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Vol. 70, No. 8 February 23, 2023
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Southington, CT • 328 Queen Street, Southington, CT 06489 • 860-863-5666



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FRIDAY LATIN NIGHTS
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Free Bachata & Salsa Lessons
at 9:00pm

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\$4 TACO TUESDAY



50% OFF WINE WEDNESDAYS

Friends of the Rocky Hill Library Seeks Book Donations

The Friends of the Rocky Hill Library is preparing for its next book sale, to take place on April 19 through April 22, 2023. The Friends is seeking donations of gently used books of all genres, including adult fiction, nonfiction, biographies, cookbooks, history, science and nature, gardening, and children's books, as well as music CDs, DVDs, puzzles and board games. Donations may be dropped off at the library from 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, and 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday through Saturday during business hours. Funds raised from the book sale will be used to purchase items for the library and support library programming.

Middlesex Vocal Cords Scholarships

The executive board of the Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords is offering annual \$1500 scholarships to Middlesex County students pursuing a nursing or music career and have been accepted to an accredited college or university. The review committee will consider academic records, extracurricular and community service activities, student ability to articulate their career goals, and the recommendations of references. The scholarships will be awarded at the April 29 spring concert at Portland High School. Applications are available at the school guidance office, at vocalchords20.org, or by calling 860-490-8995. Deadline is March 24.

After St. Patrick's Day Parade Party

The Newington Knights of Columbus will hold its Annual After St. Patrick's Day Parade Party on March 11 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at 171 Pascone Place in Newington. There will be Irish Music (Irish DJ Marc Gallagher) – There is NO ADMISSION CHARGE and available for purchase will be Corn Beef Sandwiches with coleslaw and chips - hotdogs will also be available for those who don't eat corn beef – and Guinness will be flowing. THE PUBLIC IS INVITED. The Newington Knight's bar area is now open T-F 3 p.m.-7 p.m. and all are welcome. For rental info, call or text 860-543-3040.

Family Resource & Preschool Expo

The fourth annual Family Resource and Preschool Expo will take place on March 2 from 5:30 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. in the Cromwell Town Hall gym at 41 West St. Parents and caregivers are invited to attend this free event to learn more about local resources and preschools in the community. The event will feature raffles and giveaways donated by local organizations, agencies, and businesses. The inclement weather date is March 9, and postponement notices will be posted on the Cromwell Youth Services website. Visit cromwellct.com/youth-services or call 860-632-3448 for more info.

Rocky Hill Farmers Market Seeking Vendors

The Rocky Hill Parks & Recreation Department is seeking farmers, artisans, musicians, and more for its fifth "Rocky Hill Farmers Market", which features locally crafted and grown products. The market runs every Wednesday from July 12 to August 30. This event takes place at Elm Ridge Park (376 Elm Street) from 4-7 p.m. Fees are \$25 per booth per date. Each vendor will be assigned one 10 x 10 space. Vendors must provide their own tents, tables, chairs & sign. Space is limited so don't delay! For more information, please contact the Parks & Recreation Department (860) 258-2772.

Lenten Reflection at Christ the King Parish

The Women's Club of Christ the King Parish will hold its General Meeting on Thursday, March 23, 2023 at 7:00 pm. at the Church of the Incarnation, 544 Prospect Street, Wethersfield. The guest speaker will be Sister Maryann Cantlon, Sister of Saint Joseph of Chambrey and retreat team member at Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center in West Hartford. The Lenten program will feature a reflection on the "Raising of Lazarus" presented by Sister Maryann. Parishioners, friends and guests are welcome.

CCD Call for Members

Do you enjoy seeing your town revitalized? Do you want to support local businesses? Are you a creative thinker? If so, then you belong in Cromwell Creative District (CCD)! CCD is a completely volunteer-run nonprofit that works collaboratively with local businesses, nonprofits, and civic groups to attract business and visitors to the historic and riverfront areas of downtown Cromwell. Whether your interest is in volunteering on a specific project, sharing creative ideas, or taking on a leadership role within the group, Cromwell Creative District has something for you! CCD currently holds meetings virtually/telephonically at 9am on the third Saturday of each month. Learn more at www.facebook.com/cromwellcreativedistrict and www.cromwellcreativedistrict.org.

Help Newington Human Services

A growing number of Newington families are struggling to cover inflated costs of living, but Newington Human Services offers several ways to help them. If you want to donate, come to our offices at Town Hall (200 Garfield Street) - we are located on the side of the building facing Lucy Robbins Welles Library. You can also donate by mail - Newington Human Services, 200 Garfield Street - Newington, CT 06111 – or online at <https://www.newingtonct.gov/1343/Community-Donations>.

GOT SCRAP? Free pick up for unwanted metals appliances, hot water heaters, AC, cast iron outdoor equipment, car parts and batteries, oil tanks and furnaces. Call 860-770-9014.

ROOFER, ROOF-REPAIRMAN, CORRADO FAMILY ROOFING TRADITION: All general roof repairs, full roofs, roof stain and mold removal, roof ventilation, Skylights Installation, Siding and Replacement Windows, Aluminum Trim, Chimneys, chimney repairs & Gutter Installation. Gutter down spouts, gutter tune ups & Gutter Cleaning, leaf guards. No job to small. 59 years local trusted experience. Residential Home Improvement LLC. Licensed & insured HIC#569972. Professional reasonable rates. Free estimates. Call Frank or Gregory F. Corrado, 860-869-1596, 860-529-3377.

THE CONNECTICUT TREE PROTECTIVE ASSOC., INC. wishes to remind property owners that firms or individuals contracting for tree care services must hold a state Arborist's license. Unlicensed parties are subject to prosecution by the state.

Call the Classifieds at 860-563-9386

Wethersfield United Methodist Church 150 Prospect Street, Wethersfield



TURKEY DINNER WITH ALL THE FIXINS

Saturday, February 25th

4:30pm - 6:00pm

Take Out Only

(Delivery available to Wethersfield, Rocky Hill and Newington)

\$15 Adults/\$7 Children

For more information

call Karen 860-798-9927.



What's Happening Rocky Hill & Cromwell?

Send us your community news!

E-mail editor@rarereminder.com or
call 860-563-9386 to submit news, photos,
announcements or any upcoming events.

Kleckowski Vying for 100th House Seat in Feb. 28 Special Election

By Mark DiPaola

A former Middletown Common Council member is the Middletown GOP's choice for the 100th State House District seat – and a February 28 special election to fill it in the wake of Democratic House Rep Quentin Williams's untimely death.

Republicans have tapped South Fire District Chair Debra Kleckowski, who previously served a decade on Common Council – she's running against Democratic nominee Kai Belton.

"I'm running for State Representative to support Connecticut Law Enforcement, businesses, and to bring financial accountability and stability to our state, which is desperately needed," Kleckowski writes on her campaign website.

But Kleckowski has also acknowledged that she's running under tragic circumstances – Williams, a 39-year-old lawmaker considered a rising star in the legislature, was killed on inauguration night in a wrong-way traffic collision on Route 9

in Cromwell.

Nevertheless, Kleckowski says stepping up to run for state legislative office was the logical next step for her – she served on Common Council from 2009 to 2019 and stayed involved with the local Kiwanis Club.

"It was a good time both professionally and personally," Kleckowski said. "I am known in my community because I have experience in my community. I enjoy being part of the community process for solving problems, and I think in this situation the State of Connecticut needs that."

Kleckowski's community involvement began with a Planning and Zoning Board tenure. It continued with her work raising funding to secure meals for local seniors.

"Middletown is just a community that comes together. People just rose to the occasion," she says. "For me, the most important role we have is to be responsible and receptive to our constit-

uents. The problems they share with you is the thing most important to them in that moment."

Kleckowski says her primary focus is on affordability and public safety.

She says if elected, she would look to reduce the sales tax, meals tax, and plastic bag tax, among other levies.

Kleckowski says she'd also look to "reexamine" the payroll tax, as well as previously passed legislation hiking the minimum wage.

"These job-killing measures have placed an unnecessary burden on our small businesses and the middle-class residents," she writes on her campaign site. "We must reform our legislative approach to encourage and attract business to create more opportunities for growth."

Providing relief from burdensome property taxes will mean capturing even more state aid for Middletown in coming years, Kleckowski says.

And while 2021 legislation revamped the PI-

LOT formula to hike local reimbursement for tax-exempt properties, Kleckowski says she'd look to bring back even more.

"We really need to look at how state money trickles down to town," she says. "We have a lot of tax burden because we have a lot of great services, but we need to keep supporting those any way we can."

Her public safety agenda includes going back to the drawing board on the 2020 police accountability bill – a package of reforms that included changes to the rules regarding qualified immunity and use of force, as well as new training mandates.

"We can't have law enforcement afraid to make decisions and make stops," Kleckowski said. "The discussion should be 'how do we make our communities safer?'"

RHHS Q2 Honor Roll

Jin, Alexa Kuhn, Perla Kurti, Daniel Lin, Alyssa Longo, Addison Meisterling, Anabel Menezes, Zoya Mistry, Archisha Mitra, Ayaan Moledina, Adelisa Mujic, Jocelyn Muniz-Cardo, Emma Munoz, Maleena Muzio, Gracie O'Connell, Katie O'Connell, Kristian Odobashi, Elena Olender, Emily Palumbo, Jheel Patel, Shrushti Patel, Alissa Perna, William Perry, Leah Potter, Muktha Ramesh, Leonardo Rios, Mia Rivadeneira, Casey Robinson, Noelia Roderick, Hannah Saccente, Sohan Salian, Riddhi Sharma, Kushagr Singhal, Olivia Speal-Dominick, Alexandra Stevens, Faith Stewart, Heet Thakkar, Dominick Violette, Hannah Walsh, Julia Ward, Jennifer Williams.

GRADE 10: Zainab Artan, Nijah Baloch, Reshmi Chowdhury, Corey Christensen, Diya Dave, Michael DiBattisto, Daniel DiTunno, Nicholas Elloian, John Fabritiis, Yujing Fang, Gabriel Flores, Madison Ford, Jai Gandhi, Connor Garry-Benco, Alexander Gau, Andrew Giliberto, Zaim Guster, Abhiram Inampudi, William Jeong, Salma Korkutovic, Deona Kurian, Brodie McNamara, James Miano, Ava Mitney, Emily Morris, Ethan Nguyen, Sofia O'Connell, Ioannis Oikonomou, Emelie Ortiz, Emelia Pacheco-Hager, Chyenenne Pereira, Arohan Raizada, Hardik Ramagiri, Peter Rhouldou, Peyton Robinson, Evan Scheuritzel, Harper Schramm Kelley, Giuliana Sessa, Logan Simons, Sean Tangney, Elena Valle, Hansika Vipparthi.

GRADE 9: Bayan Abed, Michael Aderhold, Neha Akberzai, Alexander Alamo, Alyssa Alamo, Makayla Arnold, Madisyn Aurigemma, Idhaant Bhosle, Anvi Bose, Katelyn Bouchard, Cayla Bouffard, Addison Ceruti, Rijul Choudhari, Patrick Cierpisz, Joseph Coco, Lianis Cosme Pacheco, Arianna Daley, Isabella DiBattisto, Michela Dinunzio, Kayla Downes, Tyler Eigo, Ela Elevulu, Hailey Emanuel, Zoe Fagan, Paolo Ferla, Manas Ghanta, Sarah Girach, Vedant Gosavi, Addyson-Makenzie Grant, Stella Gugliotti, Rushil Jog, Alina Jose, Liya Joseph, John Kehoe, Srikari Kurada,

Kelsey LaMay, Amaan Lawrence, Emarie Lizama, Ashley Lockwood, Emily Lockwood, Wilson Maddock, Eshan Malhotra, Benjamin Massicotte, Joseph Mennella, Juliana Moot, Samantha Morello, Akhila Mundrathi, Megan Murphy, Ryan O'Connell, Ipek Ozuolmez, Janvi Patel, Patrick Pettino, Tanvee Powar, Brody Reid, Madeline Saccente, Makar Say, Jack Scelza, Sophia Scelza, Samantha Scirpo, Trisha Shah, Navya Sharma, Brian Smith, Grace Tangney, Jaeden Torres, Alexa Tuller, Nithya Venkatesh, Prithika Venugopal, Jasmyne Zepperi.

ACADEMIC HONORS

GRADE 12: Lejla Beskovic, Derek Blackler, Aidan Boutin, Tyler Carlstrom, Jordan Clemens, Ella Cristalli, Thomas Garrahy, Jakub Gawron, Aryan Hafeez, Mason Hedges, Julissa Hidalgo, Haris Huric, Shaun Jacob, Dorkasin Khamonezhad, Kollin Lamontagne, Anthony Marcucci, Kylie McClure, Nihira Mulkar, Austin Murawski, Janelle Osei-Tutu, Kaan Ozuolmez, Mia Pelaez, Savannah Pereira, Nathaniel Place, Derek Ritchie, Sofia Scalise, Taylor Scosta, Avantika Sengupta, Abhishek Sidhu, Norah Sylvestro, Antony Teresa, Jocelyn Thomas, Robert Trojanowski, Marilena Vieira, Brendan Whalen, Karina White.

GRADE 11: Arshiya Afrazi, Vaibhavi Annu, Arber Bejte, Faith Beliveau, Exavier Bermudez, Sophia Bontatibus, Lea Brisport, Emma Burrows, Luke Castanho, Madison Cook, Destiny Culp, Jaiden Daigle, Grace Donahue, Victoria Durinick, Makenna FitzGerald, Peyton French, Kyra Ho, Ava Jacobs, Raya Jain, Elora Keko, Kristen Kownacki, Noah MacDonald, Maya Machial, Amber Mamica, Lily Margiotta, Michael McDonough, Caden Mordovanec, Baanie Mundra,

Jason Nadeau, Sean O'Connell, Christian Olak, Nicole Polites, Gianna Quaresima, Alyssa Ritskowitz, Delainey Segar, Divita Singh, Olivia Sullivan, Skylar Sweeney, Hrideyesh Tyagi, Tanisha Varkala, Jayden Vassallo.

GRADE 10: Anna Aderhold, Shreya Adlakha, Sarah Ahmed, Samantha Albano, Cailin Anderson, Semsija Avdibasic, Jaymes Bond, Zachary Carnelli, Ayden Collura, Erik Demarest, Liviana DiMascio, Farrah Frate, Adriano Gugliotti, Bailee Hanna, Jake Hedges, Brady Holzmillier, Jessica Huang, Isabella Irizarry, Lauren Italia, Raghav Jaiswal, Evan Joseph, Jahnvi Keelu, Albina Kerci, Alexander Kobles-Ciarcia, Ashley Kownacki, Brooklynn Luby, Sydney Maxwell, Emma Miazga, Samantha Morin, Fiona Ndoni, Diya Patel, Kaitlyn Pereau, Premkumar Periyannayagam, Mario Poka, Richard Rambharose, Danica Reis, Brayden Rule, Srisha Sarsanwar, James Scirpo, Amy Shieh, Julian Skarzynski, Kevin Stevens, Mirnes Velic, Vishal Vinodh, Anaya Waghmare.

