexander, Griffin and Caroline; along with many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends, including her many friends at Arbor Rose where she resided for the past six years. She was predeceased by her brothers, Anthony and George Ventrelli and her sister-in-law, best friend and shopping partner, Eleanor Vasile, who she missed dearly.

In lieu of flowers, Mary may be remembered with contributions to the Plainville Community Food Pantry, PO Box 233, Plainville, CT 06062 or Plainville Community Food Pantry. Family and friends gathered at Plainville Funeral Home, 81 Broad St, Plainville. A Mass of Christian Burial followed at Our Lady of Mercy Church, with committal at St. Joseph Cemetery.

## ~ Donald Soucy ~



89, of Plainville passed away peacefully on December 7, 2023 at Southington Care Center. He was the devoted and loving husband to Nancy (Labbe) Soucy for over 63 years.

Donald was born on May 28, 1934 in Eagle Lake, Maine son to the late Alfred and Laura (Ouellette) Soucy. He grew up in Maine and attended local schools, prior to moving to CT where he worked as a machinist for many years at the former Marlin Rockwell in Plainville. Donald proudly served our country in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict and was honorably discharged. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and was a longtime communicant of Our Lady of Mercy Church in Plainville, where he served as a eucharistic minister for several years. A naturally gifted handyman, Donald completed many home improvements over the years and looked forward to spending time in his own shop at home that his son built for him, allowing him a space for him to tinker. The life of the party, with his quick wit, loud antics, and infectious laugh, Donald was a joy to be around, never knowing what prank he had up his sleeve or what funny statement was going to be said next. Donald enjoyed playing cards with the guys and spending time surrounded by family and friends. He was the family photographer, capturing many milestones and family gatherings to cherish the memories shared over the years. He enjoyed life to the fullest and will be missed by his family and friends as they continue to carry on his legacy of hard work, love, and silly jokes.

In addition to his wife, Nancy Soucy, Donald leaves behind his son, Alan Soucy and his significant other, Linda, of NC, his son, Carl Soucy, of Plainville, his daughter, Deanna Batista and her husband, Joe, of Bristol, his grandchildren, Amanda Hungerford and her husband RJ, of Berlin, and Brandon Collin and his significant other, Krystal, of Newington, his great grandchildren, Max, Charlotte, and one on the way, Savannah, and many extended family members and friends. He was predeceased by his siblings, Roger Soucy, Edwin Soucy, Fred Soucy, Rolande Collin, Loretta Tiadora, and Jeanette Bosse.

Family and friends gathered at Our Lady of Mercy Church, 94 Broad Street, Plainville. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Full military honors will be rendered following the Mass. Burial in Saint Joseph Cemetery in Plainville will be held privately at a later date. In memory of Donald, donations may be made in his name to the charity of the donor's choice. The staff at Plainville Funeral Home, 81 Broad Street, Plainville extends their gratitude to the Soucy family for their trust.

## ~ Raymond R. DiFrancesco ~



88, of Plainville passed away after a brief illness on Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at the Hospital of Central CT New Britain General Campus.

Ray was born on October 9, 1935 in New Britain, CT son to the late Rocco and

Jennie (Vincenti) DiFrancesco. He grew up in New Britain, attended local schools and graduated from New Britain High School. Following high school graduation, Ray began his long-time career with the City of New Britain, highly respected in his profession and known as a dedicated and valued employee. During his employment with the city, Ray enlisted in the U.S. Army and proudly served our country in the Army 82nd Airborne stationed in Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. While stationed in North Carolina, he met the love of his life, Elizabeth Ann (Vick) DiFrancesco, with whom he shared 59 loving years of marriage until her passing in 2016. Upon his honorable discharge from the Army, Ray and Elizabeth settled in Connecticut to raise their family and Ray returned to work with the City of New Britain, retiring as the General Foreman in the Parks Department after 25 years of dedication.

An avid outdoorsman who enjoyed gardening and landscaping, Ray owned and operated his own landscaping business for over 20 years, all during the course of his career with the city and following retirement. His impeccable lawn served as a testament to his green thumb and pride he took in his efforts to keep things tidy. Ray became a notorious grounds laborer for Tilcon in Plainville, continuing to relish in his passion for landscaping while appreciating the outdoors. In addition, he enjoyed hunting and fishing. Ray was a lover of all sports, especially the UCONN College Basketball teams. He religiously watched each game, proudly rooting for them.

Ray is survived by his daughters, Carol A. Sisti and Donna Dickerson; his daughters-in-law, Donna DiFrancesco and France DiFrancesco; his 8 grandchildren, Raymond, Jennifer, TJ, Eric, Kelly, Alice, Leah and Tyler; his 3 great-grandchildren, Nya, Koleten, and Everett; and several nieces and nephews. In addition to his wife, he was predeceased by his sons, Raymond J. DiFrancesco and Alan L. DiFrancesco and his seven siblings; 6 sisters and 1 brother.

Honoring his wishes, a private family gathering will be held in Connecticut and burial will take place in North Carolina, where Ray will be laid to rest next to his wife, Elizabeth. The staff at Plainville Funeral Home, 81 Broad Street, Plainville extends their appreciation to the DiFrancesco family for their trust.

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# OBITUARIES

## ~ Joel Henry Edman ~



a lifelong resident of Plainville and a gentle soul, passed away at his home on Saturday January 20, 2024, at the age of 79. Born on May 28, 1944, in New Britain, CT he was one of three children of respected community leader and former First Selectman, the late Joseph

Reinhold Edman and Mary (Richey) Edman.

Growing up on the Edman Dairy Farm, Joel developed an enduring attachment to nature and a profound appreciation for all living things that would shape his passions and pursuits throughout his life. He found solace and joy in frequent visits back to the farm, where he nurtured his love for the land and created a Christmas tree farm. The farm became a haven for gatherings with family and lifelong friends, where countless memories were made.

Upon graduating from Plainville High School in 1963, he enlisted in the US Navy, serving his country for three years during the Vietnam War. Honorably discharged in 1969, he returned to his roots, cultivating a successful career in the construction industry. For over four decades, he showcased his diligent work ethic and expertise as the scale house manager at Tilcon, where he connected with colleagues and clients alike.

Joel was a man of simple pleasures; whether it was hiking, taking countless trips up to Boy Rock, camping under starlit skies, or casting his line into tranquil waters, he reveled in the wonders of the great outdoors. Joel's love for tropical climates led him to embark on many island adventures and travels during his lifetime, but his heart always longed for the familiar comforts of home.

