

Resources for parents raising children in the Quiet Corner

This weekend I had the pleasure of spending time with one of the newest additions to my family — my cousin's daughter, and my god-daughter, 19-month old Lucia. Lucia and her parents live in Ontario, Canada and I only get the opportunity to visit with them a few times a year. I treasure the time spent with Lucia and I am amazed at the changes I see in her as she has grown from an infant to a toddler. Seeing her interact with the world makes me think about what a truly important job parents have in raising children. There is so much that goes into the journey of parenthood — and for those living in the Quiet Corner, we are lucky to have resources to help



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SARAH C.
MORTENSEN

along the way. The reality for most families today is a household where both parents work full-time. With the majority of maternity leaves lasting a short six weeks, many families look to childcare early in their child's life. Accepting children from 6 weeks to 5 years of age, The Country Garden: An Early Learning Center is a wonderful resource for parents looking for quality childcare. Located off I-395 in North Grosvenordale, The Country Garden offers a rich, nurturing environment for a child's cognitive, social, emotional, and physical growth. Operated under Director Andrea K. Smith, the goal of the center is for children to grow as they learn and play. For more

information, see The Country Garden on the Villager Community Page in all four papers this week. Education remains at the forefront of preparing children for the world. A strong academic foundation can provide a recipe for success throughout a child's life. For parents looking for alternatives to public school, the Quiet Corner is rich with institutions that provide a private education. On Sunday, Nov. 17, Marianapolis Preparatory School will host its annual Open House for parents and prospective students to attend. The Open House will allow students to become familiar with the Marianapolis campus, including the newly renovated Arts and Humanities complex. Students may also meet faculty and coaches at the Academic and Athletic Expo, and reserve a spot for the entrance exam. For more information on the Open House, visit [www.marianapolis.org/open-](http://www.marianapolis.org/open-house)

house or call (860) 923-9245. The topic of bullying is increasingly in the headlines, both nationally and locally and parents are faced with the fact that their children may encounter harsh words and physical intimidation at the hands of their peers. Perhaps the best gifts you can give to your children are the tools and the confidence needed to face these encounters. Mike Bogdanski of Quest Martial Arts and Midtown Fitness knows first-hand what it is like to be bullied. At 16, he experienced the physical and emotional trauma of bullying and turned to martial arts to rebuild his self-esteem. Bogdanski has since devoted his life to working with youth and is proud to offer classes and seminars on self-defense and anti-bullying. Currently, Quest Martial Arts is offering a Self-Defense class, which teaches students how to avoid conflict and dangerous situations as

well as how to use verbal self-defense skills. Street smart, school smart and anti bullying strategies are all part of the curriculum. For more information on this class, see Quest Martial Arts on the Putnam Page in the Putnam, Thompson and Woodstock Villagers. I am excited to see my goddaughter grow into the intelligent, lovely girl she is destined to be. And when it is time for me to have my own children, I am happy to live in the Quiet Corner, with its network of close-knit communities and wealth of resources for families. Sarah Mortensen is the advertising executive for Villager Newspapers. Give her a call at (860) 928-1818, ext. 119, or by email at sarah@villagernewspapers.com to see how we can help you get the word out about your business in the Quiet Corner and beyond!

NEWS BRIEF

Rotaract Trivia Night raises \$3,700 for scholarships

The Quinebaug Valley Regional Rotaract Club raised more than \$3,700 for college scholarships to local students at its first Rotaract Trivia Night, held Thursday, Nov. 7 at the Knights of Columbus in North Grosvenordale. "The Rotaract Club was overwhelmed with happiness by the community support of our event," said Rotaract Club President Crystal DiZazzo, who is also financial coordinator at The Arc Quinebaug Valley. "We are already working



The #Hashtags# team was crowned Trivia Royalty at the Quinebaug Valley Regional Rotaract Club Trivia Night. Team members posed with their trophy and check for their \$500 prize.



The Quinebaug Valley Regional Rotaract Club members at the Trivia Night. Back row, from left: Andrew Morrison, Past President Jake Dykeman, Jessica Rawson, Bryan Smith and Joe DiCollella. Front row, from left: Alexandra Chase, Rachel Locke, Secretary Sarah Mortensen, President Crystal DiZazzo, Vice President Emily Groves, Treasurer Jade Flynn, Fundraising Committee Chairman Mallory Murray.

with local schools to create the scholarship application and help make local college students' dreams come true."

