

FREE

SHELTON *Life*

COMMUNITY & BUSINESS NEWS

WINTER 2022 – 23
VOLUME 28, ISSUE 3



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SHELTON COMMUNITY & BUSINESS NEWS

Greetings From the Mayor

Welcome from the Editor



Welcome to this final edition of *Shelton Life* for the year 2022. I am always taken aback at how fast time goes by.

Although I have been a resident of Shelton for 30 years, I continue to be amazed at our history; especially with our legendary farmers here in Shelton. Following on the footsteps of my article with Dan Beardsley in our last edition, I had the privilege to interview a true Shelton legend in Royal Wells and his son Brad Wells from Fairview Tree Farm and the well known "Legends of Fear" Halloween attraction.

As you will read in the article, you will discover how the early days of Shelton life were and recognize some of the current street names here in Shelton and how they came about in this article.

I also enjoyed listening to Royal Wells discuss his outlook on life, his happiness and the work ethic he has instilled in his
continued on page 30



Dear Shelton Residents and Businesses:

We are pleased to present the Winter 2022-23 edition of our Shelton Life newsletter. This city-wide publication continues to be a terrific source of up-to-date business and city news delivered free of charge to our residents and businesses.

Our community continues to grow in many ways and the city is committed to maintaining balanced growth in which housing, business, education and open space preservation are equally managed.

The City's downtown district continues to flourish with private development activity and the pace looks to be sustainable for the next several years. Construction on two new developments were initiated this year and are expected to be completed in the next few months. The projects located at 427 Howe Avenue and 223 Canal Street will create an additional 98 units of housing and four new commercial spaces to add to the City's growing business community. We anticipate the coming year to bring similar results as two new mixed-use developments will begin construction in 2023. These two developments, whose combined private investment exceeds \$20 million, will create an additional 150 units of housing and 13,500 sq. ft. of commercial space and generate approximately \$100,000 in additional tax revenue.

With business expansion continuing along Bridgeport Avenue, the City kicks off the construction of Constitution Boulevard West.

Finally, I commend all of our volunteers for their work, in particular, the work of the Economic Development Commission on the *Shelton Life Newsletter*. Since this edition will be the last for 2022, let me wish all of our residents a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Very truly yours,

Mark A. Lauretti
Mayor, City of Shelton

Front Cover: Plumb Memorial Library's newly renovated adult section.
Photo by Paula Severino

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In Memory

Fred Musante, Sr., (1922-2009)

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Never a Dull Moment at the Shelton Libraries

As told by Joan Stokes, Library Director

It has been said that libraries were staid, quiet, contemplative bastions of civilization, and they often are; but certainly not always. If the past few years have taught all of us any lessons, it is that we need to be adaptable. Never has this been more evident than in our local libraries.

At Plumb Memorial Library the ongoing renovations of the main floor of the Adult section are moving along and should be completed before the end of the year. Supply chain issues, worker shortages and CoVid have certainly hampered the timeline the Library Board had in place so we truly appreciate the public's patience and good will as we complete this five-year project.

A great help to the staff is to look at the "before" pictures and then realize just how good the "after" pictures are. While the Library Board has taken on the financial responsibility for most of the renovations, the City is working on replacing the HVAC system. When that is completed, the entire library should be functional, comfortable and CoVid compliant.



Marcia Austin

While the renovations taking place at Plumb are changing the interior of the building, the staff inside the walls of both Plumb and the Huntington Branch (HBL) have been hard at work, and some members of the staff have passed some impressive milestones. Josephine Sembrat just completed her 50th year at the Plumb Library as a Library Assistant, and yes, she truly

started here when she was just a young girl!

At HBL, Marcia Austin, Branch Manager, has announced that she will be retiring. She began as a library assistant in 1992 at HBL, was promoted



Josephine Sembrat

to Children's Librarian in 1999 and eventually Branch Manager in 2014. Marcia also filled in as interim director at Plumb in 2017 when the previous director retired.

Marcia's immediate plans after retiring are to relax and travel and then to move to Maine where she can begin to explore other libraries. She knows that she will miss the patrons and the staff at HBL and thanks them for their dedication and good wishes throughout the years. It is her hope the libraries continue to provide answers and information for patrons and to be a place where all people feel welcome.

With the dedicated staff at both libraries in Shelton and the renovations that have taken place, we look forward to fulfilling Marcia's hope for the future. We thank her for her service and dedication to her staff and the patrons of Shelton and wish her all the best as she begins this new chapter of her life! ♦



Plumb's new reference desk (left) and circulation desk (right)

NAPA Auto Parts Opens Newest Location at 870 Bridgeport Avenue



Owner Dan Boyce

Dan Boyce has worn a lot of hats including accountant, condiment manufacturer, and surfboard salesman. But, he says, the job title that suits him best is the one on his current business card: Head Problem Solver. The owner of six NAPA Auto Parts stores in Monroe, Fairfield, Newtown, Stratford, and Bridgeport, Dan's newest location in Shelton opened October 3rd at 870 Bridgeport Avenue.

Noticing a lack of auto parts stores in Shelton, Dan and the team at NAPA decided it would be a perfect fit. Dan first moved to Shelton from Bridgeport with his family in 1969. After graduating from the University of Vermont with a degree in accounting, Dan began a successful career in New York City, climbing the ladder at several agencies before turning his sights on condiments and surfboards. "I believe

I can do anything," Dan says of the vast landscape of his experience, "And if I don't know how to do something, I learned it."

The consistent thread throughout his career has been Dan's steadfast ability to solve problems. And this, he says, was what called him to NAPA. "I realized I like to solve people's problems," he says, "And everyone who walks into an auto parts store has a problem. We would never leave someone hanging, even if we didn't have what they were looking for." For Dan, it's about helping customers, not about making a sale.

NAPA Auto Parts is currently in 6,000 locations nationwide, but Dan says what sets his stores apart are his employees. "It's important that they're knowledgeable, but it's really about old-fashioned customer service."

In his success, Dan says he's focused now on giving back. Dan and NAPA partnered with Al's Angels, a Fairfield non-profit that supports children and families battling cancer, rare blood diseases, natural disasters, and severe financial hardship. All six of Dan's NAPA Auto Parts locations have matched donations of a new toy for the season's holiday toy drive.

For all of your car's needs, stop by NAPA Auto Parts in Shelton. NAPA is open Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Saturdays 8:00 am to 1:00 p.m. ♦



LOCAL BUSINESSES

Black Barrel Records Record Label and Recording Studio

Black Barrel Records, a new record label and recording studio dedicated to delivering high-quality, professional sound to local artists, opened in the Conti Building last March. Brothers James and Nick Howard partnered with friend Zach Stout to personally hand-build and design the studio, including several state-of-the-art recording booths, a lounge, and a performance space.

Driven by a passion for music and a dedication to quality, James, Zach, and Nick envision Black Barrel as the one-stop shop for local musicians. “When we have artists come in for a consult, we talk about goals first,” said James of their dedication to the craft. “Every artist and every project is different. If they’re looking for a vintage Beatles sound, we can do that. If they want a more modern sound, we’ve got it. We have it all.” Zach is proud of the professional quality Black Barrel offers artists. “We’re swinging well above our weight class in sound quality,” he said, “High-quality gear means high-quality production.”

Musicians themselves, James and Zach are two of the four members of the emo/indie band The Inside Out. Zach’s musical journey started with the cello at the age of 4, and despite his proficiency in several instruments, he says his favorite will always be the guitar. James was inspired to pick up his brother’s guitar when he was a teenager and hasn’t put it down since. When they crossed paths as employees of Sam Ash, they quickly realized their shared vision for a music studio. “I had looked at space in the Conti building before,” James said, “And when we started talking about a studio, I knew immediately that it should be here.” They say the vibrant artistic community in the Conti building was the biggest draw.

Since their opening in March, they have worked with several artists, hosted small gatherings, and look forward to expand-



(l to r) Nick Howard, Zack Stout, James Howard.

ing Black Barrel to include outdoor performances on the Riverwalk.

For more information about Black Barrel Records, or to check out The Inside Out’s newest in-studio tracks “Teeth” and “Figure Me Out”, visit them online at BlackBarrelRecords.co. ♦

Harvest Fun Fest at the Shelton History Center



On Sunday, October 16th, the Shelton Historical Society located at 70 Ripton Road held a Harvest Fun Fest event to benefit the Shelton History Center.

