

Air Pollution

... cont'd from Pg 1

category called "area sources." The modeling tool used for stationary sources, known as AERMOD, is designed around fixed emission points. A warehouse has no smokestack. Its pollution moves with its trucks.

"That's definitely a regulatory gap in our programs," Farrell said.

Tracy Babbidge of DEEP acknowledged the concern as valid and went further. Addressing it, she told the legislators on the call, would require statutory authority – something DEEP does not currently have. "This is not something that DEEP can do with existing authority," she said.

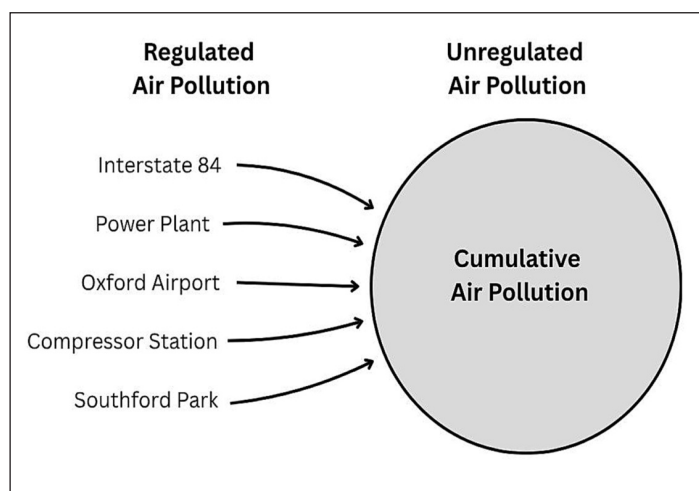
Rep. Pizzuto noted that constituent complaints about respiratory issues – among children, among older residents – had already prompted a legislative pause on certain warehouse approvals. He confirmed what the illustrations suggest: there is no agency clearly in charge of the cumulative pollution.

The meeting ended without a villain. It ended with a gap – named, acknowledged, and unresolved.

The research supports our concerns. A 2024 study published in "Nature Communications" by Dr. Gaige Kerr, a senior research scientist at George Washington University's Milken Institute School of Public Health, found that communities near large warehouses face nitrogen dioxide levels roughly 20 percent higher than upwind locations. Nitrogen dioxide is a pollutant directly linked to childhood asthma. Kerr's study, the first of its kind conducted nationwide, estimated that 15 million people living within one kilometer (.62 miles) of warehouses are exposed to meaningfully elevated pollution levels.

The mechanism is straightforward: trucks generate the pollution. Warehouses generate the trucks. Children nearby and downwind breathe the result.

Local geography also must be considered. Middlebury sits in a valley. On days when there is no wind – when an inversion



The illustration above visualizes the regulatory gap between individual air pollution emitters on the left and the total air pollution emitted on the right. Sources on the left are regulated; the much larger cumulative air pollution on the right is not.

settles in – pollutants from all those sources do not disperse. They stay. The schools sit in that valley.

Southford Park, if developed as proposed, would add substantially to truck traffic already generated by I-84 and the highways feeding it. Under the current regulatory structure, no agency is required to model that addition against everything else already in the circle.

For comparison: When the Towantic Power Plant was permitted, DEEP required full AERMOD dispersion modeling and offset credits from other sources to compensate for new emissions. That is the standard applied to a single stationary source with a smokestack. For a warehouse complex that could generate more than 1,100 tractor-trailer trips per day at ground level near a school, the current standard is nothing.

Middlebury is not alone. In Brookfield, a proposal to expand a natural gas compressor station – 1,900 feet from Whisconier Middle School – recently exposed the same structural problem from a different angle. Senate Minority Leader Stephen Harding, a Brookfield Republican, called it unacceptable. The town's Democratic first selectman agreed. The Republican-American editorial board noted in February that Connecticut's tradition of home rule sits in uncomfortable tension with a regulatory system that limits local influence over state energy decisions. The people most af-

ected, the board observed, deserve a voice.