From tending to plants and trees to caring for animals, he embraced every aspect of the natural world with tender affection and respect. Remembered for his clever sense of humor and wit, his gentle spirit, and his friendly disposition, he left an indelible imprint on the many lives he touched.

He is survived by his daughters, Bethany Ayers and her children, Mikayla Jo and Austin; Ileen Roth, her husband Michael and their children, Kennedy and Greyson; his sister, Joanne Edman; and his niece, Alexandria Edman. He was predeceased by his sister, Judith Edman.

In lieu of flowers, Joel may be remembered with contributions to the US Forest Service, Plant- A- Tree program.

A celebration of Joel's life will be held on Friday February 2, 2024 at 11 a.m. at Plainville Funeral Home, 81 Broad St, Plainville. Family and friends may gather on Thursday, February 1, 2024 from 5-7 p.m. at the funeral home.

## ~ Jeanne M. (Cyr) Perreault ~



loving mother, grandmother and a woman of countless talents, passed away peacefully on January 15, 2024, at the age of 92. She was the wife of the late John Perreault, Sr., with whom she shared 52 years of marriage.

She was born on May 1, 1931, in Hamlin, Maine; the last surviving of four children to the late Fred and Alice (Michaud) Cyr. For many years, Jeanne dedicated herself to her work at Acme Monaco in New Britain. Her strong work ethic and determination led her to excel in her profession. However, it was her deep love for her grandchildren that eventually prompted her to retire and devote her time to caring for them. Jeanne was a woman of boundless creativity, excelling in various craft projects that showcased her artistic flair. She took great pride in her sewing skills, often fashioning beautiful clothes for her family based on store-bought or picture-inspired designs. Always seeking ways to enhance her living space, no home improvement project was too big or small for Jeanne to tackle. Her ambition and attention to detail were truly remarkable. Family meant everything to her, and she will be missed dearly leaving many cherished memories.

She leaves her son and daughter in law, with whom she made her home for nearly 10 years, John and Katherine Perreault of Plainville; and her adored grandchildren, John (Jay) Perreault, III, Amanda Perreault and her fiancée Wojtek Plachta, Tessa Leyh Perreault and her fiancée Shane McCarthy, and Kristine Hungerford and her husband, Ian; along with many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her three siblings and their spouses, Peter and Jeanine Cyr, Rita and Vivan Belanger, and Joan and Jerry Bouffard.

In lieu of flowers, Jeanne may be remembered with contributions to the Alzheimer's Association at [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org)

Family and friend gatherED at Plainville Funeral Home, 81 Broad St. Plainville. Prayers and words of remembrance were followed by burial at West Cemetery Plainville. For online expressions of sympathy, please visit [www.plainvillefuneralhome.com](http://www.plainvillefuneralhome.com)



## ~ Debra "Debi" L. (Letourneau) Tetro ~



62, lifelong resident of Plainville, passed away peacefully in the comfort of her home surrounded by family on Sunday, January 21, 2024, after a courageous four-year battle with ovarian cancer.

Debi was born on March 30, 1961 in New Britain, CT daughter to Norman Letourneau Jr. and the late Barbara (White) Letourneau. Debi grew up in Plainville, attended local schools and graduated from Plainville High School, where she met the love of her life and high school sweetheart, Gary Tetro. Debi and Gary settled in Plainville, where they raised their family and shared 42 years of love, laughter, and life adventures. Debi loved to socialize and was the proud Salon Coordinator at Attitudes/ Hairsay Salon in downtown Plainville for many years. She made many everlasting impressions on colleagues and clients through the years, befriending everyone she met always with a smile and a friendly conversation.

Debi was the "Queen Bee" of her family, which was the center of her world, and being promoted to Nana was the best thing that ever happened to her, as she cherished her "monkeys" aka grandchildren more than anything. Debi had a knack for keepings things tidy and never seized to have things in an orderly manner in her home and working environment. She was an avid reader, loved to go shopping with her shopping trip partners, and enjoyed time spent relaxing at home on her deck, basking in the warmth of the sun paired with a refreshing beverage. Debi was a one-of-a-kind, genuine soul with a heart of gold. She endured life's obstacles and challenges with grace and an optimistic approach. She will be missed dearly by her family and countless friends, as they take comfort in knowing she is at peace and surely is now dancing in the sky.

Debi's family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to the staff at Hartford Healthcare Hospice at Home, Central Region Office, for their unwavering support and for the exceptional care the nurses and staff provided to Debi and her family over the past several months.

In addition to her loving and devoted husband of 42 years, Gary Tetro, Debi is survived by her father, Norman Letourneau Jr.; her children, Melissa Gwizd and her husband, John, and Nicholas Tetro and his wife, Chantal; her adored grandchildren, affectionately known as her monkeys, Zachary, Tanner, Ryder, Jayden, Destiny, and Carter; her brother, Norm "David" Letourneau and his wife, Karen; her sisters, Lisa Gaber and her husband, Robert and Tina Pandolfo and her husband, Mark; her sister-in-law, Carrie DonAroma and her husband, Frank; her brothers-in-law, Keith and Scott Tetro; her nieces and nephews, Bobby, David, Jessica, Michelle, Matthew, Ryan, Christina, Jennifer, and Cody; her fury companion, Biggs, who offered her unconditional love and support; and several extended family members, along with a large circle of friends.

Family and friends gathered at Plainville Funeral Home, 81 Broad St., Plainville. A prayer service with words of remembrance were shared at the funeral home. Burial will be held privately. Debi may be remembered with contributions to the Make a Wish Connecticut at <http://www.ct.wish.org> or 56 Commerce Dr. Trumbull, CT 06611.

### To All Hometown Readers:

**The Plainville Hometown Connection paper is run by "All volunteers", many of them have full time employment and do this as a hobby. We don't have reporters, all the articles are submitted by people that like or want to share news of interest. You are welcome to submit stories of interest by submitting it before the 15th of the month for the following month's issue.**

**If you have your ad camera-ready just e-mail to: [plainvillehometown@gmail.com](mailto:plainvillehometown@gmail.com) and we will call you with a quote and send you an invoice.**

**The Hometown Connection is also on-line for additional coverage of your ads and/or stories.**

**[www.plainvilleshometownconnection.com](http://www.plainvilleshometownconnection.com)**

### FOOD SHARE PROGRAM THE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

This program is offered Wednesdays for Plainville residents needing assistance with food. For more information about eligibility and hours, contact: Laurie at (860) 747-5867. Drive up, and a volunteer will put the groceries in your car!