The event ran from 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM and offered families old-fashioned games, contests and a Halloween costume parade. Over 350 people turned out on a beautiful Autumn day.

Activities included an egg toss, women's skillet toss, Frizzles the Clown, a donut eating contest to name a few. Guests could purchase food and enjoy a tour of the grounds.

Some of the event's sponsors included the Valley Community Foundation, Coca Cola Beverages Northeast, Sports Center of Connecticut, Oronoque Pies, Caloroso Restaurant, Carey & Guarrera Real



Estate, David Grant Caterers, Taylor Made Fitness, Wells Hollow Farm, Wiffle Ball, along with supporters Beardsley Cider Mill & Orchard, Common Bond Market, Donut Crazy, Giove's Pizza, Echo Hose Ambulance, Modern Nails, Panache Hair Design, Royal Bakery, Blue Lotus,

Sugar Rush and White Hills Distillery.

A special shout out to Miss Maura from Plumb Memorial Library who provided Story Time throughout the afternoon, and certainly all of the History Center's amazing volunteers! If you would like to volunteer or support the Shelton Historical Society in its mission to create lasting and meaningful connections between the community's past, present and future generations, please call (203) 925-1803 or visit sheltonhistory.org. ♦



LOCAL BUSINESSES

What the Pup? Relocates to Seven Riverside Drive

What the Pup, a grooming facility with a happy cage free environment, has relocated in downtown to Seven Riverside Drive next to the popular Pier 131 restaurant.



Owner Jenna Lupo

"What the Pup" in 2019 on Center Street. Jenna has over 20 years of professional grooming experience and holds a certification from the CT Canine Academy. She also has 25 years of veterinary hospital experience which is great in keeping dogs relaxed throughout the grooming process. Jenna's team comprises her dad, "Big Tom", her daughter, Danielle Lupo, Erin Convertito, stylist, and Anay Corso, bather. Together they ensure



Owners, Dave and Jenna Lupo, first went into business together in January 2018 and initially opened

Appointments are typically booked one to two weeks in advance. Pricing varies on size, behavior and coat condition. Typically, their grooming services take between three and six hours. Also offered is creative grooming.

Things to Note: Their team will give you a call 30 minutes before your dog is ready for pick up. However, some grooming times may take longer than usual to ensure the process is set at a comfortable pace. Please make sure your dog is vaccinated for rabies, Bordetella, canine influence and distemper. If your dog is not spayed or neutered, please let them know ahead of time.

You can reach What the Pup at (203) 512-3402 or visit their website at whatthepupgroomer.com. They open at 8:30 AM from Tuesday through Saturday and close when they are finished for the day. ♦

the best care for their clients.

What the Pup offers a cage-free environment for grooming and nail trimming services. Jenna and her staff love to get to work with all breeds. They strive to make every dog fully comfortable and relaxed enabling a great experience from start to finish.

What the Pup requires an appointment for every grooming service (nail trimmings do not need an appointment but you will need to call to check for an opening).



Shelton's Senior Center Recognizing Talented Crafters

Most know that Shelton's Senior Center (the "Center") located at 81 Wheeler Street is a busy place. However, some may not know that the Center is always in search of people 55 and older who would like to get in touch with their creative side. Currently, there are three groups offered for members to join ~ Quilters, Arts & Crafts and Knitters. Why sit home alone? One of these three groups might be the right fit for you.

Quilters

This group is open to members who share their talents resulting in beautiful quilts and other useful items. These items can be found for sale in the Center's gift shop which is open to all, not just members. The quilting group also donates items to various non-profit organizations as well as to the Center's in-house events. Judy Santilli is the instructor and emphasizes that no experience is necessary! Sewing machines, fabrics, notions are available for use with all the guidance in the world. The group ranges from little-to-no experience to over 40 years!

Stop in on Wednesday mornings to meet the group and see their latest project. You will be amazed at what creative minds can put together!



Quilters:
Standing (L to R): Maryann Blackman, Elaine Widak, Nancy Sabol, Sue Johnson, Laura Ferrary
Sitting (L to R): Fran Bonitatebus, Judy Santilli, Nancy Gennette

Arts & Crafts

When it comes to creating treasures that are wonderful for gifts or home décor, Santa's helpers have nothing on the Center's "arts and crafts" elves. Rosemary Goldspink and Marge Keane assist this group.

The crafters are always coming up with items for any and all occasions in designs that range from cute to elegant. Whether you are looking for specially packaged candy treats, floral arrangements, festive wreaths for your door or some other treasures or trinkets, chances are you will find it in the gift shop.

Arts & Crafts meet on Wednesday mornings so feel free to stop by their workshop and see what kind of goodies they are working on.



Arts & Crafts:
Standing (L to R): Edna Kerkes, Joan Carpenter, Carol Bouteiller, Arlene Raino
Sitting (L to R): Rosemarie Goldspink, Marge Keane

continued next page

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Crochet & Knit:
Standing (L to R): Lois Shelomis, Rhonda Shelomis, Laura Ferrary, Sue Johnson, Pat Romano
Sitting (L to R): Denise Cote, Kathy Franklin, Cecil Troy

Crochet & Knit

The crochet and knitting group are made up of some very enthusiastic, talented, and beautifully skilled ladies

and gentlemen. They are a cohesive group dedicated to working on their own projects or on special projects that serve the Center's members and/or the community. Lois Shelomis is the instructor and agrees "If you haven't picked up a hook or a pair of needles in a while, have no worries ~ it comes right back to you!"

The ideas and knowledge shared by the group are immeasurable, totally enjoying everyone's company each and every Tuesday.

The Center's Gift Shop is open to the public offerings unique items for purchase, handmade by one of these three talented crafter groups.

Also, call ahead at 203-924-9324 for details. All are welcome!

The Shelton Senior Center is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM until 4:00 PM. Please visit the City of Shelton's website for the Center's monthly newsletter. Membership is only \$4.00 a year for Shelton residents. ♦

City of Shelton Department of Emergency Management Red Cross and Safety Campaign

Working in conjunction with the Shelton Fire Department, The American Red Cross will install free smoke alarms in Shelton residences. During the home installations, Red Cross volunteers will provide fire safety instructions and escape plans.

Information on protecting yourself and family from other disasters including weather events such as hurricanes will also be provided. Every day seven people are killed and another 36 people suffer injuries as a result of home fires. Annually, the American Red Cross responds to nearly 64,000 disasters--the vast majority of which are home fires.

For survivors who may have lost everything, a Red Cross volunteer is often among the first on the scene offering emotional support, helping families find a place to stay and assisting with recovery. Fire experts agree that people may have as little as two minutes to escape a burning home before it's too late.



We urge that every household create a fire escape plan and practice it until everyone can escape in less than two minutes. Escape plans should include at least two ways to escape from every room. Select a meeting spot at a safe distance where family members can unite. Then discuss the plan with everyone in the household

and practice at least twice a year.

Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a home fire in half and should be tested once a month. Change the batteries twice a year in conjunction with daylight savings time if your model requires. Place smoke alarms on every level of your home, including inside and outside of the bedrooms. Home fires represent a significant threat to our communities as most deaths occur in homes that lack proper functioning smoke alarms.

It's easy to schedule an appointment, just call 877-287-3327 for a free smoke alarm installation. ♦

Drugs in Our Waters

By Jane Bakker, Houstonic Valley Association Special Projects Manager

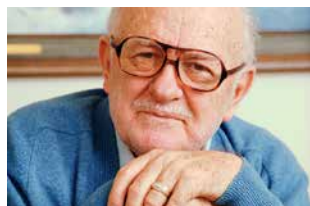


Are the thousands of medications prescribed to treat hundreds of medical problems polluting our rivers and streams? Are they causing untold damage to aquatic life and human beings, too?



also been linked to behavioral and sexual mutations in fish, amphibians and birds. If fish and other wildlife are affected, could this be a problem for humans as well? The EPA does

Doctors prescribe drugs to treat heart disease, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, depression, headaches, hot flashes, arthritis, heartburn and allergies. The list goes on.



Senior citizens often take as many as 10 or even 20 different medications every day. But what happens to the millions of pounds of unused or expired

pharmaceuticals disposed of in nursing homes and hospitals? And what happens to the drugs that leave our bodies and travel from our toilets to sewer treatment plants? Drugs such as ibuprofen, warfarin, digoxin, penicillin, codeine, estrogen, progesterone, testosterone and many, many more end up in rivers, lakes, streams and groundwater across the country and eventually find their way to coastal waters such as Long Island Sound.



not have the answer, yet. And, the drug industry denies that pharmaceutical contamination of water supplies and waterways poses any risk to human health.

