



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL KABELKA REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

Rebecka Klug takes a break to check her phone as she is nuzzled by her Jersey cows Saturday during the Terryville Lions Country Fair at the Terryville Fairgrounds in Plymouth. The fair wraps up today from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. For a listing of scheduled events, visit [terryvillefair.org](http://terryvillefair.org).



Fairgoers enjoy beautiful weather as they watch Kevin Bernier maneuver his 300cc Banshee through a timed obstacle course Saturday.

## FAIR: Agriculture, demolition derby, fireworks

"Whether your into the demolition derby, truck pulls, rides, fireworks or animals, you can find something here for you."

Lions Club President Steven Daigle added, "We've made great improvements over the years. Friday night featured our newest event where 21 contestants competed in the Terryville's Got Talent show."

Daigle said he hopes to bring back the talent show at next year's fair. He said the rest of the weekend will fea-

ture favorite events such as truck pulls, side-by-side racing, animal pulls and the demolition derby.

Luba said farmers will show off their best sheep, goats, cows, horses, rabbits, pigs and chickens, and the home and garden building will display homegrown vegetables.

Daigle said at future fairs, he hopes to be able to expand the agricultural offerings to include farming demonstrations.

"We try to get a lot of agriculture here," Daigle said. "I would like to see more demonstrations here some day, like chicks hatching or how to plant vegetables. As time goes on, we'll try to make improvements here to have more hands-on displays."

Liza Santoro said she and her husband looked forward to trying all the different food offerings, including "tater tot bombs," chicken wings, tacos, apple cider cinnamon doughnuts, fried Oreos, hot dogs,

hamburgers and fried dough.

"I'm interested in everything," Liza said. "I'll probably end up trying it all."

Luba noted the efforts of volunteers help keep the fair running strong decade after decade.

"We're all Lions Club volunteers here, and we're fortunate to have help from other towns' Lions Clubs and residents volunteering," Luba said. "All our proceeds from this fair go back to Terryville causes around town."

## LAKE: Water to be retested after one week

she said.

"We expect this whenever heavy rains come down and that's the way its been," she said.

Treatment calls only for time. Montrose said since the lake is natural, they do not

use chemicals to filter or clean the bacteria out of the lake and it naturally passes.

The water is retested after one week to see if the water is safe for swimming and if the lake can be reopened, but Montrose said it depends on

the upcoming weather.

The lake closes the weekend after Labor Day. A test early this week will deter-

mine if swimmers and beachgoers will be able to enjoy the waters one last time as summer comes to a close.

## SHARE: 'Two talented individuals'

pected to result from the arrangement.

The superintendent said he doesn't expect the gross salaries for the new positions to be higher than the combined amount Fiorillo and Sattazahn are now making.

Litchfield and Region 6 could end up being a model for shared services, Litchfield school board member John Morosani said.

"We're doing something unique and if we're successful, there will be other districts that will want to mimic

this," he said.

Contact John McKenna at [jmckenna33@optonline.net](mailto:jmckenna33@optonline.net).

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Read the Business News on Pages 7-8C

# Fifty is a magic number for school custodian

BY KURT MOFFETT  
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

THOMASTON — Most people probably wouldn't think of a custodian as a numbers guy.

But George Newsome, the head custodian at Center School and a 1972 graduate of the Hartford Institute of Accounting, makes it quite evident he is a master of numbers in talking about his 50-year career with the local public school system. He has worked for six superintendents, 10 principals and seven school business managers.

KURT MOFFETT REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN  
Newsome

"And I had to get along with all those people," he said, "but I never had a problem."

Newsome, 67, is in his third stint working at Center School — the first from 1968-72, the second from 1979-82 and the latest from 2002 to the present.

When Center School opened in 1939, it was heated for the first eight years with coal, and a custodian had to remain in the basement during winter to keep stoking the burning embers, he noted.

Newsome attended Center School from 1964-70, when it was the town's junior-senior high school. He said 700 students attended the school back then and his 1970 graduating class had 113 students.

"It was overcrowded," Newsome said. "They had kids everywhere."

**HE GOT MARRIED IN** 1973 and had four children — a son born in 1974 and three daughters born in 1977, 1979 and 1982. Newsome has 13 grandchildren, "with the 14th in the cooker right now," he said.

From 1973-79, his job was split between Black Rock School and Grove Street School, the town's first high school. His grandmother graduated from Grove Street in 1917 and lived to be 101. She died in 2002.

Twice, Thomaston and Plymouth attempted to create a regional high school and both failed. First, in 1977, Thomaston voters rejected it and Plymouth voted in favor of it. In the 1990s, Plymouth voters rejected it and Thomaston voted for it.

Thomaston built its own high school in 1979. Newsome said the \$6 million project was covered entirely by federal funds, mainly because the town had an

unemployment rate of 19% at the time. The town only had to pay \$300,000 for furniture. In 1990, an elevator was installed at the high school.

Newsome was the district's facilities manager from 1982-93. He said his accounting background helped him put budgets together.

In 1993, Newsome became the district's hazardous materials and asbestos coordinator.

He said he believes he could not get a custodial job now because he could not meet the requirements, such as having a four-year college degree.

**"IT'S PRETTY INTERESTING** how things have gone over 50 years," Newsome said. "For the people who used to get hired 50 years ago, 75% of those people wouldn't qualify to work in the school anymore."

Black Rock School was built in 1954, with additions in 1958 and 1968. In 1998, improvements included additional offices and classrooms, a new cafeteria, and the conversion of the old gymnasium and cafeteria into a library.

Center School was renovated in 2006. Newsome can point to different areas of the school where certain rooms, equipment and fixtures used to be.

He said his biggest pet peeve is when new administrators don't trust him. Years ago, administrators finally agreed to cut down willow trees at the high school after a student who had climbed up one of them fell and broke his neck, he said.

Newsome, who has lived in town 65 of his 67 years, said he still enjoys the job and doesn't plan to retire for another four to five years, mainly for financial reasons.

**NEWSOME WILL BE HONORED** for his 50 years of service Monday during a breakfast that will welcome staff back to school.

Superintendent Francine Coss said Newsome is "job-focused. No action is taken that is frivolous, no plan is made without thorough research. Coupling his job-focused approach with his personal historic knowledge of every school in Thomaston makes George an amazing asset to the district."

Newsome said he is humbled by the recognition.

"I never pictured myself being honored because that was for people who aided education," he said, adding he now sees how upkeep of the schools is important to student learning.

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