### To: All Civic & Religious Organizations

We would like to invite everyone: to share your activities with our readers  
Please forward all news and pictures to:  
**Email-[plainvillehometown@gmail.com](mailto:plainvillehometown@gmail.com)**

**or Phone: 860-747-4119**

***Thanking you in advance!***

### NOTICE: SAINT JOSEPH CEMETERY

No mulch is allowed in front of any cemetery markers. It is difficult to maintain the placement of the mulch when mowing the grass or during the process of cutting weeds around the stones. Please help us keep the cemetery tidy and clean. Thank You!



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**HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY**





## The Advantages of Choosing a Credit Union over a Traditional Bank



The Advantages of Choosing a Credit Union over a Traditional Bank

In the realm of financial institutions, individuals are often faced with the decision of choosing between a credit union and a traditional bank. While both offer a variety of financial services, credit unions stand out for several compelling reasons that make them a superior choice for many consumers. In this article, we will explore the key advantages of opting for a credit union over a bank.

- 1. Member-Owned Structure:** One of the fundamental distinctions between credit unions and banks lies in their ownership structure. Credit unions are member-owned, meaning that each account holder is also a partial owner of the institution. This structure fosters a sense of community and ensures that the decisions made by the credit union are in the best interests of its members.
- 2. Customer-Focused Service:** Credit unions are renowned for their personalized and member-centric approach to service. Unlike traditional banks, credit unions prioritize the needs of their members over profit margins. Members often have direct access to decision-makers, leading to quicker and more personalized solutions for their financial concerns.
- 3. Competitive Interest Rates:** Credit unions typically offer more favorable interest rates on loans, credit cards, and savings accounts compared to traditional banks. Since they operate as not-for-profit entities, credit unions can pass on their earnings to members in the form of lower interest rates and fees. This can result in significant long-term savings for individuals who choose credit unions.

- 4. Lower Fees and Charges:** Credit unions are known for their transparent fee structures, with lower fees for various services such as overdrafts, ATM usage, and account maintenance. Members are less likely to encounter hidden charges, contributing to a more cost-effective banking experience.
- 5. Community Involvement:** Credit unions are deeply rooted in the communities they serve. Their focus on local engagement and community development sets them apart from larger, more impersonal banks. Members can take pride in the fact that their financial institution actively contributes to the well-being of the community.
- 6. Flexibility in Lending:** Credit unions often exhibit greater flexibility in lending practices. They may be more willing to work with members who have less-than-perfect credit scores, offering personalized solutions to help individuals overcome financial challenges. This flexibility can be a significant advantage for those seeking loans or mortgages.
- 7. Commitment to Financial Education:** Many credit unions prioritize financial literacy and education. They often provide resources, workshops, and counseling services to help their members make informed financial decisions. This commitment to education aligns with the cooperative nature of credit unions, aiming to empower members to achieve financial success.

In the ongoing debate between credit unions and traditional banks, the advantages of choosing a credit union are clear. With their member-owned structure, customer-focused service, competitive rates, and community involvement, credit unions offer a compelling alternative for individuals seeking a more personalized and economically beneficial banking experience. As consumers increasingly prioritize transparency, community, and fair financial practices, credit unions emerge as a formidable choice in the financial services landscape.

*Remember, UBI Federal Credit Union is local and here for you! Please let us know what we can do to help with your banking and financial needs! 860-747-4152 or find us at [www.UBIFCU.com](http://www.UBIFCU.com)*

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# Wheeler Health Surpasses Extended Bristol Campaign Goal: \$606,000 Raised for New Community Health Center at One Hope Street

Wheeler Health has surpassed its expanded Bristol fundraising goal of \$555,000, raising \$606,000 in gifts and pledges one and a half years ahead of schedule for its new Bristol health center and administrative headquarters at One Hope Street in downtown.

The expanded goal of \$555,000 was set in 2023—raised from the original goal of \$500,000—in honor of Wheeler’s 55th anniversary.

The fundraising campaign was publicly announced in February 2022, after a year in silent phase, which raised \$280,000 in gifts and pledges at the time of public launch.

More than 500 individual donors contributed to the campaign, through outright gifts and pledges; participation in the 38th Annual Wheeler Golf Classic, which netted approximately \$78,000; or by sponsoring a named brick at One Hope Street. Approximately 20 individuals or organizations contributed more than \$10,000 in gifts or pledges.

The named brick campaign is on track to have at least 100 bricks in place when the facility opens later in 2024, with a goal of 125. Bricks are available for purchase through March 1, 2024, on Wheeler’s website.

Significant contributions to the Bristol fundraising campaign were made by:

Barnes Group Foundation, which made the initial anchor pledge of \$100,000

Wheeler's volunteer board of trustees, who exceeded their goal of \$100,000 through 100% participation

Wheeler executive and senior leadership, who exceeded their goal of \$80,000

The estate of Hall "Cap" Adams, Jr., which is supporting an education and training area in the building

The family of Ray Corsini, Wheeler's longest-serving trustee, who are supporting a second teaching and demonstration kitchen in a Wheeler Family Health & Wellness Center, with the first located in Hartford since 2018, as well as nutrition services and programming in Bristol

Voya Financial®, through matching contributions and employee giving

An anonymous donor's support in memory of former Wheeler Executive Director David Berkowitz, PhD

Bradley Henry Barnes and Leila Upson Barnes Memorial Trust at the Main Street Community Foundation

And more

“The generosity and support of the Bristol community and beyond are remarkable,” said Sabrina Trocchi, PhD, MPA, president and chief executive officer of Wheeler Health. “One Hope Street represents our vision of a healthier community for everyone, and our donors invested in hope for a vibrant, revitalized downtown Bristol. We can’t wait to open our doors.”

Wheeler’s 46,000-square-foot community health center and administrative headquarters at One Hope Street will offer integrated primary and behavioral health care for all ages, treatment for substance use disorders, nutrition services, and much more. It is Wheeler’s first newly constructed facility since its original location in 1972.

“Everything starts with a vision, and this achievement reflects the collective effort of a broad community of individuals and organizations that embraced our vision for Bristol,” said Mary C. Rodier, CPA, chair, Wheeler Board of Trustees. “This campaign, and what we were able to accomplish, embody the very best in us and are vibrant expressions of our hope for residents of Bristol and surrounding communities.”

“For decades, Wheeler has been an essential part of the Bristol community, providing compassionate care and services for individuals and families, and the Barnes company and Family has proudly supported this organization from its first days,” said Thomas O. Barnes, chairman of the board of Barnes Group, as well as its charitable foundation and longtime Wheeler supporter. “We are honored to help support this extraordinary new chapter.”