Drugs are tested to be safe for humans for a short period of time in most cases. However, some prescription drugs have side effects and

interact negatively with other drugs. If these drugs get into our waterways and eventually into our drinking water, everyone will be exposed. And not just to one drug but to a combination of many different kinds which might be dangerous to human health.



EPA Testing Finds Drugs in Fish

Tests done by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have found antidepressants and antihistamines in livers and tissues of fish samples taken from several cities across the country. In a U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and EPA study of 139 streams in 30 states, pharmaceuticals were found in 80 percent of the samples taken.



According to EPA studies, pharmaceuticals have

Treatment Doesn't Remove Drugs

USGS studies have determined that wastewater is a point source of antidepressants and while the concentrations are small, they may impact aquatic life. Municipal treatment facilities do not have the technology to filter or remove drug compounds from the wastewater.

Drinking water treatment plants are also not designed to remove contaminants although some removal occurs after treated drinking water is disinfected depending on the type of treatment and type of contaminant.

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Pomperaug Study (pomperaug.org)

Fate and transport studies have been done in the Housatonic River watershed to determine how and where the drugs travel and which ones break down or persist in the environment. The studies were done by Alison MacKay, an environmental engineer, who specializes in aquatic chemistry at the University of Connecticut. She and her students obtained water samples at five sites four times a year on the Pomperaug River downstream from the Heritage Water Treatment Plant discharge point. The samples were analyzed for pharmaceutical content.



A non-toxic dye was also introduced to the river at the discharge point and its progress tracked down a six-mile stretch to determine the rate at which the river flows and the rate that a particular contaminant is diluted as it flows downstream.

The Pomperaug is an ideal test subject because the primary source of pharmaceutical input is the wastewater treatment plant that serves a retirement community of 5,000 with an average of six medications per person. The samplings to date are preliminary data and studies are continuing.

Dispose of Drugs Safely

In the meantime, do not flush or pour unwanted, unused or expired medications down the drain and, of course, keep all medications in a safe, secure place in your home out of reach of children.

If you need to dispose of prescription or over-the-counter drugs, follow federal guidelines (see sidebar) or contact the Prescription Monitoring Program at (860) 713-6073 or visit the household drug take-back program web page to find out if there is an event taking place near you.

For more information on drug disposal, check out this DEP Web site: http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2718&q=437868&depNav_GID=1653.



If your business or organization is interested in establishing a household drug take back program, the *Household Drug Take Back Planning Guide* will provide you with all the information you need. It is available at this link: http://www.ct.gov/dcp/lib/dcp/drug_control/pmp/pdf/collectionguide.pdf.

Aquarion Water Company teamed up with St. Vincent's Medical Center for the first public pharmaceutical collection in the Trumbull/Monroe health district in October 2009. This is a positive way to help a community dispose of its unwanted pharmaceuticals. ♦

**Proper Disposal of Prescription Drugs
Federal Guidelines**

Do not flush prescription drugs down the toilet!

To dispose of prescription drugs, you may be able to take advantage of community drug take-back programs or other programs, such as household hazardous waste collection events, that collect drugs at a central location for proper disposal.

Call your city or county government's household trash and recycling service and ask if a drug take-back program is available in your community.

If a drug take-back or collection program is not available:

1. Take your prescription drugs out of their original containers.
2. Mix drugs with an undesirable substance, such as cat litter or used coffee grounds.
3. Put the mixture into a disposable container with a lid, such as an empty margarine tub, or into a sealable bag.
4. Conceal or remove any personal information, including Rx number, on the empty containers by covering it with black permanent marker or duct tape, or by scratching it off.
5. Place the sealed container with the mixture, and the empty drug containers, in the trash. Do not put the container in your recycling bin!

Bella Medical Spa Opens at 494 Bridgeport Avenue



Bella Medical Spa is a premier medical aesthetics center located in Shelton serving both men and women in Fairfield county. Owner, Dr. Daniela Convertito, is happy to have her business in Shelton and remains involved within the community. Close to Route 8 the Spa is conveniently located at 494 Bridgeport Avenue, offering ample parking. Using state of the art treatments, Bella Medical Spa offers services such as Botox, Dermal Fillers, Plasma Injections, Body Contouring and Weight loss, IV drip therapy, Microneedling, Microdermabrasion, Facials, Peels, & more!

Dr. Convertito and her staff will tell you their goal is to provide customers with a unique experience like no other medical spa. Their staff have all been professionally trained to be able to assist their clients in all aspects and client satisfaction

is the #1 priority. Clients receive a warm welcome as soon as you walk through their doors.

During appointments clients are guided every step of the way and never leave feeling pressured. Only the best procedures, latest treatments and innovative products are offered and customized for every individual.

The Spa is open on Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 10:00 AM until 5:00 PM, Wednesday 12 pm until 7:00 PM and Thursday from 10:00 AM until 7:00 PM. Weekend appointments are also available. You can call ahead at (475) 269-5555 or visit their website at thebellamedicalspa.com for further information. Follow them on Instagram and

Facebook [@thebellamedicalspa](https://www.facebook.com/thebellamedicalspa) for the latest updates, promotions, and shout outs! ♦



Staff at Bella Medical Spa

LOCAL BUSINESSES

Kickstart Café

Food Options for All Dietary Needs

Stephanie Champagne was already locally beloved in downtown Shelton through her job at Caloroso Eatery when she, her fiancé Matthew, and Matthew's mother Linda opened Kickstart Café at 462 Howe Avenue. Stephanie had a vision of offering delicious coffee, "two-handed" sandwiches, and food options for all dietary needs in the space that was once Subway in downtown Shelton. For her, working in a coffee stop had been a lifelong dream. "I have wanted this since I was a kid. This is my wildest dream come true."

It couldn't have come together more perfectly, Steph said, when space became available "in the neighborhood I've loved serving for the past six years." With support from Matthew and his mother, baker Linda Thompson, the dream of owning a coffee shop became a reality.

When the doors opened in September, Kickstart's social media was flooded with customers sharing photos of their breakfasts and lunches and singing their praises. "This place is fantastic," said customer Darren Field, alongside a picture of a perfectly toasted bacon, egg and cheese sandwich. Shelton Gift



Owner Stephanie Champagne and her fiancé Matthew Baroli

Boutique owner called it, "The perfect place to start your day." Customer Dan Blizman cited the "super friendly staff, quick service, and great atmosphere," and noted that the "Butchy Boy sandwich was delicious."

Kickstart Café's coffees include a Steph's Brew (coffee, oat milk, cinnamon, and honey), Mateo's Brew (dark brew, sugar, vanilla, and cream), and the Honey Bee Cortado (espresso, milk, vanilla, and honey) among others. Their already "locally-famous" avocado toast includes options for a bacon and chipotle drizzle, or a tomato and pesto drizzle.

Sweeter avocado toast options include Nutella, strawberries, honey, and chia seeds. Kickstart's breakfast and lunch sandwich menu caters to all dietary needs and lifestyles and offers gluten-free, vegan, and traditional options. Their desserts are made by Linda from scratch.

Kickstart offers curbside pickup, dine-in, and catering! Visit them seven days a week from 6:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at 462 Howe Avenue, follow them on Facebook, or check them out online at KickstartCafe.Co. ♦



Hiking Shelton's Trails in Winter

Submitted by Teresa Gallagher, Natural Resource Manager



Winter is a great time to hit the trails and avoid cabin fever. A brisk walk through the forest can help lift winter moods, and there are advantages to hiking during the cold season. For example, there are no bugs, and the trails are more peaceful in winter. After a snowfall, the landscape is transformed.

Winter hiking does present challenges, especially if there is snow cover, but these are not too hard to overcome with the right preparation.

Bring a flashlight: Even the most seasoned hikers get surprised by how early it gets dark. Bring a flashlight or headlamp if you are exploring trails in the afternoon. Even if there seems to be plenty of time to complete your walk before sunset, there's always a chance of being delayed by twisting an

ankle or taking a wrong turn. A common mistake is to rely on a cell phone's flashlight, which will not be bright enough for hiking and will quickly use up the phone's battery.

