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Vol. 71, No. 11 March 14, 2024

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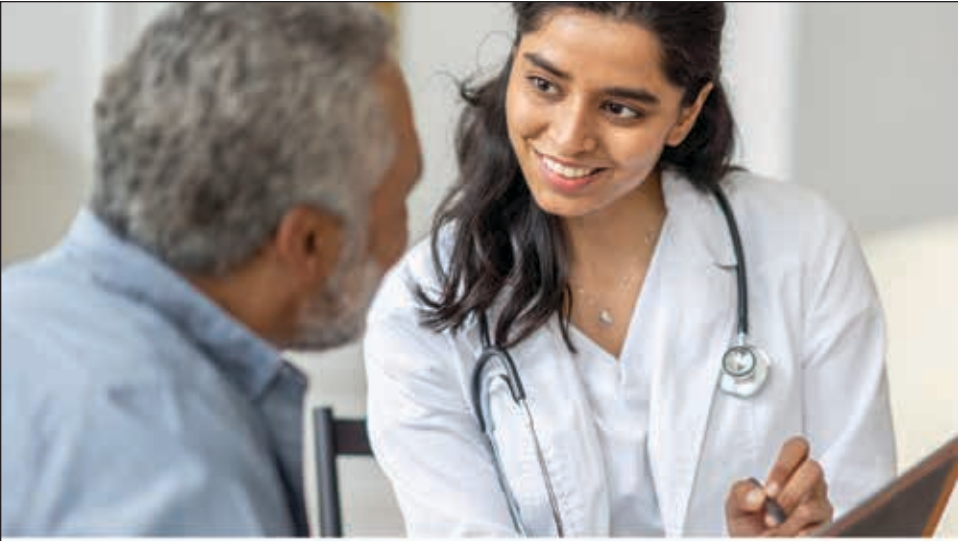
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## ‘Descendants the Musical’

The Newington Children’s Theatre Company, Connecticut’s longest-running nonprofit children’s theatre, presents Disney’s “Descendants the Musical,” March 13-24. The production features eight casts, including more than 160 children from 24 towns, ranging in age from 5 to 14, offering 16 performances at John Wallace Middle School, 71 Halleran Drive, Newington. Showtimes and tickets are available at [www.nctcarts.org](http://www.nctcarts.org). Ticket prices are \$10-\$16 in advance and \$12-\$18 at the door. More information is available at [nctcarts.org](http://nctcarts.org), with regular updates on NCTC’s Facebook page, @NCTCArts, and Instagram page, @nctcarts.

## Rocky Hill Farmers Market

Rocky Hill Farmers Market is moving to Tuesdays!! We’re on the lookout for farmers, artisans and young entrepreneurs to join us. Let’s unite in supporting our local community! Mark these dates in your calendar: 7/9, 7/16, 7/23, 7/30 & 8/13. All markets will take place at Elm Ridge Park (376 Elm Street) from 4-7 p.m. For more information please call the Parks & Recreation Department (860) 258 2772.

## CT DoAg Website for Farmers

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (CT DoAg) announces the launch of a new website, [CTFarmStressRelief.com](http://CTFarmStressRelief.com), a compilation of mental health resources for those who make Connecticut’s agriculture industry work, including a free and confidential 24/7 crisis and support line through AgriStress Helpline Connecticut. The line is staffed by agricultural specialists who can be reached by calling or texting 833-897-2474.

## 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.

## 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](http://www.wps.wethersfield.me/our-town-social-justice).

## AARP Free Tax Prep Assistance

AARP Tax-Aide, a free program, provides income tax preparation assistance for low and middle-income taxpayers of all ages, with special attention to those 60 and older. If married, both husband and wife should be present during an income tax counseling session. Taxpayers must bring all information and documents received that apply to their 2023 income taxes, including copies of all 2023 state/federal income tax forms; all income reports (1099 Forms) received for pensions, social security, interest/dividends, wages or any other income; all documents that relate to deductible expenses, social security numbers and identification for all household members. The Wednesday sessions will commence on January 31 and end on April 10, 2024. Counselors will assist taxpayers only on those topics for which they have been trained and the program permits. Where tax returns are outside the scope of their training, counselors will refer taxpayers to a paid tax preparer. Interpreters are not on location for assistance. To schedule an appointment with a certified Tax-Aide counselor call the Wethersfield Social & Youth Services office at 860-721-2880. If Wethersfield Public School classes are cancelled due to the weather, the Tax-Aide session is to and a new appointment must be obtained.

## Friends of the Wethersfield Library Raffle

For their Spring Raffle Fundraiser, The Friends of the Wethersfield Library have prepared “A Cooler of Summer Fun.” We have stuffed a 36-quart rolling Igloo Cooler with over \$250 worth of gift certificates and summertime items. One of the gift certificates is a \$100 Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Department certificate that can be used for any of their programs – camps, pool pass, exercise, etc. Two more are from popular local favorites Main Street Creamery and Village Pizza. The Cooler also contains two large beach towels, sun block, some great summer reads for kids and grown-ups, plus two jigsaw puzzles. Tickets are \$5, and only 200 will be sold. All proceeds will go to support Library programs. You can view the Cooler and purchase your tickets at the Library starting March 1 and ending April 8.

## NARFE Meeting

The first meeting of Narfe will be held at the Solomon Wells House, 220 Hartford Ave. Wethersfield, on March 20 starting at 1:30. Mara Logan from Neptune Cremation Services will give a presentation on prepaid services. This meeting is open to all.

## American Legion

### Post 117 Meeting

The American Legion Post 117 at 294 Willard Ave. Newington will hold our next meeting on Tuesday, March 19th at 6:30 PM. We welcome all military past and present interested in learning the benefits of membership.

## 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](http://www.carshelpingtheblind.org). 12/30/15

## 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

## Monthly First

### Friday Breakfasts

The Rocky Hill United Methodist Church, 623 Old Main Street, is celebrating all veterans and first responders with a free breakfast from 9 to 11. Welcome back.

## Rocky Hill High School 50th

### Reunion

Seeking Rocky Hill High 1975 class members for a 50th reunion in 2025. Contact Laurette Pellerin at [islandogmom3@charter.net](mailto:islandogmom3@charter.net) for details.

## Easter Season

### Pierogi Sale

Holy Trinity Church, 200 Summer St, Plantsville will be selling Pierogi for the Easter Season (Cheese, Sauerkraut, Sweet Cabbage, and Potato. \$15.00 per dozen. Call Kathy to order at 860-977-5010.

## Meals on Wheels

### Volunteers

### Needed

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

## Senior Center

### Gift Cards

Available for the holidays! Purchase a Gift Certificate good towards all of our senior activities, classes, special events, the fitness center... even our Lunch Programs! This is a practical and perfect holiday gift for family and friends!

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# What's Happening Rocky Hill & Cromwell?

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call 860-563-9386 to submit news, photos,  
announcements or any upcoming events.

## Cromwell Lions Invite Others to Join Walk for Sight Event

By Nicole Zappone  
Staff Writer

CROMWELL - In April, the Lions Club of Eastern Connecticut will hold its annual "Lion's Journey for Sight Walkathon," which will take place on Saturday, April 27, at McCook Park and Niantic Boardwalk.

"This will be our 29th year for having such an event," Cromwell Lion President Lisa Klein said.

Presently, there are 55 Lions Clubs in the Eastern CT district and 11 Leo Clubs (the youth arm of Lions Clubs) who will be participating in the fundraiser.

"The walk-a-thon will benefit not only our communities but many of the Lion's projects, including Lions Clubs International Foundation, the Connecticut Lions Eye Research Foundation

(CLERF), diabetes research, donations to food banks, guide dogs for the blind, the Lions Low Vision Center of Eastern Connecticut, Camp Rising Sun for children with cancer, and a myriad of local charitable organizations," Klein said.

According to Klein, the walk-a-thon raised over \$19,450, and this year's goal is to increase that amount to around \$20,000, which is 20% more than last year.

"Last year, we had approximately 72 participants and would like to increase that to 100," Klein said. "The more, the merrier. It's a beautiful walk."

All of all the money raised is donated to charities. In the past, the group has received \$35,000 in donations.

According to Klein, other non-profit organiza-

tions can participate to raise funds for their own, as they will only need to contact their local Lions Club. They get to keep 50% of the proceeds that their members raise, while the other 50% goes toward District charities.

