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Bloomfield's own weekly newspaper

March 8, 2024

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Priceless 16 pages

STUDENTS, EDUCATORS CELEBRATE LITERACY WEEK



Excitement this week around Bloomfield Public Schools, as the district held its second annual Literacy Celebration Week. This week-long extravaganza is a vibrant celebration of literacy, with Bloomfield schools and community partners joining forces to promote the joy of reading and writing.

Throughout the week, each of the district's schools has curated a diverse range of activities aimed at igniting a passion for literacy among students. From Poetry Assemblies and Book Tastings to Mystery Readers and Classroom Door Decorating competitions featur-

BHS JROTC DISTINGUISH THEMSELVES IN DEMANDING DRILL COMPETITION



Bloomfield High School US Army JROTC Drill Team won 1st place in the Drill Competition held at James Hill house High School on Thursday, 7 March 2024. The BHS Drill team performed an extremely difficult routine that involved over 30 drill and ceremony commands. The drill routine included formation assembly, dress alignment, cadet leader control and unit response execution. Cadet Sianna Lloyd was the Drill Team Commander for BHS and the following cadets participated and won the 1st place Trophy: Megan Stone, Jake Battle, Steven White, Aaron Anderson, Imani Cain, Malik Hylton, Trezir Johnson, Samira Yaye, Devin Carney, Andrew Mckogg, Demali Riley, Deshon Johnson, Chloe Smiley, Katana Tate, Samie Shahbaz, Rickford Kirton and Celine Cabassa. Congratulations to all the BHS Cadets for a job well done!

See JROTCs page 9

BLOOMFIELD STUDENTS SOAR AT STATEWIDE HISTORY DAY COMPETITION HELD AT UCONN



See Page 8



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Dan Gilligan
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It's election season again. Over the next several months, you're bound to hear an array of promises from the candidates and speculation from the pundits on what those promises, if enacted, could mean for the country. But how might these possible outcomes affect your financial future?

When considering this question, keep these points in mind:

- Campaign promises aren't always kept. Presidential candidates often proclaim that they

intend to institute major changes in tax or spending policies, or both. But the reality is that our political system is generally resistant to major changes, which may be good for investors, because the financial markets dislike the uncertainties accompanying these types of changes.

- Economic progress doesn't always depend on Washington. Even when political leaders do succeed in enacting laws and regulations, the results can be unpredictable. Major economic indicators, such as jobs, interest rates and inflation, can move in unexpected directions.

- Financial markets can do well no matter who's in charge. Since 1970, the stock market, as measured by the S&P 500, has returned, on average, more than 10% annually. And that's under every political combination — Democratic president with Democratic Congress, Republican president with Republican Congress, or one party holding the presidency with the other holding Congress.

The fact is that many factors outside political leaders' control drive financial markets. To cite just one example, it's the Federal Reserve, not the president or Congress, that sets interest rates, and the Fed itself may do so in response to

unforeseen or unexpected economic events, such as the supply chain backlogs brought on, in part, by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Therefore, instead of making investment decisions based on the political scene, "vote" for some tried-and-true strategies. For starters, try to build a diversified portfolio containing U.S. and international stocks or stock-based mutual funds, corporate bonds, U.S. Treasury securities, certificates of deposit (CDs) and other investments. While diversification can't protect against all losses or guarantee profits, it can help shield you from market volatility that might primarily affect one asset class. To put it simply, if you only owned stocks and the market dropped, your portfolio could decline more than if you also owned bonds, which frequently move in a different direction from stocks.

Here's another suggestion: Invest for the long term. The financial markets will always experience short-term downturns, but you don't want to overreact by selling investments to cut losses. After all, if you're not invested in the market, you'll miss out on the early stages of the next rally, which is often when the biggest gains are made. Ultimately, the most successful investors are the ones who hold quality investments for decades as part of a strategy that's appropriate for their risk tolerance, time horizon and personal goals.

Elections can give political leaders a lot of influence — but when it comes to making the right investment choices, you've got the power.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC

EDWARD JONES ADDS FINANCIAL ADVISOR



Edward Jones Financial Advisor Marty McMahon announced this week that a financial advisor, Mary Kate Thompson, has joined his office in Windsor, CT on February 12th, 2024.

"I'm looking forward to working with Marty and meeting investors in this area. I admire his commitment to doing what's right for clients, and I believe working with him will make me a better financial advisor," said Thompson.

The branch office is located at 37 Maple Avenue, Windsor, CT 06095. The telephone number is 860-688-0881.

Edward Jones is a leading financial services firm in the U.S. and through its affiliate in Canada. The firm's more

than 19,000 financial advisors serve more than 8 million clients with a total of \$1.9 trillion in client assets under care at the end of December 2023. Edward Jones' purpose is to partner for positive impact to improve the lives of its clients and colleagues, and together, better our communities and society. Through the dedication of the firm's approximately 52,000 associates and our branch presence in 68% of U.S. counties, the firm is committed to helping more people achieve financial-ly what is most important to them. The Edward Jones website is at edwardjones.com, and its recruiting website is careers.edwardjones.com. Member SIPC.

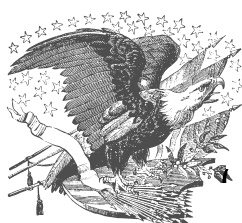
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CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

ACE AND CUSTOMERS DONATE
TO MARY'S PLACE

Windsor's Ace Hardware and its customers raised some very needed funds for Mary's Place, the local non-profit organization whose mission is to provide a welcoming space where families who are grieving a death can share their experiences, receive support, and find comfort. The store's owner Scott Hoffman (above right), presented this week a check for \$470 to Molly Shannon, Outreach and Development Coordinator for Mary's Place. The amount was raised by the "Round Up You Change" program that Ace Hardware held during the month of February. Congratulations to Ace and its initiative, but also to the Windsorites who supported this very worthy cause.

Photo courtesy of Scott Hoffman

LOCAL YARN STORE HOSTING ANNUAL CHARITY EVENT



Photo: Rachel Schuster poses with the completed blanket. Standing, from left, Pat Carpenter, Sheila Karstensen and Sharon Scrivano.
Photo courtesy of Rachel Schuster

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Ewe & You Fiber Arts at 261 Broad St is gearing up to hold its annual charity event. They call it the "Stash Swap Sale" and in addition is holding a raffle for a very special item.

Owner Rachel Schuster says "Each year we receive donations for many reasons. Mostly yarn, but also some fabric, books, and bags. Sometimes full kits for sweaters, toys, whatever. Some of these donations become other items like hats or items that we further donate. But we cannot use it all!"

This year the shop received a very special donation. Back in the 1980's there was another yarn store in town, Knits 'N Knots on Poquonock Ave. One of Ewe & You's frequent knitters, Pat Carpenter worked there at one point and remained friends with the owner. Upon a recent visit, a donation was made. "This was an extra special donation", Schuster commented. "It contained a box full of Granny Squares, an unfinished blanket."

Heirloom items are extreme-

ly important ways to connect with each other and our past. They are so important to share with each other and future generations. "I knew immediately, they needed to be connected into a blanket and I wanted to give everyone a chance to own it," says Schuster. Old squares are now connected with new yarn and make a one-of-a-kind item for the ages. It may even be yours.

Tickets for the blanket raffle are available at Ewe & You Fiber Arts, The Bean 226, House of Books and Games, Selig Antiques, and Luppoleto Brewery. They are \$2 each or 6 tickets for \$10.

As for the rest of the items that are donated for the Stash Swap Sale, as things get donated they are sorted and bagged with other like things such as by colors, fiber types, and different thicknesses. Sometimes donations have full sweater quantities which always get bagged together when possible. These bags all get sold as is and priced anywhere from \$1 to \$50 with the occasional \$70

bag if it's REALLY good! If it's a full skein of something all alone it's \$1 to \$5. Books are \$1. You won't beat these deals anywhere!