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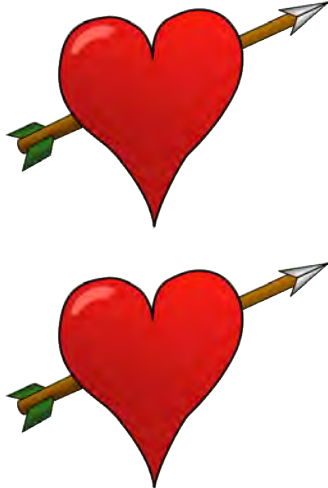
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Robertson Airport has given many private and business people, of and around Plainville, the opportunity to meet friends, relatives and business associates in pleasant and modern surroundings. We welcome all "airplane watchers" and little "future pilots" to come down and spend some time with us.

We look forward to meeting you and your family!

Answers

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# Letters to the Editor.....

Dear Editor:

Well folks, here we go again, the spendthrifts haven't learned and are now vowing to blow your hard earned money that you pay your taxes with.

I would like to elaborate on an article that was in the New Britain Herald on January 8, 2024 concerning the Plainville Middle School project. It appears that the article failed to mention that the project estimate is \$61,915,000.00 and climbing.

It was estimated that a maintenance upgrade program would cost \$10 - \$12 million dollars, which was favored by a majority of the last Town Council. After reimbursements ( which no one can guarantee ) for a renovate as new project, it would cost the Plainville taxpayers \$20 million dollars. I have to ask, who do you think will pay the other \$41,950,000.00? I don't think that the money will come from a Powerball or Mega lottery winner! That's right folks, it will be the taxpayers being fleeced once again. I have to tell you a little about the state renovate as new program! First I will use a nice word ( IMPROPRIETY ) to describe how this state program has fared. Plainville still has not been paid by the state for the reimbursement of a huge amount of money owed for the almost 3 year old completion of the Wheeler School project! I will say, from personal experience as a member of a Plainville Capital projects building committee, that millions of tax payer dollars are lost on unnecessary and wasteful changes in a renovate as new project! We are in very inflationary times and when you go along with these inflated costly projects , you are basically contributing to the inflation problem. JUST SAY NO!

Next, 70% of eligible voters did not vote in the November election for Town Council! I can only assume that it was because you wanted none of the above. I have to ask the 70% and all the common sense folks to come out for the referendum vote on the Middle school project and tell the confused spendthrifts that you have had enough of their nonsense, and vote NO! Spread the word, buildings do not teach, teachers do!

John Kisluk



## 10Things To Do This Winter in CT

1. Hit the slopes. Experience downhill thrills skiing at Mount Southington and Powder Ridge Mountain Park & Resort in Middlefield – you can even try snow biking and tubing too. Not snowing out? No problem. Both spots make their own snow!
2. Ski cross-country. After snowfall, rent equipment and try cross-country skiing at Winding Trails in Farmington and ski across 350 acres of pristine woodland.
3. Rock climb indoors. Test your climbing skills at gyms such as Stone Age Rock Gym in Manchester, Prime Climb Mountain Fun in Wallingford, and City Climb Gym in New Haven.
4. Swing up high. Experience the world's largest indoor ropes course and channel your inner tightrope walker as you take on the 56-foot tall ropes courses and climb through cargo nets, angled rope ladders and more at IT Adventure Ropes Course in New Haven.
5. Go on a winter hike. On days with less snow, venture to great hiking trails like Giuffrida Park in Meriden, West Rock Ridge State Park in Hamden/New Haven, Farmington Canal Heritage Trail in Farmington, and Penwood State Park in Bloomfield. You can even bring Fido along for the adventure!  
Below are a few more spots to find active adventure  
**Rest and Relaxation**
6. Pamper yourself. Get the relaxation you deserve by booking a massage, facial and more at Delamar Spa in West Hartford or By the Sea Day Spa in Branford.
7. Float your cares away. Experience peace like you never have before with sensory deprivation therapy at Imagine Float in Avon. This activity has even been known to lower blood pressure!
8. Treat your inner yogi. Spend an afternoon trying new yoga poses at West Hartford Yoga, Breathing Room in New Haven, or Root Down Power Yoga in Glastonbury.
9. Experience mindfulness. Center yourself on meditation retreats at Copper Beech Institute in West Hartford, Hartford Mindfulness Center, or sound healing retreats at The Sound Retreat in Chester.
10. Browse downtown. Bundle up on a mild winter day and stroll walkable downtowns such as Chester, Wethersfield, The Shops at Yale in New Haven, and West Hartford for an afternoon of relaxation and window shopping.

## Energize Connecticut Sponsors, Eversource and Avangrid, Inc. subsidiaries United Illuminating, Southern Connecticut Gas and Connecticut Natural Gas, announced that registration is open for the 19th annual eesmart<sup>TM</sup> Student Contest.

For nearly two decades, the contest has invited Connecticut students in grades K-12 to answer grade-level-specific prompts on how they would promote energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable solutions.

This year, students in Grades K-8 are asked to submit their entries in the form of a poster (Grades K-2), limericks (Grade 3), outdoor billboard (Grade 4), fictional story with an energy-saving character (Grade 5), persuasive letter (Grade 6), comic strip (Grade 7), or social media post (Grade 8).

Students in Grades 9-12 will produce a persuasive image in words or pictures, such as a short poem (125 words or less) or cartoon strip (12 cells or less) that advocates for an energy topic. Entries will be evaluated based on scientific validity and concise and convincing imagery.

“The eesmart<sup>TM</sup> Student Contest has asked students throughout Connecticut to use their imagination to address critical energy issues by developing their own solutions that will help bring us closer to a clean energy future,” said Tilak Subrahmanian, Vice President of Energy Efficiency and Electric Mobility for Eversource. “Every year, the creativity and desire to make a difference displayed in these submissions – from comic strips and posters to group projects and social media posts – is truly incredible. I look forward to seeing what our young minds bring to the table this year.”

“To see the creativity and critical thinking displayed by Connecticut students who participate in this annual contest is always inspiring to me,” said Frank Reynolds, President & CEO of United Illuminating, Southern Connecticut Gas and Connecticut Natural Gas. “I look forward to reviewing this year’s submissions and seeing these students’ commitment to helping us reduce our emissions and further the clean energy transition. Our students are our future, and the products of contests like this one make me confident we’re in good hands.”