GRADE 9: Kylie Anderson, Julia Baclawski, Gavin Brodeur, Adriana Buccheri, Natalie Cavallia, Hannah Coccaro, Jazzlyn Diaz, Olivia DiBiase, Gavin Dillon, Braden Drapeau, Olivia Draves, Emma Fargnoli, Natalie Fisher, Michael Garrahy, Cole Garrant, Jason Gjuzi, Katherine Harding, Anushka Jani, Claudia Johansen, Yavuz Karadag, Allyson Killoran, Jason Kiszkiel, Guy LaPlante, Kamrynn Luby, Nathan Ly, Akshay Madugula, Chase Margiotta, Nicholas Marotta, Paolo Michel, Anirudh Nagabandi, Camille Nicholson, Noah Pelaez, Saurish Perumalla, Abigail Roach, Olivia Roderick, Sanjith Sankar, Aidan Walsh, Suhaan Wasu.

Thank you
for reading
the Rare
Reminder.

VISIT US AT:
www.rarereminder.com



Programs from the Rocky Hill Library – February 2023

Friends of the Rocky Hill Library Seeking Book Donations

The Friends of the Rocky Hill Library is preparing for its next book sale, to take place on April 19 through April 22, 2023. The Friends is seeking donations of gently used books of all genres, including adult fiction, nonfiction, biographies, cookbooks, history, science and nature, gardening, and children's books, as well as music CDs, DVDs, puzzles, and board games. Donations may be dropped off at the library from 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, and 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday through Saturday during business hours. Funds raised from the book sale will be used to purchase items for the library and support library programming.

Children's Events

Live Birds of Prey with Horizon Wings: NEW

Upcoming in Rocky Hill

Feb. 23

- Sustainable Rocky Hill Taskforce – 5:30 PM

Feb. 28

- Land Acquisition and Farmland Preservation Committee – 6 PM

*All meetings can be viewed remotely via the "Rocky Hill Connecticut" YouTube channel.

Public Notice of Remediation

Former Straska Farm
374 New Britain Avenue
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

In accordance with RCSA 22a-133k-1(d), Public Notice of Remediation is being issued for 374 New Britain Avenue, Rocky Hill, CT 06067. The notice is specific to the northwest portion of the Site, known as Section B, where environmental remediation activities are proposed. The owner of the property is the Town of Rocky Hill of 761 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067. The property was previously used as a farm but throughout the years, the Site became littered with discarded vehicles, farming equipment, tanks and other debris. These items have been removed, however, some contamination of soil occurred. The soils are contaminated with petroleum compounds, pesticides and lead and the proposed remedial method includes excavation and off-site disposal or reuse of the soil. To provide comments regarding the proposed remediation or to obtain additional information, please contact Jonathan Yeich, LEP at ZUVIC, 40 Cold Spring Road, Rocky Hill, CT 06067. ZUVIC can be reached at (860) 436-4901 or info@zuvic.com. Comments on the proposed remediation may be submitted within 30 days after publication of this notice.



What's Happening Rocky Hill & Cromwell?

Send us your community news!

E-mail editor@rarereminder.com or
call 860-563-9386 to submit news, photos,
announcements or any upcoming events.

Belton Seeks 100th House Seat in Feb. 28 Special Election

By Mark DiPaola

Middletown Democrats have nominated the Middlesex NAACP's Education Chairwoman for the late Quentin "Q" Williams's 100th State House District – a special election for the seat will be held February 28.

Kai Belton, a longtime community advocate who's made a name for herself working for non-profits, is running against GOP candidate Deb Kleckowski – in a 26-day race run in the wake of Rep Williams's untimely death in an inauguration night traffic collision on Route 9 in Cromwell.

"None of us would like to be here right now. We are a community in mourning. A state in mourning," said Middletown Democratic Mayor Ben Florsheim during a February 2 press conference introducing Belton as the party's 100th House District candidate. "Nevertheless, as Q would say, 'the people's work must continue'. We have a district that needs the same kind of representation Q gave it. I am just really excited that a candidate has come forward that will carry on that legacy."

Belton took the podium that day flanked by Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz and 9th District State Senator Matt Lesser – Democrats

who served the 100th House Seat prior to Williams, who was first elected in 2018, and would have been starting his third legislative term.

"Middletown continues to be heartbroken and devastated over the loss of our dear friend and incredible state representative and leader. It's hard to be here today, but it is so easy to support Kai Belton to continue in Q's legacy, because Kai is a leader," Bysiewicz said. "She has been a leader helping others for her entire professional career."

Through her nonprofit work – with organizations like New Horizons, CT Strong, the CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and Safe Connect – Belton has supported victims of domestic violence, as well as youth seeking employment training, housing, and mental health resources.

"That is hero's work," Lesser said. "She's a front-line provider in our community. The thing that was so incredible about Q was that he had this ability to always know what was happening here on the ground in regular people's eyes. When I had a question, whether it was about the schools or a landlord that was raising rent, Q knew what was going on. Kai will too."

Williams, 39, a staunch advocate for education

and diverse representation in government, was Middletown's first Black state lawmaker.

If Belton prevails on February 28, she will be the first Black woman to serve the city at the Capitol.

Belton says she's running to affect change at the "policy level".

"Policy changes outcomes for people, and that's where I belong," Belton said during the press conference.

She pledged to push for more mental health support dollars and programs – particularly for youth – as well as affordable housing and state aid grants to Middletown.

Belton says she'll also work toward a more equitable education system and an "economy for all".

February Events - Cromwell Belden Public Library

Cromwell Belden Public Library
39 West St, Cromwell CT 06416
860-632-3460

www.cromwellct.com/library

Adult Events:

Movies with the Senior Center. Fridays, at 1:00 PM, in the Library's Arch Room. Adults only, registration required. Join us each Friday afternoon for a fresh showing of a new film on the big screen. Please contact the senior center for more information and to register, at 860-632-3447.

Virtual Knitting Club. Fridays at 6:30 PM, via Zoom. Connecticut adults only, registration required. Join fellow fiber-enthusiasts and work on your current project! All are welcome - so don't be afraid to bring your latest crochet or quilting project, too.

Thursday Night Book Club: How Lucky by Will Leitch. Thursday, February 23rd at 6:30 PM, in the Belden Room. Adults only, registration required. Copies available at the desk. A debut

novel as suspenseful and funny as it is moving, this is the unforgettable story of a fiercely resilient young man living with a physical disability, and his efforts to solve a mystery unfolding right outside his door.

Children's Events:
Special Storytime: Llamas & Pajamas. Monday, February 27th at 6:00 PM, in the Belden Room. Ages 3-7, registration required. Put on your comfiest PJs for this special story time! We'll stuff our own stuffed animals to take home, read some stories, and have a great pajama party.

Graphic Novel Club. Tuesday, February 28th at 6:00 PM, in the Belden Room. Grades 3-6, registration required. Graphic novel fans unite! Come to the library once a month to get together with fellow comic lovers to enjoy some fun activities all about your favorite series and authors. We'll make our own comics, play some games, and more.

Cromwell Farmer's Market Seeking Sponsors

The Cromwell Farmer's Market is gearing up for another summer at scenic Riverport Park, and they're seeking community support in the form of sponsorships.

The town square-style Market runs from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. every Friday from June 2 through September 1 and draws 850+ people each week. This community favorite features farm-fresh vegetables, locally sourced products, artisans, food trucks, vendors, and live music.

Becoming a sponsor is a great way to build your band and connect with the local community.

Sponsorship packages include:

- Diamond Corporate - \$1,000 for full season space, your logo on a banner visible at the Market location throughout the season, your logo on a

yard sign displayed at each Market, and your logo on the Market website, T-shirt, and tote bag.

- Platinum – \$500 to include your name on a yard sign displayed each night at the Farmers Market, your logo on the website, and a smaller logo on the Market's tote bag and T-shirt.

- Gold - \$300 to include your name on a yard sign displayed each night, as well as your logo on the Town of Cromwell Farmers Market website

- Silver - \$100 to feature your logo on our website

- Other – any amount to offset market expenses.

Interested? Have questions? Reach out to Recreation Director Scott Kieras at 860-632-3467 for details.

Rocky Hill Senior Center Events & Activities

Call 860-258-2786 for information and/or registration.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Happy Spring! In an effort to streamline administrative practices and reduce errors, lunch reservations must now be paid for at the time of registration. Additionally, effective March 2, 2023, the new lunch fees are \$5 M/\$10.

CUPS FOR CHANGE

Please consider bringing your own cup or mug for coffee and water. This will help our environment, as well as our budget!

Rocky Hill Senior Center Transportation

Rocky Hill transportation services are available to residents age 60 and over, or any adult with a disability. Available services include the Rocky Hill minibus for medical appointments in Rocky Hill and Wethersfield (Monday-Friday) and Ambassador Transportation to medical appointments. Call Charlene at 860-258-2701, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS

SEA SONGS, CHANTEYS & NAUTICAL LORE – Wednesday, March 1 12:00-2:00

Tom Callinan, Connecticut's first "Official State Troubadour" will perform songs of the sea after we dine on Clam Chowder, Fish & Chips. Cost: \$8M/\$12NM. Co-sponsor: Home Instead

OPEN ART STUDIO - NEW DAY & TIME

Gather up your projects in progress and supplies (including table covering) and join this weekly drop-in art program. This is an opportunity to create in a collaborative environment with other artists. No formal instructions will be provided. There are sinks in the room for basic cleanup. Please do not bring turpentine. Turpentine is an odorless agent to use in its place. For safety purposes, no glass or metal cutting will be

allowed. Storage space is not available and all supplies and projects must be removed each week. Limited spots available.

Facilitator: Cathy Parent Dates: Thursdays, 3/2 – 5/4 Time: 1:00-4:00 p.m. Fee: \$10M/\$15NM

INSTRUCTIONAL

ARTHRITIS EXERCISE

This class is for those suffering from arthritis. It is designed to improve mobility and restore the use of affected joints as well as increase strength to support the joints. Class includes aerobic, flexibility, strengthening and balance exercises aimed to maintain current fitness levels while preserving the ability to perform daily activities. Modifications will be used to address various fitness levels and arthritis symptoms. Instructor: Physical Therapy Center of Rocky Hill

Dates: Thursdays, 3/9-4/27 Time: 10:00 a.m. -10:45 a.m. Fee: \$8M/ \$15NM

BELLY DANCING

Gia has been performing and teaching Belly Dance for over 25 years. This class will consist of warm-up, basic belly dance technique, choreographed dances, and use of the veil. All ages, body types, and skill levels are welcome. Instructor: Gia Khalsa Date: Wednesday, 3/1-4/5, 4/12-5/17 Time: 1:00 –1:45 p.m. Fee: \$42M/\$52NM

TOTAL BODY TRAINING (FORMERLY FIT FOR LIFE)

This circuit training program incorporates resistance machines, free weights, bands, balls, and cardiovascular equipment to help improve balance, functional strength, mobility and cognitive skills. A certified personal trainer will lead this workout in the Fitness Center. You do not need to be a Fitness Center member to participate. Must fill out Medical Form prior to participation. Class size is limited to 4. Instructor: Kathryn Zizzi-Meyers Days: M & W Dates: 3/1-4/3 Time: 1:30-2:15 p.m. Fee: \$50M/\$65NM

Area Students Earn Dean College Dean's List Honors

Cromwell and Rocky Hill students were among those named to Dean College's Fall 2022 Dean's List.

These students have demonstrated a serious commitment to their studies while at Dean College.

The list includes:

Alexander Green of Cromwell (06416)

Bryson Kelly of Rocky Hill (06067)



LIVE ONCE AGAIN!

FEBRUARY 25, 2023

1 - 3:30 PM

BELDEN ROOM

CROMWELL LIBRARY

39 WEST STREET, CROMWELL CT

A family-friendly open mic event!

Enjoy refreshments, raffle prizes

and a 50/50 cash raffle.

TICKETS:

\$10 adults; \$2 ages 13 and under

Tickets sold only at the door

Cash or Venmo accepted

Upcoming in Cromwell

Feb. 23
• Board of Finance – 7 PM
Feb. 28
• Planning & Zoning Special Meeting – 7 PM
March 1
• Inland Wetland and Watercourses Agency – 7 PM
March 2
• Recreation Commission – 5 PM
*Visit www.cromwellct.com for meeting details.

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We want to know what's
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events or announcements to
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or call 860-563-9386.

As Energy Rates Rise, Expert Panel Offers Cost-Cutting Tips

By Mark DiPaola

Rising energy rates brought a crowd of area residents to the Newington Public Library Tuesday night, for a state lawmaker-hosted forum featuring panel experts with consumer tips on how to reduce electric and home heating costs through assistance programs and other measures.

The forum was offered by State Reps Gary Turco, Kate Farrar, and Amy Morrin Bello, as well as State Senator Matt Lesser. There to field ratepayer questions were PURA Chair Marissa Gillett, DEEP Bureau of Energy Technology Policy Chief Eric Annes, AARP Senior Associate State Director of Advocacy and Community Outreach John Erlingheuser, and Community Renewal Team (CRT) Senior Director of Administration Elizabeth Vinick.

"We need to talk about what we can do to provide short term relief, but also what we're going to do long term to try and make energy more affordable," Turco said.

Electric ratepayers saw January bill increases of up to \$80 compared to the previous month, and the per gallon price of home heating oil – which reached a reported record high this past fall – is climbing again after a downtrend.

"Seniors and working families are concerned. They have to choose between filling up a tank of oil and going grocery shopping," Bello said.

PURA Chair Gillette advised attendees on how to secure lower rates – she directed them to www.energizect.com, where consumers can shop third party suppliers.

In the past, consumers had to worry about "teaser rates" that escalated once multi-year contracts were signed – but legislative changes have outlawed the practice, as well as early termination fees.

The Newington Chamber Comedy Night Returns!

Join us for a night of laughs on Friday, March 3 at the Polish American Club in Newington.

Doors open at 6 p.m., and the show starts at 7 p.m. BYOB, with complimentary popcorn and cookies provided.

Tickets are \$30 per person, or \$200 for an 8-person table.

Sponsorships are also available starting at \$200.

The Newington Chamber of Commerce presents... Wakeup Wednesdays Networking Meetings

The Newington Chamber of Commerce is inviting local businesses to connect.

The Chamber will be holding two networking meetings this January – the first Wednesday via Zoom, and the third Wednesday in-person.