Schuster says "There is a ton of stuff this year! I hope it all fits in the shop!" There will be a special preview sale that will take place after hours at the shop from 6:30pm until 9pm on Friday the 15th. Then hours for the rest of the sale will be Saturday 10am to 5pm and Sunday 11am to 4pm. These are extended hours for the shop just for the sale weekend.

Proceeds from the Swap Sale will benefit Connecticut Cat Connection. This is a cash-only event. They will also collect donations for CCC in any cat-related items.

Raffle Tickets can be purchased throughout March. The winner will be announced on April 1st.

If you have any yarn or related items to donate, Ewe & You accepts them all year round. Thank you for any donations you make, it allows to continue to pay it forward.

SOCIAL ISSUES

SPEAKER RITTER, REP. GARIBAY CHAMPION AGING LEGISLATION

On Thursday, Speaker of the House Matthew Ritter (D - Hartford) joined State Representative and House Aging Committee Chair Jane Garibay (D- Windsor, Windsor Locks) and State Representative and House Ranking Member of the Aging Committee Mitch Bolinsky (R - Newtown) for a press conference to champion HB 5001 - AN ACT SUPPORTING CONNECTICUT SENIORS AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF NURSING AND HOME-BASED CARE.

HB 5001 is a large omnibus bill that addresses several elder related issues, such as creating guidelines to protect older residents who live in assisted living facilities from financial and physical harm, providing resources to those who wish to age in their own home, and additional training to help improve the quality of care from homecare workers. It is one of five bills that Speaker Ritter designated as a legislative priority.

Speaker Ritter and State Reps. Garibay and Bolinsky were joined by elder care advocates and colleagues on both sides of the aisle from the Connecticut General Assembly, including State Representative Dominique Johnson (D-Norwalk, Westport).

If passed HB 5001 will implement several measures, such as:

- Create a registry of all homecare workers
- Expand Training for Homecare workers, specifically for dealing with Harassment, Abuse, and Discrimination of

Caregivers

- Expand training opportunities for family members taking care of the elderly.

- Expand the number of fingerprint scanning locations to make them more accessible to job candidates

"I want to thank the bipartisan leadership team of the Aging Committee who are working incredibly hard to make lasting, impactful change," Speaker Ritter said. "Lasting change doesn't come without bipartisan legislation, and I think the final product will reflect that. This is not an issue that gets solved in a single session. We are looking to keep moving forward."

"The challenges facing our aging population are not isolated incidents; they are part of a larger trend. As our society ages, these issues will only become more pronounced. Our legislation not only acknowledges these complexities but also paves the way for crucial improvements. I am proud of this legislation and am eager to do my part and push it closer to the finish line," said Rep. Garibay. "I'm grateful for the commitment Speaker Ritter is making to Connecticut's seniors in HB-5001, 'The Speaker's Bill'. 'An Act Supporting Connecticut Seniors and the Improvement of Nursing and Home-Based Care'."

"We've done it before, hand-in-hand, with a singular focus on improving the lives of our state's 'golden population', and we're not shy about rolling-up our sleeves and working together to challenge the status quo,"



said Rep. Bolinsky.

"This bipartisan bill is a gamechanger for our seniors, and I am grateful to Speaker Ritter and Majority Leader Rojas for making this our top priority this session. I join

Chair Garibay and Ranking Member Bolinsky in support of this crucial work together, and as Deputy Majority Caucus Chair it is a privilege to be a member of their team and collaborate with them to advance

our shared commitment to our elders and their increased quality of life," said Rep. Johnson.

The Aging Committee held a public hearing for HB 5001 on Tuesday, March 5.

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GREEN NEWS

FRIDAY, MARCH 22: THREE-DAY 'CONNECTICUT FISHING & OUTDOOR SHOW' RETURNS TO MOHEGAN SUN!

Expert Speakers, Demos & Hands-On Activities, Latest Products, Kids Fun Zone, More...

The "Connecticut Fishing & Outdoor Show" returns to the Mohegan Sun Earth Expo & Convention Center in Uncasville, Conn. on Friday, March 22 through Sunday, March 24, 2024. Dates/Hours: Friday, March 22 from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, March 23 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, March 24 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Discounted admission tickets are on sale now at www.CTFishingOutdoorShow.com. Online \$12 for Adults; At the Door: \$15 Adults; Free for Kids under age 12.

"This show is designed for longtime fishing and outdoor enthusiasts, as well as anyone who wants to learn more about angling and other kinds of outdoor adventure," explains Kristie Gonsalves, Producer of the Connecticut Fishing & Outdoor Show at Mohegan Sun. "Fishing is the highlight of this annual three-day family event that showcases a wide variety of outdoor activities including freshwater and saltwater fishing, hunting, kayaking, paddle boards, safaris, hunting dog training, and more," Gonsalves is President of North East Expos, Inc., a Board member of the Home & Garden Show Executives International, and the Producer of the successful Connecticut Flower & Garden Show in Hartford.

NEW THIS YEAR: A Kids Fun Zone featuring hands-on activities for toddlers through teens, where they can discover the wonder and beauty of the outdoors. This new section will showcase a catch-and-release trout fishing pond, live animals, archery, dog training lessons, a fly-casting pond, and the popular Blackhawk virtual fishing fighting chair simulator. A centerpiece of this Fun Zone will be the Slay Nation Tournament Fishing kids casting corner where certified experts will



teach boys and girls how to fly cast or "flip", and toddlers can catch plastic fish for prizes - all while costumed character Frankie the Fish greets the crowd. In addition, every hour children can participate in a Scavenger Hunt where the winner will win a Tackle box. In addition, special expert-led seminars for youth on fishing tips, and archery and hunting safety will be held throughout the event.

This year's Connecticut Fishing & Outdoor Show will celebrate a momentous achievement by one of the event's longtime headliners: Fisherman and Custom Lure Designer Al Gag (a/k/a Albert Gagliarducci), is one of only six individuals in the world who recently was named to the prestigious 2024 International Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame. In addition, the Hall of Fame has recognized "The Al Gag Super Mac Paddle Tail" as one of the Top 100 Lures of All Time! Gag's official public Hall of Fame installation ceremony will be held during this show on Saturday, March 23 at 4 p.m. at the 5,000-gallon Hawg Trough.

Attendees will discover:

- More than 200 booths, including over 135 companies selling the latest fishing, hunting and outdoor equipment, and fishing boats.

- Fly Casting Demonstrations

by experts in two locations: atop a 5,000-gallon Hawg Trough Live Fish Tank. and on the show's fly cast pond.

Daily Expert Speakers and Demonstrations Free with Admission (full schedule at www.CTFishingOutdoorShow.com. They include:

- Alberto Knie (a/k/a "Crazy Alberto"), World-Class Extreme Trophy Game & Conservation Fish Hunter.

- Sheron K. Brown (a/k/a "The Lunkerman"), Professional Tournament Angler/Guide (Friday & Saturday).

- Janet Messineo, Surfcaster, Shore Guide, Fish Taxidermist and Author (Saturday & Sunday).

- Capt. Joe Diorio, Saltwater Fishing Guide.

- Capt. John Paduano, Charter captain with specialty in huge bass on very light tackle.

- Dan Welby, Fisherman and

Fuse Bait Designer.

- Bryan Mayo, 7-time Rhode Island B.A.S.S Nation State Team and 2021 State Club Champion.

- Matt Wettish, Turkey Hunter/Champion Caller & New England Turkey Hunting Hall of Fame inductee.