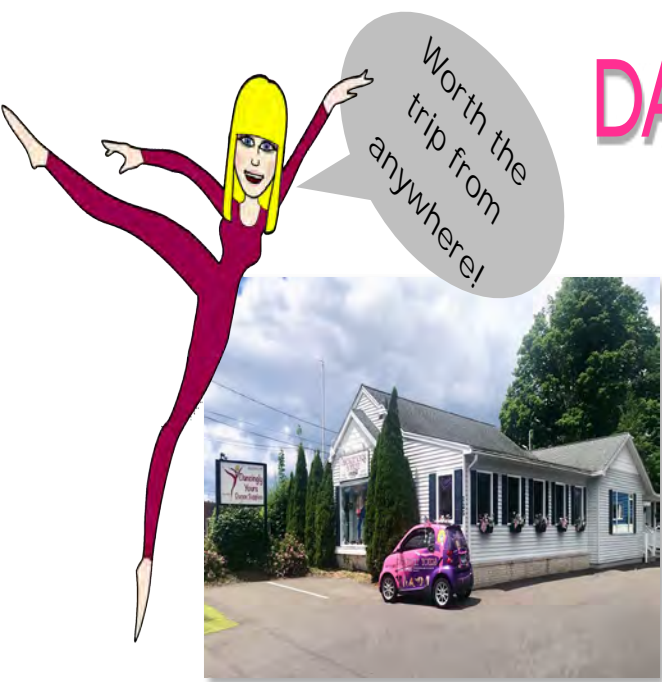
Contest registration is open until March 22. Project submissions are due on March 29. All work must be completed by the individual submitting the entry. No group projects are being accepted this year.

Finalists in all categories and grade levels will be honored at a special awards ceremony to be held in May 2024. Winners will receive a certificate and an Amazon gift card.

For more information about the contest, please visit [EnergizeCT.com/student-contest](http://EnergizeCT.com/student-contest).

### About Energize Connecticut

Energize Connecticut helps you save money and use clean energy. It is an initiative of the State of Connecticut, the Connecticut Green Bank, Eversource, UI, SCG and CNG, with funding from a charge on customer energy bills. Information on energy-saving programs can be found at [EnergizeCT.com](http://EnergizeCT.com) or by calling 877. WISE.USE.



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# MAIN STREET COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Women & Girls Fund invites you to

Save-the-Date for the **23rd Annual WOW Event**

**Wednesday, May 1!**



The Women & Girls Fund  
of Main Street Community Foundation

THE 23<sup>RD</sup>  
ANNUAL  
WONDER  
OF WOMEN  
WOW  
EVENT



**GUEST SPEAKER: ROBIN REISER**  
Robin Reiser is a comedian, writer, storyteller and speaker. She has appeared on NBC, E! and the Oxygen network; has written for stage and screen; and her storytelling can be heard on many podcasts, including RISK and THE ONLY ONE IN THE ROOM. Robin wrote and plays all the roles in the web series PINK EYE, and was an audience favorite on Last Comic Standing and at the Sundance Film Festival. After twenty years in Los Angeles, Robin has returned to the northeast to be closer to her parents and raise her son with seasons.

Proceeds from this annual event support grants for programs that make it possible for women and girls in Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott to improve the conditions and opportunities in their lives.

**Wednesday, May 1, 2024**  
The Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville  
**Social Hour** 5:30-7:00 p.m.  
Silent auction, food stations, cash bar, and networking  
**Program** 7:00-8:00 p.m.  
Guest speaker, dessert and coffee  
**Seats** are \$65 per person.  
**RSVP** by April 15 by calling 860.583.6363  
More information at [www.mainstreetfoundation.org](http://www.mainstreetfoundation.org)

## Main Street Community Foundation Awards Grant to PARC



Main Street Community Foundation Awards Grant to PARC for Program that Serves Senior Women with Developmental Disabilities

Main Street Community Foundation has recently announced \$50,500 in grant awards to 11 local organizations from the Women & Girls Fund. PARC, Inc. was among the grant recipients, and received a \$6,000 grant to support the Golden Gang Senior Women’s program.

The Golden Gang Senior Women’s program serves senior women with developmental disabilities and helps them socialize, have fun, and connect with the larger community. The participants get together to take part in a variety of activities and programs that are age and ability appropriate, such as group arm knitting and field trips into the community to interact with animals or art/music programs. Senior women with developmental disabilities are a typically underserved population, which is why the Golden Gang Senior Women’s program is so important as it has been shown to improve the quality of life for these women.

Established at Main Street Community Foundation in 2001, the Women & Girls Fund has been supporting programs and initiatives that improve the conditions and opportunities for women and girls of all ages in Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott. A total of \$780,000 in grants has been awarded from the Fund since its establishment.

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~ Plainville Historical Society ~

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Finding Plainville's  
Historic Homes

By Gertrude LaCombe

When the time comes that we have the opportunity to purchase a home it becomes the accomplishment of a lifetime and our pride and joy. If you purchased a home in Plainville built before 1930 we can also help you learn more about the history of some of our early homes as so many have a story to tell. This story is about a beautiful Queen Ann home on West Main St. built on Hills family property for Christina Hills when she married her husband Charles H. Calor in 1882.

Charles was born in Newburyport Mass. on July 4, 1855. As a young man with great ambitions Charles began his career in the hardware manufacturing business as a vendor to the trade, came to Plainville and set up a nickel-plating shop on West Main St. to become one of the most outstanding citizens of the town.

He soon became a major stockholder in the Elm City Brass and Rivet Co. which eventually took over the local Clark and Cowels Co. in 1903. By 1912 his business evolved into the Plainville Electro Plating Co. on Forestville Ave. and is currently still in business.

Charles served as Plainville's town treasurer in the 1880's, was a member of the board of selectmen and elected to represent Plainville in the state legislature for two years. He also was chairman of the Republican town committee, director of the Plainville Trust when it was organized, and was president of the Plainville Water Co. until the time of his death on May 1, 1925. After his death, Julia Barnes, a teacher and tutor served as a companion to his wife Christina until she died in 1934. The bulk of her estate went to the Calor Memorial Fund for the town library.

The town rented the home through the town memorial library fund to residents from 1935-1946. They were Wilmont and Florence Wright from 1939-1940, and the Edward Snyder family 1940-1946. The Calor Library Fund finally released ownership of the house in 1947 to a local nurse by the name of Sadie Henderson.

It was then called the Henderson House Sanitarium where she also took in WWII soldiers until 1952. I remember, that sometimes when I walked by the house, there would be patients sitting out on the large front porch. Later on the home was then listed as Henderson House Furnished Rooms. Sadie remarried and moved to California when the house was sold to Eugene and Elizabeth Strong.

Perhaps you have a historic home with a story to tell and would like to learn more. Contact The Plainville Historic Center and maybe we can help you with some research to find some amazing stories of Plainville's past.