The In-Person meeting location may change each month, so be sure to check <https://newingtonchamber.com/events/> for

Newington Public Schools Kindergarten Registration Open

The Newington Public Schools are in the process of conducting kindergarten registration for children who will enter kindergarten in August 2023.

In order to be eligible for kindergarten in August 2023, a child must be five (5) years of age on or before January 1, 2024.

Registration is online via the Student Registration links located on the Newington Public Schools website www.npsct.org. Students currently attending preschool in the Newington Public Schools do not need to complete this form.

Registration packets will be mailed prior to February 24. Please contact your child's school if you do not receive information or

"I booked at 13.5 cents," Gillette said. "If on July 1, the standard service rate drops down to 10 cents, you're not locked in – you can change back to standard service or another supplier. It takes a billing cycle to go into effect, but it's as simple as logging onto this website, providing your account number and enrolling tomorrow."

Residents making up to 100% of the state's median income are eligible for home heating and electric bill assistance under Operation Fuel, a donation-driven program serving over 6500 households and providing \$5.2 million in emergency aid to date.

"We started out helping people with heat bills and that's still what we do, but now the majority of our work is on electric bills," Long said.

The median income thresholds are determined by household size – with a \$66,260 ceiling for a single member and \$127,443 for a family of four. The full breakdown can be found at <https://operationfuel.org/gethelp/get-started>.

"If you have a past due bill and you're at that income level, you can apply for assistance," Long said. "If you're at 60% or lower than state median income, you can apply for state assistance."

Consumers can apply online at <https://operationfuel.org/> or by calling (860) 243-2345.

The Community Renewal Team (CRT) uses the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) to help consumers with their home heating bills.

CRT eligibility, too, is income-based – with a family of four, for example, qualifying with a pretax income of \$76,000 or less.

"This year has been hard. If you're struggling, I hope you reach out, because we're

• Gold Sponsor (\$600) – Business name prominently displayed on all advertising, reserved table for 8

• Silver Sponsor (\$400) – Business name prominently displayed on all advertising, 4 tickets

• Bronze Sponsor (\$200) – Business name prominently displayed on all advertising

the latest details!

Reminder: Non-Members are welcome to attend for free – three(3) times! Members in good standing are invited to give a 10-minute presentation at the close of our networking sessions.

Register for the Zoom meeting at: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZwtfrqTtEt3JLHhfOm_FolLuc_Pc-mFU

If you have any questions about the process.

Ruth Chaffee School
160 Superior Avenue
860-666-4687
Elizabeth Green School
30 Thomas Street
860-666-4657
John Paterson
120 Church Street
860-666-4657
Anna Reynolds School
86 Reservoir Road 860-521-7830

If you do not know your school attendance district, please contact the Office of the Superintendent of Schools at 860-665-8612.

here for you," Vinick said.

CRT also provides consultations to help homeowners make insulation improvements to save on heating costs – and offers a heating system repair service.

"That helps your heating system work better and identify any issues before they become huge problems," Vinick said.

Consumers can reach CRT for energy assistance by calling 860-560-5800 or by applying online at www.crtct.org. The program, which serves 40 towns, also takes applications through local human services departments like the one run by Newington social services coordinator Carol Labrecque.

"We've seen an increase in need at the local level for sure," Labrecque said at the forum. "Thank goodness for local donations. That said, Operation Fuel and CRT have stepped up."

Upcoming Meetings

February 27 – Democratic Town Committee

• When: 7 p.m.

February 28 – Town Council

• When: 7 p.m.

March 1 – Newington Housing Authority

• When: 4:30 p.m.

March 1 – Commission on Aging & Disabled

• When: 6 p.m.

March 1 – Economic Development Commission

• When: 7 p.m.

Newington Senior & Disabled Center Presents... Bus Trips for Our Community

• Tuesday, March 14 - St. Patrick's Day
• Celebration at Aqua Turf Club. \$52 per person. SOLD OUT

• Thursday, April 13 - Wright's Farm & Bally's Twin River Casino. \$83 per person.

• Sunday, May 7 - Black Rock Tavern & Thomaston Opera House. \$112 per person. SOLD OUT

• Saturday, June 24 - Locks & Lunch Cruise along the Hudson River & The New York State Museum. \$126 per person.

• Wednesday, July 19 - Lobster (or Prime Rib) & a Great Show at the Log Cabin, in Holyoke, MA. \$124 per person.

• Wednesday, August 9 - Resorts World Casino Catskills. Includes Buffet Lunch, \$25 Slot Play, Matinee Show. \$122 per person.

Reservations in person only. Checks payments accepted.

For more information, call the Newington Senior & Disabled Center at 860-665-8778.

Town Manager Search Team Seeking Input

We are starting our search for a new Town Manager and want your thoughts!

Our consultants have conducted stakeholder meetings with Department Heads and Council Members and an open meeting for the public. But we are still taking any comments from the Citizens, Businesses, Board and Commission Members. Please email randi@randifrank.com with your confidential thoughts about what the Town of Newington needs in their next Town Manager. Some questions to assist you with your thoughts include:

• What are current or future issues that the new Town Manager will need to address?
• What are the professional and personal

characteristics needed for the next Town Manager?

• What does the next Town Manager need to know about the Town of Newington to be successful?

• As part of the recruitment process the consultants need to sell the Town of Newington - so what are the great things we should tell candidates about the Town and region?

• If you know of any potential candidates or people who will know others we can contact - please pass on their names to us.

Learn more by checking out the Community Headlines on the www.newingtonct.gov home page.

CCSU Dean's List Features Local Students

The following students from Newington were named to the Fall 2022 Dean's List at Central Connecticut State University.

Aleksandra Adamczyk, John Allen, Joseph Almeida, Baha Alsaqri, Arianna Barnes, Admir Basha, Davis Basha, RaShawn Birden, Jordan Brunetti, Shealin Callahan, Joanna Chojnowski-Schroeder, Olivia Chomko, Ciara Clearkin, Dylan Diaz, Jason Dumais, Michelle Duong, Kayla Flores, Abbey Futoma, Sophia Gagnon, Alex Gajowiak, Isabella Galdamez, Gabriella Gray, Andre Haghverdi, Matthew Hamill, Eliza Harris, Julia Holland, Agatha Hueller, Mirela Ibrahimovic, Hawa Ileaasu, Kelly Iskra, Lauren Johnson, John Kelley, Alyssa Kempesta, Zach Kempesta, Taylor Kilduff, Hannah Kingsley, Daniel Knopf, Adam Kozikowski, Anita Kupiec, Jay LaRosa, Emanuele

Lici, Katherine Lilley, A'Shari Lindo, Collin MacKenzie, Bridget MacKenzie, Menna Majdoub, Karina Mallaeva, Will Mangan, Michelle Martula, Madison Massaro-Cook, Paul Misko, Ryan Murphy, Jake Nichols, Riley Osgood, Mirnad Osmanovic, Jaydin Parker, McKenna Pasquinelli, Pavan Patel, Rudra Patel, Michael Patnode, Jonathan Perez, Matthew Peronace, Michael Pinard, Matt Poulin, Riley Quigley, Tayler Rainville, Faith Ratcliffe, Josie Raza, Charles Robinson, Katie Rodriguez, Emily Rogalski, Oliwia Rozio, Kazimierz Ruskys, Sara Scollo, Kaito Smith, Gianna Spagnola, Kenneth Swanson, Stephen Szwez, Julia Szwez, Lara Therrien, Max Timmons, Carlos Tirado, Kevin Tran, Rachel Veilleux, Olga Veselova, Justin Youmans, Jhonjairo Zaldivar, Olivia Zbikowski, Marliese Zocco.

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Emergency Legislation Locks in School Meal Funding Through Year's End

By Mark DiPaola

Emergency legislation will keep Connecticut's universal free school meals program afloat through the end of the academic year.

State lawmakers will Connecticut's federal COVID relief funds to cover the \$60 million needed to provide all K-12 students with cost-free in-school breakfasts and lunches through June – legislators say they hope to lock in longer term program funding during the ongoing legislative session.

The Connecticut Office of Fiscal Analysis estimates that a full year – at least in 2023 – would cost the state \$90 million.

“This was really great that we were able to do something till we at least get through the rest of the school year,” said State Representative Gary Turco. “We're fortunate to have the ARPA money available. Everything just came together.”

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)-sourced allocation – part of a sweeping House Bill that, among other things, renewed the legislature's fiscal guardrails for another five years – comes as districts throughout the state brace for the expiration of 2022 universal school

meals funding.

Last year, the State of Connecticut allocated \$30 million of its federal COVID relief to continue a USDA program that provided free in-school breakfasts and lunches to all students – regardless of income – but that money, for many school districts, expired in late fall.

Youth advocates such as End Hunger CT Policy Director Lucy Nolan described the program as a lifeline – both for students from low-income households and middle-class families struggling with inflation, but would, normally, be disqualified due to income limits.

“School meals should be an integral part of a student's education, just like textbooks and transportation,” Nolan said during a January press conference at the Capitol. “A hungry child cannot be healthy.”

The emergency certification legislation is a quick fix – a “bridge” to the summer months, when longer term funding will, hopefully, be in place – lawmakers say.

“Emergency certification bills are not easy to get done – they're usually for the most pressing issue,” Turco said. “You had a lot of advocates.

I think it was grassroots support around the state saying this was an important policy.”

Turco represents Newington, where the local school district directed some of its own budget dollars to keep its meal program alive when state-allocated funding ran out. But that money was running low when the push for emergency legislation began.

Now, Newington Public Schools (NPS) will receive full reimbursement – though Superintendent of Schools Dr. Maureen Brummett didn't yet have specifics when reached last Thursday.

“I am very appreciative that the legislature has endorsed the continuation of free meals for the remainder of the school year,” Brummett said. “It will be very helpful to the students of Newington Public Schools.”

The funding comes with NPS reporting a 60% districtwide participation rate – a 20%

uptick over last year.

At Martin Kellogg Middle School, 73% of students utilized the program. The number was 68% at Elizabeth Green Elementary and 67% at John Wallace Middle School.

Anna Reynolds is seeing a 62% participation rate, while John Paterson and Ruth Chaffee are at 53%.

Forty-five percent of Newington High School students are receiving free meals through the program.

End Hunger CT advocates feared that letting the program lapse would cause even the highest-needs students to stop participating – largely due to stigma.

“The stigma of getting the meal is just too much,” Nolan said during the capitol press conference. “When everyone is welcome, the playing field is leveled.”

Energize Connecticut Accepting Applications for Energy Efficiency Grants

The Energize ConnecticutSM Community Partnership Initiative, offered by its Sponsors Eversource and United Illuminating, Southern Connecticut Gas and Connecticut Natural Gas, subsidiaries of AVANGRID, Inc., is accepting applications for its second round of funding supporting energy efficiency outreach in Connecticut communities.

The deadline for applications is Friday, March 3, 2023.

The Community Partnership Initiative assists community-based and nonprofit organizations in their efforts to raise awareness and educate residents about the many Energize CT energy efficiency programs, including Home Energy Solutions, Small Business Energy Advantage, income-eligible customer heat pump adoption, the Multifamily Initiative and residential demand response.

“The Community Partnership Initiative is a unique opportunity for participants to help bring energy efficiency opportunities to their communities and inspire residents and business owners to take advantage of these great programs, especially now as we're coping with historically high energy costs,” said Eversource Executive Vice President of Customer Experience and Energy Strategy, Penni Conner. “It really is a win-win for all involved as the partnership supports local non-profits while bolstering participation in the beneficial energy efficiency programs that can help customers lower their energy usage year-round.”

To make energy efficiency affordable and accessible to all, the partnership works with both municipality-affiliated community outreach groups, such as energy task forces and energy commissions, and unaffiliated groups like houses of worship, civic organizations, environmental groups, and business organizations to reach customers who can benefit from participating in energy efficiency programs. Eligible groups are either doing work or located in a Connecticut Distressed Municipality as defined by the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development.

Additionally, Connecticut municipalities containing Environmental Justice Census Block Groups within their boundaries as determined by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection are eligible to participate as well.

In Round 1, nine projects were implemented in eight communities: Bethel, Branford, Hamden, Middletown, New London, Waterbury, West Hartford and Wilton. The participating groups saw participation increase in their target energy efficiency programs thanks to their Community Partnership Initiative projects.

“By building strong community partnerships and supporting the work of local nonprofits, environmental groups, civic organizations, and other businesses, we've found a tremendous opportunity to expand our reach and better inform residents of the programs available to them to increase their energy efficiency and save money on their bills,” said Frank Reynolds, President and CEO of CNG, SCG and UI. “As we approach this next round, we look forward to building on already strong partnerships and creating new ones to advance our work in the community to increase equity and access to these valuable programs, positioning more residents to secure these important, cost-saving benefits.”

To apply for this funding opportunity, applicants must outline specific outreach goals and explain how they plan to connect with their local communities through the Community Partnership Initiative. In addition to monetary support, selected participants will receive training on energy efficiency programs, participate in opportunities for their communities to save energy and network with peer groups.

To learn more about the Community Partnership Initiative, please visit <https://energizect.com/resources-for/community-partners>.

About Energize Connecticut

Energize Connecticut helps you save money and use clean energy. It is an initiative of the Energy Efficiency Fund, the Connecticut Green Bank, the State, Eversource, United Illuminating, Southern Connecticut Gas and Connecticut Natural Gas with funding from a charge on customer energy bills. Information on energy-saving programs can be found at EnergizeCT.com or by calling 1.877.WISE.USE.

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Newington Senior & Disabled Center Presents...

Tuesday, March 14 - St. Patrick's Day Celebration at Aqua Turf Club. \$52 per Person. **SOLD OUT**

Thursday, April 13 - Wright's Farm & Bally's Twin River Casino. \$83 per person. Sunday, May 7 - Black Rock Tavern & Thomaston Opera House. \$112 per person. **SOLD OUT**

Saturday, June 24 - Locks & Lunch Cruise along the Hudson River & The New York State Museum. \$126 per person.

Wednesday, July 19 - Lobster (or Prime Rib) & a Great Show at the Log Cabin, in Holyoke, MA. \$124 per person.

Wednesday, August 9 - Resorts World Casino Catskills. Includes Buffet Lunch, \$25 Slot Play, Matinee Show. \$122 per person. Reservations in person only. Checks payments accepted.

For more information, call the Newington Senior & Disabled Center at 860-665-8778.

Middlewoods of Newington Sponsors Paint & Sip at Newington Senior & Disabled Center

Middlewoods of Newington Independent and Assisted Living Community sponsored a Paint & Sip event at Newington Senior & Disabled Center on Thursday, January 5.

