

# Plainville's Hometown Connection

Serving the Community for **28** years....working for a Better Plainville!  
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## Time To Say Farewell....

This final edition of the Hometown Connection is paying tribute to our founder, President and never-to-be-forgotten friend,

**\*\* HELEN BERGENTY \*\***

The Hometown Connection has been Plainville's only monthly news publication delivered to over 9,000 homes FREE to the residents since Helen began the paper in 1997 with a diverse group of volunteers who happily took photos, wrote stories, and made sure advertisers were involved in supporting the paper.

The Hometown was established as an alternative to the local publications that didn't have room for a variety of stories about our churches, schools, senior activities, government information, and just fun features about Plainville.

The format of the paper took a giant leap forward moving from cut, paste and waxing boards to a digital design in 2010. Helen took on the challenge of learning how to navigate a computer and publishing software with great enthusiasm and, if we're being honest, sometimes many groans! Her "can do" attitude and boundless energy was an inspiration for many, as she was recognized as a true voice of Plainville.

Our final tribute to Helen includes photos, stories and thank-yous from many people who recall fond memories of her. Helen's spirit of duty and volunteerism is irreplaceable.

We say farewell & rest in peace to our friend, mentor and life-long resident of Plainville with tears in our eyes and a full heart for all she brought to us and her beloved little Town.

Jeannette Hinkson, Janice Eisenhauer,  
Kris Dargenio, and Kathy Pugliese  
*Hometown Connection Staff*



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### 5TH Generation of Bailey Family Celebrates Wrestling Championship



Plainville’s 5th generation Bailey, of the Bailey Funeral Home Baileys est. 1884.

Jaxsen Bailey, 13, who is Plainville’s 6x CT State Wrestling Champion, 2x New England Champion, 3x National Champion & a 1x

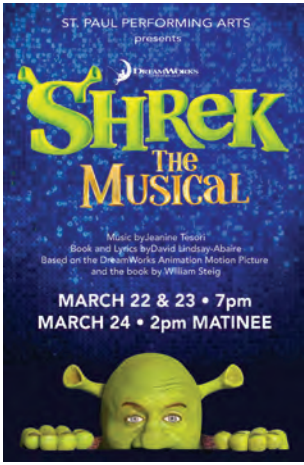
International Champion would like to thank all the schools interested in having him in their high school wrestling program. After much consideration and sad regrets, Jaxsen will be the first Bailey boy to NOT graduate from Plainville High School (aunt Jessica graduated from Ward Melville in Long Island, NY 88’) since the early 1900’s. The Bailey generation of Plainville High School graduates is as follows; his father, Jason 92’, grandfather James 64’, great-grandfather Walter Allen Jr. “Bob” 32’, great-great grandfather Walter Allan Sr. in the early 1900.

Next year Jaxsen will be joining the Prep School circuit as a Dragon at Greens Farms Academy in Westport, CT for his new Coach and mentor Coach Jack Conroy. Jaxsen ‘s excited to stay and compete for his home State of Connecticut as GFA’s starting 106 pounder.

There is still hope, after college, for Jaxsen to carry on the Bailey tradition of Plainville Firefighters and become the 4th generation Plainville Volunteer Firefighter.

***Congratulations on Your Success and a Bright Future!!***

### St. Paul Performing Arts Will Perform Shrek The Musical



St. Paul Catholic High School performing arts department is excited to present its spring 2024 musical production of Shrek The Musical. St. Paul stage will transform into a mythical landscape in the Tony Award-winning Shrek The Musical. You may think you know all there is to know about that

grumpy, green ogre and his sidekicks, but prepare to be surprised. More songs, more dancing, moving set pieces, intricate costumes – Shrek The Musical offers so much theatricality.

Immerse yourself in a world of characters you know and love, on a massive scale that seems to bring all the fairytales to life at once! This modern take on the classic tale of an underdog who learns the meaning of friendship, inner beauty, and that everything has layers is the perfect stage adventure for any age. “Shrek The Musical” teaches us that everyone can find love, beauty isn’t always pretty, and that nothing is handed to you,” says director Mark Mazzarella. This show presents a challenge to inhabit, physicalize, and explore these magical characters as an actor on stage.”

Join St. Paul Performing Arts on Friday, March 22 at 7:00pm, Saturday, March 23 at 7:00pm and Sunday, March 24 at 2:00pm for three performances of Shrek The Musical at St. Paul Catholic High School’s Performing Arts Theater.

Purchase tickets today online at [www.spchs.com](http://www.spchs.com) or they can be purchased on a first-come, first-served basis at the door. All seats are reserved seating \$20 for the general public, \$15 for students (18 and under), and \$15 for seniors (65+).

### PLAINVILLE HIGH SCHOOL ANNOUNCES VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN



**Alexis Graff, Valedictorian and Nicole Caruso, Salutatorian**

Plainville High School began a new tradition this year, hosting a luncheon on February 28th for the PHS Class of 2024 Valedictorian, Alexis Graff, and Salutatorian, Nicole Caruso. The students, their families, administrators and special guests enjoyed the luncheon celebration, and Principal Jennifer DeLorenzo presented the students with letters of recognition.

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DAY

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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Town Council Meetings

Can be seen on: Nutmeg TV Channel #96

Friday & Sunday Evenings

Unable to Attend a Town Council Meeting?

If you have an issue, you would like to discuss with the Council or a Councilor, just call  
860-793-0221 ext. 8703

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





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

## February 5, and February 20, 2024

### Town Council Notes

#### February 5, 2024

Town Manager Report:

#### Extension of Robert Jackson Way

- This request dates back to 2021, when Buck Fever, LLC (aka Paul Matteo) applied for an extension to Robert Jackson Way in the Strawberry Fields Industrial Park. The application was to provide frontage for three building lots.
- The Planning & Zoning Commission approved the plan and accepted a financial guarantee to ensure the road was constructed to Town standards. Work began in earnest in 2022 and was completed in 2023. Upon completion, the road was inspected and passed muster with the Engineering Department.
- The financial guarantee was subsequently released, and the matter was referred to the Planning & Zoning Commission for an opinion on the proposed acceptance. On January 9, 2024, the Planning & Zoning Commission made a formal motion recommending that the Town Council officially accept the physical extension of Robert Jackson Way.
- There is an item under New Business to accept the extension of Robert Jackson Way.

#### Honor Heights Sewer Project Update

- Town Manager/ Engineering – working to prepare and distribute mailing to residents summarizing previous actions and the process moving forward.
- Town Manager/Engineering – working to finalize and distribute contractor’s list – Target date mid-to late February. Coordinate outreach and discussion with interested contractors via public informational meeting with a date TBD.
- Town Manager/Town Attorney – working to clarify the eligibility for deferment of the assessment.
- There is an item under New Business to record the necessary documents for the Final Beneficial Assessment on the land records.

#### Shuttle Meadow Pump Station Reconstruction Project

- Now that the Shuttle Meadow Pump Station project has been awarded the town will proceed to submit an application to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program. The fund operates a loan program to which the WPCA will request \$3,175,896.
- In addition to the application, there is also a resolution to proceed with approving and authorizing the Town Manager to enter into a Project Loan Agreement. This action is necessary because it is a competitive funding source and authorization would expedite the process.
- There are two items under New Business to authorize the grant application and the loan agreement.

### HAPPENINGS

Reported at the Town Council Meeting on February 5, 2024  
Andy Cirioli, Assistant Town Manager

#### THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

The Board of Assessment Appeals will hold meetings during the month of March 2024 in the Municipal Center for the purpose of hearing appeals related to real estate and personal property assessments for the October 1, 2023 Grand List, as well as, supplemental motor vehicle assessments on the October 1, 2022 Grand List.

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes, written applications for appeal hearings are required to

be filed between February 1, 2024 but no later than 5:00pm on February 20, 2024. Applications may be obtained in the Assessment & Revenue Collection Office or online at [www.plainvillect.com](http://www.plainvillect.com). Appellants will be notified by mail of the time and date in March of their appeal hearing.

#### 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).

- Thursday, February 8th, at 1:00 pm, the library will be showing "My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3." No registration is needed.

- Saturday, February 10th, from 12-3 pm, anyone ages 11-17 is invited to play retro and current Nintendo systems provided by One Up Games of Massachusetts.

- Wednesday, February 21st, at 6:00 pm, Jeffrey Fletcher from the Ruby & Calving Fletcher African American Museum will discuss and share a collection of artifacts that reflect turbulent times for Africans throughout American history.

- Thursday, February 29th at 6:00 pm, 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. This program was originally scheduled for January 16th but was postponed due to weather.

#### 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.

#### Middle School of Plainville Renovation Project Presentation at the Plainville Senior Center

- February 7, 2024 at 12:30 PM
- The Town of Plainville is planning a referendum vote on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, regarding the Middle School of Plainville Renovation Project.
- This presentation will include key components of the project, such as rationale, timeline, cost, state funding and project scope.

#### Movie Matinee - A Dog’s Purpose

- Monday, February 12, 2024 at 2:00 PM
- A devoted dog discovers the meaning of its own existence. Rated: PG

#### Senior Bullying with The Pines & Bristol Health—Snack & Learn

- Tuesday, February 13, 2024 from 1:30 PM—2:30 PM
- Join Heather Hitchcock, Community Education Manager with Bristol Behavioral Health, as she discusses the realities of bullying among seniors and the impact it has on everyone.

#### Vintage Valentines and Chocolate Treat

- Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 2:30 PM
- See and hear about a collection of vintage Valentines owned by member Joyce Goldberg. You are certain to recognize many Valentines from your own childhood.

#### Snappy Seniors Photography

- Thursday, February 15, 2024 at 10:00 AM
- This month’s topic is How to Crop and Enhance Photos for Prints, using cellphones and the Walgreen’s app and website.
- New members are always welcome to join.

#### Memory Café at the Senior Center

- Thursday, February 15, 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.

#### Help for Veterans

- Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 10:00 AM by appointment – 203-805-6340
- Call Jason Coppola, Veterans Service Officer, to find out your status, needs and paperwork required to prepare for a face-to-face appointment at the Senior Center.

#### Caregiving Connections

- Tuesday, February 20, 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.

### Town Council Notes

#### February 20, 2024

Town Manager Report:

#### 2023 Grand List

- The Town’s Assessor, Sarah Carey, will be joining us for a brief presentation on the Grand List. As you know, despite the drag from Motor Vehicles, the overall Grand list grew by 1.97%.
- The growth will translate to approximately \$1,038,282 in new revenue.
- Overall, Real Estate was up 0.95%, Motor Vehicles were down 3.61%, and Personal Property was up 24.84%.

#### Honor Heights Sewer Project Update

- Town Manager/Engineering – working to finalize and distribute contractor’s list – Target date mid-to late February. Coordinate outreach and discussion with interested contractors via public informational meeting with a date TBD.
- The Connecticut General Statutes permit the deferment of a Sanitary Sewer Assessment should a property owner meet specific income requirements. A review of a similar property tax relief program would indicate six (6) or more property owners in Honor Heights may be income eligible for Sanitary Sewer Assessment relief/deferment.
- Town Attorney Morris Borea has advised the Town that implementing a Sanitary Sewer Assessment Deferment program requires the Town Council to adopt an ordinance authorizing one. The adoption of an ordinance requires a Public Hearing be conducted to seek input from the Town at large. There is an item under New Business to set a public hearing date for March 4, 2024, to seek public comments concerning such an ordinance to enact a deferment program.

#### White Oak Project Update

- As of the first week of January, the hazardous building material abatement throughout the existing office space and industrial garage area was completed by Enviro Consultants & Recyclers. All materials were properly identified, logged, treated, and trucked off site for disposal. This work was completed ahead of schedule and slightly below contract costs of \$625,000.
- MNR had an architect on-site this past weekend to complete interior measurements to produce “as-built” plans. These plans will allow MNR to work towards finalizing sketches and layouts of the two-floor office building.
- MNR has also paid to have geotechnical sampling of soil completed in the rear of the property by Clarence Welti Associates. The purpose of this



TOWN COUNCIL NOTES continue. ...

- effort was to gain insightinto soil composition throughout the site and whether thesubmitted conceptual plan can be supported by the soil or if additional borings, supports, or changes to plan layoutwill be required.
- Per project timelines, MNR is due to submit a Master Site Plan and Project Timeline to Planning & Zoning by April1, 2024.
- Tighe & Bond continues to assist the Town in navigatingthe environmental costs and the gap between the original projections and new revised estimates. The current grant funding will not cover the anticipated costs of soil remediation. Per State statutes, brownfield grants are entitled to up to 50% of the initial reward for “topper” funds to address unforeseen challenges and costs commonly associated with brownfield remediation projects.
- Town Staff is scheduled to meet with DECD officials on February 21, 2024, to discuss the process of securing the topper funds and how best to address the remaining funding gap.

- Parking Ban Discussion**
- Research of other town ordinances is on-going, but I haveincluded copies from several towns for your review.
  - I don’t believe our current ordinance needs to be repealedor modified, butthat is open for discussion. However, I feel that there is the flexibility to improve on the use of our communication tools like CodeRed and Social Media accounts to assist the town during storm events.
- Alternative Work Week Update**
- As we approach the conclusion of the 6-month Alternative Work Schedule pilot program, I wanted to provide the Town Council with an update.
  - The program involves a 35-hour work week spread over four days (Monday to Wednesday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, and Thursday, 8:00 am to 6:00 pm), with a reduced lunch break from 1 hour to 30 minutes. The schedule impacts employees in the Municipal Center, Recreation Department, and Youth Services Department. The Senior Center, which was included in the pilot, had their original hours promptly restored in response to communityconcerns.
  - As we near the end of the pilot program, we resurveyed staff, and the results were similarly favorable, with 24 out of 25 respondents expressing support and only 1 respondent was indifferent/unsure. Please note, fewer responses were received in the second survey due to the removal of the Senior Center from the pilot program.
  - In the early stages of developing the pilot program, the Assistant Town Manager, HR Director, and myself explored a schedule that would maintain the same hours of operation but create a 4-day work week schedule for employees by alternating if they had Mondays or Fridays off. Our evaluation concluded that departments would face challenges in meeting citizens’ expectations without hiring additional staff due to the small number of employees working in each office.
  - Like many municipalities across the State, our Town faces challenges in retaining and recruiting employees.Competitive wages and the demand for flexible workschedules, similar to those offered by the private sectorand other governmental agencies, are key factorscontributing to this challenge. This budget-neutral alternative schedule has already proven instrumental in recruiting and retaining high-quality employees.
- Little Free Libraries**
- Emily Wasley came to see me about the National English Honor Society spring service project

- for which the students came up with the idea of building and installing book libraries around town in the style of Little Free Libraries.
- They plan to do a district-wide fundraiser for materials, have the PHS shop class cut the materials, distribute the pieces to district art classrooms, have the students paint, then have our NEHS students build the libraries and install them in hot spots around Plainville. It’s possible the group could receive a low-to-no cost custom glass door for book libraries.
  - Emily was invited and will attend the meeting on Tuesdayto answer any questions you may have on the project.
  - There is an item under New Business to authorize the installation of the Little Libraries at Norton and Trumbull

## HAPPENINGS

Reported at the Town Council Meeting on February 20, 2024 -- Andy Cirioli, Assistant Town Manager

### PLAINVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY – BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAM

On February 28, 2024, at 7:00 PM, the Plainville Historical Society will present their Black History Month program featuring Plainville native Maurice Barboza who will be live via Zoom from the Washington D.C. area. This program will look at African American history from a national perspective but with local Plainville connections. Maurice will share the story about his Aunt Lena Santos Ferguson, who also grew up in Plainville, and her yearslong efforts to become a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. He will also talk about his leadership of the National Mall Liberty Fund which is working to establish a memorial dedicated to African Americans who contributed to the American Revolution.

The event takes place at the Historic Center on 29 Pierce Street. Advance registration is needed. Please email name, number of people, and phone number to plvhistorical@gmail.com.

**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).

- Wednesday, February 21st, at 6:00 pm, Jeffrey Fletcher from the Ruby & Calving Fletcher African American Museum will discuss and share a collection of artifacts that reflect turbulent times for Africans throughout American history.
- Wednesday, February 28th at 6:00 pm, the Library will show “The Social Dilemma.”This 2020 documentary film investigates the impact of social networking while techexperts warn users about the consequences of human dependence on social media. Noregistration needed.
- Thursday, February 29th at 6:00 pm, The Connecticut Museum of Culture andHistory will discuss Rosie the Riveter, the most iconic image of working womenduring World War II, and the impact she had on women in Connecticut. This programwas originally scheduled for January 16th but was postponed due to weather.