Who can participate?

All Lions and Leo Clubs, their families, friends, and anyone else can join. Lions Clubs can invite groups such as Project Graduation, Scouts, sports groups, senior center, Rotary Clubs, and any other group who would like to walk to benefit a Lions Club for a 50% split of the proceeds.

When will this take place?

The walk-a-thon will take place on Saturday, April 27, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Typically the

last walkers start by 11:30 a.m. The walk-a-thon will take place rain or shine.

Check-in points will be set up along the route with refreshments along the way. Lunch will be provided to all participants after the walk.

Where will the walk take place?

The walk will begin at McCook Point Park in Niantic where you will register at the pavilion and then proceed along the path to the Niantic Boardwalk, which is a level walkway that is wheelchair accessible.

Anyone interested in walking, should reach out to the Cromwell Lions Club on Facebook, email [cromwellclionsclub@gmail.com](mailto:cromwellclionsclub@gmail.com), or by calling Lisa Klein at 760-258-7131.

## Chorus Accepting Applications For College Scholarships

The executive board of the Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords is accepting applications for its annual scholarships to be awarded to students from Middlesex County graduating seniors pursuing a career in nursing or music.

Applicants must have been accepted at an accredited college or university. The review committee will consider academic records, extra-curricular and community service activities, the

student's ability to articulate his/her career goals and the recommendations of references.

The \$1500 scholarships will be paid directly to the recipients at the spring concert at Portland High School, Saturday, May 4 at 7 p.m.

Applications are available on our website, [vocalchords20.org](http://vocalchords20.org), or at your school guidance office. Applications must be submitted by March 15.

## Local Arts Group Accepting Scholarship Applications

CROMWELL - Are you interested in trying something new? Does your child want to take dance or theater? Are you a college student who is studying the arts? Are you a senior member of the community who wishes to participate in arts related activities?

Once again this year, the Cromwell Arts Alliance will be accepting applications for the Cromwell Arts Alliance Scholarship!

The Cromwell Arts Alliance recognizes the importance of art in the community, as well as the importance of education to help to develop the skills and interest of artists, whether they are established artists, or budding artists. To that end, the CAA annually awards a \$500 educational scholarship to artists who desire to learn new things or strengthen existing skills.

Scholarships are awarded to at least one Cromwell resident who wishes to further their skills or knowledge of the Arts, and the scholarship must be used for a course or class related to literary, performing, visual or technical arts.

Courses may be taken at a college/university, community college, continuing or adult education program, a local arts business or another similar program.

The scholarship is open to anyone ten years of age or older at the time of application. Applications are due by April 20.

More information and the application can be found on our website: [www.cromwellartsalliance.org](http://www.cromwellartsalliance.org).

Please email [cromwellartsalliance@gmail.com](mailto:cromwellartsalliance@gmail.com) with any questions.

## UNICO AWARDS

Attention Wethersfield and Rocky Hill residents who are High School Students graduating in 2024. The Wethersfield Chapter of UNICO Awards are now available. They include our Book Awards; Brian Piccolo Award and Tony DiCicco Award. Book Award application forms have been forwarded to the Guidance Offices at Wethersfield High School, Rocky Hill High School, Xavier High School, Mercy High School and East Catholic High School. Application forms for the Brian Piccolo and the Tony DiCicco Awards have been forwarded to the Athletic Offices of Wethersfield High School, Rocky Hill High School, Xavier High School, Mercy High School and East Catholic High School. Copies can also be downloaded from the UNICO Website [wethersfieldunico.com](http://wethersfieldunico.com); Wethersfield UNICO Facebook page or by contacting UNICO Scholarship Chairman at [tonymartinojr@yahoo.com](mailto:tonymartinojr@yahoo.com).

[ymartinojr@yahoo.com](mailto:ymartinojr@yahoo.com).

Book Awards winners are selected based on three (criteria's) criteria that are weighted equally: Academics; Financial Need and Outside Activities. The Brian Piccolo Award is given to an Athlete who played any sport that portrayed the qualities of Brian Piccolo. The Tony DiCicco Award is given to a soccer player who portrayed the qualities of Tony DiCicco. The Brian Piccolo Award is the only award that requires the individual have some Italian ancestry per our National Rules. There are multiple Book Awards issued but only one Piccolo Award and DiCicco Award Winner. Students who are eligible can apply for all three awards.

Competed applications are to be mailed to our Scholarship Chairman, Tony Martino, and must be postmarked by March 16, 2024.

## Senator Lesser Approves \$17m To Extend Heating Assistance Programs

HARTFORD, CT — Today, State Senator Matt Lesser led debate that unanimously approved \$17 million to supplement dwindling federal funding for heating assistance for Connecticut residents through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Operation Fuel. There are over 70,000 households currently enrolled in these programs, and as of today, over 16,600 fuel delivery households, the vast majority of households receiving delivered fuels, had exhausted their LIHEAP benefits.

"It is 21 degrees outside, there is still a lot of winter left and we can't ask Connecticut families to wait one more minute for help from Washington," said State Senator Matt Lesser. "Despite strong support from Connecticut's delegation, Speaker Mike Johnson and the U.S. House majority have failed to deliver funding for families and seniors in New England. Low-income families here are stuck on as little as \$180 of assistance for the entire winter. I have been working on this issue since the fall, and while I am pleased that the legislature has acted to bridge the funding gap, we need to find a long term solution, because leaving our residents out in the cold is simply not an option."

The \$17 million will be allocated from federal

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. \$13.5 million will go to the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP), which is administered by the Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) and distributes federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds. An additional \$3.5 million will go to the non-profit Operation Fuel for home fuel delivery.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps keep families warm through initiatives that assist families with energy costs. LIHEAP provides federally funded assistance to reduce the costs associated with home energy bills, energy crises, weatherization, and minor energy-related home repairs. Operation Fuel is a Hartford-based nonprofit that provides year-round emergency energy assistance to low-to moderate-income households across Connecticut in collaboration with a statewide network of local fuel banks.

While LIHEAP is traditionally fully funded by the federal government, funds were increased significantly during fiscal years 2021 and 2022 in response to the pandemic. Republicans in Congress have since rolled back funding despite increased demand.

## Construction Work Progressing At Town's New Middle School

By Nicole Zappone  
Staff Writer

CROMWELL - Construction on the Cromwell Middle School continues, and a groundbreaking ceremony took place on Wednesday, Feb. 21.

The ceremony included remarks from Rosanna Glynn, chair of the Cromwell Middle School Building Committee, and speeches from Dr. Enza Macri, superintendent of Cromwell Public Schools, Ann Cocchiola, principal of Cromwell Middle School; and Mayor James Demetriades.

Groundbreaking attendees included State Sen. Matt Lesser, State Rep. Christine Carpino, Celina Kelleher, chair of the Board of Education; and student representatives.

"The project broke ground in February and construction is progressing," Building Committee Chair Rosanna Glynn said. "Classes are expected to take place in the new building for the 2025-2026 school year."

Glynn added that after the move is complete, the old school will be taken down and the site work completed.

According to Glynn, this is expected to take approximately six months.

The project is expected to be completed in Fall 2025.

"The theme of my comments was that 'it takes a village.' It takes a village to undertake and complete a project like this, this is a historic investment in our students and in public education," Mayor Demetriades said.

According to Demetriades, the project required two referendums, the first of which the town's residents voted in June 2022 with overwhelming support. The referendum vote then proceeded with the project, passing 970 to 231.

In May 2023, a referendum vote appropriated additional funds to this project, passing 693 to 389.

The second referendum approved the final \$72.6 million figure. Of this figure, the state will reimburse 49.64% of eligible costs.

"This building will be a STEAM focused school, Steam standards for Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics," Demetriades said. "By focusing on these subjects and having robotic labs, computer classrooms, and improved classroom spaces our students will be better prepared for the challenges of tomorrow."

Some unique features of the school include the building being net zero-ready. The building will feature an electric heating and cooling system for classrooms and smaller spaces. It will have a central ventilation system for larger spaces that uses a very efficient gas boiler plant for heating.

This can be back-fed with an all-electric heat pump and hot water plant. The project will plan for future solar panels on the roof that will offset the school's electric energy use.