The class was coordinated for members by Center Activities Coordinator, Barbara Womer and offered participants a simple winter scene, a canvas and painting supplies, and a self-guided or step-by-step process directed by Middlewoods Activities Director, Laura Gibbons. Twenty people attended the January class.

“The Newington Senior and Disabled Center has a great space for classes like these and the members really seem to enjoy the paint class,” shared Gibbons. “We try to create a relaxing environment where everyone can work at their own pace and receive creative support as needed.”

Gibbons leads the same type of paint and sip event at Middlewoods of Newington each month for interested residents, an activity which is always well attended. Those interested in learning more about other activities offered for residents at Middlewoods can visit the community for an upcoming open house on Saturday, January 14 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Community Relations Counselor, Elizabeth Giungi will provide a tour of the community for individuals to learn firsthand why residents choose to call Middlewoods home. For more

information, RSVP to Elizabeth at 860-667-1336 or egiungi@umh.org. Walk-ins are also welcome.

Newington Senior and Disabled Center is Newington's premier community resource for mature adults, recognized for their expertise in aging, innovative, engaging programs, professional services, and welcoming environment. To learn more about the Center or with any questions about membership, programs and services, and ways that you can contribute your time, experience, or other resources in the community, contact the Center at 860.665.8778 or visit their website at <https://www.newingtonct.gov/2432/Senior-Disabled-Center>.

Middlewoods of Newington Independent and Assisted Living Community is affiliated with UConn Health and located at 2125 Main Street in Newington. The award-winning senior living community is owned and operated by United Methodist Homes, a not-for-profit, mission-based organization in Shelton, CT. For more information about senior living at Middlewoods, please contact Elizabeth Giungi at 860-667-1336 or visit their website at www.middlewoodsofnewington.org.

To learn more about career opportunities at Middlewoods or to become part of the Middlewoods team, visit their website at <https://www.umh.org/career-opportunities-at-umh>.

Local Students Earn WPI Dean's List Honors

Local students were among the 2,069 undergraduate students named to Worcester Polytechnic Institute's (WPI) fall 2022 Dean's List.

The criteria for the WPI Dean's List differ from that of most other universities, as WPI does not compute a grade point average (GPA). Instead, WPI defines the Dean's List by the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and projects.

“WPI's academic programs are rigorous and require a level of independence beyond what is required in traditional courses. WPI students work on open-ended problems for communities around the world. The problems are important and the impact is real” said dean of undergraduate studies Arthur C. Heinricher. “Some of this nation's best and brightest students come to WPI to study engineering and science and business and the humanities. Those named to the Dean's List have excelled

in all of their work, and we are exceptionally proud of these outstanding students.”

The following students were named to the Dean's List for fall 2022:

Kayla Condon of Wethersfield, Connecticut, majoring in Biomedical Engineering (BS), class of 2024

Jessica Drozd of Newington, Connecticut, majoring in Chemistry (BS), class of 2026

Melissa Hasbrouck of Middletown, Connecticut, majoring in Mechanical Engineering (BS), class of 2025

Alice Kelly of Wethersfield, Connecticut, majoring in Aerospace Engineering (BS), class of 2024

Jennifer Kimball of Rocky Hill, Connecticut, majoring in Data Science (BS), class of 2025

Chase Miller of Wethersfield, Connecticut, majoring in Computer Science (BS), class of 2024

This Week in NHS Winter Sports

Feb. 25
V Boys Ice Hockey vs Northeastern (Home)
6 PM
Feb. 27
Girls Basketball vs TBA (Home)
CIAC First Round
TBA
March 1
Boys Ice Hockey vs TBA (Home)
CCC Semi-Finals
4 PM
*Game details available at www.newingtonathletics.com.



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With Grant Dollars in Hand, Council Weighs Millwoods Park Upgrade Options

By Mark DiPaola

Millwoods Park is up for around \$1.4 million in upgrades, thanks to a state grant program pumping \$4 million into the Wethersfield community.

The Town Council already dedicated \$1.7 million of its Urban Grant Act allocation to a Public Library renovation and \$500,000 for Old Wethersfield pedestrian safety improvements – now, they're deliberating on how to improve existing fields, walking trails, and other recreation amenities.

"This is an unprecedented opportunity," said Council Minority Leader Ken Lesser during the January 17 meeting. "There is so much money available at the federal and state level, and I'm just so glad we're at the table applying for and getting these funds."

Town Manager Fred Presley and his team recently went back to the table for advice on the program's rules for the unencumbered portion of the grant – they met with State Senator John Fonfara, who helped Wethersfield secure the funding, as well as representatives from the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD).

"What we received was that the intent of the majority of the remainder of the funds was parks and recreation," Presley told the Council. "They saw an opportunity to do several improvements in Millwoods Park."

So that night he presented the Council with a preliminary list of recommendations.

Presley's breakdown of the \$1.4 million is as follows:

Drainage and regrading at Little League Classic Baseball field (\$220,000)
Drainage and regrading at the upper soccer and softball fields (\$220,000)
Signage, road improvements, traffic calming, walking/bike path improvements, and parking upgrades at the Millwoods Park entrance (\$150,000)
Tennis court repair (\$80,000)
Bocce court lights (\$20,000)

Northeast footbridge trail (\$100,000)
Construction of four (4) new pickleball courts near the park's tennis courts (\$300,000)
Gravel parking lot near the tennis courts (\$125,000)
Southwest gravel parking lot by upper fields (\$275,000)

"This is really just to get your feedback," Presley said. "We need to provide the list of projects back to the state before we move forward."

The Council took no votes that night and continued discussions at the February 6 meeting. Feedback that has included questions as to whether any of the grant funding can go toward increasing the number of available fields – which, according to coaches, athletes, and parents, are in short supply.

"These dollars are going to go very far with this plan. We'll now be able to use these three fields that right now, sometimes you can use them, sometimes you can't," said Councilor Kevin Hill. "But we're still in need of new fields, especially in the spring, for baseball, lax, and soccer. Though we're really improving Millwoods the facility, there's still a demand within town for the actual fields."

Councilor Dan O'Connor agreed. "I'd personally rather see more of that money going into finding a field," O'Connor said. "There are no additions here, just improvements. We haven't moved the needle at all, in terms of finding more space."

On February 6, the Council reviewed an updated list containing some additional options.

Those included:
Millwoods Pool filter tank replacement (\$175,000)
Basketball court repair (\$22,000)
Sport lighting replacement at Fusco Softball Field (\$300,000)
Synthetic turf multiuse regulation sports field (\$1,300,000)
Southwest parking lot paving (\$200,000)
Playground equipment replacement (\$25,000)

Grass multiuse regulation sports field (\$830,000)

Deputy Mayor Tom Mazzarella says he thinks the filter tank replacement makes sense, given the equipment's wear and tear.

"We don't know when they'll break when it starts leaking," Mazzarella said. "If it happens in the spring, we won't have swimming that season."

He also got behind the playground equipment replacement and basketball court repair. While he said the park's existing fields need work, Mazzarella pushed back against the idea of adding new athletic playing areas to the site – Mazzarella says the pickle ball courts would be more suitable at Webb Elementary and a multiuse complex a better fit for the Kycia Farm property.

"We're just putting too much into one area. Increasing the usage. Increasing the traffic," he said. "I'm not against pickleball. I just think we can find a better place to put them."

He pointed to the 20-year old Millwoods Park masterplan.

"We're losing sight that this is a park. It's also for passive recreation. It's an open, beautiful green space. People can take a walk, have a picnic, sit down and read a book, in addition to the sports activities there," Mazzarella said. "Some of the proposals, it sounds like we're creating a lot of parking and intensifying the use."

According to Presley, the Park area west of the soccer and baseball/softball fields by the dog park can accommodate two new multiuse fields.

While that area is enticing, the town might look to restore use to the T-ball field space be-

tween the Classic L.L. baseball diamond and the ambulance center, said Councilor Matt Forrest.

The area is plagued with drainage issues that have taken the field offline over the years.

"It's unusable much of the spring because of this bad drainage, and it seems like we could use this space to more effect if it was properly leveled and drained," Forrest said. "I think I support a lot of the other ideas that are here and move toward resources fixing up what we already have."

Mazzarella recommended reviving a former concession stand by the pond and equipping it with ADA-complaint restrooms.

Forrest threw support behind that proposal, adding a recommendation for increasing the shade tree coverage throughout the site – the town's vision for the Park includes a walk/bike path around the perimeter.

As for the sports complex question, the consensus was to wait.

The Council is currently exploring possible locations for a future athletic complex. While Millwoods Park has space to accommodate a multiuse field, pursuing such a project through the grant program would have used up Wethersfield's entire allotment, Presley said at the January meeting.

"We're trying to stretch that grant out as much as possible," he said that night.

Presley presented findings from an athletic field needs study the evening of February 21 – that came out after we went to press for this issue, but we'll cover that in-depth in coming editions.

Wethersfield Academy for the Arts

Workshops
Portrait Drawing on Toned Paper
Instructor: Katie Engberg
3-day workshop, February 24th - 26th, 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Artists will capture the live model by drawing on toned paper. Focus on capturing an accurate likeness of the model and light effect, rendering convincingly three-dimensional form, gaining understanding of the different mediums and building confidence in the techniques of drawing on toned paper. Includes demos, lectures, and individual critiques.

Adult Classes
Bargue/Cast Drawing
Instructor: Veronique Fournier-Wynne
6 weeks starting February 27th, any 3 hours between 4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Based on the 19th century French Academic drawing course, designed by Charles Bargue, students will develop sight size drawing skills with a focus on shapes, form, line and values. Demonstrations and

Individual critiques. For artists with all skill levels.

Figure Drawing
Instructor: Pete Anderson
6-week class beginning February 28th, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Students will develop skills and confidence in figure drawing. Start with Figure 1 process, by learning the elements of focus and patience in putting lines on paper, stepping back and learning in an observational manner. Measuring in several academic methods, creating simple forms and shadow mapping will lead into the Figure 2 Mastercopy process. Appropriate for artists at all levels. Students will be able to take the monthly Figure Drawing long pose.

Oil Painting Still Life or Mastercopy
Instructor: Veronique Fournier-Wynne
6 weeks beginning March 1st, any 3 hours between 4:00 - 8:00 pm

Learn to paint realistically with the oil paint medium. Everyone will work at their own pace, allowing both beginners and experienced painters to join. You can paint a still life arrangement

or paint a mastercopy portrait. We will look at different techniques from the Renaissance to the 19th Century, including the Flemish technique and the technique of Bouguereau. Working in sight-size and from life, we will examine the process beginning with the preliminary composition on paper in graphite then the transfer to canvas.

Youth Art Classes
Bargue Drawing for Youth
Instructor: Veronique Fournier-Wynne
6 weeks beginning February 27th, any 2-hour period between 4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

This classical drawing course was designed for young people aged 12 to 19 years. Students will increase their visual literacy by applying a drawing process, learning new techniques for identifying and correcting drawing errors and practicing their hand-eye coordination. Students will learn these drawing skills by re-creating a Bargue plate as carefully as possible as they learn proportion, values and other essential drawing skills.

For details on all classes and events, go to <http://www.wethersfieldarts.org>, e-mail info@wethersfieldarts.org or call 860-994-8304.

Oil Painting for Youth
Instructor: Veronique Fournier-Wynne
6 weeks beginning March 1st, any 2-hour period between 4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Learn to paint realistically with the oil paint medium. Everyone will work at their own pace, allowing both beginners and experienced painters to join. You can paint a still life arrangement or paint a mastercopy portrait. We will look at different techniques from the Renaissance to the 19th Century, including the

Flemish technique and the technique of Bouguereau. Working in sight-size and from life, we will examine the process beginning with the preliminary composition on paper in graphite then the transfer to canvas.

Students will also learn how to mix accurate values and colors and how to create a realistic sense of dimensional form. Appropriate for ages 10 through teens.

Wethersfield Public Library

Zoom Program: Healing With Books: Stories Of The
Uses Of Books As Medicine
Historian Mary Mahoney will give a talk on bibliotherapy, or the use of books as medicine. Have you ever turned to a book for consolation? Treasured the escape of a comic book? Found comfort in a poem, self-help book, or simply from reading the newspaper?

This talk will explain the many uses of books as medicine in our world today and its history. Attendees will also be invited to reflect on their own lives as readers. The program will take place on Zoom on Thursday February 23rd at 6:30 p.m. Register through our Events Calendar at www.wethersfieldlibrary.org.

Zoom Program: Black History in Connecticut: Artifacts from the Connecticut Historical Society
Join the CT Historical Society on Tuesday February 28th at 6:30 p.m. for a virtual tour of items

from their collection representing the Black experience in Connecticut. Learn about Harlem Renaissance writer, Ann Petry, who carefully preserved artifacts chronicling the Black community of Saybrook.

Examine daguerreotypes by Augustus Washington, who abandoned a successful Hartford photography business to build a new nation in Africa. Browse through the photo album of a Hollywood actress who became a champion of labor rights for black entertainers. Marvel at the gorgeous costumes created by Connecticut's West Indian community for their annual celebration, and see artifacts documenting the Civil Rights movement in our state. Register through our Events Calendar at wethersfieldlibrary.org to receive the Zoom link.

For more information contact the library at 860-257-2811 or email anewton@wethersfieldlibrary.org.

Local Students Named to Regis College's Fall 2022 Dean's List

Regis College has named local area students to its Fall 2022 Dean's List for outstanding academic achievement.

To earn a spot on the Dean's List, Regis sophomores, juniors, seniors, and professional studies students must have a GPA of 3.5 or higher; first-year students must have a GPA of 3.25 or higher.

"This noteworthy achievement is one that requires perseverance, determination, and critical focus - skills that will encourage your contin-

ued progress in your undergraduate studies, career, and in life. We wish you continued success in all your future endeavors," said Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Mary Erina Driscoll, PhD, to the students named to the fall 2022 Dean's List.

The list includes:
Brett Kiesel of Rocky Hill
Tia Nuzzo of Middletown
Reece Skelly of Wethersfield

Social Justice Coalition

The Town of Wethersfield and WPS Invite you to join!

The Wethersfield Social Justice Coalition explores topics related to equity, diversity, race, and cultural responsiveness to create significant, sustainable, and meaningful change.

The Coalition has a collective commitment to learning, sharing perspectives, and working collaboratively.

It is composed of Wethersfield residents – including students and parents, representatives from community agencies, elected officials, and town and Board of Education staff who represent

the community's diversity.

The Coalition meets 11 times per year to engage in dialogue and work in subcommittees to address the goals and objectives developed.

2023 meeting dates are:

- March 16
- April 20
- May 18

All meetings are held from 5:30-7 PM at Wethersfield High School.

More info can be found at www.wps.wethersfield.me/our-town/social-justice.

Thank you
for reading
the Rare Reminder.