**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.

- Book Buds February Book: “The Mostly True Story of Tanner & Louise” by Colleen Oakley
- Friday, February 23, 2024 at 10:00 AM

Coffee & tea provided. Book available at the library main desk.

Members only.

- Pre-Diabetes and Diabetes Support Group and Education**
- Starting on Monday, February 26, 2024 from 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM
  - Monthly Monday Morning Meetings through June 24
  - Whether you are new to or have pre-diabetes or diabetes, if you would likeupdated information, tips, tricks, support, these sessions are for you. Sessionsare led by Betsy Gaudian MSN, RN-BC, RDN, CDCES
- Veterans Social Hour**
- Tuesday, February 27, 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.
- Grandparents Raising Grandchildren**
- Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 10:30 AM
  - Share resources, ideas, struggles, joys, and more with others who are raisingtheir grandchildren or other close relatives.
  - Game Day at The Plainville Senior Center Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 1:30 PM
- A fun filled afternoon of cornhole, ladder ball, and other activities.

**A message from the Registrars of Voters...**

Connecticut now has Early Voting. This applies to Primaries and Elections. This year we have a Presidential Preference Primary on Tuesday, April 2, 2024. Early voting dates will be March 26, 27, 28 and 30. The location is room 203 in the Municipal Center and early voting hours are 10 AM to 6 PM each day. Any registered Democrat or Republican voter is eligible to cast their ballot on one of those days prior to the Primary. If you are not a registered voter, you may register online or at the Municipal Center during regular office hours.

Early voting dates for the November 5, 2024 Presidential election are October 21 through November 3. Office hours will be 10 AM to 6 PM except for Tuesday October 29 and Thursday, October 31 when the hours each day will be from 9AM-8PM.

If you have any questions, please contact the Registrars.

Beth Gasparini...Republican  
Registrar.860-793-0221 ext 7162  
Email... gasparini@plainville-ct.gov

Susan Abram...Democrat Registrar...  
860-793-0221 ext 7161  
Email...abram@plainville-ct.gov

**SAVE THESE DATES**  
**March19...Middle School Referendum**  
... 6AM-8PM  
Plainville Fire House

**April 2...Presidential Preference**  
Primary...6AM-8PM  
All 4 voting districts

**April 30...Town Budget Vote**  
6AM-8PM  
Plainville Fire House

**\*\*August 13... Possible State, District or Municipal**  
**Primary**  
6AM-8PM... All 4 voting districts

**November 5...Presidential**  
Election  
6AM-8PM...All 4 voting districts

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## Women’s Club of New Britain Meeting in March

The Women's Club of New Britain will meet at 2:00 PM on Thursday, March 7, 2024. The meeting will be at the First Congregational Church, 830 Corbin Ave. New Britain, CT.

The name of the program is: " SENIOR FRAUD TIPS AND POLICE DOG"  
Are you worried about scams, fraud, cyber security? Come and hear an officer from New Britain Police Department speak on senior fraud and consumer protection issues.

Learn about protecting our personal information and our finances.A dog from the canine unit will accompany the officer. We will hear what an important role these dogs play in the police work.

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.

## St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Avon has a New Lead Pastor



St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Avon is pleased to announce their newly installed Lead Pastor, Rev. Dr. Brian Rajcok. Pastor Brian began ministry at St. Matthew in January 2019 as Associate Pastor. Then after serving as Interim Pastor for a year in 2022, he was officially called as Lead Pastor of St. Matthew in March of last year.

Recently Pastor Brian completed his Ph.D. in pastoral counseling, for which he wrote his dissertation on spiritually significant psychedelic experiences. Pastor Brian has an interest in mysticism, the study of consciousness, world religions, and the relationship between science and spirituality.

He understands the church's mission is to share the good news of Jesus Christ, promote the spiritual evolution of humanity, and manifest the kingdom of God in our personal lives and in our community. With his daily practice of centering prayer meditation, Pastor Brian strives to live in alignment with the divine and help others mature on the spiritual journey.

Since Pastor Brian's installment, St. Matthew’s congregation has enjoyed vibrant fellowship and growth under his leadership.

St Matthew Lutheran Church is located at 224 Lovely Street (RT 177), Avon, and serves a number of surrounding towns in the Farmington Valley and beyond. Visit [www.stmatthewavon.org](http://www.stmatthewavon.org) for more information about this Christian community.



## Cooley Attends Retired Teachers Legislative Breakfast at State Capitol



State Rep. Francis Cooley (R-Plainville) met with the Association of Retired Teachers of Connecticut (ARTC) at the State Capitol.

Cooley listened to retired teachers and discussed their 2024 legislative agenda.

ARTC advocated for House Bill 5010, An Act Concerning A State Subsidy For Retired Teachers' Health Insurance Benefits which restores the one-third state subsidy to retired teachers enrolled in the Teachers' Retirement Board Medicare supplement health insurance package.

Currently, Connecticut retired teachers have a choice between an Advantage plan and the Original Medicare Supplement through the Teachers Retirement Service (TRS) unfortunately because of the large disparity between cost of the two plans, many do not have a choice. Retired teachers are requesting a 1/3 state subsidy toward the full cost of each Teachers Retirement Board Medicare-based plan.

ARTC mentioned many teachers want to maintain the freedom of managing their own healthcare needs. Approximately, 4,500 teacher retirees are on the Original Medicare Supplement and pay the higher cost because that plan DOES NOT restrict their healthcare decisions. The Advantage plan might be less costly but puts medical decisions in the hands of insurance companies.

## 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](mailto:YourHolisticEvents@gmail.com) or visit <https://www.yourholisticevents.com/fairs-vendorspeaker-application/>

## Plainville AARP Chapter 4146 Meeting Schedule for March

Wednesday, March 20, 2024, 1 PM at Faith Bible Church Hall, 168 Unionville Ave, Plainville\*

Agenda: Business meeting, Health update, Raffles, Refreshments

Program: Information will be posted on our Facebook page by March 1. Search "AARP Plainville Chapter #4146"

Trips: Upcoming trips include Encore Casino March 27, 2024, A day on your own NYC April 10, and the Coastal Queen Cruise in Newport June 26, 2024. You can sign up at the meeting or contact Sharon directly at (860)712-2795 or [msmazzo@gmail.com](mailto:msmazzo@gmail.com) for more information.

We look forward to seeing everyone! Don’t forget donations for our Food Pantry & Fuel collection.

\*If Plainville schools are closed due to weather, our meeting is cancelled.

[plainvilleaarp4146@gmail.com](mailto:plainvilleaarp4146@gmail.com)

## Holistic Benefit EXPO

VFW Hall in Plainville  
March 3, 2024  
Sunday 12pm- 4pm

VFW Hall 7 Northwest Dr.  
(Off RT 10 on Farmington town line) Plainville, CT 06062

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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.

## Spravato® Therapy for Depression Offered at Wheeler’s Family Health & Wellness Centers in Hartford and Waterbury

The winter season, especially, underscores the persistent, sometimes serious challenges for individuals with depression. A new, highly effective treatment for depression, Spravato® therapy (esketamine), is available to adult patients through Wheeler’s Hartford and Waterbury Family Health & Wellness Centers. Caring, skilled teams work closely with individuals in a specially designed suite for patients receiving this treatment.

Spravato® (esketamine) is the first prescription nasal spray that is taken with an oral antidepressant to treat adults with treatment-resistant depression (TRD). This form of depression applies to patients struggling with major depressive disorder who have not responded adequately to two or more antidepressants. This treatment also is suitable for individuals with major depressive disorder who have suicidal thoughts.

“We are pleased to offer this safe, effective treatment to our patients who might not have otherwise had access,” said Sabrina Trocchi, PhD, MPA, president and chief executive officer, Wheeler. “Depression is a serious issue, but there is hope for individuals who are struggling.”

Individuals interested in an assessment for Spravato® therapy may contact their Wheeler health care provider or community provider to request a referral. Wheeler’s Waterbury community health center is located at 855 Lakewood Road, and its Hartford community health center is located at 43 Woodland Street.

Information is also available through Wheeler’s Navigation Center at 860.793.3500.

### WHEELER FAMILY HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTERS


Wheeler’s Family Health & Wellness Centers in Bristol, Hartford, New Britain, Plainville, and Waterbury are community health centers that provide medical and dental care for the whole family, as well as behavioral health care and referral and linkages to specialty services.

Wheeler's Health & Wellness Centers in Hartford, Bristol, and New Britain are funded in part by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an operating division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Wheeler is a Health Center Program grantee under 42 U.S.C. 254b and a deemed Public Health Service employee under 42 U.S.C. 233(g)-(n).

Medicaid, Medicare, and commercial health insurance welcome. No patient will be denied health care services due to an individual’s inability to pay for services.

Wheeler provides comprehensive solutions that address complex health issues, providing individuals, families, and communities with accessible, innovative care that encourages recovery, health, and growth at all stages of life. Our integrated approach to primary and behavioral health, education, and recovery creates measurable results, positive outcomes, and hopeful tomorrows for more than 60,000 individuals across Connecticut each year. Visit [WheelerHealth.org](http://WheelerHealth.org).



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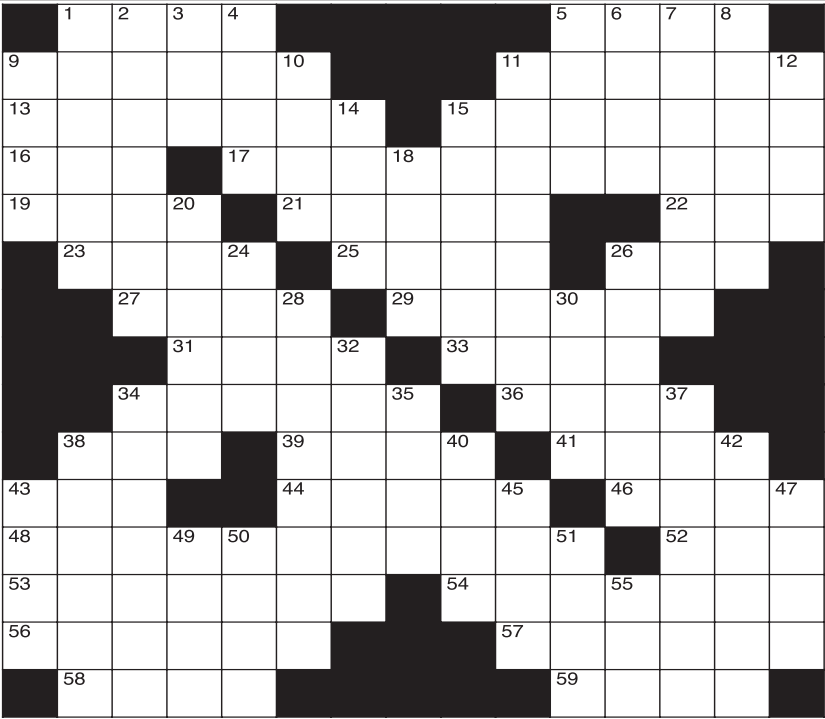
Flyers available with details.

Call the Senior Center to register for the meeting.

**YES / OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**

**Thinking About Starting A Business In Plainville?**  
*Always check with the Economic Development Commission*  
*For assistance Contact:*  
Cal Hauburger, Economic Development Director  
**Call 860-793-0221 Ext.7178**

Crossword



- CLUES ACROSS**  
1. CHAPS  
5. CURRENTLY FASHION-ABLE  
9. COLLISION  
11. MORE SLIM  
13. EUROPEAN CITY  
15. IMPLICITLY  
16. THE SIDE OF SOME-THING THAT IS SHELTERED FROM THE WIND  
17. THE MOUNT RUSHMORE STATE  
19. GOLD OR SILVER WIRE CORD  
21. MUSCLES ALONG INSECTS’ DIAPHRAGM  
22. TRENT REZNOR’S BAND  
23. SWEET JUICY GRITTY-TEXTURED FRUIT  
25. BROKEN BRANCH  
26. INDICATES TEN  
27. EXPRESSION OF ANNOY-ANCE  
29. BRINGS TOGETHER  
31. ANCIENT CITY IN THRACE  
33. SAILORS’ SPIRIT  
34. LOOKED INTO  
36. MUCKRAKING WOMAN
- CLUES DOWN**  
1. BASEBALL MANAGERS ASSEMBLE IT  
2. REVISED  
3. MOUNTAIN IS A POPU-LAR KIND  
4. TAKES TO CIVIL COURT  
5. POUCHES  
6. A TYPE OF VEIL  
7. CHANTS  
8. BOSTON HOOPSTER  
9. ELONGATED APPENDAGE
- JOURNALIST RHETA**  
38. A TYPE OF CAST  
39. ONE’S RESPONSIBILITY  
41. WHERE GOLFERS BEGIN  
43. MAKE A MISTAKE  
44. SEMITIC SUN GOD  
46. ANCIENT ITALIAN-GREEK COLONY  
48. BEHEADED  
52. A PLACE TO STAY  
53. UNWISE  
54. MOST SUPERNATURAL  
56. “DENNIS” IS A FAMOUS ONE  
57. OINTMENTS  
58. EXAM  
59. LEAKED BLOOD
- 10. SAILBOAT**  
11. 2017 OSCAR-WINNING FILM  
12. ACTOR GOSLING  
14. MONETARY UNITS  
15. ASSEMBLY  
18. RUSSIAN POP DUO  
20. EMBELLISHED WITH EXPRESSIONS  
24. INFREQUENT  
26. TEMPERATURE UNIT  
28. HYDROPHILIC AMINO ACID  
30. HONK  
32. LEGISLATIVE BODY  
34. SWINISH  
35. RUSSIAN ASSEMBLY  
37. TAKE OVER FOR  
38. PUT IN ADVANCE  
40. SATISFY  
42. FELT  
43. DUTCH CHEESE  
45. WITNESSES  
47. STRONG INSECTS  
49. GASTEYER AND DE ARMAS ARE TWO  
50. ANCIENT PEOPLE OF SCOTLAND  
51. CHEERLESS  
55. SICK

Answer on page 27

“HAPPY & HEALTHY

BIRTHDAY TO ALL!!”

MARCH

- 1ST  
3RD  
4TH  
  
5TH  
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11TH  
  
14TH  
15TH  
17TH  
18TH  
21ST  
22ND  
  
23RD  
26TH  
27TH  
  
29TH  
31ST
- QUINN CHRISTOPHER  
TAMMY LOMBARDO  
DALE NIGHTINGALE  
KEN THERIAULT  
BRUCE MORRIS  
PAUL MATTEO  
RICK STAUBLEY  
EVELYN STELMA  
MELINDA ROGERS  
BILL BRAYNE  
DUNCAN MAY  
DOREEN CORRIVEAU  
PATRICK BUDEN, SR  
BRIAN GLOWIAK  
MARK BELANGER  
JOHN HARDY  
DAN HURLEY  
  
NOLAN LOSTOCCO  
PATRICK BUDEN, JR.  
PAIGE DEROUSSE (MEMEA AND GRAMPY  
  
DAVID DUDEK  
DEB HARDY  
CLAIRE STUART  
ROBERT HESLIN  
JAMES WOERZ



\*\*\*\*\*

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NOTARY PUBLIC:  
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Phone 860-987-8705



# “Ask Sheila”

Q-1) My Spouse and I both have Medical Insurance with her employer. We are both 68, she planned to work until 70 but, has recently been diagnosed with cancer. We hope the treatments will not prohibit her from working, but if she needs to retire earlier than planned, will we be able to get Medicare coverage?

A-1) *I'm sorry to hear about your diagnosis. Yes, you will both be eligible to enroll in Medicare. You will also be able to select additional Insurance to help with medical costs. In CT, we have no pre-existing conditions, level premiums, guaranteed acceptance. So, when you decide to make the switch from Employer coverage to Medicare, you will be eligible for coverage.*

Q-2) I had Husky Healthcare until recently when I turned 65. Now I have a monthly Medicare Premium and am having a difficult time paying for my Prescriptions. Is there any assistance for lower income Seniors?