Plainville Electro Plating Company 12 Forestville Avenue



180 West Main Street  
Home of Charles and Christina Calor

~ Historical Society News ~

History tells us that the cars were welcomed at the Bristol border by Governor Baldwin and John Trumbull as they continued into Plainville center. Sal Santacroce, then 12 years old, stood at the corner of Pierce St. in front of the Plainville Trust Co. and waved. He still recalls the 4 door convertible Mr. Willkie rode through in. The entourage was running late and rushing. They missed the turn onto Pine St and went right on down New Britain Ave.

A rushed moment, a missed turn, a big disappointment, and an old story, don't we all have one?

The Plainville Historical Society has received a grant from the Connecticut Humanities for 2023. The grant helps to fund our operating costs and to continue offering the quality programs and services to which we are committed.





IMPORTANT

Please register for programs on line at plvhistorical@gmail.com Our guest capacity is limited. We will confirm your seat.



~ Plainville Historical Society ~  
www.plainvillehistoricalsociety.com e-mail: plvhistorical@gmail.com  
LIKE us on Facebook: Plainville Historical Society 860-747-6577

QUIPS FROM THE PAST: “Good night Mrs. Kallabash, wherever you are.”  
....Jimmy Durante

PRESIDENT’S DAY  
Monday, February 19

Plainville can boast few visits from Presidential candidates and Presidents, but we found a couple. Of course, we recall the wedding of Governor Trumbull’s daughter when she married President Calvin Coolidge’s son the summer of 1929 at the Congregational Church, and the reception at the Trumbull mansion on Farmington Ave. There was also the infamous drive-through of Presidential candidate Wendell Willkie in the fall of 1940.

On October 10, 1940, Mr. Willkie made a visit to Connecticut. Advance notices reported the procession route through the center of town toward New Britain, taking a right turn on Pine St. (just before the railroad tracks) and continuing down Woodford Ave. past Trumbull Electric and Marlin Rockwell. Both factories arranged a short shutdown during the time he was scheduled to pass by, so that their 1500 workers could go out front and wave.

History tells us that the cars were welcomed at the Bristol border by Governor Baldwin and John Trumbull as they continued into Plainville center. Sal Santacroe, then 12 years old, stood at the corner of Pierce St. in front of the Plainville Trust Co. and waved. He still recalls the 4 door convertible Mr. Willkie rode through in. The entourage was running late and rushing. They missed the turn onto Pine St and went right on down New Britain Ave.

A rushed moment, a missed turn, a big disappointment, and an old story, don’t we all have one?

“Let us animate and encourage each other.” President George Washington

A VISIT FROM THE “KIDS IN THE MIDDLE”

On December 21, the “Kids in the Middle” from the Middle School came to visit us at the Historic Center, with their amazing mentor Dayna Snell. We had pizza and a juice drink, cookies (of course), and a discussion of Christmas past traditions with the adults, and then they visited the display rooms while they did some dusting. Santa left craft packets to take home. It was an enjoyable afternoon.

“Why do we love certain houses, and why do they seem to love us?”  
....T.H. Robsjohn-Gibblings

We have so much to be looking forward to here at the Historic Center. A new calendar year brings exciting opportunities to pursue our core mission of preservation, inspiration and education with a focus on Plainville’s history.

The volunteers are reorganizing the Museum Shop area on the street level. Early planning includes a rotating display designed to share more of the collection from our storage. There will continue to be historical publications pertinent to Plainville and random interesting merchandise promoting our town. We are open to any and all ideas.

Lucie B. continues to do extensive research on private homes, upon request, and vintage buildings in Plainville. She will soon be screening another batch of VCRs before they are sent out for thumb drive conversion. The entire executive board and volunteer team is busy researching and answering various requests from local residents and our forever natives scattered around the country who contact us by land line and e-mail.

With our winter programing set, we anticipate an interesting line up for spring beginning with Woman’s History month in March.

GRANTS

Our generous grant from the Connecticut Humanities has closed December 31 and Rosemary Morante, who has administrated it, is in the final stages of reporting. This money has enabled us to reach our goal of expanding our community outreach. An update of the office printers, our very own brand new computer and some presentation equipment has been a major investment in our ability to serve you. In addition, we were able to complete phase 1 of our video digitization project, update and reprint our brochure, and publish a charming children’s History of Plainville book, written by our President, Gertrude LaCombe.

There is more-- but suffice to say-- that both we and thee can be grateful for this amazing gift and to Rosemary for her masterful handling of this giant responsibility.

ELIZABETH NORTON TRUST FUND

The Plainville Historical Society is pleased to report the gift of a grant from the Elizabeth Norton Trust Fund. This will allow us to continue with our VCR digitization project. We have a large collection of video tapes that date back to 1969 of TV programs, events, parades, and personal interviews. Some are beginning to degrade and our goal is to save as many as we can on thumb drive so that we can preserve and share them. This grant will allow us to continue with phase 2. Each tape is reviewed for technical quality, duplication and content before they are processed.

WILLIAM AND BARBARA PETIT GRANT

The very recent gift of a grant in honor of William and Barbara Petit, recognizing their contributions to the Historical Society and the Town of Plainville, has been gratefully received. We will keep you posted on this.

FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH

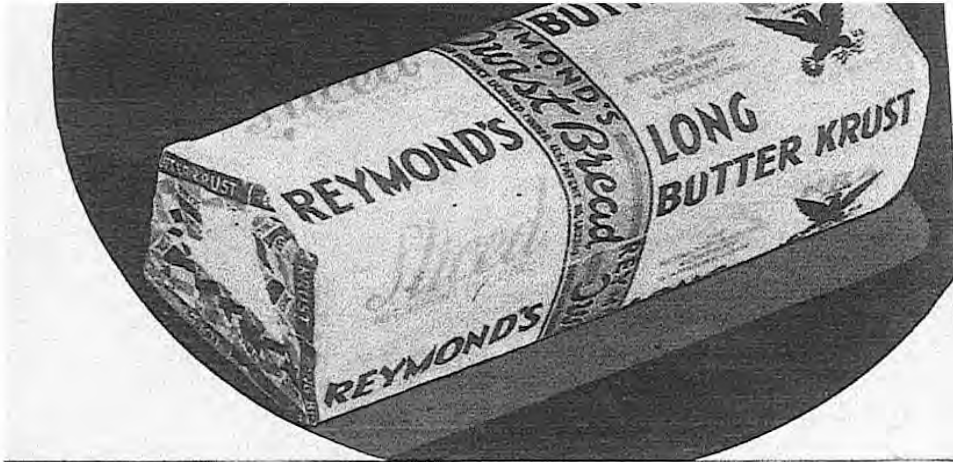
Our own Gail Williams, Plainville’s African-American History Specialist, is planning a program on February 28 at 7 o’clock in the evening. Check our web-site for more information. You must register on line.

