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FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION

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UNICO Comedy Night

Wethersfield UNICO is holding their 8th Comedy Night featuring top comedians to raise money for local scholarships and charities. This year a portion of the proceeds will go to honor the late Wethersfield Fireman Robert Sharkevich. We have arranged with the Wethersfield Fire Department to pay for the cleaning of the Fireman's Memorial at Station No. 1 on Main Street and the engraving of Fireman Sharkevich on the memorial. This always fun event will be held at the Wethersfield Community Center (30 Greenfield St.) on Friday, January 24, 2025. Doors open at 6:00pm and the show starts at 8:00pm. Tickets are \$25 and tables of 8 can be reserved on a first come first served basis. This is a Bring your own snacks and drinks PG-13 event. Ice and coffee will be provided. For tickets go to www.funny4funds.com/events or email unicotomv@gmail.com. Over 1300 people have enjoyed the comedy night the last 7 years, don't miss out!

6th Annual Coffeehouse Concert

Cromwell Creative District, a local nonprofit that aims to support local business and revitalize downtown Cromwell, will hold its 6th annual coffeehouse on Saturday February 22 from 6-9pm. This event was started as a fundraiser for the organization- which is completely run by volunteers- as well as a way to showcase local talent. The coffeehouse on 2/22/25 will be held at the Cromwell Courtyard by Marriott at 4 Sebeth Drive in Cromwell. The three hour event will be split into three parts, beginning with a youth talent showcase; followed by performances of various local artists, singers, storytellers, dancers and musicians; and closing with two longer sets by popular local bands. The event has also been shifted from an afternoon time to the evening, and aims to be a "fun night out for a good cause." Your \$30 ticket will include hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, three hours of entertainment, a dance floor, and chances to win prizes. A cash bar will also be offered. Tickets for adults (age 16+) are \$25 in when purchased in advance. Children aged 15 and under are only \$10. Purchasing an entire table offers the best savings at \$200 for 10 seats! Visit Cromwell Creative District on Facebook to purchase tickets through the coffeehouse event page, or email cromwellcreativedistrict@gmail.com to purchase tickets.

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.

Thanks for reading the Rare Reminder.

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WESTCHESTER/NEW BRITAIN SPORTSMEN'S CLUB: Game Dinner Sunday March 2, 2025, 2pm. \$50 donation. VFW Post 511, 41 Veterans Drive New Britain, CT 06051. Purchase tickets in advance by calling Ron Lucco 860-301-5745.

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Friendship Force Seeks Members

Friendship Force Connecticut is active and traveling and accepting new members. Nairobi, Kenya will be sending ambassadors to stay with our club members next year! We have resumed full travel activities, as well as monthly group social activities (Kent Falls, Providence Gondola rides, Culinary Inst of Amer, CT Antique Machinery Museum, and many others this year). Our members travelled to Cornwall, UK this last year, where we stayed in the homes of the host club members and explored castles, bio domes and the Lost Gardens of Heligan, while sharing meals with the local residents. In May 2024, we hosted ambassadors from Niagara, Canada and showed them the wonders of our state, including Yale, the Pequot Museum, wineries and other local favorites. Later, in August, we travelled to Santa Barbara, followed by a road trip to San Francisco, staying in host homes of both cities. For more information about our chapter and on how you can join, visit facebook.com/ffconnecticut.org, email ffconnecticut@gmail.com or go to friendshipforce.org.

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.wethersfield.me/our-town-social-justice.

Church Bells Play Dedications

Church of Christ, Congregational, located in the center of Newington, is requesting song dedications from the community. The church carillon, which plays a variety of music throughout the year, is a mellifluous addition to the town's ambience. The carillon has a library of over 2,000 songs--both sacred and secular. The church welcomes your song requests. For a donation of \$100, you can choose the hymn or songs you would like to hear each Sunday for a month. Some people honor their parents or spouse during their anniversary month. If you would like to request a song, or have questions, please contact Michelle Dixon at the church. (860) 666-4689 officeadmin@newingtonucc.org.

Thanks for reading the Rare Reminder.

Call the classifieds
860-563-9386



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.

School Board Agrees To Fund New Marching Band Program

Liam McLoughlin, Staff Writer

CROMWELL - Local students with a passion for music should be getting excited as a new marching band is coming to town.

At the Board of Education (BoE) meeting earlier this month, members agreed to include a three-year budget timeline for a "competitive field show marching band."

The new program was proposed by two passionate Cromwell High School (CHS) teachers, Mike Schmidt, the CHS band director, and Nicole Whitehill, a math teacher and self-proclaimed "honorary third member of the music department."

The pair led a detailed presentation of how they plan to kickstart a new marching band program over the next three years. They explained that they currently offer a jazz band, concert band, and a pep band, and only have "the beginnings of a marching band."

"What we do not have is a competitive field show marching band, which is something that many schools across the state and across the country have, and many college music programs have," Schmidt said in opening. "It's a big hole in our program."

In the first year of their plan, they hope to offer a "standstill field show" during football games and at parades. However, they'll be working hard during practice to teach students how to march with the correct movements — the basics of what a marching band is.

In year two, students will be active in a "full drill marching band," and will continue to develop their skills for performing and marching at events. Once year three rolls around, Schmidt and Whitehill plan to have a fully operational marching band and color guard ready to compete in competitions around the State.

The yearly budget allocations for this type of program are roughly estimated to hover around \$17,000 per year, depending on aspects like travel and staffing.

Schmidt believes this sort of program is extremely important to offer their students, and allows interested students the opportunity to reap an assortment of benefits.

Some of the advantages he mentioned during the meeting include development of leadership skills, scholarship opportunities, preparation for music related careers, and exposure to healthy competition.

"I've been wanting to do this for a long time," Dr. Enza Macri, superintendent of schools, said when agreeing to add it to the school budget for next year. "The bang we're getting for our buck from these two passionate educators, our students will cherish for the rest of their lives."

Schmidt and Whitehill hope to attract around 20 to 30 initial students to the band and color guard, with the intention of growing the band in the years that follow.

Cromwell Resident Selected For Family Court Position

By Nicole Zappone, Staff Writer

CROMWELL -- On Monday, Gov. Ned Lamont announced that he was forwarding the Connecticut General Assembly the nominations of several jurists to serve in the positions of Connecticut's courts, which include two positions at the Supreme Court.

Lamont also nominated two jurists as family support magistrates and three as administrative law judges on the Workers' Compensation Commission.

"Nominating judges to serve on our courts is one of the most important responsibilities of a governor, especially because judges are the final authority on the interpretation of the law and the constitution, and for ensuring that justice is administered fairly and without prejudice," Lamont said.

One of those family support magistrate nominees included Benedict R. Daigle, 43, of

Cromwell.

Daigle obtained a bachelor of arts degree, a master of public administration degree, and a juris doctor degree from the University of Connecticut School of Law.

He currently serves as an assistant public defender and legislative/family magistrate for the Connecticut Division of Public Defender Services.

Before holding those positions, he had roles with the City of Hartford, the Connecticut Association for Community Action, and other government and nonprofit entities.

He serves several roles within the Connecticut Bar Association, including as a member of the House of Delegates and the Board of Governors. He is also the co-chair of the Legal Aid and Public Defense Committee and has served on the boards of various nonprofit organizations.

State DOT Introduces New Plan For Highway Safety, Accessibility

By Randall Cox, Freelance Writer

On Tuesday, Jan. 21 the state Department of Transportation held an open house at the Hartford Public Library. It was the second in a series of such events scheduled across the state this month. The purpose of these events is to introduce the new statewide Active Transportation Plan (ATP).

The Active Transportation Plan will "promote safety, accessibility and connectivity" across Connecticut's roadways. The ATP accounts for all types of transportation including walking, bicycling, mobility aids and e-bikes and e-scooters. The focus is on shifting away from car-only street and community design, and instead developing transportation options that are inclusive of all residents, whether they drive or use other forms of transportation.

About 50 people from across Hartford County attended the session last week. Some, perhaps expressing their support and enthusiasm for the ideas and policies that undergird the Active Transportation plan, biked to the library on a night when temperatures dipped into the low single digits.

The event included about a half dozen stations set up in a community room in the back of the library. Each station, crewed by a DOT employee or volunteer, displayed signs, maps, videos and other media that detailed various elements of the ATP and how it might benefit communities across the state.

There were numerous points throughout the open house when attendees could use interactive media to express their views regarding the project. Attendees were asked at different stations to rate the importance of various categories in road and community development. Those categories

included: safety, economy, health, environmental impact, affordability, equity and more.

"The project will evaluate existing conditions, identify needs and propose recommendations for functional, equitable, and safety-focused (transportation)," according to documents shared at the open house. A major priority in ATP is making Connecticut's roads safer for all commuters. Last year, and for several years in a row now, there were over 300 traffic-related deaths in Connecticut.

These open houses constitute Phase 1 of a three-phase planning timeline. Phase two, set for the summer and fall of this year will include "development of proposed active transportation infrastructure improvements and prioritization of projects, along with potential funding sources." Phase 3, scheduled for winter 2025 through spring 2026 will include "development of the draft and final ATP. This will include performance metrics to assess success of plan implementation over time."

While the open houses have wrapped up, the ATP is still in its early stages, and there is plenty of time to get involved or to raise questions or concerns. Residents are invited to visit portal. ct.gov/ATP2026 for more information. Additionally, an email address for this project has been set up at DOT.ActiveTransportationPlan@ct.gov.

Dean's List

LEWISTON, ME (01/13/2025)-- Ryan Rozich of Cromwell, Conn., was named to the dean's list at Bates College for the fall semester ending in December 2024. This is a distinction earned by students whose grade point average is 3.92 or higher.

Rozich is still considering a major at Bates.

Events & Activities Planned At Rocky Hill Senior Center

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

SENIOR CENTER CLOSED 2/17 FOR PRESIDENTS DAY.

MEMBERSHIP - Are you at least 55 years old and interested in staying active and connected to your community? Become a member of the Rocky Hill Senior Center! Membership is complimentary for Rocky Hill residents and \$25 per year for non-residents. Applications may be picked up at the Senior Center or online by request. Meet new people, experience a wide variety of recreational activities and enhance your quality of life!

AARP Income Tax Assistance - Tax appointments are now offered on Mondays 2/3-4/14 and are filling up quickly, call (860)258-2786 to book your appointment.

SPECIAL EVENTS

HEART HEALTH Friday, Feb. 7, 10 a.m.-11 a.m. - Healthy lifestyle habits can help you maintain and improve your health. Join Oak Street Health as we discuss heart health and share tools to help you live life to the fullest. Program is free but registration is required.

THE BRITISH INVASION - Wednesday, Feb. 12, 12-2 p.m. - Classic English favorites of Scouse (Liverpool Stew), Bubble & Squeak (Fried Potatoes and Cabbage) and Toad in the Hole (Sausage cooked in Yorkshire Pudding), will be served followed by a multimedia presentation given by author Charles F. Rosenay. Paul McCartney sound-alike will perform a live musical set of singalong acoustic Beatles music. Cost: \$12M/\$15NM Co-sponsor: MapleView

CORA'S CRAFTS - Spring Crafts in Polymer Clay - Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 1:00 pm. - We'll use polymer clay to make a fun spring craft. You can choose between a delightful spring bird's nest, complete with eggs, or an Easter basket full of eggs or let your imagination run wild! Program is free but registration required. Let's hang out and create something together!

CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND THE COMING OF SPRING! - Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2:00-3:00pm. Ruriko returns to perform the music of Ray Charles, Scott Joplin, Florence Price, Chopin, "Porgy and Bess" by George Gershwin and the movements from Spring by Vivaldi's Four Seasons. Program is free for members and registration is required. Co-sponsor: The Music Performance Trust Fund

SOLO AGERS - FINANCIAL PLANNING, DECISIONS, AND ESTATE PLANNING - Friday, Feb. 21, 10:00-11:00am. Catherine will focus on financial planning, decision making, and estate planning considerations as we age and become more dependent on others.

SENIOR TECH TALK: GETTING STARTED WITH STREAMING TV - Friday, Feb. 21, 10:00 - 11:00am Join Michael Murphy, Director of the Rocky Hill Library, for an informative and interactive program on the topic of 'Streaming TV'. Learn about what streaming TV is, the services that are available, how to set it up, and most important, how it can save you some money! Program is free, but registration is required.

TAXES AND YOUR RETIREMENT - Tuesday, Feb. 25, 6:00-7:30pm. - Prudent planning and management of your taxes in retirement can seem like a complex and overwhelming task. In this class, we simplify the topic to help you understand how your assets are taxed, how the latest tax code changes could affect you, and what you can do TODAY to minimize your tax liability going forward. You'll learn how to protect your assets from Uncle Sam and keep more of your retirement income. Please register for this free program presented by The Council of Financial Educators.

CARNIVAL PARTY - Wednesday, Feb. 26, 12:00-2:00pm. - Celebrate Mardi Gras in style with the fabulous Jose Paulo who is an enthusiastic performer that sings, dances and knows how to have fun! Lunch will feature Jambalaya, Shrimp Grits and Fried Okra. Cost: \$12M/\$15NM Co-sponsor: Oak St. Health

HEALTH SERVICES

FOOT CARE - Pamela Rowe, RN will provide this service. Please call for an appointment and pay provider at time of visit. Date: Wednesday, 2/12 Time: 9:00am-2:30pm Fee: \$30 Home visit: \$50

HEARING SCREENING - Free Screening is provided by Nova Hearing and includes videoscope ear wax checks, hearing aid cleanings and adjustment, all make hearing aid repair services, batteries, complete testing and evaluations. Please call for an appointment. Date: Thursday, 2/6 Time: 1:00-3:00pm

MEMORY CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP - Join Mary Klatt, Certified Dementia Specialist,

for monthly discussions on types of dementia including Alzheimer's, tips for handling behaviors, and available support for caregivers. Complimentary boxed lunch provided. Please preregister by the preceding Friday. Date: Tuesday, 2/18 Time: 12:00-1:00pm

NOTARY SERVICE -Notary service provided by a representative of Gordon, Muir & Foley, LLC, is available on the second Thursday of the month. Members may take advantage of this FREE service for documents that require a notarized signature. Please bring photo identification along with the documents to be signed. Please register for a 10-minute appointment by calling the Senior Services office. Date: Thursday, 2/13, Time: 11:30am-12:30pm

REIKI SESSIONS - Reiki is an ancient Japanese technique for relaxation and stress reduction that promotes healing. It is a gentle hands-on therapy that removes blocks to allow the flow of the energy in the body. Balancing the energy in our body can reduce stress; promote healing (physical and emotional); energize; revitalize and restore a sense of calm in our lives. Reiki Practitioner: Linda Haddad. Please pay provider at time of visit. New Day! Dates: Friday, 2/7 Time: 10:00 am-2:00 pm Fee: \$30.00 for 30-minute session.

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS

BELLY DANCING - Learn posture, presence and power through this ancient art form. The moves in this dance are very simple and natural. They stretch and strengthen the muscles, the bones, the internal organs, improve balance, and connect you to your own awareness of mind and body. It is also a lot of fun and connection with other women. The moves are not strenuous, but you will use every part of your body. Gia has been teaching Belly Dance since 1997. This class is about obtaining grace, power, freedom, joy, through belly dance. Instructor: Gia Khalsa Date: Wednesdays, 2/26-4/2 Time: 1:00pm-1:45pm Fee: \$48M/\$58NM

CIRCUIT TRAINING - Workout is specially designed for older active adults with modifications by a certified personal trainer to include all fitness levels. Go at your own pace with timed intervals using weights, bands, balls, step and cardio exercises. Jump start weight loss, improve balance, coordination and gain strength in this fun and friendly class. Instructor: Wendy LeClerc Days: M, W, F Dates: 2/19-3/12 Time: 11:00am-12:00pm Fee: 3 classes/ week; \$50M/\$58NM, 2 classes/ week; \$40 M/\$48NM

JEWELRY FOR BEGINNERS - Make a beautiful snowflake necklace and earrings. Perfect to wear all winter or to give as a gift. Instructor: Jan Hasenjager Date: Friday, 1/31 Time: 1:00pm-2:30pm Fee: \$10M/\$12NM

STRENGTH & TONING- MAT - A certified personal trainer will help get you stronger and toned with the use of dumbbells, bands, bars and various equipment. Your body can be the fitter self that it deserves to be. We'll use the mat for core work, cool down & stretching. Instructor: Wendy LeClerc Days: M, W, F Dates: 1/22-2/12 Time: 10:00am-10:50am Fee: 3 classes/ week; \$50M/\$58NM 2 classes/week; \$40 M/\$48NM

TAI CHI QIGONG - Tai chi is a relaxing exercise comprised of a series of slow movements that give a sense of balance, clarity, and relaxation. Tai chi helps to relax the body and mind, improves flexibility, and helps regulate the breath to create more vitality and is practiced in many countries as a daily exercise/relaxation regimen. Focus will be on shifting the weight between steps and coordination of movements. Instructor: Cynthia Hoag Dates: Mondays, 2/24-4/14 Time: 1:00pm-2:00pm Fee: \$36M/\$46NM

TRIPS

SPAIN & PORTUGAL PRESENTATION - Friday, February 14, 10:00am. Join Tracy O'Neil from Collette Tours as she presents information on our proposed fall 2025 trip to Spain & Portugal. Light refreshments will be served. Program is free but registration is required.

9th Annual Knights of Columbus Charity Bowl

The Knights of Columbus DeSoto Council (Cromwell) is hosting its annual bowling fundraiser on Sunday March 16th from 12:30 - 3:00pm at Bowl-O-Rama. This is a family-friendly event that features prizes & raffles and supports the council's many charitable works! \$20/bowler (\$15 kids 12 & under) includes 2 games, shoes, pizza & drinks. Advanced registration is preferred www.zeffy.com/ticketing/9th-annual-charity-bowl or email cromwellkofc@yahoo.com.



What's Happening

Send us your community news!

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

Rocky Hill & Cromwell?

Town Pursuing Security Measures For Emergency Services Vehicles

Liam McLoughlin, Staff Writer

ROCKY HILL - Town public safety professionals are investigating strategies to improve the security of their buildings following an incident of a stolen fire vehicle.

Massachusetts State Police arrested a man on Saturday, Jan. 18, around 5 a.m., after he was caught using a stolen Windsor Fire Department Ford Expedition to pull over drivers on I-91 in Western Massachusetts. He attempted to flee, but was unsuccessful.

According to reports, Avery is facing charges in Massachusetts including impersonating a police officer, failure to stop for police, improper use of emergency lights, and receiving stolen property.

Avery reportedly broke into the Windsor Fire Department early on Saturday morning, stole equipment off of a fire truck, set a fire, and drove out in the emergency vehicle.

Chief Michael Garrahy spoke about these events at the Jan. 21 Public Safety meeting, and said the department has since "kicked up" their security measures to mitigate heightened risk of copycats following these events.

However, serious concerns regarding the safety of public safety personnel within Rocky Hill Fire and EMS department buildings were raised within both the Public Safety and Town Council meetings.

Currently, the Rocky Hill firehouse is not equipped with security cameras, or electronic key fobs, according to Chief Garrahy.

At the Jan. 21 Town Council meeting, Chief of Rocky Hill Volunteer Ambulance Association (RHVAA), Mariellen McGovern, urged town council members to consider installing these security measures within the buildings in Rocky Hill.

"We wanted to speak to you about installing a key fob system, or some kind of safety and security system into the buildings," she said. "We're concerned after the weekend, and there's been some situations that we just don't want to put ourselves in, or our children. I have young women that volunteer on the ambulance, that are on the overnights, and I don't want anything to happen to them."