- Gerry Rightmyer & Steve Schicker, Hunters and Hosts of "Forever Wild Outdoors" on Wild TV - will speak about archery, hunting and outdoors for kids.

- Ryan Nye, Kayak Bass Fisherman.

- Capt. Brian Coombs, New England Fisherman and Charter Boat Captain.

- Nate Chagnon, Kayak Fisherman

- Capt. Mike Roy of Reel Cast Charters.

- Jim Neary, Fisherman - will speak about fishing for kids.

- Tim Talentino, Fisherman - will speak about fishing for kids.

- Capt. Sean Reynolds, Fishing Guide - will speak about fishing for kids.

- Dave Parrish, Waterfowl Hunter.

- Ron McKee, Surfcaster and Custom Rod Designer.

- Al Gag, Fisherman and Custom Lure Designer.

- Capt. Ian Devlin, Connecticut Fly Angler.

- Fred Wilson, Fly-Tying Expert.

- Tyler Clark, Fisherman and Caster.

- Doug Lyons, Fly Fisherman.

Fly Casting demos by experts in two locations: atop

a 5,000-gallon Hawg Trough Live Fish Tank. and on the show's fly cast pond.

- New Kids Fun Zone with hands-on activities, and special youth seminars on how to fish and hunt.

Meet & Schedule Tours with Charter Boat Fishing Captains, Hunting Outfitters, Outdoor Adventure and Safari Promoters. CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental & Protection's (DEEP) latest rules and regulations, and displays on state's wildlife, fisheries, boating, hunting and parks.

- Fly-Tying by Experts.

- Hands-On Activities include Laser Shot Range from the CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental & Protection (DEEP).

- Animal Adventures Family Zoo & Rescue Center's wildlife programs (Saturday & Sunday only) with an alligator, porcupine, Burmese python snake, skunk, owl, bunny, turtles, and tortoise. Exhibit times: Saturday/Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Presentations: Saturday/Sunday 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

- Tips on "How to Start a Puppy" and "Dog Steadiness" by Jeremy Cormier of V3 Gun Dogs.

- How to Use Inflatable Life Jackets by the U.S. Coast Guard.

- At the show, enter to win a 12-foot Ultra Light Solo Packboat from Adirondack Guideboats.

FOR SHOW INFO, visit www.CTFishingOutdoorShow.com or Facebook or 860-844-8461.



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GREEN NEWS

WINDSOR CLIMATE ACTION: HOW AND WHY TO COMPOST



By Maureen Vagnini
Lea Chayes

What is composting in the first place? Composting is the process that recycles organic matter or just plain kitchen food scraps into a valuable soil enhancer that helps plants thrive. Farmers call it "black gold."

About a third of food produced around the world goes to waste, and much of it ends up in landfills—where it becomes a source of methane, a greenhouse gas 25 percent more potent than carbon dioxide. Food scraps will always remain. For that there is a solution that nearly anyone can do: composting.

It is a fairly easy process and it will decrease the volume of your trash by almost a third. I have a commercial tumbler type of composter that I have had for twelve years and have never filled it up. And I generate a lot of food scraps. Or you can subscribe to one of the commercial companies that will pick up your compost curb side. Of course, there is a cost to participating but the benefit to the planet would, I hope, outweigh the cost. The town of Windsor has a composting facility at the Transfer Station but it does require you to drive to that location. You can also build your own backyard composting system. Try consulting DIY Backyard Composters or the UCONN Home and Garden Education Center at

www.ladybug.uconn.edu

One more resource to try is www.bhg.com/compost

Here are some common

household items that are better off in a compost pile instead of in the trash. Rule number one, if it comes from the ground, it can go into your composter. You can put any vegetable or fruit scraps in, yard debris such as branches, grass clippings, tree leaves or flower and plant discarded petals and leaves. I also add egg shells chopped small, coffee grounds and filters (unbleached), tea bags (make sure that they are plastic free), unbleached toilet paper rolls, shredded newspaper, cardboard cut into smaller pieces, and I even put in the egg carton cut up into small pieces. You want to make sure that you balance your green additions with brown contributions such as leaves after they have fallen off the trees. Since I have a tumbler style composter, I turn it several times every time I add more compost. It is important to aerate your compost for proper decomposition. If you do not find worms in your composter after a period of time, you may want to purchase some and add to the compost because the worms and the microbes are what do to work to create what the farmers love, black gold. I use it in the spring in my flower beds and vegetable gardens instead of purchasing fertilizer. I am just making my own.

This is a simple solution to helping our planet to combat climate change. We at Windsor Climate Action, hope that we have inspired you to consider this small change for you and your family while making a huge contribution for home, Planet Earth.



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BLOOMFIELD STUDENTS SOAR AT STATEWIDE HISTORY DAY COMPETITION



Alyvia King, Aleka Kirton, and Deanna Spears will compete on May 4 at CCSU. Congratulations, and good luck!

Students at Carmen Arace Intermediate and Middle School participated in the 2024 Connecticut History Day Regional contest on March 2 at the University of Connecticut. The Connecticut History Day is for students in grades 6-12 encouraging exploration of local, state, national, and world history. After selecting a historical topic related to an annual theme, students conduct extensive research using libraries, archives, museums, and oral history interviews. The theme of this year's contest was Turning Points in History.

Bloomfield students participating in the competition are part of the district Talented and Gifted Program. The program, known in district as SOAR (which stands for Strive, Optimize, Analyze, and Research), was created in Spring 2022 as part of the Portrait of a Graduate initiative. SOAR services the gifted population as well as supporting teachers to provide enrichment opportunities to all students.

Bloomfield was represented by the following students in the competition:

Alyvia King, Aleka Kirton, and Deanna Spears studied Horace Wells, a Connecticut dentist who discovered anesthesia;

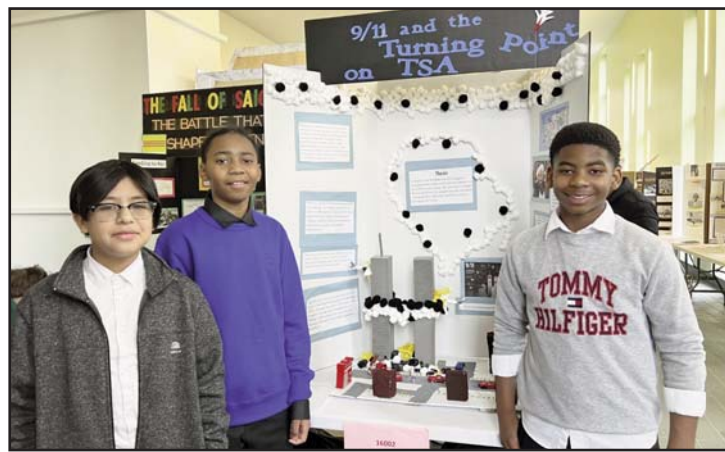
Daniell Allen, Javen Gamble, and Lenny Reyes analyzed the effects of the 9/11 World Trade Center attacks on air travel;

Genesis Rosetta, Ashawana Weir, and Dakota Williams researched the migration of Serbian refugees following the breakup of Yugoslavia in the 1990's; and

Aashiya Mendez investigated how King Henry VIII - who had 6 wives - broke England away from the Catholic Church so that he could remarry.

"I am so proud of these students for stepping up and taking on the challenge of History Day" stated Mrs. Jeanne Pascon, a Teacher of the Talented and Gifted Program. "They have never undergone a large-scale research process such as this and their dedication and perseverance shown through!"

"There is so much excitement surrounding our incredible SOAR team" said Carmen Arace Intermediate School Principal Sarah L. Williams.



"We cannot wait to see what more they do in their future! They are inspiring others with their research and presentation."