A-2) *Yes, there is assistance for lower income Seniors. It is called the Medicare Savings Plan. It is based only on your Income, and you must apply and be approved by the CT-DSS. The Website is portal.CT.Gov/DSS or you can call or visit the local DSS office in New Britain.*

Q-3) I switched Advantage Plans during the Annual Enrollment Period in November, and I'm not happy with my choice. Can I switch back to my previous plan?

A-3) *You have a one-time opportunity to change your Medicare Advantage Plan from Jan 1 through March 31 each year. This is the Open Enrollment Period (OEP). You can switch between Advantage Plans or go back to Original Medicare during this time period.*

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

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10 Waterside Dr., Suite 104  
Farmington, CT 06032  
Office: 860-676-0260 ext 296  
Cell: 860-965-0091  
SDow@AmericanSeniorBenefits.com  
Sheila Dow  
Independent Agent



## CANNABIS CONVERSATION

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

While Connecticut does not recognize anxiety as a qualifying condition for a medical marijuana card, the use of cannabis for anxiety is a topic of ongoing debate and research. Many report that cannabis can help alleviate symptoms of anxiety, while others may experience increased anxiety or paranoia from using cannabis.

As we’ve discussed previously, cannabis contains compounds called cannabinoids, including THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) and CBD (cannabidiol), which interact with the body's endocannabinoid system. THC is the more psychoactive compound and may promote feelings of relaxation and euphoria depending on dosage, individual sensitivity, terpene profile and the presence of other cannabinoids. Some research suggests that low doses of THC or balanced THC/CBD ratios may help reduce anxiety in certain individuals. However, consuming too much THC or using a strain that is more sativa-dominant may exacerbate anxiety and contribute to feelings of paranoia. CBD is thought to be a safer option when first starting out with cannabis medicine, as it is not impairing and

offers very subtle anxiolytic (anxiety-reducing) effects. CBD has shown promise in preliminary studies for reducing anxiety and modulating the effects of THC (reducing its’ impairing effects). It's essential for individuals considering using cannabis for anxiety to approach it cautiously and consult with a healthcare professional, especially if they have pre-existing mental health conditions or are taking other medications. Even CBD alone can interact with many commonly prescribed pharmaceuticals and over-the-counter meds. Additionally, using cannabis responsibly and in moderation, choosing appropriate strains and products, and being mindful of personal tolerance levels can help mitigate potential negative effects.

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.

### Crossword Answers

	M	A	D	E			P	L	A	P	
T	E	S	E	R	P		P	E	A	N	L
E	N	I	C	R	O		D	E	E	T	A
S	A	N	A		D		E	A	R	W	E
T	A	C	I	P			E	R	A	S	U
	E	N	I	S	O		R	E	A	S	O
		E	T	A	N		S	L	U	P	
			A	M	U		U	T	A	T	
	S	E	E	A	S		G	N	O	R	H
B	A	R	E	D		D	R	O	B	Y	D
L	A	L	I		E	O	O	T		A	C
E	V	E	I	E	E	R		S	D	E	K
D	E	S	N	E	S				N	O	T
	S	T	N	A					I	T	L
									N	A	Y



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## St. Paul Catholic High School Announces New Head Football Coach



St. Paul Catholic High School is pleased to announce Tony Mazzarella, a graduate of the St. Paul class of 1973, as the new head football coach. Tony brings a wealth of experience and a deep connection to the St. Paul Catholic High School community. As a proud alum,

Tony's return as the head football coach is a homecoming marked by a deep understanding of the school's values and traditions. His leadership, coupled with his extensive coaching background, is expected to inspire and guide the student-athletes towards achieving new heights both on and off the field.

His coaching career began in 1996 as an assistant coach at Southington High School, where he contributed to the team's success until 2005. Subsequently, he joined St. Paul Catholic High School as an assistant coach in 2005, under the direction of then head coach Jude Kelly, where Tony continued to make significant contributions to the development of student-athletes until 2022.

"We are thrilled to welcome Coach Tony Mazzarella back to St. Paul. His dedication to our school, combined with his proven coaching expertise, will undoubtedly have a positive impact

on our football program and the entire school community. We look forward to a successful and exciting chapter under his leadership" said Cary Dupont '72, President and Chief Administrator.

Tony expressed his enthusiasm about the opportunity, stating, "Returning to St. Paul Catholic High School as the head football coach is an honor and a privilege. I am excited to work with the talented student-athletes, and I am committed to fostering a culture of sportsmanship, discipline, and achievement. Together, we will strive for excellence both on and off the field. The entire St. Paul community extends its warmest welcome to Coach Tony Mazzarella and anticipates an exciting era for the Falcons' football program.

St. Paul Catholic High School, established in 1966, is a coeducational secondary school of the Archdiocese of Hartford, serving 400 students from over 30 communities in central Connecticut, China, South Korea and Vietnam. Our vision, to be a truly great Catholic high school, is achieved by living our core values of Faith, Character, Community, Excellence, and Service.



## Cooley Supports Additional Funding for Winter Energy Assistance Programs

State Rep. Francis Cooley (R-22) joined a bipartisan and unanimous vote by the House of Representatives in support of emergency legislation to spend \$13.5 million to meet surging demand in winter energy assistance programs.

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is the designated program to assist families with their annual heating costs.

"Many families in the 22nd District rely heavily on this energy assistance program and without sufficient funding, households of single parents, children, and even seniors will not have heat to make it through this winter season," said Rep. Cooley.

The legislation, Senate Bill 111, Rep. Cooley and the General Assembly supported today will designate \$10 million for the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program, the state's primary winter heating assistance service, and another \$3.5 million for Operation Fuel, a Hartford-based energy assistance nonprofit.

According to Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP), more than 70,280 households have been approved for benefits this winter through Jan. 27, according to the Connecticut Department of Social Services records. That's up 10% from last winter.



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Cub Scouts Create “Little Library”



The “Little Library” constructed by Plainville Cub Scout Pack 49 members located behind Linden Street School is installed and stocked with a plethora of elementary school aged children's books for all to enjoy. Pictured from left to right are: Joey Nieves, Jimmy Volinski, Easton Butkus and Owen Krzykowski - all members of Cub Scout Pack 49 in Plainville and students at Louis Toffolon Elementary School.

Linden Street School Kindergarten Classes Host Teddy Bear Picnic



On January 31st, the Linden Street School Kindergarten classes held their annual Teddy Bear Picnic! Throughout the month of January, the students read bear books and learned all about bears. To celebrate the end of "Janubuary", they invited their teddy bears into their classrooms for the day! The students wrote all about their bears, measured and compared their bears' sizes, and enjoyed a bear picnic during snack time.

MARCH DAYS TO REMEMBER

15TH Professional Development Day (no students)

29TH Good Friday



PHS STUDENT NAMED TO CT ALL STATE CHOIR

Plainville High School junior Audrey Vandermark successfully auditioned for the Connecticut Music Education Association's All State Choir. Every year nearly one thousand students from around the state audition to be a part of this prestigious ensemble. Audrey will join with singers from across the state rehearsing on April 4, 5, and 6th at the Connecticut Convention Center. After three days of rehearsals, workshops, and concerts, the group will present their work in a culminating concert event. This concert is at the highest level of performance for high school students and a premier event in the state of Connecticut.

MSP VEX Robotics Team Competes at Challenge



In photo: (From left to Right) Siamion Kasabrukhou, Raman Kasabrukhou, Advisor Camille Westfall, Ansh Patel, and Evan Rodriguez

The Middle School of Plainville VEX Robotics teams continue to be successful in competition. At their latest event, held at East Catholic High School on February 3rd, team members Raman and Siamion Kasabrukhou received the Vex Robotics Win for Excellence Award, Teamwork Champions Award and Robot Skills Championship Award with a score of 126. Team members Evan Rodriguez and Ansh Patel scored a first place win for the Design Award and Teamwork Champions Award! Evan and Ansh also placed second in the Robot Skills category with a score of 100. The Middle School of Plainville VEX Robotics Program is led by Advisor Camille Westfall.

Linden Street School Celebrates “World Read Aloud Day”



The Linden Street School community celebrated “World Read Aloud Day “ on February 7th. The school event was coordinated by Instructional Technology Teacher, Jessica Hartung, and featured guest readers who shared books and a visit with Linden classes. In photos: 1. Plainville Community Schools Office Professional Sue McGough shares a book with second graders in Melissa Dodenhoff's class at Linden 2. Plainville Community Schools Director of Special Services, Vicki Trzcinski, gathers with students in Michaela Welch's preschool class at Linden on World Read Aloud Day

Plainville High School Choral Director, Todd Helming, has received a \$2,500 Grant to Support Access to Live Arts Performances for Students

The grant was made possible with the support of the State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development Office of the Arts, which also receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. Last year, Helming discovered that less than 5% of students in the school choirs had been to a live musical theater performance. As a result of that finding, he completed the grant application through the State of Connecticut, and ultimately received the grant award. “We will be combining the grant funding with our own fundraising efforts to take the entire Plainville High School Chamber Choir to see a performance of WICKED at the Bushnell in April,” explained Helming. “Students will be learning about the story of the Wizard of OZ and viewing the 1939 movie in preparation for this performance. After, students will reflect on both the musical and on the experience of attending live theater.” “We are so proud of our Fine Arts and Music Departments at PHS. The opportunities Mr. Helming and the rest of our staff offer our students are valuable beyond words. This is another great example of the rich experiences our students are exposed to in Plainville,” said Plainville High School Principal, Jennifer DeLorenzo.





Music Comes to Plainville Schools



Plainville Community Schools' Elementary Music Department welcomed families of students in kindergarten, first grade, and second grade to spend music class with their students at Linden, Toffolon and Wheeler schools, as part of "Music in our Schools Week", February 26 - March 1. Families observed a regular music lesson highlighting student learning, student musicianship, and music literacy, and participated in musical activities with their students. March is designated National Music in our Schools Month by the National Association for Music Education (NAfME), and via their website: "The purpose of Music In Our Schools Month is to raise awareness of the importance of music education for all children – and to remind citizens that school is where all children should have access to music."

Wheeler School Celebrates "Read Across America"



The Frank T. Wheeler Elementary School community celebrated "Read Across America Day" on March 1st. The festivities included guest readers, parent readers, favorite book door decorating, dress like your favorite book character, Stop, Drop and Read, and more! In addition, Superior Court Judge Barry Armata visited Wheeler to read to fifth grade students

MSP Students "Chase The Chill"



The Middle School of Plainville's Health Teachers, Melanie Olmstead and Melissa Patterson, in collaboration with K.I.M. (Kids in the Middle) program participants, organized the "Chase The Chill" clothing drive once again this year. The group collected new and gently used winter scarves, gloves, hats, mittens and coats through January 24th, and then distributed the items in local places for those who are homeless or seeking additional warmth. With the support of the Plainville Senior Center's "Dial-A-Ride" bus and driver Ed Maskowsky, K.I.M. program student members Ali Saucier, Abigail Daniel, Lillyana Grant, Riley Olsen, Amari Robinson, Emma Melanson, Ian Bernier, and Khloe Figueroa, together with facilitators Dayna Snell and Ashley Buccelli, spread the items throughout local parks, bus stops, benches and the public library, with an attached note inviting individuals to take the items for their own use. Chase the Chill is practiced throughout the United States in support of homeless and displaced families.



Brianne Bergenty is the "Teacher of the Year" at Smalley Academy in New Britain. Brianne attended Plainville schools and teaches 3rd Grade in New Britain. She is shown with her parents ,John and Elise her children Vincent, Harley, Sydney and Vinny Pugliese

Plainville Resident Named Teacher of the Year in New Britain

Wheeler Students Visit CT Historical Society



Frank T. Wheeler Elementary School fourth graders recently visited the Connecticut Historical Society. During the visit, students participated in hands-on activities to introduce stories of moving to Connecticut. The students worked in teams to examine artifacts and documents from "immigration trunks" and uncovered many different family stories about moving to Connecticut. In the Making Connections exhibition, students tried out the kinds of jobs held by immigrant groups who arrived in Connecticut in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Plainville Schools Host "Mentor Fun Night"

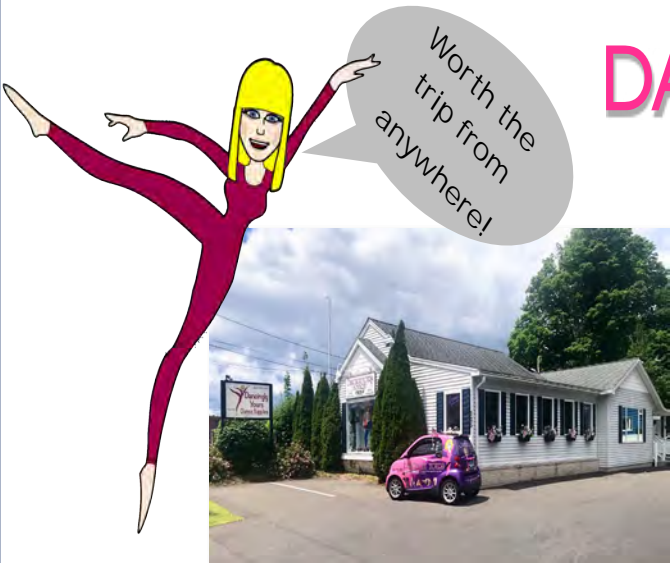


Plainville Community Schools' volunteer mentors and their student mentees enjoyed an evening of fun, games and even caricatures at the district's annual "Mentor Fun Night" event held at Plainville High School on February 28th! Volunteer Coordinator Sue Bradley hosted the event, which provides an opportunity for mentors and mentees to gather for a collaborative event outside of the school day.

Linden School Celebrates Literacy



State Representative Francis Cooley



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Linden Street School celebrates literacy every day! Recently engaging in a week-long "Seussical" celebration of reading and writing, with themed dress up days, special guest readers, and fun filled reading challenges, Linden students beat their school-wide nightly reading goal in only three days! Students read a total of 50,213 pages at home, surpassing their goal and celebrating with a schoolwide conga line.





PLAINVILLE HIGH SCHOOL QUARTER 2 HONOR ROLL

CONGRATS!!!

GREAT JOB PHS

PLAINVILLE HIGH SCHOOL QUARTER 2 HONOR ROLL GRADE 12 GOLD

Tara Adamo, Sebastian Banas, Lindsay Barbagallo, Alex Brzostek, Nicole Caruso, Gavin Cooke, Alexis Graff, Brianna Gridley, Victoria Hamel, Tamra Ibitz, Sydney Kalisz, Daria Krzanicki, Shane McCormick, Cassiane Montanez, Zeel Patel, Gianna Rodriguez, Liliana Ruffini, Rileigh Ruot, Matthew Schnauer.

PLAINVILLE HIGH SCHOOL QUARTER 2 HONOR ROLL GRADE 12 SILVER

Mikayla Jo Ayers, Ayomikun Ayodele, Shayna Bedell, Cohen Blake, Lucy Callender, Juliana Carlina, Diana Castillo, Ariana Clifford, Matthew Collado, Cadence Collin-Lavoie, Emma DiTolla, Michael Fagan, Marissa Freitas, Penley Giola, Chase Gray, Adam Jodlowski, Eryk Kapusta, Valiantsin Kasabrukhaus, Jacob Kazimierczak, Sonia Konaktchiev, Teresa Lopez, Oliwia Marecik, Seth Marquez, Julianna Matos, Jamison McGinnis, Madyson Miller, Lola Molloy, Alan Piotrowski, Brianna Roy, Amelia Sarra, Eric Siani, Elisabeth Suchojad, Roman Suddenko, Jayden Sullca, Daniel Szarwacki, Emily Tuczapski, Brayden Unwin, Jeffrey Wasielewski, Destiny-Rose Wasilonsky, Zoe Weimer, Nikole Zaniewski.

PLAINVILLE HIGH SCHOOL QUARTER 2 HONOR ROLL GRADE 12 BRONZE

Joel Appiah, Bella Apruzzese, Molly Barrett, Ella Bravado, Jacob Casale, Richard Chu, Dominic Ciriello, Diana Czereba, Leonardo Di Poppa, Rachel Diaz, Sean Gillis, Lucas Grafton, Tamara Greene, Jared Greenlee, Timothy Haas, Jacob Hallin, Kailani Harris, Gyanni Hayes, Andrea Jurado, Amanda Linnhoff, Teresa Lopez, Julia Maksymiw, Dylan Matthews, Elias McGhee, Chase McNamara, Daniellyz Rodriguez, Atlas Rodriguez-Ayala, Natalia Rollo, Veronica Sakowski, Samantha Shumbo, Katerina Soto, Olaf Talar, Johnathan Tata, Joseph Vasquez, Mariah Velasquez, Zachary Wyman Shumbo, Katerina Soto, Olaf Talar, Johnathan Tata, Joseph Vasquez, Mariah Velasquez, Zachary Wyman.