Footwear: The best investment for winter hiking in Shelton is a pair of heavy duty microspikes that can be pulled on over your boots. These are specifically designed for hiking on icy, snow-packed trails and provide better traction than lighter versions meant for sidewalks and driveways. Each spike is about 3/8" long so that it can dig into the ice and provide secure footing. Microspikes will get more use in Shelton than snowshoes or cross-country skis. The latter are perfect right after a big winter storm, but within a day or two most of our trails have been



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packed down by trail users. Kahtoola and Yaktrax are the most popular makers of microspikes.

Clothing: “Layers, layers, layers, but not cotton.” You will probably start out cold and warm up as you hike, so you’ll need to be able to shed or unzip some outer layers of clothing as you heat up. This is especially important for longer and more strenuous hikes where there is a danger of sweating so much that your clothing becomes soaked, a potential hypothermia hazard if you stop for any reason (including a twisted ankle). Wool layers hold in warmth even when wet, and there are many synthetic materials designed to whisk away sweat while hiking. Cotton shirts should be avoided for longer or more strenuous hikes, since cotton will retain moisture against your skin, potentially leading to hypothermia.

Hiking tip for warming up fast: Select a trail that goes uphill at the very beginning. The trails at Indian Well State Park work well for this.

Winter Trail Footing: Winter trail conditions in Shelton are highly variable since our temperatures tend to rise and fall around the freezing mark. None of our trails are plowed. Pay attention to the temperatures, and be flexible. Trails may be hard and icy in the morning, then slushy (or muddy) in the afternoon, especially late in the season as the sun strengthens. Although it’s tempting to get outside in the afternoon, the frozen morning trail will provide more solid footing, especially if you’re wearing microspikes. Even when there is no snowcover, the afternoon sun can melt a thin layer of slippery mud over an icy subsurface. Oak leaves can also be slick on some trails. A trekking pole or walking stick can help.

Winter Trail Etiquette: It doesn’t happen often, but if there has been recent heavy snow, tracks from cross-country skiers and snowshoers will appear along the Rec Path. People walking on top of those ski tracks in boots are likely to “post hole” through the surface, disrupting the smooth surface and the enjoyment of future skiers and snowshoers. Instead, start a separate set of tracks parallel to the ski tracks.

Parking: After a snowstorm, trailhead parking areas might not be plowed, so look for on-street parking locations. Boehm Pond and Tahmore Trails are good snowshoeing options with on-street parking. Birchbank Mountain has an alternate trailhead parking area at Round Hill Road. The most popular parking areas for the Shelton Lakes Greenway are typically plowed within a few days of a major storm, but until that happens, trail users can park on Wesley Drive, John Dominick Drive, the Senior Center, or Shelton Intermediate School if school is not in session.

Maps: Visit the Conservation Commission’s website at sheltonconservation.org to obtain trail maps. ♦



The Shelton Trails Committee is an official subcommittee of the Shelton Conservation Commission, established in the mid-1990’s to create and maintain hiking trails on City open space.

SHELTON COMMUNITY & BUSINESS NEWS

COMMUNITY NEWS



Hosts Annual Shelton Day October 2, 2022

The skies might have been a bit dreary and windy, but Shelton Day proceeded as planned – minus the hot air balloon rides due to the high winds. This was the first year Bad Sons Brewing Company and Jones Winery participated.

Always a multi-faceted event, The Derby-Shelton Rotary Club produced the 38th annual Shelton Day on October 2nd with Rotarian Joe Shapiro chairing the event. Shelton Day is held on the first Sunday of October.



Mayor Mark A. Lauretti reads the Shelton Day proclamation to officially kick off the events with Rotary President, Betsey Doane, along with fellow Rotarians Drew Scott and Joe Shapiro.



Rotarians Julie Blakeman (Left) and Kate Marks

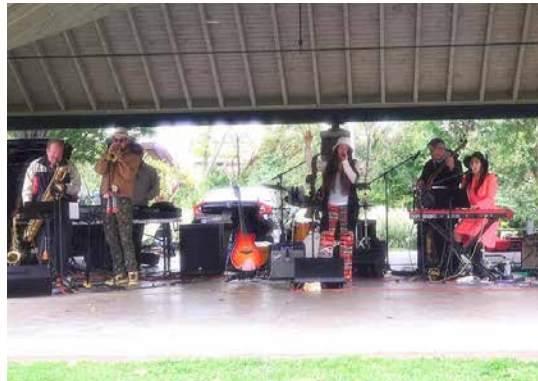


Rotarian Douglas LoMente

COMMUNITY NEWS



Fuzz On It also provided music



Headlining band Lee-Ann Lovelace



Legends of Fear Booth



Rotarians (L to R) Tom Wilson; Joe Shapiro, Chairman of the event; and a Bad Sons Beer Customer



SHELTON COMMUNITY & BUSINESS NEWS

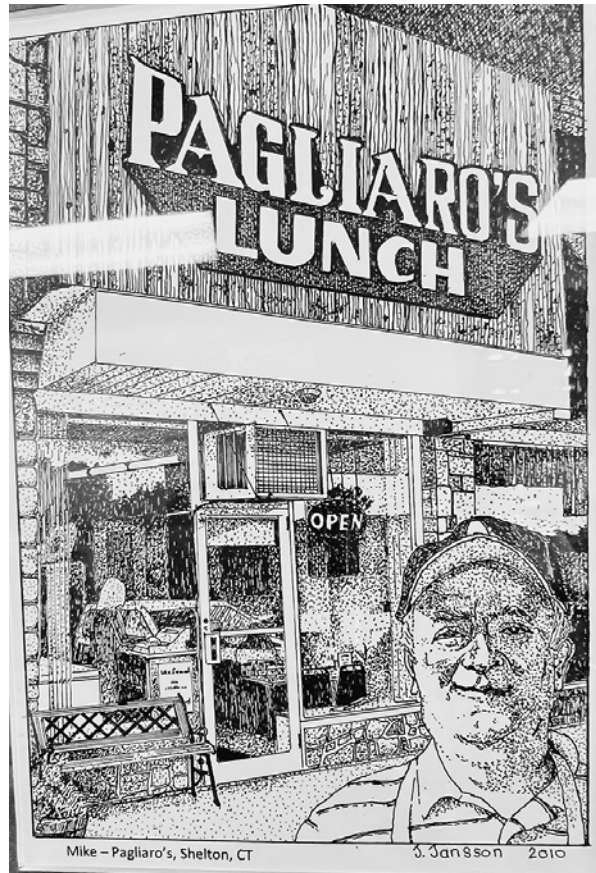
LOCAL BUSINESSES

There's something about Pagliaro's Luncheonette in Huntington Center that has withstood the test of time. For almost 30 years, Linda Pistey has worked alongside owners Mihail and Chrysoula (Sue) Xenidis and their family, serving generations of customers Shelton's best home fries. "Or maybe they come back for the Mickey Mouse pancakes," said Sue Xenidis.

"She really loves seeing the children in here," adds Sue's son, Alex, gesturing to a family with a baby in one of the booths.

Alex was five years old when his parents bought Pagliaro's in 1995. Pagliaro's first opened in Huntington Center in 1982. When the Xenidis family took over in 1995, it was from its second owner, Gianni Laszlo. Greek immigrants, Mihail and Sue spent the 80s and early 90s working in Stamford in the food industry saving, first for Pagliaro's, and later, Woodside Deli in Shelton.

Alex attributes Pagliaro's longstanding success in the community to the family atmosphere. "At least 95% of our customers are regulars," he says. "During the week we have landscapers, contractors, and blue-collar work-



ers, we know all of them, and we know all of their orders. On the weekends, we have families."

Much has changed in the community since 1995, but Alex says their ability to stay connected to their customers has remained the same. While businesses and landlords have come and gone around them in Huntington Center, the Xenidis family's rare ability to maintain a warm, welcoming, family atmosphere has persisted.

For the owners and staff at Pagliaro's, it really is all about family. Sue and daughter Fotini are still behind the counter. Mihail still oversees all of the operations, and Alex is there in addition to his job as the freshman volleyball coach at Newtown High School. Linda, who has been with

the Xenidis family since the beginning said she wasn't sure what her job title was. Sue chimes in, "Family member. Call her family." Pagliaro's opens every day at 6:00 a.m. and closes 2:30 p.m. weekdays, 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays and 1:00 p.m. on Sundays. Stop by and see them at 58 Huntington Plaza. The coffee really is fantastic. Call ahead at (203) 929-4000. ♦



Chrysoula (Sue) Xenidis



Linda Pistey and Alex Xenidis

LOCAL BUSINESSES

Yogativiti located at Three Corporate Drive, Suite 201 has taken on a new look and perspective. Owners, Zoey and Marc Schiavone, husband and wife and both Connecticut natives, are the team behind Yogativiti.

