

What Good Are Pennies? by Evelyn Marshak

Thirty plus years ago, we were in Italy and heard from fellow tourists that their change was given in candy and not in the coin that was worth the least. The reason for this was their least valuable coin was in short supply. Could this same scenario happen here?

Now that a penny cost 1.2 cents to make, government officials are thinking about abolishing these coins forever; and the government's decision is being egged on by two large opinion groups, each with a different agenda.

I asked several Prospect residents about their feelings regarding such a move. While two-thirds of all Americans want to keep the penny rolling out of U. S. government mints, most Prospect residents disagreed.

Jean Kotsaftis said that it is no longer worth making pennies because they are so expensive to mint.

Judi Kiernan initially told me "I think pennies should no longer be made." But then she thought about what would happen if an item cost \$1.56.

Sandy Hayes mentioned that she was worried about the penny slot machines in a state with two major casinos. She added, "If pennies were no longer made, I would hope that a \$9.60 bill would not be rounded up to \$9.65, but would instead be rounded down to \$9.60."

Derek Muharem told me that to end the minting of pennies would please him because he hates pennies and he likes the challenges of a changing world.

Matt Nolan thought it was fine to do away with making more pennies because it would save the government money.

Art Thayer mentioned the old adage that if you watched your pennies, then the dollars would take care of themselves.

Aileen Cureton is not a Prospect resident, but did graduate from Prospect High School -- not in this state, but in the San Francisco Bay area. She mentioned the Prospect Panthers was the name of that high school's sports teams. She said, "Economically it makes sense to stop minting pennies, but emotionally I'd like the government to keep making pennies for many years.

"Pennies are who we are. I think about penny loafers or putting a penny in my shoe on my wedding day. I have jars filled with pennies," she continued. "There is nothing quite the same as a shiny new penny. Yes. I do bend over to pick up a penny from the ground. I'm not too proud to bend over." Her last comment came in form of a question, "What are kids going to collect now?"

Mary McCasland thought it was time to stop circulating pennies because her pocketbook is filled with them and weighs too

much at the end of a shopping trip.

Her husband Bill said, "No more pennies would cause prices to rise and contribute to inflation. With my senior discount, my coffee costs \$1.58 at Dunkin' Donuts. No pennies available would mean the coffee is now \$1.60. I worry that all grocery prices would go up."

Leo Ferland said, "Sometimes we'd gain if pennies were no longer available; but if everything was rounded up to the nearest nickel, we'd lose. Sure it is a waste of tax money to continue making pennies, but then pennies have been around forever."

Eight billion pennies are made every year at the cost of roughly \$100 million.

Linda Ferland said that if it cost more than one cent to mint a penny we should no longer do it.

One solution to the problem could be minting a new penny that would cost less than its face value. Over the years, copper, bronze and zinc have been the base metals of the penny. Zinc replaced most of the copper used in the penny, but today rising zinc prices are causing the potential penny demise. So far there is no answer to the problem.

Legal Notice

Town of Prospect Board of Assessment Appeals Appeals for Motor Vehicles

Only appeals for Motor Vehicles on the October 1, 2005 Grand List will be heard in the month of September. A written request for an appeal should be submitted to the Board of Assessment Appeals by August 11, 2006. Forms for the written request will be available in the Assessor's Office at the Prospect Town Hall. Appointment dates and times will be issued after written requests are submitted. If you have any questions regarding these procedures, please call the Assessor's Office, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 758-4461.

Board of Assessment
Appeals
Linda M. Hennessey
Rosemary K.
Marczewski
Philip C. Reed

Family Thanks Students for Fundraiser

Dear Editor:

This spring, two high school seniors from Woodland Regional High School, namely Joe Commendatore, Jr. and John Matteis, chose to organize a fund-raising golf tournament for our daughter, Gabrielle Mary Steele, who has congenital muscular dystrophy, as their senior project. They could have chosen many different projects, but they chose to help our family. We were deeply touched by the thoughtfulness and generosity of these young men.