Drew O'Connor, a member of the RHVAA, echoed Chief McGovern's sentiments at the meeting, and stressed the importance of improving security measures within these buildings to keep volunteers safe. He said that this issue was first raised almost a decade ago, under the tenure of the late Chief Joseph Grayeb.

"Our concern, the Chief's concern, and Joe Grayeb's concern 10 years ago, was we have young female staff members there in the middle of the night, working by themselves," he said. "The Fire Department goes out on a call, they leave the door open, or they're just training, doing their thing. The building is open, people walk down the hallway, and immediately can come in."

He added that they have had an unwelcome individual walk into the EMS side of the building before, and have also had various types of equipment go missing — without an effective way to deter either situation in the future.

Fire Chief Garrahy hopes to continue these conversations to install improved safety measures, but noted that funding is a current issue.

Increased Accidents On I-91 May Prompt Study By Town

Liam McLoughlin, Staff Writer

ROCKY HILL - Whenever vehicles are traveling at high-speeds, there's always a chance for disaster. Accidents are an unwanted side effect of driving, and we do our best to mitigate the inherent risks by following speed limits and being cognizant while on the roadways.

However, it seems as though driving on I-91 increases the risk of an accident. Interstate 91 is one of the largest highways in New England, and runs north to south, connecting Connecticut to the very top of Vermont, at the Canadian border.

The Rocky Hill region of I-91, primarily exits 23 and 24, seem to be a sort of "Bermuda Triangle," and is the location of countless, and increasing, accidents.

In December 2024, the Rocky Hill Fire Department responded to six accidents on I-91. One of which occurred near exit 23, and included a tractor trailer and multiple passenger vehicles, resulting in a car catching fire, a light pole being knocked over, and even an engine being ejected from an involved vehicle.

Exit 23 was also the scene of an accident in October 2024, when a fiery, three-car crash led to the death of a Bloomfield woman.

These accidents only scratch the surface of years of responses from the Rocky Hill Fire Department to incidents on the short stretch of I-91. According to a report created by the department, the number of accidents on the Rocky Hill portion of I-91 has been steadily increasing since 2020.

"We have seen pretty consistently over the last three years that we are averaging around 93 (incidents)," town council member Pankaj Prakash said at the last meeting. "We were averaging around 81, 82, before that, which is an increase of about 12 or 13 incidents. It doesn't sound like a lot, but in aggregate it does add up."

In 2020, the Fire Department reported a total of 83 responses to I-91. By the end of 2024, the department logged 95 responses.

"When I look at those social media posts and talk to people, they seem to be getting bigger and bigger in terms of severity," Prakash added. "I feel like it's not the frequency, it's the severity of those incidents. I don't know what is happening, people are driving faster on that patch, but these numbers don't lie...it's a pretty substantial increase."

Because of such dramatic activity on this part of the highway, Mayor Lisa Marotta hopes to work with the state to make necessary changes.

"We just see so much happening up there on that particular stretch and it seems that with legislation we can adopt certain corridors as safety corridors," Marotta said. "And as a result, they will get attention, whether they get studied or what, we have yet to see. But, the first step is getting the highway broken down and identified into these corridors."

There was no provided timeline on when these evolutions might take place at the Jan. 21 Town Council meeting.

Library Will Hold Sleepover For Stuffedies

By Cathy Maldonado, Freelance Writer

CROMWELL - The library invites all little one's ages 3-7 to a whimsical evening of fun, stories, and a touch of bedtime magic at their Stuffedie Sleepover. Mark your calendars for Jan. 27 at 6 PM in the Belden Room for an unforgettable event.

Come dressed in your favorite pajamas and bring along your beloved stuffed animal.

Enjoy enchanting bedtime stories and spend a special moment reading to your stuffedie.

After tucking your stuffed animal in for the night, leave them behind to enjoy their very own overnight adventure at the library.

Return the next day, Jan. 28 between 3 p.m. and closing, to pick up your stuffedie and see pic-

tures of all the delightful antics they got up to during their stay.

Don't miss the opportunity to spark your child's imagination and create lasting memories.

Registration is required, so sign up today to secure your spot!

This event is designed to be a special bonding experience for children and their favorite stuffed animals. While the stuffedies stay overnight, their young companions return home to dream of the fun they'll discover the next day.

For more information and how to register contact the library at <https://www.cromwellct.com/library> or call at (860) 632-3460.

Local Benefit Vocal Group Seeking Tenors And Basses

By Kate Porch, MHVC Publicity Committee

The Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chord family, under the direction of musical director Samuel Tucker and accompanied by an eight-piece orchestra directed by the talented Alan Dougherty, is seeking tenors and basses to join our chorus. No auditions necessary!

Debi Messina, who has been a member of MHVC since 2015 says; "My love of singing, retirement and the passing of my best friend were my reasons for joining Vocal Chords. It brings me joy to sing with this exceptional, caring group of individuals. My hope is that, by singing with Vocal Chords, I have brought some joy to others in their time of need."

Louise Russo, an original member of 35 years, shared this story; "I was involved with the hospital and heard about the group. Since high school, I loved to sing and decided to join the group... Now 35 years later, I still find it relaxing while making good friends and enjoying an extended family."

Paul Scrivano, who rejoined in 2024 says; "I was a member over 20 years ago. At that time, I had 3 children under the age of 6. I participated for several semesters but due to my young family I resigned. Last winter a friend passed away after an illness. He was a phenomenal singer. With the

turmoil in the world, I remembered the healing powers of music. He inspired me to sing again. I was aware that Sam Tucker was the new director of the Vocal Chords. I knew Sam from my son's participation in PHS Choir and Acapella Group. He impressed me with his enthusiasm and positive energy. I decided to rejoin the Vocal Chords last January. It's an amazing group of singers of all levels. I am unable to read music, but I am learning. The voices together sound amazing. Sometimes during our practices I'm so impressed with the sound. I may come to practice drained from work, but I leave energized. Sam's enthusiasm and energy is contagious. I regret not rejoining sooner."

If you have been considering doing something this year to enhance your life, make new friends and reduce stress levels, please consider joining our musical family. Rehearsals begin Tuesday Jan. 21 at 6:45 to 9 p.m. at Msgr. Fox Parish Hall, St. Francis Church, 10 Elm Street, Middletown, for our upcoming spring concert on Saturday, May 3, 7 p.m. at Portland High School.

New members accepted through Feb. 4. For more information, visit us on the web at vocalchords20.org or call Joyce at 860-342-3120. Also, check us out on Instagram, Facebook and YouTube.

Rocky Hill High School Hosts Purse Bingo Extravaganza for a Day of Fun and Fundraising

The Rocky Hill High School Class of 2025 Project Graduation Committee is thrilled to announce the Purse Bingo Extravaganza, a lively and exciting fundraising event to support a safe and memorable graduation celebration for the Class of 2025.

The event will take place on Sunday, March 2nd, 2025, in the Rocky Hill High School Cafeteria. Doors open at 11:30 AM, and tickets are available for just \$35 per person.

The Purse Bingo Extravaganza promises a thrilling experience as participants compete to win stunning designer handbags. Guests can look forward to an afternoon filled with fun, laughter, and friendly competition, all while supporting a meaningful cause.

Event Details:

- What: Purse Bingo Extravaganza
- When: Sunday, March 2nd, 2025
- Where: Rocky Hill High School Cafeteria, 50 Chapin Ave, Rocky Hill, CT 06067
- Time: Doors open at 11:30 AM
- Tickets: \$35 per person · Ticket Link: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/purse-bingo-extravaganza>

Space is limited, so participants are encouraged to secure their tickets early. Local busi-

nesses and individuals interested in supporting the event through sponsorships or donations are encouraged to contact the committee for more information.

Join us on March 2nd for a day of fun, prizes, and community connection, all in support of a fantastic cause.

About Project Graduation:

Project Graduation is a long-standing tradition that provides a safe and substance-free celebration for high school seniors on their graduation night. Hosted by parents and community members, the event offers a fun-filled evening of activities, entertainment, and memories that students will cherish for years to come.

For media inquiries, please contact: Ada Kovaci-Kume, RHHS Class of 2025 Project Graduation Committee Chair at RHHSClass2025@gmail.com or 860-707-4869.

Join TOPS

Want to make friends? Have a night out? Lose some weight? Join us for TOPS (Take off pounds sensibly) Mondays 6:00 pm, First United Methodist Church, 40 Tuttle Rd. Middletown Questions? email Jan at rittyratcat@yahoo.com

Youth Services Collecting Valentine's For Veterans

By Cathy Maldonado, Freelance Writer

CROMWELL - In a way to express gratitude to our veterans, the Youth Services department will be collecting Valentines Day cards for Veterans until Jan. 24.

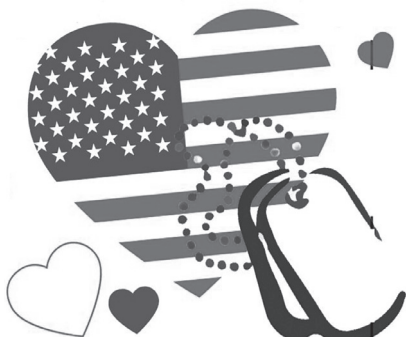
"During January, we collect homemade valentines from the community, as well as the middle and high school, to send to local veterans and veteran organizations in time for Valentines Day," explained Jessica Zeedyk, youth services assistant.

The event, which is named Valentines for Veterans, is organized as a way to bring joy to those who have served. This program collects homemade valentines to distribute to veterans and veteran organizations just in time for Valentines Day.

The collection runs until Wednesday, Jan. 24, and all valentines can be dropped off in the lobby of Cromwell Town Hall during regular business hours.

If you want to participate but need inspiration, don't worry, the Youth Services department has your back. In an effort to make the event more engaging, a special Valentine Creating Event will be held on Jan 23.

"We are having a Valentines Creating event on



Thursday, Jan. 23, from 5 to 6 p.m., at the Town Hall," Zeedyk added.

This event is a great way to come together as a community, share creative energy, and craft messages of love and appreciation for our local heroes.

Supplies will be provided, so participants only need to bring their enthusiasm and kind thoughts.

Join the Youth Services Department in spreading love and gratitude this Valentine's Day for a Veterans.

RHHS Project Graduation

Join Psychic Medium Angelina Diana in the RHHS auditorium February 27 for an evening of inspiration and connection. Since 2001, she has brought hopeful messages and supportive guidance through her readings. Experience random readings, learn how to connect, and Q&A. All proceeds go to RHHS 2025 Project Graduation. Attendance is \$45 per ticket. Doors open 6:15 PM, event begins at 7 PM. For details, email RHHSClass2025@gmail.com.

Thank you for reading the Rare Reminder. Visit us online at www.rarereminder.com



What's Happening Newington?

Send us your news!

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

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

Committee Working To Establish New Cultural District In Town

Liam McLoughlin, Staff Writer

In a world that's continuously moving forward, it can often be a challenge to remember where we came from. However, town officials are working hard to make sure the town's history is protected with the proposed creation of a new commission tentatively titled the Newington Cultural District Commission (NCDC).

The formation of the NCDC was first formally introduced to the Town Council in October 2024, but has reportedly been in the works for years as members of the community have been meeting with Newington Art League.

However, in January 2024, the group grew their desire for preserving Newington's culture by establishing a designated cultural district within

the town limits.

According to the state Office of the Arts website, a cultural district "is an area a municipality identifies because it contains several nonprofit and for-profit cultural facilities, activities, and/or assets...They are special places where community members congregate. And because each community is unique, each Cultural District looks different."

"I grew up in this community a gazillion years ago, and left for a while and then came back," Deputy Mayor Kim Radda said in the October meeting. "I really celebrate and see our community as becoming increasingly diverse and increasingly vibrant. People have stories to tell.

People have histories."

Radda has been an avid supporter and dedicated leader of the project, and said that it's been "a project of passion and love" for her.

The original idea was to create a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to oversee the implementation of a cultural district. However, "the original plan to have the governing body of the Cultural District be a nonprofit wasn't allowable by the state," according to town manager Jonathon Altshul at the Jan. 14 Mayor & Town Council meeting.

Officials were forced back to the drawing board to create an amended district resolution to

establish a district in addition to an ordinance to create the commission to oversee the district.

But, officials don't want to leave the public out of the decision-making. "We really want to see people come and participate and we want to hear what people have to say," Radda said. As a result, they've scheduled a public informational meeting to take place on Feb. 4 at 6:30 p.m.

Following the meeting on Feb. 10, the Town Council is aiming to hold a public hearing on the ordinance and adopt the resolution of the district and the newfound role of the NCDC.

Newington Kidnappers Facing A Slew Of Charges

Liam McLoughlin Staff Writer

Town police successfully arrested two individuals from an ongoing kidnapping case, dating back to October 2024.

Amanda Ditommaso, 37, and Tylone Graham, 41, were apprehended Jan. 19, following a month-long investigation into the kidnapping of a female victim.

According to a published press release, police were called to a Stop and Shop on Fenn Road on Oct. 28, to "check the welfare of an adult female." Once there, officers learned that the female was held against her will at the Grantmoor Motor Lodge. She was also forced to withdraw money, totaling around \$200.

In an interview conducted with FOX61, Newington Police Sergeant Matthew D'Esposito noted the event seemed to be planned in advance. "It was not a random incident, but parties that were known from previous drug transactions had, through coercion, fear, kept her against her will for approximately two days, with the intention of having her either work for them or obtain cash to pay her way out," D'Esposito said.

He also told FOX61 reporters that it took an extended period of time to locate Ditommaso and Graham, as they didn't have a permanent address for the pair.

Both individuals were charged with kidnapping in the first degree and conspiracy to commit kidnapping in the first degree.

Graham posted a \$200,000 bond, and was turned into East Hartford police custody on another active warrant, for which he's facing charges for a misdemeanor threatening and misdemeanor breach of peace in the second degree from an event that occurred on Oct. 4, 2024.

He's been released, and is due in court on Feb. 2 for arraignment, and again on Mar. 3 for his alternate charges.

Ditommaso was additionally charged with failure to appear in the first degree and four counts of failure to appear in the second degree, and was initially arraigned in the New Britain Superior Court on Jan. 21. Her next court date is set for Feb. 2.

She also faces separate charges for previous arrests in the Hartford Superior Court, including illegal possession of a weapon in a motor vehicle, use of drug paraphernalia, criminal trespass in the first degree, and larceny of a motor vehicle.

She was detained on a total bond amount of \$237,500, and remains in custody, according to state records.

Town Projects Budget Surplus Thanks To Increases Revenues

By Margaret Radman, Freelance Writer

The town's fiscal health, while overall robust, was recently reviewed at a point in time analysis of revenue and expenditures that revealed a surplus of \$900,000 including \$65,000 in grant funds that at this point are unspoken for, announced Finance Director Janet Murphy at the January Town Council meeting.

"It looks like we're going to come in about \$900,000 favorable on revenue," stated Murphy, with the majority of that coming from interest income that has been bringing in about 5% a month but she cautioned that these amounts fluctuate according to financial markets.

Anticipated fed rate cuts in the upcoming months could turn this around, she added. This is already evident, Murphy noted, as interest rates are edging down lower into the low five, high four range. "It depends on how the market plays out for the rest of the year," she added.

Other factors contributing to a budget surplus include staffing vacancies in several departments but most notably in the police department.

Budget surpluses have also prevailed despite an ongoing \$1.5 million expenditure to convert internet access from broadband to fiber optics, representing the costliest ongoing project for the town.

Newington IT specialist Scott Sharlow who oversees the conversion, provided further details of the ongoing project that he stated is being funded in part by ARPA funds although the town is searching for additional funds.

"We're looking at ways to bring fiberoptic access to approximately 23 town sites" and ultimately to residents. He stated some areas of town

only have one provider because of the limitation of having underground infrastructure. Discussion will be convened in a week or two with Town Manager Jonathan Altshul, he added.

Also on the expenditure side, Newington has faced unprecedented energy costs totaling approximately \$24,000 this year for streetlights. This figure reflects an increase attributable to rising electricity costs through Eversource, Murphy explained.

Murphy also noted an increase in the town's legal fees that came in higher than expected at \$35,000 due to labor negotiations with the Teamsters Union.

Additionally, revenue from cannabis dispensaries has been disappointing, bringing in about \$20,000 a month, a drop from the previous \$40,000 a month. Murphy attributed this to competition from neighboring towns and cities, including Rocky Hill that has recently opened a cannabis dispensary.

"There is this perception that we've got all this money flowing in and what a good investment it is for the town," commented Councilor Gail Budrejko, but this comes in to question with falling profits. "It's going down," stated Murphy. "More and more towns are opening dispensaries," she added.

Also on the negative side of earnings is the unexpected closure of LA Fitness and Staples, which seems to align with a trend of businesses becoming more transient, as noted by a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission. "It is somewhat concerning," he commented.

Local Benefit Vocal Group Seeking Tenors And Basses

By Kate Porch, MHVC Publicity Committee

The Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chord family, under the direction of musical director Samuel Tucker and accompanied by an eight-piece orchestra directed by the talented Alan Dougherty, is seeking tenors and basses to join our chorus. No auditions necessary!

Debi Messina, who has been a member of MHVC since 2015 says; "My love of singing, retirement and the passing of my best friend were my reasons for joining Vocal Chords. It brings me joy to sing with this exceptional, caring group of individuals. My hope is that, by singing with Vocal Chords, I have brought some joy to others in their time of need."

Louise Russo, an original member of 35 years, shared this story; "I was involved with the hospital and heard about the group. Since high school, I loved to sing and decided to join the group... Now 35 years later, I still find it relaxing while making good friends and enjoying an extended family."

Paul Scrivano, who rejoined in 2024 says; "I was a member over 20 years ago. At that time, I had 3 children under the age of 6. I participated for several semesters but due to my young family I resigned. Last winter a friend passed away after an illness. He was a phenomenal singer. With the

turmoil in the world, I remembered the healing powers of music. He inspired me to sing again. I was aware that Sam Tucker was the new director of the Vocal Chords. I knew Sam from my son's participation in PHS Choir and Acapella Group. He impressed me with his enthusiasm and positive energy. I decided to rejoin the Vocal Chords last January. It's an amazing group of singers of all levels. I am unable to read music, but I am learning. The voices together sound amazing. Sometimes during our practices I'm so impressed with the sound. I may come to practice drained from work, but I leave energized. Sam's enthusiasm and energy is contagious. I regret not rejoining sooner."

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New members accepted through Feb. 4. For more information, visit us on the web at vocalchords20.org or call Joyce at 860-342-3120. Also, check us out on Instagram, Facebook and YouTube.

that their lives will be affected for many years to come.

If you know of a neighbor, fellow employee, friend or relative who may be that one individual the council wishes to recognize, please submit that person's name to the council. Nomination forms are available at the Newington Senior and Disabled Center, Lucy Robbins Welles Library, through the Office of the Town Manager (860-665-8510), or on the Town's website, www.newingtonct.gov.

All nominations must be received by the office of the town manager by Jan. 31 for Town Council consideration.

Southern New England Science Bowl Seeks Teams

Are there any middle school students in the towns of Cromwell, Middletown, Newington, Rocky Hill or Wethersfield that are well versed in things science? The Southern New England Middle School Science Bowl is missing teams from your schools. There is still time for any student, parent or teacher to register a team of five students to compete in our February 8th event. It's being hosted at Smith Middle in Glastonbury, so no excuses for having to drive far. The National Science Bowl, run by the U.S. Dept. of Energy will fly our winning team (all expenses) to Washington D.C. for the Nationals April 24th to 28th. Win or place 2nd there and your school's science department wins \$5,000.