"We're proud to be a local, independent family-owned business! Our goal is to create a community where you can come make friends, and learn new skills to live a long, happy & healthy life mentally & physically."

Yogativiti has been open since 2006 (formerly known as Bikram Yoga Shelton). Under the Schiavones ownership as of 2018, one of Connecticut's longest running hot yoga studios, they offer a variety of hot yoga classes, workshops and trainings. Classes such as hatha yoga, vinyasa yoga, Yin yoga, sculpt yoga, and hot hiit are offered as well.

"Shelton is a wonderful community to be located in. We have many locals who frequent our studio from both Shelton and neighboring towns and also work with the City of Shelton to offer free yoga classes for all employees as part of a health and wellness program," stated Zoey. Combined, their teachers have certifications in Hatha, Vinyasa, Yin, Restorative, Hiit, Prenatal, Mommy & Me and more. They believe the more you learn, the less you know,



Owners, Zoey and Marc Schiavone

and they are always seeking opportunities to expand their yoga education so their knowledge can be shared with the community. They also believe that yoga, like anything else, evolves and are open to adding new classes and workshops to meet everyone's fitness needs.

At Yogativiti, they welcome every "body" and are proud of the diverse community. Their culture is warm and welcoming for every "body." Yogis include all ages (18-75) and levels. Yogis practice to find relief for a variety of physical and mental issues such as stress relief, PTSD, anxiety, depression and insomnia as well as to improve their range of motion, and to increase strength and flexibility. All of their instructors are certified, experienced, friendly and fun. No judgement is made, and they always ensure a great experience on and off the mat.

Zoey and Marc are committed to inspiring people to be happier and healthier in daily life through a welcoming and accessible approach to yoga. Their belief is

that life is hard enough and coming to yoga should be a happy experience!

For further information you can contact the studio at (203) 929-7979 or email zoey@yogativiti.com. ♦





"The EDC Chairman Steps Out to Visit"

By Bing J. Carbone

A Conversation with Royal & Brad Wells

Welcome to this edition of "The EDC Chairman Steps Out to Visit" where I had the great privilege to speak to Mr. Royal Birdseye Wells, a true legend, whose family roots go back to the early 1700s and life-long devotee to the City of Shelton, along with his son Bradley (Brad) Wells, Manager/Co-Owner of Fairview Tree Farm and Legends of Fear.

Bing: *Royal, you are truly a legend here in the City of Shelton. So much of what I have learned about you and your life-long residency here in this City, I find astonishing. Let's talk about your life a bit and your impact on Shelton.*

Royal: I was born on Wells Hollow Farm on July 30, 1934. I have been a resident of Shelton all of my life (88 years).

I attended Huntington School located where the Community Center is today. (In 1948, the city acquired the property next to the school from the Huntington Congregational Church for \$1,000 to build a new addition.) I attended Hopkins, a private school in New Haven, for my high school years because my mother felt that with the smoke from the Sponge Rubber factory in downtown, health wise I would be better off in New Haven. I went on to attend the University of Connecticut (studied business and accounting), and it was mandatory to go through the ROTC program. I had a bit of a hearing problem so I ended up ineligible for the draft.

It was a wonderful time and so many graduates went on to have very nice business careers including women who went into nursing. David Beardsley (legendary farmer of Beardsley Farm in the White Hills) was in my class; he was a nice kid. David was an Alderman for the City of Shelton. We were good students and people who cared deeply about the town.

In the 1940s many of us joined the scouting program held on Friday nights. We would finish our

chores, milking the cows or doing whatever farm work was needed, and leave at 6:30 PM for a scout meeting at the Huntington Congregational Church. We would ride our bicycles whether it was rain, sleet, snow or shine. Great times.

After graduating from UCONN, I

ended up taking my first job in 1956 in Springfield, Massachusetts in an accounting firm. It was a nice firm but I didn't enjoy the auditing part of the job. I soon found out after a couple of years I was more interested in construction and working outdoors.

Bing: *Tell me how you got started in this work?*

Royal: I started courting my wife in 1960 and was married in 1961. We went on our honeymoon in Nova Scotia. It was such a good time in my life. I got my broker's license and started selling real estate. I was selling homes and then I started working for my

continued on next page



Royal and Arlene Wells (seated) and the Wells Family

LOCAL BUSINESSES

father-in-law, Wilson Fair, where under his guidance I learned construction, road building, house construction and so forth.

In 1962 I started buying property in the City of Shelton (Huntington), and the first properties I purchased then became the "Berries", well-known streets in Huntington today. Actually, Blueberry Lane was named after Grace and Ed Vaillancourt who sold us the right of way to Huntington Street; however, I had to move the many blueberry bushes on their property in order to get the road through there.

I ended up purchasing over 40 acres from several people. In 1963 I hired Bridgeport Hydraulic to install a water line which was the first water main established in a new sub-division. The pump house was on Huntington Street along with the water main, so they ran the water line up into the Berries, and I remember they charged me \$7.00 a foot back then (which was very reasonable). I then hired Dan Beard, from Island Sand and Gravel, to pave the road. Dan charged me \$3.20 a running foot.

Also, at the time I worked with my wife's uncle, Andrew Fair, who was my banker. We worked together for the next 25 years financing our projects in the City of Shelton. I remember Louise Chamberlain of Chamberlain Real Estate said to me "Royal, you're nuts" because I told her I was going to charge \$6,000 for a building lot. She said "You're out of your mind."

She added, "I know you've got a vision, but I just can't see you getting that kind of money" and I said, "Louise, I'm going to have city water and I'm going to have covenants saying the builders will construct nice homes." I added, "This is the entrance to Huntington, and when you pass Trap Falls Reservoir



Brad Wells and his wife Trish and daughters, Caroline Wells and Deirdre Wells Gunnell, at Fairview Tree Farm.

and turn into my street, they will pay extra for that." But she just shook her head at me in doubt.

Well, it turned out to be a pretty big success with the Berries and seven years later I ended up buying Louise's 90-acre farm on Chamberlain Drive and subdivided the area in 1970 just below Redwood Circle where the Suren farm was. It was really a nice piece of property and Louise said to me "You did such a nice job in the Berries; I want the same kind of quality on the property you're purchasing from me."

(Louise Chamberlain had previously started selling land to developers on Quaker Ridge such as Hank Gazer and my father-in-law, Wilson Fair. I then extended Chamberlain Drive to Tuckahoe.)

From then forward the City of Shelton just grew and grew. People wanted to live here and bought homes and then businesses along with churches were established and schools were built. It was such an exciting time. Royal continued to buy land and work with local builders well into the early 2000s.

Bing: *I don't know how to describe you. Were you a property developer, land developer, home construction builder because you seem to be one of the early people involved in Shelton doing this kind of development. Am I wrong to say that?*

Royal: Well, my father-in-law started it, along with my wife's uncle Andrew Fair, but also my wife's first cousin Robert Baldwin. He bought the land around Sorghum Road (the land in Huntington Center by the Huntington Fire Company). From there, he built Waverly Estates and my father-in-law, Wilson Fair, was in charge of Fair Transportation. He ran the Fair Transportation Bus Company. He ran all of the buses

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Wells, continued from pg. 20

in the City of Shelton for the Shelton schools – which was truly the first bus company in Shelton to do that. So honestly, I kind of had my hands into a lot of different things but I considered myself a land developer.

Bing: *Royal, I need to understand something; where in the world did you come up with the courage, the vision and the will to do the things you did back then, which for me looking back, seemed like a huge gamble no matter which way you look at it?*

Royal: Well, you hit it Bing, I had a vision. I told myself I wanted to get into my own business. I watched my father-in-law buy a piece of property and learned how the entire process of land development worked, and it was then and still is today, a pretty complex process that takes years to understand.



But I said to myself, I think I can do this and that's exactly what happened. I talked to my wife's uncle and said "Andrew, I'm going to see if I can buy some land." So, I went to Ms. Guila Hawley, and I knew that she had a wooded lot off of Huntington Street (about 30-acres) and I said to her "Guila, I'd like to buy your property. I know I can do a good job. I've talked to Andrew Fair (she said, I know Andrew), I will name a street after you, and I hope we can come to an agreement."

Well, I had \$1,000 to my name and that's what I started with. Guila said to me, "let me talk to Mom and Dad" and she came back and said "You know Royal, my mother and father would be proud to have you purchase the land, build the road and the homes, and we will finance it for you." The city was growing.