We are not arguing against development. We are not arguing against warehouses, or power plants, or airports, or the economic activity they represent. We are arguing that somewhere in the architecture of Connecticut's regulatory system, someone should be responsible for adding it all up – before the permits are issued, not after our children are sick.

That is not a radical position. It is, in fact, a very old one: that government exists to see what individuals cannot see alone.

The question belongs to the legislature, to the agencies, and to the people who live inside that circle on the map. It is not a complicated question. It is not a partisan question. It is not even, at its core, a technical question.

It is this: when every agency watches only its own pollution, who watches the total air pollution?

Raymond Pietrorazio is a Middlebury resident, licensed combustion specialist, and the town's appointed air quality representative. He represented Middlebury as an intervenor before the Connecticut Siting Council during permitting of the Towantic Oxford Power Plant. Connecticut Combustion Corporation, which he founded in 1977, continues to operate in Middlebury.

Terry McAuliffe is a Middlebury resident and civic volunteer.

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Cherish your memories

Winning Ways

By PAT IANNUZZI
Insights for
Constructive Living



All of us, I'm sure, have some negative recollections of individuals we wish we had never met, as well as events we would rather had never happened. However, we all also have memories of people and situations that have become timeless personal treasures, for which we will be grateful for the rest of our lives. These represent situations that have brought and continue to bring us intense joy and satisfaction. Instead of trying to forget them, these are memories that we enjoy recalling. But more than that, these are memories we need to cherish.

To cherish connotes a rich and exalted sense of love and appreciation for someone or something near and dear to us that we want to protect and care for lovingly. To cherish a memory is to intentionally create moments and/or to take advantage of naturally occurring opportunities to revisit and celebrate special memories more fully, not to simply recall them, but to reminisce, savor and re-live them.

Our memories and the meanings we make from them represent who we are. They tell the story of our lives, tracking who we were, where we have been and who we have become. They constitute the core of our human existence. By transforming fleeting experiences into enduring personal treas-

ures, memories serve as a lasting record of our lives, allowing us to treasure past moments, learn from our mistakes, form personal connections and relationships and mold our current decisions and behavior. Without them, we would simply be empty shells. Imagine the impact on your life if you were to suddenly lose all your memories, thereby finding yourself floating around in a state of terrifying nothingness. Who would you be?

One of the benefits of cherishing positive memories is the impact of social-emotional connectedness on happiness. Shared experiences create a "common language" and a sense of unity among family and friends. Our joy of living revolves around the intricate tapestry of relationships and bonds that we weave with those we care about. Each connection adds a unique thread to the fabric of our existence thereby shaping our story and enriching our journey. The memories of these connections serve as pillars of support during tough times and sources of delight in moments of celebration. Recalling happy moments also triggers the release of the "feel good" hormones dopamine and serotonin, which

can enhance positive thoughts and lower stress.

Another advantage of cherished memories is increased resilience. We all have memories of situations where we succeeded in achieving significant outcomes in the face of substantial challenges. Revisiting such events helps to bolster our confidence and mental toughness by highlighting the fact that we have already demonstrated that we have the capability for greatness within us to win a battle against the odds. Remembering a past victory can be a powerful force to make us feel strong and want to move forward. Reflecting on what we have done also helps us to remind us how to do it right again in the future.

Cherished memories are always of a "one and done" nature. They can never be exactly duplicated. That's why they are so valuable and why we should try to invoke them as often as possible. Unlike material possessions, memories are internal "timeless treasures" that characterize who we really are and act as guides for our future behavior.

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Be smart about bears

(HARTFORD)—As black bear activity increases in the spring following winter denning season, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) warns residents to be "bear aware" and to do what they can to protect both their communities and bears by preventing human-bear conflicts. Simple steps to avoid feeding bears – such as taking down birdfeeders – will reduce the likelihood of conflicts that can lead to potential harm for both people and bears.