On behalf of my entire family, I would like to extend my gratitude and appreciation to John and Joe for their concern and support toward my daughter Gaby. The funds raised have been and will be used for on-going medical expenses for physical and speech therapy for Gaby.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the golf tournament and for especially John and Joe. We'll never forget what you did to help our daughter.

Sincerely,
Joe and Jackie Steele
Prospect, CT

Candidate Questions Accuracy of July Letter

Dear Editor:

Ms. Sandy Dudarevitch made several false charges about the integrity of my supporters at the 89th Republican convention (July issue).

In fact, all rules were agreed to by consensus of the delegates. Janet Finneran, of Bethany, Chairwoman of the convention can confirm this. Also, the State Elections Enforcement Commission Director, Jeffrey Garfield, confirmed in writing to me that they did not comment on the convention, as Ms. Dudarevitch claimed.

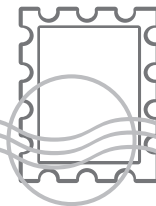
Ms. Dudarevitch is my opponent's coordinator. How sad that my opponent's campaign has resorted to such specious nonsense.

I am focused on positive solutions for addressing the problems of high taxes, the cost of living, \$3 gas, energy prices, health care, problems of seniors and other issues, such as costly state mandates.

I welcome anyone with concerns about these or other issues to call me at home or visit my blog at <http://TimWhiteListens.blogspot.com>
Sincerely,
Tim White
State Representative candidate (R-89th) -- 439-4394

**Don't forget
to vote in the
August 8
primary**

Letters etc.



Voting on the 3rd of July?

Dear Editor:

I do my best to understand town politics, but sometimes you just have to ask the question "Why?" For instance: Why did we have to have a vote on July 3, one of the busiest travel holiday weekends of the summer? And to add to that, why did we have to have a show of hands vote appropriating \$675,000 for street repair and additional funding for the Senior Center on one of the busiest travel holiday weekends of the summer. Just to be clear, I'm not questioning the funds. I'm for anything that will improve the town and keep it the best little town in Connecticut. I am questioning the timing. When the Council and Mayor give the public the opportunity to vote, I think it's appropriate to choose a date when most of the voting public can be present and show their hands.

David Spofford, Prospect

Primary Election Set for August 8

Dear Editor,

Tim White is running for State Representative, but first, he needs to win the Republican nomination. There will be a primary election. If you are a Republican in the 89th District (Bethany, Cheshire & Prospect) Tim White needs your vote.

Tim is the best man for the job. Having served three years on the Cheshire Town Council, he is the most experienced and most knowledgeable candidate. He has a proven track record of government accountability and fiscal responsibility. (Consider this much, due to his efforts at the council level, Cheshire is expecting to save about \$300,000 in next year's budget alone on energy projects.)

On Primary day, vote for this young energetic Councilman.
Bob Korten, Cheshire

Vote Roger Kergaravat at August 8 Primary

Dear Editor:

Voting for our elected officials is the most important right we have. Changes in state election laws find Prospect residents faced with a local election in the middle of the summer. It is important for Prospect residents to vote on August 8 and help select our party endorsed candidate for the State House of Representatives 89th District.

Roger Kergaravat deserves a moment of your summer time and your vote. It is important that Roger receive our local support to insure that Prospect's needs are met in the General Assembly. Roger shares our concerns for quality education, lower taxes, and benefits for our seniors. He cares deeply about our environment, public health and safety, and most of all, a high quality of life for the citizens of Prospect, Bethany and Cheshire.

A Prospect resident, father of three, small business owner and public safety official, Roger understands the needs of local residents, parents, taxpayers and businessmen alike.

Roger demonstrates an uncanny ability to listen to our needs and the conviction to act on our behalf. A hard worker and committed to those he desires to represent, as well as looking out for our best interests, Roger Kergaravat is Prospect's choice on August 8.

It is important that we exercise our right to vote and vote for Roger Kergaravat on August 8. In these days of political turmoil, we all desire honesty, integrity and commitment in our elected officials. Roger Kergaravat represents all that and more. You will not be disappointed with your choice.

Sincerely,
Bob Hiscox
Prospect



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