## Al-Anon Family Groups Convention

Al-Anon Family Groups (AFG) of Connecticut will hold its 46th annual Convention at the Sheraton Hartford South Hotel (100 Capital Boulevard, Rocky Hill, CT.) on March 16-17th beginning at 8am. Al-Anon/Alateen Family Groups is a fellowship of relatives and friends whose lives have been affected by someone else's drinking. We help each other by sharing our experience, strength and hope in order to solve our common problems. Join us for two days of amazing speak-

ers (some in Spanish), meetings on various topics, workshops, raffles and hospitality room activities. Walk-in registration is \$35 for adults and \$5 for teens. With preregistration a banquet meal is offered for additional cost. Note that Alateen participants must complete information forms that can be found on the 2024 AFG Convention website. For details, please go to <https://www.ctalanon.org/convention>.

Thank you for reading the Rare Reminder.





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announcements or any upcoming events.

## Regional Health District Focuses On Prevention, Promotion, Protection

By Joan Hunt  
Staff Writer

ROCKY HILL - There are 20 regional health districts in the state, and when things are going well most people don't think too much about that. That's why Charles Brown, director of the Central Connecticut Health District, of which Wethersfield is a part, was asked to give the Town Council an update during its March 4 meeting.

The district includes Rocky Hill, Berlin and Newington, in addition to Wethersfield, and its headquarters is in Rocky Hill. They employ 15 full-time employees and more than 50 professional volunteers.

"The purpose of a health district is to prevent epidemics, protect against environmental hazards and injuries, to encourage healthy behaviors, respond to disasters, and assure quality and availability of health services," said Brown. "That's a lot, on a good day."

"We also assist communities in recovery, and

we are still in that mode right now, after the pandemic," he said.

"I am very pleased to be able to say we have a full-time epidemiologist on our staff right now," said Brown.

"We have a weekly epidemiology report on our website with information that we are happy to share with our towns and their leaders so they can make appropriate decisions," he added.

This information includes five-year trends and mental health data, in addition to other things like sexually-transmitted infections, opioid use, food-borne and tick-borne illnesses, and more.

"Our public health nurse works with school nurse supervisors in all four towns to define what it is to have an outbreak within the schools. Our environmental health division does more than 1500 food service, temporary event, septic, pool, motel/hotel and salon inspections annually," he said.

Besides doing plan reviews, looking at permits and inspections for septic systems and water supply wells, in 2022 they responded to 223 complaints. In these situations, they work with the state's Attorney's office and the state Department of Public Health to deal with complex issues such as housing and hoarding issues, which can be complicated.

On the promotion side, Brown said that a few years ago they brought the town planners, town managers and leaders in the four communities together to talk about how they could encourage more active living.

"That really sparked something," he said. "And it took hold here in Wethersfield before anywhere else. Your Bike/Walk Wethersfield helped to embark a complete streets policy," he said.

"So policies got enacted, and from there grants got put in, and we are actually starting to see the fruit of that labor come back to the communities," said Brown. "It is really exciting from a public health standpoint to see communal learning come back into the policies that are going to effect the communities for much more than the foreseeable future," he added.

Coming up is the "Walk This Way" walking competition during the month of May. Residents of all four towns can register to record their steps during the month.

"We have a big trophy with about a size 13

shoe on top," said Brown. "It's ugly, but it is something you want to adorn your trophy case with because that means that you had the most steps within the month of May. We have anywhere from 400 to 600 residents that participate in this competition every year," he said.

A more serious issue, the opioid crisis, is one of the response areas that the health district is working on. "We currently have work groups addressing prevention, response and recovery," said Brown. He reported that they have received an additional grant and are working with Hartford to see how they can be more efficient in targeting the activities of recovery coaches and others dealing with people trying to recover from opioid addiction.

The district also operates a "Putting on Airs" program for people with asthma. "An educator and an environmental specialist go to the homes of people who are referred to us by medical providers to create an asthma action plan," he explained. They also inspect the home for triggers and to reduce possible allergens that contribute to the disease.

Another part of their work is to help with immunizations, and they were very active when the pandemic hit because they were already organized for that purpose.

For more information go to [www.cthd.org](http://www.cthd.org)

## Group's Coffeehouse A Successful Event

By Katie Daigle, Chairperson

Cromwell Creative District

CROMWELL - On Saturday, Feb. 24, the Belden Room at the Cromwell Public Library was once again filled to standing room only by the Cromwell Creative District Coffeehouse.

With local performers of all ages, including students from Cromwell's Company 'n Tempo and Middlefield's Independent Day School, to a band of Covenant Living employees and residents, and a pianist who described himself as the "eldest of the elderly," it was an afternoon to be remembered. Lively music, comedic storytelling, even a performance of Diablo (a large yoyo) tricks, this was a celebration of the arts and talent present within our community. The afternoon was made even sweeter with delicious refreshments and a host of raffle prizes including gift baskets and gift certificates donated by many of the local businesses #inthedistrict

and within the larger community.

A fundraiser for CCD, this year's coffeehouse was sponsored by three businesses, and CCD would like to thank them once again: Pete's Cleaning, Liberty Bank, and Jefferson Fry Co. All proceeds from this event will go directly into efforts to carry out CCD's mission.

CCD would like to thank everyone who attended, the volunteers who made this event happen, Mr. AJ Cortes of Cromwell Dunkin Donuts for donating the coffee for the event, Mayor James Demetriades for his attendance and support, and Channel 3's Mike Slifer for emceeding the event. CCD is appreciative of the library for allowing the use of their space for the second year in a row, and is excited to announce plans to hold next year's coffeehouse in a ballroom at the Cromwell Marriott. Mark your calendars for Feb. 22, 2025, you won't want to miss it!

## Rocky Hill Historical Society Welcomes NEW Program Director

Rocky Hill Historical Society welcomes new program Director Alexis Titor-Chiucarello. Lexie just retired as director of recreation for seniors. We are beyond excited that she has decided to return to the Society. Lexie volunteered back in the

90s as program director and we can't wait to see what she has in store for us now. Welcome Lexie. Woo hoo!!!

You can reach her at [LexietChic@gmail.com](mailto:LexietChic@gmail.com)

## Warm The Children Launching Winter Clothing Drive

The Middletown Kiwanis Club is gearing up for another season of providing new winter clothing for children in need. For more than 25 years, the Warm The Children program has helped families in need by providing warm clothing & footwear for our cold winter season. Warm The Children is neighbors helping neighbors.

Due to the pandemic, the last few years have brought about many changes in our communities. With rising prices for our most basic needs such as food & water, shelter, and clothing; we know that many of our neighbors will face unsurmountable odds this year. Many children of families working hard to pay rent and put food on the table, may have to go without warm winter clothing and footwear. As winter descends upon those families suffering financially, we hope to help lessen their burden by lending a hand up during these trying and still uncertain times.

This year The Middletown Kiwanis Club with support from The Chronicle, their readers and all of our donors is able to serve approximately 565 greater Middletown area children from birth through age 12, each receiving up to \$90 (\$70 if under age 4) of new winter clothing and footwear.

We are again working closely with staff at JCP's Commercial Customer Service Department devising a digital catalog from which our families will make their selections. Once the orders with their selections are processed, each families' clothing items will be shipped directly to them.

The families are referred to the Warm The Children Coordinator by public elementary and middle schools in Middletown, Cromwell, East Hampton, Portland, Regional District 13 and through some social service agencies such as Even

Start, Haddam Social Services and the Middlesex Hospital Family Advocacy programs.

Funds to pay for clothing originate mostly from individual contributors. No donation is too small. All the donation money received is used to purchase clothing and footwear, nothing is skimmed off for administrative costs as the Kiwanis Club absorbs the expenses and The Chronicle provides advertising support. Also, there is no payroll - the program is 100% volunteer.

Every year our friends and neighbors are the driving force behind our fundraising success. This season we will be able to serve approximately 565 children thanks to the donations we received throughout the past year.

This year's fundraising goal is \$60,000. That amount can enable us to serve more than 300 families with approximately 650 children in total again next season. No donation amount is too small!

The Middletown Kiwanis website has information on Warm The Children and ways that you can help. Please visit us at <http://middletownkiwanis.org>.

All donations are tax deductible.

Donations can be made:

By check or money order and sent to Warm The Children, c/o Liberty Bank, Att: Karen Wolfgram, 315 Main Street, Middletown, CT 06457.

By credit card through PayPal via our website <http://middletownkiwanis.org>.