PLAINVILLE HIGH SCHOOL QUARTER 2 HONOR ROLL GRADE 11 GOLD

Wynter Alexander, Maryssa Bakaysa, Peter Bocompani, Sofia Bocompani, Ethan Chasse, Nikolas Dahlstrom, Jack Ericksen, Daniel Lacaille, Landon Motta, Gabriela Mroczek, Ilsa Noor, Kaitlyn Parsons, Juliana Radziejewicz, Katy Nakyatou Sangare-Sidime.

PLAINVILLE HIGH SCHOOL QUARTER 2 HONOR ROLL GRADE 11 SILVER

Melak Al rubaye, Dani Alff, Hailey Andersen, Conner Beausoleil, Abigail Belliveau, Aliveah Benn, Greyson Borra, Phillippe Brochu, Madison Carreras, Yuki Chen, Matthew Corriveau, Lauren Danko, Sabra Dewar, Veronica Dropa, Nathan Dudzic, Oscar Frejlich, Evan Giannini, Grace Gibson, Szymon Halas, Gabriel Healy, Matthew Hitchcock, Paige Iwanicki, Charles Lasko, Hailey Levesque, Gerardo Lopez Cruz, Christian Marfia, Alana McGinnis, Tyler McGraw, Spencer Meucci, Marissa Miller, Hayley Montana, John Morby, Theodore Orzol, Maya Polkowski, Bartlomiej Powala, Sofia Ricciardiello, Andrew Rodriguez, Christine Joy Rosario, Ashley Roy, Rebecca Rustico, Kaylynn Sayachak, Mileigh Saysana, Olivia Shea, Nijaz Srdanovic, Maryla Srebrna, Avery Verastro, Samuel Willequer.

PLAINVILLE HIGH SCHOOL QUARTER 2 HONOR ROLL GRADE 11 BRONZE

Dominick Abarno, Yamilka Ayala Ortiz, Eli Benoit, Jacob Boucher, Jayden Castro, Tamia Chapman, Nathaniel Cranson, Adriana Cruz-Vasquez, Alicia Darmoros, Gianna Fiordellisi, Ryan Fontaine, Grace Geddes, Brian Grabowski, Maja Grabowski, Paige Graff, Alannah Greenlee, Charlie Hall, Charles Hills, Valeria Juarez, Shaelyn Kay, Hunter Krystock, Krystian Lech, Sophia Leonetti, Brittany Markavich, Jack McDermott, Zoe Monero, Emily Monzillo, Jacob Morneault, Natalie Newton, Victoria Nicewicz, Maia Nocera, Pedro Ortiz, Nathan Passalugo, Daniela Ponce, Elijah Ramsey, Jack Ross, Aingeala Sanchez, Igor Silva Paraguaio Gomes, Brady Wieczorek.

PLAINVILLE HIGH SCHOOL QUARTER 2 HONOR ROLL GRADE 10 GOLD

Worla Amoa, Ayoifeoluwa Ayodele, Cyriah Bernard, Madison Brooke, Max Brzostek, Angelina Ciriello, Andrea Daley, Isabella Daley, Michael Daniel, Spencer Davenport, Arjeta Doroci, Nash Giola, Melanie Maca, Riley Marquez, Emma Muldoon, Lorenzo Perez, Emma Porteus, Jadalyse Serrano.

PLAINVILLE HIGH SCHOOL QUARTER 2 HONOR ROLL GRADE 10 SILVER

Brianna Ballinger, Aiden Benn, Iman Bilal, Sadie Brann, Jakada Bullock, Brianna Carey, Joshua Carlina, Sean Carney, Meghan Clarke, Mekhi Coleman, Ciarra Collin, Sofia Corvello, Mckenzie Coyne, Rebecca Curtis, Ashlynn Egan, Hailey Feltt, Lily Gogola, Cassidy Grondin, Dylan Haas, Mia Huppenbauer, Evelyn Jimenez, Mya Juarez-Hernandez, Daniel Kane, Chase Kay, Ayesha Khan, Zuzanna Kordek, Brooke Krupa, Emilia Krzysztorefek, Emma Libby, Maciej Maslak, Tomasz Maslak, Alyse Mocarsky, Rori Musshorn, Mia Palaia, Jeremy Rivera, Christopher Rollo, Olivia Rossi, Iliyan Sakalou, Addison Schneider, Julian Steward, Nicholas Tuczapski, Paige Weimer.

PLAINVILLE HIGH SCHOOL QUARTER 2 HONOR ROLL GRADE 10 BRONZE

Chelsea Appiah, Emily Blake, Tomasz Buganski, Olivia Carter, Owen Clark, Donald Davidson, Yanitza Diaz, Donjeta Doroci, Karin DOUNG, Dominic Drumski, Matthew Galvez, Angel Garcia-Lugo, Ashlyn Gillis, Christian Giuliano, Jade Gustafson, Fernando Hernandez, Kayla Herrick, Aidan Hidalgo, Kevin Jodlowski, Cole Jones, Marcel Kucharski, Carrigan Mack, Jacob Mandeville, Jacob Moore, Brian Mumford, Maryssa Nieves, Xavier Orzol, Jezmariah Paladino, Audra Pearson, Alison Pham, Peyton Plourde, Brianna Pooler, Zoey Putnam, Janiyah Rivera, Mason Rogers, Mia Rosario Andaluz, Jasmine Ryan, Rebecca Savage, Gianna Soli, Matthew Stankoski, Luke Stevens, Jonathan Torres Santiago, Dayanara Vann, Joniel Vega-Pagan, Christopher Wright, Daniel Zajackowski, Mario Zambrano

PLAINVILLE HIGH SCHOOL QUARTER 2 HONOR ROLL GRADE 9 GOLD

Joseph Chase, Nolan Cooke, Hayden Cooney, Victoria Grodzicki, Luis Hysenllari, Bennett Kochosky, Misha Kovac, Kaitlyn Landry, Cynthia McDermott, Colin Murphy, Darren Paznokas, Matthew Polkowski, London Porter, Anna Radziejewicz, Andy Rodriguez, Filip Szymczyk, Sofia Valenti

PLAINVILLE HIGH SCHOOL QUARTER 2 HONOR ROLL GRADE 9 SILVER

Gavin Albair, Anthony Anderson, Jalenah Blake, Meghan Brochu, Savannah Cabrera-Arocho, Luis Calle, Noah Campbell, Mason Colitti, Kaitlyn Dahlstrom, Harley Danton, Annie DiMinno, Tucker Gray, Blake Grunwald, Xavier Hairston, Jason Iwanicki, Kaya Kaniecki, Piper Krystock, Jacob LeGeyt, Alexander Leka, Brandon Lopresti, Emily Makhijani, Kayleigh Matos, Jett Maynard, Evangeline Molloy, Zaphyr Musshorn, Samuel Ricciardiello, Ella Shea, Mongkhon Siboriboun, Olivia Sprano, Cassidy Torchon, Aaron Urso, Jack Wilder, Kyle Wright, Addison Wyman, Mikolaj Zajackowski

PLAINVILLE HIGH SCHOOL QUARTER 2 HONOR ROLL GRADE 9 BRONZE

Mykal Bastian, Chase Beausoleil, Liliana Brachle, Kenisha Cayones, Samuel Chacon Gonzalez, Sasha Coronel, Alexis Cumbo, Zainayla Elliott, Jordyn Gustafson, Donovan Hall, Kyle Harris, Samuel Hormoz, Emily Jaszczur, Anela Keranovic, Olivia Leonetti, Keith Lockwood, Isabella McKenzie, Arayah Meehan, Tessa Monte, Savannah Olmo, Semaj Palmer, Caylee Phelps, Autumn Pilgrim, Faith Posner, Lilia Rodriguez, Sofia Ruiz, Filip Talar, Addison Valentine, Dylan Waugh, Lillian Wieczorek.



~Planville Historical Society~

www.planvillehistoricalsociety.com e-mail: plvhistorical@gmail.com

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Celebrating Black History Month:  
An evening with  
Maurice Barboza

As we got ready for this issue of The Hometown Connection to go to press, we were also getting ready for our February 28th Black History Month program featuring Plainville native Maurice Barboza. Maurice went to Plainville schools (PHS Class of 1964), CCSU, and Rutgers Law School. He now lives in the Washington D.C. area.

Inspired by family stories while growing up in Plainville, Maurice Barboza has not only uncovered the historical roles of African Americans but has also worked to have our nation recognize and honor this heritage. There are two initiatives in particular that Maurice was preparing to share. They both reflect African American history from a national perspective but with local connections.

The first story is that of helping his Aunt Lena Santos Ferguson, who also grew up in Plainville, to finally be admitted to the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). The other initiative is his work leading the National Mall Liberty Fund, a nonprofit working to establish a memorial to African Americans who contributed to the American Revolution.



Lena Santos Ferguson and Maurice Barboza are shown here in 1984, the year in which Lena was admitted to the DAR

Excerpt from Frank Lenny Bowman’s Book  
“Harvesting My Memories”

Let’s go back in time. I am Lenny Bowman, age 9, living at the corner of Park and Maple streets. It’s mid-afternoon on September 21, 1938. My mother Agnes and my father Frank are upstairs in our apartment with my brother Dick, age 7 and my brother Bob, age 3. As predicted the day has been overcast and it is now raining with a slight wind. I am lying on my bed listening to the rain on the metal roof, thinking of taking a nap. The wind is blowing faster and the sound of the rain is growing stronger, I consider it normal for a rainstorm.

Suddenly I became alarmed as the rain slammed against the windowpanes and the window began to rattle. Then came the first tree to fall, the sound is frightening and the house began shaking. It frightened me so much I did not know what to do or where to go. I could hear my mother screaming and my brother crying in the bedroom at the other end of the house. Then I heard some frantic praying. My father tried to calm them down but the sobbing continued. I thought about the huge tree only thirty feet from my bedroom window and did what any 9 year old would do, I hid under the bed. The howling of the wind and the loud crash of the falling trees continued for more than a half hour. When the wind slowed down, I joined the family and found everyone doing fine, but shaken up. We were happy to find the house not damaged.

When the rain stopped, we went out and found some flooding and water-soaked branches everywhere. The shock came when we saw most of the 50 or 60 huge maple trees that lined both sides of Park and Maple streets, laying down crisscrossed, blocking the roads. None of the huge 3 foot diameter trees fell on any of the houses. All of the trees came out by their roots and many of them had slabs of concrete sidewalks lying on top of their roots. We were happy that none of our neighbors had major house damage. Not everyone would be so lucky. Hundreds of people were killed and hundreds were injured. River towns were under water and many inland people were evacuated from their homes. We were unaware of the storm because we did not have an effective early warning system in place. The death toll in Connecticut is 564.

By Frank Lenny Bowman from his book Harvesting my Memories. Used with permission. The book is available at the Historic Center.



Downed tree on Maple Street September 21, 1938



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### Connecticut Women in Sports

Join us Saturday March 23rd for a new “Women in Sports” program presented by the Connecticut Women’s Hall of Fame. Louisa Iacurci from CWHF will talk about the history of women’s sports and highlight nine amazing women from here in Connecticut.

Program will start at 2 PM but doors open at 1:15 PM to have time for attendees to see a display of items related to our own Plainville women in sports!

Advance registration is needed.  
Email [plvhistorical@gmail.com](mailto:plvhistorical@gmail.com) with name, number of people, and phone number.

**30<sup>TH</sup>** CONNECTICUT WOMEN’S HALL OF FAME ANNIVERSARY

*March is National Women’s History Month*

“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn’t pass it on to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same.”

Ronald Reagan



# HAPPENINGS AT PLAINVILLE SENIOR CENTER ~ MARCH

**INCOME TAX PREPARATION AT THE PLAINVILLE SENIOR CENTER**  
TUESDAYS through April 9 AND Fridays through April 12  
A free program that provides income tax preparation assistance by certified volunteer tax counselors for low to moderate income taxpayers. Please note that you must pick up a package prior to your appointment date at the Plainville Senior Center. This package of forms **MUST** be completed & brought with you to your initial appointment. Failure to present a completed package of forms will cause you to forfeit your appointment.

**TULIPS & WINDMILLS TRIP MEETING**  
FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 9:30 AM Video and discussion. Plan ahead for 3/28—4/7, 2025 Trip.  
One of the premiere trips that Viking River Cruises does each year is a 9-night cruise of the Netherlands and Belgium. Friendship Tours is offering a fully escorted (CT to CT) trip that fills a year in advance each time it is offered. Please call to sign up & let us know you will attend the discussion. Flyers available at the Senior Center.

**CAREGIVING CONNECTIONS**  
TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 10:00 AM  
Join your caring friends at the Senior Center as we support one another on our journeys & recognize the challenges & frustrations of 24/7 caregiving. You must register to attend by calling the Senior Center.

**CHINESE NEW YEAR BUFFET LUNCHEON**  
TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 12:00 PM COST: \$15.00  
Please register and pay at the Senior Center.  
2024 Is the year of the Dragon– The Dragon symbolizes power, nobleness, honor, luck, and success in traditional Chinese culture. Let’s celebrate the year of the dragon with a delightful Chinese Buffet lunch  
featuring lots of favorite dishes including Beef with Broccoli, Vegetable Lo Mein, General Tso’s Chicken, Shrimp with Lobster Sauce and more.

**LINE DANCING TRIAL CLASS—FREE**  
THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 1:30 PM—2:30 PM  
Here’s a new class for the new year. Limber up and energize as you learn the basics of line dancing with our experienced instructor, Jim Gregory. You can waltz without a partner. You can country line dance without a honky-tonk bar. Rock and roll, disco and Latin rhythms can work for you as well. So, enjoy each hour with a group of fun loving senior dance students. Sign up for this free trial class and if we have enough interest, we will add this as a regular weekly class.

**ST. PATRICK AND BUZZARDS DUAL EVENT**  
**MARCH 15, 10:30 AM Cost: FREE**  
Join us as we celebrate the Buzzards returning to Hinckley, Ohio, the Ides o’ March, St. Urho’s Day and St. Patrick’s Day all in one morning. Compete in the Buzzard Olympics—Pin the Tail on the Buzzard, Buzzard Trivia and the Best Buzzard Imitation Contest for valuable Buzzard prizes! Most Snazzily Dressed Leprechaun Contest. We welcome members to contend in the exciting “best-dressed leprechaun challenge” to win a ‘pot of gold’ (gold chocolate coins in a pot). Tell a Grasshopper or Frog story in honor of St. Urho. Enjoy delectable green treats and an Irish and Buzzard sing along.

**EASTER & SPRING CARD CLASS**  
**MONDAY, MARCH 18, 1:30 PM COST: \$4.00**  
INSTRUCTOR: DIANE SPERRY  
Join us as we get ready for Springtime and Easter by creating 4 (four) of your own personalized cards. All supplies are included.

**HELP FOR VETERANS**  
**TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 10:00 AM—**  
**BY APPOINTMENT**  
Our Veterans Service Officer, CT Department of Veteran’s Affairs, Jason Coppola, will be at the Senior Center at 10:00 AM **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**. To schedule an appointment, call Jason at 203-805-6340.

**GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN**  
**TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 10:30 AM**  
If you are a grandparent or relative who is raising a grandchild, niece or nephew, you are not alone. Come to the support group at the Senior Center and share resources, ideas, struggles, joys and more with others who are raising their grandchildren. Funding for this program is made possible in part by the Older Americans Act through the North Central Area Agency on Aging. You must register to attend. Call the Senior Center or register online at [www.schedulesplus.com/plainville](http://www.schedulesplus.com/plainville)

**SNAPPY SENIORS PHOTOGRAPHY**  
**THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 10:00 AM**  
Snappy Senior Photography will be matting their 8X10 photos for the group’s upcoming exhibit at the Plainville Public Library. Experienced exhibitors will be helping newer members with their matted prints. Also, the exhibit will take place at the Plainville Public Library from Monday, April 1 to Friday, April 19; with a public opening reception on Wednesday, April 3 at 4:00 pm. Reservations are not needed for the opening reception at the Library. New members are always welcome to join. To register and for more information, call the Senior Center at 860-7474-5728.