UConn hosted this from 2006 until 2022 but then dropped it due to lack of funding. A few CT teacher coaches and some science bowl alumni

then proposed to the National Science Bowl to keep a regional here in CT, instead of our teams having to drive to MIT in Cambridge, MA where the early morning start and few open slots would have been problematic. This is the nation's premiere middle school science and math competition, jeopardy style, fun and exciting. If no teacher at your school can organize the team, we'll work with students and their parents to get your team registered. Google 'National Science Bowl' - click on the 'Regional Competitions and Deadlines' link on the left; then click on 'Middle School Regionals' on the left and lastly scroll down and click on Connecticut. Directions are there as well as my email contact. Hoping to get some interest going in your towns where there are surely many talented science and math students.

Kindergarten Registration

The Newington Public Schools are in the process of conducting kindergarten registration for children who will enter kindergarten in August 2025. In order to be eligible for kindergarten in August 2025, a child must be five (5) years of age on or before September 1, 2025.

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 to families on the district's mailing list. Please contact your child's school if you do not receive this information or if you have any questions regarding the process.

RUTHCHAFFEE SCHOOL
160 Superior Avenue
Phone: 860-666-4687
ELIZABETH GREENSCHOOL
30 Thomas Street
Phone: 860-666-3394
JOHN PATERSONS SCHOOL
120 Church Street
Phone: 860-666-4657
ANNAREYNOLDSSCHOOL
85 Reservoir Road
Phone: 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

South Catholic Class Reunion

South Catholic Class of 1975: Save the Date. 50th Reunion 6/7/25. Request information and update contact info at schs1975reunion@gmail.com.

American Legion Post 117 Fundraiser

Military Monday at Puerto Vallarta 2385 Berlin Turnpike, Newington on Monday January 27, 2025 from 3:00 PM - Close. 20% of the Food & Beverage sales will be donated to Post 117.

Council Seeks Nominations For Volunteer Of The Year

The Town Council is seeking input from citizens as to who shall become the 2024 Town of Newington Volunteer of the Year. This individual(s) should be someone who has voluntarily dedicated time and/or resources for the benefit of others and to the community at large.

The council fully recognizes that hundreds of citizens devote unlimited time in volunteer efforts, and the council certainly appreciates those efforts and extends its appreciation to all who have made such commitments. In showing its appreciation, the council would like to recognize the one individual (or individuals) who has extended himself/herself beyond what can reasonably be expected and has touched others in a way



What's Happening Newington?

Send us your news!

We want to know what's going on in Newington. E-mail any news, photos, upcoming events or announcements to editor@rarereminder.com or call 860-563-9386.

Closings Of LA Fitness, Staples A Surprise To Town Officials

By Margaret Radman, Freelance Writer

The recent unexpected closures of LA Fitness and Staples in town brings into view a broader picture of a changing business landscape. As Connecticut has witnessed a vast number of business closures, restructuring and downsizing over the past year, this suggests an evolving trend of business transience.

LA Fitness closing "was a surprise to us" commented Planning and Zoning Chair Stanley Sobieski, who acknowledged a change in the local business climate at the January meeting.

"We do have these uses coming in temporary. It's a little concerning with more temporary than permanent uses," he added.

The recent business closings in Newington are not isolated. Just in 2024 in Connecticut there have been numerous closures. Some of these include Bob's that has closed all 10 stores; Big Lots, closing all 16 stores; CVS has closed nine stores; Stop and Shop has closed five in Connecticut and 27 in the Northeast; Sam Ash, all 12 stores; Walgreens, Macy's, JC Penney's and all Charlotte Russe locations.

Looking at the situation nationally, some of the chains affected by closures and downsizing in addition to those listed above include Family Dollar, Rue21, Party City, 7-Eleven, Gamestop, Dollar General, H&M, Best Buy, Foot Locker, Burlington Stores, and the list goes on, according to statistics compiled by Coresight Research, a retail advisory group.

For sure, Connecticut is not immune to the flurry of business closings that are occurring nationwide. According to reporting by NBC CT on January 24, store closures in the U.S. last year

spiked, hitting the highest level since the pandemic, with more expected to come. Coresight predicts that this number will rise to 15,000 nationally this year.

This figure reflects an overall 24% increase over the last year. Business closures are attributable to a shift in consumer shopping to online outlets, inflation, bankruptcies, and search for better values. But competition with the retail giants like Amazon, Cosco, and Walmart has been the dominating factor for this, according to CT NBC.

"Competitive dynamics, not declining consumer demand, is to blame," stated John Mercer, Coresight's head of global research.

Not included in the above-mentioned retailers are smaller chains and restaurants many of which have been forced to close or downsize. The Chowder Pot III in Branford, a shoreline landmark, closed its doors after 30 years, along with its sister restaurant in Hartford; The Guilford Mooring, another popular Connecticut shoreline stop, closed after 30 years; TGI's closed following bankruptcy filing, along with Wooster Pizza of Cromwell; the Undergrounds Record Café of Oakville and Kraftwich of East Hampton closed, to name a few. The Red Lobster is surviving so far locally but has filed for bankruptcy with the closing of 100 locations nationwide.

In response to the recent Newington closings Chairman Sobieski remarked, "I think it's a sign of the time."

Currently, the former LA Fitness space remains vacant; the former Staples will be occupied by Bob's Furniture Store that is relocating.

Committee Members Dedicated To Protect Town's Natural Resources

Liam McLoughlin, Staff Writer

Following the recent local trends of preserving the uniqueness of Newington, members of the Open Space Committee (OSC) plan to launch a study that does just that.

At a Jan. 9 meeting, the OSC discussed the potential to begin a Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) in town. According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, which is active under the umbrella of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, an NRI is "a statistical survey of land use and natural resource conditions and trends."

Members cited inspiration from the extensive 2012 study conducted by the town of Ridgefield, which focused on the natural components of the town, including trees, wetlands, vernal pools, lakes, wildlife, and more.

Gail Budrejko, a representative of the town council, took particular interest in the endeavor, and believes that carrying out such a study would add some security to the features that make Newington, Newington.

"If we have this done, as developers come into town to look at a site like Cedar Mountain, or Hartford hospital property, before they formulate a proposal, they're going to know what the values are of the community, and they can tailor their

development plans to adjust to that," Budrejko said.

Another OSC member, Gia Pascarelli, echoed Budrejko's sentiments of the importance of an NRI. "It's an inventory of what's special, and worth saving," she added. "I think it ties into so many things that the town needs to do right now."

Budrejko hopes the committee will be able to carry out a townwide study that connects every corner together. "We're such a small community that everything is contiguous, everything really impacts another," she said.

However, to carry out the project, the OSC needs time, money, and labor. They don't want to enlist town employees with the work due to currently high workloads, and would also prefer to avoid hiring an outside consultant because of high costs.

To navigate these obstacles, the committee wants to engage in "citizen science," as well as establishing it as an internship opportunity for local undergraduate and graduate college students.

While they're still early in the planning process, the OSC hopes to clarify their objectives soon and commence the project by the start of the Fall 2025 academic year.

Second RE Tax Bill Is Due By Feb. 3

By Corinne Aldinger, Revenue Collector

This is a reminder - no tax bill is sent for the second installment for the January real estate and/or personal property tax.

Your January installment was included with your July tax bill. If you have misplaced the January installment you can locate it on line or call the office (860 665-8540). Supplemental motor vehicle tax bills will be mailed at the end of December which are for cars purchased or registered after Oct. 1, 2023.

The last day to pay without penalty is Feb. 3. All payments received on Feb. 4 will be charged interest (3%) according to CT State Statute Sec. 12-146. There are no exceptions. All back taxes must be paid prior to the new tax bills.

The tax office only accepts payments by check, money order, and cash. You may also pay by mail, or drop your payment and check into the silver tax payment box located across from the Town Hall entrance, or online at www.newingtonct.gov. Do not pay back taxes online if you need a release to register a car with the Dept. of Motor Vehicles.

Taxpayers are responsible to pay taxes when they are due. Failure to receive a tax bill does not invalidate the tax, interest or fees.

Town Hall Hours: Mon. Wed. and Thurs. 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Tues. 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m



Women's Club of New Britain Presents CONNECTICUT GARDENS

The Women's Club of New Britain will meet at 2:00 PM on Thursday, February 6, 2025,

The meeting will be at the First Congregational Church, 830 Corbin Ave. New Britain, CT.

The name of the program is: "CONNECTICUT GARDENS"

Caryn Davis, an award-winning photographer specializing in architecture, interiors, hospitality, landscape design, and travel photography will

present a most popular and historic gardens as well as some spectacular private gems. Her artistic approach and visual storytelling are certain to lift your spirits and winter blues.

Following the program, coffee, tea and cookies will be served.

Guests are welcome to attend for a \$10.00 fee. New members from The Greater New Britain Area are welcome to join the club.

State DOT Introduces New Plan For Highway Safety, Accessibility

By Randall Cox, Freelance Writer

AREA - On Tuesday, Jan. 21 the state Department of Transportation held an open house at the Hartford Public Library. It was the second in a series of such events scheduled across the state this month. The purpose of these events is to introduce the new statewide Active Transportation Plan (ATP).

The Active Transportation Plan will "promote safety, accessibility and connectivity" across Connecticut's roadways. The ATP accounts for all types of transportation including walking, bicycling, mobility aids and e-bikes and e-scooters. The focus is on shifting away from car-only street and community design, and instead developing transportation options that are inclusive of all residents, whether they drive or use other forms of transportation.

About 50 people from across Hartford County attended the session last week. Some, perhaps expressing their support and enthusiasm for the ideas and policies that undergird the Active Transportation plan, biked to the library on a night when temperatures dipped into the low single digits.

The event included about a half dozen stations set up in a community room in the back of the library. Each station, crewed by a DOT employee or volunteer, displayed signs, maps, videos and other media that detailed various elements of the ATP and how it might benefit communities across the state.

There were numerous points throughout the open house when attendees could use interactive

media to express their views regarding the project. Attendees were asked at different stations to rate the importance of various categories in road and community development. Those categories included: safety, economy, health, environmental impact, affordability, equity and more.

"The project will evaluate existing conditions, identify needs and propose recommendations for functional, equitable, and safety-focused (transportation)," according to documents shared at the open house. A major priority in ATP is making Connecticut's roads safer for all commuters. Last year, and for several years in a row now, there were over 300 traffic-related deaths in Connecticut.

These open houses constitute Phase 1 of a three-phase planning timeline. Phase two, set for the summer and fall of this year will include "development of proposed active transportation infrastructure improvements and prioritization of projects, along with potential funding sources." Phase 3, scheduled for winter 2025 through spring 2026 will include "development of the draft and final ATP. This will include performance metrics to assess success of plan implementation over time."

While the open houses have wrapped up, the ATP is still in its early stages, and there is plenty of time to get involved or to raise questions or concerns. Residents are invited to visit portal.ct.gov/ATP2026 for more information. Additionally, an email address for this project has been set up at DOT.ActiveTransportationPlan@ct.gov.

Newly Retired Newington Women Now on Facebook!

Celebrating their special occasion, NEWLY-RETIRED NEWINGTON WOMEN and their director Jean Henry are happy to announce that they have changed from a meetup group to a FACEBOOK group!

Same great group, fun activities and twice-a-month daytime events! \$10 yearly dues. You don't have to be from Newington to join!

American Legion Post 117 Newington Meetings

The American Legion Post 117 at 294 Willard Ave. Newington will hold meetings on the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30 PM. We welcome all military past and present. Dinner will be provided free at 6:30 PM.

Note: the only months we do not have a meeting are July and August.

Dean's List Fall 2024

American International College (AIC) in Springfield, MA, is proud to announce that 473 students have earned a place on the Dean's List for the Fall 2024 semester. These full-time students have attained GPAs ranging from 3.3 to 4.0. AIC applauds the dedication and achievements of these enterprising students.

Jada Bryant of Middletown, majoring in Nursing, Tyler Ferreira of Newington, majoring in Economics and Finance

Founded in 1885, American International College (AIC) is a private, co-educational, doctoral granting institution located in Springfield, Massachusetts, comprising the School of Business, Arts and Sciences, the School of Education, and the School of Health Sciences. AIC supports and advances education, diversity, and opportunity for its students and the community.

Retired Women's Group Plans Paint Party, Other Fun

NEWINGTON - A fun paint party has been scheduled at Puerto Vallarta on Friday, Jan. 31 from 12 to 2 p.m. Cost is \$30. We have 7 openings left. Please call Jean Henry at 860-920-9943, for information, reservations, and payment details. Hosted by Newly-Retired Newington Women

Other upcoming activities include:
Feb.7, 5:30 to 8 p.m., NBMAA First Friday
Mar. 2, 2 p.m., "Almost Heaven" play
Mar.11, 11 p.m., Aquaturf St.Pats

FREE CONCERT

Concert organist Janet Yieh plays music of Price, Briggs, and more.

Janet Yieh is Music Director at Church of the Heavenly Rest, New York City. Named one of the most promising concert organists by The Diapason magazine. Lauded by The American Organist magazine for her "expressivity and technical prowess."

Sunday, February 23, 4:00
Church of Christ, Congregational, 1075 Main Street, Newington, Connecticut



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.

Committee Reviews Recommendations For Swing School Site Alternatives

By Joan Hunt, Staff Writer

Last Thursday, the town's Advisory School Building Committee shared its deliberations about where to build what is called a "swing school," the first step in rebuilding the town's elementary schools. The informational meeting was held in Town Council chambers, and it was live-streamed for residents who could not be present to provide input.

Project Manager Michael Scott, who is a senior associate with the architect TSKP Studio, led the discussion, which began with some background. According to Scott, the school building committee has overwhelmingly chosen from three scenarios, using a wealth of input from all stakeholders, what they consider to be the best option for the project.

The committee is recommending renovating four elementary schools for students in grades K-4 and converting Webb Elementary into a fifth and sixth grade academy. They believe the project should begin with the building of a swing school, which would be built new, to house student populations of each school as work is being done on their buildings. At the project's end, the original school at that site would be demolished.

"If kids stay in the school [during renovations], it will take longer, cost more - time is money - temporary partitions will be needed for dust, and access goes away," Scott explained. And that doesn't even include the fact that the process of educating students is harder with construction going on nearby and the safety issue for students, teachers and staff is a huge one, he said.

Access and other issues caused some of the

current elementary school sites to be unsuitable for a swing school, Scott said. He showed a chart that listed the pros and cons of each site and then gave the audience the three options from which they are currently trying to pick the best location on which to build the swing school:

High Crest North Option

One option is near High Crest elementary, facing Highland Street, near the Kycia barn. Scott described the current building site as being a saddle shape with a depression and wetlands in the middle of it. If a swing school were built in the new location, it would be on existing baseball and soccer fields. At the project's end, the original High Crest would be demolished, and some of the field capacity could be reclaimed, but not all.

Scott said that access would be off Highland, with a bus loop and parking for cars. Architecturally, a media center would be at the entrance, the cafeteria and gym behind that, along with K-2 classrooms. The older students would be located on the second floor.

One of the drawbacks to this location, according to Scott, is that the current building already has a large population in it. If the swing school goes there, it will mean two schools worth of traffic and could be difficult, so long as the original school was also occupied.

Kycia Farm Site Option

Across the street on the Kycia Farm parcel where the house is located has been identified as another possible site for the swing school. Scott said that this also has a saddle in the middle of the site with wetlands, which would keep the par-

cel from being able to be developed. It consists of a good upper field, he said, and a lower planting field.

The plan would include visitor parking and drop off and a separate parking lot. Buses would enter and exit onto Collier. There would be separate entrances for buses and cars. Architecturally, the setup might be similar to the building considered for across the street, but grades three and four might be located on the lower level looking into the playing fields.

"There would be a good opportunity to develop more playing fields for school or for the town on the lower planting field," said Scott.

Hamner/Stillman Site Option

With Standish Park to the north, the Board of Education building on the site, and Hamner School behind, this option is located in Old Wethersfield off Hartford Avenue. Scott said the swing school would be in pretty close proximity to the existing school in this scenario and some athletic facilities would be lost in the interim. Once the existing Hamner school was demolished, green space or ballfields could occupy that space.

Most of the Hamner students walk or bike to school currently, so increased traffic wouldn't be as much of a problem, he said. Also, this site's more central location would mean that not all traffic would be using the same roads. Scott said that the current Hamner school has the largest footprint and the lightest population of the town's five elementary schools.

Questions began with the Hamner scenario, starting off with what might be the right size for the swing school if it is built on the Hamner site? Scott said that because the swing school will be a two-story building, it would take up less acreage than the current Hamner, which is now spread out with few classrooms that are larger than what may be needed in the future.

"There is no parity now," said Scott of the student body size in Wethersfield's elementary

schools. "Some redistricting will be necessary, but we must preserve the neighborhood schools, so realignment will probably take place. And, of course, when Webb is online, all the 5th and 6th grade students will go there," he said. The swing school, he answered, would have to be large enough to handle the largest school population, no matter where it is built.

Another topic of conversation was where the pre-K students would be housed. Scott said it could be included in the swing school or any of the K-4 schools, or even all of them, but he wasn't sure that Webb would be the best place for it when it turns into a 5-6 academy. "It is an important question," he said, and one that might be easier to answer once a swing location has been decided.

Among other relevant subjects that became part of the question and answer portion last week were the need for two schools sharing the same playground if Hamner was chosen for the swing school, the reality that High Crest school would be the most expensive to renovate because of what Scott referred to as its "beehive" construction, and information about why other sites were not considered for a swing school, including the community center, which once was an elementary school.

The best thing about the process of this school building project is that everyone in town is being asked to help with the brainstorming and the decisions that will ultimately lead to the finished result, and hopefully guarantee its success. The biggest question of the evening was how best to engage the public in this very important decision.

For more information, watch the Jan. 23 meeting on the town's public access channel at YouTube, check the Advisory School Building Committee's website, attend one of their meetings, or contact one of the committee members: Katie Kumnick, Richard Sitnik, Doug Sudell, Lauren Rhines, Russell Morin (chair), Amanda Drew, Brian Cioccio

Local Benefit Vocal Group Seeking Tenors And Basses

By Kate Porch
MHVC Publicity Committee

The Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chord family, under the direction of musical director Samuel Tucker and accompanied by an eight-piece orchestra directed by the talented Alan Dougherty, is seeking tenors and basses to join our chorus. No auditions necessary!

Debi Messina, who has been a member of MHVC since 2015 says; "My love of singing, retirement and the passing of my best friend were my reasons for joining Vocal Chords. It brings me joy to sing with this exceptional, caring group of individuals. My hope is that, by singing with Vocal Chords, I have brought some joy to others in their time of need."

Louise Russo, an original member of 35 years, shared this story; "I was involved with the hospital and heard about the group. Since high school, I loved to sing and decided to join the group... Now 35 years later, I still find it relaxing while making good friends and enjoying an extended family."

Paul Scrivano, who rejoined in 2024 says; "I was a member over 20 years ago. At that time, I had 3 children under the age of 6. I participated for several semesters but due to my young family I resigned. Last winter a friend passed away after an illness. He was a phenomenal singer. With the

turmoil in the world, I remembered the healing powers of music. He inspired me to sing again. I was aware that Sam Tucker was the new director of the Vocal Chords. I knew Sam from my son's participation in PHS Choir and Acapella Group. He impressed me with his enthusiasm and positive energy. I decided to rejoin the Vocal Chords last January. It's an amazing group of singers of all levels. I am unable to read music, but I am learning. The voices together sound amazing. Sometimes during our practices I'm so impressed with the sound. I may come to practice drained from work, but I leave energized. Sam's enthusiasm and energy is contagious. I regret not rejoining sooner."