Congratulations goes out to Alyvia King, Aleka Kirton, and Deanna Spears who placed 4th and will be moving on to the state competition which is set to take place on May 4 at Central Connecticut State University. "It is a wonderful feeling to see our students get recognized for their hard work and dedication" said Mrs. Juanita Richardson, one of the SOAR teachers. "Making time to engage in this comprehensive process was no easy feat, but they made sacrifices and communicated effectively when they needed support."

"Our students participation in this competition aligns with our Portrait of a Graduate efforts" said Dr. Trevor Ellis, Principal of Carmen Arace Middle School. "It allows our students to collaborate, communicate, be confident, resolve conflict, think critically, and persevere. We wish our students well in the state final."

BLOOMFIELD FACES FAIRFIELD WARDE IN DIVISION II QUARTERFINALS

Woodrow Dixon

Tonight the No.27 seed Bloomfield Warhawks are looking to continue their successful run through the 2024 CIAC Division II Boys basketball tournament when they hit the road again to face No.14 seed Fairfield Warde, who defeated No.3 seed Trumbull 56-49 this past Wednesday evening March 6 in a Division II second round game.

Bloomfield defeats Wilton in Division II Second Round

The Warhawks punched their ticket to the Division II quarterfinal round by knocking off No.11 seed Wilton 88-74 this past Wednesday evening March 6 in a Division II second round match up.

Bloomfield received outstanding offensive performances from Corey Dunkley, who scored a game and a career high 32 points as he connected on 10-three pointers and Kobe Chapman added 22 points. Cayden Smith, the floor general had 14 points and 14 assists.

Bloomfield Upsets New London 69-60 In Division II First Round

This past Monday evening March 4, the Warhawks pulled off one of the biggest upsets of

the 2024 boys postseason basketball tournament.

Bloomfield (9-12) went on the road and defeated the No.6 seed New London Whalers(17-6) 69-60 in the first round of the CIAC Division II boys basketball tournament.

The Warhawks received strong contributions from seven players in this victory starting with Kobe Chapman, who scored a game high 26 points, handed out one assist, grabbed three rebounds and recorded one steal.

Bloomfield floor general Cayden Smith had a hand in at least 22 of the Warhawks 69 points as he handed out a game high 11 assists. But his contributions did not stop there. Smith also recorded six points and pulled down six rebounds.

The Bloomfield threesome of Jeff Acoff, Corey Dunkley and Trikel Delaire each scored 10 points.

In addition to the trio combining to score a total of 30 points, they also combined to pull down a total of 19 rebounds with Acoff recording a team high 10 while Dunkley and Delaire had four and five rebounds respectively. They also combined to record a total of seven assists;

Acoff had three while both Dunkley and Delaire each had two assists.

The last two of the seven Warhawks contributors were Israel Case, who scored two points and five rebounds and Jordan Rucker, who scored five points and recorded five rebounds.

Bloomfield's victory over New London was made even more impressive considering the fact that the Warhawks lost to the Whalers 87-44 during a regular season non-conference contest on Friday, December 29.

With the victory, Bloomfield advanced to the second round where they met No.11 seed Wilton, who defeated No.22 seed Middletown 70-69 this past Monday evening.

(Note:This is the second straight year that Bloomfield and New London have met in CIAC boys basketball championship tournament game and the second straight season the Warhawks have emerged victorious against the Whalers. During the 2023 postseason, Bloomfield crushed New London 78-59 during the semifinals of the 2023 CIAC Division III Boys Basketball Championship Tournament.)

SHOOLS CELEBRATE LITERACY WEEK

From Previous Page

ing beloved books, there was something for everyone to enjoy. Additionally, high school students embarked on visits to Duncaster and Seabury to share original pieces with senior residents, fostering connections across generations. Furthermore, students had the opportunity to sign up for library cards through the Bloomfield Public Library, promoting access to a wealth of resources for continued learning and exploration.

A highlight of the week was the presence of ten spotlight published authors, including esteemed district teacher Mary Munson, who visited each of the seven schools to share their experiences and insights. These authors engaged students in discussions about the transformative power of reading and writing, inspiring them to explore new worlds through the written word.

"We are thrilled to embark on our second annual Literacy Celebration Week, which serves



as a testament to our commitment to fostering a culture of literacy within our schools and community," remarked Lisa Lamenz, Director of School Improvement. "Literacy is the foundation upon which all learning is built, and events like these highlight the importance of literacy now and throughout our lives."

The planning and coordination of Literacy Celebration Week have been spearheaded by Bloomfield's Literacy Celebration Planning Committee, whose dedication has ensured a week filled with engaging and exciting events centered on literacy for students across the district.



B.O.E. BUDGET UP 3.19% - IT REINS IN COSTS AND INVESTS IN STUDENTS



By Bethany B. Silver, Ph.D.
Acting Superintendent,
Bloomfield Schools

Dear Bloomfield Neighbors,
On Thursday, March 7, the Superintendent's Proposed 2024-25 Budget was presented to the Board of Education for review and adoption. This budget was developed collaboratively with School and Central Office leaders and the Board of Education, to increase transparency and efficiency. The Board of Education Finance Committee provided cost-saving recommendations that were incorporated into our proposal. In February Mayor Wong and members of Town Council engaged in a conversation with the district finance team to share initial cost drivers and expectations regarding budget increases. Our 2024-25 budget is designed to introduce efficiencies that have minimal impact on our students and classrooms while streamlining district operations and central office structures.

The primary goal of this budget is to invest in our students and classrooms. To this end, the budget preserves classroom teachers, with no teacher positions being eliminated.

When we started our conversations with the Board of Education Finance Committee in January, we had an estimated increase to our budget of nearly 7% compared to last year. However, after detailed

efforts to identify savings, our proposed budget reflects a 3.19% increase, or \$1,652,054 over 2023-24.

The school district budget includes specific expenses, referred to as major cost drivers, which require annual increases. These include contractual salaries and benefits, student transportation, and tuition costs for students enrolled in other settings.

By leveraging additional grant opportunities from the State of Connecticut, along with legislated magnet school tuition support, and restructuring staffing roles and responsibilities at Central Office, we have been able to mitigate rising costs, retain all certified classroom teachers, while keeping the increase request at 3.19%.

On Tuesday, March 5, we heard from families and neighbors about this budget. Your feedback in this process allowed for the Board of Education to make an informed decision to adopt this proposed budget.

At this point, the Board of Education's Proposed Budget will be shared with the Town Manager's office to be included in the FY25 Town Budget. We look forward to meeting with Town Councilors for individual workshops within the next week as well as presenting to the entire body on Thursday, March 21.

Warm regards



From Page One

BHS JROTC Cadets Win 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place

Bloomfield High School US Army JROTC program wins the top three places in the Individual Drill and Ceremony Competition at James Hill House High School on Thursday, 7 March 2024. This competition had over 50 Cadets competing for the top 3 winners. The evaluation criteria for the competition was military bearing, stationary commands, movement commands and general knowledge questions.

The competition was extremely close with BHS Cadet's Zekhi Shelton finishing in first place, Trez Johnson in 2nd place and Jake Battle finishing in 3rd place. All 50 cadets that participated in the competition did an outstanding job!

LOCAL HISTORY

WHY DID ITALIAN IMMIGRANTS DO SO WELL IN WINDSOR LOCKS?

Windsor Locks Italian Immigrants' High Business Success Rate (1900-1950)

By Mel Montemerlo

The town of Windsor Locks was created by a canal that was built along the Connecticut River. The canal was built by enterprising Hartford businessmen to enable them to ship their goods as far north as Canada, and to provide power that could be used by manufacturing plants. Soon after the canal was completed in 1829, mills began to be built along the canal. The mills needed unskilled workers. At that time, Europe was having economic troubles. Irish, Italian, Polish and other immigrants flocked to the area to get jobs at these mills. Soon the area, which had been the Pine Meadow section of Windsor, Connecticut, became the incorporated town of Windsor Locks.