**MOVIE MATINEE: “THE BOYS IN THE BOAT”**  
**THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2:00 PM COST: FREE**  
During the height of the Great Depression, members of the rowing team at the University of Washington get thrust into the spotlight as they compete for gold at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Germany. The Boys in the Boat is a true story based on the struggles and sacrifices made by the University of Washington rowing team.

**MEMORY CAFÉ AT THE SENIOR CENTER - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
**THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 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. Memory Café is a social gathering with a safe, supportive, and engaging environment that gives everyone a place to make new friends and interact with other. Enjoy appropriate activities such as crafts, games, music and conversation. Memory Café, which meets monthly, is free and welcome to all. For more information about Memory Café or to sign up, please contact Karen Pagliaro, Stephanie Soucy or Victoria Nadolski at the Senior Center. This program is funded in part by Title III of the Older Americans Act through the North Central Area Agency on Aging, Inc. & the CT State Unit on Aging.

**BOOK BUDS MARCH BOOK: “THE BRIGHTEST STAR” by Gail Tsukiyama**  
FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 10:00 AM COST: FREE!  
INSTRUCTOR: KATHLEEN MARSAN  
A historical novel based on the life of Anna May Wong, the first and only Asian American woman to gain movie stardom in the early days of Hollywood. Known for films such as Daughter of the Dragon, Shanghai Express and The Good Earth. She fought diligently to have the film industry portray Chinese and Chinese Americans in a positive light. Join us for an excellent book club discussion!  
This group is unique in that a person is not required to attend every month, if the book of the month appeals to you, be sure to sign up as seating is limited (we keep the group small and comfortable). The book is held specifically for the group at the Plainville library and is available as an e-book if you prefer.

**SPRING HAS SPRUNG BIRD FEEDER CRAFT**  
**MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2:00 PM COST: \$5.00**  
Instructor: Donna Wolicki  
Join us in making a homemade Orange Bird Feeder for your home or yard. Bird feeders offer a fun & entertaining way to observe birds & connect with nature. They also supplement the natural food sources available for birds. All supplies included.

**PRE-DIABETES & DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP & EDUCATION**  
MONDAY, MARCH 25—Monitoring + CGMs  
Monthly Monday Morning Meetings @ 10:00 AM—11:00 AM FREE—Sign up required  
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! By: Betsy Gaudian MSN, RN-BC, RDN, CDCES  
Other Meetings:  
April 29—Medications and All That Jazz (BP & Cholesterol)  
May 20—How to Cope, Emotions, Problem Solving  
June 24—Exercise, Open Forum, Resources, Show + Tell

**VETERANS’ SOCIAL HOUR:**  
**TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 10:00 AM**  
These monthly information and support meetings are conducted by Sherri Vogt, Veteran’s Liaison for Hartford HealthCare Senior Services. **FOR ALL VETERANS OVER 60 AND THEIR SPOUSES.** Call the Senior Center at (860)747-5728 to register.

**MOVE YOUR MIND**  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2:00 PM**  
Join our presenters from Arbor Rose for an interactive, fun presentation by our experts on the latest trends in Healthy Eating—MIND Diet, Free Balance Screening, Information and Recommendations for Staying Active, and MOVING! Participants will receive healthy recipes, samples of food made, and a Good Life Fitness Gift Certificate. Refreshments will be provided.



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FACTS ABOUT OUR LADY OF MERCY ~ PART 2 ~ COURTESY OF GEORGE FENSICK



Photo courtesy of Plainville Historical Society

Shown here is the original OLM church that was built and formally dedicated on September 20th in 1882. It was located on the corner of Broad St. and Piece St. There is a white house now at that location. Per a newspaper article “The cost to build (the church) was about \$13,000. A parochial residence was built and cemetery purchased, making the present valuation of the church property about \$20,000.”

An October 12th, 1887 article in the newspaper read: “Repairs on the Roman Catholic Church, which was damaged by lightning, are now finished. The staging around the spire was taken down on Saturday.”

According to a March 28th, 1938 article in the newspaper, extensive changes were made to the front vestibule of the church as you can note in the above picture on the left. The article read, “Preliminary work was started on necessary improvements to the front vestibule of the church....

whereby there will be three entrances or exits instead of one.” In addition a new entrance will be constructed on the west side of the edifice leading to the church hall. The new entrances will be an advantage not only from a safety standpoint but will avoid confusion before and after largely attended services.”



Photos courtesy of Plainville Historical Society

Looking at the picture on the right, on the previous page, you can see the church lost its’ steeple somewhere along the way. I have not been able to find any information as to why. My only guess it had weather or structural issue and was removed and not rebuilt. This has happened to other churches. Notice the cross atop the old church. It now hangs in the gathering space of our church along with the corner stone. (If any long time members of our church know why the steeple was removed please let me know.)



Wedding photos courtesy of Susan(Fangiullo)Varano, Daughter

The previous two pictures show a wedding taking place in the old church on June 23th, 1956. The wedding is of Catherine Procko and George Fangiullo. The Maid of Honor was Virginia Kowalski and the Best Man was George Procko. Jr. Brides Maids were Kathy and Sandra Procko. Rev. Gerald T. Corrigan officiated.

As you can see it was a beautiful church inside with a very ornate altar. Note the overhead lamps hanging from the ceiling. You can find some of these lamps now hanging in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel and the Marian Chapel of our church. Also, in the second picture can you see the pushbuttons on the back of the pews? Can you remember what those were for?

During the celebration of our church this month please notice the cross in front of the altar. The cross came from the old church. It was obtained when items from the old church were sold prior to it’s demolition. It was obtained by Pat and Raymond Roy who donated it back to us last year. You may have noticed it last year during our 140th anniversary.

**NOTE:** I hope you have enjoyed a little of the history of our Parish. Efforts were made to get the history as accurate as possible and it has been derived from several sources. At times there were conflicts on exact dates but were always close to each other. If anyone has a correction to any dates or events please contact us through the parish office and let us know so it can be corrected.

Thank you. George Fensick.

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## Cooley, CT House and Senate Republicans Offer Ideas to Provide Ratepayers Relief on Electric Bills



CT House and Senate Republicans Offer Ideas to Provide Ratepayers Relief on Electric Bills

With sharp electric rate hikes at Connecticut's doorstep, State Rep. Francis Cooley (R-22) along with his Connecticut House and Senate Republicans today unveiled a set of policy goals which aim to bring about long-term rate reduction, long-term stability, and short-term relief for consumers.

"Connecticut electric ratepayers should not be forced to pay for yet another rate hike because the governor and state regulators do not have the best interest of the public and instead are pushing forward with bad public policy on energy," said Rep. Cooley.

### The Republicans are proposing to:

1. limit all future Power Purchase Agreements so that no contract can be for more than 100% over the wholesale electric market price
2. provide relief to ratepayers by using unspent ARPA money to pay down the portion of the proposed Revenue Adjustment Mechanism adjustment that is attributed to arrearages as a result of the shut off moratorium
3. redefine Class I renewable energy sources to include all forms of hydropower and all nuclear power to lower the cost of these energy sources and bring relief for ratepayers
4. separate the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA)
5. study ways to increase natural gas supply in the New England region
6. study moving public policy charges off of ratepayer bills and into the budget

## The Plainville Board of Education is seeking nominations for the Memorial Wall of Honor

The Memorial Wall of Honor is a permanent tribute to honor individuals who have contributed significant volunteer service to the educational community.

According to the school district policy regarding recognition of meritorious services to education through the Memorial Wall of Honor, individuals selected must meet the following criteria: 20 or more years of significant educational community service contributions, sustained the quality of life or had a positive impact on the lives of Plainville students, created opportunities for students through new facilities or programs, must be a Plainville resident during the time the nominee provided educational community service, has not been previously honored by other actions of the town, such as facilities named in their honor or memorial, candidate must be deceased, and was a positive role model and exemplified high moral character.

Requests to nominate an individual to be recognized on the Memorial Wall of Honor must be made in writing on an approved nomination form. The form is available on the Plainville Community Schools' website, or via email by contacting Joan Calistro at: calistroj@plainvilleschools.org. Completed applications must be submitted by March 31, 2024.

A selection committee will review the nominations and submit a recommendation to the Board of Education, who will provide final approval. No more than three applications per year will be selected for recognition. Nominations not selected for Board consideration will remain in the file for one year without resubmission. An induction ceremony will take place at a later date.

For additional information about the Memorial Wall of Honor, please contact the Superintendent's Office at (860) 793-3210.



## March is Problem Gambling Awareness Month: Wheeler's Bettor Choice Gambling Treatment Program Offers Recovery, Hope

March is Problem Gambling Awareness Month, a time to acknowledge the challenges of problem gambling and remind individuals and families that hope and recovery are possible through Wheeler's Bettor Choice Gambling Treatment Program, funded by the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS).

"There are so many ways to gamble these days, whether it's through sports betting, online, or in-person, all of which increase an individual's chance for addiction, and at younger ages," said Katie Kirch, LCSW, ICGC-II, BACC, clinical supervisor, Wheeler's Bettor Choice Gambling Treatment Program. "Our program is designed to help individuals struggling with a gambling problem to find hope, regain self-esteem, develop healthy relationships, reduce financial pressures, and more.

"Treatment may include individual, group, marital, and/or family therapy. Financial and peer counseling and individualized treatment plans also are available to meet specific needs," she added.

Wheeler's Bettor Choice Gambling Treatment Program has operated with support from DMHAS since 1996. Programs are run from Wheeler locations at 43 Woodland Street, Hartford, and 40 Hart Street, New Britain.

To learn more about Wheeler's Bettor Choice Gambling Treatment Program, visit: [WheelerHealth.org/BettorChoice](http://WheelerHealth.org/BettorChoice) or call 860-692-8857.

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# OBITUARIES

## ~ Homerine“Joy”(Lajoie) Adamski ~



94 of Forestville, peacefully left this earthly life surrounded by her family. She is now reunited with her husband of 40 years, Raymond Adamski, who predeceased her in 1997. Born in Northern Maine/Cyr Plantation on July 4, 1929, she was one of four children to the late Homer and Jeanne

(Ayotte) Lajoie. She and Ray settled in Forestville where they raised their three daughters and were longtime communicants of St. Matthew Church and the BPOE Lodge #1010. Additionally, she and her daughters proudly supported and participated in local Relay for Life events and fundraisers.

Joy’s love for adventure and exploration was evident through her passion for RVing and traveling. She treasured countless trips across the United States and her memorable journeys to Europe. Among all the places she visited, Lake George held a special place in her heart.

For 28 years, Joy spent winters in Florida, where she became an integral part of her community, welcomed friends into her “garage den” and kept active by going bike riding and playing bocce.

Joy’s entrepreneurial spirit led her to be a successful door-to-door Avon lady for over 50 years. Her passion for connecting with others was evident through her ownership and operation of Joy's Fabric Corner in New Britain for more than two decades. Through both of her businesses, she found joy in helping others and bringing a touch of beauty and creativity into their lives.

When she was not working, Joy indulged in her favorite pastimes. Her younger years found her gardening and going dancing, and later she developed an unparalleled love for the game of BINGO, rarely missing an opportunity to get out her dabber. She reveled in life's simple pleasures, whether that meant sipping whiskey and gingy on her front porch or cozing up near her daughter’s wood stove on cold winter nights.

Although her departure leaves a void in our lives, her memory will continue to bring smiles to our faces and warmth to our hearts. She touched countless lives and leaves behind a legacy of love, kindness, and vitality.

She is survived by her daughters, Lynn Gonzalez and her husband Luis and Kim Adamski and her wife Kathie; her grandchildren, Benjamin and Abigail Szach; and her brother, Ralph Lajoie; along with many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her daughter, Brenda Adamski, and her brothers Melvin and Gordon Lajoie.

Joy’s family extends their sincerest appreciation to the nurses and staff at Apple Rehab Farmington Valley where she made her home for the past 2 years, her many companions and caretakers and the doctors and nurses at the Hospital of Central Connecticut, all who had a part in making Joy’s final days and years with us more comfortable.

In lieu of flowers Joy may be remembered with contributions to Relay for Life-Plainville, 161 Woodford Ave. Plainville, CT 06062.

Family and friends gatheredt Plainville Funeral Home, 81 Broad St. Plainville. Funeral services were held from Plainvi at St. Matthew Church, 120 Church Ave. Forestville. Committa followed at St. Joseph Cemetery Bristol. For online expressions of sympathy, please visit [www.PlainvilleFuneralHome.com](http://www.PlainvilleFuneralHome.com)

## ~ Mark Joseph Bishop ~



With very heavy hearts, we bid farewell to Mark Joseph Bishop, devoted husband, father, brother, uncle and friend, who passed away on February 6, 2024 at the age of 48. The husband and soul mate of Janet Cahill for over half of his short life, his presence will be deeply missed by all those whose lives he touched.

Mark was born and raised in Torrington and was always driven by a thirst for knowledge. He pursued higher education at several institutions in the area before ultimately earning his degree from the former Briarwood College in Southington. Mark’s passion and dedication led him to a successful career at COVR in Hartford, where he played a pivotal role in expanding relationships and nurturing business growth.

Outside of work, Mark possessed an infectious enthusiasm for sports. He could often be found passionately cheering on his favorite teams, the Dallas Cowboys, NY Yankees, and UCONN. His animated presence would fill the room as he yelled at the TV during crucial moments of the games. Beyond sports, Mark held an immense love for cooking, pouring his heart and soul into each carefully prepared meal for his family, leaving them waiting with anticipation. His culinary skills and dedication earned him a cherished place among friends and colleagues during his years with Max Restaurant Group. Family was of utmost importance to Mark, and his love for them knew no bounds. Eagerly attending every sporting event, milestone, and special occasion for his children and nieces, he ensured that his presence and support were felt throughout their lives. In his downtime, Mark enjoyed indulging in his favorite hobbies of golfing and fishing. Whether he was perfecting his swing on the green or casting his line into the tranquil waters, these moments brought him solace and joy. His warm presence, infectious laughter, and unwavering love will forever be etched in our hearts. Mark’s compassion, dedication, and zest for life are an inspiration to us all, reminding us to savor each moment and embrace our passions.

In addition to his wife Janet, he leaves his pride and joy, his children Hayley, Jordan and Gabriella; his parents, Mark Bishop, Sr. and his wife Ellen and Sharon (Vanotti) Bishop; his sister, Lynette Fenn and her daughter, Hannah; his in-laws whom he shared a special bond, Richard and the late Rhonda Cahill; his sisters-in-law, Lorna Cahill and her daughter Martina Trovato and Debbie Collins, her husband Tommy and their daughter Ava; along with countless friends and colleagues, including his best friends Derek and Marie Vitale, and his lifelong friend Gary Buchelt, whom he considered family. Last but definitely not least, he leaves his best buddy, often referred to as his “favorite child”, his dog Charlie.

In lieu of flowers, Mark may be remembered with contributions to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital at <http://www.stjude.org>

Family and friends gathered at Plainville Funeral Home, 81 Broad St, Plainville. A celebration of Mark’s life was held at the funeral home, followed by committal at St. Joseph Cemetery, Bristol. For online expressions of sympathy, please visit [www.PlainvilleFuneralHome.com](http://www.PlainvilleFuneralHome.com)

## ~ Lewellyn R. “Lou” Boucher ~



94 of Plainville, beloved husband, devoted father, and cherished Pepère, passed away at his home on Wednesday February 7, 2024, surrounded by the love of his family.

Born on March 4, 1929, in St. Agatha, Maine, Lou

was the oldest of twelve children to the late Frank and Anna (Bard) Boucher. Growing up and working amidst the picturesque landscapes, he embraced his deep love for the outdoors and nature from an early age.

After bravely serving his country in the United States Army, Lou embarked on a new chapter, moving to New Britain for work. Here, he met the love of his life, Verna (Beaulieu) and shared an incredible bond of 68 years that exemplified unwavering dedication. Together, they raised three cherished daughters and created a warm and loving home. Anchored by his deep faith, he was a longtime member of Our Lady of Mercy Church, and a proud life member of the Knights of Columbus, actively engaging in community service and spreading kindness wherever he went. An affiliate of the French Model Club in New Britain, Lou was a well-known bartender there in the late 50’s early 60’s. From working in the shipping department of Stanley for nearly 40 years, or continuing to chop wood and perform other laborious tasks around his yard into his 90’s, his strength, resilience and hard work ethics were ever present. The great outdoors held a special place in Lou’s heart, where he often sought tranquility and joy. Countless “rustic” camping trips with his family fostered unforgettable memories, and, whether he was hunting, fishing, or tending to his bountiful vegetable garden, Lou found solace in nature. He will forever be remembered for his genuine kindness, soft-spoken nature, and gentle demeanor.