We also participate with the annual Travelers Championship Birdies For Charity Program in May & June. The Kiwanis Foundation of Middletown will receive a 15% Bonus for every dollar raised through The Birdies For Charity program for Warm the Children.

### Legal Notice Town of Cromwell Early Voting and Presidential Preference Primary Republican and Democratic Parties April 2, 2024

Notice is hereby given that a Presidential Preference Primary of the Republican and Democratic Parties will begin with early voting on March 26, 2024, through March 28, 2024, and March 30, 2024, with the primary being held on April 2, 2024, in each town.

Notice is also hereby given that the following are the names of the candidates (including the category "Uncommitted") which are to appear on the ballot at said primary in the manner and in the order in which such names and category are herein listed, under the office designation "Nomination for President of the United States", together with the addresses of such candidates:

#### Democrats

##### Name and Address:

Marianne Williamson, Washington, D.C.

Dean Phillips, Excelsior, MN.

Genk Uygur, Los Angeles, CA.

Joe Biden, Philadelphia, PA.

Uncommitted

#### Republicans

##### Name and Address:

Ron DeSantis, Tallahassee, FL.

Nikki Haley, Daniel Island, SC.

Donald J. Trump, Arlington, VA.

Ryan Binkley, McKinney, TX.

Uncommitted

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 1st Day of March, 2024.

Stephanie Thomas

Secretary of the State

The foregoing is a copy of the notice that I have received from the Office of the Secretary of the State in accordance with Secs. 9-433 and 9-471 of the General Statutes. As provided, such primary will begin with early voting on March 26, 2024, through March 28, 2024, and March 30, 2024, and the primary will be held on April 2, 2024. The hours of voting during early voting and at said primary and the location of the polls will be as follows:

#### Hours of Early Voting:

March 26, 2024- 10:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.

March 27, 2024- 10:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.

March 28, 2024- 10:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.

March 30, 2024- 10:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.

#### Location of Early Voting Polling Place:

Cromwell Town Hall

2nd Floor

41 West Street

Cromwell, CT 06416

#### Hours of Primary Day Voting:

April 2, 2024 - 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

#### Location of Primary Day Polling Place:

Cromwell High School

34 Evergreen Road

Cromwell, CT 06416

#### Voting District

1

If applicable: Absentee ballots will be counted at the following central location: Cromwell High School, 34 Evergreen Road, Cromwell, CT 06416.

Dated at Cromwell, Connecticut, this 14th day of March, 2024.

JoAnn Doyle, CCTC, CCMO

Cromwell Town Clerk

Thank you for reading the Rare Reminder.  
Visit us online at [www.rarereminder.com](http://www.rarereminder.com)





# What's Happening Newington?

Send us your news!

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[editor@rarereminder.com](mailto:editor@rarereminder.com)  
or call 860-563-9386.

## Tenants Confirmed For Meadow Commons, Apartments Set To Start Leasing Soon

By Nicole Zappone  
Staff Writer

NEWINGTON - The town will see some changes at Meadow Commons over the next several weeks as new shops open their doors.

At the latest planning and zoning meeting on Feb. 28, Matthew Bruton, a professional engineer from BL Companies in Meriden, announced to commissioners that several shops would open at Meadow Commons.

Bruton told commission members that shops like Shake Shack, Crumbl Cookies, and PJ's Coffee will open their doors throughout April.

"Very excited for the opening at Meadow Commons," Planning and Zoning Commission Chair Stanley Sobieski said.

Cava and Sally's Apizza will follow at later dates.

At the meeting, it was also discussed that the grocery anchor still announced as Amazon Fresh, will open in January 2025.

There are still a few spaces available for lease.

Although not listed on the leasing plan, Playa Bowls was announced as the latest tenant to sign on to the center at the Feb. 28 meetings.

Playa Bowls is a health food eatery that offers Acai Bowls, Pitaya Bowls, green Bowls, juices, smoothies, and more. There are several other locations throughout Connecticut, with the closest one in West Hartford at 51 Memorial Road in Blue Back Square. No opening date was mentioned.

"I've been wanting a Playa Bowls near by," Rebecca Andersson said on Facebook. "I am so excited."

Many others took to Facebook to express what else they wanted to see at Meadow Commons.

Samantha Lee said a bagel shop would be great, while Tyler Armstrong said a Gap/BR outlet would be great because there aren't many clothing stores on the Berlin Turnpike.

"It would be great if this wasn't just a food plaza," Armstrong said.

Shake Shack is a casual restaurant chain that started in New York City. Over the years, the restaurant has expanded its menu from New York-style hot dogs to hamburgers, hot dogs, fries, and namesake milkshakes.

According to a discussion at the Feb. 28 planning and zoning meeting, the restaurant is set

to open sometime in early April. Originally, it was supposed to open on March 1, but due to a delay with the equipment, the opening date was bumped back about 45 days.

Crumbl Cookies, known for its infamous pink box and 170+ rotating flavors weekly, will open two doors from PJ's Coffee.

PJ's Coffee, which started as a single shop in the Carrollton neighborhood of New Orleans in Sept. 1978 by Phyllis Jordan, is known for its fresh coffee beans, frozen and blended drinks, teas, and baked goods.

What makes the project unique is that it will be a residential space as well as a commercial space.

"What you have in front of you tonight is not a traditional application, so as part of the site process, our regulations permit a developer to come in and seek a partial acceptance of a site plan if all of the improvements are not completed," Town Planner Paul Dickson said.

Dickson said what was presented would be approved under one site plan for 3333 Berlin Turn-

pike, separated into two distinct parcels.

One parcel is 3313-3333, the commercial parcel immediately abutting the Berlin Turnpike, and the other is 96 to 100 Pane Road, which is abutting the parcel with direct access to Pane Road.

The Millyard at Meadow Commons is the residential apartment portion of the development. It is now leasing for Spring 2024 move-ins. Millyard has begun tours of the facility. To learn more about the units and schedule a tour, visit [www.millyardliving.com](http://www.millyardliving.com).

The meeting on Feb. 28 was an informational meeting about items that needed to be worked out on-site.

"The engineer has also reviewed the bond for 3333, the commercial, and finds it relatively adequate for the improvements there," Dickson said.

Commissioner Chris Miner and Town Planner Paul Dickson said they would discuss the next part of the project at their next meeting.

### Chorus Accepting Applications For College Scholarships

The executive board of the Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords is accepting applications for its annual scholarships to be awarded to students from Middlesex County graduating seniors pursuing a career in nursing or music.

Applicants must have been accepted at an accredited college or university. The review committee will consider academic records, extracurricular and community service activities, the

student's ability to articulate his/her career goals and the recommendations of references.

The \$1500 scholarships will be paid directly to the recipients at the spring concert at Portland High School, Saturday, May 4 at 7 p.m.

Applications are available on our website, [vocalchords20.org](http://vocalchords20.org), or at your school guidance office. Applications must be submitted by March 15.

### "Jump Into Spring with Reading" Contest

During the month of April, the GFWC Newington/Wethersfield Women's Club, in co-operation with Newington Public Schools, will sponsor its twentieth annual "Jump Into Spring with Reading" contest. Students in kindergarten through fourth grade are eligible to enter the contest, simply by reading books. Students record a date for every 20 minutes that they read or are read to and submit an entry form for every 5 dates.

### Newington Children's Theatre Company Presents 'Descendants the Musical'

The Newington Children's Theatre Company, Connecticut's longest-running nonprofit children's theatre, presents Disney's "Descendants the Musical," March 13-24.

The production features eight casts, including more than 160 children from 24 towns, ranging in age from 5 to 14, offering 16 performances at John Wallace Middle School, 71 Halleran Drive, Newington. Showtimes and tickets are available at [www.nct-carts.org](http://www.nct-carts.org). Ticket prices are \$10-\$16 in advance and \$12-\$18 at the door.

"Descendants" is the first of two major spring productions of NCTC's 61st season. The other is Disney's "The Lion King Jr.," which starts rehearsing the last

week of March and performs in late June. The corporate sponsor for Season 61 is Callahan's Bowl-O-Rama of Newington.

Titles for NCTC's 2024 Summer Stages day program include Disney's "High School Musical 2 Jr.," Disney's "Newsies Jr.," and Disney's "Finding Nemo Jr.," (ages 5 and up), and "The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical" (ages 13 and up).

