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Publisher/Editor-In-Chief: Christine Gillespie

Copy Editor: Sarah Opdahl

PRODUCTION

Editorial Assistant: Jeannie Ruggiero

Graphic Arts/Design: DJ Luongo

WRITERS / COLUMNISTS

Cherry Dumaual, Sarah Opdahl, Michelle L. Santoro, Allison L. Raymunt, Susan A. Szold, Maria Jean Zegarelli

editorial@thetowntribune.com

advertising@thetowntribune.com

sports@thetowntribune.com

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P.O. Box 8048, New Fairfield, CT 06812

Located at 79 Route 39, Candlewood Corners

P: (203) 746-4669 • F: (203) 746-5606

Sudoku

		6	3			1	4	7
	3		9					8
1		8		4			9	6
				9	1	7	5	
			6		8			
	9	1	7	5				
3	6			7		2		5
4					2		6	
8	1	2			9	4		

1		9			4			7
8	6		5	9				
		7	8					
	8			4				5
	7	2				3	6	
9				6			7	
					8	6		
				2	1		4	8
7			4			9		1

The Youngest Of Us

Maria Jean Zegarelli



Happy, Merry Thanksgiving

My Christmas tree is up and decorated but there are still pumpkins on my front porch and a cinnamon spice candle burning in my kitchen. It seems like fall and winter are blending together this year. It's difficult to tell where one ends and the other begins.

I suppose I could finally throw out the pumpkins. They did their job, surviving a few frosty mornings and the pack of hungry squirrels that live in a tree nearby. They seem a bit out of place surrounded by Christmas lights and big red bows. But I'm not ready to admit that fall is over just yet.

I remember, back in elementary school, holidays always had boundaries. Halloween belonged to October, Thanksgiving belonged to November, and Christmas, despite always being on store display shelves earlier than anyone would care for, belonged to December. There's always been a specific order: carve a pumpkin, eat some turkey, decorate a tree. Now it feels like we're doing it all at once. How is it that as we grow older, these months grow shorter and the holidays that we used to look forward to so much, breeze by faster?

Somewhere between a pile of Halloween candy and Christmas lights lies little old November. The thirty-day waiting room between scary costumes and Christmas cookies. Thanksgiving is out there waving its arms at us every year like those car wash inflatables, hoping that amidst the holiday mayhem, we don't forget.

I'm guilty of rushing into Christmas time. My house is a mix of fall and winter decor. Alex and I previously agreed to wait till after Thanksgiving, but the anticipation of the season got the best of us.

When I was younger, the stretch between Halloween and Christmas felt long. Too long. November seemed to have thirty extra days and December always moved at snail speed. Now I blink and a week has gone. I'm starting to wish for an extra thirty days in November.

I used to think adults were exaggerating when they said the years went by faster as you got older. It seemed like something people said when they ran out of other things to talk about. But here I am, looking at a calendar that insists we're halfway through November, wondering what happened to September.

Maybe putting up the tree early is my attempt to slow things down. If I start celebrating Christmas in November, perhaps I'll have more time to enjoy it. More nights with the colored lights glowing in the corner. More excuses to make hot chocolate and bake cookies. More opportunities to watch the same five Christmas movies I've seen hundreds of times.

But then I wonder if, in trying to make the season last longer, I'm doing the very thing that makes it feel so short.

We're always looking ahead. In October, we're thinking about Thanksgiving. In November, we're thinking about Christmas. And by the time Christmas arrives, someone will inevitably ask what our plans are for New Year's Eve.

It's exhausting, really, how quickly we move from one thing to the next.

I don't think there's anything wrong with decorating early. In fact, I fully intend to keep my tree exactly where it is. There's something comforting about coming home to those little lights, especially when the sun has already disappeared before dinner.

But maybe the pumpkin can hang out a little longer too. Because the holidays will come and go whether I'm ready for them or not. And I'd rather not miss November while waiting for December.



LETTERS AND OPINIONS

EDITORIAL@THETOWNTRIBUNE.COM

THANK YOU, MARYLOU SCHIRMER

To the Editor:

New Fairfield and Sherman are two very lucky communities to have the Town Tribune, a vibrant local newspaper. In today's world, 28 years of local news is an amazing accomplishment. Many thanks to Marylou Schirmer, owner and publisher, who has supported our local businesses, nonprofits and town organizations. We wish Marylou the best in her retirement and we cannot thank her enough for the years of dedication and hard work that she has put into this important publication.

We welcome Christine Gillespie as the new owner and look forward to working with her. Information about our local events, school happenings, town board meetings, and other local news is critical to a thriving community. Thank you for continuing this important local news source.

Linda Hubbard, Sherman

THANK YOU, LIONS CLUB

To the Editor:

The New Fairfield Historical Society would like to thank Wendy and Doug Williams and all the Lions Club members that made Saturday's Crafting Day a success. Their support of the New Fairfield Historical Society is greatly appreciated. Many thanks for all their hard work and for all that the Lions Club does for New Fairfield.

Linda Fox, President, NF Historical Society

THANK YOU FROM SHERMAN

To the Editor:

The Sherman Senior Center is deeply grateful to the wonderful volunteers who generously give their time and talents to support our programs and services.

Many of our wellness offerings, including Flexibility and Balance class, Chair Yoga, blood pressure screenings, and our weekly community lunch, are made possible through their dedication and commitment. Their kindness enriches the lives of our seniors and helps foster a welcoming, vibrant community.

On behalf of everyone at the Sherman Senior Center, thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Suzette Berger, Coordinator, Sherman Sr. Ctr.

EARLY DEADLINE

SUNDAY, NOV. 22

FOR OUR COLOR THANKSGIVING ISSUE TO BE DELIVERED WED., NOV. 25

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