Bing interviews Royal's son, Brad, at this time.

Bing: *Brad -Tell me what you do and why you do it?*

Brad: I am the managing member of Fairview Tree Farm, which has been a continuous farm since 1842 started by Lucius Hubbell. Myself along with my wife, Trish, are co-owners of Fairview Tree Farm and the attraction known as Legends of Fear.

Where our farm is now, which today is known as Means Brook, a mill pond was dug and a stone dam was built (which is still there today) and by 1843 there was a working water power sawmill. They started to saw all the lumber from Shelton to New Haven, and they created Saw Mill City Road.

Lucius had a son named Theodore Hubbell born in 1841 who had a daughter, Carlotta Hubbell. Carlotta, being the oldest daughter, owned the farm. She assisted in the running of the saw mill, along with the help of her siblings. Carlotta married a gentleman by the name of James Fair. (The Hubbell Farm became the "Fair" farm at the same very location where we are now at the turn of the century; hence the name Fairview Farm).

Carlotta and James started a family (five children in all) in the 1900s. One of their sons named Wilson was my grandfather. Although my grandfather was not the oldest son, he wanted to manage the farm so he actually ran the saw mill when he was a younger guy (there are still a few family photos of this kicking around). They also sold firewood — LOTS of it and supplied it all over the Valley delivering it by horses.

The farm would produce milk, eggs, chicken, pork and lots of vegetables for the people of Shelton. My mom, Arlene Fair, was the only daughter of Wilson and Gertrude Fair, and married my dad, Royal Wells.

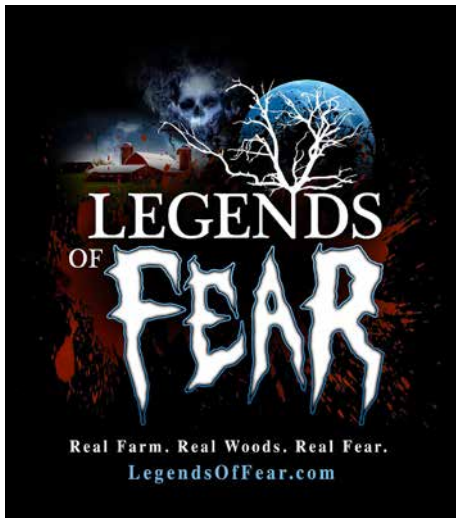
Fast forward to 1982 when I was in high school, my mother and grandparents sat my brother, Schuyler, and myself down and told us that we were going to be receiving the farm. I was 18-years old and felt pretty awesome and yet in some disbelief. The farm, however, had been pretty much sitting idle in the early 1980s; the fields were overgrown and the cattle had been gone since the 1950s. My grandfather suggested we clear some land so we could sell firewood. That is exactly what we did. We then started planting Christmas trees when we were in our late teens and planted 2,000 seedlings that we purchased from the State of Connecticut.

Bing: *Fast forward to 2022 - tell me what's going on now — what you do and why you do it?*

Brad: After 35-years of hard work at the farm, the

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LOCAL BUSINESSES



infrastructure has been created, and we now have 14-acres planted of Christmas trees so the farm has evolved from a simple one-acre Christmas tree patch to a thriving "agritourism" business visited

by people from all over New England.

Bing: *We have many great farms here in the City of Shelton with a long history of operation. Any thoughts on why Shelton seems to be such a great and historic place your type of business still operates in today?*

Brad: The farmers truly get along. Royal added, "the City of Shelton, the administration, have really worked hard to keep the White Hills section rural. The farmers also give land back to the city as open space as well as participate in various charities."

Bing: *Brad – I am fascinated about the Haunted Trail. I believe it's been voted the number #1 Haunted Trail in Connecticut. How did this whole idea come about and when did it start?*

Brad: I've always loved Halloween and our neighbor Charlie always had a nice display in his yard. My wife Trish also loves Halloween. My grandfather, Henry Wells and I, attended a Farm Bureau Meeting in the early 1990s. At this meeting, I learned of a large farm in Iowa that began a business in "agritourism", a newly-coined phrase for "farm tourism" offering Haunted Hayrides. I realized this brought in a significant amount of revenue as well as enjoyment for many customers who would not have necessarily come out to the farm.

So, knowing that our farm land was very rocky and we had some infrastructure issues to address, we improved the paths and created a hayride route which evolved over the next several years. In 1997, we had 35 "actors" in total and somewhat limited attraction features. It was then called Fairview Tree Farm Haunted Hayride.

From 1996 up to 2012, we kept that name.

However, when my daughters were in high school they said, "Hey Mom and Dad, Haunted Hayride does not sound awesome enough, and we need to rebrand and come up with a better name." So, in 2013, my daughters and wife came up with the name Legends of Fear.

Bing: *You also have food, cider, popcorn, donuts and a gift shop during the nights of Legends of Fear – please elaborate.*

Brad: We obtained our permit to serve food items and cider from the Naugatuck Valley Health District. There are items available for purchase from our Christmas shop.



Stephen Evans (the Beast), Deidre Wells Gunnell and Jamie Carbone

Bing: *Tell me about this new addition to the farm in December 2022. What is it and what are you calling it and what will it feature along with dates will you be open?*

Brad: This year our first year ever "MERRY CHRISTMAS HAYRIDE" will be offered on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights throughout the season. We have Santa, Mrs. Claus, the Grinch and Cindy Lou Who and elves along with a welcoming bonfire. Reservations are booked directly on our website. Lights, music, Christmas carols and a good "old fashioned" Merry Christmas hayride will give our customers plenty of recreational family time and more. At the farm during

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the Christmas tree season, hayrides are offered beginning the day after Thanksgiving including horse drawn hayrides and Santa hayrides. Santa can be found at the farm on weekends.

Bing: *What is your biggest challenge or challenges in running the business?*

Brad: Our biggest challenge is to be prepared every year for our hayride and seasonal business and to be properly insured including maintaining all the necessary machinery. We are also experiencing a massive Christmas tree shortage which may get worse. Thus, the price of Christmas trees has risen dramatically due to drought affecting all the Christmas tree crops in New England.



On the Legends of Fear side, the logistics of planning the haunted attraction including our hayride and trail (1/2-mile trail) is enormous. The overall preparation including the hiring and training of all of the actors and our planning meetings is a year-round endeavor.

Bing: *How do you advertise/market your business?*

Brad: We do a lot of marketing; however, our greatest asset is our customer service which leads to a "positive word of mouth" experience. We are a destination and people drive several hours to visit us. I want to make certain that they are greeted properly, that our staff is friendly and that their experience is great in a safe environment. Legends of Fear is rated amongst similar attractions as one of the top-ten haunted attractions in the U. S.

Bing: *What do you personally attribute your success to? I do know one thing about you which I will state; you work extremely hard. You have an incredible work ethic that I am guessing you got from your dad but what beyond that, is attributable to your success?*

Brad: I would absolutely say that there are two main reasons for Legends of Fear being as successful as it is today. First of all, the fact that my entire family, from my grandparents to my own parents, my in-laws, my daughters, son-in-law and my wife are 100% committed to the business. Secondly, I think it is my 100% dedication (70 hours plus a week at times) to the business and my attention to detail to ensure a great guest experience.

Bing: *What are your visions for the business going forward?*

Brad: Well after the beginning of July we start working on Legends of Fear in the fields to add new attractions and improve the experience. It is a lot of work with a team of seven other employees working right up to the opening day of the Halloween event.

In the future I see the business continuing to grow as a top-notch attraction where people come to our farm to forget about the challenges of daily life and experience and enjoy our Legends of Fear. Also, we contribute to the local economy creating 223 part-time jobs along with the increase in demand for hotels, restaurants, etc. since people come from as far away as Delaware.

Bing: *Royal we are at the tail end of this interview and I have known you for quite a long time. You always seem like a very happy person. Where does this happiness come from?*



Royal: Well, I have always been an optimistic person, and I think coming from a good home life with great parents and siblings who all got along has also contributed to the way I am today. We had a nice balance of work and life outside the farm, and we all went to church. I believe there are still a lot of good in people here in the United States and that makes me happy too.

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A New and Improved Preschool Program in Shelton

The preschool concept is to build a strong foundation in social, general, and pre-academic skills that will provide 3 and 4-year-olds with a better opportunity in school and beyond. The program uses an early childhood curriculum aligned with the Connecticut Early Learning and Development Standards (CT ELDS) that encourages and supports every child to grow, develop, and express him/herself in an individualized and competent manner.

