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More of the Best of the Valley

February 6, 2018

Ansonia resident honored on her 100th birthday

By Patricia Villers

ANSONIA - In 1918 when longtime resident Marija Marciniak was born in Poland World War I was raging in Europe and Americans were driving Model T Fords.

Marciniak turned 100 Friday and she celebrated at a luncheon held in her honor at the Joseph A. Doyle Senior Center.

Marciniak is a center member, and makes sure to get there three times a week to play bingo.

Marciniak's granddaughter, Lisa Soldra, said with a smile, "Bingo is her life."

Her husband, Stephen Marciniak, passed away in 1987.

Soldra called her grandmother an "amazing" person. "There's no one like her," she said. "She has traveled all over; she went to Australia [eight years ago] to see her sister." Marciniak made the trip alone at age 92.

She previously had traveled to Poland and Russia, Soldra said.

Despite having suffered a heart attack and undergoing hip surgery a few years ago, Soldra said nothing stops her grandmother.



Marciniak said, "I never stay home; I all the time go. I never sit still."

Mayor David S. Cassetti presented the city's newest centenarian with flowers.

Marciniak said she plans to surpass her mother, who lived to the age of 103.

State Rep. Linda M. Gentile, D-Ansonia, congratulated Marciniak and gave her a citation from the Connecticut General Assembly to mark her 100th birthday.



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Ansonia resident honored on her 100th birthday



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Marciniak raised three sons and two daughters and has several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A grandson, Keith Soldra of Orange, posted a public letter to Marciniak on Facebook.

He called his grandmother an inspiration to the family. Soldra wrote in part: “It has not always been easy for you but you not only survived.... You thrived!!!

“You survived the threats of Nazi Germany after they invaded your homeland in 1939.

“You survived being separated from your husband during World War II and living in a concentration camp

raising three kids, at the time. You arrived at Ellis Island in the hull of a steamship, when my Mom [the late Luba Soldra] was only 3-years old.”

The post continued: “You are called ‘Grandma’ by everyone that knows you. That's how many lives you’ve touched whether it's at bingo, the grocery store or your building. Today the city of Ansonia honored you at the Senior Center surrounded by family and friends. This is something you truly deserved.”

Ansonia native named board chairman of Community Foundation

The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven is pleased to announce that lifelong Ansonia-resident James (Jimmy) E. Ryan is chairing its Board of Directors in 2018.

This year is Mr. Ryan’s seventh and final year on the Board that governs Greater New Haven’s 90-year-old permanent charitable endowment, valued at over \$600 Million. Now retired, Mr. Ryan served for over thirty years as the President of the Shelton Economic Development Corp. (1984-2016).

The Community Foundation serves a 20-town region of more than 640,000 people in Connecticut helping donors to fulfill their charitable wishes and strengthening the nonprofit sector through grants and training. Per affiliation agreement, Mr. Ryan also sits on the Board of the [Valley Community Foundation](#), The Community Foundation’s partner in philanthropy in the Valley.



This is a press release from Ratasha Smith, Communications Officer, The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven

Seymour-Oxford Rotary Club to learn about sleep disorder



The Seymour Oxford Rotary Club will welcome a member of the Griffin Hospital Sleep Disorder Unit on Feb. 15, 2018 at the club’s breakfast meeting 7:15 A.M. at Route 67 Diner, Klarides Village, Route 67, Seymour.

Learn what sleep disorder means and how it can affect your good night’s sleep and steps you can make to correct it.

Fellow Rotarians and all interested persons are invited.

For information contact Nancy Valentine at nvbv@hotmail.com or 203 734 6945.

Ansonia resident analyzes proposed tolls, costs

By Ralph Villers

The *Valley-Voice* never wants to wade into the political arena, be it local, state or national. However, when one sees legislative proposals that directly impact ourselves, it bears looking at then a little more closely.

The issue here is tolls, more specifically, Connecticut legislator proposals on instituting tolls on all limited access highways in the state (Routes 2, 3, 8, 9, 15; I-91, I-95, I-291, I-395 and I-691.) The common sentiment is that the state would never use all toll revenue for transportation/roads, but siphon off a substantial amount into the general fund - a sentiment I share.

Further, adding tolls could lead to reduced federal funding to the state. See more at this state commissioned [report from 2015](#).

However, my purpose is to show how tolls could impact my travels in the state.

What could the toll rates (two-axle) be?

Selected toll roads		Miles	Toll			
			Cash	Cost/Mile	EZ-Pass*	Cost/Mile
PA Turnpike 43	WV State Line - Clairton	47	\$8.80	\$0.187	\$5.74	\$0.122
N.H. Turnpike	Seabrook - Portsmouth	15	\$2.00	\$0.133	\$1.40	\$0.093
Maine Turnpike	York - Augusta	102	\$7.00	\$0.069	\$6.45	\$0.063
Ohio Turnpike	PA State Line - I-77	68	\$5.25	\$0.077	\$3.50	\$0.051
* e-zpass toll rates in the subject states (PA, NH, ME, OH)						
Avg. cost per mile, selected toll roads		232	\$23.05	\$0.099	\$17.09	\$0.074

In this regard, nobody should argue for tolls because other states have tolls on select highways. Each of those toll highways were built and are maintained by state turnpike commissions who receive no funding from the federal government.

I took a look at four different toll roads and their toll schedules, both cash and EZ-Pass. I then averaged the cost per mile for all four roads that are used in my cost analysis below.

How could these tolls affect me?

Based on the estimated toll rates in the table above, I offer two examples and their cost impact.

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Route	Miles	Tolls per mile / Total Costs			
		Cash	Cost	EZ-Pass*	Cost
To East Windsor, CT					
CT 15, Exit 58 - I-91, Meriden	21	\$0.099	\$2.08	\$0.074	\$1.55
I-91, Meriden - I-91, Exit 35, I-291, Windsor	22	\$0.099	\$2.18	\$0.074	\$1.63
Toll Costs, One Way			\$4.26		\$3.18
Toll Costs, Round Trip			\$8.51		\$6.36
To East Granby, CT					
CT 15, Exit 58 - I-91, Meriden	21	\$0.099	\$2.08	\$0.074	\$1.55
I-91, Meriden - I-91, Exit 40, CT 20, Windsor Locks	31	\$0.099	\$3.07	\$0.074	\$2.29
Toll Costs, One Way			\$5.15		\$3.85
Toll Costs, Round Trip			\$10.30		\$7.70

Ansonia resident analyzes proposed tolls, costs

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- 1) I have a sister who lives in East Windsor. To visit her and her family, the route from Ansonia includes traveling on Route 15 and I-91 to I-291 then US 5 in South Windsor.
- 2) I have the adaptive equipment on my wheelchair van serviced at Advanced Wheels of Technology in East Granby. That routing is Route 15 and I-91 to Route 20 in Windsor Locks. The preceding table shows the substantial costs I'd incur.

That is a lot of money to get necessary maintenance on my vehicle or to visit a relative. And I believe that toll rates in this state would be at a *much higher* cost per mile.

Granted, this is an estimate. However, take a look for yourself and see how tolls on Connecticut highways will negatively affect your travels.

Toll schedule links for each: [PA Turnpike 43](#), [NH Blue Star Turnpike](#), [Maine Turnpike](#), [Ohio Turnpike](#)

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