

Letters

To the nursing home, or not to the nursing home? – This is the question.

To the editor:
I'm writing in honor of my living 87 year old mother, who is in a nursing home in Connecticut. My mother managed to raise two children with her debilitating illness all through our childhood with all the love and care of a saint. For this reason, I haven't given up on allowing her the dignity to die at home with family instead of strangers. I applied in December 2008 to the State of Connecticut through the "Money Follows the Person Program" after my mother's third fall in a nursing home. As I respectfully submit this letter to help anyone that needs to make the hard decision on whether to put their parents into a nursing home or to keep them at home for as

long as they can or until they die. It is to those of you that I hope to reach today.
One never knows just how bad life can get in a nursing home until you get a call from a nurse telling you that your mother was physically attacked while asleep in her bed. On Jan. 15, 2009, my mother's life changed forever into one of fear and isolation. Much to my horror I was awakened by a nurse who was getting ready to break some bad news. I thought it was another fall since my mother had already fallen three times the year before; once dislocating her elbow and not being taken to an emergency room for 18 hours until I demanded an ambulance be called for her. I asked the nurse on the other

end of the telephone "Did she fall again?" and I didn't expect to hear the nurse on the other end of the telephone say, "No, a male patient punched her in the face and tried to choke her to death." "An aide was walking by her room and pulled him off of her." Since this incident my mother has been moved to another facility but this does not put an end to the daily emotional suffering of my mother not feeling safe where she lives.
I work as a Client Support Coordinator [CSC] for an agency that helps the severely disabled with their developmental disabilities. I am able to care for my mother in my home if my mother were allowed home. The Care Plan that was

submitted to The State of Connecticut from CCCI (Connecticut Community Care) through the MFP program has made it prohibitive for the State of Connecticut to approve and pay for this plan by charging out services for 16 hours a day or 112 hours a week in my home, totaling \$45,543.71 a month or \$546,524.52 a year. The MFP "Money Follows the Person Program" or CCCI could have set in place a plan that provides personal care assistants or client support coordinators that would fit easily into the plan of care and would fall under the yearly cap per person per nursing facility for care therefore allowing my mother to come home to die with dignity yet this is

not the plan that was submitted.
I only work 36 hours a week yet the MFP plan is requesting 112 hours a week of nursing care in my home for my mother who can still toilet herself but is confused and does not have total use of her mental faculties. Why would CCCI submit a plan of such exorbitant expense knowing full well the state cannot afford to pay for such a plan? My mother does not get the assistance of psychiatric services where she is now in the nursing home. She is cared for by regular certified nurses aides and registered nurses. Does it sound like elder discrimination against my 87-year-old mother coming back into the community with multiple physi-

cal and mental disabilities? Or could it be that someone didn't do their homework and doesn't care to train their personal care assistants in dementia-related illnesses? PCA's get paid \$12 an hour, psychiatric nurses get charged out much higher and client support coordinators get between \$13 and \$16 an hour. These figures are much less and fit under the cap provided by the State of Connecticut. If anyone would like to help me get my mother home please write a letter with your support and opinion to: Dawn Lambert, State of Connecticut, Money Follows the Person, 25 Siguorney St. 11th Floor, Hartford, CT 06106. or write your state representative.
Jean Furs, Bristol

Bristol's Shaw's to close

By ELIO GUGLIOTTI
STAFF WRITER

Come the end of the month, the Bristol Shaw's Supermarket will be no more.
Shaw's has announced that it will be closing its Bristol store at 325 Oakland St., and a supermarket in Shelton on Saturday, July 25.
"Shaw's continuously evaluates its stores to identify opportunities to strengthen its overall business, and when necessary, close stores that are not meeting its goals," the company stated in a prepared release. "While these decisions are always difficult, given the impact on associates and customers, they ultimately allow us to operate more efficiently and effectively

within a highly competitive retail environment."
Judy Chong, director of communications and public affairs for Shaw's said she couldn't go into further detail regarding the closing and the reasons behind it other than what was stated in the release.
"It's a loss to the community," said Mayor Art Ward, who was informed about the closing shortly before the announcement was made public June 26.
Ward said Shaw's provided constant support to the community through fund raising and food drives.
"We wish them well. We thank them for their years of community support," Ward said.
Ward said he was told

the reasoning behind the closing is the current economic climate.
"It was basically the economy," Ward said. "They evaluated the marketplace."
The city has several supermarkets within its borders, including a Price Chopper, a Stop & Shop, and a Shop Rite on Farmington Avenue nearby the Shaw's slated for closure.
Shaw's stated that each store scheduled to be closed employs about 100 people. The company stated that it will work with the union representing the workers to find the employees positions within its other stores based on seniority provisions agreed to during collective bargaining.

Police blotter

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\$50,000 bond. She also was charged with second degree breach of peace and second degree threatening on those charges. She was held on \$50,000 bond for those charge.
•Cody Gill, 23, of 40 South St. Unit 23, Bristol was arrested on June 24 and charged with cruelty to animals and unlicensed dog. He was given a July 6 court date.

•David Owens, 46, of 6 Crown St., Bristol was arrested on June 24 and charged with reckless endangerment, second degree breach of peace, second degree threatening and failure to print. He was held on a \$30,000 bond.
•Joshua Ridl, 28, of 30 South St., Ext. No. 7, Bristol was arrested on June 25 and charged with unlawful discharge of a firearm, carrying a pistol without a permit, and illegal transfer per

firearm. He was held on a \$200,000 bond.
•Erin Greaves, 27, of 23 Reilly Place, Bristol was arrested on June 25 and charged with third degree assault and breach of peace. She was given a June 26 court date.
•Christopher Schatz, 27, of 23 Reilly Place, was arrested on June 25 and charged with third degree strangulation and breach of peace. He was given a June 26 court date.

Sending news to the Bristol Observer

Do you have news you want to see in The Bristol Observer?
Send the information to The Bristol Observer, care of the editor Mike Chaiken, a t mchaiken@BristolObserver.com,

mail it to The Bristol Southington, CT 06489, or Observer, 213 Spring St., fax it to (860)621-1841.

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