The event was sponsored by The Citizens National Bank, and the competition was led by David Conrad, president and CEO of the Putnam-based bank.

The Trivia competition featured fierce competition from 11 teams: The Citizens National Bank, Danielson Rotary Club, Putnam Rotary Club, Archambault Insurance, The Arc Quinebaug Valley, Gerardi Insurance, Putnam Bank, Jewett City Savings Bank, Sherwin Williams stores in Putnam and Danielson, the Quinebaug Valley Community College Foundation and team #Hashtags#, led by Thompson residents Earl and Kimberly Rosebrooks.

The competition was modeled after and included questions from the game series Trivial Pursuit and featured six categories: People and Places, Arts and Literature, Entertainment, Science and Nature, History and Sports and Leisure.

In the first four rounds, Conrad posed two questions from each category per round. The first team to raise their flag was given the opportunity to answer, and was awarded points for correct answers and subtracted for wrong answers.

The fifth round saw teams determine their own point wager at the start of the category, and then submit a written answer to the question. Only one question was asked per category in the final round. Conrad, a self-described trivia enthusiast, created the fifth-round questions.

"I was truly happy to assist the Rotaract Club in their first-ever Trivia Night Gala, and was very honored to be asked to be the 'Trivia Master,'" Conrad said. "For those who know me, I have a great store of useless information and what a great venue to finally put this knowledge to work in support of this great cause. Hats off to the members of the Quinebaug Valley Regional Rotaract Club for putting on such a successful event, and I look forward to next year."

Team #Hashtags# took the title of Trivia Royalty, winning the competition with 4,350 points. Second place was awarded to Putnam Bank with 2,150 points, and third place went to Putnam Rotary with 1,350 points.

Also assisting in the competition were Trivia Jockey Gary Osbrey and Judge Karen Osbrey, both co-owners of WINY-AM 1350 in Putnam, Timekeeper Bob Chenail of the Danielson Rotary Club and Scorekeeper Paul Pikora, past president of the Putnam Rotary Club.

"Our group the #Hashtags# had a great

time at the First Annual Rotaract Trivia night," Rosebrooks said. "Excellent food, sweet raffle prizes, hilarious presentation by Dave Conrad the Trivia Master and master of ceremonies Gary O, firm but fair judging by Karen Osbrey and challenging questions made it a special night. We look forward to defending our title next year!"

The event also featured a 50/50 raffle, audience participation rounds and a spaghetti supper.

The Quinebaug Valley Regional Rotaract

Club is a service organization for young professionals (aged 18-35) sponsored by the Putnam and Danielson Rotary Clubs. The club is in its second year and is committed to the Rotary model of "Service Above Self."

The club has 12 members, and is led by DiZazzo, Vice President Emily Groves, development assistant at The Arc Quinebaug Valley, Treasurer Jade Flynn, accountant for The Arc Quinebaug Valley, Sarah Mortensen, advertising executive at

Villager Newspapers, and Past President Jake Dykeman, parts manager at Putnam Ford. Fundraising Committee Chairman and organizer of the event is Mallory Murray, director of education at The Arc Quinebaug Valley.

For more information on the club or to get involved, visit the club on Facebook. New members are welcome! The club meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 6 p.m. at J.D. Coopers Restaurant in Putnam.

Due to business pressures - and knowing there are other local resources for durable medical goods and home health supplies - we regretfully alert you that Franklin Home Health will be permanently closing on Friday, November 22, 2013.

We are pleased that Putnam Home Medical has agreed to purchase our retail store inventory and that Renee Turski, who you have come to know and depend on for excellent customer service, will be joining their team. Prior to our closing, please stop by Franklin Home Health to work with Renee to coordinate seamless service to Putnam Home Medical or another location of your choice. Here are options in our local area.

Putnam Home Medical
37 Kennedy Drive
Putnam, CT 06260
(860) 963-7007
putnamhomemedical.com

Bonneville Pharmacy
77 Westcott Road
Danielson, CT 06239
(860) 774-9362
bonnevillepharmacy.com

Advantage Home Health
213 Pomfret Street
Putnam, CT 06260
(860) 963-1208
advantagehomemedicalct.com

Thank you for having chosen Franklin Home Health for your in-home health needs.

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