The immigrants needed housing and places to buy the goods necessary for life. Main Street grew up along the canal. It grew quickly. Entrepreneurs started putting up retail stores, banks, housing, etc in that area. Most of the people who built and owned the mills were already experienced entrepreneurs from other parts of New England.

Most of the immigrants who came to Windsor Locks in the 1850-1920 era were poor, uneducated, and penniless. Except for the Irish and English, the immigrants couldn't speak English when they arrived. Life was not easy for these immigrants. The vast majority of them went to work in the mills.

Life was not easy, working at the mills, but it was much better here than in the countries they came from. The Italians, Polish and Irish formed social clubs so that they could relax with people of their own background. The Irish had the Hibernian club. The Polish and Italians formed social clubs such as the Polish American Club and the Italian American Club. These clubs provided a needed service.

Most of the immigrants kept their jobs in the mills, got married, settled down and raised families. Mill wages were not great, but they allowed the workers to have a much bet-



ter life than they could have had by staying in their home countries.

When you look at the earliest businesses and mills in Windsor Locks, they were run by people who had been in the area for a while. However, some of the immigrants started forming small businesses in downtown Windsor Locks. They left their jobs at the mills and started businesses. Some of the Polish immigrants got work on farms in the area. 400 Irish workers came to the area to build the canal, but they were not treated well. Almost all of them left the area as soon as the Canal was completed.

When you look at who started and grew businesses in the early 1900s, you notice that many of them were Italian. The Hartford Courant described this phenomenon in their May 23, 1954 edition, which said:

After spending its first fifty years in the company of the English and Irish, Windsor Locks was courted and won by the Italians. Arriving in a steady sudden stream from small towns in northern and southern Italy in the early 1900's, they took hard jobs in the mills along the Canal Bank, saved their money and quietly bought up land and small businesses. The town's merchant district today is an Italian province.

After enduring the humiliations customarily given an "out group," the Italians have grown respectable. They are felt in Windsor Locks because they are a major group, and because they offered something quite different, something that was neither Irish nor English. They organized socially and in some aspects, economically, starting

1900 time-frame, such clubs existed in Italy, but not in other countries. The Italian immigrants simply did what they knew from their homeland!!!

There were two kinds of such clubs. One was called a Mutual Aid Society. The Italian name is "Societa di Mutuo Soccorso". Italian-American mutual aid societies were among the largest mutual aid societies in the United States. These societies offered financial support to members who were ill or unemployed, emotional support during crises, and social and cultural support in their new

Mutual Aid Society and a Italia Cooperative Society in the 1900-1950 timeframe. The Windsor Locks Journals of the time showed that the clubs were quite active. Windsor Locks also had social clubs for the Irish, Italians and Polish. The number of Italians immigrants who successfully started and grew businesses shows how effective the business oriented clubs were.

In the list above, the term "Block" is used. It is an archaic name for a large, multi-purpose commercial building. There were 15 of these buildings on Main Street, together with many smaller buildings. The "Blocks" were the largest and most expensive businesses/buildings in town, except for the manufacturing plants.

Below is a list of Italian immigrants and children of Italian immigrants who successfully started and grew businesses in Windsor Locks.

Dominick Alfano and Leo Viola: Each started with a small shop. Then the two got together and built the Rialto Block, which was the building that included the Rialto Theater, as well as other shops.

Pasquale Colapietro: owned a confectionary store. Then he bought and owned the Barrett Block, one of the 15 Blocks of Windsor Locks. He had his own store, and leased the other sections of the building out to other business owners. Leasing rooms for stores and for housing individuals and families was an excellent way of building wealth.

Leonardo Colapietro: co-owned a confectionary store with his brother, Vito Colapietro. Then he founded the Windsor Locks Macaroni Co., which burned down. He went to Springfield, MA where he opened the Windsor Locks Supermarket and rebuilt the Windsor Locks Macaroni Factory on Main Street.

Vito Colapietro: co-owned a confectionary store with his brother, Leonardo. Then he owned his own confectionary store. Then he owned the Windsor Locks Hotel on Main Street, which was one of the 15 Blocks of Windsor Locks.

Charles Colli: Started off with a meat business. Then owned Central Hall, which he bought as the Burnap Building,

See opposite page

THE 15 BLOCKS OF WINDSOR LOCKS

Original Owner	Nationality	Later Owner	Nationality
CHESTNUT STREET			
Tate Block	Irish		
Beehive Block (Shea)	Irish	Building demolished 1930s or 40s	
GROVE STREET			
Mooney Block	Irish	Moses Goldfarb	German
Moran Block	Irish	Moses Goldfarb	German
Cutler Hotel Block	English	Vito Colapietro	Italian
Burnap Block	English	Graziano Graziani	Italian
OAK STREET			
Pease Block	English	Graziano Graziani	Italian
Rialto Bl. (Alfano/Viola)	Italian	Natale Tambussi	Italian
Bidwell Block	English	Graziano Graziani	Italian
Converse Block	English	Italian Coop Market then, Marconi Brothers	Italian
SPRING STREET			
Mather Block	English	"People's Cooperative" 1st Nat'l Bank (Gannuscio)	Italian
Outerson Block	English	Graziano Graziani	Italian
Barrett Block	Irish	Pasquale Colapietro	Italian
Coffin's Block	English	Tony Zaccheo then, Preli & Lund	Italian Half-Italian
STATE STREET			
Coogan's Block	Irish	Was torn down.	

a cooperative store where they could purchase native meats and oils.

Further research showed a practice that the Italian immigrants brought over from Italy to make it easier for them to cope with life in their new country, and to start and manage businesses successfully. They formed "Business Clubs" in addition to social clubs. These business clubs let those who wanted to start a business get with others who could help them get the information, money and support they needed to start and to manage a business successfully.

What caused the Italian immigrants in Windsor Locks, but not the Irish or Polish, to form such "business clubs"? The answer is that in the 1850-

homes. They also helped families start businesses, provided assistance when a family member was injured or killed on the job, and helped with funeral expenses. In other words, they provided help with personal/family problems, as well as help in starting businesses.

The other type of club was specifically aimed at helping its members start and run successful businesses. The services provided advice from people who had successful businesses, and help in finding the money, and the knowledge of local laws to start and run businesses. Such a club was the "Italian Cooperative Society". The Italian name is "Societa Cooperativa Italiana".

Windsor Locks had both a

WHY DID ITALIAN IMMIGRANTS DO SO WELL IN WINDSOR LOCKS?

From previous page
and rebuilt it. It was one of the 15 Blocks of Windsor Locks.

Graziano Graziani: started off as a builder. Ended up owning more land and buildings in Windsor Locks than anyone else. That included four of the 15 Blocks of Windsor Locks!

Angelo, Louie and Johnny Marconi; Started off with a small restaurant. Then they ran a supermarket for the Italian Cooperative Society. Then they bought the entire Converse Block (one of the 15 Blocks of Windsor Locks). They bought the ICS supermarket and turned it into the Marconi Brothers Luncheonette.

Dominick LaRussa: He started off managing an auto parts store. Then he owned his own store. He developed the idea of an "outdoor shopping center", and caused Dexter Plaza to be built. He had a large store in Dexter Plaza.

Ray Roncari: He was a war hero who built a massive construction company, and became a generous philanthropist.

Dr. Ettore Carniglia: son of poor immigrants who went to Harvard and became a phenomenal doctor and humanitarian in Windsor Locks.

