

# The Litchfield Connection

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Volume 1, Issue 2 • Nov/Dec 2018 *Connecting Litchfield, Bantam, Milton, Morris, East Litchfield & Northfield*

## Student Council Food Drive



The Litchfield Intermediate School Student Council organized a Personal Care & Food Drive to collect personal care items and food for the Litchfield Food Pantry at St. Michael's Parish. The school delivered 2,428 items to the pantry this month.

School staff gives thanks to Becky Stull and the Student Council for organizing this drive, and thanks to the school community for the donations.

## A sold out performance by Marilyn Maye on Cabaret Night



Award winning Cabaret singer/performer Marilyn Maye performed to a standing ovation and sold out crowd at the Litchfield Community Center last Saturday night.

Ms. Maye is a highly praised singer, actress, director, arranger, educator, a Grammy nominated recording artist and a musical treasure who has appeared 76 times on The Tonight Show starring Johnny Carson.

Ms. Maye's performance was just one in the Litchfield Community Center's "Starry Night Cafe" series that has included notable performers such as The Nicole Zumitis Quartet, The Steve Doyle Trio, The Peter McEachern/Dave Santoro Quintet and A Night At the Opera featuring NYC performers Melody Alesi, Joan Callaghan, Edgar Jammill, Carlos Jimeno and Christopher Cooley on piano.

Go to [www.thecommunitycenter.org](http://www.thecommunitycenter.org) and stay tuned for info about the upcoming Starry Night Cafe event in Spring 2019.



722 Bantam Road  
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Chef/Owner: Gene Genarelli  
[Litchfieldcateringanddeli@gmail.com](mailto:Litchfieldcateringanddeli@gmail.com)

## Morris Fall Festival offered food, fun and fundraising

The Morris Fall Festival at town beach began with an early chill but warmed up quickly, just like the steamy dunk tank that was part of the festivities and fundraising. The event was free to all and included pizza and sandwich food trucks, a bounce house, balloon animals, pumpkin and face painting, live music by Eran Troy Danner and his band and an exciting ball drop raffle.

The event was sponsored by the Morris Republican Town Committee, and Chairman Chris Parkhurst, who organized the festival, even picking out the pumpkins donated by Kuslis Farm in Watertown, said he was glad the weather was cooperating for townspeople to enjoy the afternoon. He said, "We are grateful to State Senator Craig Miner and State Representative David T. Wilson for stepping up to fill in for two dunk tank volunteers who unfortu-



as well with donations from the Green Tomato Deli, Crossroads Package Store, Dollar General and Don Giovanni's Restaurant."

*Photo by Jo Ann Jaacks. Morris First Selectman Tom Weik and State Senator (R) Craig Miner both took a turn in the dunk tank to benefit the Morris Fire Company.*

nately had to bow out."

Parkhurst noted that First Selectman Tom Weik took a turn in the dunk tank, along with Selectman Erica Dorsett-Mathews, Morris Fire Company President Michael Lauretano and MFC Chief Robert Ebner. Weik also took a high ride in a bucket truck to do the ball drop, which sold over 200 tickets. "All the proceeds from the dunk tank will benefit the Morris Fire Company," Parkhurst said. "We had a gift raffle

## Monthly Musings by Jane Bailey

### Thanksgiving Walk



*This essay originally appeared in the Green Mountain Trading Post, St. Johnsbury, VT, Volume 46, Number 14, November 2017 and is being reprinted by Today's American Catholic, November 2018. Reprinted with permission.*

My dog and I are on our daily walk, holding on to the last days of fall as hints of winter let us know that soon our walks will be curtailed by snow. Keltie suddenly pulls harder on his leash, yanking me forward around a bend in the road where I am stopped dead by the sight of a lone tree with yet every leaf still on its branch—peak at its peak. The magnificent gush of crimson freezes me, even with the dog pulling me onward.

I cannot, dare not, move for fear the moment will disappear. The blood-red tree shimmering in the morning sunlight is a glowing beacon, a feast for the eyes so beautiful, so touching, that I need to soak it in, to have and hold as a piece (the peace) of this autumn season. How this one tree managed to keep its leaves this late in the season is a miracle, along with the gift of sight to see it. I whisper a prayer of thanksgiving for miracles and move gently forward, driven to pull just one leaf,

one perfect leaf for remembrance. As I reach for a leaf, the gravestones surrounding the tree rear up, protecting their sacred ground.

It occurs to me that this is exactly where I want to be buried, under and within this tangled nest of roots, branches and magnificent leaves; to have my ashes scattered amid the tangle to nurture the fertility of this perfect place.

The sound of a car engine suddenly invades my privacy and I hear the engine stop and then a car door slam. I turn and see a woman pulling a pumpkin, now two pumpkins from her trunk. Kneeling she places the pumpkins on a grave and ever so gently clears surrounding debris and arranges the pumpkins just so. As she arranges them I realize that I am the intruder, not she.

I stare at the power of simplicity. The simplest of things—a magnificent tree, the placement of pumpkins on a grave—take on the sacredness of eternity, even as the dog moves me on.



*Jane Bailey is a freelance writer who lives in Litchfield, CT. She is a retired educator who has been an elementary school teacher, college professor, dean, and provost. Jane enjoys writing essays that explore matters of the heart.*

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