Lou is survived by his loving wife, Verna; his daughters, Linda Deegan, Susan Melanson and her husband Donald, and Lisa Metayer and her husband Robert. He was the proud Pepere to Taylor Deegan (Elizabeth Austin), Spencer Deegan, Kevin Melanson, Steven Melanson, Stephanie Catania (Nicholas) and Kaleigh Canu (Mark). He also leaves two brothers, four sisters, and countless nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his best buddy, his four legged companion “Bowie” who he missed dearly; and four siblings.

In lieu of flowers, Lou may be remembered with contributions to: Hartford Healthcare Hospice, 81 Meriden Avenue, Southington, CT 06489.

A Mass of Christian Burial in celebration of Lou’s life was held at Our Lady of Mercy Church, 94 Broad St, Plainville. Military honors followed. Family and friends gathered at the church. The staff at Plainville Funeral Home extends their gratitude to the Boucher family for their trust. For 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.





# OBITUARIES

## ~ Gail (Kozlowski) Bugnacki ~



was born on February 23rd, 1954 and passed away peacefully at her home in Middletown, CT on January 26th, 2024. Never one to do things easily, Gail fought her declining health until the very end, showcasing both her truly peerless stubbornness and

resilience. Gail was beloved for her good advice (do as I say, not as I do, a favorite maxim of hers), her strong and instantly offered opinions, her love of symmetry, soft fabrics, and the giving of extravagant gifts. She would rearrange an entire room in someone else's house without asking if it was okay. She would also drop everything for a friend in need, no matter what time it was, where they were, or if they'd spoken in the past twenty years or not.

She was a contradiction of a woman, a whirlwind and a home base, a gossip monger and a keeper of secrets. She was as much a fighter as she was a lover, loving people, while also loving her privacy. She had a gift for forgiving without needing an apology, and a similar but less appreciated gift for avoiding apologies herself. She never held a concrete opinion for more than twenty minutes straight, but, when asked, somehow managed to have always thought so.

There will be no one else like her. It is impossible to convey how much she will be missed.

She is survived by her daughter, Emma Veseskis, son in law, Jeff Korp, nephew, John Rzasa, niece, Kate Rzasa, cousin and roommate, Deborah Bozzi, her brother Robert Kozlowski, his wife Roseann, and many loving cousins. She is predeceased by her parents John and Irene Kozlowski (Sluboski), her sister, Carol Rzasa, and brother John (Jack) Kozlowski.

As per Gail's wishes, there will be no formal service. In lieu of flowers, the family would like to suggest donations to the American Lupus foundation or the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen

## ~ David J. Hill ~



beloved husband, son, father, brother and uncle, left this earthly life on Monday, February 26, 2024, at the age of 47, following a brief illness.

Born on February 16, 1977, he was one of four children to Donald and Judith (DeNunzio) Hill, and was raised and educated in Plainville. David was a machinist by profession, excelling in his craft with dedication and hard work ethics. David found joy and peace near the water, reveling in the beauty of the Connecticut River, the ocean, beaches, and the serene calmness of fishing and boating. With a love for sports, he cheered tirelessly for the Boston Red Sox (at his wife's request) and remained a devoted Miami Dolphins fan, embracing both victory and defeat. He possessed a competitive spirit, engaging in vibrant paintball battles with his brothers and hitting the greens for charity golf tournaments. An longtime NASCAR follower, David found joy in watching the thrilling races unfold. He had an infectious goofiness and zest for life and his memory and lively spirit will forever live on.

In addition to his parents, he leaves his wife of 18 years, Jackie Hill and their daughters who were his pride and joy, Hailey and Kendra; his siblings, Devin, Robert, and Pam Hill; and many nieces, nephews, in-laws and extended family, all who will miss him dearly.

In lieu of flowers, David may be remembered with contributions to the Wounded Warrior Project at [www.support.woundedwarriorproject.org](http://www.support.woundedwarriorproject.org)

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Saturday at Our Lady of Mercy Church, 94 Broad St, Plainville. Family and friends gathered at Plainville Funeral Home, 81 Broad St, Plainville. He will be laid to rest privately at the family's convenience.

## ~ Linda Lee Dixon ~



53, of Plainville, devoted wife and mother, passed away peacefully on February 14, 2024 at THOCC- New Britain General Campus surrounded by her loved ones following a lengthy, courageous battle with breast cancer. She is now reunited with her infant son, Kyle Dixon, whom she longed to hold again in her loving, nurturing

arms.

Linda was born on May 25, 1970, in Bristol, CT, daughter of Barbara (Ziolkowski) (Adamowicz) Leone and the late Joseph Adamowicz. She grew up in Southington, attended local Catholic schools and graduated from Southington High School Class of 1988, where she made many lifelong friendships. Linda embraced each day with zest and kindness, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts of those fortunate enough to have crossed paths with her.

Linda was a beacon of love and light and her boundless energy and optimism were infectious. She dedicated herself to her family and shared a beautiful life with her beloved husband of 32 years, William "Bill" Dixon. Their bond was one of unwavering support and love, built upon a solid foundation of trust and understanding. Together, they settled in Plainville and raised a family, sharing many unforgettable memories that they will forever cherish.

Throughout her life, Linda exuded a passion for connecting with others, effortlessly journeying through diverse communities, and forging understandings amongst people of all backgrounds and languages. An exceptional listener, she touched the lives of countless individuals, always offering a shoulder to lean on and the comforting words of wisdom. She frequently utilized her natural way of problem solving during her longtime employment with The Hartford Insurance Company, where she was highly respected by her colleagues and could always be relied on to help, no matter the scenario. Linda's warm smile and vibrant spirit will forever be etched in the memories of those who had the privilege of knowing her.

Linda had a zest for life and cherished the simple joys it offered. She found solace in the great outdoors, spending cherished moments camping with family and friends. Linda had an immense love for the beauty of nature and her green thumb was evident to all who had the pleasure of visiting her home, as she carefully selected flowers to complement each passing season; From daffodils or tulips in the spring, to colorful mixtures in the summer, to mums in the fall, Linda's garden became a living painting, enchanting all who beheld it. Her love for game shows was evident as she would often spend evenings at home, relaxing in her favorite chair while eagerly watching contestants answer trivia questions and solve puzzles. She had an uncanny ability to shout out the correct answers from the comfort of her living room and treasured the excitement that the shows brought into her life. Linda will be sorely missed, as her family and friends forever remember her beautiful smile and infectious laugh, leaving a legacy of positivity, kindness, and everlasting love.

In addition to her husband, William "Bill" Dixon, and her mother, Barbara (Ziolkowski) (Adamowicz) Leone, Linda is survived by her cherished children, Megan Dixon and her significant other, Al, Danielle Dixon and her significant other, Jake, and Timothy Dixon; her sister, Laura Molusis and her significant other, Mark McGrath; her step-brother, Philip Leone; her step-sisters, Marianne Oshana and Patricia Volpe; and many nieces, nephews, and extended family members. She also leaves behind her beloved pup, Dottie, who offered her much love and comfort. In addition to her son, Kyle Dixon, and her father, Joseph Adamowicz, Linda was predeceased by her step-father, Cataldo Leone.

Family and friends gathered at Plainville Funeral Home, 81 Broad Street, Plainville. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at the Church of Saint Dominic, 1050 Flanders Road, Southington, CT 06489. . Donations in memory of Linda may be made to the Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute, c/o Hospital of Central Connecticut, Development Office, 100 Grand Street, P.O. Box 100, New Britain, CT 06050 (THOCC.org/donate).

## ~ William H. Gainer ~



83, of Southington, CT passed away peacefully surrounded by the love and comfort of his beautiful family on February 16, 2024 at THOCC- New Britain General Campus. Born in Milford, CT on June 26, 1940 son to the late Lloyd H. and Pearl (Buckingham) Gainer, William lived a

fulfilling life marked by loyalty, resilience, and dedication.

After graduating from Milford High school, William enlisted in the U.S. Navy, where he served with honor and distinction. Following his honorable discharge, he embarked on a career in the forklift industry, starting from humble beginnings sweeping the floors and steadily rising through the ranks. With determination and hard work, he eventually reached the esteemed position of branch manager. His dedication and expertise left an impressive mark on the various companies he worked with over 40 years. It was during his years working in the forklift industry that William met his best friend and love of his life, Marilyn Williams through his niece Paula. Together they built a life on the foundation of understanding, loyalty, and love, sharing many cherished memories over the years, being happily married for nearly 55 years with a family of generations to come.

Beyond his professional endeavors, William had a deep appreciation for the simple joys in life. He found comfort and delight in solving jigsaw puzzles, often taking on intricate designs that challenged his mind. An avid New York Yankees fan, he cheered passionately for his favorite team and enjoyed discussing their triumphs and defeats with fellow enthusiasts.

Nature held a special place in William's heart. He reveled in the wonders of the natural world, reading books about nature, immersing himself in shows about wilderness survival, and enjoying time at the family's cabin in Vermont or during vacations in Maine. He loved taking his grandsons fishing during the summer months. His love for nature extended to his own vegetable garden, where he cultivated various vegetables that he generously shared with family and friends.

Recognized for his ingenuity, William had an exceptional talent for repairing anything that crossed his path. His resourcefulness and handyman skills were admired by all who sought his help. Additionally, he dabbled in wood-working, skillfully crafting beautiful items that adorned the homes of his loved ones. Each piece he created was a testament to his meticulous craftsmanship and love for his family.

William will be deeply missed by his surviving spouse, Marilyn "Marty" Gainer; his sons, William L. Gainer and his wife, Katy, and Robert Gainer and his wife, Jennifer; his grandchildren, Matthew Gainer, Christopher Gainer, and Cameron Gainer; and several nieces, nephews and extended family members. In addition to his parents, William was predeceased by his siblings, Flora Kish, Lloyd D. Gainer, and Phyliss Horvath.

Family and friends gathered at Plainville Funeral Home, 81 Broad Street, Plainville. A service in celebration of William's life was at the funeral home. In honor of William's service to our country in the U.S. Navy, military honors will be accorded following the service. Donations in memory of William may be made to the American Heart Association, PO Box 840692, Dallas, TX 75284-0692 ([heart.org](http://heart.org)) or to your local Veterans of Foreign Wars. The staff at Plainville Funeral Home extends their appreciation to the Gainer family for their trust.





OBITUARIES

~ Betty (Popko) Karwowski ~



94 of Plainville, passed away peacefully on February 6, 2024.

She was born on April 7, 1929, one of three children to the late Alexander and Kathryn (Saman) Popko. Betty’s journey began in Bristol, where she received her education and in 1960, she made a beautiful house in Plainville and dedicated herself to raising her family within a loving neighborhood. Betty had a tremendous love for her community, and her warm spirit and generous nature were renowned among her neighbors. During her career, Betty worked for General Electric before taking time to raise her children and perfecting her sewing and knitting skills. Later, she returned to the workforce and contributed her skills to H & H Electric and Bulbs Only. Betty had a strong spiritual life and was an active member of the Church of Our Saviour Episcopal Church for many years. She served on the Vestry, Altar Guild, and Daughters of the King, fully embracing her commitment to her faith. Currently, Betty was a cherished member of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Bristol, where she continued to find inspiration and solace. Those who had the privilege of knowing Betty fondly remember her sharp mind, sassy spirit, and quick wit. She approached life with a zest that left a lasting impression of joy and laughter wherever she went.

She is survived by her son, Stephen Karwowski of Plainville; and her nieces and nephews, Kim and Kurt Dossin and Beth and Nancy Popko along with their families. She was predeceased by her daughter, Sally Karwowski, formerly of Washington, DC; her brother George Popko and her sister Bobbie (Popko) Dossin. In lieu of flowers, Betty may be remembered with contributions to The Episcopal Church in Connecticut <https://www.episcopalct.org/make-a-new-gift/>

A celebration of Betty’s life will be held and announced in the spring. The staff at Plainville Funeral Home extends their gratitude to Betty’s family for their trust. For online expressions of sympathy please visit [www.PlainvilleFuneralHome.com](http://www.PlainvilleFuneralHome.com)

~ Joel T. Papapietro ~



71 of Plainville, loving husband, father, grandfather and friend, passed away peacefully on Saturday, February 3, 2024 at Bristol Hospital after a lengthy, courageous battle with cancer. Born on January 31, 1953 in Bristol, CT, son to the late Marion (Meisinger) and Vito

Papapietro, Joel embraced life with a joyous spirit and left an indelible mark on the hearts of all who had the pleasure of knowing him. Joel’s journey was marked by hard work and dedication. For 29 years, he served as a talented electrician, faithfully contributing his skills to EESC. His commitment and expertise were widely recognized, and his retirement in 2014 was met with gratitude and admiration from his colleagues and clients alike. He was pleased to lend a helping hand to anyone who asked for his professional advice and services.

Off the clock, Joel found joy in umpiring for McCabe Waters in Bristol. He relished every moment spent on the field, effortlessly blending his deep knowledge of the game with a genuine love for ensuring fair play and camaraderie among the players. Joel’s fair and impartial approach endeared him to all who participated, making him a respected figure in the local sports community.

Beyond his professional pursuits, Joel had a deep passion for craftsmanship. His love for woodworking and creating intricate stained-glass pieces brought beauty and elegance into the lives of those around him. His knack for turning ordinary materials into works of art was undeniable, honoring his legacy as a masterful artist.

But what defined Joel most was his radiant and humble personality. A kind and welcoming man with a heart of gold, he had an uncanny ability to make everyone feel valued and included. Joel’s infectious laughter and quick wit filled each room he entered, leaving a lasting impression on all fortunate enough to cross his path. He cherished his family and never missed an opportunity to create lasting memories, especially during their cherished vacations at Fern Lake in New York.

Joel was predeceased by his first wife and mother to his children, Linda Papapietro. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen (O’Dea) Skirvin; his daughters, Donata Dziejma and her former husband, Mike and Sheri Tomchik and her husband, Joe; his son, Tony Papapietro; his granddaughter, Kaylee Papapietro; his step-son, Jesse Skirvin and his wife, Alex; his sister, Susan Papapietro and her husband, Carter; his brothers, Daniel Papapietro and his wife, Margaret and Jack Papapietro and his partner, Dev; and his lifelong friends, Frank Rossi, Steve Kacynski and his wife, Karen, and Pete Hodgkinson and his wife, Kim; along with many nieces, nephews, extended family members, colleagues, and friends.

Funeral services in celebration of Joel’s life were be held at Plainville Funeral Home, 81 Broad St., Plainville. Burial and committal prayers followed in Saint Mary Cemetery, Huckleberry Hill Road, Avon. Family and friends gathered at the funeral home. Donations in memory of Joel may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 ([www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org)). For more information or to leave online expressions of sympathy, please visit: [www.PlainvilleFuneralHome.com](http://www.PlainvilleFuneralHome.com).

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~ Daniel Lamont Brunson Orsi ~



How does one express the depth of Daniel’s life presence which is nearly impossible? Healer, Honorable, Heroic, and Holy.

The beloved son of Raymond R. and Nancy L. (DiCosimo) Orsi, leaves behind his loving Domus Amoris family; his brothers, Raymond Orsi, Jr. and his wife Denise; David Orsi and his wife

Dawn; Dale, Brian, Richard, Joseph, Angel, and Scott; his sisters, Kimberly, Clorissa, Andrea, Tamara, Michelle, Heather, Shenika, and Ann Marie. Additionally, Daniel was predeceased by 13 brothers and sisters. He also leaves his 98-year-old grandmother, Lois Orsi, many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, brothers, and sisters-in-law. Daniel shared a special bond with all he came into contact with, most especially his nurses, doctors, caregivers, and friends.

Daniel fought countless medical battles with grace and courage. He far surpassed any life expectations and continually touched the hearts of many. He never allowed his limited body and mind to prevent him from living his life to the fullest. With an exquisite elegance and precious presence, he simply shared soundless, graceful blessings to all who loved and cared for him. For more than 31 years Daniel honored our family while radiating a holy and powerful spirit. We shall forever cherish his countless gifts to the entire family. He was and continues to be our Hero - a WARRIOR OF LIGHT.