Human-bear conflicts continue to increase in Connecticut. According to DEEP's latest "State of the Bears" Report, in 2025

bears entered or broke into homes in 18 different Connecticut municipalities. The root cause of most human-bear conflicts is access to human-associated foods (e.g., birdseed, trash, pet food, etc.) Once black bears start to consume these human-associated foods, they become habituated (comfortable near people) and food-conditioned (associate humans, houses, and neighborhoods with food). Food-conditioned bears pose a greater risk to public safety and often cause more property damage to houses, cars, pets, and livestock than non-food-conditioned bears. Preventing bears from accessing human food is one of the most effective ways to reduce conflicts.

"Black bears should never be fed, either intentionally or unintentionally," said Jenny Dickson, Director of DEEP's Wildlife Division. "Our latest report shows that the vast majority of human-bear conflicts are caused by unsecured trash and birdfeeders. Taking simple steps like removing birdfeeders and securing garbage can significantly reduce these encounters and help keep your neighborhood safe."

DEEP reminds residents that it is now illegal to intentionally feed bears. In 2023, the Connecticut General Assembly passed, and the governor signed into law Public Act 23-77, which bans the intentional feeding of potentially dangerous wildlife such as black bears.

The most important first steps are to remove food sources such as bird seed and unsecured garbage:

- NEVER feed bears.
- Take down, clean, and put away bird feeders by mid-March, or even earlier during mild weather. Store them until late fall and clean up spilled seed from the ground. Store bird seed and suet in a location not accessible to bears, such as a closed garage, not on screened porches or sheds where bears can rip screens or break through windows to access the seed.
- Store garbage in secure, airtight containers inside a garage or other enclosed storage area. Adding ammonia to trash refuse before tying the bag and then on top of the

bag inside the can will reduce odors that attract bears. Periodically clean garbage cans with ammonia to reduce residual odor. Put garbage for pickup outside the morning of collection and not the night before.

- Do not store recyclables in a porch or screened sunroom as bears will break in to get at them.
- Keep barbecue grills clean. Store grills inside a garage or shed.
- Supervise dogs at all times when outside. Keep dogs on a short leash when walking and hiking. A bear can perceive a roaming dog as a threat. Dogs must be on a leash when visiting State Parks, State Forests, and Wildlife Management Areas. Check dog and leash regulations for places you plan to visit.
- Do not leave pet food outdoors or feed pets outside.
- Use electric fencing to protect chickens, other livestock, beehives, agricultural crops, and berry bushes.
- Avoid placing meat scraps or sweet foods, such as fruit and fruit peels, in compost piles.

If you encounter a bear while in your yard or hiking, make your presence known by yelling or making other loud noises. Use a bear whistle to let bears know you are nearby. Never attempt to get closer to a bear. If a bear does not retreat, slowly leave the area. If in your yard, go into your house, garage, or other structure. If the bear persistently approaches, go on the offensive – shout, wave your arms, and throw sticks or rocks. If your dog is hiking with you, it is imperative that you keep the dog on a SHORT leash and DO NOT let it roam free – this is for the safety of your dog, yourself, and the bear. If you are in close proximity to a bear, DO NOT try to first get a photo or video. Your first priority should be getting a safe distance between yourself and the bear.

In the rare instance when a bear appears to be aggressive toward people, residents should immediately contact DEEP's 24-hour dispatch line at 860-424-3333.

Vandals

... cont'd from Pg 1

of him at age 3 holding the first fish he ever caught there.

When the vandalism was discovered, Walsh said, "We'd like to catch who did this. It's just so disrespectful."

Lisa said Will was well loved by many people. She didn't want to focus on the vandalism. "It just is nicer to dwell on how well loved he was by so many people," she said.

People often visited his bench. Lisa said some would

Marsupial

... cont'd from Pg 2

strategy works sometimes with predators, but is a very dangerous response to an oncoming car. Finally, they rarely carry rabies because their lower body temperature doesn't provide a suitable environment for the virus.