Shelton's earliest preschool concept was introduced in the late 1970s when Ripton School opened for special-needs students. Several years later the "Pals" program developed consisting of a balance of students with disabilities and typical peers.

When Ripton School closed in 2005, the preschool program was moved into an elementary school. Today, the preschool is stationed at Long Hill School and Mohegan School, with classes composed of 3 and 4-year-old children.

Kristen Santilli, now the Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Data PreK-12, was the Principal of Mohegan Elementary School for several years and has spent much of her time with the preschoolers as the entire program was located in her school. Shelton's Preschool Program has always held a special place for Santilli, as both of her twins attended the program over a decade ago. As a parent at the time, the preschool was not only a hallmark of the district but the first introduction to the Shelton Public School System. Santilli recognized the need for a new and improved learning program with more inclusive instructional guidelines. Thus, the road to an accredited program was investigated.

Before starting the 2021-2022 school year, Santilli applied for the School Readiness Grant through the Connecticut State Department of Education's Office of Early Childhood. Shelton Public Schools were approved for this grant and were awarded \$217,087. This competitive grant provides funds for students ranging in age from three to five years old. Each municipality has a School Readiness Committee that makes recommendations for each school readiness program. In order to receive funding, participants of the grant must adhere to the NAEYC accreditation, which requires a rigorous multi-year assessment



Kristen Santilli talks to preschoolers

involving teachers, administrators, and enrolled families. It is a three-year process composed of four stages. These include doing a self-study, a self-assessment, and a site visit, and to maintain accreditation.

To adhere to the accreditation requirements, programs must develop classroom and program portfolios to meet stringent standards grouped into 10 areas:

Relationships with Children

Curriculum

Teaching Approaches

Child Assessment

Nutrition and Health

Staff Qualifications

Relationship with Children's Families

Relationship with the Community

Physical Environment

Program Leadership and Management

These standards encompass criteria for high-quality instruction coupled with a healthy environment for children, well-trained teachers, and a rigorous curriculum that addresses all aspects of child development.

Currently, Shelton is in year two of the NAEYC

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Shelton Schools all "Pinked Out" for Community Cause

The color pink is the color for universal love and caring for oneself and others. It is the color adopted for Breast Cancer Awareness during the month of October and it is the color that dominated the Shelton Public School System as each school held "pink activities" during the month.

Seven schools held a myriad of activities to raise money for "The Valley Goes Pink". The funds raised totaled more than \$10,250 and was given to support a wide variety of Breast Cancer services offered by the Hewitt Center for Breast Wellness at Griffin Hospital.



ing items outside the cafeteria every morning. Additionally, students who contributed \$1 were able to wear pajamas to school with the slogan - "Put Cancer to Bed". Students were also encouraged to get "Pinked Out" one day and the highlight of the activities was the staff/student Pink Volleyball Game.

Booth Hill School held a "Go Pink Day" and raised over \$230 for the Cancer Couch, a local foundation that provided 100% of donated funds to research for Metastatic Breast Cancer research at Memorial Sloan Kettering and Dana Farber Institute.

One hundred percent of donat-
continued next page



Students at Sunnyside giving their estimations of the candies in the jars

At Sunnyside School, Principal Leussier, reported the highlight of activities was when the students were embedding the math concept of estimation into their activities as they estimated the amounts of candies that were filled in several jars. Those students with the closest estimation won the candy jar to bring home and share with their families.

John Skerritt, Principal of Shelton Intermediate School (7-8), reported a week of fundraisers sell-



SIS staff ready for the student/staff volleyball game

SCHOOL NEWS

ed funds were matched by anonymous donors. Elementary school activities included: Pink Bracelet and Pink Sock Days, Pink Accessory Days and Pink Clothing Days.



Elizabeth Shelton's kindergarten collected the most money and won an extra recess.

The highlight at Mohegan Elementary was when new principal John Coppola had to paint his head pink for the entire day as students met his fundraising challenge.

Shelton High School celebrated Pink Month with a "Pink Pep Rally" (below). There was a full spirit week and in addition each of their fall sports teams had their "Pink Game" where they also raised funds by soliciting donations and selling raffle items.



The students and staff of Shelton Public Schools lived up to the meaning of the color pink and showed their love for their community as evidenced by their fundraising efforts and "Ten Grand" donation! ♦

Perry Hill Goes PINK

Friday, October 28, 2022



Support Breast Cancer Awareness

Wear Something PINK

Ways to Show your Support			
Wear PINK Apparel - Donate \$1 (Homeroom Teacher will have an envelope for collection) *One Grade 5 & Grade 6 class will win a popsicle party for the highest donations.			
Items to purchase from October 24-26, 2022			
Supplies are LIMITED...			
Dyads will visit the PINK Sale at scheduled times			
Stickers \$0.50	Erasers \$0.50	Pencils \$0.50	Scrunchies \$0.50
Pens (3 variations) \$1.00	Bracelets (2 variations) \$1.00	Keychains \$1.00	Lanyards \$1.00
Bows \$2.00	Mirror Magnets \$2.00	Plastic Water Pouches \$2.00	Adhesive Card Holder \$3.00
Hand Sanitizer \$3.00	Mini Stress Footballs \$3.00	Pink Ribbon Hats \$5.00	Awareness Shirts (Very Limited Supply) \$10.00
<p>Thank you very much for your support!</p> <p>-Valley Goes Pink Committee & PHS Student Council-</p>			

Upper Elementary Perry Hill School (5-6) Principal Donato Piselli assembled a team to work with their Student Council members and not only had a "Dollar to Wear Pink Day", but also ran a Pink Sale in a school store setting for a few days. Items for sale included stickers, pens, pencils, bracelets, magnets, pink ribbon hats, and awareness shirts.

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Wells, continued from pg. 23

Bing: *I want to draw on your wisdom and experience. What advice would you have for the young people just starting out in life and in their careers?*

Royal: I would say to live your life to the fullest, enjoy your life but have a strong work ethic. Don't rely on someone else taking care of you. I think young folks need to be financially savvy and not spend every dime they make—save money a little bit because there might become a time when you will have to take care of yourself.

Bing: *I turned 60 years old this year and I am starting to think about my life somewhat and what my legacy might end up being. Tell me, what do you hope your own legacy will be and what things would you want people to remember Royal Wells by?*

Royal: What I'd like to be remembered as being a pioneer in Shelton. Our family has given back to the city over many years. I think it is so important to give back to people and the community in which you live. We have contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years to a number of organizations. I think we have instilled the same "give-back" mentality to our sons as well and our grandchildren. I would like to leave Shelton, the Valley and the State of Connecticut better than when I found it. If I can do that, then I think that would not be a bad legacy.

Bing: *Brad, I have seven last questions for you off the top of your head. Ready?*

1. *What superpower would you like to have? (laughter)*
The ability to fly.
2. *If you were stranded on an island, what item would you like to have with you?* A machete, for sure.
3. *If you could travel anyplace on Earth, where would you go?* Alaska.
4. *If you did not have to work, what would you do?*
Spend all my time in Aruba.
5. *What is your greatest fear as an entrepreneur and what keeps you up at night?* Inclement weather on

the nights Legend of Fear is running along with safety for my customers.

6. *Looking back, what things would you have done differently in terms of the business or anything in life for that matter?* I would have started sooner investing more time and effort into the clearing of the farm.
7. *Lastly, white clam pizza or sausage and mushroom?*
White Clam Pizza!

Thank you Royal and Brad Wells for this very special interview.

Fairview Tree Farm is located at Two Saw Mill City Road in Shelton. (www.fairviewtreefarm.com)

Note: Arlene Wells passed away on April 29, 2022, She is deeply missed. ♦



Preschool, continued from pg. 24

accreditation process. "Building up to accreditation is a lengthy and rigorous process, however, we are committed to the families of Shelton and we seek high standards for our youngest learners and teachers," said Santilli. "The research supports that early intervention in the first few years of life can pave the road for success in elementary school."

NAEYC accreditation has become a widely rec-

ognized symbol of high-quality early childhood education. Less than ten percent of all preschool programs nationally achieve this distinct recognition. Santilli, stated, "NAEYC raises the bar for early childhood programs, and I am confident that Shelton's Preschool will continue to rise to this level of high-quality care."