NEW TO THE COLLECTION

We have received a large Hepworth oil painting. It was thought that the model was William Homer, but Gail thinks that is incorrect and she is certain that it is not Lyman Homer. At any rate, it is in need of some professional cleaning and restoration. We are delighted to accept and restore it and proud to add it to our gallery of Hepworths. If you think you can identify the man in the painting, stop by and take a look. We would love to have your view.

FOLLOWING UP: Thank you to our reader who provided a correction to the Garfield Jones article published last month. Ms. Squillacote’s name was not Josephine and she was generally known as “Tiny.” We appreciate the information. I’m happy she enjoyed the piece anyway.  
...Janice

HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY  
February 14  
Indifference  
Alas! That she should never see,  
Should never care to know,  
The wildflower’s love, the bird’s above,  
And his, who loves her so!  
...Madison Cawein  
From New England Magazine  
February 1896



ROOSEVELT SPECIAL

Spread slices of bread and butter with deviled ham. Put slices together in twos and dip them into a mixture of egg and milk (1 egg to ½ cup of milk). Fry the slices in butter or ham fat until they are nicely brown on both sides. May be varied by mixing minced cooked ham with chopped pepper or pimento and a little dressing, instead of using deviled ham.

Do you Remember Dancing With the Stars at Wrights on New Year’s Eve?



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## Linden Street School Students Attend Teambuilding Conference



A group of Linden Street School fifth graders honed their leadership, teambuilding and communication skills at the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) Annual Elementary Level School Leadership Conference held at Naugatuck Valley Community College on January 9th!



## FROM MY BALCONY

By: Jeannette Hinkson

I hate to keep harping on medical care but I spoken to so many people both young and old that have needed medical care in the past few months and found treatment less than satisfactory. One gentleman related how after not feeling well and his doctor suggested some tests, Well, the appointment for the test was several week away. Finely the test was completed on a Thursday and on Friday, at 5 o'clock, the doctor called his wife and said it was his heart and she was to take him to the nearest emergency room and the doctor would call ahead with instructions. The wife, elderly herself, drove her husband to the hospital that the doctor recommended. When they got there this hospital was nothing more than an emergency walk-in clinic and they said he would have to go to their main hospital some fifteen miles away. The wife asked for directions but the staff said he would have to be transported by ambulance because it was a critical situation but the transport might take up to six hours. Well, it took only about five hours. After arriving at main hospital around midnight the gentleman was given a room and was settled in about three am. The next morning, Saturday, no tests were done nor were any tests done on Sunday or Monday. Finely a minister came in to see the man and asked how he was doing and the gentleman said, "I have no idea, I got here Friday night and haven't seen a doctor yet." The minister was shocked and said, "I'll get a doctor," He left the room and shortly after returned with the house doctor. When the doctor started asking questions the man requested the doctor speak to his wife and called her on his cell phone. The doctor explained they had planned to do three tests on Monday but had another patient. The wife told the doctor if she had been told that hospital couldn't handle more than one patient a day she would have seen he was taken somewhere else but on Friday she was told it was an emergency and now it was going on four days and they weren't even going to do the test until Tuesday. The doctor assured her the tests would be done the first thing Tuesday morning. Well Tuesday came and as promised they did three tests but no doctor visited the man nor did they call the wife with the results. On Friday the wife again went to the hospital as she had done every day and asked the staff where was the doctor with the results of the tests and was told the doctor was making the rounds and would be in shortly. Morning ended and still no doctor. Around three o'clock the wife spoke to the head nurse and informed her she was removing her husband from the hospital as he had been there close to a week after their original doctor said it was an emergency and not only had he not received treatment but they still hadn't been given the results of the tests they performed on Tuesday. Shortly after a young house doctor came in and said it was alright if he went home. So much for the emergency! How much did that cost? When is someone going to check on the care patients are getting? The man related the food was so bad even the staff at the hospital said they either bring their lunch or go to local restaurants. Who's going to start an investigation? I understand from persons who have had need for rest home care that's another snake pit. A elderly woman remarked the other day, " You know it's a sad thing, we've out lived good medical care." How true. We are held hostage, if you are old and we don't go to our doctor every four to six weeks they won't renew our medications we've been taking for years.

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Please help us up date this page by e-mailing any changes we have to make!! Thank you!!

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Phone 860-747-1901  
*ALL ARE WELCOME!*  
**Rev. Don Erickson, Senior Minister**  
Email: [revdon@cccplainville.org](mailto:revdon@cccplainville.org)  
*CHURCH OFFICE EMAIL:*  
[churchoffice@uccplainville.org](mailto:churchoffice@uccplainville.org)  
*WEBSITE:* [www.uccplainville.org](http://www.uccplainville.org)  
*WORSHIP SERVICE*  
*Sunday: 10:00 a.m. In-Person Worship*  
*Sunday Services are also Live Streamed via Facebook at uccplainville*  
Sunday 7:00 p.m.  
Centering Prayer Service on Facebook  
**THE PLAINVILLE THRIFT SHOP**  
**Closed Indefinitely**

**NEW COVENANT APOSTOLIC CHURCH**  
139 New Britain Ave, Plainville  
P.O. Box 551 Plainville, CT 06062  
**Suffragan Bishop George Knight,**  
**Pastor**  
**Elder Joseph Green,**  
**Associate Minister**  
**Phone 860-747-3128**  
Residence & FAX 860-224-9409  
Call for Schedule of Worship  
*Come, bring a friend and enjoy Jesus with us!*

**REDEEMER’S AME ZION CHURCH**  
110 Whiting Stree, Plainville  
Phone: 860-747-1808  
**Worship Services -**  
**Rev. Dr. Shelley D. Best**  
Sunday School..... 9:00-9:40 a.m.  
Praise & Worship.....9:45-10:00  
Church Service.....10:00 a.m.  
**Bible Study**  
Wednesday..11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.  
**Board Meetings**  
Senior Ushers (1st Sat before 1st Sun) 11a.m.  
Gladys Floyds Missionary Society (2nd Sun)  
Deaconess Board (3rd Sun)  
Lay Council (1st & 3rd Sat) 9:30 a.m.  
Christian Education (3rd Tues) 7:00 p.m.  
Men’s Meeting (2nd/4th Sat) 9:30 a.m.  
PEP (Every Sat) 1:00-4:00 p.m.  
Trustee/Steward (9:30 a.m. & 2nd Mon. of May)  
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Email: [fbc1902@yahoo.com](mailto:fbc1902@yahoo.com)  
Web: [www.faithbiblelect.com](http://www.faithbiblelect.com)  
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Apply it to our lives
- To reach others for JESUS
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E-mail: [plainvillesda@gmail.com](mailto:plainvillesda@gmail.com)  
[jacksonsg5@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jacksonsg5@sbcglobal.net)  
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Website: [www.plainvilleumc.org](http://www.plainvilleumc.org)  
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February 4, 10 AM  
Watch our live stream on Facebook with this link:  
<https://www.facebook.com/Plainville-United-Methodist-Church-CT-Live-108293257471508>  
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I entrust to you my present need. Pray that I never lose heart when the way seems dark and dreary. I await your help and praise God for guiding me to seek your help in especially difficult situations.  
Amen.