Possums are scavengers and omnivores that eat a very wide range of pretty much anything they find. Helpful to us is that this includes many insects, mice and voles. While many places claim that possums eat up to 5,000 ticks a day, I was quite disappointed to discover that research does not support this. Possums themselves are on the menu for coyotes, foxes, bobcats, large hawks, and great horned owls.

Their preferred habitat makes Middlebury residency ideal: woodland, around streams and ponds, in cavities left by other animals, rock piles, trash heaps, and under sheds or outbuildings. As with much of our wildlife, they will happily eat food intended for our pets or livestock, but again as with other wildlife, this is not good. Wildlife should never be fed, whether intentionally or unintentionally. The only substantial risk of having possums around is to horses, as possums can potentially transmit Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis to them.

For questions or comments, contact this writer at jsuspotlight@gmail.com. You can visit the Middlebury Land Trust on Facebook or the website at middleburyland-trust.org. Meanwhile, Happy Hiking!

Puzzle Corner Solutions on page 8

KingCrossword

ACROSS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15			16					17		
18						19	20			
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57						59				

DOWN

1	Gushing review	20	Jug handle	46	Tiny bit
2	Utah city	24	Zodiac animal	48	Walk unevenly
3	Wrinkled fruit	28	Cornic Philips	49	LAX guesses
4	Workshop array	27	Livelihood	50	Broadway actress Daly
5	Baltimore baseballers	29	"My word!"	53	Docs' org.
6	Humorist work	30	"Science Friday" net-work		

55 Hirohito's title (Abbr.)
56 One-named supermodel
57 Sun beams
58 Verbalize
59 Church section
60 "– outta here!"
61 "Dream on!"
62 Actor
63 Bro, maybe
64 Stair part
65 Deeply touched
66 Its cap, is Brussels
67 "– outta here!"
68 Actor
69 Holbrook
70 Locust
71 Tailsman
72 Seethe
73 Maximum contents
74 Diminutive suffix

7 Pharaoh's land
8 The "A" of UCLA
9 Shortage
10 Fast runner
11 Lawn party site
16 Pisa farewell
20 Jug handle
23 Zodiac
37 Carried out
38 Tibetan monk
42 Confronts
44 "– di Lam-memoor!"
45 Driver with a handle
46 Tiny bit
48 Walk unevenly
49 LAX guesses
50 Broadway actress Daly
53 Docs' org.

32 Secondhand deals
34 "Cheer up!"
37 Carrier out
39 Tibetan monk
42 Confronts
44 "– di Lam-memoor!"
45 Driver with a handle
46 Tiny bit
48 Walk unevenly
49 LAX guesses
50 Broadway actress Daly
53 Docs' org.

SUDOKU

4		5	6					
1		8			2			
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2		6	4		8			

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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by Ryan A. Berenz

Questions

- In 1974, the Major League Baseball Rules Committee permitted the use of what material in the manufacture of official baseballs?
- How many times did Vic Toweel knock down Danny O'Sullivan in their 1950 world bantamweight title boxing match before O'Sullivan retired in the 10th round?
- Pauley Pavilion is the home arena of what men's and women's college basketball teams?
- Mikhail Shaidorov, gold medalist in men's figure skating at the 2026 Milan Cortina Winter Olympics, competed for what country?
- The Harley J. Earl Trophy, first awarded in 1959, is presented to the winner of what auto race?
- In January 2016, the Detroit Pistons' Andre Drummond set a new NBA record for missed free throws in a single game with how many?
- What tennis player defeated Pete Sampras to seal the upset win for France over the U.S. at the 1991 Davis Cup, and later served as director of the French Open from 2016 to 2021? (Hint: His name is not memorable.)

Answers

- Cowhide (baseballs were historically made from cowhide)
- A little fight record.
- The UCLA Bruins.
- Kazakhstan.
- NASCAR's Daytona 500.
- Drummond missed 23 of 36 attempts.
- Guy Forder.

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