More information about the Newington Children's Theatre Company, including details on all upcoming programs, how to join, and how to support the theatre financially or by volunteering, is available at [nct-carts.org](http://nct-carts.org), with regular updates on NCTC's Facebook page, @NCTCarts, and Instagram page, @nctcarts.

### West Meadow Cemetery Spring Clean-Up

The Newington Parks, Grounds & Cemeteries Division will begin its annual spring clean-up in West Meadow Cemetery on March 18, 2024. Per the Newington Code of Ordinances (194-13, C):

"All winter decorations shall be removed prior to March 15 of each year, or they shall be confiscated by the Sexton."

Cemetery staff dispose of any decorations that have died or fallen into disrepair. More substantial items are labelled and stored on outdoor shelving in the Parks & Grounds Maintenance Facility for one month and may be picked up during cemetery hours.

#### Nonconforming Decorations

In recent months, the Newington Parks, Grounds & Cemeteries Division has received numerous complaints and comments regarding the increased presence of nonconforming decorations at graves throughout West Meadow Cemetery. In an effort to adhere to the Newington Code of Ordinances, all nonconforming decorations will face confiscation per the following ordinance (194-13):

A. Flowers, shrubs, plants and trees shall only be planted in accordance with the rules and regulations established for planting by the Sexton. No planting shall be done without the permission of the Sexton. The cutting of turf on any lot shall be prohibited. The placing of potted plants on lots may be permitted if done in accordance with the rules established therefor by the Sexton. Any plant materials may be removed at the discretion of the Sexton at any time.

B. No person shall create any mound, depression, hole, or otherwise change the grade of any

lot or gravesite without the consent of the Sexton. No person shall spread fertilizer, ashes, chemicals or other material on lots to stimulate the growth of grass or to discourage weeds.

C. Artificial decorations shall not be permitted during the growing season between April 1 and November 1. All artificial decorations placed in nonconformance with this chapter or with rules established by the Sexton pursuant thereto shall be subject to confiscation. All winter decorations shall be removed prior to March 15 of each year, or they shall be confiscated by the Sexton.

D. Articles such as glass jars, watering cans, votive lights, palms, and bric-a-brac of any description are forbidden and may be removed without notice. Potted plants shall be contained only in clay pots not exceeding 10 inches in diameter and six inches in height, and in rustic baskets not to exceed 12 inches in diameter. Only one pot or rustic basket will be allowed to be placed on any one grave. The cemetery shall not be responsible for items left on the grounds or at graves.

Please call the Parks & Grounds Facility, Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with any questions.

### NHS 50th Reunion

Newington High School 'Class of 1974' is celebrating their fabulous 50th, with a reunion at the Indian Hill Country Club on Sept. 28, 2024! We are searching for all classmates, friends, and teachers from that class; please send contact info to Lynne Fournier at: [lfournier@aol.com](mailto:lfournier@aol.com). Can't wait to hear from you!

### Events Newly-Retired Newington Women

April 9..Broadway/Aquaturf...\$54  
Check us out online, or call Jean at 860-667-7647

Thank you for reading  
the Rare Reminder.

JOIN US FOR

# Easter Sunday

SERVICES

MARCH 31, 2023  
9AM & 11AM

Sermon  
"The Promise of Easter: New Life"  
by Rev. Melanie Enfield

A service filled with glorious  
music with trumpets, trombones  
and timpani

CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL  
1075 MAIN STREET, NEWINGTON, CT 06111





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## Regional Health District Focuses On Prevention, Promotion, Protection

By Joan Hunt  
Staff Writer

NEWINGTON - There are 20 regional health districts in the state, and when things are going well most people don't think too much about that. That's why Charles Brown, director of the Central Connecticut Health District, of which Wethersfield is a part, was asked to give the Town Council an update during its March 4 meeting.

The district includes Rocky Hill, Berlin and Newington, in addition to Wethersfield, and its headquarters is in Rocky Hill. They employ 15 full-time employees and more than 50 professional volunteers.

"The purpose of a health district is to prevent epidemics, protect against environmental hazards and injuries, to encourage healthy behaviors, respond to disasters, and assure quality and availability of health services," said Brown. "That's a lot, on a good day."

"We also assist communities in recovery, and we are still in that mode right now, after the pan-

demie," he said.

"I am very pleased to be able to say we have a full-time epidemiologist on our staff right now," said Brown.

"We have a weekly epidemiology report on our website with information that we are happy to share with our towns and their leaders so they can make appropriate decisions," he added.

This information includes five-year trends and mental health data, in addition to other things like sexually-transmitted infections, opioid use, food-borne and tick-borne illnesses, and more.

"Our public health nurse works with school nurse supervisors in all four towns to define what it is to have an outbreak within the schools. Our environmental health division does more than 1500 food service, temporary event, septic, pool, motel/hotel and salon inspections annually," he said.

Besides doing plan reviews, looking at permits and inspections for septic systems and water supply wells, in 2022 they responded to 223

complaints. In these situations, they work with the state's Attorney's office and the state Department of Public Health to deal with complex issues such as housing and hoarding issues, which can be complicated.

On the promotion side, Brown said that a few years ago they brought the town planners, town managers and leaders in the four communities together to talk about how they could encourage more active living.

"That really sparked something," he said. "And it took hold here in Wethersfield before anywhere else. Your Bike/Walk Wethersfield helped to embark a complete streets policy," he said.

"So policies got enacted, and from there grants got put in, and we are actually starting to see the fruit of that labor come back to the communities," said Brown. "It is really exciting from a public health standpoint to see communal learning come back into the policies that are going to effect the communities for much more than the foreseeable future," he added.

Coming up is the "Walk This Way" walking competition during the month of May. Residents of all four towns can register to record their steps during the month.

"We have a big trophy with about a size 13 shoe on top," said Brown. "It's ugly, but it is some-

thing you want to adorn your trophy case with because that means that you had the most steps within the month of May. We have anywhere from 400 to 600 residents that participate in this competition every year," he said.

A more serious issue, the opioid crisis, is one of the response areas that the health district is working on. "We currently have work groups addressing prevention, response and recovery," said Brown. He reported that they have received an additional grant and are working with Hartford to see how they can be more efficient in targeting the activities of recovery coaches and others dealing with people trying to recover from opioid addiction.

The district also operates a "Putting on Airs" program for people with asthma. "An educator and an environmental specialist go to the homes of people who are referred to us by medical providers to create an asthma action plan," he explained. They also inspect the home for triggers and to reduce possible allergens that contribute to the disease.

Another part of their work is to help with immunizations, and they were very active when the pandemic hit because they were already organized for that purpose.

For more information go to [www.cthd.org](http://www.cthd.org)

### Newington Knights of Columbus Palm Sunday Breakfast

Sunday, March 24th from 8:00 to 11:00am at Holy Spirit Church, Church St.

The menu will be ham, sausage, eggs, their famous home fries and all you can eat pancakes, danish, coffee, hot chocolate, and orange juice.

Price: \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages

3-14; under 3 years of age are free.

In order to properly plan, tickets will be sold at Holy Spirit on March 16th & 17th.

Tickets will also be available at the door.

The money raised goes to financially sponsor a seminarian who is preparing for priesthood.

### Sperry Creek Bluegrass Band at The Buttonwood Tree

Middletown, CT: On Saturday, May 11th at 8 PM, The Buttonwood Tree presents the musical showcase of Cheshire, CT based bluegrass group Sperry Creek. Admission is \$20. Admission link: <https://bit.ly/3vuZqm8>

This concert and other TBT events brought to you by our generous donors and patrons, as well as the following organizations: Middletown Commission on the Art, Community Foundation of Middlesex County, Department of Community and Economic Development.

Sperry Creek brings fresh harmonies and instrumentation that hold true to the bluegrass genre. This five-piece band from Connecticut formed after some local pickers spent the height

of the pandemic keeping each other sane through socially distant backyard jam sessions. It didn't take the group long to realize that good sounds were happening. They soon adopted the name of a nearby creek, and the band was officially formed in the summer of 2020. Sperry Creek is made up of longtime musicians Scott Freeman (bass); Marilyn Toback-Reveley (guitar); Bill Reveley (fiddle); Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe (mandolin) and Dan O'Keefe (banjo), who all share a passion for bluegrass music. A culmination of musicians from other well known CT bands, Sperry Creek has allowed us to share our love of music with others throughout the New England bluegrass scene.