If you have been considering doing something this year to enhance your life, make new friends and reduce stress levels, please consider joining our musical family. Rehearsals begin Tuesday Jan. 21 at 6:45 to 9 p.m. at Msgr. Fox Parish Hall, St Francis Church, 10 Elm Street, Middletown, for our upcoming spring concert on Saturday, May 3, 7 p.m. at Portland High School.

New members accepted through Feb. 4. For more information, visit us on the web at vocalchords20.org or call Joyce at 860-342-3120. Also, check us out on Instagram, Facebook and YouTube.

VENDORS WANTED

Wethersfield Chamber Of Commerce International Women's Day Event

The Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce is hosting The International Women's Day Vendor Event on Saturday, March 22, 2025 from 10-3. Contact Ivana Marrero at 860-721-6200 or Office@WethersfieldChamber.com for an application.

"Super Bowl/Chili Bowl" at Wethersfield Setback

It's official! Friday, Feb. 7 is "Super Bowl/Chili Bowl Day" at Wethersfield Setback Club. All setback players are invited to attend, whether you are a rookie player or a seasoned pro. Get in on the kick-off at 11:30 a.m. and grab a bowl of homemade chili while you play Super Bowl Trivia. Setback games will begin as usual at 12:15. Admission is only \$2 for Senior Club members; \$3 for non-members. Pitkin Community Center, 30 Greenfield St., Wethersfield. For more information, call Joe at 860.706.6928.

State DOT Introduces New Plan For Highway Safety, Accessibility

By Randall Cox, Freelance Writer

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AOH February Food Drive

The Ancient Order of Hibernians Hartford Division 2 is sponsoring a Food Drive on Sunday, February 16 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Collection will take place at Christ the King Parish at 601 Silas Deane Highway in Wethersfield in the parking lot that is between the church and the middle school. The food will be given to the pantry at Saint Augustine Church in Hartford. Please bring non-perishable items with canned meats and soup in the greatest need in addition to pinto and pink beans. We are also looking to collect cooking oils, spices, and condiments. Thanks to all for their generosity!

Village Improvement Volunteers Needed

Wethersfield Village Improvement is in need of volunteers to help beautify the town with our concrete containers for the holiday season. We are looking for individuals, families to adopt a container for a year. Please help us maintain these containers through the year, its creative, small amounts of time that yields much for the town and it's a group effort. Free membership to Village Improvement, including Tree Walks, receptions, we will give instructions and you maintain your container to your schedule. wethvia@icloud.com

Thank you for reading
the Rare Reminder.

Kayla Peters of Middletown.
Thomas Pier of Cromwell.
Genna Sharp of Wethersfield.
Sophie Wood of Newington

Students named to the fall 2024 Dean's List are listed below.

2024 Dean's List Students

HEMPSTEAD, NY (01/20/2025)-- Hofstra University congratulates the students named to the fall 2024 Dean's List for their outstanding academic achievements. Students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 during the semester to make the Dean's List.

Students named to the fall 2024 Dean's List are listed below.

Kayla Peters of Middletown.
Thomas Pier of Cromwell.
Genna Sharp of Wethersfield.
Sophie Wood of Newington

Students Named for UA Fall 2024 Term
TUSCALOOSA, AL (01/27/2025)-- A total of 14,631 students enrolled during Fall Semester 2024 at The University of Alabama were named to the dean's list with an academic record of 3.5 (or above) or the president's list with an academic record of 4.0 (all A's).



What's Happening Wethersfield?

Send us your news!

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

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Mayor, Council Award Honors For Community Spirit, Service

By Joan Hunt, Staff Writer

Mayor Ken Lesser awarded the Key to the Town of Wethersfield and named this year's Spirit of Wethersfield award winner at the beginning of the Jan. 21 Town Council meeting. This is the second annual event honoring residents who have contributed immeasurably during their lives to the benefit of the community. The awards committee consists of Lesser, Councilor Shelley Carbone, Jodi Latina and John Galvin.

The Key to the Town went to Lee Kuckro for his extraordinary contributions to the preservation, revitalization and growth of Wethersfield.

"He and his late wife were the impetus behind the book 'Preservation in Action,'" said Lesser, referring to the volume published last September by the Webb Deane Stevens Museum and Wesleyan University Press. The mayor went on to quote briefly from the publishers' note in the front of the book:

"Without Anne and Lee Kuckro, the preservation community in Old Wethersfield would not look like it does today. Through a half a century of board and committee leadership and tireless work behind the scenes, they are the common thread connecting the several entities responsible for stewarding the town's history."

"Lee's tireless dedication to the town's historic preservation, economic revitalization, and cultural growth has helped shape Wethersfield into the vibrant and cherished community we all live in today," said Lesser. Specifically, he credited Kuckro's two decades on the Historic District Commission, including 14 years as its chairman and chairmanships of the Historical Society, Preservation CT and CT Landmarks for ensuring that the town's unique architectural legacy would be preserved for future generations.

"His visionary work in the preservation and

restoration of Old Wethersfield has played a central role in the town's economic revival. His leadership in projects such as the restoration of the Herbert Dunham house and his chairmanship of that fundraising committee further exemplifies his commitment to the town's future," said Lesser.

In accepting the honor, Kuckro said that it should be shared with all the people who have worked for more than a century to preserve Old Wethersfield.

"Anne's history shows that its preservation was not a happy accident, an inevitable result, or a fortuitous outcome," Kuckro said of the book 'Preservation in Action.' "Rather, it was a conscious community effort grounded in the town's rich history, driven by critical planning decisions made by your predecessors as selectmen and council persons going back a century."

These decisions, he said, included hiring a city planner from New York in 1927 to lay out the Silas Deane Highway in a manner that would avert traffic away from the old village. It continued in 1964, with the establishment of the largest and oldest historic district in the state.

"In 1984, you entered into a partnership with the historical society for it to restore and redevelop two vacant surplus town buildings at the very center of the historic district in order to create attractive uses to draw foot traffic, which has sparked the rebirth and revitalization of Old Wethersfield," said Kuckro.

"I'm happy to accept this award on behalf of those predecessors of yours, on behalf of all those who have served on the Historic District Commission, on behalf of the staff, volunteers, guides and researchers at our museums and civic organizations, and on behalf of the entrepreneurs and business owners who have invested and con-

tributed to the bustling economic vitality. Old Wethersfield is a historic preservation success story, which is still unfolding," he said.

Robert Sharkevich, Sr. Awarded Spirit of Wethersfield Honor

Mayor Lesser presented the Spirit of Wethersfield award to the family of firefighter Robert Sharkevich, Sr., who died on Oct. 22, 2024 fighting a massive brush fire on Lamentation Mountain in Berlin and Meriden.

"We honor the extraordinary life and lasting impact of Robert E. Sharkevich, Sr., known as 'Shy,'" said Lesser. "We present the Spirit of Wethersfield award with deep respect and admiration, as we recognize Robert's dedication, service, and selflessness that will continue to inspire all who knew him."

Lesser said that Sharkevich dedicated more than four decades of his life to serving his community, the last 25 years with the Hartford Fire

Department and having volunteered for 22 years on the Wethersfield Fire Department before that. This service, he said, is a testament to Sharkevich's unwavering commitment to keeping others safe, even at the highest cost.

"In addition to his firefighting career, Robert also worked as a carpenter and maintainer for the Wethersfield public school district for the past four years," said Lesser, "always going above and beyond to ensure the well-being of his town and its students, and always with a smile."

"I might add that beyond his professional service, Robert was a devoted son, brother, husband, father, uncle, papa, godfather and friend," Lesser said.

"His caring nature, his love for his family, his unforgettable sense of humor left a profound impact on all who were fortunate to know him," said Lesser. "He was the embodiment of this Spirit of Wethersfield award."

Wethersfield Library Upcoming Events

February Art Exhibit at Wethersfield Library

The Wethersfield Library will welcome local artist Paul Bongiovanni during the month of February. Paul will be exhibiting his unique & vibrant abstract art that is formed using acrylic on hot-waxed paper towels, creating a dimensional effect that Paul calls "Space to the 7th Power". Paul is a retired business executive who began painting in 2023, after a minor surgery restricted his ability to play bass guitar.

Call 860-721-2166 if you are a local artist interested in exhibiting your artwork at the Wethersfield Library. The Library is located at 515 Silas Deane Highway in Wethersfield. For information and directions to the Library, visit www.wethersfieldlibrary.org or call 529-2665.

FOR TEENS: SPA DAY

Teens join us on Tuesday, February 4th at 2:45 and make your own lip scrub and bath soak with all natural ingredients! This program is free and open to teens in grades 7-12. All supplies will be provided. Register on our Events Calendar at wethersfieldlibrary.org.

TURKISH COFFEE TASTING PROGRAM IN-PERSON

Join us on Saturday February 8th 2025 from 11:00 - 12:30 p.m. and immerse yourself into the world of Turkish coffee, including its history, cultural significance and traditional preparation method. Gain a deeper understanding and appreciation for this beloved aspect of Anatolian culture. Authentic turkish coffee samples will be provided. Register for this in-person program, presented by Peace Islands Institute CT, on our Events Calendar at wethersfieldlibrary.org. Wethersfield Library is located at 515 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield CT.

FOR TEENS: CHOCOLATE SLIME

Teens join us on Tuesday, February 11th at 2:45 and make chocolate slime! This program is free and open to teens in grades 7-12. All supplies will be provided. Register on our Events Calendar at wethersfieldlibrary.org.

WADSWORTH ATHENEUM MUSEUM OF ART:

EXPLORE ART FROM THE ATHENEUM

Join a Wadsworth Atheneum docent on Tues-

day February 11th 2025 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm for an interactive discussion on the highlights from the Atheneum's collection. Learn about the history of the museum and its diverse holdings through an exploration of collection objects. Register on our Events Calendar at wethersfieldlibrary.org. The Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art - Connecticut's flagship visual arts institution is the nation's oldest continuously operating public art museum.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN "PROFESSOR JIM" WILLIAMS

AT WETHERSFIELD LIBRARY

Join us for a reenactment of the life of James "Professor Jim" Williams on Thursday, February 13th at 6:30 p.m. Kevin Johnson of the Connecticut State Library will portray William's. Learn about "Professor Jim's" early life in New York, his escape from enslavement, his adventure on the high seas, his battle in the War of 1812, and the fifty years he spent at Trinity College as a janitor where he became a beloved, respected figure. All are welcome. Register on our Events Calendar at wethersfieldlibrary.org.

BALD EAGLES IN CONNECTICUT

Bald eagles were once so endangered that many considered whether to replace them as America's national symbol. The ongoing story of their recovery as a species and CT's healthy eagle population is a comeback story worth hearing. Join Ginny Apple, Master Wildlife Conservationist, on Tuesday

February 18th at 6:30 p.m. for a talk about the valuable contributions these magnificent birds of prey provide our ecosystem. Register on our Events Calendar at wethersfieldlibrary.org.

FOR TEENS: DIY PLUSHIES

Teens join us on Tuesday, February 25th at 2:45 and make your own no-sew plushie! This program is free and open to teens in grades 7-12. All supplies will be provided. Register on our Events Calendar at wethersfieldlibrary.org.

NEW AGE FAIR

Sunday, Feb. 9, 10 AM - 4 PM. 30 Greenfield St., Wethersfield. Readings, vendors, lectures, Free admission. myasc.org 860-568-8617

Women's Club of New Britain Presents CONNECTICUT GARDENS

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Following the program, coffee, tea and cookies

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Guests are welcome to attend for a \$10.00 fee.

New members from The Greater New Britain Area are welcome to join the club.

International Women's Day Vendors

The Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce is hosting The International Women's Day Vendor Event on Saturday, March 22, 2025 from 10-3. Contact Ivana Marrero at 860-721-6200 or Office@WethersfieldChamber.com for an application.

Free Breakfast for Vets and First Responders

On the first Friday of every month the Rocky Hill United Methodist Church (623 Old Main Street) provides a free breakfast for Veterans and First Responders as our way of saying thank you for your service. Breakfast is served from 9 - 11 AM; reservations are not required. This event receives support from the Rocky Hill Community Together Fund of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.



LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD

The 2025 Charter Revision Commission of the Town of Wethersfield will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, CT 06109.

In accordance with the provisions of the Town Charter, Chapter IX, Sect 907 and Connecticut General Statutes §7-191(a), the Commission will receive comments and recommendations on proposed changes to the Town of Wethersfield Charter.

Dated at Wethersfield, Connecticut this 30th day of January, 2025.

Susan I. Schroeder
Town Clerk

LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION Town of Wethersfield PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

The Wethersfield Planning and Zoning Commission held a public meeting on January 22, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, Connecticut and made the following decision:

Application No. 2196-25-Z Kaliubon Mart LLC d/b/a Tomo Japanese Mart seeking a Special Permit in accordance with Section 5.8 (Alcoholic Beverages) of the Wethersfield Zoning Regulations to apply for a Grocery Beer Liquor Permit from the State of Connecticut at 1323 Silas Deane Highway – **APPROVED**.

Planning and Zoning Commission
David Elder, AICP, Town Planner
Duly Authorized
Dated at Wethersfield, Connecticut, this 23rd day of January, 2025

01/30/25

Legal Notice Town of Wethersfield Historic District Commission

The Wethersfield Historic District Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 7:30pm at the Wethersfield Town Hall, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, CT, Conference Room #3, on the following applications seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness:

- Application #8307-25** Joe Byrne, seeking to replace garage door with a Clopay Gallery steel door with long panels in black color at 90 Broad Street.
- Application #8308-25** Gove Restoration LLC, seeking to install four (4) Marvin Elevate windows on driveway side of house to match existing at 374 Main Street.
- Application #8309-25** Gove Restoration LLC, seeking to remove garage bump-out on back of garage and restore back wall to brick with original-sized Marvin Elevate windows in bronze color to match house at 161 Garden Street.
- Application #8310-25** Gove Restoration LLC, seeking to rebuild front stairs to match existing and add wood railing at 20 Wilcox Street.

Town of Wethersfield
Historic District Commission

Kim Wolf

Duly Authorized
Dated at Wethersfield, Connecticut, this 27th day of January 2025

01/30/25

Portofinos

Italian Restaurant

246 New Britain Rd, Kensington, • 860-826-6374

You Deserve a Great Meal!



Shrimp & Pasta



Salad



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RH Historical Society Seeks Volunteers

The Rocky Hill Historical Society is seeking volunteers to help in our mission to promote the history of Rocky Hill. Have some fun pursuing your personal interests under the guidance of our experienced RHHS members while learning about the town's history. We are looking for active members to contribute to the Society's continuing success. Contact us at info@hhistory@gmail.com or by 860-563-6704



St. Jude Ads

It's easy to publish your St. Jude ad in the Rare Reminder. All you do is select the St. Jude ad you prefer, indicate the initials that you would like printed and mail the attached coupon with your payment to the Rare Reminder. Deadline for Thursday publication is Monday before 5pm.

Selection A \$39.80

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT Holy Spirit, you who made me see everything and showed me the way to reach my ideal, You, who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me, and You who are in all instances of my life with me, I in this short dialogue want to thank you for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from you no matter how great the material desire may be. I want to be with you and my loved ones in your perpetual glory, Amen. Thank you for your love towards me and my loved ones. Persons must pray the prayer three consecutive days without asking your wish. After third day, wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be. Then promise to publish this dialogue as soon as this favor is granted. _ _ _

Selection B \$35.40

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN Oh most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, Splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me that you are my mother. O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly seek you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in my necessity (Make your request) There are none who can withstand your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee. Holy Mary, I place this prayer in your hands (3 times). Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days and then you must publish this and it will be granted to you. _ _ _

Selection C \$26.80

ST. JUDE NOVENA May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 8th day, your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. My prayers have been answered. Thank you and God Bless you, St. Jude. _ _ _

Selection D \$14.00

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Please publish prayer A B C D, with the initials: _____

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St. Jude ads run as Rare Reminder classified ads, in the first available issue after receipt of ad. Ads shown are slightly smaller than actual classified ads. Rates effective April 01, 2015.

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Free Friday Breakfast for Vets And First Responders

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Habits That Can Prove Harmful To Your Kidneys

The kidneys are vital bean-shaped organs located on each side of the spine just below the rib cage. Without proper kidney function, a person's body will perish because the kidneys are responsible for filtering blood, regulating blood pressure and removing waste from the body, according to the National Kidney Foundation®. The kidneys also help to balance important vitamins and minerals and facilitate production of red blood cells.

The kidneys filter about 200 quarts of fluid from the blood each day, most of which is cleaned and returned to the body. Only two quarts of the filtered fluid is turned into urine. Keeping the kidneys healthy and functional can prevent chronic kidney disease. The Mayo Clinic warns that kidney disease, also known as kidney failure, involves a gradual loss of kidney function that can progress to end-stage kidney failure, which is fatal without dialysis or a kidney transplant. Certain lifestyle behaviors increase the risk of chronic kidney disease.

Overdoing it with sodium

Too much sodium can lead to increased blood pressure, which strains the kidneys, says Piedmont Healthcare. The daily maximum sodium intake is 2,300 mg, which equals about a teaspoon of salt. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says 75 percent of the sodium Americans consume is from processed food and restaurant meals, and comes in well above the recommended limit.

Abusing painkillers

Many over-the-counter pain medicines like NSAIDs (ibuprofen, naproxen etc.) and analgesics can harm the kidneys if they are taken in excess. The National Kidney Foundation says heavy or long-term use of some of these medicines can cause chronic kidney disease.

Drinking soda

The American Kidney Fund notes a recent study suggests that drinking two or more carbonated sodas (diet or regular) each day may increase the risk for chronic kidney disease. Carbonated beverages and energy drinks have both been linked to the formation of kidney stones.

High-protein diets

A certain amount of protein is necessary for optimal health, but eating too much animal protein can place a heavy burden on the kidneys. Piedmont says diets high in animal protein from meats and dairy products can be difficult to metabolize. Opting for more plant-based proteins can be beneficial.

Too much sugar

Consuming a lot of sugar is a risk factor for obesity, which can increase the risk of developing high blood pressure and diabetes, which are two major contributors to kidney disease.

Smoking

People who smoke tobacco products are likely harming their kidneys. Kidney Research UK says smoking can lead to poor blood flow to the kidneys, causing kidney damage over time. Also, smoking can increase one's risk of developing some kidney cancers.

Many people do not give much thought to kidney health, but they should. The kidneys are essential organs in the body that sustain life.

Did You Know?

Consumers have options in addition to a health insurance plan to help pay for qualified medical expenses. Flexible spending accounts and health savings accounts are two vehicles for saving that are similar, but have subtle differences that may make one more appropriate than the other for certain people. Both FSAs and HSAs let a person set aside money before it is taxed to pay for health care costs. Each tend to be offered by employers as part of benefits packages, but sometimes people open HSAs on their own. HSAs enable a person to carry money forward indefinitely, so the funds are there year after year. FSAs usually have a use-or-lose policy. When a new year begins, any remaining funds are forfeited. Some FSAs enable a very small carryover amount. One can invest the money in an HSA, unlike with an FSA. This can make saving up a nest egg for future health expenses easier. A person also may be able to contribute more to an HSA than an FSA. Both have maximum annual amounts determined by the Internal Revenue Service. An HSA is owned by the individual, and everything inside it is that person's forever. An FSA is owned by the company that offers it, and all funds can be lost if a person switches firms. These are just a few of the differences between an HSA and an FSA. HSAs seemingly offer more flexibility, but both are excellent ways for consumers to lower their tax obligations and pay for medical expenses.