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Sunday School for All Ages 11:00 am  
Morning Worship Service 11:00 am  
Junior Church Ages 4-8 11:00 am  
Evening Worship Service 6:30 pm  
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*For information about the church visit our website @cobplainville.org*

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Wednesday 10 a.m.  
Prayer Table outside in front of the church  
Every Wednesday 11:30 a.m.  
A member of the Anglican Diocese of the Living Word.



# Pet Page

From the Plainville Animal Control Desk:

We are happy to report new happy homes have been secured for our recent fuzzy guests. Even the two parakeets, Heckel and Jeckel, have found a cozy new home. Just in time for the frigid air mass, too. Here at the pound we are wintering, but keeping busy with current issues, and holding the fort.

## ALERT

The coyotes are mating. Here in Plainville we have a fair amount of coyotes. They tend to run in packs. Right now they are highly motivated to find a mate and they can get, well, carried away. You must be always on guard, even when you are present with your pet, outside.

## A WORD TO THE WISE

Word comes from other parts of the country that there is an epidemic of a flu-like respiratory disease in dogs. Sort of a canine Covid, it is transmitted dog-to-dog; not to humans. It might be advisable to limit your dog’s interactions with strange dogs, perhaps even other dogs, for a while. There is no reporting of this disease in Connecticut but be on the watch. If you suspect it, a visit to the Vet is in order.

## YEARNING FOR SPRING?

Guess what? Plainville has the Easter Bunny at the pound. Jessica was found wandering the streets of town, probably looking for spring. Rescued, she is safe and warm at the pound, wintering. Sweet and domesticated, she is a Continental or Flemish Giant Rabbit. 2’ long and underweight at 13#, she could use a new home.

Through these dormant months, your Animal Control team is here to help. Any questions? Call us at 860 747-1616.

## Are Plastic Bowls OK for Cats?



### Do cats dislike plastic bowls?

First, many cats have an allergy to plastic and develop a skin condition on their chins resembling acne. Second, plastic tends to nick and scratch, and those tiny fissures become a breeding ground for germs. It’s best to avoid plastic if at all possib In most cases, stainless steel is considered the 'best' material for cat food and water bowls. You want to purchase those labeled as grade 304 or 18/8. The numbers indicate the quality, durability, and resistance to corrosion. This grade of steel is the most common one used in food prep items.

## PLAINVILLE PET CEMETERY

To honor your beloved pets, the Plainville Cemetery Association Pet Cemetery is at the West Cemetery 180 North Washington Street. Located in a wooded area behind the office.

For information, call Plainville Cemetery Association at  
**(860)747-2314**



## COLD WEATHER PET SAFETY TIPS

Exposure to winter’s dry, cold air and chilly rain, sleet and snow can cause chapped paws and itchy, flaking skin, but these aren’t the only discomforts pets can suffer. Winter walks can become downright dangerous if chemicals from ice-melting agents are licked off of bare paws. To help prevent cold weather dangers from affecting your pet’s health, please heed the following advice from our experts:

- Repeatedly coming out of the cold into the dry heat of your home can cause itchy, flaking skin. Keep your home humidified and towel dry your pet as soon as he comes inside, paying special attention to his feet and in-between the toes. Remove any snow balls from between his foot pads.
- Never shave your dog down to the skin in winter, as a longer coat will provide more warmth. If your dog is long-haired, simply trim him to minimize the clinging ice balls, salt crystals and de-icing chemicals that can dry his skin, and don’t neglect the hair between his toes. If your dog is short-haired, consider getting him a coat or sweater with a high collar or turtleneck with coverage from the base of the tail to the belly. For many dogs, this is regulation winter wear.
- Bring a towel on long walks to clean off stinging, irritated paws. After each walk, wash and dry your pet’s feet and stomach to remove ice, salt and chemicals—and check for cracks in paw pads or redness between the toes.
- Bathe your pets as little as possible during cold spells. Washing too often can remove essential oils and increase the chance of developing dry, flaky skin. If your pooch must be bathed, ask your vet to recommend a moisturizing shampoo and/or rinse.
- Massaging petroleum jelly or other paw protectants into paw pads before going outside can help protect from salt and chemical agents. Booties provide even more coverage and can also prevent sand and salt from getting lodged between bare toes and causing irritation. Use pet-friendly ice melts whenever possible.
- Like coolant, antifreeze is a lethal poison for dogs and cats. Be sure to thoroughly clean up any spills from your vehicle, and consider using products that contain propylene glycol rather than ethylene glycol.
- Pets burn extra energy by trying to stay warm in wintertime. Feeding your pet a little bit more during the cold weather months can provide much-needed calories, and making sure she has plenty of water to drink will help keep her well-hydrated and her skin less dry.
- Make sure your companion animal has a warm place to sleep, off the floor and away from all drafts. A cozy dog or cat bed with a warm blanket or pillow is perfect.
- Remember, if it’s too cold for you, it’s probably too cold for your pet, so keep your animals inside. If left outdoors, pets can freeze, become disoriented, lost, stolen, injured or killed. In addition, don’t leave pets alone in a car during cold weather, as cars can act as refrigerators that hold in the cold and cause animals to freeze to death.



### VCA Old Canal Animal Hospital

**Diva Malinowski Green, DVM**  
Certified Veterinary Medical Acupuncturist  
Medical Director

49 E. Main Street, Plainville, CT 06062  
Tel: 860-747-2759  
Fax: 860-747-8338

## BOTTLE & CAN DRIVE

The bottle and can drive for the benefit of PAWS will continue. You can leave your returns at the pound at 29 Granger Lane or at the front lobby of the Police Department.

*Thank You for Your Support!*



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COMEDY SHOW: 9:15 - 11:00 PM



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