### Farah the Horse to Return to Newington Goes Country on June 13, 2024

The Newington Parks and Recreation Department announces today that Farah the horse will be trotting down Cedar Street on her way to the Newington Goes Country Festival, to be held at Mill Pond Park on Thursday, June 13th from 5:00pm-10:00pm. Farah's intentions are to visit with as many of the kids in attendance as possible. This special horse will be led by Newington's own, Meg Sautter. "You don't often get a chance to pet and feed a real live horse in our park," said Bill DeMaio, Superintendent of Newington Parks and Recreation. "This exhibit was a huge success last year, and we are grateful that Meg Sautter is willing to share Farah with our townspeople."

The Newington Goes Country event is once again going to be a real thriller. We have booked North County Band who will be providing the lively sounds of country music. There will also be an appearance from Valentine the Clown, the Amazing Andy juggler and magician, and a live animal petting zoo fully stocked with goats, rabbits, donkeys, llamas, alpacas, and more. There will also be several food trucks for your dinner arrangements as well as a Beer and Wine Garden. The preschool youth will have their own section of the park, which will include a bounce house, blue blocks, Monster Mural, face painting, games, and other activities.

But wait, there's more! Have you ever had the chance to ride a mechanical bull? If not, here's

### The Newington Senior and Disabled Center Trip

A Bus Trip to Wright's Farm and Bally's Twin River Casino, RI

Friday, April 12, 2024.

Cost: \$97 per person

Registration: in person only.

Everyone is welcome.

Checks payable to Friendship Tours.

NO CASH

Departure: 10:00 am

Estimated return: 7:00 pm (Newington)

Visit us online at [www.rarereminder.com](http://www.rarereminder.com)

The Newington Democratic Town Nominating Committee is looking for Newington Democrats for representation on the following Boards and Commissions.

Experience and knowledge in the areas of need is preferred. A willingness to be involved, learn, and make a difference for the future of the town of Newington is most desirable.

**Building Code Board of Appeals**

**Conservation Inland Wetlands Commission**

**Development Commission**

**Employee Insurance & Pension Benefits Committee**

**Environmental Quality Commission**

**Fair Rent Commission**

**Library Building Committee**

**Standing Insurance Committee**

**Interested persons contact Pauline Kruk at 860-944-2837  
or Terri LaPenta-Duffek at 860-543-5127.**



Thank you  
for reading  
the  
Rare Reminder.



#### NEWINGTON TOWN PLAN AND ZONING COMMISSION

**Notice of Public Hearing  
March 27, 2024 at 7:00 pm**

Notice is hereby given that the Newington Town Plan and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing in the Council Chambers, Room 103 at Town Hall, 200 Garfield Street, Newington, CT on **Wednesday, March 27, 2024** to consider the following petitions:

**Petition 1-24: Special Permit (Sec 6.2.5) for a Free Standing Business Sign at 240 Pane Rd in the PD Zone (Planned Development Zone). Applicant: Sign Pro Inc., Owner: SCHUCO USA LLLP, Contact: Kristine Braccidiferro.**

This public hearing will be a Zoom Webinar/Hybrid Meeting. Information on how to attend will be posted on the Town website at: <https://www.newingtonct.gov/virtualmeetingschedule>

These petitions and related material are available for public inspection at the Town Planner's office, Town Hall Room 204, and through the published agenda at the Town Plan and Zoning Commission agenda center: <https://www.newingtonct.gov/AgendaCenter/Town-Planning-Zoning-Commission-27>

Persons who require an accommodation to participate in this public hearing should contact the Town Planner at 860-665-8578 or [townplanner@newingtonct.gov](mailto:townplanner@newingtonct.gov) not less than 24 hours before the public hearing.

Submitted,  
Paul Dickson  
Town Planner





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For more information go to [www.cthd.org](http://www.cthd.org)

### Friends of the Kycia Farm March Garden Seminars

March 14, 2023: "Rewilding With Purpose: Creating Composed and Intentional Ecosystems At Home" Zach Potter-Vose of Blue Arrow Gardens will dispel the myth that "rewilding" means having an overgrown yard that frightens the neighbors. Instead, he'll discuss "rewilding" as a means of using an ecosystem-based approach to landscaping that encourages the natural relationships between plants and their environment.

March 21, 2023: "Composting" Sherill Baldwin of CT DEEP will address the issue of reducing waste with beneficial composting. Participants will learn about the principles of composting, including where to put your pile, what can go in your pile, different compost bin designs, odor control, and how to use the finished compost. Representatives from Blue Earth Compost will have information available.

### Wethersfield Public Library

Art Exhibit at Wethersfield Library  
The Wethersfield High School Art Department will be displaying student artwork throughout March for Youth Art Month. Please visit the Wethersfield Library to see the work of these talented students.

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](http://www.wethersfieldlibrary.org) or call 529-2665.

IN-PERSON FOR ADULTS  
TRUE CRIME: FORENSIC SCIENCE EXPLAINED: Join Bridget Brosnahan retired de-

tective from the New Haven Police Department on Thursday March 21st at 6:30 pm for an in-person talk on forensic science. Hear the steps taken to solve crimes involving domestic violence and murder.

Brosnahan holds a Master of Science in Criminal Justice and is currently a lecturer with the Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences in New Haven. Register through our Events Calendar at [wethersfieldlibrary.org](http://wethersfieldlibrary.org)

FOR TEENS: ANIME CLUB: Teens join us on Tuesday, March 26th at 2:45 pm to watch the latest anime! This program is free and open to teens in grades 7-12. This is a drop-in program; registration is not required.

### Friends of the Wethersfield Library Spring Raffle – March 1 Through April 8

For their Spring Raffle Fundraiser, The Friends of the Wethersfield Library have prepared "A Cooler of Summer Fun."

We have stuffed a 36-quart rolling Igloo Cooler with over \$250 worth of gift certificates and summertime items. One of the gift certificates is a \$100 Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Department certificate that can be used for any of their programs – camps, pool pass, exercise, etc. Two more are from popular lo-

cal favorites Main Street Creamery and Village Pizza.

The Cooler also contains two large beach towels, sun block, some great summer reads for kids and grown-ups, plus two jigsaw puzzles.

Tickets are \$5, and only 200 will be sold. All proceeds will go to support Library programs.

You can view the Cooler and purchase your tickets at the Library starting March 1 and ending April 8.

### Beginner Fly Fishing Classes Begin March 21, 2024

Fly Fishing classes introduce students to casting, safety, reading the water and the life cycle of insects, as well as selecting appropriate fly fishing gear. Classroom instruction as well as two days on water. All classes are taught one on one by experienced instructors. Great Family and Couples Activity.

This class starts March 21, 2024 and runs weekly, 3/21; 28; 4/4; 4/11. These are held in classroom setting at the Pitkin Community Center, 30 Greenfield St. Wethersfield, CT, 06109. Classroom sessions begin at 6:00 p.m. and end at 8:45 p.m.

There will be Two on Water Days (1) Casting Class is 4/27 Rain or Shine and River instruction is 5/4, this class depends on water level for safety.

1) \*Introduction to Fly Casting -Ray Ramos, FFI Certified Instructor

2 \*Live Fly Fishing on Willimantic River. Fishing with CFFA instructors on one of best fly fishing only sections in Connecticut.

We have a maximum of 20 spaces, so contact as soon as possible: Pete Naples, Education Chair at: [flyon054@outlook.com](mailto:flyon054@outlook.com) to register.

Please include your cellphone or landline in the email.

Fees

Adult non-member - \$50.00; Adult CFFA member - \$40.00;

Youths 21 and under -\$30.00; Adults who attend with paid youth may take course at no cost.

\*All non-members receive a free one year membership to CFFA. \$25.00 Value\*

CFFA, a Connecticut Non-Profit is dedicated to promoting the sport of fly fishing and to the preservation of Connecticut's Game Fish Waters.

### UNICO Awards

[ymartinojr@yahoo.com](mailto:ymartinojr@yahoo.com).