Services in celebration of Daniel’s life will be held privately at a later date. The staff at Plainville Funeral Home, 81 Broad Street, Plainville extends their appreciation to Daniel’s family for their trust. For more information or to leave online expressions of sympathy, please visit [www.PlainvilleFuneralHome.com](http://www.PlainvilleFuneralHome.com).

~ Donald Peter "Don" Dalena ~



95 of New Britain, passed away on February 18 at home. Born on August 3, 1928 in the small town of Plainville, he was the son of the late Peter & Genevieve (Blinn) Dalena. Surviving is the love of his life, Carolyn (DiMaio) Dalena, his two sons, Peter D Dalena of Plainville, Daniel J Dalena & his wife Debora of

Plainville, two grandsons, Brian D Dalena of Bristol & Brandon G Dalena of San Diego, CA., his brother Peter L Dalena of Kensington and many nieces & nephews. He was predeceased by his sister Dolores & his brother in law Ken Balkow, and his sister in law Maryalice Dalena. Don "Red" Dalena graduated from Plainville HS in 1946 where he excelled in football & baseball. Six decades later, in 2007, he was inducted into the P.H.S Sports Hall of Fame. Prior to joining the military, Don was a draftsman @ the engineering department at Marlin Rockwell. He proudly served in the United States Air Force and was stationed in England during the Korean Conflict as a Staff Sergeant.

In 1953, his honorable discharge brought him back to the states, where he joined his father, brother & uncle Cozy (Cosam) to form Dalena Auto Parts ( celebrating 70 years in business this year) where he worked & always greeted customers with a welcoming smile & friendly conversation up until 3 weeks ago! He married Carolyn in 1956 & had 2 sons, Peter & Danny. Hunting in Sharon, VT at Mickey Carrolls Camp with his "Plainville Gang" was a cherished yearly event. Trips to Bermuda & Naples Florida with Carolyn were his much loved R&R. During summer weekends, you could always find Don at Plainville Stadium racing with the legendary George Lombardo in the XD2. They enjoyed many years of great racing success!

Don will surely be missed & will live on in the hearts of all who knew him. Funeral services for Don held from the Farrell Funeral Home, 110 Franklin Sq. New Britain with a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Maurice Church, 100 Wightman Rd. New Britain. Burial with Military Honors will follow in Fairview Cemetery, 120 Smalley St. New Britain. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Alzheimer's Association Connecticut Chapter 200 Executive Blvd S #4b, Southington, CT 06489.



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# Hometown Religious Directory

## THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF PLAINVILLE

A congregation of the United Church of Christ  
130 West Main Street, Plainville  
Phone 860-747-1901  
*ALL ARE WELCOME!*

**Rev. Don Erickson, Senior Minister**  
Email: revdon@cccplainvilleorg  
CHURCH OFFICE EMAIL:  
churchoffice@uccplainville.org  
WEBSITE: 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)  
**Choir Practice**  
Senior (Sat before 1st Sun) 5:00 pm  
Jubilee (Sat before 2nd/4th Sun) 5:00 pm  
Mass/Youth choirs (Mon after 1st/2nd Sun) 7:00 pm

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the last Friday of Every month at 7 p.m.  
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www.tabernacleonline.com  
or see us on Facebook  
1445 West Street (Route 229)  
Southington, CT  
**860-276-0400**

## Faith Bible Church

168 Unionville Ave  
P.O. Box 72 Plainville, 06062  
860-747-5209  
Fax/Prayer Line 860-747-5011  
Email: fbc1902@yahoo.com  
Web: www.faithbiblelect.com  
Rev. Dr. Jim Caron, Pastor  
**Purpose:**

- To Know/Glorify/Worship God
- To follow Jesus Christ as LORD
- To Grow in GRACE
- To Understand the BIBLE/

Apply it to our lives  
• To reach others for JESUS  
• To be committed to the GOSPEL:  
Jesus died, was buried and rose again  
on the 3rd day. (He LIVES)  
**Sunday Service: 10 am**  
(JOIN US: LIVE OR FACEBOOK)  
Bible Study: Tuesday  
@ 7 pm by Zoom/in person

**Every Tues. morning at 9am we have a Scripture Study Class**

## PLAINVILLE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

97 Broad Street, Plainville  
**Church Phone 860-747-5867**  
**Pastor 1-646-522-3471**  
E-mail: plainvillesda@gmail.com  
jacksonsg5@sbcglobal.net  
**Pastor Franklin Jackson**  
**Saturday Morning**  
Bible School @ 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service @ 11:00 am.  
FREE lunch after service  
**Wednesday Evening ~**  
Family Prayer Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.  
*The Lord Jesus Christ loves you*  
*John 3:16*

## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

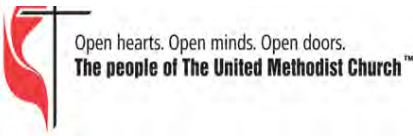
222 Farmington Ave., Plainville  
Phone 860-747-5191  
**Rev. Chris Dion, Pastor**  
Worship: Sunday at 9:00 a.m.  
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or www.graceinplainville.org  
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*join us on Sunday!”*

**An Invitation**  
You are invited to join the volunteers of the Hometown Connection.  
We need you to be in charge of contacting the member churches of the Hometown Religious Directory.  
Name your own hours.  
**Call 860-747-4119**  
For more information.

## PLAINVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

56 Red Stone Hill  
Plainville, CT 06062  
**Rev. Kim Bosley, Pastor**  
Church (860)747-2328  
Parsonage (860)747-2592  
Email: plainvillunited@sbcglobal.net  
Website: www.plainvilleumc.org

**SUNDAY SERVICES**  
WORSHIP TIME: 10:00AM  
WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION:  
(Celebrated w/Gluten Free Bread)  
ALL ARE WELCOMED  
Watch our live stream on Facebook with this link:  
  
https://www.facebook.com/Plainville-United-Methodist-Church-CT-Live-108293257471508



**FARMINGTON- SPIRITUALIST CHURCH OF LOVE AND LIGHT**  
Meets every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. at **Bridge Healing Arts Center**  
304 Main Street, Farmington  
Each Sunday offers Lectures, healings, aasksnd spirit messages followed by coffee, light snacks and conversation with like-minded people. All are welcome. Mediums Days and special events listed on our website as they are planned.  
**For info please contact Pastor Andrea Osborn at (860) 919-7470 ozzyunk@gmail.com**  
Visit our website: www.spiritualistloveandlight.org  
also on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/CongregationSCLL/

**The WELL**  
**A Spirit-Filled Church**  
**1 Northwest Drive**  
**Plainville**  
**Join us Sunday mornings at 10:30 am**  
**For Worship and the Word of God**  
**Tuesdays at 7:00 pm**  
**for Bible Study**

**Prayer to St. Jude**  
St.Jude, patron of the desperate and Saint of the Impossible. I turn to you in trusting prayer. Centuries 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.

## OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

**94 Broad Street, Plainville**  
  
**Rev. M. David Dawson, Pastor**  
**Parish/Cemetery Office**  
**19 S. Canal Street**  
  
Office Hours:  
Mon. to Thur. 9 am to 4 pm  
Friday 9 am to 12:30 pm  
Afternoons by appointment only.  
  
**Phone 860-747-6825**  
**Website is: www.olmct.org**

**Liturgy Schedule**  
Saturday 4:00 P.M.  
  
**Sunday**  
**8:30 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.**  
**Weekday Liturgy**  
  
Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. & Sat 8:00 A.M.  
**Devotions**  
  
Rosary-Monday-Saturday before Morning Mass  
**Sacrament of the Sick**  
  
Call the office for any sick person to receive the Holy Eucharist or to be anointed.  
\*\*\*\*\*

## CHURCH OF THE BIBLE

160 West Main Street, Plainville  
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*“Where The Holy Bible Is Wholly Taught”*  
Phone: 860-747-1691  
**Peter A. Stonis, Pastor**  
**WEEKLY WORSHIP SCHEDULE**  
Nursery Care is provided for all Sunday Services  
Sunday 10:00 am  
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  
Bible Study & Prayer Wednesday7:00 pm  
*For information about the church visit our website @cobplainville.org*

**HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH**  
**18 EAST MAIN STREET**  
**PLAINVILLE**  
**EASTER SERVICES**  
**March 24 Palm Sunday 9 a.m.**  
**March 28 Maundy Thursday 7 p.m.**

**March 29 Good Friday 5 p.m.**  
  
**Easter Sunrise Service at Veteran’s Memorial Park 6 a.m.**  
**Church Easter Service 9 a.m.**  
**All are welcome.Prayer Table outside in front of the church**  
  
**Every Wednesday 11:30 a.m.**  
  
**A member of the Anglican Diocese of the Living Word.**



Letters to the Editor.....



Paid for by John Kisluk, 65 Foestville Ave. Plainville CT

Dear Editor,

Well Plainville citizens, hang on to your wallets, the newly elected council regime is out to fleece you and grab your hard earned tax dollars by trying to fool you in to thinking that we need to spend \$61,950,000.00 dollars to get into a deal with the State of Connecticut for a renovate as new project for the Plainville Middle School. I have to tell you that this state program is so rife with improprieties, that a director of the program was fired by the governor and the federal government is investigating. This is why, after 3 years the town of Plainville has still not been paid a huge amount of money due for the Wheeler School project completion. Immediately after being sworn in to office, the council rejected any other renovation project options as presented by the previous council and then formed a steering committee who hired a marketing company (Tall Timbers) which I would say evolved into Tall Tales, a fantasy fiction story about why the taxpayers should dole out \$61,950,000. to make a school look pretty. I have to ask the taxpayers to just look at the number \$61,950,000.00 and ask yourself, does this make fiscal sense? Anything that the school is in need of can be accomplished with a maintenance program for millions of dollars less. As I have been saying all along, buildings do not

teach, teachers do. I am asking all of the Plainville tax paying voters, including the 70% who did not vote for this council, to be sure to come out on March 19th and vote NO on this unnecessary and wasteful project. While I am on the subject of fantasy, the superintendent of schools is presenting a school budget increase of more that \$2 million dollars. Plainville is not a wealthy town but these spendthrifts are acting like we have incomes to match education administrators. Wake up Plainville taxpayers, get involved and let the council know who is in charge!

**John Kisluk**

Dear Editor,

Every time I see an article or a Letter ToThe Editor on the Plainville Middle School project I see the same bit of information missing when it comes to costs. The proposed \$61,913,393 cost for Renovate Like New project would be offset by a state grant of 65.36% (not approved by the state yet) bringing the cost down to around \$25,712,663. What is not being said, or very rarely pointed out, is that this remaining cost will need to be bonded by the Town and that over the course of the bond(s) will cost the town and us around \$40,000,000 to \$42,000,000. That is far from the \$25 million plus. In this time of high inflation and shortages of materials is the \$62 million going to be enough? In Farmington and Cromwell on their school projects they had to go out for a second referendum for more money and in Southington they also had to have a second referendum for their town Library. Will we have to follow that same course? Another thing not mentioned is if we went with the Maintenance Only proposal, is how much state grant money would be available to help reduce those costs. Many of the items listed, like the elevator replacement, roof, HVAC, secure entrance and others are eligible for state grants. This would bring those costs down. We were never given that info. Some of these items should have been taken care over the years but were neglected for whatever reason. Yes, any building over the years has to be maintained or some things up-graded and the MSP is one of them but I don’t believe a Renovate Like New project is necessary on a 31 year old building. It is too bad we couldn’t have the option of which way to go. So, I have to make a decision, YES or NO. I chose NO and hope you will too.

**George Fensick, III**

Dear Editor,

I am writing on the middle school project referendum coming up soon. In December and February, I spoke with the town council about having in addition to a full renovate project for the middle school to also have an option for a maintenance only for the school of projects to be spread out over time.

- The timing of a full renovate is a heavy burden now on all Plainville residents due to the tremendous cost. Inflation on everyday costs we all need like food, clothing, energy consumption to name a few are running very high and already a strain on our residents budgets. The costs of building products and materials are also still very high for a MSP project.
- After reviewing your website, I noted that the debt for the renovate only referendum option if voted in does not include the interest on the debt (Approx.
- \$16million over approx. 20 years I was informed) (on projected \$26 million net cost after state rebate) was not included in the values shown on the projected costs on the website. It makes the “renovate like new option” a better option without this expense vs. a maintenance option. I don’t feel there was a complete transparency of figures because of this.
- Although this MSP project debt would fall under the debt service budget line item and we are told that there would not be a direct cost to the tax payer; That is a mistake in thought as we all pay taxes and therefore pay towards all line items of a budget with the looming BOE and overall budget this year increasing significantly there is sure to be an increase in our mill rate. A lot of expense for our town overall.
- With nearly 35% of the residents in town ages 50-80 and most in retirement age with fixed incomes this project and our town budget will be significant for this group of tax payers in terms of higher taxes overall. There is the thought also that many residents live paychecks to paychecks. Can we really afford this now?
- While the idea of a middle school project is enticing and perhaps needed, as a request it should be done in groupings of expenses by year and need and to be able to spread the debt out as a good compromise. Not all at once at this time. It’s really the wrong time, the highest expense it could be due to inflation, and will impact many residents beyond their means. Whether or not we receive state funds for this project should not be the deciding factor for all of us.

This project needs to be fiscally responsible for ALL taxpayers. I will vote against this MSP project referendum as it stands at this time.

**Gayle Dennehy Carrier, Chair**  
Plainville Resident and Republican Town Committee

Dear Editor,

As a father to school aged children and a taxpayer in the town of Plainville, I feel the need to voice some of my concerns over the proposed middle school project. While I feel that doing nothing is not an option, I do think the all or nothing, take it or leave it approach, shouldn’t be our only choice. If residents are going to decide on whether or not to support a project of this magnitude, and the ultimate tax increases that are going to come as a result, we should do so knowing there is more than one solution. One example might be to take a wholistic approach to the projects and prioritize the upgrades in a fiscally responsible way. I implore everyone to think of how this project will impact some of our most vulnerable residents who are already struggling to pay their bills. My hope is that we can collectively come to an agreement to fix the school in a way that all of our residents can get behind. **Jason Pheasant**

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DAY  
TO ALL!!





# Plainville's Helen

By Erica Schmitt

**G**ood living and generous giving never stop for Helen Bergenty.

The town native, now 84, is president of Plainville's monthly and non-profit "good news" newspaper The Hometown Connection, but she's carried many more titles over the years.

"I have found it to be true the older I've become the better my life has become," she'll tell you with a smile.

A 1947 graduate of Plainville High School, Bergenty played for the very first girls' basketball team in town. Now called the Blue Devils like the boys' team - they were known then as "The Blue Angels."

"I have found it to be true the older I've become the better my life has become."

HELEN BERGENTY

After graduating then working for more than a decade, she went on to attend the University of Connecticut and become proprietor of the Starline Real Estate Agency.

She and Bill Bergenty, her husband of 63 years, have one son, two grandsons and one great grandson, Zeke, who is just 18 months old.

Longtime town residents might remember when she ran for the Office of High Sheriff of Hartford County back in 1970. Although she lost, Bergenty is still proud to say she was the first-ever woman candidate in the running for such a position.

"The one thing I can take from Helen is never give up," says Kathy Pugliese, chairwoman of Plainville Town Council and also the volunteer in charge of design and layout of The Hometown Connection.

The reason Bergenty started the all-volunteer "hometown" paper was because she felt Plainville

needed an outlet for feel-good news - her grandson hitting a home run in his baseball game or the seniors putting on a dance at a local church.

Seventeen years later it's still going strong, sent to every home and business in town and supported by all local advertising. Bergenty calls it her "biggest accomplishment."

"I just love people," she says. "My mother taught me years ago the golden rule - treat people the way you'd like to be treated - and that's what I do. Believe me, it works."

Helen Bergenty, 84, reminisces about the old days in her office at The Hometown Connection.

That philosophy has taken her from serving on the town council for 14 years to twelve terms as Justice of the Peace and former president of the Junior Woman's Club of Plainville.

She was also a hospice volunteer, one of the founding members of the Plainville Chapter of AARP, past district director of the General Federation of Woman's Clubs

and recipient of the 2006 St. Joseph Archdiocesan Medal of Appreciation.