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How Social Media Affects Kids' Mental Health

Although social media may have originated as a means to bring people together, there are many who argue that it actually does the opposite. Instances of cyberbullying, which is a form of online harassment, have grown as social media has become more pervasive. Some experts believe that mental health concerns are an unexpected side effect of increased social media use, says Johns Hopkins Medicine. In fact, in the spring of 2023, United States Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, MD, MBA, released an advisory that suggested social media is harmful to young people. In 2024, Dr. Murthy called for a surgeon general's warning label on social media not unlike the warnings on cigarette packages.

How might social media affect children's mental health? Here are some of the main concerns.

• **Changes in a developing brain:** According to the Surgeon General's report, children's brains go through a highly sensitive period of development between the ages of 10 and 19, when feelings of self-worth are forming. Frequent social media use may affect these feelings as children compare themselves to others they see online. In addition, functions like emotional learning, impulse control and emotional regulation may be affected.

• **Development of depression:** Johns Hopkins Medicine says research has demonstrated there are high rates of depression attributed to very low social media use

and very high social media use. Finding a healthy balance might not be as easy as it seems.

• **Addiction:** There is some evidence that children become addicted to checking social media, which can lead to addiction-like behaviors in other areas. According to The Addiction Center, a Web-based substance abuse resource, addiction to social media is driven by an uncontrollable urge to log on that impairs other important areas of life. Fear of missing out (FOMO) is another threat to kids' mental health.

• **Low self-esteem issues.** Children and teenagers who compare themselves to others' carefully curated online profiles (which usually are not telling the whole story) can develop feelings of inadequacy and body image issues.

• **Exposure to inappropriate content.** Social media may introduce children to content and images that are not appropriate for their age levels and capacity to understand and interpret. According to Dr. Murthy's report, deaths have been linked to suicide- and self-harm-related content, such as risk-taking challenges or asphyxiation content. Viewing this content normalizes these behaviors for some youngsters.

Although plenty of good can come from social media, parents are urged to exercise caution when giving children access to these platforms, which can affect kids' mental health in negative ways.

Rare Reminder & The Chronicle join together to produce a Winter 2025

super savings coupon book

Published Feb. 27

Deadline Feb. 13

The Super Savings Coupon Book will be inserted in the Rare Reminder which is mailed via the U.S. Postal Service to homes in Wethersfield, Rocky Hill, Newington and Cromwell.

In addition, the Super Savings Coupon Book will also be inserted in the Middletown edition of The Chronicle on March 1.

Total circulation is over 55,000!

The Coupon Book will appear on our website at www.rarereminder.com.

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Volunteer Medical Transportation

RSVP is seeking volunteers to help transport seniors to medical appointments when dial-a-ride isn't available in their local communities. Volunteers must be willing to volunteer just a few hours per month by simply being on an email 'call-list' to help when/if when your calendar is 'free'/no pressure - just accept rides when it's convenient for YOU! We currently serve senior/veteran residents over the age of 60 in the following twenty-one (21) communities: Berlin, Bolton, Bristol, Coventry, Cromwell, East Granby, East Hampton, East Windsor, Enfield, Middletown, New Britain, Plainville, Plymouth/Terryville, Somers, Southington, Suffield, Tolland, Vernon, Willington, Windsor, & Windsor Locks. Please contact Theresa Strong, RSVP Manager, to learn more. Email: strongt@crtct.org / Cell: (860) 519-3484.

Wethersfield Library Seeks Donations

The Friends of the Wethersfield Library are now taking donations of books, puzzles, CD's, and DVD's. The Friends of the Wethersfield Library would like to thank all who supported the very successful fall book sale. All proceeds benefit library programs such as summer reading, museum passes and interactive author interviews. Books leftover from the sale are donated to local nonprofit organizations. Watch for further details for the Jigsaw Puzzle and blowout CD sale coming in January.

RHHS Project Graduation Fundraiser

Join Psychic Medium Angelina Diana in the RHHS auditorium February 27 for an evening of inspiration and connection. Since 2001, she has brought hopeful messages and supportive guidance through her readings. Experience random readings, learn how to connect, and Q&A. All proceeds go to RHHS 2025 Project Graduation. Attendance is \$45 per ticket. Doors open 6:15 PM, event begins at 7 PM. For details, email RHHSClass2025@gmail.com.

Libraries Need Friends!

The Friends of the Wethersfield Library would like more community members to join us for Friend events such as: the continuous book sales in the Library book nook, raffles, periodic pop-up book sales and others help raise funds to expand Library programs. These include, but are not limited to Summer Reading, museum passes and occasional Library improvements. Friends volunteer opportunities include: sorting book donations, book sales, technology support, marketing, publicity social media and membership.

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FAMILIES ANONYMOUS: A fellowship of people whose lives have been affected by the use of drugs or alcohol of a relative or friend. Meetings held every Thursday at 7:30pm at the Congregational Church of South Glastonbury, 949 Main St. Room #211. For information call 860-748-9715.

SPONSORS NEEDED

☆ Soccer Club of Newington ☆

Parents' Night Out

BINGO

We are seeking local businesses to sponsor this event:

- Prize Baskets
- Raffle Prizes
- Game Sponsors - only \$100 per game!

February 28, 2025 ☆ Doors Open 6:30 pm

Polish American Club, 140 Wilson Ave

Please contact Jaime Trevethan if interested in sponsoring or donating a prize: jaime.t@newingtonsoccer.org
Proceeds will support new equipment and enable SCN to expand and enhance soccer programs for kids.

MILE Lifelong Education Program

Middletown-Registration for MILE the Lifelong Education program at Middlesex Community College for age 50+ adults is starting now. Classes are taught by local college professors, entrepreneurs, and those of the public who would like to share their knowledge with the group. The Winter session takes place every Wednesday during the month of January via ZOOM presentations. The Spring Semester starts on March 11, 2025, through April 24, 2025. It is held in person at the College in Middletown on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1:30-3:30pm. Wednesday afternoons we offer ZOOM presentations from 1:30-3:00pm. Visit our website to get more information on classes, schedules and course descriptions, as well as to find our registration form. You can reach us at <http://www.mileonline.org> or leave a message at (860) 343-5863.

Art Exhibit at Wethersfield Library

Rich Incorvati will once again be showcasing his beautiful travel photography at the Wethersfield Library. This year's exhibit will feature his recent travels to Bangkok, Thailand. "Exploring Bangkok" will be on display through December and January. Rich is an award-winning photographer, and has an insatiable passion for exploration. Call 860-721-2166 if you are a local artist interested in exhibiting your artwork at the Wethersfield Library. The Library is located at 515 Silas Deane Highway in Wethersfield. For information and directions to the Library, visit www.wethersfieldlibrary.org or call 529-2665.

Cromwell Creative District

Cromwell Creative District (CCD) is a volunteer-run nonprofit aimed at revitalizing downtown Cromwell by celebrating our vibrant history, bolstering our current resources, and creating opportunities for future growth through programs, events, and public art. We are currently in need of individuals with strengths or interest in the following areas: fundraising or grant-writing, creative thinking and planning, task-oriented workers to assist with projects, and those interested in leadership roles within the executive board. Visit www.cromwellcreativedistrict.org to learn more about CCD, and follow us on Facebook and Instagram. If interested in becoming involved, email CCD at cromwellcreativedistrict@gmail.com.

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We would like to publish in our monthly Mature Living section your photo and /or article pertaining to a special occasion. Please send to:
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email sales@rarereminder.com



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Newington Town Council Volunteer Of The Year

The Newington Town Council is seeking input from citizens as to who shall become the 2024 Town of Newington Volunteer of the Year. This individual(s) should be someone who has voluntarily dedicated time and/or resources for the benefit of others and to the community at large. If you know of a neighbor, fellow employee, friend or relative who may be that one individual the Council wishes to recognize, please submit that person's name to the Council. Nomination forms are available at the Newington Senior and Disabled Center, Lucy Robbins Welles Library, through the Office of the Town Manager (860-665-8510), or on the Town's website, www.newingtonct.gov.

Join Wethersfield Art League!

Artists of all levels (and ages!) are welcome! An annual individual sponsorship costs just \$30, a family sponsorship just \$35. Classes, workshops, and free open studios are held at the Little Red Schoolhouse, 193 Wells Road, Wethersfield. Email us at WethersfieldArtLeague@gmail.com or Phone: 860-563-9637. Visit us on Facebook or Instagram: @WethersfieldArtLeague.

NAL Sign Up Month

September is the sign-up month for the Newington Art League (NAL)! The NAL is a non-profit 501c3 organization that welcomes anyone interested in the arts to join us. Annual membership is just \$30 for an individual or \$40 for a family membership. Students ages 16+ are always welcome at a discounted rate of \$10 annually. We offer workshops, demonstrations, and public shows. You can find us at www.Newingtonartleague.org

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PAINTING IN EVERY COLOR: Painting houses, interior, local business company. For more information call 860-463-9893.

Call the classifieds
860-563-9386

Volunteers in Psychotherapy

Volunteers In Psychotherapy allows you to earn strictly private therapy [no reports to insurers of your private discussions] in exchange for volunteer work you supply, privately and independently, for the charity of your choice. VIP's local service has been granted awards and funding from the Connecticut Psychological Association. Contact Dr. Shulman at (860) 233-5115, or learn more at www.CTVIP.org.

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!

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

RHHS Visitors Welcome

The Rocky Hill Historical Society welcomes visitors on Saturdays, 12:30-3:00 p.m. Special meetings can be arranged by calling 860-563-6704. We have over 400 years of Rocky Hill history accessible to visitors; we have docents who love a chance to share their enthusiasm over our community. We are a grateful part of the larger Rocky Hill community-come on down!

South Catholic Class Reunion

South Catholic Class of 1975: Save the Date. 50th Reunion 6/7/25. Request information and update contact info at schs1975reunion@gmail.com.

Would you like to help your community?

Wethersfield Volunteer Ambulance Association

is seeking new members to help carry on the spirit of volunteerism in our community.



Call 860-529-8022 for more information



Have something to say?

The Rare Reminder encourages readers to submit letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 400 words. Submission deadline for the upcoming issue is Monday by 12 p.m. Anonymous letters will not be published. Please include a name and phone number for verification. The Rare Reminder reserves the right to edit all letters for length, accuracy and libel. Send letters to PO Box 289, 222 Dividend Rd., Rocky Hill, CT 06067 or email to editor@rareremider.com.

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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. Please contact the senior center for more information and to register, at 860-632-3447.

Support for the Visually Impaired

The National Federation of the Blind of Connecticut (NFB of CT). Meetings will be held on the third Saturday of each month. At chapter meetings, we gather and exchange ideas, share and discuss concerns and aspirations, raise and promote awareness of the capabilities of blind people, and make plans for outings and events. For more information, contact Melissa Thompson at 860-922-4949 or email her at lady1mnt@yahoo.com.

MHVC Seeking Tenors and Basses

The Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chord family, under the direction of musical director Samuel Tucker and accompanied by an eight-piece orchestra directed by the talented Alan Dougherty, is seeking tenors and basses to join our chorus. No auditions necessary! If you have been considering doing something this year to enhance your life, make new friends and reduce stress levels, please consider joining our musical family. Rehearsals begin Tuesday January 21st at 6:45-9:00 at Msgr. Fox Parish Hall, St Francis Church, 10 Elm Street, Middletown, CT, for our upcoming spring concert on Saturday, May 3rd, 7:00 pm at Portland High School. New members accepted through February 4th. For more information, visit us on the web at vocalchords20.org or call Joyce at 860-342-3120. Also, check us out on Instagram, Facebook and YouTube.

Comfort Food Dinner

All are invited to our Comfort Food Dinner being held Saturday, January 25, 2025, at 5:30 pm, at the Rocky Hill Congregational Church, 805 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067. Includes meatloaf & mashed potatoes, ham, pineapple stuffing, mac & cheese, green beans, carrots, rolls, coffee, tea, soda & assorted desserts. Musical entertainment by Ed Chiucarello and Keith Burns. Please call: 860-529-4214 for reservations. Ticket sales are limited to 95 people. No walk-ins please. Adults \$15, Ages 4-12 \$7, Free under 4 years. Our building is handicapped accessible and parking is free. Snow date: 1/26/2025.

Science Bowl Seeks Teams

Are there any middle school students in the towns of Cromwell, Middletown, Newington, Rocky Hill or Wethersfield that are well versed in things science? There is still time for any student, parent or teacher to register a team of five students to compete in our February 8th event at Smith Middle in Glastonbury. The National Science Bowl, run by the U.S. Dept. of Energy will fly our winning team (all expenses) to Washington D.C. for the Nationals April 24th to 28th. Win or place 2nd there and your school's science department wins \$5,000. Google 'National Science Bowl' - click on the 'Regional Competitions and Deadlines' link on the left; then click on 'Middle School Regionals' on the left and lastly scroll down and click on Connecticut.

Call the Classifieds at 860-563-9386

Start Planning for Preschool!

Registration for the 2025-2026 school year is already underway! Programs fill up quickly, so now is the perfect time to explore your options and secure a spot for your little one. Starting early gives you the chance to visit programs, ask questions, and find the best fit for your child. Don't wait—spaces are limited, and many programs fill by spring. Start your preschool search today to ensure your child is ready to learn, play, and thrive next fall! Find a complete list of preschool programs in Wethersfield below. For more information, please check out the WECC website at wecc.wethersfield.me or give us a call at 860-721-2887.

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Learn to Mediate for Teens

Learn to Meditate for Teens, hosted by Odiyana Center, Thur, Jan. 23rd, 6:30 - 7:30pm, at Welles-Turner Library, Glastonbury. This class will teach teens how to meditate and will introduce concepts such as connecting to inner peace and letting go of agitated states of mind, like anger. All teens are welcome and class is free! Info at meditationinconnecticut.org

**Wethersfield Village Improvement-
Volunteers Needed**

Wethersfield Village Improvement is in need of volunteers to help beautify the town with our concrete containers for the holiday season. We are looking for individuals, families to adopt a container for a year. Please help us maintain these containers through the year, its creative, small amounts of time that yields much for the town and it's a group effort. Free membership to Village Improvement, including Tree Walks, receptions, we will give instructions and you maintain your container to your schedule. wethvia@icloud.com

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

American Legion Post 117

Newington Meetings

The American Legion Post 117 at 294 Willard Ave. Newington will hold meetings on the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30 PM. We welcome all military past and present. Dinner will be provided free at 6:30 PM. Note: the only months we do not have a meeting are July and August.

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Thanks for reading the Rare Reminder.

"They Saved My Life!"

Cromwell resident Patricia R. had been experiencing the painful side effects of Peripheral Neuropathy for years. Then she visited Connecticut's Best Acupuncture in Newington.

"My feet and legs were extremely painful and my doctor told me there was nothing they could do. He said I would have to take Gabapentin for the rest of my life."

Peripheral Neuropathy is the pain, discomfort and numbness caused by nerve damage of the peripheral nervous system.

Patricia explained that daily tasks like opening doors and using the bathroom were overwhelmingly painful.

"How can you live for the next 30 years when you don't even want to get out of bed to do simple things?"

She was experiencing the burning, numbness, tingling and sharp pains that those suffering with neuropathy often describe.

"The way I would describe it... it's equivalent to glass."

Patricia hadn't worn socks in five years and was wearing shoes two sizes too big so that nothing would "touch" her feet.

Unfortunately, Patricia's story is all too familiar for the over 3 million people in the U.S. suffering from Peripheral Neuropathy.

While each of our patients are unique, they all come to the clinic with similar stories: They aren't sleeping at night because of the burning in their feet. They have difficulty walking, shopping, or doing any activity for more than 30 minutes because of the pain.

Using the time-tested science of acupuncture and a technology originally developed by NASA to assist in increasing blood flow and expediting recovery and healing, Dr. Sean, Brandee, and their team are creating a breakthrough treatment for this debilitating disease.

They're struggling with balance and living in fear that they might fall. Their doctors have told them to "just live with the pain" and they're taking medications that aren't working or have uncomfortable side effects.

Fortunately, four months ago, Patricia found our clinic, Connecticut's Best Acupuncture and the work that Dr. Sean and Brandee Going are doing to treat those suffering from Peripheral Neuropathy without invasive surgeries or medications.

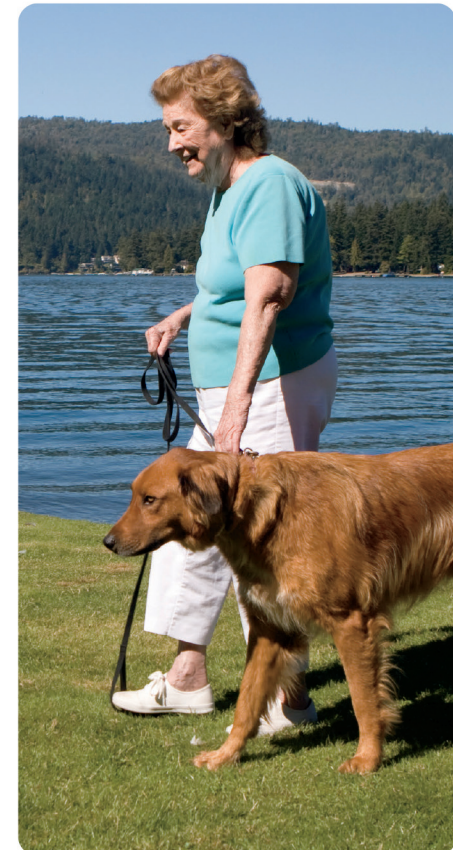
"Now when I go to bed at night I don't have those shooting pains. I don't have that burning sensation. I don't have pain coming up my legs,"

Patricia said, enthusiastically describing life after receiving a series of treatments.

"I can wear socks and shoes!" Patricia and her sister now enjoy regularly walking their dogs

together, sometimes covering up to 5 miles a day.

"It's life altering. As far as I'm concerned, they saved my life!"