This Week in Local Government

Feb. 23
• Parks & Recreation Board

Feb. 28
• Redevelopment Agency
• Heritage Commission
• Library Board
• Historic District Commission

March 2
• Youth Advisory Board
*Meeting details available at www.wethersfieldct.gov.



What's Happening Wethersfield?

Send us your news!

We want to know what's
going on in Wethersfield.

E-mail any news, photos, upcoming
events or announcements to
editor@rarereminder.com
or call 860-563-9386.

Lawmakers Look to Ramp Up Nursing Home Accountability Measures

By Mark DiPaola

Lawmakers and long term care patients are calling on nursing homes to step up staffing levels and improve overall conditions – and they're pushing new legislation they say will help.

A series of bills currently before the legislative Human Services and Aging Committee would require Medicaid-reimbursed facilities to hire enough staffing to – at minimum – provide four hours of care to each resident within a 24-hour period, equip every room with air conditioning, and adhere to new financial reporting requirements designed to ensure that public dollars go to direct patient services.

The proposals are being introduced as providers wrestle with staff shortages and burnout, and patients and their families claim negligence in some facilities.

"We want to ensure that when someone trusts a nursing home with a loved one, that they are treated with care and decency," said House Rep Gillian Gilchrist, who co-chairs the Human Services and Aging Committee. "We want staff that care, but they need to be paid what they're worth."

Last year, nursing homes received \$1.12 billion in state funding.

"It is important that with that funding, which pays for 70% of the nursing home residents, that we have transparency, adequate staffing, and that we take care of our most vulnerable. These bills are designed to address those issues," said Senator Matt Lesser, who Co-chairs the Human Services and Aging Committee.

Connecticut's current staffing minimum is enough personnel to provide every resident with 3 hours of care per 24-hour period – the federal government guidelines mirror the legislation's call for at least 4.1.

Roulette Newell, a nursing assistant at Westside Care in Manchester, has been in the field for 20 years – she says the industry's staff retention and recruiting woes has been a persistent problem even before the pandemic.

"I've watched the decline of nursing homes in our state. Every year the ratio of residents to caregivers gets worse and worse," Newell says.

And client needs are changing – demanding new training, in addition to strength in numbers – she says.

"It's not uncommon to have residents with behavioral, alcohol, and substance abuse," Newell says.

George Kingston is an administrator at Westside Care. While he echoes Newell's concerns, he testified against the bill's minimum staffing requirement – for the same reason others in the room say it's necessary.

Westside has 162 beds and Kingston says he's currently recruiting for 104 hours of RN time, 136 hours of LPN time, and 152 hours of CNA time – and that the market has prompted him to hike wages and benefits.

"In my 30 years of practice in the long-term care arena, I have never seen a staffing crisis as significant as the one that exists in this industry," Kingston wrote in his letter of testimony. "My two major concerns is the inability to recruit the staff needed as well as the incremental cost of this unfunded mandate."

The Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) distributes Medicaid reimbursement based on a facility's self-reported costs – the state is required to match federal dollars on a 50/50 basis, according to DSS Commissioner Andrea Barton Reeves.

She says she supports the proposals "in concept", but pointed committee members to what she described as fiscal hurdles.

"We are in full support of improvements and care and quality, but our abilities to respond to some of these concerns are constrained," Barton Reeves said.

Governor Ned Lamont's budget, as if now, doesn't include funding for the air conditioning requirement – an answer to reports of nursing

home residents left languishing in sweltering summer heat – and the staffing minimums would cost an additional \$30 million, half of which would come from DSS.

"We can't mandate something we don't put money behind," said House Republican Jay Case, a Committee member.

While he echoed concerns about the state of Connecticut's long term care facilities, he says the logistics are trickier – many DSS reimbursed facilities are "brick and mortar", making overhauling each one for the AC purposes a costly proposition.

The staffing issues point to a larger problem that extends to creating a workforce pipeline for skilled nursing, Case says.

But the conversation is not new – Democratic House Rep Michelle Cook, another committee member, says legislators have been having it since she first got elected 15 years ago.

"It's the same pushback every year, no matter who is delivering the message, and I find it completely unacceptable as our climate has changed, that residents don't have the same expectation of comfort that we do," Cook said. "We require clean air systems in our school systems, but yet for our older populations, we don't give them that."

Cook says the issue is personal to her. "My father died in a nursing home of COVID that told us there was no COVID," Cook said. "He

could not care for himself in all the ways that we could. He needed help. He'd wait hours to get to the men's room. Days to get a shower. That was happening before COVID, and it's happening today."

Mandatory air conditioning is contained in two bills. One is Senate Bill 989, an Act Concerning Nursing Homes – the umbrella legislation also requires facilities to transport non-ambulatory residents to at-home visits, imposes harsher penalties for violations, ramps up financial reporting requirements, and sets the minimum staffing levels at 4.1 care hours per patient, per day.

House Bill 6578's air conditioning requirement would come with a state-sponsored loan program for nursing home facilities.

House Bill 6627 would allow the Connecticut Attorney General's Office to enforce civil penalties enforced on a nursing home when negligent care is injurious or life-threatening.

"There are skilled nursing facilities that do it well where people live there for a long time with high quality of life. Unfortunately that is not the experience across the state, and you shouldn't have to be lucky to get into one of the high quality programs," said Mairead Painter, Connecticut's Long-Term Care Ombudsperson. "We should have the expectation that every facility in the state is high quality and what we expect for our loved ones and what we as taxpayers pay for."

Wethersfield Public Schools Preschool Enrollment Open

Wethersfield Public Schools is seeking children three years of age as of October 1, 2023, to participate in the Wethersfield Preschool Program for the 2023-2024 school year.

A limited number of four-year-old openings are also available.

Our preschool is an integrated preschool program that includes children with and without special needs aging from 3 to 5 years. All children who attend the program must reside within the Wethersfield Public School district. Children must be toilet trained by the start of school. Transportation will not be provided. We are taking applicants for the three-year old program at this time.

Classes are located at Samuel Webb Elementary School. Classes are 2.5 hours per day, Monday – Thursday. Children are assigned to a morning or afternoon session based on the needs of the

program. Parents will be notified of the assignment upon acceptance. Cost per year for this four-day program is \$1,200.

Our Peer Playmates are selected through a lottery system. The application deadline for the lottery is March 10, 2023. Children will be invited to a screening to select potential peer playmates. The screening will be held on Friday, March 17, 2023. Children who participate in the screening will be placed into a lottery to fill the number of openings.

Parents interested in completing an application should call Mrs. Rosanne Zdrok at (860) 571-8141 or email her at rzdrok@wethersfield.me to receive a registration application for the lottery. Information is also available at our Wethersfield Public Schools website (<https://wps.wethersfield.me>).

Wethersfield Senior Center Presents... Recurring Events and Programs

Wii Bowling - Tuesdays at 1 PM – (Room S1) New players welcome! Great exercise and great fun!

Mah Jongg - Tuesdays/Thursdays at 9:30 a.m./1 p.m. – Looking for new players. Instruction available to beginners. Walk-ins welcome.

Bingo - Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m. (and) 2:15-3:15 p.m. (Banquet Room) Always a fun day! \$2 admission includes 2 bingo cards.

Set Back - Fridays at 12:15 p.m. (and) 3 p.m. Join our friendly group; everyone welcome:

singles, partners, beginners, experienced players. Easy to learn. Please arrive before 12 p.m. to register/receive scorecard. Players must be seated and ready to play by 12:15 p.m. \$1 members/\$2 nonmembers

Red Onion Senior Quilters – Third Monday of every Month at 10 a.m. All skill levels welcome. Make new friends and quilt for charity...

*Browse more events and programs through the Senior Center's newsletter – available at <https://wethersfieldct.gov/senior-center>

Letters to the Editor

An Economic Development Success Story

To the Editor:

Forty years ago, Old Wethersfield was "the wrong side of the tracks," with empty storefronts and underutilized properties, its economic vitality drained away with the relocation of town offices and other business to the Silas Deane Highway. Then the Board of Education moved out of the buildings that are now the Keeney Memorial Cultural Center and Lucky Lou's, Restaurant, leaving two vacant surplus town buildings, a blight in the center of the Historic District.

The Wethersfield Historical Society took a bold and risky step and made a comprehensive redevelopment proposal to the Town for the two properties, to provide a Museum and Cultural Center in the old High School and a restaurant in the Deming House, which had been left to the Town with the condition that it be preserved, and to bring back foot traffic and activity to the center.

The Historical Society raised the money to restore the Deming House, including new chimney, roof, central staircase, and professional kitchen, and to renovate the Keeney Memorial, including extensive interior changes, new elevator, and catering kitchen. The lease terms it negotiated with the Town reflect the Society's investments in these town owned properties and the very serious risks the Society undertook. Under the terms of the lease the Historical Society is responsible for the operating expenses of the property, while the

Town, as landlord, is responsible for maintaining the properties which it continues to own and will own outright at the end of the lease terms.

Today, thanks to the partnership between the Historical Society and the Town, Old Wethersfield is an economic development success story. The Society's courageous investment and commitment has spurred the revitalization of the once moribund center, generating decades of increased and increasing property values and tax revenues to the Town, new business and restaurants, an untold number of building permits, new construction activity and visitation, and each new business adds to the vibrancy of Old Wethersfield.

The Wethersfield Historical Society's vision and the wise foresighted decision of the Town Council have been rewarded. Old Wethersfield is a bustling hub of economic life, a focus of community engagement in all seasons of the year, a destination that attracts and welcomes visitors because it values its history, and that has also spurred the investments of other institutions like the new education/visitors center at the Webb Deane Stevens Museum.

At the same time the Wethersfield Historical Society's exhibits, educational programs, activities and events, and those of its neighborhood partners, businesses and institutions have created a livable, walkable community attractive to the whole town, and a great neighborhood to raise children!

Lee G. Kuckro
Wethersfield

Thank you for reading the Rare Reminder.



VISIT US AT:
www.rarereminder.com

LEGAL NOTICE Town of Wethersfield PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

The Wethersfield Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Council Chambers, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, Connecticut.

Public Hearing – 2137-23-Z Colvest/Wethersfield LLC seeking a Special Permit in accordance with 5.2.F.2 of the Wethersfield Zoning Regulations for outdoor dining, parking layout modifications and associated site improvements at 1078-1090 Silas Deane Highway.

Public Hearing – 2135-23-Z Town of Wethersfield seeking a Zoning Text Amendment to Section 5.13 of the Wethersfield Zoning Regulations for Adult Use – Cannabis Establishments.

Planning and Zoning Commission
Denise Bradley, Town Planner
Duly Authorized
Dated at Wethersfield, Connecticut,
this 16th day of February, 2023



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WANTED: Used and abused boats, cars, trucks, RVs and motorcycles. Top dollar paid. Free pick up 860-675-7261.

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We are following strict COVID-19 safety guidelines to ensure your safety.

Food Pantry

Saint Paul's Lutheran Church Food Pantry, at 371 Wolcott Hill Road in Wethersfield is open Thursday's between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. All are welcome. Feel free to call 860-529-5397 with questions. 031022

Spring Pops

Church of Christ Congregation's choir will perform Broadway, pop, and more on May 21 at 4 p.m. Show features soloists, a band, and handbells.

Support for Stroke Survivors

The Wethersfield Senior Center's stroke club offers support for stroke survivors and their families. Contact Joan Haines at 860-529-2281 for more info.

St. Patrick's Day at the Aqua Turf Club

The Newington Senior and Disabled Center is offering a St. Patrick's Day bus trip to the Aqua Turf Club on March 14. Tickets are \$52 per person purchasable by check. Call the Center at 860-665-8778 for more info.

Dinner at the Opera

The Newington Senior and Disabled Center is offering a bus trip to the Black Rock Tavern & Thomaston Opera House on May 7. Tickets are \$112 per person and purchasable by check. Call the Center at 860-665-8778 for more info.

Cars Helping the Blind

Wondering what to do with your old car or truck? Donating your vehicle to the National Federation of the Blind is convenient and may qualify you for a tax deduction. Call 1-855-659-9314 or visit www.carshelpingtheblind.org. 12/30/15

Cruise the Hudson River

The Newington Senior and Disabled Center is offering a bus trip to Locks & Cruise along the Hudson River and The New York State Museum on June 24. Tickets are \$126 per person and purchasable by check. Call the Center at 860-665-8778 for more info.

Bus trip to Twin River Casino

The Newington Senior and Disabled Center is offering a bus trip to the Twin River Casino on April 13. Tickets are \$83 per person purchasable by check. Call the Center at 860-665-8778 for more info.

Free Legal Advice at the Wethersfield Senior Center

Attorney Joan Wilson offers free half hour consultations between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month.

Thanks for reading the Rare Reminder.

Harlem Wizards in Rocky Hill

The world-famous Harlem Wizards will visit Rocky Hill High School on Friday, March 17 for an evening of great fun and fundraising. The Wizards will play a game against a team of Rocky Hill teachers, school staff, principals, and community leaders. The event is a fundraiser for The Rocky Hill Education Foundation which provides scholarships for graduating seniors and supports equipment purchases for all Rocky Hill schools. Ticket prices are \$15 for students and seniors, \$20 for general admission, \$25 for reserved, and \$50 for courtside plus. To purchase tickets, and for more information, visit www.harlemwizards.com and look for March 17th on the Schedule and Tickets page.

Understanding Your Grief

New Support Group begins Monday, February 28th. Understanding Your Grief is designed to lead participants towards hope and healing. When grieving the death of a loved one, it can be hard to understand the complex – painful- thoughts and feelings. The materials presented are written by one of North America's leading grief educators, Dr. Alan D. Wolfelt, Ph.D. This ten-week program will help you understand the normal and necessary journey of grief. This cohort will meet on Mondays beginning February 28th from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at First Church of Christ, 250 Main Street, Wethersfield, CT. Questions or to register please call Caring Ministries at 860.529.1575. Printed materials are they only charge. Participants may order books at: www.firstchurch.org/grow.understanding-grief. 1/20/22

Wethersfield Men's Garden Club Free Lecture

The Wethersfield Men's Garden will host a free public lecture on Monday January 23 from 7-8 p.m. at the Pitkin Community Center at 30 Greenfield St. in Wethersfield. Peter Winne of Peter Winne Gardening will discuss planting and caring for dense, herbaceous borders, using the Webb-Deane-Stevens garden as an example. The garden reflects what was grown in old-fashioned flower gardens during the early 20th century. Peter will also provide an overview of his gardening business and answer any gardening questions from the audience. This lecture is open to the public.