At present Bergenty serves as a committee member with Our Lady of Mercy Church, on the Board of Directors with ARC of Plainville and the Plainville Community Fund and as vice chairman of the town's Republic Committee, among many other volunteer roles.



Helen Bergenty poses for a picture with former governor and senator Lowell P. Weicker.



4 Connecticut PRIME TIME • March 2014

## In Memory of Our Dear Friend Helen

We treasure and will miss our spirited conversations with you about our shared Plainville roots!

Rest in Peace,

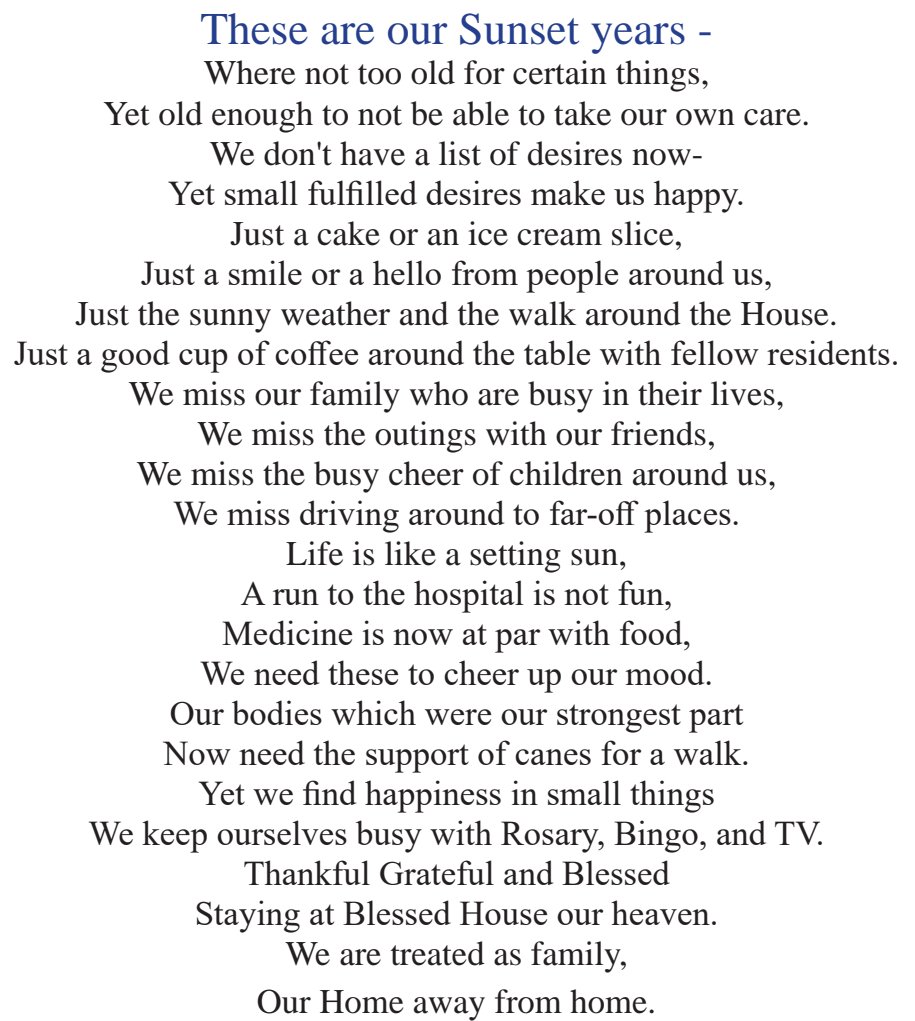
Michael, Bill and all at the Tomasso Group





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I met Helen at a Republican Town committee meeting for the first time after my nephew invited my husband Rejean Carrier and I to a meeting to learn more about our Plainville Republicans! I was so impressed with her knowledge of politics and the town organization and how she had touched so many people in town with her political views, her Hometown Connection newspaper or friendship hat on! She could run a meeting like no other person and when Helen spoke the room got so quiet and we all listened! She had so much respect from everyone! A few years later Helen called me and asked me if I would be interested in being a vice chair for the committee. I was touched that she asked but wasn't sure of the time commitment and I remember her words so well; "Gayle, its only a few hours a month and you'll do a great job" Famous last words we all say! I agreed and of course It was not a few hours a month but that of an almost daily volunteer spirit but she had me hooked and over the years I have been blessed with being able to pick up the phone and get her advice and have her answer every question I had-what a great mentor and friend! Whether it was a meeting, a caucus, an event, in the town or outside

### Helen Was a Remarkable Woman

who made tremendous contributions to this community and this state. She loved Plainville and it's people. Her wit, wisdom and laugh were always present and she shared them with everyone. Helen's leadership skills were unlimited.

We will miss Helen greatly, but her legacy lives on in all who knew her. Well done Helen, and Rest in Peace.

*Barbara and Bill Davison*



Helen at Holiday Sing-A-Long



Helen (back center)  
Ladies at Plainville Historical Center

of our town Helen was always there with camera in hand, looking and listening to all the comments! I loved to listen to Helen and how she spoke with so many people! I remember an event we went together to for a rally with President Trump! She had written a letter that she sent to him and then brought a copy with her. We were mingling with people before the rally, and I turned around and she was nowhere to be seen. She had sneaked off and spoke with the secret service people explaining about her letter and wanting to meet the president! Well I will be darned if she did not do just that! She always had a way of convincing whomever or whatever the idea was and accomplishing her goals! Helen had a sixth sense of knowing what was needed and when it was needed! She was always bringing me items before I even asked for an event or party like she knew I would ask about it and she saved us both the time and just took care of it! Helen was the best leader I ever known, and she exuded Republican values but also kindness, respect of each of us and did not have a mean bone in her body. She knew the value of a dollar and helped us all to the best we could be with spending!

Helen Bergenty has been a name synonymous with being a Republican for more years than she will disclose. In 2018 and in 2023 we honored her for her leadership and vast knowledge as she continued to be a shining light for us to aspire to, gain more knowledge from and to congratulate her on her newspaper running for more years than I can count; of which we have a Republican voice that every household receives! She was always the voice of reason and she always listened to each and everyone of us.

I am certain she has acquired a position in heaven where she is continuing on with her best qualities and keeping everyone on their toes. I will always have a voice in my head from Helen telling me how and what to do with love and kindness. She was the best person to aspire to and I miss her greatly! Until we meet again...

**Gayle Dennehy-Carrier**  
**Plainville Republican Town Chair**



Helen (front row)  
Campaign Headquarters



Deb Hardy, Helen, Laurie Peterson



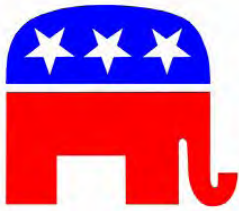
Patty Lostocco (Helen's sister)  
Helen, Ezio Capozzi



Helen and Chris Healy



Helen and Gang Chillin' with a Crocodile



Gayle Dennehy-Carrier  
Bob Stefanowski, Helen



NEWS RELEASE FROM  
THE TOWN OF PLAINVILLE  
OCTOBER 1, 2023 GRAND LIST

Sarah Carey, Assessor for the Town of Plainville has filed the 2023 Grand List with the Town Clerk. The New Taxable Grand List is \$1,711,268,628. This is an increase of \$33,045,266 over the 2022 Net Taxable Grand List of \$1,678,223,362.

The Net Real Estate Grand List increased \$12,829,792 as a result of improvements to real estate. The Net Motor Vehicle Grand List decreased by \$7,694,900. The Net Personal Property Grand List increased by \$27,910,374.

The Town of Plainville continues to grant exemptions for the enterprise zone development and tax abatements. These exemptions total \$639,740.

The Town of Plainville’s ten largest taxpayers include the following:

DT CONNECTICUT COMMONS LLC	\$46,111,970
AMERICOLD	\$21,324,710
TILCON	\$18,966,310
YANKEE GAS	\$17,618,810
CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER	\$16,609,570
MANAFORT BROTHERS (MBA LLC)	\$14,621,414
AQUARION WATER COMPANY	\$12,731,840
DOC-201	\$ 9,845,990
CWPM LLC	\$ 7,654,110
CARLING TECHNOLOGIES	\$ 7,092,470

The mill rate that will be applied to the 2023 Grand List will be set by the Town Council in May 2024.



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# FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR, JEANETTE PLAINVILLE HOMETOWN CONNECTION

Today, as I sit-down at my computer and type my final story for the Hometown Connection, it brings back memories of the first time this little paper went to press, some twenty eight plus years ago. It was the dream of Helen Bergenty for the people of Plainville to have its own FREE paper. A paper where the people of the town could read the everyday stories of the happenings of the town, could learn about each and every business, big or small, obituaries would be printed at no charge, school events would be posted and the accomplishments of the children would be published. Of the original incorporators of the paper Helen and I were the only two left and with the passing of our driving force, Helen, the little paper will bid farewell and close its doors. We welcomed Kathy Pugliese and Kris Dargenio to the staff of the paper some twenty five plus years ago. After I retired and moved to Florida these two ladies worked many long nights alongside Helen to make sure the paper reached each and every home in Plainville and were mailed to our out of town readers. Sending my articles via e-mail wasn’t the hands-on help Helen needed and with the help of Kathy and Kris, Helen would have been hard pressed to continue with this publication but knowing Helen she would have found the extra hours to complete the job. There were nights, before the paper had to go to press, working until two or three o’clock in the morning wasn’t unusual. I would like to thank Janice Eisenhower who took on the roll of Secretary and proof reader as well all the many others that submitted articles and pictures and above all our advertisers, without them there wouldn’t have been a paper. I don’t want to attempt to name all our advertisers as I might offend some by overlooking them but there are several that advertised from our very first edition until our last and that was a lot to ask of small town businesses. Some that standout in my mind, that did this twenty eight year run were **Tilcon, Michael Tomasso and the Tomasso Family, Mikes Auto, Gervais Brothers, Mizzy Construction, Gnazzo Foods, Pagliacci’s, J. Timothy’s, DBK Jewelry** and if I didn’t mention them, almost every business in our town. I would like to send a special thanks to **Stan Mizzy of Mizzy Construction and Rejean Carrier for their most generous offer to supply the thousands of dollars it would take to continue the printing of the paper** but the hundreds of man hours of labor are just not available after Helen’s passing. Every story in The Hometown Connection might not have been spelled right or a comma or period was missing, no one that worked on the paper was a professional writer or typist but our readers got the drift. Most of all I want to thank the countless residents that wrote articles, good or bad and submitted them to our paper. We will miss you as much as you will miss The HOME TOWN CONNECTION. Goodbye and good night; President: Helen Bergenty, Editor: Jeannette Hinkson, Treasurer; Kris Dargenio and Editorial Coordinator: Kathy Pugliese: Secretary, Janice Eisenhower.

*As they say in Hollywood: It’s a wrap!*

## Helen Kept Us All “Connected” By: State Senator Henri Martin



To know Helen Bergenty was to know Plainville.

Its residents. Its history. Its uniqueness. Helen loved Plainville. And she literally kept Plainville “connected” through this special, respected and enduring publication.

Helen epitomized the Hometown Connection. She brought people together through its news stories, features, photos and even its ads. This newspaper has chronicled thousands of personal milestones, accomplishments and life events: all centered on Helen’s beloved Plainville.

But Helen also “connected” in many other ways. She did so through her volunteerism, her public service, and her tireless commitment to improving everyone’s quality of life and helping others. She was - and is - a role model for me. I never ceased to marvel at her boundless energy and enthusiasm. I am grateful to have known her, to have been advised by her, and to have been her friend.

Simply put: Helen Bergenty cared deeply about this town. She cared about each of you: her loyal readers. Her dedication, her infectious laugh and sense of humor, and the countless personal “connections” she made in her 94 years of life will never be forgotten.

So thank you, Helen. Thank you for keeping this special community “connected” and tight-knit. This really was Helen’s lasting gift to each of us: a gift that we may have taken for granted at times, but a gift that we each cherish today and in the future.

## Patty Lostocco’s Tribute to her Sister, Helen

HELEN AGNES BROCKZKOWSKI BERGENTY How would I describe this remarkable Wonder Woman?	
FAITHFUL:	God was foremost in her life!
FAMILY:	No greater love, other than God!
SELFLESS:	Always put others before herself! She took great pleasure in the success of others!
FORESIGHT & PERSUASIVE :	Helen could see the possibilities in all opportunities and strongly encouraged others to take advantage of those opportunities! (You know who you are!)
WISDOM:	So many years of experience! She shared that wisdom with so many people....young and old.... and she definitely shared it with me!
PASSIONATE :	She truly believed in every endeavor and the people she supported!
DEVOTED & PATRIOTIC:	A Loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother sister, aunt, cousin and friend. A member of THE GRAND OLD PARTY for 70 years! Helen's awesome, all volunteer, HOMETOWN CONNECTION! Through which, she showed her love for this little town of Plainville!
HUMOR:	Never lost her sense of humor, right up to the very end!
CLARITY:	Never skipped a beat, ever! Always sharp as a tack!
POSITIVE:	Her favorite expression....NO PROBLEM! (Maybe not for her!). Seriously, during one of our hospital visits, she said to us, “We are all experiencing something special, aren't we?” How could anything be more positive?

In thinking of my sister, I tried to come up with something she couldn’t do and wasn’t good at.....after racking my brain, I said, of course....her hair!! She could never do her hair! That’s it, sorry Helen, your secret is out!  
Wrapping up all of these qualities into one word that describes this beautiful person.....would be TENACIOUS!

## Pagliacci’s Says Farewell Helen

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Helen. She was such an interesting and passionate woman. We always welcomed Helen and Pat on Saturday nights with smiles on their faces and stories to tell. Helen never seemed to let her health get in her way; she always persevered. In her travels she would observe the many different businesses in Plainville and offer her help however she could.

*Pagliacci’s will always remember Helen. May you rest in peace.*  
**Mike & Jane Capobianco and Staff at Pagliacci’s Restaurant**

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# Bergenty still at it

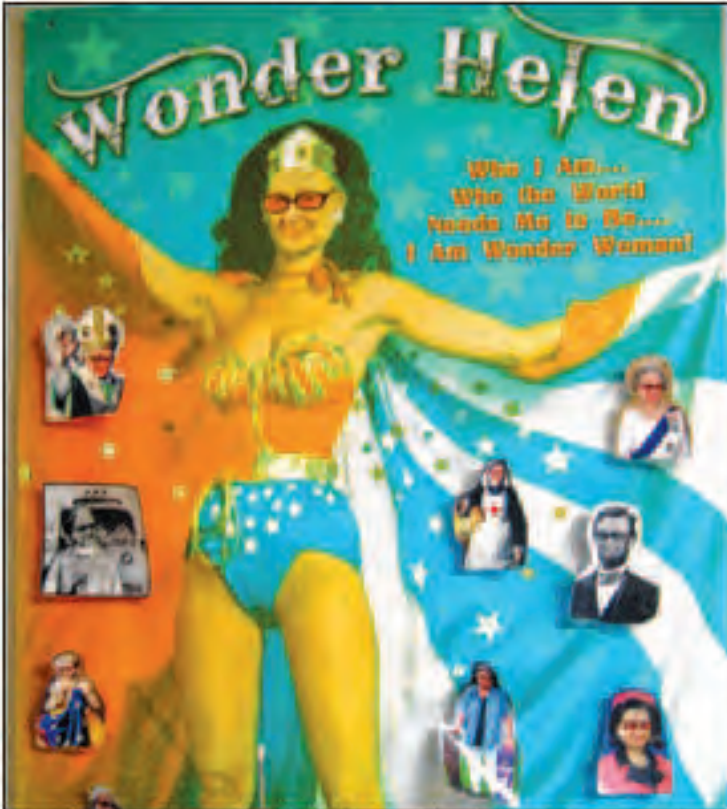


The only thing she set out to accomplish that she hasn't – at least in recent memory – is piloting a plane.

"I took flying lessons when I was about 50 years old," Bergenty remembers, adding with a chuckle, "I had more nerve than brains in those days."

She and the instructor were headed out towards Waterbury one day and the wind was so strong Bergenty call recall the plane going backwards.

"The next day I was supposed to fly solo but I chickened out. That's the only thing I can think of. Everything else I've taken on."



Top, Helen Bergenty, the furthest right on the bottom row, was one of Plainville High School's "Blue Angels" back in 1947. Lower left, she was crowned "Wonder Woman" on her 80th Birthday.





# 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.

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

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