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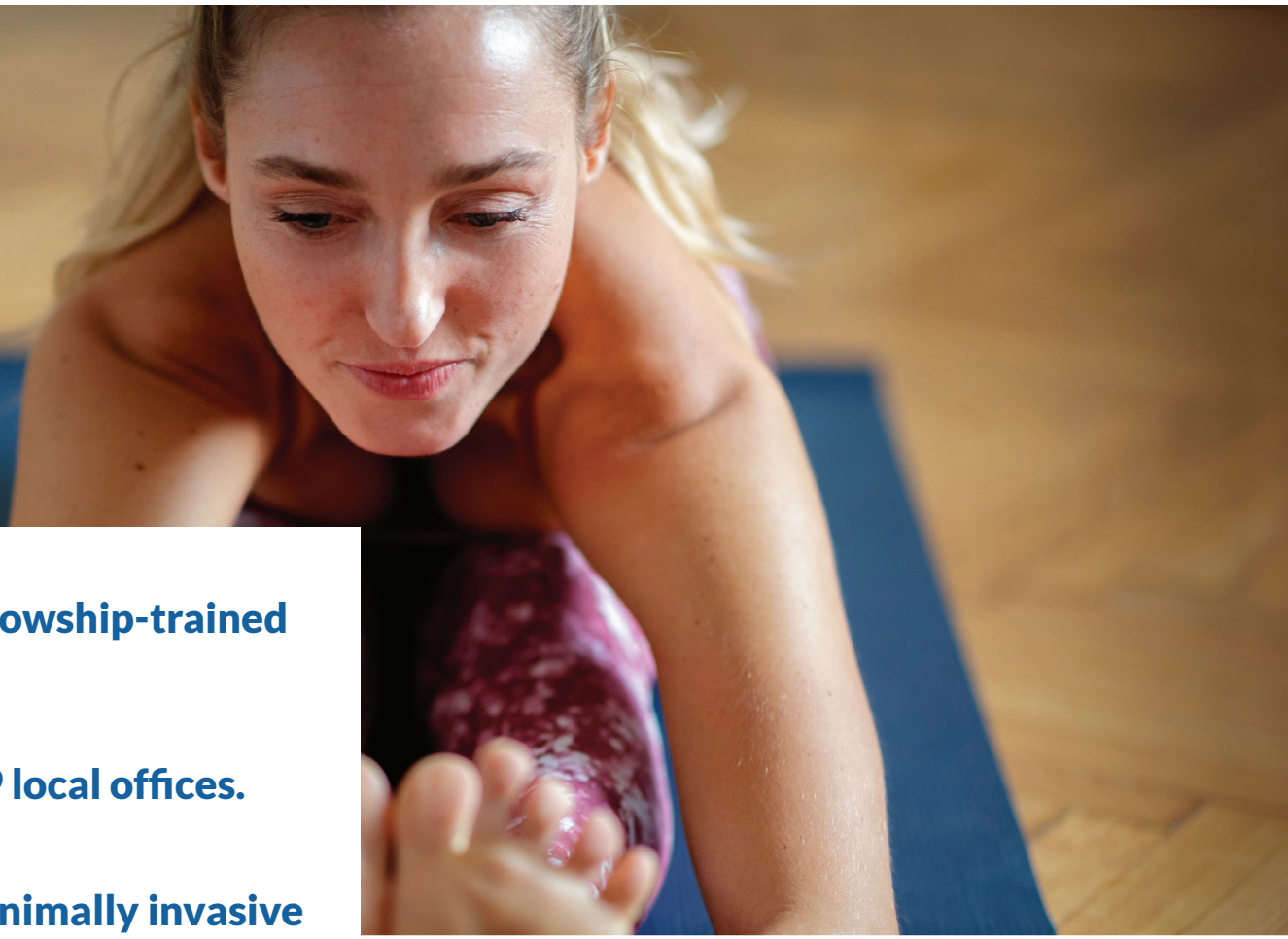
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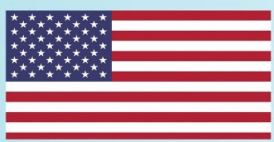
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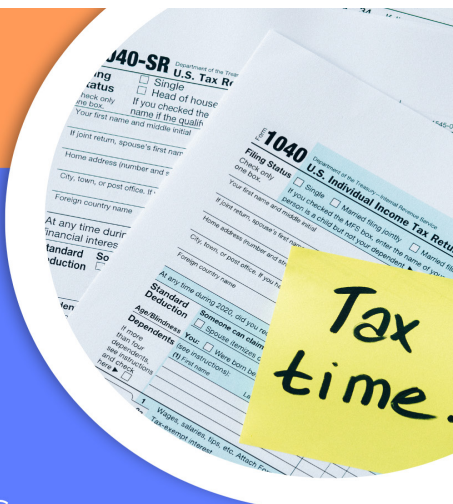
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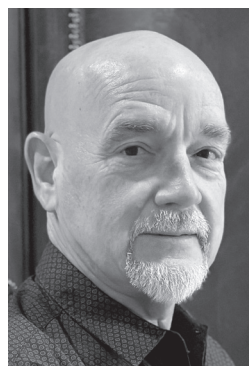
VACATION HOME: Rental, Narragansett RI, walking distance to Scarborough beach. June, July & August availability. 6 bedrooms, AC home with deck & gas grill, renting Saturday to Saturday. Contact Debbie 860-833-8930 email narragansettrentals@gmail.com.

Do buyers pay realtor fees?

One such question may concern the cost to hire a real estate agent. According to the listing service Realtor.com, it's standard practice for the sellers to pay commissions to both the listing agent and the buyer's agent after a home transaction. Buyers do not typically pay realtor fees, which is one more reason why it behooves buyers, particularly individuals who have never before purchased a home, to work with an experienced realtor or real estate agent throughout the home-buying process.



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REAL ESTATE

MARKETPLACE



How to find the right real estate agent

Working with a real estate agent can give both buyers and sellers an edge in what continues to be a challenging real estate market. Agents, brokers and Realtors® are professionals who have distinct expertise and knowledge of the process of buying and selling homes. That expertise is evidenced by how many people rely on real estate professionals each year. A 2022 Zillow Group Consumer Housing Trends report found 88 percent of homeowners choose to list their homes with a real estate agent when it comes time to sell.

Individuals understand that it can be in their best interests to work with real estate professionals, but they may not know where to look as they seek to work with one. Here are some tips for finding the right match in a real estate professional.

- **Know the difference in real estate professionals.** Real estate agents are required by the state in which they operate to pass a real estate license exam. Real estate brokers take it a step further and undergo additional training, which could bring additional experience to the table. Realtors® are members of the National Association of Realtors® and beholden to its strict code of ethics. These individuals also may have undergone additional training that qualifies them to work with certain types of clients, such as seniors.

- **Seek referrals.** Friends or family members, or even others in the community, can put people in touch with real estate professionals. When asking for referrals, individuals can inquire about certain professionals and how they handled buying and/or selling a home.

- **Work with the right type of agent.** Generally speaking, real estate agents either work with buyers or sellers in the transaction. Many will do both, but some specialize in buying or selling. Find a professional who either does both or specializes in your position.

- **Research an agent's online presence.** Use the internet to see if the agent has a website, a particular philosophy or a specialty. This also may be a place to check online reviews. Don't be dissuaded by one or two poor reviews. However, if there are many, it may be best to look elsewhere.

- **Meet and interview potential agents.** Individuals should speak with a couple of real estate professionals to see what they offer. This is a good way to determine if there is a connection there, and whether the agent will get the results needed. A well-prepared agent will come with data, including "comps" of properties in the area. Professionals typically have information about the current market trends and a portfolio of the homes they have brokered recently.

- **Go with gut instincts.** If it's between two people of equal qualification, select the person with whom you have a stronger rapport. This person will be guiding you through a sizable financial transaction, so comfort level is important.

Finding the right real estate professional can take some time. But the right professional will guide clients through the often complex and occasionally frustrating process of buying or selling property.



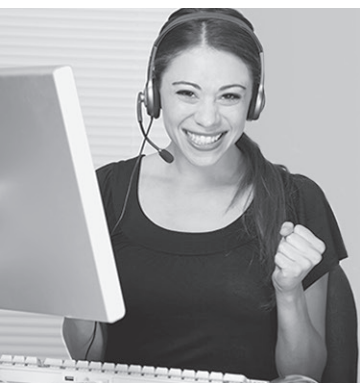
Did you know?

Perhaps due to changing weather patterns that have made Mother Nature as unpredictable as ever, Florida rooms are wildly popular. These rooms, sometimes referred to as "sunrooms," enable a home's inhabitants to take in the beauty of nature even on those days when the weather outside is less than welcoming. The cost of a sunroom addition varies greatly and is affected by a host of variables including the existing structure and whether or not homeowners aspire to utilize the room year-round or during the three seasons when temperatures are at their most moderate. According to HomeGuide, the cost to install an 8 x 10 three-season Florida room averages between \$6,000 and \$18,500. The same size room built to be enjoyed year-round can cost between \$16,000 and \$28,000. Homeowners may choose to create larger Florida rooms, but the cost will increase with each square foot added to the project. Such costs are considerable, but homeowners should know that adding square footage to a home typically increases the home's resale value, meaning it's likely they can recoup a considerable percentage of their Florida room investment when selling their home.

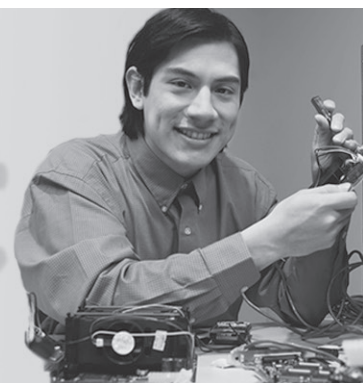


PROPERTY TRANSFERS

Cromwell 12/31/2024 Rausch, Emily M To Smith, Stephanie 12/30/2024 Thomas, Lindsay R To Whalen, Trevor H 12/30/2024 Dellaripa, Antonella To Hayden, Joseph B 12/30/2024 Freedom Property LLC To Long, Christian 1/3/2025 Lawrence Frances H Est To Voronchak, Oksana 1/2/2025 Uliano, Anthony J To Dejesus, Natasha L 1/09/2025 Ferro, Marta A To Paris, Mirtha 1/10/2025 Kash Group LLC To Rana, Sakir 1/7/2025 Figueredo, Omelio L To Nepal, Michael A 1/7/2025 538 Main St LLC To Teddys Stores LLC 1/7/2025 538 Main St LLC To Teddys Stores LLC	25 Briar Ct #25 23 Cambridge Dr Reilly, Timothy Gifford, Lacey G 7 Chatham Pl Selm, James Hayden, Danielle J 88 Nooks Hill Rd 20 Springdale Rd #20 Daniels, Michele K 204 Winthrop Blvd Uliano, Corrina E 16 Arbor Meadow Dr 1323 Cromwell Hills Dr #1323 Rana, Soyeb 10 Long Green Ter #10 Figueredo, Maria 538 Main St 538 Main St 538 Main St 63 Denison Rd 31 Grove St 96 Mcdowell Rd Pennuto, Annmarie C 15 Miller St 21 Rising Trail Dr #21 234 S Main St #207 128 Spring St 59 Bartholomew Rd 1761 Bartholomew Rd 95 Basswood Dr Saunders, Ashley	\$224,900 \$411,000 \$575,000 \$346,000 \$191,000 \$325,000 \$175,000 \$170,000 \$625,000 \$240,360 \$240,360 \$230,000 \$70,000 \$286,000 \$260,000 \$212,000 \$145,000 \$220,000 \$420,000 \$241,800 \$381,000	1/7/2025 Bbr Properties LLC To Burke, Shakeema 1/10/2025 Dimauro, Cynthia M To Heinig Jr, Christopher 1/10/2025 Shaltakoff, Brian To Csluciano LLC 1/6/2025 Kelley, Carol A To Roesler, Christopher 1/6/2025 Rodriguez, Glenn To Baretta, Nathaniel W 1/8/2025 Gershkovich, Eduard To Ramandi, Nick 1/6/2025 Campbell, Matthew To Booth, Katherine 1/7/2025 Testa Jr, Michael To Vajedian, Sanaz 1/10/2025 Met Ventures LLC To Andrews, Dylan S 1/6/2025 Morcello Properties LLC To 9 Maple Plain LLC Newington 1/2/2025 Mirica, Dino To Seenarine, Kayla 12/30/2024 Bartucca, Julia A To Frank, Larry G 1/2/2025 Charles A Dellow T To Morgan, Collin F 1/2/2025 Ham, Christopher L To Breshani, Fatmir 12/30/2024 Nachbar, Aaron To Raposo, Cristina 1/2/2025 Merrick, James J To Cerreta, Anthony 1/6/2025 W & Lauren Davenport T To Thaqi, Arjeta 1/6/2025 Clark, Evelyn B To Richardson, Nicholas 1/7/2025 Bombetto, Mary J To Soto, Eric 1/7/2025 Gneiting, Patricia To Diaz, William R 1/7/2025 Gneiting, Patricia To Diaz, William R	6 Bidwell Ter Saunders, Ashley 33 Brookview Ln Darcy, Paige M 127 Burgundy Hill Ln Shaltakoff, Caren 5 Butternut Knls #5 Shaltakoff, Caren 116 Carriage Crossing Ln #116 Shaltakoff, Caren 111 Dekoven Dr #905 Ramandi, Yousefi 235 Hunting Hill Ave Campbell, Tonya 2 Lakeside Ave Testa, Jana Valipour, Mahsa 544 Long Hill Rd Kalber, Rebecca L 9 Maple Pl 111 Ashland Ave Zijadic, Alma 46 Avery Rd 26 Coolidge Ave Allen, Nancy A Chiulli, Amanda A 185 Hunters Ln #185 Ham, Elaine M Breshani, Majlinda 58 Moylan Ct #58 Nachbar, Lisa F 76 Old Musket Dr Cerreta, Kasey L 2 Beechwood Ct Davenport, William J 39 Brace Rd 74 Camp Ave Soto, Leyla 147 Fisk Dr 147 Fisk Dr	\$399,999 \$400,000 \$100,000 \$270,000 \$215,000 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Traunig, Christopher J To Nguyen, Hai 1/10/2025 La, Kimberly To Hidalgo, Brad D 1/7/2025 Beckwith Constance M Est To 1387 Family Associates LL 1/9/2025 Piccolo-Mandile, Caterina To Lena, Emiliano 1/8/2025 Kosman Jr, Walter F To Cormier, Russell	3 Allison Way Dcunha, Norvin 29 Danforth Ln #29 Tyagi, Vagisha 64 Garfield Rd Buscema, Concetta 64 Garfield Rd Jolie, Lucy 804 Gray Fox Ln #804 Awasare, Madhuri S 1344 Silas Deane Hwy 1360 Silas Deane Hwy 82 Wright Rd Natale, Nicholas J 10-B Colonial Dr 16-B Colonial Dr 31 Colonial Dr 26 Copper Beech Dr #109 Kamireddi, Pavani 8 Deer Path Singh, Ankita Balachandran, Varsha R 16 Stevens Pl #16 24 Butternut Cir Pazdar, Cheryl B Selm, James 11 Kenwood Rd Cummiskey, Ethan 34 Wright Rd Pollak, Tracey V Ho, Lucy 1320 BERLIN TPKE #421 65 CHARTER RD Beckwith, Todd 27 S PEMBROKE ST Piccolo-Santos, Emma 24 WILDWOOD RD Cormier, Tina	\$667,500 \$311,000 \$220,000 \$220,000 \$390,000 \$4,000,000 \$4,000,000 \$287,000 \$100,000 \$94,000 \$100,000 \$270,000 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Employment



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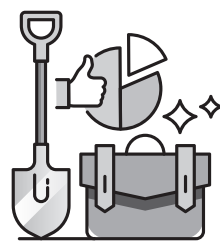
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pickup an application. Please remember to pull to the right for green lights. Ambulance corps members use green lights to respond to emergency medical calls.

SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS NEEDED: Rocky Hill/Berlin/Meriden/Southington. Must be 21 years or older and possess a driver's license for at least 3yrs. Paid training to acquire CDL license and endorsements available. The opportunity to bring your children to

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2 Tips To Update A Resume To Align With The Modern Job Market

1. Include important keywords.

The frustration many modern professionals feel when looking for new opportunities may stem from how easy it can be to apply for a job but never hear back. Indeed notes that many hiring managers utilize applicant tracking system (ATS) software when considering applications. Such programs scan resumes for predetermined keywords, discarding applications that do not include them. Reading each listing carefully can shed light on which keywords to include, as the right terms tend to be right there in the job description. Indeed also advises mentioning the company's name and exact position title in the summary statement or career objective section.

2. Don't forget the person who will read your resume.

Though ATS software plays an integral role in modern hiring, eventually a human being will see the resume if it gets past the ATS portion of the vetting process. Before submitting a resume, read it several times to ensure it reflects your accomplishments, talents and aspirations and not just the keywords that will get the document seen by human eyeballs. Numerous resumes will get past the ATS software, so it's imperative that the resume illustrates a candidate's qualifications and talents.

Busy Professionals Can Give Back, Too

Volunteering one's time can be a beneficial undertaking. The Mayo Clinic reports research has shown that volunteering can improve physical and mental health and provide a sense of purpose, all the while teaching valuable skills. Unfortunately, many busy individuals lament that they simply do not have the time to volunteer.

Here is how to fit volunteering into your day no matter how busy you might be.

- Start volunteer efforts at work. One way to incorporate charitable work into your week is to pioneer a program at your place of employment. This approach can increase interest in volunteerism among colleagues, and depending on your employers' flexibility, time spent volunteering may take place during working hours. This means you can still fulfill your non-work-related obligations when the workday ends.

- Volunteer remotely. If finding something that fits with your schedule is challenging, try searching for online opportunities, suggests My Selfless Act, an online platform for sharing stories of do-goodery. By volunteering remotely, you can customize the time you volunteer to when you're available. You even can work with someone in another time zone.

- Prioritize volunteering. Sometimes not having enough time for charitable work comes down to simply poor time management. If you make volunteering a priority, you can likely find ways to streamline your workday and free up opportunities to get involved.

- Ask for help. Identify people who are supportive and can lend a helping hand so you can find time to volunteer. Delegate some of your

tasks to free up time for philanthropic endeavors.

- Seek opportunities that require shorter time commitments. Plenty of charities have volunteer opportunities that do not require a significant investment of time. Micro-events, or volunteer work that is set up in shifts, merit consideration.

- Look for easy registration. Signing up to volunteer should be easy. Let the sign-up be as tell as to how complicated an opportunity may be. Organizations that provide digital access or a quick sign-up process likely value volunteers' time.

Groups looking to attract busy volunteers also should be mindful of keeping volunteer opportunities punctual and organized. If volunteers feel that their time is being wasted, they may be less likely to commit long-term.

Busy professionals will find that, with a little flexibility, it is possible to find time to volunteer.

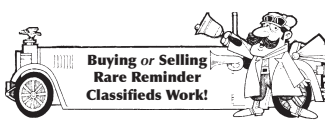


Automotive Forum

Did you know?

Interstate-95 at State Route 4 in Fort Lee, New Jersey, is the busiest highway in the country. Much of that congestion can be traced to the George Washington Bridge, as the area where I-95 meets Route 4 is just west of the GWB. But as stressful as that bottleneck can be for truck drivers and commuters, they may be glad that they are not forced to navigate Atlanta each day.

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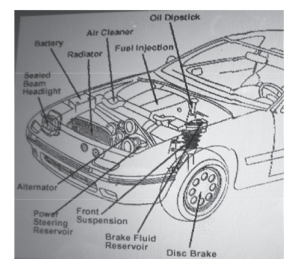


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Adopt Me!

Thank you to everyone that joined us in a successful adoption event on Sunday. A special thanks to Patty for opening her heart to Annabelle and to Pat for adopting our senior girl, Belle. Thank you Margaret for bringing us food and to everyone that came. HUCR

Miranda is a beautiful harlequin kitty. She is shy and cautious at first. She does follow her foster mom around and is always there. Miranda needs an understanding home that will give her patience and time for her to blossom. She loves to carry her stuffed toy around and she is good with other animals. Please fill out an application for Miranda at www.hucatrescue.org. Thank you!

Our one of a kind, exotic beauty, Cookie is still searching for her forever home. She bonds deeply. Cookie is very affectionate and sweet with her foster mom and she will do the same with you after an adjustment period. Please fill out an application for Cookie on our website at www.hucatrescue.org.

Beez and Ziggy are Indigo's adorable tuxedo boys. They are two little clowns. Very outgoing and adventurous. They boys do not have to go together. They were napping together at the time of their photoshoot. Please fill out an application on our website at www.hucatrescue.org. Thank you!

Simba was born in our group on Sept. 2nd. He was one of seven kittens and he hit every milestone on the kitten growth chart. In fact, he crawled and walked early. One day, Simba suddenly became very weak. We rushed him to our vet and he was very anemic. After extensive blood work, Simba started medications. He bounced back but only to happen again two weeks later. Simba will now start a new antiviral medication for FIP treatment. He is a fighter. He loves life and is determined. We need your help with financial assistance at this time so we can continue to work towards getting him healthy again. Please consider making a donation through our website at www.hucatrescue.org or through mail HUCR, PO Box 731, Rocky Hill, CT 06067. You can email any questions to hucatrescue@gmail.com. Thank you!

Miranda is a lovely black and white, eight months old teenager. She is quite shy but does join the house and loves to explore. She has a very outgoing brother, Winston. He is one of a kind and likes to comfort Miranda. Please consider giving Winston and Miranda a home together for the Holidays. Please fill out an application for Lulu on our website at www.hucatrescue.org. Thank you!