Note: NAEYC is the National Association for the Education of Young Children. ♦

LOCAL BUSINESSES

24/7 Express Opens in Downtown



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The search for everyday grocery items has gotten a lot easier for those living downtown.

The owners of 24/7 Express on Barnum Avenue in Stratford officially opened their second location in the space formerly home to Walgreens Pharmacy at 73 Center Street.

"This is the fastest growing area in the city, and this convenience store is definitely necessary (in downtown)," said Board of Aldermen President, John Anglace, Jr. who joined store owners Muhammad U. Khan, his father, Muhammad I. Khan, Bilal Zafar and Samia Khan and other city officials in a grand opening ribbon cutting.

"There could not be a better choice for this location," added Anglace, flanked by fellow aldermen Eric McPherson and Anthony Simonetti along with with Bill Purcell, President of the Valley Chamber of Commerce.

The store will sell items for people's daily needs said Khan, who also owns Wing it On, also on Barnum Avenue in Stratford. The store will be open from 5 AM until Midnight daily.

"We're really excited about coming into Shelton, especially this location," Khan has previously said, adding that the recent explosion of apartments and the increasing amount of foot traffic piqued his interest in opening a store downtown.

"This is quite a diverse area. There is a lot of opportunity here," Khan added. There is a definite need for a convenience store in this location."

The shop will offer frozen foods, canned goods, and



toiletries, plus a "Grab and Go" area – all at competitive prices, Khan said.

The retail building, which has been vacant for more than a year, was built in 1963. The building totals 5,476 square feet, with 3,128 square feet on the first floor. There are 15 parking spaces.

Purcell thanked the owners for choosing downtown Shelton to expand their business.

"We need this, Shelton needs this," Purcell said. "Downtown is the fastest growing neighborhood in the city, probably in the state." ♦



DiMatteo Group Moves to 1000 Bridgeport Avenue

For over six decades, The DiMatteo Group in Shelton has always been committed to the local community as a well-respected business and philanthropic leader.

Founded in 1960 by the late Anthony DiMatteo of Shelton, the company has always been based in the Greater Bridgeport area. DiMatteo Group Financial Services and Tax & Accounting, originally headquartered at 79 Bridgeport Avenue, Shelton relocated a few miles down the Bridgeport Avenue corridor to 1000 Bridgeport Avenue.

John DiMatteo, President of DiMatteo Group Financial Services, explained what precipitated the move. "Our three divisions have been located in Shelton since 2003," he noted. "When DiMatteo Insurance was sold to Cross Insurance in 2019, our need for such a large office space changed, in large part due to the pandemic."

As a result, their Financial Services and Tax & Accounting businesses began the crosstown move on October 3rd and is now located in adjacent suites at 1000 Bridgeport Avenue on the fifth floor.

"We are happy to continue serving our clients at another convenient location in Shelton," noted Rosemarie Esposito of Shelton, an officer of DiMatteo Group Tax & Accounting. She co-owns this business division with her sister Loretta Lesko of Shelton.

DiMatteo Insurance, as it was originally called, opened its doors in Bridgeport over 62 years ago. By 1970, Anthony's late wife Adeline "Lena" joined her husband and the company was renamed A.A. DiMatteo Insurance Service Center. (One "A" represents Anthony and the other "A" stands for Adeline.) In 1993, the founders turned over daily business operations to their four children and two of their spouses.

Today, the third generation has joined the financial services business. For the past six years, John Esposito of Middlebury has been affiliated with DiMatteo Group Financial Services and is currently a Financial Advisor



Pictured left to right are the following staff from DiMatteo Group Financial: Matthew Schock of Cheshire, David Attolino of Orange, John Esposito of Middlebury, Jordan Miller of New Haven, John DiMatteo of Bethany, and Jessica DiMatteo of Bethany (missing from the photo) along with these professionals from DiMatteo Group Tax & Accounting: Rosemarie Esposito of Shelton, Guy Jean Paul of Hamden, and Loretta Lesko of Shelton.

with the firm. In addition, President John DiMatteo's daughter Jessica DiMatteo of Bethany, has been working in the family business as a Financial Assistant for over two years.

DiMatteo Group supports many local charities through the DiMatteo Family Charitable Foundation. The Foundation was established over 17 years ago as a tribute to their founder and late father and grandfather Anthony "Tony" DiMatteo, who was battling cancer at the time. Since then, the Foundation has contributed over \$508,000 for various local and national charities that support our community as well as to fund research, education and finding a cure for diseases.

The phone numbers will remain the same for both family business divisions. For more information, visit www.DiMatteoFinancial.com or call 203-924-5420 and www.DimatteoTax.com or 203-924-5320. ♦

Community Calendar

PARKS & RECREATION

Community Center Hours:

Monday-Friday 6:30 am - 9:30 pm

Saturday 7:30 am - 3:30 pm

Pool Hours:

Monday-Friday 6:00 am - 8:45 pm

Sunday 8:00 am - 3:30 pm

Saturday 7:30 am - 3:30 pm

Information is posted on the city website: www.cityofshelton.org.

Information/Cancellation Hotline
203-331-4120 • 41 Church Street

SHELTON SENIOR CENTER

The Center provides a wide range of social, educational, health, financial, and recreational programs for residents 55 years of age and older. The Center sponsors parties, BBQ's, special events, day/overnight trips and casino trips.

Transportation to the Center is provided for Shelton residents (FREE MWF) including free shopping bus to local stores for members on Wednesdays. For more information regarding any of these programs, please call the Center at (203) 924-9324.

SHELTON YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU

The Youth Service Bureau was established in 1988 by the City of Shelton for the purpose of developing, planning and coordinating services for the youth of the city and their families. The Youth Service Bureau works cooperatively with the schools, police, youth, parents and other community resources to encourage our youth to strive for their full potential. The Bureau provides programs for both youth and parents on issues of importance in today's society. It also provides information and referrals for parents and youth in need. For more information, please call the Youth Service Bureau at 203-924-7614 or email: SYSB@cityofshelton.org

SHELTON LIBRARY SYSTEM Plumb Memorial Library

65 Wooster St. 203-924-9461

Huntington Branch Library

In the Community Center,
41 Church St. 203-926-0111

CONTACT INFORMATION

Shelton City Hall (203) 924-1555

Shelton Board of Education
(203) 924-1023

Shelton Community Center
(203) 925-8422

Shelton Highways and Bridges
(203) 924-9277

Shelton Animal Control
(203) 924-2501

Shelton Libraries:

Plumb Library (203) 924-1580

Branch Library (203) 926-0111

Shelton Police Dept. (203) 924-1544

Shelton Probate Court
(203) 924-8462

Shelton Registrar of Voters
(203) 924-2533

1ST WARD ALDERMEN

Anthony Simonetti (203) 926-0922

Porter C. McKinnon
portermckinnon32@gmail.com

2ND WARD ALDERMEN

Eric McPherson (203) 924-5862

Michele B. Bialek (203) 645-0735

3rd WARD ALDERMEN

John Anglace (203) 929-1515

Cris Balamaci (203) 922-1639

4th WARD ALDERMEN

Lorenzo Durante (203) 623-3060

Bernie Simons (203) 925-8499

STATE LEGISLATORS

State Senator Kevin Kelly

(860) 240-8826

State Representative Ben McGorty

(800) 842-1423

State Representative Jason Perillo

(800) 842-1423

CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATION

Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro

(New Haven office) (203) 562-3718

Congressman Jim Himes

(Bridgeport office) (866) 453-0028

U.S. SENATORS

Senator Richard Blumenthal

(Bridgeport office) (203) 330-0598

Senator Chris Murphy

(Hartford office) (860) 549-8463

Welcome, continued from page 1

own children and grandchildren. I was even more impressed on his thoughts about giving back to the people and community in which you live (right here in Shelton).

I am proud of this city and the people who live and work here. We have so many great things that continue to occur from the dedication of our elected government, volunteers, city officials, the business community and our residents who help guide our continued growth and quality of life.

I was honored to attend a recent lunch with the highest State of Connecticut officials, along with Mayor Lauretti, who came to Shelton and wanted to understand what Shelton's "secret sauce" is that has made our City one of the best places in the state to live and do business.

I would like to wish all of our Shelton residents a very Merry Christmas and a joyful, healthy and happy New Year.

See you in the spring!

Bing ♦

Shelton
Going Green

SHELTON COMMUNITY & BUSINESS NEWS

Shelton Economic
Development Commission
c/o City Hall
54 Hill Street
Shelton, Connecticut 06484

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