Tommaso Zaccheo: He bought the Coffin Block, one of the 15 Blocks of Windsor Locks. He started off using it for a "Arm Chair Restaurant", which turned into a Gas Station and then into an auto repair shop. It ended up being an Automobile Dealership.

Frank Preli and Mr. Lund bought Tommaso Zaccheo's building, and thus became the owners of one of the 15 Blocks of Windsor Locks. Mr. Preli and Mr. Lund used it for a home appliance business.

Natale Tambussi: He opened The Windsor Locks Bakery on Spring Street. He sold it, and opened a pool hall on Main Street. Later he joined with another Italian from a nearby town, and bought the Rialto Theater.

The Bianchi Family: Members of the family owned Bianchi's Bar and Restaurant, Bianchi's Shoe Store, Sy Bianchi's News Stand, and Blanche's Bowling Alley.

Joe "Red" Ambrosetti: Owned and ran a series of three Italian Markets

Rocco Bellini: Owned and ran a series of three businesses,

and ran the St. Oronzo Society and the annual St Oronzo festival for many years.

Dave Magliora - managed the Rialto Theater, and owned the Brown Derby.

Vito Lefemine owned a Barber Shop on Main Street.

Attilio Barbieri - owned of the Home Style Bakery on Main Street

Tony Basile: owned a well-known shoe repair shop near St. Mary's Church.

The Italian Co-Operative Society, which was Windsor Locks' Italian business organization, owned the Italian Co-Operative Market at 202 Main Street, which moved to the corner of Spring & Main Streets. They sold that building and the business, to the Marconi brothers. The Italian Cooperative Society owned that market through the first half of the 1900s.

Daniel Garbarino owned a confectionary store in Central Hall.

Bart Preli owned the Preli Market on Grove St

R.M. Montagna's Market was at 178 Main St.

A. Sfreddo owned Sfreddo's Market

P. Casinghino's Market was on Spring St. It Became Maria Casinghino's Market.

Joe Borracci owned Joe's Market on Oak St

Aldo Satirana bought Joe Borracci's market.

John Macaluso owned Macaluso's Market on Route 75

Johnny Cappa owned Johnny's Market on Chestnut St.

Above are over 30 Italian immigrants and sons of Italian Immigrants who started and ran businesses in Windsor Locks in the first half of the 1900s. The list is long, but is not complete. The businesses they owned ranged from the food markets to massive buildings that housed a number of businesses.

The table on the previous page is a description of the 15 Blocks of Windsor Locks and their ownership. You will see that none of the original owners of those big buildings were Italian, but when they were demolished in the Main Street Redevelopment Project, they were almost all owned by Italians. That is an important indication of how big the influence of the Italian immigrants

and their Business Clubs were.

Now we turn to the **Italian-American "Mutual Aid Society"** (photo on top), which focussed on helping individuals and families fit into life in their new country, and helping members start businesses. It was not a "social" club. Members could get advice on local laws and customs and other information that could help them cope with their problems, and on starting businesses



The photo above is a 1924 photo of the **Windsor Locks Mutual Aid Society (Societa di Mutuo Soccorso)**.

The following individuals in the photo have been identified.

Back Row (5th): From the left;

#3 Mario Raggio, #6 Primo Carnevale, #12 Joe Simonelli

Far back behind Mario Raggio is Paul Pizzali

Fourth Row: from the left #1 Emilio Masera

First Row: from the left

#4 George Colo, #5 Joseph Colo, #8 Joe DiPinto, #10 Seraphin Colo, #12 Antonia Pisati

The Windsor Locks Journal of Mar. 13, 1941 had an article about Mr. Angelo Ciparelli. He was a member of both the Italian Cooperative Society and the Italian American Mutual Aid Society. There were other articles about the Society in the Windsor Locks Journal over the years, but they were about the dates and places of meetings of the Society. They did not describe the workings of the Society.

Now we turn to the **Italian Cooperative Society.** The

Italian Cooperative Society, commonly called the ICS, was an incorporated company, with a charter and stockholders. It had an office on Spring street. It was also a "club". It was made up of Italian-American citizens of Windsor Locks. It also functioned as a club. It was not a social club. It was a company which was founded to make a profit from its businesses in Windsor Locks, which were Italian-American in nature. Its stores accepted

the large building on the Northwest corner of Main and Spring Streets. It also had many offices and stores which would be rented out. So the ICS was in the grocery business and in the business of renting of

The Windsor Locks Journal article in the June 2, 1949 issue said that the ICS sold their block on the corner of Spring and Main Streets. A meeting of the stockholders of the Italian Cooperative Society was held on June 13, 1949. At that meeting, Joseph B. Raccone made a motion that the Italian Cooperative Society be liquidated. The members of the ICS unanimously voted in favor of the motion. The ICS then sold off all of their holdings and businesses. No information was provided on why the decision was made to liquidate the ICS. No further information about the ICS could be found.

The ICS had operated businesses from 1907 to 1949, when the ICS liquidated their business holdings. The ICS was obviously a very private group. The above discussion shows what they did in the businesses that the ICS owned. No records could be found on what happened at their meetings, or on how they helped get their members started in their own businesses.

CONCLUSION

The Italian immigrants who came to Windsor Locks in the 1900-1950 era did very well in starting and running businesses. There was no "contest" among the various nationalities in starting businesses. The Hartford Courant published their finding that the Italians just did very well at it. This chapter filled in the details, giving the names and businesses of many of the Italian immigrants who were successful in business in Windsor Locks in that era. The reason for their success was the existence of the business clubs that the Italian immigrants formed. Such organizations existed in Italy in the 1850-1900 era, and the Italian immigrants started such business clubs in Windsor Locks, similar to those that they had known in Italy. Such organizations were not known in Ireland or Poland at that time. That gave the Italian immigrants a big advantage in the formation of businesses.

SENIOR LIFE

BLOOMFIELD SENIOR CENTER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE BOBBY GIBSON

State Representative Bobby Gibson returns to the senior center on Monday, March 18. The topic will be Avoiding Scams and Scammers. Plan to join Representative Bobby Gibson, the Bloomfield Commission on Aging, Bloomfield Senior Services, Bloomfield Social & Youth Services, AARP CT, Department of Aging and Disabilities Services, UConn Center for Aging, and other special guests for an informative program. There will be a "meet and greet" with refreshments at 5:00 pm, and the program will begin at 5:30 pm. There will be an opportunity to ask questions. Please call the senior center to register.

AARP TAX AIDE

AARP tax aide volunteers are offering free state and federal income tax preparation at the senior center every Wednesday from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, running until April 10.

APPOINTMENTS ARE REQUIRED. No walk-ins. Drop-off options only at this time. Contact the senior center to schedule an appointment and arrange to pick up your tax packet containing instructions and forms to be completed prior to your appointment.

MOTHER'S DAY PROGRAM

We will return to the beautiful Simsbury Inn on Monday, May 6, for our pre-Mother's Day luncheon. Entertainment. Leave senior center at 11:00 am. No refunds. Price: \$35.00.

Duncaster Community Outreach Committee Grant

Awarded to Bloomfield Senior Services. Bloomfield Senior Services has been awarded a \$3,000 grant from the Duncaster Outreach Committee to support two groups.

"Mindfully Yours and the "Gentleman's Breakfast Club." Both group initiatives carry a mindful theme that encourages focusing on the present, not dwelling in the past and not worrying about the future. More information about the "Gentleman's Breakfast Club" coming soon.

"DRUMMING TO OUR OWN BEAT"

Drum Circle on Tuesday, March 26th, 1:30-3:30pm at Senior Services. Craig Norton from "Hands on Drumming" will lead the circle and provide

all instruments. No experience is necessary, just a desire to enjoy a fun, engaging and energized experience with friends. Refreshments will be provided. Group leaders; Pat Maneggia, LMSW and Dawn Cooper-Grodger, Assistant Director, Social and Youth Services. 25 Maximum Participants. First come, first served. Register beginning February 5th. The program is generously supported by AARP CT Livable Communities Grant. Ages 55+, Bloomfield residents only. Must sign-up in-person for each drumming session.