Cookie is a stunning, exotic dark gray tabby. She's been waiting for a while for her forever home. She has gained confidence and is even more ready now to make a love connection. She is around two years old. Please fill out an application on our website at www.hucatrescue.org. Thank you!

ADOPT DOLLY. Dolly is a beautiful, two year old tuxedo. Dolly is searching for a rescue home because she is very shy. She needs patience, love and time to blossom. She is quite playful and would enjoy another cat, especially a fun loving male. Dolly also really likes dogs. Please fill out an application on our website at www.hucatrescue.org.

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.

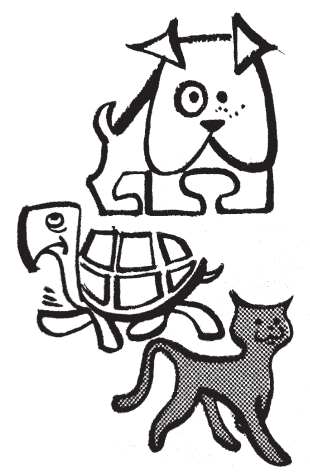
WHISKERS PET RESCUE: Is a no-kill animal welfare organization with an adoption center located in Bennett Square in Southbury. We are a non-profit charity made up entirely of volunteers committed to caring for animals who have been abandoned, injured, abused or neglected. Should you wish to adopt a whiskered 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!

ADOPT A NEW BEST FRIEND

ADOPT TIPPER. Tipper is a handsome, seven year old boy. He is searching for a new home because his mom is battling some health issues. Tipper is very sweet and friendly and loves to sit with you when you are watching TV. He is good with other cats and dogs. Tipper recently went to the vet for a wellness check-up and his blood work is all good. Won't you open your heart to this sweet mature boy? Please fill out an application on our website at www.hucatrescue.org.

Did you know?

Data from the ASPCA® indicates that roughly 6.3 million companion animals enter animal shelters in the United States each year. A nearly equal number of dogs (3.1 million) and cats (3.2 million) make up that population, and roughly two-thirds of those shelter animals are eventually adopted each year. But the landscape for shelter animals is fluid, and the first half of 2023 was proof of that. According to the Association for Animal Welfare Advancement, dog intakes at animal shelters had increased by 4 percent during the first two quarters of 2023 compared to the same period the year prior. During that same time, cat intakes had declined by roughly 1 percent. One possible reason for the higher intake of dogs is related to how prospective dog owners begin their search. A recent analysis of Google Trends found that the search term "buy a dog" is now as common as the term "adopt a dog." By choosing to adopt rather than buy a dog, prospective dog owners could save a dog's life and help often overburdened local adoption shelters looking to ensure dogs in their care end up in safe and happy homes.



Call the classifieds
860-563-9386

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.

POA

PET OF THE WEEK

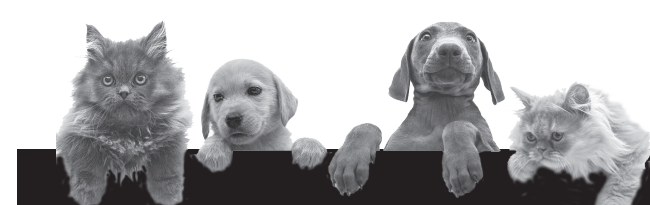
"A non-profit, all-volunteer animal rescue organization."

Ten-year-old Merlin didn't thrive in the shelter; there was a bit too much action, and let's face it-there's no room in a cat cubicle for a cushy loveseat. The shelter environment made him a little nervous, but he has shown himself to be a perfect, loving companion in a home. And while he is doing great in his foster home, we would like to get him a home of his very own.

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

Sweet doggy dreams?

It can be disconcerting to new dog owners when they discover their pooches whimpering, shaking or seemingly crying in their sleep. Although there may be some rare instances when this behavior is linked to pain and distress, by and large it is a natural response in many animals when they doze off. Although there is no exact way to measure what is going on in the pup's mind, experts like Dr. Bonnie V.G. Beaver, DVM, author of Canine Behavior Insights, says the main reason that dogs produce noises in their sleep is that they are probably dreaming during the REM phases in their sleep cycles. Dogs, just like humans, have the potential for vivid dreams while sleeping, as evidenced by looking at dogs' brain waves during REM sleep. During these phases, dogs may show movement like wagging their tails, twitching their paws, fluttering their jowels, or making noises like whimpers. In some cases, dogs also may bark while sleeping, says PetMD. Pet owners should rest assured that very likely these vocalizations and movements are completely normal. However, if they are new behaviors, it could be worth a discussion with a veterinarian. Also, new pet owners should know that a dog who makes noise while napping, may also do so during the night, and should not be overly concerned if they are woken from bed by pet noises. The general consensus is to simply let the pooch be as he or she works through those REM stages.



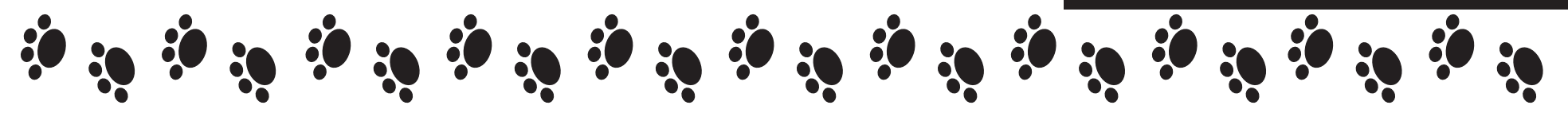
Want your pet to be featured on our pet page as the Pet of the Week?

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.





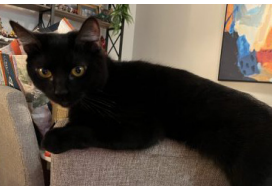
Names: **Nona**
 Gender: **Female**
 Breed: **DMH**
 Color: **Grey Tabby**
 Age: **7 years old**



Abigail was a great mommy to her babies and now is looking for a home of her own. She doesn't like to be picked up or held. Abigail loves to be petted once she knows and trusts you. Her favorite spot to be scratched is under her chin. Abigail has an old eye ulcer that has scar tissue on it, making her blind in that one eye. She is an independent kitty who would love to have a quiet home with a patient person who is willing to give her time to adjust. She is very calm and sweet. Please contact Cat Tales to adopt sweet Abigail today!

013025

No Dogs / No Children
Web: <http://www.CatTalesCT.org/cats/Abigail-2>
Phone: 860.344.9043
Email: info@CatTalesCT.org
Watch our TV commercial: <https://youtu.be/Y1MECIS4mlc>



Names: **Mazey**
 Gender: **Female**
 Breed: **DSH**
 Color: **Black**
 Age: **10 months old**



This is a courtesy posting. This cat is not fostered by Cat Tales. Contact the owner directly for more information.

Mazey is a calm, friendly, and very loving kitten who loves to be held and be with people (all ages) and other pets, both cats and dogs. Mazey is presently in a care situation where the foster is limited to the number of pets she can have in her apartment. So, she is looking for a permanent home for Mazey. Mazey is up-to-date with her vet visits and vaccines and scheduled for a spay surgery in early February. Mazey is an indoor-only cat, located in East Haddam, and must be re-homed by the end of February but after her spay surgery. To inquire about lovely little Mazey, please contact: elizabethirenesmith@outlook.com or phone/text: (315) 212-1104, <https://CatTalesCT.org/cats/Mazey/>

013025

ADOPT A NEW BEST FRIEND

Meet Shiloh!

This 14yo calico queen wants nothing more than to snuggle on your lap! She's friendly, social, and will meow at you for a "hello!" She would like to stay a single pet and queen of her castle! To learn more please contact Our Companions at



860.242.9999 Ext. 302

OurCompanions.org

Helpline@OurCompanions.org



Our Companions
 Animal Rescue & Sanctuary



Winnie is a pretty 6 month old female who was rescued by a family in Plainville who never gave up on her. She had been living under their deck for some time but it was impossible to get near her as long as she stayed in that location. But the family never gave up and Winnie is now available for adoption. If interested call AFOC at 860-693-0303 for more info.

013025

Did you know?

Millions of cats reside safely in people's homes, but many more are stray, outdoor cats that make their living quarters in any spots where they can find shelter. These outdoor cats also mate with one another, producing litter upon litter of kittens that quickly lead to overpopulation. The SPCA of York County says a single unspayed female cat can birth about 180 kittens in her lifetime, on average. Females have the potential to give birth three to four times per year. Outdoor cats can be nuisances in neighborhoods, digging, urinating or defecating in people's yards. They also may sleep under people's cars or close to the engine to stay warm, where they are vulnerable to injuries, accidents or even death. Stray cats also may get into tussles with domesticated pets, leading to other injuries. Controlling overpopulation of cats, which

may end up in shelters and other facilities, often comes down to sterilization. People who have cats as pets are urged to keep them indoors at all times and to spay or neuter them. In regard to feral or stray cats, the Humane Society of the United States suggests a solution of TNR: trap, neuter, return. TNR is a non-lethal way to deal with overpopulation to help improve the quality of life for cats. A growing number of animal welfare organizations have TNR programs and can connect people with the resources they need. To learn more about TNR and taming cat overpopulation, visit www.humanesociety.org.

Petfinder

Where Pets find their People
www.petfinder.com



Common pet poisons

- chocolate
- grapes/raisins
- xylitol (artificial sweetener)
- alcoholic beverages
- rodenticide
- acetaminophen/ibuprofen
- antifreeze
- macadamia nuts
- onions
- houseplants
- mushrooms
- aloe
- cleaning products
- avocado
- flower bouquets
- veterinary medicines (when eaten in bulk and not used as directed)
- recreational drugs

Anyone who suspects a dog has ingested something toxic can contact their veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at 888-426-4435 immediately.

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)

PET OF THE WEEK



Please send us your pet photo to sales@rarereminder.com

My Name Is: **Gracie**

My People Are: **Cameron**



Cromwell Human Services

Winter is here and we are in need of the following:

Pasta sauce (not pasta), canned tuna and chicken, chili, hash, beef stew, peanut butter. Any kind of non-perishable protein.



Cromwell Town Hall
41 West St. • Cromwell, CT
860-632-3449

Wethersfield UNICO Macaroni Dinner

The Wethersfield UNICO Macaroni Dinner returns for the 44th year on Sunday, February 16, 2024, from 11:30-4:00 at the Wethersfield Community Center on Pitkin Street. Our Annual Macaroni Dinner brings together hundreds of people to enjoy a traditional Italian Sunday dinner with homemade meatballs and sauce, salad, garlic bread, ice cream, and beverage. This event is our primary fundraiser and helps us to give back to the community through scholarships and grants. Tickets (\$17 for adults and \$8 for children 12 and under) can be bought through the mail (Wethersfield UNICO Dinner Tickets, P.O. Box 290370, Wethersfield, CT, 06129-0370) or at the door. A free shuttle will be available from the Greenfield Pool parking lot. Visit the Wethersfield UNICO Facebook or web page (wethersfieldunico.com) for updates and information about our chapter.

Thanks for reading the Rare Reminder.



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Dance with Power for Strength!

Every Tuesday from 6pm - 7pm at
Forward Approach Physical Therapy & Wellness
18 A Cedar Street, Newington

\$20 per class or for best deal get an Advance Pass.
(Adv Pass - pay \$90 in advance for 6 weeks with no expiration date!)

Call/Text or email to register: 860-834-0036
syncocize@gmail.com

New Age Fair

Sunday, Feb. 9, 10 AM - 4 PM.
30 Greenfield St., Wethersfield. Readings, vendors, lectures, Free admission. myasc.org 860-568-8617

Paint Party for Retirees

Newly Retired Women of Newington will host a paint party on Jan 31 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Any questions? Call/text Jean Henry at 860-920-9943. \$10/yr. You don't have to be from Newington to join!

Meals on Wheels Seeks Volunteers

You can help deliver meals to shut in seniors by donating your time for as little as two hours per week; or even per month. We are in dire need of senior volunteers to help deliver to our local sites in Cromwell, Portland, and East Hampton. Volunteer slots are 10:30 AM-12:30 PM. Contact Yahaira Santiago at santiagoya@crtct.org or 860-539-6233 for more info.

Get Help with Your Diploma

Having trouble finishing high school? Adult Education can help. We are an education alternative that works with your school district. We offer free high school completion programs, flexible scheduling, workforce opportunities and college and career services. Day, evening and online classes are available in Middletown and Old Saybrook. Call 860-343-6044 or visit www.maect.org for details.

Newington Senior Center St. Patrick' Day Bus Trip

Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at the Aqua Turf Club, Plantsville. Featuring the McLean Avenue Band & Irish Step Dancers. Register in person at the: Newington Senior & Disabled Center, 120 Cedar St., Newington, Monday & Tuesday 10:00 to 12:00, Thursday 11:15 to 12:45.

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

South Catholic Class Reunion

South Catholic Class of 1975: Save the Date. 50th Reunion 6/7/25. Request information and update contact info at schs1975reunion@gmail.com.

ALAN SOUCY HOME IMPROVEMENT: Let us give you a Free Estimate on your new Kitchen & Bath remodeling. BBB Alan 860-657-6462.

CUSTOM WOODWORKING MANTELS: Remodeling-Repairs. Custom Interior & Exterior woodworking Furniture repairs. Custom kitchens-Stocking Kitchens-Vanity's-Complete Bathrooms-Decks Widows. Exterior Interior doors. Entertainment centers. Tables Built Inns. CT License & Insured. Connecticut Fine Woodworking. Cromwell 860-613-0856.

CARPENTRY, WILL REPAIR & REPLACE: all types of woodwork. Replacement windows, interior/exterior trim, siding, new decks, decking, rails. Small jobs welcome. Licensed/Insured. Glastonbury resident since 1985. Call Tracy 860-922-9036.

CLEANING SERVICE: Call Monika. We are insured/bonded. Years of experience. We provide residential and offices. Call for estimate 860-890-7026.

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Call the classifieds
860-563-9386

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David Johnson | 860-667-0877
Newington

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Join Wethersfield Dollars for Scholars

Wethersfield Dollars for Scholars has been awarding scholarships to graduating seniors residing in Wethersfield, who are continuing their education at an accredited secondary school. Founded in 1975, volunteers have worked hard to help our town's students. To continue this great work, we need your assistance. We are looking for volunteers to join us in planning our annual golf outing, assist with our mailings, become a part of the scholarship selection process, plan our annual awards ceremony or assist with the long-term financial planning so Wethersfield Dollars for Scholars can continue to assist future students. If you are interested in becoming part of our organization, please call Mario Pace 860-748-0837.

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.wethersfield.me/our-town-social-justice.

College Scholarships for Women

Scholarships are available for women who are Connecticut residents enrolled in college or university in their junior or senior year matriculating for a bachelor's degree or a post-graduate degree. Funded by the General Federation of Women's Clubs of CT, the Mary Phipps and Dorothy Schoelzel scholarship application is available online. The deadline for applying is February 10. We encourage you to apply and look forward to receiving your application. To apply, go to gfwcct.org.

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.

RHHS Visitors Welcome

The Rocky Hill Historical Society welcomes visitors on Saturdays, 12:30-3:00 p.m. Special meetings can be arranged by calling 860-563-6704. We have over 400 years of Rocky Hill history accessible to visitors; we have docents who love a chance to share their enthusiasm over our community. We are a grateful part of the larger Rocky Hill community-come on down!

RN PRO PAINTING LLC: 30yrs. experience. Professional results, premium value, best painting contractor in the area. Interior & exterior. Call today, Rick at 860-810-2065.

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Visit us at www.rarereminder.com today!

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.

11/17/16

New Age Fair

Sunday, Feb. 9, 10 AM - 4 PM. 30 Greenfield St., Wethersfield. Readings, vendors, lectures, Free admission. myasc.org 860-568-8617

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

South Catholic Class Reunion

South Catholic Class of 1975: Save the Date. 50th Reunion 6/7/25. Request information and update contact info at schs1975reunion@gmail.com.

2003 CARGO TRAILER: Pace America Journey. 5'x8', decent condition. Sold as is, you take away. \$350. Call Rik 860-462-6863.

I PAY TOP: Cash for your Grandma's Costume & Fine Jewelry stash! Older & Newer jewelry and collectibles wanted, the good, the bad & the ugly! The more the better! Call for an appointment, I will come to you. 24 yrs exp. Call Julie Gorneault 203-443-9602.

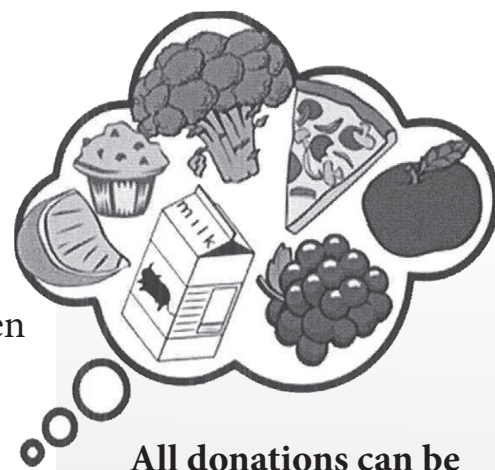
Thanks for reading the Rare Reminder.

Would you like to donate food to those in need?

The Wethersfield Food Bank is currently in need of the following items:

- Canned pasta
- Rice
- Cans of chunk chicken
- Jelly (plastic cans or bottles)
- Peanut butter
- Tuna in water
- Cans of fruit in 100% juice
- Low sodium soups
- Pasta sauce
- No-salt-added canned vegetables
- Granola bars
- Fresh produce
- Cereal
- Toilet paper
- Personal hygiene products (soap, shampoo, toothpaste)

Please visit our website for updates at www.wethersfieldct.com



All donations can be brought to the following locations:

Department of Social and Youth Services

505 Silas Deane Highway
M-F 8:00am to 4:30pm
860-721-2977

William Raveis Real Estate

990 Silas Deane Highway
M-F 9:00am to 5:00pm
Sa-Su 10:00am to 1:00pm
860-258-6202

First Church

250 Main Street
860-529-1575

Call today to place your ad, **860-563-9386** or log onto www.RareReminder.com

ROCKY HILL & WETHERSFIELD LOBBY DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Hosted by Representatives Kerry Wood and Amy Morrin Bello



State Representative **KERRY WOOD**



State Representative **AMY MORRIN BELLO**

Join us for coffee and pastries in the LOB at 11 AM and hear from legislators and lobbyists.

Listen to the Governor's budget address at noon in the House of Representatives.

Optional - Take a tour of the Capitol with the League of Women Voters

Wed. February 5th | 11AM

@ **CT STATE CAPITOL**
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ODD JOB HANDYMAN: Kitchens Bathrooms Basements Patios/Walkways. Decks/Stairs. Garages/Sheds Anything You Need; Installed, Assembled, Repaired, Replaced, Removed, Redesigned, Relocated. You Name It! Floors:Hardwood/Tile/Laminate. Doors:Garage/Shower/Storm/Interior/Exterior. Windows. Walls/Framing/Tile/Sheetrock.. Dump Runs. Moving. FACTOTUM: 860-667-1111, Brett.

GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS CAN HELP YOU: Take back your life. Phone 855-2-CALL-GA(855-222-5542) to speak with someone. Gamblers Anonymous is a nonprofit fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from a gambling problem. www.gamblersanonymous.org

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.

GARAGE DOORS: Garage door installation or repair. Garage door openers installed. Please call Gary Redekas (American Excellence LLC. License NHC0009766). 860-658-4504.

Thanks for
reading the
Rare
Reminder.