Attention Wethersfield and Rocky Hill residents who are High School Students graduating in 2024. The Wethersfield Chapter of UNICO Awards are now available. They include our Book Awards; Brian Piccolo Award and Tony DiCicco Award. Book Award application forms have been forwarded to the Guidance Offices at Wethersfield High School, Rocky Hill High School, Xavier High School, Mercy High School and East Catholic High School. Application forms for the Brian Piccolo and the Tony DiCicco Awards have been forwarded to the Athletic Offices of Wethersfield High School, Rocky Hill High School, Xavier High School, Mercy High School and East Catholic High School. Copies can also be downloaded from the UNICO Website [wethersfieldunico.com](http://wethersfieldunico.com); Wethersfield UNICO Facebook page or by contacting UNICO Scholarship Chairman at ton-

martinojr@yahoo.com. Book Awards winners are selected based on three (criteria's) criteria that are weighted equally: Academics; Financial Need and Outside Activities. The Brian Piccolo Award is given to an Athlete who played any sport that portrayed the qualities of Brian Piccolo. The Tony DiCicco Award is given to a soccer player who portrayed the qualities of Tony DiCicco. The Brian Piccolo Award is the only award that requires the individual have some Italian ancestry per our National Rules. There are multiple Book Awards issued but only one Piccolo Award and DiCicco Award Winner. Students who are eligible can apply for all three awards.

Competed applications are to be mailed to our Scholarship Chairman, Tony Martino, and must be postmarked by March 16, 2024.

### Commercial Burglary (Case # 2300012825)

WETHERSFIELD, CONN. – On May 4, 2023, Police Officers and Detectives of the Wethersfield Police Department were dispatched to Lucky Lou's Bar and Grill, located at 222 Main St in Wethersfield, for a reported burglary. The initial investigation determined that multiple items and cash had been taken from the business, totaling over \$76,000.

On February 28, 2024, after a thorough investigation by the Wethersfield Department Detective Bureau, Patrick Hemmingway (DOB 5/1/86) of Glastonbury was arrested by warrant at GA 15 in New Britain and charged with Larceny 1st Degree and Burglary 3rd Degree. He was immediately arraigned in court and then returned to the custody of the Department of Correction.

### NARFE Meeting

March 20

The first meeting of Narfe will be held at the Solomon Wells House, 220 Hartford Ave.

Wethersfield, on March 20 starting at 1:30. Mara Logan from Neptune Cremation Services will give a presentation on prepaid services. This meeting is open to all.

### O'Reilly Auto Parts Robbery Update (Case # 24000037139)

WETHERSFIELD, CONN. – On December 13, 2023, at 10:19 PM, Officers from the

Wethersfield Police Department responded to O'Reilly Auto Parts, located at 115 Silas Deane Highway, for the report of an armed robbery. Initial investigation revealed two armed individuals entered O'Reilly Auto Parts wearing dark-colored clothing with masks. They then took an undetermined amount of money and items before fleeing the store on foot towards the intersection of Jordan Lane and Silas Deane Highway. The Wethersfield Police Detective Bureau responded to the scene and assumed the investigation.

After a thorough investigation by members of the Wethersfield Police Department Detective Bureau, the following individuals have been arrested by warrant in connection with the robbery and released on bond with court dates at New Britain Superior Court, GA15:

- February 6, 2024: Brian Dindial (DOB 4/12/97) of West Hartford was charged with Larceny 5th Degree, Conspiracy to Commit Larceny 5th Degree, Conspiracy to Falsely Report an Incident, Conspiracy to Commit Misuse of the 911 System, Tampering with Evidence, and Conspiracy to Commit Tampering with Evidence.

- February 15, 2024: Devon Francis (DOB 12/10/93) of Hartford was charged with Larceny 5th Degree, Conspiracy to Commit Larceny 5th Degree, Conspiracy to Falsely Report an Incident, Conspiracy to Commit Misuse of the 911 System, Tampering with Evidence, and Conspiracy to Commit Tampering with Evidence.

- February 26, 2024: Ismail Yusuf (DOB 1/25/91) of New Britain was charged with Larceny 5th Degree, Conspiracy to Commit Larceny 5th Degree, Conspiracy to Falsely Report an Incident, Conspiracy to Commit Misuse of the 911 System, Tampering with Evidence, Conspiracy to Commit Tampering with Evidence and Interfering with Police.





# 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](mailto:editor@rarereminder.com)  
or call 860-563-9386.

## HS Drama Club Members Shine With Murder Mystery Performance

By **Joan Hunt**  
**Staff Writer**

WETHERSFIELD - A large cast of dancers, singers, actors and musicians brought the English Victorian era to life, not only on the stage, but throughout the Wethersfield High School theater last weekend. The infectious excitement of the cast spilled into the audience, incorporating it into the play itself.

Edwin Drood is actually a play within a play, which makes it fun. As the narrator points out in the beginning, the musical is adapted from a book manuscript by Charles Dickens that was unfinished due to his death. And that sets the stage, if you will, for a mystery that it takes everyone including the audience to figure out.

Strong performances by sophomore Sophia Scheinberg, who played Rosa, junior Colin Gilligan, who played the villain uncle, the narrator/mayor Maya Bartley, and Lorelei Frazzini Kendrick, as Edwin Drood, were well supported by a cast of colorful characters.

Director Jeffrey Roets said he chose the play, which is not as well-known as some of the large-scale musicals WHS Drama has done in the past, because it sounded like a lot of fun. Having done "Bloody Murder" in the fall, many of the cast were familiar with doing the British accent, and it showed because they really nailed it.

The beauty of high school theater is that it gives students an opportunity to grow and to add their particular talents and personalities to the mix. Junior Sam Croce, who played Deputy Nick Cricker, Jr., and Dylan Murtha, cast as Durdles, a drunken stonemason, watched a filmed production of the musical to help develop their roles.

"I think one of the most challenging parts of it was the physicality," said Croce.

"Yeah, these costumes have been through a lot," joked Murtha.

This was the first performance for Erick Pianko, a junior who did a great job playing Neville Landless, a large part for a newcomer. "The character is pretty opposite to what I am in real life," he said. "He's angry all the time, and I had to learn how to do that powerfully."

Sophomore Mai-Lin Benejan and freshman Haily Nguyen, who were part of the talented ensemble cast, love to sing and plan to try out for all the upcoming musicals while they are at WHS.

Emma Ho, a junior who played Miss Florence, a featured dancer in the play, said, "I love singing, acting and dancing!" She said she would like to continue being in musicals, even after high school, if her college has a company that is as fun as the one at WHS.

Music Director and first-year teacher at WHS, Billy Ray Poli had previously directed the musical and nimbly transferred his love for the music to the orchestra, which included Mike Gowdy, Sam Corwin, Jeiralyn Peralta, Natalie Dukes, Andrea Robinson, Ben Godbout, Ava Liu, Nathan Liy and Emily Speno.

On Thursday night at the free preview performance for seniors, the curtain had not yet opened for a full audience show, but the actors were already sorry that it would soon come to an end. Despite the long hours of practice, rehearsing and polishing their lines, they knew they would miss being together as a company.

That's good theater.



Cast members Haily Nguyen, Mai-Lin Benejan, Emma Ho, Sam Croce, Erick Pianko and Dylan Murtha discuss the musical after the first crowd performance of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* at Wethersfield High School.

### "Jump Into Spring with Reading" Contest

During the month of April, the GFWC Newington/Wethersfield Women's Club, in co-operation with Newington Public Schools, will sponsor its twentieth annual "Jump Into Spring with Reading" contest. Students in kindergarten through fourth grade are eligible to enter the contest, simply by reading books. Students record a date for every 20 minutes that they read or are read to and submit an entry form for every 5 dates.

The drawing for prizes will take place at each elementary school on Friday, May 3, 2024. Five prizes will be awarded per school.

By sponsoring this contest, the Woman's Club is hoping to encourage children to read as much as possible between April 1 and April 30. The club and school district also hope that by being challenged in this way, children will learn the joy of reading for pleasure and entertainment.

### Chorus Accepting Applications For College Scholarships

The executive board of the Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords is accepting applications for its annual scholarships to be awarded to students from Middlesex County graduating seniors pursuing a career in nursing or music.

Applicants must have been accepted at an accredited college or university. The review committee will consider academic records, extracurricular and community service activities,

the student's ability to articulate his/her career goals and the recommendations of references.

The \$1500 scholarships will be paid directly to the recipients at the spring concert at Portland High School, Saturday, May 4 at 7 p.m.

Applications are available on our website, [vocalchords20.org](http://vocalchords20.org), or at your school guidance office. Applications must be submitted by March 15.