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

The next women's breakfast will be held at 9:30 am on Thurs., Mar. 21. This will be a served meal, not a buffet. Bloomfield residents age 55+ only. Because space is limited, we cannot accommodate drop-ins. PRICE: \$5.00 due at sign-up. Sign-up starts Mar. 4.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The next men's breakfast will be held at 9:30 am on Fri., Mar. 22. This will be a served meal, not a buffet. Bloomfield residents age 55+ only. Because space is limited, we cannot accommodate drop-ins. PRICE: \$5.00 due at sign-up. Sign-up starts Mar. 4.

TECHIE-TIME

One-on-one appointments are available at the Src Ctr, 330 Park Ave, with Romano Tucker.

TOUCHPOINTS AT CHESTNUT CELEBRATES THE START OF THE YEAR OF THE DRAGON



By David Skoczulek
iCare Vice President of Business Development and Communications
In February, Touchpoints at

Chestnut residents enjoyed celebrating the Chinese New Year with a special program by the Asian Performing Arts. Residents learned more

about the Year of the Dragon, and made a Chinese lantern. They also enjoyed some fried rice and shrimp rolls during the festivities!

"Oh, Hello Alzheimer's"

A Caregiver's Journey of Love



Join us for An Evening with Lisa Marshall. Find Joy ~ No Regrets.

Thursday, April 11th from 5:30-7:30pm

Local Connecticut resident & author, Lisa Marshall, shares with you her journey through Alzheimer's with her husband, Peter.

Lisa will have her book available to purchase and sign!

RSVP by 4/2 to 860-690-7660



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ASSISTED LIVING

MEMORY CARE

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Windsor Locks, CT 06096

Stonebrook Village
at Windsor Locks

An Everbrook Senior Living Community

YOUR LIBRARY: BRINGING YOU THE WISDOM OF THE AGES - AND A LOT OF FUN TOO!

WINDSOR PUBLIC LIBRARY

By Denise Ricotta
IT Librarian Windsor Public Library

Windsor Public Library and Wilson Branch

HOT CHOCOLATE BOOK BUZZ

Chat about what you read this year with other book lovers. Enjoy the hot chocolate and tea bar.

Thursday, March 21 | 7 - 8:30 PM



Flood Mitigation and Rain Garden Design with UCONN Extension
Wednesday, March 20,
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Meeting Room I
Registration suggested
windsorlibrary.com



WINDSOR LOCKS LIBRARY

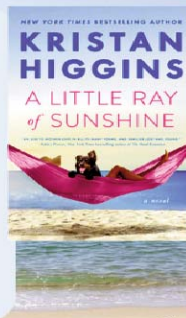
KRISTAN HIGGINS AUTHOR TALK

Online via [Zoom](#) with the Windsor Locks Library, Inc.

MONDAY, MARCH 11TH @ 6:30 PM

Join us for a virtual visit with author
Kristan Higgins!

Kristan is a New York Times, USA TODAY and Publishers Weekly bestselling author of more than twenty novels, which have been translated into more than two dozen languages and have sold millions of copies worldwide.



Register online at www.windsorlockslibrary.org/programs to receive your link.

BLOOMFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

March 16

POKÉMON CLUB



Virtual Program

1000 Years of Great Women in History

Tuesday,
March 12 at
6:30 PM



Register at bplct.org Event Calendar



Crazy 8s club

FOR AGES 8-12



Tuesdays @ 6:00 PM

Feb. 27
Mar. 5
Mar. 12
Mar. 19
Mar. 26
Apr. 2
Apr. 9
Apr. 16

Crazy 8s is the nation's largest recreational after-school math club for kids. BPL's youth librarians are teaming up with Crazy 8s to bring our Bloomfield tweens this 8-week series of fun math programs. Programs will be held at 330 Park Ave., Bloomfield.

Please register online at <https://bplct.evanced.info/signup/>

BPL Atrium Open House & McMahon Wintonbury Library Project Update: Feedback Wanted



Tuesday, March 12 at 4:30PM

1300 Hall Boulevard

(Cigna campus, former MetLife building)

For GPS, search "Atrium at Gillette Ridge"



Virtual Program

THE CONQUERING UNFORGIVENESS MASTERMIND

With Dionne Nicholls-Germain

**Wednesday
March 13
6-8PM**



Sign up at bplct.org Event Calendar

**House of
Books and
GAMES**

Amy and Burt Smith

Used books & board games

OPEN

Saturday 11am-5pm

Sunday 11am-5pm

Curbside pick up
always available

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Windsor

860-219-0393

Local Cousine

IT ONLY HAPPENS ONCE A YEAR! GREEN BAGELS, ONLY AT ISAAC'S BAGEL CAFÉ!



By Howard Steven Frydman
aka "The Howard"
Degustateur at Large

Do you know where you are going this St. Patrick's Day? Well, "The Howard" knows the answer and he, along with a throng of "emerald eating enthusiasts," are heading to the place where everything is definitely coming up Green, the Famous Issacs's Bagel Café. Yes- it's St. Patrick's Day, and the celebration always starts with a hearty welcome from restaurateur Isaac Suttar and an outstanding breakfast at our local Bloomfield eatery.

"My phone has been ringing non-stop since February - all I hear of late is -"Isaac when can I get my Green St. Patrick's Day Bagels"? - Well the wait is almost over and I am so glad to state to all - starting the entire week of and leading up to March 17th, St. Patrick's Day - my bagel ovens will be turning out thousands of those delicious Emerald Isle bagels for eager eaters", states Isaac Suttar, owner of the famous Isaac's Bagel Café in the beautiful Hamlet of Bloomfield, Connecticut.

Mr. Suttar additionally

remarked, "For the past several years- we open our doors at 6am and we already had lines and lines of folks awaiting outside our doors to purchase their Green Bagels. Please not to worry - we will have a wide range of "St. Patrick's Day offerings besides our famed Green Bagels, everything from our plate sized Green Pancakes decorated with marshmallowy lucky charms, hot corn beef on rye sandwiches, green pistachio muffins and one lucky patron will find a golden gift awaiting them - so stop on down - for all our emerald shaded magic rainbow of delicious food treats".

In fact, for over two decades, those seekers of the magically delicious "St. Patty Green Bagel" have made it their yearly destination stop to get their "made only once a year" - Hot from the oven, baked oval treasures treats, at the one and only Isaac's Bagel Cafe, helmed by the "nicest man you will ever meet" - Mr. Isaac Suttar. Indeed, the welcoming aroma of fresh baked goods emanate from the well-known eatery and bake shop where folks from throughout

the region congregate to celebrate the upcoming "wearing and eating of the green".

Miss Lillian Green, of Holyoke, Massachusetts stated, "Yes- I'm one of those folks who makes my way annually to Bloomfield. I wake up around 5am and I try to be the first in line. In fact, I've been coming to Isaac's for his St. Patrick's Day Bagels for close to a decade". Miss Green continued, "My entire family was

cheese, jalapeño cream cheese, or honey walnut cream cheese, plus piled high lox (smoked salmon) to capers, tomatoes and red onions. For your "St. Patty Day Green Bagel" try a Howard's favorite taste treat, a combo of plain cream cheese and fresh avocado slices- yum!

During the "Wearing of the Green" celebration - Isaac will also be serving up several breakfast and lunch specials



from Holyoke, my dad George was the one who started our tradition of always having green bagels on St. Patrick's Day. I am so glad to keep this family tradition alive. How many green bagels will I get? - about 4 dozen. I don't know what Isaac does to those green bagels - but they are truly mouthwatering".