Go Red for Women Luncheon

The American Heart Association will host its 18th annual Greater Hartford Go Red for Women Luncheon March 29 at the Connecticut Convention Center. The Luncheon raises awareness about cardiovascular disease – the leading cause of death for U.S. women – and generates funds for lifesaving research. This signature women focused event will feature a keynote speaker, inspirational survivor, silent auction and a heart healthy lunch. For more information and to register to attend, contact Leigh Pechillo, 203-303-3337, leigh.pechillo@heart.org or visit <http://hartfordgoredluncheon.heart.org>

Assistance for Ukrainians Living in CT

The IRS is providing assistance to Ukrainians in Connecticut, according to Newington Human Services. These services include assistance with applications for cash assistance, food stamps, health care, social security and work authorization. You can also get assistance connecting with English language classes, and cultural groups, individual case management, routine monthly check-ins as needed, connection to health-care providers, school enrollment assistance, and community resource connections. For more information, contact IRIS at (203)562-2095 or visit <https://irisct.org/>.

Yankee Stadium Bus Trip

Christ the King Parish Men's Club, Wethersfield is sponsoring a May 13 Yankee Stadium bus trip – to watch the Bronx Bombers face off against the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. Tickets are \$125 and include deluxe bus transportation, stadium seating, sandwich and bottled water. Reservations required. Call Jim Pettit for details and reservations at (860) 402-3074 or email: spencer3600@yahoo.com. Bus leaves at promptly at 9 a.m. from Church of The Incarnation, 544 Prospect St, Wethersfield. Tickets typically sell out fast, so call today!

Caregiver Support Group

Caregiver Support Group is being held the second Monday of each month at 5 p.m. Please join us for educational discussions and an opportunity to learn and share with others who understand. Complimentary care is provided for your loved one during your session. A support group provides an opportunity to learn more about the different stages of this progressive disease and offers tips on ways to cope. The support group will be facilitated by Gina Smith, LPN and held at The Atrium at Rocky Hill, 1160 Elm Street Extension, Rocky Hill CT. Please rsvp to Roxanne at 860-563-5588 or email Rmagnolia@benchmarkquality.com 1/16/20

Social Justice Coalition

The Town of Wethersfield and Wethersfield Public Schools invites community members to join the Social Justice Coalition. The Coalition explores topics related to equity, diversity, and cultural responsiveness in order to create significant, sustainable, and meaningful change. It is composed of Wethersfield residents, including students, parents, representatives from community agencies, elected officials, and more. For meeting dates and details, visit www.wps.wethersield.me/our-town-social-justice.



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Community Partnership Initiative

Energize CT's Community Partnership Initiative is accepting applications from community-based nonprofits through March 3. The Community Partnership assists community-based and nonprofit organizations in their efforts to raise awareness and educate residents about the many Energize CT energy efficiency programs, including Home Energy Solutions, Small Business Energy Advantage, income-eligible customer heat pump adoption, the Multifamily Initiative and residential demand response. Learn more at <https://energizect.com/>.

Knights of Columbus Charity Bowl

The Knights of Columbus DeSoto Council (Cromwell) is hosting its annual bowling fundraiser on Sunday March 26th from 12:00 – 3:00pm at Bowl-O-Rama. This is a family-friendly event that supports the council's many charitable works and features prizes & raffles! \$20/bowler (\$15 kids 12 & under) includes 2 games, shoes, pizza & soda. Advanced registration is preferred, please visit www.cromwellkofc.com/charitybowl.htm for registration details. Inquiries can be sent to cromwellkofc@yahoo.com.

Caregivers Support Group

The Alzheimer's Association Caregivers Support Group Returns! This support group is designed for the caregivers of family members suffering from dementia. The focus is on caregiving challenges, issues, and needs with possible solutions, ways of coping and information about community resources. Meetings take place the first Monday of the month from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at First Church of Christ 250 Main St., Wethersfield. For more information and to register contact Caring Ministries 860.529.1575 ext. 117. 8/26/21

Music for Lent & Easter

Saint Peter's Church will offer Music for Lent & Easter – a pair of free concerts scheduled for March 12 and March 19, respectively. Both events feature the New England Chamber Choir & Ensemble conducted by Cromwell's Richard Donahue. The March 12 show will be held at 4 PM at Bethany Lutheran Church at 50 Court St. in Cromwell. The March 19 concert is 4 PM at 30 Saint Peter Lane in Higganum. Donations are welcome. To learn more, visit www.newenglandchamberchoir.com.

Cromwell POCD Survey Open

The Town of Cromwell Planning and Zoning Commission has begun the process of updating the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), and residents have an opportunity to weigh in through an online survey. A Plan of Conservation and Development is an expression of goals for the Town's future evolution and a series of actions to achieve those goals. The Town encourages residents and business owners to get involved in planning for our future. You can participate by taking our community survey, attending a public workshop, and following along in the process with updates posted here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CromwellPOCD>.

Soup Symposium

The Hardy Plant Society of New England, CT Chapter will host The Soup Symposium on March 18 at 150 Prospect St. in Wethersfield. The Society holds monthly program meetings with renowned speakers at the Wethersfield Academy for the Arts. The HARDY PLANT SOCIETY (HPS) of New England, Connecticut Chapter is a friendly and informal gathering of plant lovers. The stated purpose of HARDY PLANT SOCIETY is to cultivate and promote interest in plants that are hardy in New England, from the tiniest herbaceous plants to giant trees and all between.

CCD Coffeehouse This Sat.

The Cromwell Creative District's coffeehouse event will be held this Saturday (Feb. 25) from 1-1:30 p.m. in the Cromwell Library's Belden Room. The coffeehouse features a great variety of live performances, a chance at winning 18 different raffle prizes, and refreshments. Adults \$10, children under 13 only \$3. Tickets only sold at the door - cash or Venmo accepted. Please join us!

Seeking Volunteers for Middlesex County Acts of Kindness

Volunteers can provide free home-based assistance to Middlesex County residents in need. Volunteers help neighbors with household chores, yard work, companionship or transportation at their convenience. Even just one hour a week or month will make a difference to help keep people living safely and independently in their homes. Contact Michelle Puzzo, President and Co-founder UR Community Cares at info@urcommunitycares.org. 040722

Free Lenten Dinner in Cromwell

First Congregational Church of Cromwell will hold a Free Lenten Soup and Salad Meal on Wednesday, March 29 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 355 Main Street, Cromwell. Dinner will include soup, salad, bread, and dessert. The Praise & Worship Team will provide musical entertainment. Our building is handicapped accessible, and parking is available 2 houses to the north of the church. Please join us!

Cromwell Farmer's Market Seeking Sponsors

The Cromwell Farmer's Market is gearing up for another summer at scenic Riverport Park, and they're seeking community support in the form of sponsorships. The town square-style Market runs from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. every Friday from June 2 through September 1 and draws 850+ people each week. This community favorite features farm-fresh vegetables, locally sourced products, artisans, food trucks, vendors, and live music. Becoming a sponsor is a great way to build your band and connect with the local community. Reach out to Recreation Director Scott Kieras at 860-632-3467 for details.

Gardens of the World

The Women's Club of New Britain will host Gardens of the World at 2 PM on Thursday March 2, 2023. At First Congregational Church on 830 Corbin Ave in New Britain. Professor Richard Benfield from CCSU has spent his career touring Gardens of the World. Each person will receive a package of seeds to start their own Garden of the World. Following the program coffee, tea and cookies will be served. Guests are welcome to attend for a \$10 fee. New members from The Greater New Britain Area are welcome to join the club.

Corned Beef Dinner in Middletown

Third Congregational Church in Middletown will hold its annual corned beef dinner on Saturday, March 4 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at 94 Miner Street Middletown. Dinner includes: corned Beef, cabbage, carrots, potatoes and bread with coffee or tea. For dessert, Hershey ice cream with homemade sham-rock cookies. Adults pay \$15. Children under 12 pay \$. Take out available.

Movies at the Cromwell Senior Center

Join us every Friday at 1 p.m. in the Library's Arch Room for a fresh showing of a new film on the big screen. Adults only, registration required. Please contact the senior center for more information and to register, at 860-632-3447.

Rocky Hill Food Share Fridays

Families in need are eligible for free fresh food distribution at Elm Ridge Park every Friday from 1:15-1:45 p.m. The mobile food share is sponsored by volunteers from Oasis Christian Church. For more information please call the Oasis Church at 860-529-0701 or Foodshare at 860-286-9999.

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Are you ready for a second chance to earn your high school diploma? Adult Education will help you accomplish your goals. Adult education offers free high school completion programs, GED tutoring and English as a second language classes to area residents. Enrollment is free and students may register at any time. Day and evening classes are available in Middletown and Old Saybrook and there is never a charge for these Board of Education programs. Call for more information (860) 343-6044.

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Bells on the Green

Bells on the Green is a relaxed and social event taking place on the church lawn July 2 at 6:30 p.m. Program features light carillon music, including your requests. Bring a chair and refreshments!

Wethersfield Library Mitten Tree

Help keep Wethersfield warm this winter. Bring new (store-bought or handmade) hats, mittens, gloves, socks, slippers, scarves, arm, or leg warmers to be distributed to those in need by Wethersfield Social Services. More info at www.wethersfieldlibrary.org.

Travel Films at Cromwell Library

Meets every Wednesday at 2 p.m. in the Library's Arch Room. Adults only, registration required. Kick back and escape to far-off destinations, with hosts like Rick Steves and Samantha Brown.

Wethersfield Senior Center

Footcare Clinics

The Wethersfield Senior Center footcare clinics are offered the first and third Wednesday of each month. Get help with cleaning, filing, toenail trimming, and corn and callous reduction. Fee is \$30.

Early Learning at ECS

The Early Learning Program at Cromwell's Edna C. Stevens School offers a tuition-based preschool program for four year old children. Visit kmaruschock.wixsite.com/ecspreschool to learn more about the preschool program and lottery application process.

Meals on Wheels Volunteers Needed

You can help deliver meals to shut in seniors for as little as two hours per week. We currently need volunteers to help deliver meals at our local sites in Portland, East Hampton, Cromwell, and Newington. You can help just one day a week for only two hours (mid-day). Call (860) 519-3484 for more info.

Support Café Coffee

The Rocky Hill Senior Center is seeking Café Coffee sponsors. Café Coffee volunteers serve complimentary coffee, hot tea, and hot chocolate to members looking to grab a quick beverage before classes and activities. A \$50 sponsorship covers a month's worth of services. Contact Gina Marino at 860-258-2786 for more info.

Wethersfield: Get Help with Expenses

Please call Wethersfield Social and Youth Services at 860-721-2977 for information regarding federal, state, and local assistance programs such as renters' rebate, energy assistance, food stamps, and housing resources. You can also find more info at <https://wethersfieldct.gov/social>.

Lenten Mission

Professional performer ValLimar Jansen will hold a free performance at St. John Church (5 St. John's Court) in Cromwell on March 19 and March 20 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. The theme is "Rebirth, Reconnect, Recommit". Ms. Jansen uses song, dramatization and reflection to engage the audience. ValLimar tours the United States, Europe, Israel and the Far East as an inspirational speaker, author, storyteller, and singer. Refreshments will follow as well as the opportunity to speak directly with ValLimar. All are welcome.

Create a Collage with the Rocky Hill Senior Center

Janet Farraris leads this class every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. – sessions begin Feb. 1 and are offered until March 8. Bring to class your 2022 calendars, or your most interesting old magazines, brochures, etc. Playing with paper only requires your imagination. Guaranteed to be a fun experience with the benefit of a unique piece of art to take home. Fees are \$18 for members and \$24 for nonmembers.

Spring Car Show

A car show to benefit the Rocky Hill food pantry will be held on June 21. It marks the second year the Rocky Hill Historical Society has sponsored the event. Like last year, the Rocky Hill Fire Museum will be open and other community partners will have information tables. To be on the email list for updates, contact info@RHhistory@gmail.com

Cromwell Arts Alliance

Are you an artist or someone interested in supporting arts programming in Cromwell? Perhaps you want to inspire creativity in others through classes or workshops? Maybe you have yet to discover your hidden creative abilities! The Cromwell Arts Alliance invites you to learn more about the organization and the opportunities we support for artists of every kind, art lovers and those who just want to explore their creative side. Connect with us at www.facebook.com/CromwellArts or contact CromwellArtsAlliance@gmail.com. 11/20/14

Corned Beef Dinner in Middletown

Third Congregational Church will hold its annual Corned Beef Dinner at Third Congregational Church on March 4 from 5-7 p.m. at 94 Miner Street in Middletown. Dinner includes: Corned Beef, cabbage, carrots, potatoes and bread with coffee or tea. For dessert, Hershey ice cream with homemade sham-rock cookies. Adult: \$15. Children under 12: \$8. Take out available. One of our most popular dinners!

Newington Fire Dept. Pasta Dinner

The Newington Fire Department Co. 3 will hold its 11th Annual Pasta Dinner Saturday, April 22 from 4-8 p.m. in the Newington High School cafeteria. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 seniors and children 5-12. Children under 5 are free. Tickets can be purchased at the door or in advance by calling (860)306-4869. Proceeds from the Pasta Dinner and other Company 3 fundraisers are used towards items needed for the firehouse, public education events and other needs for Company # in its mission to serve the local community.

Tech Help for Wethersfield Seniors

The Wethersfield Senior Center is offering 1-on-1 tech instruction iPhones, iPads, Android phones, Android notebooks and tablets; fun and useful applications, Windows, Microsoft Office and more. Sessions are based on your individual needs and questions. \$10/hour suggested donation. For more information, to schedule 1:1 instruction or to register for any of the WCLC classes please email: techhelpforseniorswethersfield@gmail.com or call the Senior Center.

Help Youth Find Academic Success

CRT is seeking volunteers for its school-based RSVP READS program, which partners local elementary school students and provides reading guidance for one hour per week from October through May of each school year. We anticipate operating in six (6) local communities: Berlin, New Britain, Manchester, Portland, Vernon, & Wethersfield beginning in mid-October. Call (860) 519-3484 if interested – assignments will be made by the beginning of October.

Comedy Night in Newington

The Newington Chamber of Commerce will host its Comedy Night on Friday, March 3, at the Polish American Club in Newington. Doors open at 6 p.m., the show starts at 7 p.m. BYOB, with complimentary popcorn and cookies provided. Tickets are \$30 per person, or \$200 for an 8-person table. Sponsorships also available starting at \$200. See <https://newingtonchamber.com/event/2023-comedy-night/> for details.

Rocky Hill Townwide Tag Sale

Rocky Hill will hold a townwide tag sale on May 20 in Elm Ridge Park from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tables are available to residents and nonresidents – residents pay \$25, nonresidents can reserve a spot for \$30. Event is sponsored by the Rocky Hill Lions Club. Contact Phil Theroux at pthroux@cox.net or 860-559-8746 for details.