Free Friday Breakfast for Vets And First Responders

All veterans and first responders, the first Friday of every month, you are welcome to R.H. Methodist church (623 Old Main St.) to enjoy free breakfast, just for you. It's our way of saying thank you for your service.

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

Call the classifieds
860-563-9386

Volunteers in Psychotherapy

Volunteers In Psychotherapy allows you to earn strictly private therapy [no reports to insurers of your private discussions] in exchange for volunteer work you supply, privately and independently, for the charity of your choice. VIP's local service has been granted awards and funding from the Connecticut Psychological Association. Contact Dr. Shulman at (860) 233-5115, or learn more at www.CTVIP.org.

RH Historical Society Seeks Volunteers

The Rocky hill Historical Society is seeking volunteers to help in our mission to promote the history of Rocky Hill. Have some fun pursuing your personal interests under the guidance of our experienced RHHS members while learning about the town's history. We are looking for active members to contribute to the Society's continuing success. Contact us at info@hhistory@gmail.com or by 860-563-6704

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>.

H&H HOME IMPROVEMENT: Painting- interior and exterior. Wood floors and tiles, remodel kitchens and baths, decks and finished basements. Call Nick for Free Estimates at 860-983-1182.

Rare Reminder News & Events!!!

Email us today to place your ad,
communityevents@rarereminder.com

Be Part of Our Mature Living Section

Published the
third week of every month.

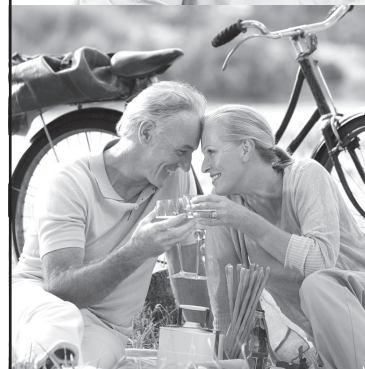
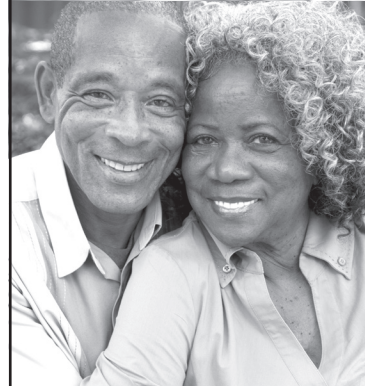
This is a great place to promote your business, reaching approximately 42,000 households in Newington, Wethersfield, Rocky Hill, Cromwell and the Westlake section of Middletown.

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RSVP READS Program

The RSVP READs Program is operated as a school-based program where volunteers are partnered with students in local elementary schools, providing reading guidance for one hour per week from October through May. RSVP READs tutors make reading interesting, fun, and act as positive role models, inspiring their students to read. No prior educational experience is required, just a love of reading and enjoying working with students ages 5-11. We will be operating in the following six (6) school districts for you to choose from: Berlin, Manchester, Portland, Southington, Vernon, and Wethersfield. Please contact Theresa Strong, RSVP Manager, to learn more. Email: strongt@crtct.org / Cell: (860) 519-3484.

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Mason Community Breakfast

The Newington Masons have a community breakfast the first Sunday of every month! Come join us. Price is just \$10,(\$5 for children) and includes eggs, bacon, sausage, homefries, pancakes, coffee, toast & juice and the "Surprise Special". The Mason hall is located at 80 Walsh Ave(behind CVS) . Breakfast is held from 7:30-11a.m.

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.wethersfield.me/our-town-social-justice.

Classifieds 860-563-9386

6th Annual Coffeehouse Concert

Cromwell Creative District, a local nonprofit that aims to support local business and revitalize downtown Cromwell, will hold its 6th annual coffeehouse on Saturday February 22 from 6-9pm. This event was started as a fundraiser for the organization- which is completely run by volunteers- as well as a way to showcase local talent. The coffeehouse on 2/22/25 will be held at the Cromwell Courtyard by Marriott at 4 Sebeth Drive in Cromwell. The three hour event will be split into three parts, beginning with a youth talent showcase; followed by performances of various local artists, singers, storytellers, dancers and musicians; and closing with two longer sets by popular local bands. The event has also been shifted from an afternoon time to the evening, and aims to be a "fun night out for a good cause." Your \$30 ticket will include hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, three hours of entertainment, a dance floor, and chances to win prizes. A cash bar will also be offered. Tickets for adults (age 16+) are \$25 in when purchased in advance. Children aged 15 and under are only \$10. Purchasing an entire table offers the best savings at \$200 for 10 seats! Visit Cromwell Creative District on Facebook to purchase tickets through the coffeehouse event page, or email cromwellcreativedistrict@gmail.com to purchase tickets.

UNICO Comedy Night

Wethersfield UNICO is holding their 8th Comedy Night featuring top comedians to raise money for local scholarships and charities. This year a portion of the proceeds will go to honor the late Wethersfield Fireman Robert Sharkevich. We have arranged with the Wethersfield Fire Department to pay for the cleaning of the Fireman's Memorial at Station No. 1 on Main Street and the engraving of Fireman Sharkevich on the memorial. This always fun event will be held at the Wethersfield Community Center (30 Greenfield St.) on Friday, January 24, 2025. Doors open at 6:00pm and the show starts at 8:00pm. Tickets are \$25 and tables of 8 can be reserved on a first come first served basis. This is a Bring your own snacks and drinks PG-13 event. Ice and coffee will be provided. For tickets go to www.funny4funds.com/events or email unicotomy@gmail.com. Over 1300 people have enjoyed the comedy night the last 7 years, don't miss out!

Health & Wellness Page

Are you a healthcare professional looking to advertise and let people know about your practice and the services you provide?

The Rare Reminder will next be publishing a monthly Health & Wellness Page on Thursday, Jan. 30.

- Attract new clients.
- Put your name out in the community and build greater awareness of your practice.
- Keep people informed of the services you provide.

All ads appear in all three zones of the Rare Reminder, reaching more than 41,000 homes in Newington, Wethersfield and Rocky Hill/Cromwell.

Publishing: Thursday, Feb. 27
Deadline: Friday, Feb. 21

To learn more about this special offer, call your representative at: 860.563.9386 or email sales@rarereminder.com

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Thanks for reading the Rare Reminder.

Friendship Force Seeks Members

Friendship Force Connecticut is active and traveling and accepting new members. Nairobi, Kenya will be sending ambassadors to stay with our club members next year! We have resumed full travel activities, as well as monthly group social activities (Kent Falls, Providence Gondola rides, Culinary Inst of Amer, CT Antique Machinery Museum, and many others this year). Our members travelled to Cornwall, UK this last year, where we stayed in the homes of the host club members and explored castles, bio domes and the Lost Gardens of Heligan, while sharing meals with the local residents. In May 2024, we hosted ambassadors from Niagara, Canada and showed them the wonders of our state, including Yale, the Pequot Museum, wineries and other local favorites. Later, in August, we travelled to Santa Barbara, followed by a road trip to San Francisco, staying in host homes of both cities. For more information about our chapter and on how you can join, visit facebook.com/ffconnecticut.org, email ffconnecticut@gmail.com or go to friendshipforce.org.

RH Historical Society Seeks Volunteers

The Rocky hill Historical Society is seeking volunteers to help in our mission to promote the history of Rocky Hill. Have some fun pursuing your personal interests under the guidance of our experienced RHHS members while learning about the town's history. We are looking for active members to contribute to the Society's continuing success. Contact us at info@hhistory@gmail.com or by 860-563-6704

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For information about disaster preparedness literature and presentations visit www.PrepareForLife.org or contact your local Red Cross chapter.

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SPORTS

CORNER



Cromwell High School's Vaughn Payne is defended by Portland High School's Frederick Bailey during the Panthers 55-53 double overtime victory in Portland on Jan. 21.



CHS freshman Xavler Hodge scored a team-high 17 points in the win over the Highlanders, improving the Panthers to 8-3 this winter.

Panthers Basketball Survives Scare in Portland

By Josh Howard

Following 40 hectic minutes on the hardwood, Cromwell High School boys hoops escaped Portland High School with a 55-53 double overtime victory over the host Highlanders on Jan. 21.

The Shoreline Conference (SLC) foes needed every minute of regulation and the two overtime periods to determine the outcome as CHS senior Vaughn Payne drained a pair of free throws in the waning seconds of the second overtime before a desperation shot from Portland's Aidan Peterson came up short.

Payne said he was "focused" when he stepped to the line before sinking what turned out to be a pair of game-winning freebies.

"We trust each other a lot to get stops and make shots, so basically it was a team effort,"

noted Payne. "Give credit to all my guys in the locker room, they did a great job out there."

Xavler Hodge led the Panthers in scoring with 17 points, while Payne added 14 and sophomore Brennan Kulpa chipped in with 13 points.

Things got dramatic in the end, but early on it looked like Cromwell would have their way with the Highlanders. A minute into the game, Payne stole a pass and hammered down a breakaway dunk to get the ball rolling as the Panthers jumped out to a 12-2 lead after the first six minutes.

Cromwell maintained a double-digit advantage throughout a majority of the game and a layup from Payne early in the fourth put the Panthers up 37-26.

But the pesky Highlanders closed regulation on an 11-2 run behind six points from Peterson, who hit a spinning layup off glass to tie the game with 0.6 seconds on the clock.

Peterson, a senior, finished the night with a game-high 24 points (20 coming after the halftime break).

Hodge scored six points in the first overtime, including a tough bank shot to put the Panthers up 46-43 with under a minute to play before Portland's Aaron Ciarleglio was fouled while shooting a three-pointer with 0.4 on the clock. Ciarleglio drained all three free throws to send the game into a second overtime session.

A layup from Hodge gave Cromwell a 52-47 edge in the second overtime, but again the Highlanders had an answer as senior Frederick Bailey drained a pair of triples before Payne put the finishing touches on the game with his pair of clutch free throws.

"These games certainly help build confidence," Payne said of the conference win. "Especially these hard games; they help us prep our minds that we can come back and keep pushing through."

CHS head coach John Pinone was impressed with the resiliency of Portland — who were without senior starter Nico Oliva for the game — but Pinone was not pleased with his own team's performance.

"Like I've been saying since day one, we're not very smart," he expressed. "We beat ourselves and we continue to do it, but this time we got lucky."

The win improved the Panthers to 8-3

overall, but Pinone added that in each of the first 11 games the Panthers have not put together a complete performance.

"All the games we've lost and even the games we won and we still haven't learned yet," the veteran coach added. "It's frustrating from a coaching perspective that we are still making the same mistakes we made in the first game."

Pinone's squad is aiming for an unprecedented fourth straight SLC title this season, winning the last three behind the all-state play of Victor Payne (Vaughn Payne's older brother) — who is now playing at Saint Francis University.

The challenge this season is combining the experienced players on the court with a future of the program, that include starting underclassmen Hodge (a freshman) and Kulpa (a sophomore). Sophomore Benjamin Burdick is also playing a sixth man role for the Panthers.

Vaughn Payne said Hodge has done well stepping into his older brother's role, adding that the senior-freshman duo had a bond prior to the season.

"We knew each other before the season started, so chemistry was pretty good," Payne added.

Three days after the win in Portland, the Panthers dropped to 8-4 following a (59-57) home loss to Old Lyme.

Cromwell next welcomes Haddam Killingworth to CHS this Friday, Jan. 31. Tip-off is 7 p.m.

The Starting Five - Athletes of the Week

By Josh Howard

Kayln Reynolds - Newington High School (Ice Hockey): Reynolds, a senior from NHS who plays on the Nighthawks ice hockey co-op, had a memorable two-game stretch last week. Reynolds tallied her 100th career point — dishing out a pair of assists — during the team's 3-2 victory over Woodstock Academy on Jan. 24 and the following night she registered her first career hat trick, scoring three goals in the Nighthawks 7-1 defeat of Daniel Hand. The pair of wins improved the Nighthawks to 9-5-1 and they next host Guilford on Saturday, Feb. 1 at 7 p.m.

Alexander Ahrens and Jack Simmons - Wethersfield High School (Swimming): Ahrens and Simmons, both senior captains, helped lead the Eagles to victory over Conard on Jan. 7. It avenged last season's loss to the Red Wolves of Conard High School, which was the Eagles' only loss of 2023-24 season. Ahrens won the 200 Freestyle (1:49.19) and 500 Freestyle (5:03.73), and Simmons won the 50 Freestyle (24.17) and 100 Breaststroke (1:06.60). Simmons also spearheaded a 1-2-3 sweep of the 50 free, along with seniors Joe Andino (24.27) and Broden Wilhelm (24.42) in an event that set the tone for the meet. Ahrens, Andino, and Wilhelm then teamed up with senior captain Paolo Pirota to win the 200 Freestyle Relay (1:36.20). Simmons, Andino, and Pirota also teamed up with sophomore Cooper Schwartzman to win the 200 Medley Relay (1:45.92). Schwartzman also won the 100 Backstroke (59.09), and freshman Zachary Stergiotis won the 100 Butterfly (57.48).

Peyton Kelleher - Cromwell High School (Basketball): Kelleher scored a career-high 30 points as the Panthers beat the High-

landers from Portland High School, 69-38, on Jan. 21. Kelleher, a sophomore, added a game-high 10 rebounds and 5 steals as the Panthers also got 16 points from freshman Chloe Crawford to seal the victory. Entering the week, Cromwell stood at 7-7 and will next travel to Haddam-Killingworth for a conference clash on Friday, Jan. 31 at 7 p.m.

Olivia Hopkins - Rocky Hill High School (Wrestling): Hopkins won a gold at the Queen of the Hill Tournament at Rocky Hill High School on Jan. 26. Hopkins, a senior, won a decision over Evelyn Lavigne of Daniel Hand to take first place in the 138-lbs bracket as the Terriers hosted the two-day long tournaments that also featured the boys' annual Doc Meyers Tournament on Jan 25.

Justin Bonfiglio - Wethersfield (Ice Hockey): Bonfiglio netted a hat trick, scoring three goals as the Eagles blanked the Newington co-op 5-0 on Jan. 25. Bonfiglio, a senior, led an offensive charge that also got goals from Nick Frentz and Ryan Socha. Cam Sharkevich dished out three assists, while Frentz added two helpers. It marked the second straight game that the Eagles tallied a handful of goals, beating Glastonbury 5-2 on Jan. 22 behind a goal apiece from Frentz, Socha, Sharkevich, Will Morgan, and Tyler Giangrave. Entering the week, Wethersfield stands a 7-2-2 and next travels to North Branford to play a game on Saturday, Feb. 1 at 8 p.m.

To nominate an athlete for The Starting Five or with sports-related comments, email josh-howardsports@gmail.com. Please include as many details as possible, including any statistics or additional information about the athlete.



Kayln Reynolds, a senior at Newington High School scored her 100th career point and netted a hat trick last week Nighthawks ice hockey.



WETHERSFIELD UNICO IS PROUD TO PRESENT

OUR 44TH ANNUAL FAMOUS MACARONI DINNER
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 16TH, 2025
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11:30 AM UNTIL 4:00 PM
WETHERSFIELD COMMUNITY CENTER
30 GREENFIELD ST, WETHERSFIELD, CT



TICKETS ARE \$17 FOR ADULTS AND \$8 FOR CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER
KIDS 5 AND UNDER FREE
TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT THE DOOR OR IN ADVANCE



PROCEEDS FROM THE EVENT GO DIRECTLY TO COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS, SELECT CHARITIES AND SCHOLARSHIPS FOR LOCAL STUDENTS

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Newington Fundraising Program

Every month, a local non-profit or civic group enrolls to be the recipient of the cans and bottles that are donated to the new shed located in the back gravel parking lot at Churchill Park. Throughout the month, volunteers from the organization return the cans and bottles to generate revenue for their group. We would like to give your organization a specific month to benefit from the profits of the donated cans and bottles. All you have to do is bring the bags of donations to a local return center and they will pay you based on the weight of the bags. No sorting necessary! For those of you who haven't yet brought their cans and bottles to the shed, the Newington Parks and Recreation Department strongly encourages you to make a New Year's Resolution and drop off bags of bottles and cans to help out these non-profit organizations in town. If you are in a local non-profit organization and are interested in receiving donations, all you have to do is call the Parks and Recreation office at 860-665-8666 for more details. Remember, with Newington Parks and Recreation, we are building a strong community.

College Scholarships for Women

Scholarships are available for women who are Connecticut residents enrolled in college or university in their junior or senior year matriculating for a bachelor's degree or a post-graduate degree. Funded by the General Federation of Women's Clubs of CT, the Mary Phipps and Dorothy Schoelzel scholarship application is available online. The deadline for applying is February 10. We encourage you to apply and look forward to receiving your application. To apply, go to gfwcct.org.

Help Our Concert Series!

Concerts at Church of Christ, Congregational are free admission, but we fund them through donations by the audiences and generous annual donors. You may send a check to the church (Church of Christ, Congregational, 1075 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111) or leave it in the offering plate. Please make a note on your check ("concert series"). You can also donate at newingtonucc.org.

Church Bells Play Dedications

Church of Christ, Congregational, located in the center of Newington, is requesting song dedications from the community. The church carillon, which plays a variety of music throughout the year, is a mellifluous addition to the town's ambience. The carillon has a library of over 2,000 songs--both sacred and secular. The church welcomes your song requests. For a donation of \$100, you can choose the hymn or songs you would like to hear each Sunday for a month. Some people honor their parents or spouse during their anniversary month. If you would like to request a song, or have questions, please contact Michelle Dixon at the church. (860) 666-4689 officeadmin@newingtonucc.org.

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.

MILE Lifelong Education Program

Middletown-Registration for MILE the Lifelong Education program at Middlesex Community College for age 50+ adults is starting now. Classes are taught by local college professors, entrepreneurs, and those of the public who would like to share their knowledge with the group. The Winter session takes place every Wednesday during the month of January via ZOOM presentations. The Spring Semester starts on March 11, 2025, through April 24, 2025. It is held in person at the College in Middletown on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1:30-3:30pm. Wednesday afternoons we offer ZOOM presentations from 1:30-3:00pm. Visit our website to get more information on classes, schedules and course descriptions, as well as to find our registration form. You can reach us at <http://www.mileonline.org> or leave a message at (860) 343-5863.

RHHS Project Graduation Fundraiser

Join Psychic Medium Angelina Diana in the RHHS auditorium February 27 for an evening of inspiration and connection. Since 2001, she has brought hopeful messages and supportive guidance through her readings. Experience random readings, learn how to connect, and Q&A. All proceeds go to RHHS 2025 Project Graduation. Attendance is \$45 per ticket. Doors open 6:15 PM, event begins at 7 PM. For details, email RHHSClass2025@gmail.com.



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- Mi Nina **Tortilla Chips** (12oz - all flavors) **\$4.99**
- Progresso **Italian Flavored Breadcrumbs** (15oz) **\$1.99**
- Anna **Imported Pasta** (16oz - regular cuts) **\$1.79**



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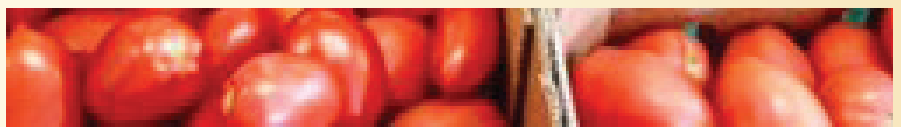
- Land O'Lakes **Butter** (1lb - regular or unsalted) **\$3.99**
- Hood **Sour Cream** (16oz) **\$1.99**
- Tropicana **Orange Juice** (46oz) **\$3.99**



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Sale Dates: January 30, 2025 - February 5, 2025