During St. Patrick's Week, Isaac, who wakes each morning before 3 am, heads to his cafe and as you can guess- begins his daily routine of preparing "hot from the oven" bagels. Isaac and his staff, will be making close to 4,000 of the Kelly-green edibles. In fact, besides the St. Patty's Day Green Bagels, Isaac prepares over 30 various bagel types a day, with choices ranging from poppy, cinnamon raisin, sesame, spinach, onion, cheddar, jalapeño Asiago, "The Howard", everything, blueberry, and bialy. For bagel toppings, Isaac offers a myriad of delectables including plain cream cheese, chive cream

that will surely add an emerald twinkle to the eye of hungry patrons including the inspired "Lucky Charms" breakfast - freshly made "French Toast", Buttermilk Pancakes, and authentic Belgian Waffles - sprinkled with multi-colored marshmallow shapes and served with warm, real maple syrup. Pancakes and waffles may be ordered additionally either plain, or with various fruit toppings, berries, bananas or even chocolate chips.

What's St. Patrick's Day without Corned beef and cabbage? - not to worry, Isaac is offering up his green-plate sandwich special of a heaping helping of hand sliced Corned beef, on fresh rye, served with Swiss cheese, sliced avocado, sauerkraut, and emerald pickle spears. Additional lunch offerings include soups, salads, grilled burgers, wraps, paninis, various classic sandwiches such as BLT's, Roast Beef, tuna and egg salad, Nova Scotia Lox, Philly Cheese



Steak, plus Isaac's famous "Grilled Cheese Sensation Special", a massive toasted grilled cheese sandwich topped with bacon, tomato and served with a cup of tomato bisque and a small salad. For those with a sweet tooth, please sample a freshly made St. Patty's Day Green muffin, Cheese Danish, cookie, or cinnamon twist along with Isaac's always freshly brewed coffee or my usual during the cold months, a hot cup of cocoa adorned with a buoyant dollop of whipped cream.

On St. Patrick's Day, Sunday, March 17th, every patron who purchases a dozen "green bagels" are urged to search their bagel bags for the "Lucky Golden Bagel. If you find one- One lucky St. Patrick's Day Green Bagel buyer will win a special gift certificate to be used at the cafe. May the luck of the green bagels be with you!

"Isaac's Bagel Café " has two locations, 16-B Mountain Avenue, and 927 Blue Hills Avenue, Bloomfield, Connecticut. For catering or to book their cafe for a special event, or to pre order your "St. Patrick's Day Green Bagels call the restaurant at 860-243-8704. "Isaac's Bagel Cafe" is open from 6am till 3pm daily serving Breakfast and Lunch.

Howard Steven Frydman is General Manager and Executive Director of BATV - Channels 5, 95 & 96 and a member of the CCC. Please feel free to contact Mr. Frydman with your thoughts and ideas at TheHoward24@gmail.com

Art & Events

MUSICAL JOURNEY THROUGH TIME AT WINDSOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY – MARCH 21

An American Pop Music Time Machine comes to Windsor! Join us for our final installment of the Windsor Music Series featuring Rick Spencer and Dawn Indermuehle on Thursday, March 21 at 7-8pm, at Windsor Historical Society. Enjoy a cabaret-style listening experience as you take a musical voyage through American history featuring popular songs from our past. History comes alive through music, transporting you through the earliest times of the new nation, vaudeville, Tin Pan Alley, the Jazz Age, and early days of rock and roll to the modern era. You won't want to miss it!

Refreshments provided. \$15



INTERNATIONAL STRING TRIO COMES TO NORTHWEST PARK



The Northwest Park Concert Series begins its' winter schedule with The International String Trio on Saturday March 16th at 7:30 p.m. at the Northwest Park Nature Center in Windsor.

True to its name, the International String Trio has honed an expansive repertoire embracing nearly a dozen styles from far-flung lands. Featuring Russian-born guitarist Slava Tolstoy, a virtuoso violinist and singer from Chicago Rob Flax and Boston native bassist Max Ridley The trio's riveting performances encompass a breathtaking range of styles, including

Gypsy swing, old-time Appalachian laments, traditional Irish reels, celebratory klezmer, passionate tango, graceful French musette, and burning bluegrass. While steeped in jazz, they play intricately arranged music that leaves room for improvisation without focusing on it.

The Northwest Park Nature Center is a smoke free, handicap accessible facility located in Windsor, Connecticut. Tickets are \$20. For information and reservations call 860-285-1886 or go on line at www.northwestpark.org.

Proceeds will benefit environmental studies at the Park.

The Carroll Sisters



Tickets \$20

March 17, 2024 at 3pm
Old St. Andrew's Church
59 Tariffville Rd, Bloomfield

OSA Friends of Music is pleased to announce a St. Patrick's Day Concert featuring The Carroll Sisters, a local Celtic duo. The concert will be held at Old St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Bloomfield on March 17th at 3:00pm and will be followed by a reception with traditional Irish fare including corned beef and cabbage.

The Carroll Sisters Trio is most known for their lively traditional tunes, beautiful harmonies, intriguing counterpoints, and unique musical arrangements on fiddle, cello, and piano. Their music reveals both their old soul connection to the Celtic tradition and their youthful energy and creative arrangements. They've performed in intimate settings such as pubs, farm festivals, house concerts, as well as at larger events like Sober St.

Patrick's Day in New York City (2018) and the Boston Celtic Music Festival (2022-2024). Their 2022 debut album (Daybreak, produced by John Whelan) has been critically acclaimed and featured in Irish Music Magazine, Celtic Life International Magazine, The Irish Echo, Boston Irish Magazine, and Irish and Celtic Music Podcast. that podcast's Top 10 Celtic Bands of 2022 and the Top 5 Bands

All are welcome. Concerts are held in the Parish Hall on the historic campus of Old St. Andrew's Church at 59 Tariffville Rd in Bloomfield. The facility is handicap accessible. Tickets are \$20 each of \$50 per family and are available at:

<http://www.oldstandrewschurch.org/purchase-concert-tickets> or by emailing admin@oldstandrewschurch.org or calling 860-242-4660.

CHAD
by Kimmberly Henry

NO WAY. YES WAY.

ALTERNATE REALITIES ARE OUT THERE, NAOMI. THERE ARE WORLDS DRASTICALLY DIFFERENT FROM OURS DUE TO THE SLIGHTEST CHANGES IN OUR DECISIONS.

YOU AND THOSE SUPERHERO MOVIES, MAN. JUST IMAGINE! A WORLD WHERE YOU'RE AN ONLY CHILD

LOVE YA, SHAWN. MOM! NAOMI IS BEING WEIRD!!

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Parkinson Disease Program

FRESH RIVER
HEALTHCARE
Enriching Lives!

96 Prospect Hill Road
East Windsor, CT 06088
Freshriverhealthcare.com



The Fresh River Healthcare team specializes in the treatment and management of movement disorders. However, Parkinson Disease (PD) is much more than a movement disorder. In addition to impacting walking and balance, PD can affect thinking and speech, emotions and behavior, writing and self-care skills. It can also disrupt many bodily functions. Parkinson and related movement disorders are complex diseases that affect each individual differently.

The evolving knowledge of PD combined with improvements in medical interventions and rehabilitation techniques are giving new hope to patients and families living with this progressive neurological disease. At Fresh River, we believe that a comprehensive, patient centered rehabilitation approach can extend the time patients are able to remain active and enjoy and participate in a wide range of daily activities and enrichment. We consider the patient, family and caregivers to be essential members of the rehabilitation team.