Art with Deidre

The Wethersfield Senior Center is offering art lessons for all abilities. Do a project of your choice every Wednesday from 10-11:30 a.m., learn sculpting every Wednesday from 10-11:30 a.m., or join our paint party every Thursday from 10-11:30 a.m. Visit www.wethersfieldct.gov/senior-center for more info.



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Knights of Columbus Benefits Night
The Knights of Columbus is holding a Fraternal Benefits Night on February 28 at 7 p.m. at the council home 171 Pascone Place. Frank Claudio Emanuele, Jr, will discuss long term care and other insurance products and annuities that are offered to members and their families. This is open everyone. Catholic men 18y years and older will be able to join online at the Benefits Night and receive one year free membership to the Knights of Columbus.

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Daily Lunch for Newington Seniors

The Newington Senior & Disabled Center offers a daily hot meal everyday at noon. Lunch is available for anyone age 60+. Seating begins at 11:45 a.m. Service is free and available to residents and nonresidents alike – there is a \$3.00 per meal suggested donation to help the Community Renewal Team defray costs. Donations are voluntary and anonymous. Please call 860-665-8778 for more info or to register.

Rocky Hill Academy Hall Museum Open

Rocky Hill's Academy Hall, serving the town since 1803, houses a museum of Rocky Hill history, operated by Rocky Hill Historical Society. To submit questions about visits, tours, or volunteering, send an email to infoRHhistory@gmail.com.

Covenant Living Tag Sale

Covenant Living of Cromwell will host a tag sale on Saturday, February 25, from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Enter at 101 West St. and follow the signs. The Resale Shop has a great selection of baskets and household goods, and there will be a half price table with many special items. The Furniture Garage is closed this month. Please come and shop!

Town Manager Search Team Seeking Input

The Newington town manager search team is seeking feedback from Newington residents. The town's search consultants have conducted stakeholder meetings with department heads and councilmembers, but is still taking public comments from citizens, businesses, and board and commission members. Please email randi@randi-frank.com with your confidential thoughts about what the Town of Newington needs in their next Town Manager.

CPD Food Pantry is Open

The Cromwell Police Department's free food pantry is open. The pantry is available 24/7 in the Cromwell Police Department lobby at 5 West St. Cromwell PD takes donations for non-perishable foods, hygiene products, and bottled water/juices! The Animal Control Officer also has cat/dog food available upon request!

RH Senior Transportation Services

Rocky Hill transportation services are available to residents age 60 and over, or any adult with a disability. Available services include the Rocky Hill minibus for medical appointments in Rocky Hill and Wethersfield (Monday-Friday) and Ambassador Transportation to medical appointments (call 860-258-2701 to schedule a ride). Ambassador services are available 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Monday-Friday. Call 860-258-2701 for details.

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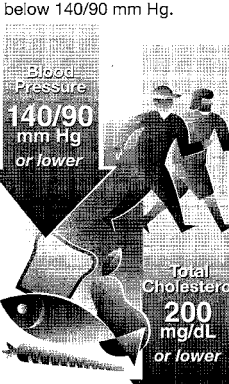
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about birds, birds have arguably the best eyesight and ability to detect color of any member of the animal kingdom. Birds can see more color than humans because they have a fourth type of light-receiving cone in their retinas (humans have three). Therefore, a pet bird will be in tune with vibrantly colored items in and around his environment. Arizona State University's Ask a Biologist offers an interesting chart that illustrates colors certain animals can see at <https://askabiologist.asu.edu/colors-animals-see>. People who want to know if their pet rabbit can see color, or what those fish in their home aquariums can see, can consult the chart.

The popular notion that pets see in black and white, notably dogs, is false. People once thought that their furry companions couldn't see the color spectrum. However, the American Kennel Club reports that new research and conclusions about canine anatomy point to dogs having color vision, after all — it's just a bit more muted than their human friends. According to Dr. Jerry Klein, AKC's chief veterinary officer, dogs have more rods than cones in their eyes, which improves low-light vision. Cones are responsible for controlling color perception. Due to these anatomical differences, it is believed dogs's vision mimics that of a person with red/green

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The role of nature in home design in the years ahead

Outdoor living spaces were prioritized during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, when public gatherings were greatly limited and individuals were urged to stay home as much as possible. Such demands have had a ripple effect on various industries, including home design. According to a survey conducted by the New Home Trends Institute in collaboration with Pro Builder, 58 percent of the more than 300 residential architects, designers and design-minded builders who participated said connection to the outdoors/nature will be an important influence on their design choices in the years to come. In addition, 45 percent of respondents indicated increased attention

will be afforded to outdoor entertaining spaces. So what might the outdoor spaces of homes built in the not-so-distant future look like? Respondents to the survey anticipated a growing demand for various built-in outdoor features, including:

- Firepits or fireplaces
- Outdoor kitchens
- Gazebos or pergolas
- Pools
- Spas or hot tubs

Though trends and consumer demands are ever-shifting, architects and designers are anticipating that future homeowners will want more developed outdoor living spaces and greater access to nature, which is something current homeowners can keep in mind when renovating their properties.

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NEW YEAR? NEW HOME?

Whether you are looking to move up in your present area or making that big retirement move, call, text or email me today to get started. It's February already! Let's Get Going!



Cathy Hall
860-559-6643
chall@bhhsne.com

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WETHERSFIELD CORNER OFFICE: for rent 2 windows, all utilities included. \$350 Call Carl Lucas, Conte & Lucas Realtors 860-296-1411.

WANTED: Professional looking to rent and or purchase a 2 bedroom Condo with garage a plus in Rocky Hill Cromwell area. Call 860-798-1041 leave message.

STOREFRONT FOR RENT: 500 Silas Deane hwy. Close to town hall, schools, restaurants and I91n & s call 860-965-3272 or 860-995-0142

SELL YOUR HOUSE FAST: Any condition- "AS-IS"-Fast Cash Closings -No Hassles. Local & Professional -No Fees -No Commissions www.valleyresidentialgroup.com 860-589.4663.

VACATION HOME: Rental, Narragansett RI, walking distance to Scarborough beach. June, July & August availability. 6 bedrooms, AC home with deck & gas grill, renting Saturday to Saturday. Contact Debbie 860-833-8930 email narragansettrentals@gmail.com.

WETHERSFIELD FIRST FLOOR OFFICE FOR RENT: With window, all utilities, \$335 monthly. Call 860-296-1411. Conte & Lucas Realtors.

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TRANSFERS

01/31/2023 Solairaj, Sriramlinga To Jaswal, Rajbir	14 Rising Trail Dr \$163,000
01/31/2023 Jones, India H To Dupigny, Jazel S	47 Rising Trail Dr \$165,000
02/01/2023 Howard H May T; May, Irena To Buy Or Sell Realty LLC	27 Woodside Cir \$560,000
02/01/2023 Howard H May T; May, Irena To Buy Or Sell Realty LLC	29 Woodside Cir \$560,000
Rocky Hill 02/01/2023 Hummel, Lori A To Hardy, Antonio M	44 Birch Rd \$230,000

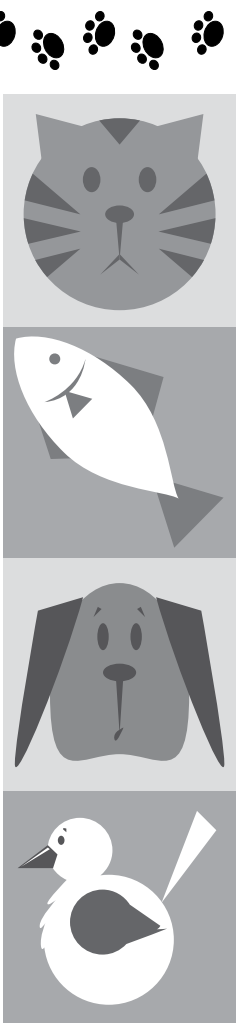
01/31/2023 Von Essen Mary L Est; Shea, Richard To Spencer, Avery	302 Watercourse Row \$190,000
Wethersfield 01/30/2023 Morris Ann Marguerite Est; Courtemanche, Mary E To Lozada, Nikolas; Nyari, Taylor	53 Elm St \$385,000
01/30/2023 Dean, Mark H; Dean, Jaime W To Burgio, Daniel P; Burgio, Danielle D	177 Highcrest Rd \$750,000
02/01/2023 Riccelli, Melissa To Boatman, Aaron W; Hallisey, Samantha L	34 Pebble Rd \$390,000
02/03/2023 Marie D Cerbo RET; Cerbo, Donna M To Stevens, Gabriel	53 Schoolhouse Xing \$220,000

01/31/2023 Colli 3rd, John R To Emanuele, Frank; Emanuele, Angelina	45 Stillman Walk \$280,000
02/01/2023 Zimmitti, Victoria G To Rugan, Lynn	407 Wells Rd \$150,000





OUR PET PAGE



CRITTER SITTERS OF NEWINGTON: Daily/Vacation In-Home Dog/Cat Care, Overnight Pet/House Sitting. Bonded/insured/experienced. Pets stay safe, healthy & happy while you're away. Visit us online at WWW.CRITTERSITTERSCT.COM or call 860-306-2334.

BRING HOME A FRIEND



Keke is a stunning, little beauty! She is a true, deep black with a black nose and black whiskers. She is five months old and fully vetted so all you have to do is love her. Keke follows her foster mom everywhere. She also loves her foster mom's senior cats and is quite respectful of them. Keke does play a little rough at times because she's been an only kitten but she makes up for it when she cuddles. She loves to cuddle! Please fill out an application on our website at www.hucatrescue.org. Call 860-479-5173 or email hucatrescue@gmail.com.



ANGEL AND OREO are two gorgeous young kitties. You could say she has a kitty 'angel' watching over her. Angel was diagnosed with FIP. Feline infectious peritonitis is a viral disease of cats caused by certain strains of coronavirus though not the one that causes COVID-19. The virus will spread through a cat's body causing systemic inflammation. Up to 95% of cats diagnosed with FIP die without treatment. Angel responded well to a new treatment and Oreo was with her the whole time, comforting her. It's been six months since her treatment and they are now ready for a loving home. Angel is a Ragdoll mix with blue eyes. Oreo is a handsome, mostly white boy. Please fill out an application on our website at www.hucatrescue.org. Call 860-479-5173 or email hucatrescue@gmail.com.



POA

"A non-profit, all-volunteer animal rescue organization."

PET OF THE WEEK



Caleb, 10 months, is a happy, feisty, boy. He will need a special home due to his lack of use of his back legs. Caleb may be differently abled, but that doesn't stop him from being super adventurous and spirited! Contact POA for more info about Caleb's specific needs for a home with a perfect fit.

Visit www.POAinc.org, or call 860-569-0722



Little Lilly is ready! She is a beautiful little tabby from a hoarding situation. She's been a wonderful mom to her five kittens. Now if you can open your heart to a little girl who's had a rough start but is eager to please. Please fill out an application on our website at www.hucatrescue.org. Call 860-479-5173 or email hucatrescue@gmail.com.



ADOPT LITTLE LILLY'S KITTENS: Little Lilly's adorable litter of five have turned six weeks old. They will go to their first on Feb. 10th. There are four males and one female. They were born on Dec. 18th, two days after Lilly came to us. If you do not have another cat, kittens at this age must go in pairs. Please fill out an application on our website at www.hucatrescue.org. Call 860-479-5173 or email hucatrescue@gmail.com.

ADOPT A BARN CAT. We have several beautiful barn kitties available that were recently rescued from an unwelcoming, dangerous area. These working cats make friends easily with farm animals. They are also excellent in warehouses and greenhouses. The property owner's responsibility will be to provide daily food/water, protection from the elements, and long-term vet care. After a short period of secure confinement, the cats will accept your barn as their new home and clean up the place of any rodents. Please fill out an application on our website at www.hucatrescue.org. Call 860-479-5173 or email hucatrescue@gmail.com for a faster response.



GABE
Six month old, silky smooth, beautiful boy is ready to go home! He loves to play, flip and cuddle! He is not fond of other fur babies but loves his humans!

Call Maria, Volunteer, 860-306-6075, CT CAT CONNECTION.



spay & neuter awareness month

Meet Rosie!

Rosie is a darling 16yo calico cat looking for a calm, quiet house to live out her golden years! She is shy at first but still playful and sweet as can be. Needs to be only pet. To learn more, please contact Our Companions at

860.242.9999 Ext. 302
OurCompanions.org
Helpline@OurCompanions.org



WHISKERS PET RESCUE is a no-kill animal welfare organization with an adoption center located in Bennett Square in Southbury. We are a nonprofit charity made up entirely of volunteers committed to caring for animals who have been abandoned, injured, abused or neglected. Should you wish to adopt a whiskered kitty or make a donation to our animal shelter to be utilized towards our spay-neuter program, please mail to Whiskers Pet Rescue, 134 Main St., South Southbury, CT 06488. Please ask our volunteer staff about our senior to senior kitty adoption program where our kitties are adopted by senior citizens and veteran. Our staff at our animal shelter can be reached at 203-586-1666. Thank you for assisting our homeless whiskered friends!



COLA is a 1 year old boy, this special dog-like cat will greet you at the door and play fetch with his favorite mouse. He is neutered, fully vaccinated and ready for his forever home!

Call Maria, Volunteer, 860-306-6075, CT CAT CONNECTION.

SPONSOR STAR. Star is a beautiful, purebred Himalayan. She is 16 year old and in hospice care for now. Star could use a sponsor for her food and care. If you are interested, please email hucatrescue@gmail.com. Thank you!



Names: **Bob/Trixie**
Gender: **Male/Female**
Breed: **DSH**
Color: **Black & White/ Brown Tabby**
Ages: **2 years/ 1 year**

Bob and Trixie were rescued together and have become a bonded pair. They are truly adorable together! Both are very shy and need a quiet home with a patient person or couple willing to give them time to adjust. With time and gentle interaction, they will become much more comfortable. Both are very sweet. She enjoys being talked to and petted gently and Bob will purr and roll over when you pet him. Bob and Trixie will be ready to adopt in mid-February and Cat Tales is taking appointments to meet them now.
No Dogs / No Children
Web: <http://www.CatTalesCT.org/cats/Trixie>
PH: 860-344-9043 • Email: Info@CatTalesCT.org
Watch our TV commercial: <https://youtube/Y1MECIS4mIc>



ADOPT A SHELTER PET

I want to go home



Fluff is a gorgeous, black Maine Coon mix. He is 13 weeks old and has a huge personality. Fluff is very outgoing, friendly and already a lap cat. He has two other siblings and will fit in well in any home. All three are very friendly. They are 14 weeks old, a perfect age when you can see their personalities. Please fill out an application on our website at www.hucatrescue.org. Call 860-479-5173 or email hucatrescue@gmail.com. Please note that as volunteers it is easier for us to answer emails. Thank you!





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*Are your pets in need of company?
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Did you know?

People choose pets for various reasons, including the size or appearance of an animal or even a natural affinity for a certain type or breed. Cats and dogs are wildly popular pets, and many households even have both. When it comes to selecting a breed of kitty or pup, certain options seem to be more popular than others. Acrosss the globe, these breeds of canine and feline have recently been listed as top breeds, courtesy of The Cat Fancier's Association and Highland K-9 Training.

Dog

- Bulldog:** Most popular in the United Kingdom, Puerto Rico and Serbia, this muscular, medium-sized dog once was bred for fighting. Selective breeding has transformed bulldogs into calmer, more loveable companion animals.
- German Shepherd:** The German Shepherd's popularity shows no signs of waning. It's the third-most registered breed in the United States and its high trainability, speed, agility, and other traits make it a popular family pet.

ANIMAL ALLIANCE WELFARE LEAGUE is an all volunteer animal welfare organization devoted to preventing the suffering of homeless animals in our community. Our animal welfare organization provides TNR (Trap-Neuter-Release) of community cats in the central Connecticut area. Should you wish to adopt a cat or kitten; volunteer to feed community cat colonies in the City of New Britain; donate to our special needs cats and kitten, please contact Marie at 860-632-0863. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 1775, New Britain, Connecticut 06050. Thank you for your compassion for the animals.



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ANIMAL LOVERS: Financial help needed. Any donation is greatly appreciated and tax deductible. Out to Pasture Farm & Rescue, P.O. Box 310174, Newington, CT. 06131. www.outtopasture.org.




Want your pet to be featured on our pet page as the Pet of the Week?

Email us a photo of your pet or pets, with his and/or her name AND your name (the owner) to: sales@rarereminder.com

Mailing address:
P.O. Box 289, Rocky Hill, CT 06067


Although we love all of your emails, due to quantity received, there is no guarantee your pet will be put in the paper. Photos mailed in cannot be returned. Our apologies.

-Rare Reminder, Inc.

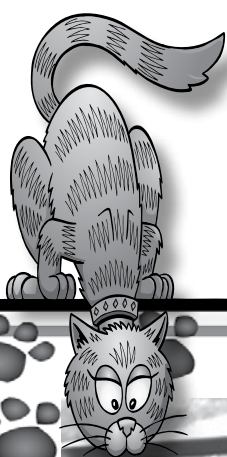


AFOC has a litter of 6-week-old kittens. This litter is unusual because it includes a tortoiseshell and Siamese among them. All will be available for adoption when they are eight weeks. They can be reserved today.

If interested call AFOC at 860-693-0303 for more info.



ORION IS A HANDSOME, 6 year old tuxedo. He's incredibly loving and likes being around people constantly. He also likes being held and is a lap kitty. He does fine with other cats but would not do well with a dog as he is very scared of them. Orion has a condition called FLUTD. He is on a urinary diet and has not had any blockages. This beautiful boy is located in Middletown. Please fill out an application on our website at www.hucatrescue.org. Call 860-479-5173 or email hucatrescue@gmail.com.



PET OF THE WEEK

You can publish a Memorial for your pet on our PET PAGE

Your announcement would include a photo, pet name and up to 50 words. Your cost, \$10.00



Make check payable to Rare Reminder, Inc. and send to:
Rare Reminder, Inc., P.O. Box 289, Rocky Hill, CT 06067,
ATTN: Pet Section Memorials
(photo cannot be returned)



My Name Is
Josie

My People Are
Mindy & Mike

19 _____ 20 _____ 21 _____ 22 _____ (add additional charges beyond 22 words)

Phone 860.563.9386
Fax 860.257.4684-Classified
Hrs: Mon.-Thur. 8:30-4; Fri 8:30-1
P.O. Box 289,
222 Dividend Road
Rocky Hill, CT 06067



Newington Elementary Children's Center Inc.

OPENINGS AVAILABLE



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SELL ME YOUR CAR! Cash money. All makes, any condition. Call 860-269-5106, Adam.

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CLEANING LADY: Looking for work. Need your house cleaned? Call for great prices. Anna 860-839-0810

CEMETERY PLOTS FOR SALE: Located in Rose Hill Cemetery in Rocky Hill, CT. Call for information 480-684-4162.

HOME IMPROVEMENT: Painting, power washing, wall paper, sheet rock, taping gutter cleaning. Licensed and insured call Nick 860-224-0000.

AAA JUNK REMOVAL/POWERWASHING: Free estimates, anywhere in CT call 860-840-9840.

J&S PAINTING AND HOME IMPROVEMENT: Painting interior and exterior, roof, siding, windows, hardwood and laminate floors, new and repair, fence installation, deck installation, new additions, all kinds of carpentry work. House and office cleaning. Property Management. Call John 860-796-0006.

SEEKING EMT'S

Newington Emergency Services, Inc.

is currently seeking volunteer EMT'S to fill open positions. If you're a certified EMT and want to use your skills, please visit our website: www.newingtonems.com for further information and to fill out an application.



Please remember to pull to the right for flashing lights. Ambulance corps members use flashing lights to respond to emergency medical calls.

117176

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Our Classified Advertising Staff is able to assist you in placing and pricing your classified advertising, the typed ads that run throughout the paper. Classified advertising sections include: General, Real Estate, Help Wanted, Auto, and For Pets' Sake. You can place your classified ad by phone (limited to 25 words) or by mailing the attached form with your payment. Deadline for all classifieds is Mondays by 5pm.


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Automotive Forum

Did you know?

Vinyl siding is not something that many homeowners may consider painting, but it can be done. However, some contractors may not recommend it as the best option to overhaul a home. Painting siding means it will only be as durable as the paint used. It’s also essential to determine if painting vinyl will void any warranties. Wood or engineered wood or fiber cement siding tend to be better options than vinyl should you want to switch colors down the line. But vinyl siding can be painted if it is done right, and it can be an affordable way to change the look of a home without investing in new siding. According to Benjamin Moore Paints, vinyl siding that will be painted will need to be cleaned thoroughly, including the removal of any mildew, chalk or dirt, to enhance paint adhesion. Pitted or porous vinyl siding always must be primed, but others may not require priming. Choose an exterior paint designed for painting on vinyl. Benjamin Moore has a palette called Colors for Vinyl that can be used in select exterior paint lines. Two coats of paint are recommended. According to BobVila.com, paint for vinyl has acrylic and urethane resins that accommodate the expansion and contraction of vinyl and help the paint stick. Also, for the best results, the home improvement experts on the site advise painting when temperatures are mild and there is low relative humidity and an overcast sky.

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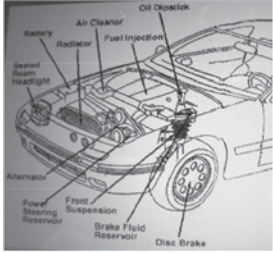
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SPORTS CORNER

Eagles Basketball Survive Late Rally, Down Rocky Hill

By Josh Howard

Wethersfield High School boys' basketball built a large lead in the second half before having to hold on to defeat a resilient Rocky Hill team 47-45 on Valentine's Day, securing the Eagles a state tourney berth.

Senior captain Tate Barnett led the Eagles with 16 points, also grabbing eight rebounds and blocking four shots.

Head coach Brian Fanelli praised Barnett for his work this season, on and off the court.

"He does all the little things that kids don't like to do," added Fanelli. "He's a good basketball player and is an unbelievable human being, [and] that's why he is a good leader on the floor."

Playing on the road in front of a packed house at Rocky Hill High School, Wethersfield used a 20-3 scoring run to take a commanding second half lead.

A floater by junior Kobe Chapman provided Wethersfield a 34-14 lead midway through the third before the Terriers stormed back to narrow the deficit to a single possession in the closing minutes.

Fanelli said that he can use the situation as a learning tool, credited the team for closing out the game despite the Terriers scoring 21 of the final 28 points.

"We hung in there; we could have folded," added Fanelli. "With teams that are struggling to get wins, they could have easily closed shop."

Following a 9-1 scoring run by Rocky Hill early in the fourth, Barnett temporarily halted the scoring surge by stealing a pass and converting an old-fashioned three-point play.

A pair of late free throws by junior point guard Thomas Daly sealed the win.

Daly is part of a solid backcourt in Wethersfield that also includes senior captains Ali Abdulkadir and A.J. Karanian.

The win was the Eagles eighth this season and cemented a spot in the upcoming state tournament.

It's a far cry from a year ago when the team only won three games and missed out on post-season play.

Fanelli stated that his players are starting to figure out how to adjust to in-game situations, which has led to some impressive wins this winter.

After losing seven of the first ten games this season, the win over Rocky Hill was the Eagles fifth in the last seven games.

During that stretch, they won consecutive conference games over Hartford Public, Plainville, and South Windsor.

Fanelli added that many of his players have had to learn the rigors of the varsity game this winter and wins like the one of Rocky Hill can go a long way to building confidence.

"We try and teach our guys to be in those situations, not just for this year but also next year," added Fanelli. "Kids play sports because it is one of those situations where they are criticized on the spot. How you respond will make or break you."

With the state tourney looming, Fanelli said the team's need to take advantage of the easy opportunities and tighten up the decision making.

"I would like them to be more consistent," added Fanelli. "We've been a little inconsistent at taking care of the ball and we can't have that when it comes to playoff time."



Wethersfield senior captain Tate Barnett and Rocky Hill's Alexander Kastner battle for position during the Eagles 47-45 win on Feb. 14.

Terriers Show Promise in Loss

By Josh Howard

Despite losing at home to rival Wethersfield, Rocky Hill boys' basketball showed the grit and determination that first-year head coach Ken Borton has wanting to see all season.

The Terriers turned a 20-point second half deficit into a two-point defeat.

For Borton and a young team that is learning on the fly, it's a step in the right direction.

"We need to play to win. We've been playing tentatively this season and the mentality has to be to play to win, and tonight we showed that in the second half," stated Borton.

After the Terriers managed only three points in the second quarter and allowed the first six points of the third quarter, the home team began to turn the tide.

Borton said the scoring drought dug the Terriers a deep hole, adding, "When you have a ten minute stretch where you only scored three points, you can't expect to win a game at any level."

Sophomore Jaden Veal sparked the team off the bench offensively, scoring a game-high 19 points.

Veal almost single handedly stole the game late, scoring eight of the game's final 13 points, including a pair of three-pointers.

Veal and freshman Rathan Tejeda — who hit eight three-pointers and scored 30 points in the junior varsity game before also playing a reserve role in the varsity game — provided a glimpse into what the future could hold for the program.

"Those two are a big part of the future," stated Borton. "It is good for them to be in games like this. They can feel that energy and they are not running away from it."

Junior Casey Robinson also provided a lift to the team in the fourth, scoring all six of his points over the final eight minutes after play-

ing a majority of the game in foul trouble.

Borton entered his first season in Rocky Hill knowing it was going to be a rebuilding season for a program that was coming off a one-win season and had only won eight games total the previous three seasons.

The team has already surpassed the win total from a season ago, winning games over Wright Tech and Plainville.

Bridging the gap between the players and the coaching staff is a pair of mature seniors in Tyler Carlstrom and Yazdan Aftab.

Both are multi-sport standouts with Carlstrom starring as all-conference baseball player in the spring and Aftab as an all-conference football player in the fall.

"I cannot sing their praises enough," Borton said of his senior captains. "They have not quit one bit. I know it's been hard on them, but they have been here every single day busting their butts. It doesn't always show up on the score box, but they keep these guys together."

Both senior leaders made plays in the loss to Wethersfield. Carlstrom scored six points and ignited an 8-0 scoring run in the third quarter by knocking down a three-pointer. Aftab also netted six points and had a pair of steals late in regulation that allowed the Terriers to claw back into the game.

Borton, who was previously an assistant coach in Cromwell for five years and served as an assistant in New Britain the prior seven years, believes the team has slowly built the confidence needed on the court and the loss to Wethersfield was yet another stepping stone.

"You can't be afraid and you have to be able to put yourself out there to make a play, and they started to do that tonight," stated Borton. "The silver lining is that we were trying to take the game and they weren't waiting for it."

The Terriers close out the season tonight (Thursday, Feb. 23), welcoming Bulkeley to



Rocky Hill's Tyler Carlstrom, who is defended by Wethersfield's Thomas Daly, has been a senior leader for the Terriers in the program's first season under new head coach Ken Borton.

Rocky Hill High School at 6:45 p.m.

Borton said — win or lose — he expects his team to play with passion.

"We've got to go all out," added Borton.

"Until the last buzzer goes off, we'll be out there fighting."

The Starting Five - Athletes of the Week

By Josh Howard

Emily Sousa - Cromwell High School (Cheerleading): Sousa was named the Shoreline Conference (SLC) Player of the Year for the second straight season. Sousa, a senior, was also named the conference's best cheerleader as a junior and along with fellow first-team all-conference cheerleaders Bridget Russ and Maya Tomczyk helped the Panthers repeat as SLC champs.

Bella Bonfiglio - Wethersfield High School (Ice Hockey): Bonfiglio scored her 100th career point as the Nighthawks — a co-op team featuring players from Wethersfield,

Avon, Southington, Newington, RHAM, Lewis Mills, and Coventry defeated Suffield 5-1 on Feb. 15. Bonfiglio, a senior, is the second WHS athlete to net her 100th point for the Nighthawks this month — joining Nicole Partridge who achieved the mark earlier in February.

Bela Cucuta - Newington High School (Basketball): Cucuta scored 25 points, grabbed 8 rebounds, and dished out 4 assists as the Nor'easters eliminated Enfield from the Central Connecticut Conference (CCC) tournament with a 68-50 win in the conference quarterfinals on Feb. 18. Selah Prignano added 22 points, 7

rebounds, and 6 assists as NHS head coach Marc Tancredi picked up career win #100.

Anthony Parker - Xavier High School (Basketball): Parker scored a game-high 34 points and surpassed the 1,000 point career mark as the Falcons defeated West Haven 62-36 on Feb. Parker, a senior, broke the scoring barrier on a nifty reverse layup in the fourth quarter and becomes the 10th member in program history to join the elite scoring group.

Alex Muniz - Rocky Hill High School (Wrestling): Muniz finished fifth overall at the Class S Championship at Killingly High School

on Feb 18. Muniz, a senior captain who wrestles at 170 lbs., defeated Caleb Ives of Stafford in the 5th place match to secure a stop in the State Open. Fellow senior captain Chris Adamczyk (220 lbs.) placed second in his bracket to also earn a spot in the State Open, which will take place this Friday and Saturday (Feb. 24 & 25) at the Floyd Athletic Center in New Haven.

To nominate someone as an Athlete of the Week or with sports-related questions, email joshhowardsports@gmail.com.





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