### Heritage Celebration Dinner

Saturday, March 16, 2024

4:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Roast turkey dinner with a variety of sides

Choice of desserts

Hot or cold apple cider, coffee and tea

Dine-in or takeout

Reservations recommended

Walk-ins subject to availability

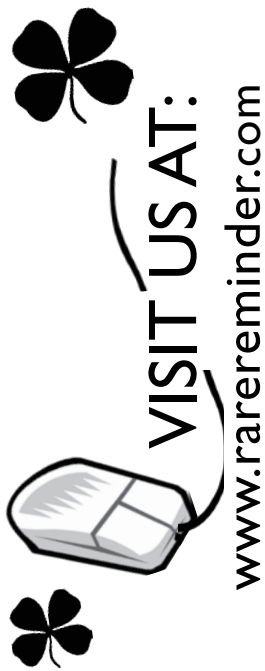
\$15.00 PER PERSON

To make dine-in or takeout reservations, call

or text to 860-798-9927 or 917-856-8175

Location: Wethersfield United Methodist Church

150 Prospect Street, Wethersfield, CT



Thank you for reading  
the Rare Reminder.

### LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION Town of Wethersfield PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

The Wethersfield Planning and Zoning Commission held a public meeting on March 5, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, Connecticut and made the following decisions:

**Application No. 2172-24-Z AccuBranch** seeking Special Permit in accordance with Section 5.2.C.4 (Permitted Principal Uses) of the Wethersfield Zoning Regulations for a new Dutch Point Credit Union branch building with two (2) drive through lanes, located to the north of main entrance at 1267-1301 Silas Deane Highway. – **APPROVED with Conditions.**

Planning and Zoning Commission  
Justin LaFountain, AICP, Town Planner  
Duly Authorized  
Dated at Wethersfield, Connecticut,  
this 6th day of March, 2024

031424

### LEGAL NOTICE Town of Wethersfield PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

The Wethersfield Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Council Chambers, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, Connecticut.

**Public Hearing 2173-24-Z Charles Drake Enterprises, LLC** seeking a Special Permit in accordance with Section 5.2.F.2 (Permitted Principal Uses) of the Wethersfield Zoning Regulations for a temporary patio with a service station at 161 Main Street.

**Public Hearing 2174-24-Z Patrick Snow** seeking a Special Permit in accordance with Section 3.6.C (Accessory Buildings & Structures) of the Wethersfield Zoning Regulations for a shed over 200 Sq. Ft. at 70 Kimberly Lane.

Planning and Zoning Commission  
Justin LaFountain, AICP, Town Planner  
Duly Authorized  
Dated at Wethersfield, Connecticut,  
this 1st day of March, 2024.

031424

### Legal Notice Town of Wethersfield Historic District Commission

The Wethersfield Historic District Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, March 26, 2024 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 #8199-24** Home Town Remodeling, seeking to replace two double-hung windows in kitchen with Harvey Majesty windows at 8 Wilcox Street.
- Application #8200-24** Doug and Sally Sudell, seeking to remove existing outbuilding and replace with 20'x36' barn with roof, gutters, windows to match house, custom carriage doors, and vertical pine siding at 323 Main Street.
- Application #8201-24** Anja Markwordt Skehan, seeking to construct deck in rear yard with Trex decking in Rocky Harbor color and wood skirting to house sunken pool and hot tub at 424 Hartford Avenue.
- Application #8202-24** Thomas Ayres Jr., seeking to install additional picket fencing from front west side to continue along side yard at 18 Foote Path Lane.
- Application #8203-24** Bryon Kamay, seeking construct 12'x16' wood pavilion in rear yard with composite deck flooring at 38 Hartford Avenue.
- Application #8204-24** Doug and Ashley Elliot, seeking to install black metal fence along driveway in rear yard and construct stone fireplace in rear yard at 30 Broad Street.
- Application #8205-24** Spiro and Julia Koulouris, seeking to replace tin roof on one section with asphalt to match majority of building, replace gutters to match existing in larger size at 263 Main Street.

Town of Wethersfield  
Historic District Commission

Kim Wolf  
Duly Authorized  
Dated at Wethersfield, Connecticut,  
this 11th day of March 2024

031424



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## Easter Season Pierogi Sale

Holy Trinity Church, 200 Summer St, Plantsville will be selling Pierogi for the Easter Season (Cheese, Sauerkraut, Sweet Cabbage, and Potato. \$15.00 per dozen. Call Kathy to order at 860-977-5010.

## UNICO AWARDS

Attention Wethersfield and Rocky Hill residents who are High School Students graduating in 2024. The Wethersfield Chapter of UNICO Awards are now available. They include our Book Awards; Brian Piccolo Award and Tony DiCicco Award. Book Award application forms have been forwarded to the Guidance Offices at Wethersfield High School. Rocky Hill High School, Xavier High School, Mercy High School and East Catholic High School. Application forms for the Brian Piccolo and the Tony DiCicco Awards have been forwarded to the Athletic Offices of Wethersfield High School, Rocky Hill High School, Xavier High School, Mercy High School and East Catholic High School. Copies can also be downloaded from the UNICO Website [wethersfieldunico.com](http://wethersfieldunico.com); Wethersfield UNICO Facebook page or by contacting UNICO Scholarship Chairman at [tonymartinojr@yahoo.com](mailto:tonymartinojr@yahoo.com). Book Awards winners are selected based on three (criteria's) criteria that are weighted equally: Academics; Financial Need and Outside Activities. The Brian Piccolo Award is given to an Athlete who played any sport that portrayed the qualities of Brian Piccolo. The Tony DiCicco Award is given to a soccer player who portrayed the qualities of Tony DiCicco. The Brian Piccolo Award is the only award that requires the individual have some Italian ancestry per our National Rules. There are multiple Book Awards issued but only one Piccolo Award and DiCicco Award Winner. Students who are eligible can apply for all three awards. Competed applications are to be mailed to our Scholarship Chairman, Tony Martino, and must be postmarked by March 16, 2024.

## 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.

## Lenten Program

The Women's Club of Christ the King Parish will hold its General Meeting on Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 7:00 pm. at the Church of the Incarnation, 544 Prospect Street, Wethersfield. The guest speaker will be Sister Maryann Cantlon, Sister of Saint Joseph of Chambery and retreat team member at Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center in West Hartford. The Lenten program will feature Sister Maryann sharing with us her reflections on the prison ministry in which she was engaged full time for 40 years in prisons and jails. With stories of her interactive accounts with inmates, Sister Maryann will set forth the principles of restorative justice and how she used those principles in her work. As a teacher and chaplain, her experiences reveal that our faith informs the ministry in which we are encaged and involves struggles, joys and sorrows. Parishioners, friends and guests are welcome.

## Easter Family Fair

Trinity Church, 345 Main St. Portland CT. will be hosting its Easter Family Fair on Saturday March 16th from 11 am to 2 pm. Admission is free. A five dollar fee gets them into all the crafting tables. Free Dance Party with Alicia at 11 am and 1 pm. Take their picture with the Easter Bunny (free will donation suggested). Play games for free. All kinds of easter sweets and goodies available for purchase at the Bake Sale table. Easter wreaths and decorations for sale. Lots of things for kids to do in a fun, safe environment. See our Facebook page under Events for details: Trinity Church Portland \* CT.

## Annual Victorian Tea

The NEWINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND TRUST will once again have the Annual Victorian Tea on Sunday, April 14, 2024. Seating times are 11am and/or 1pm at the Kellogg Eddy House (679 Willard Avenue Newington, CT). Tours of the Kellogg Eddy House & Museum will follow each seating at 12 and 2pm and are open to the public. Please call the Newington Historical Society (860-666-7118) during office hours for reservations starting Monday, March 25 (for members) and Monday, April 1 (for non-members) thru April 12, 2024. Office hours are Monday or Friday 8am-11am and Wednesday 2pm-4pm. Event fee is \$25 per person (non-refundable) due at the time of reservation. Tours are free. Upon receipt of payment, a reservation card will be mailed to you.

## Warm The Children

## Winter Clothing Drive

The Middletown Kiwanis Club is gearing up for another season of providing new winter clothing for children in need. This year's fundraising goal is \$60,000. That amount can enable us to serve more than 300 families with approximately 650 children in total again next season. No donation amount is too small! The Middletown Kiwanis website has information on Warm The Children and ways that you can help. Please visit us at <http://middletownkiwanis.org>. All donations are tax deductible. Donations can be made: by check or money order and sent to Warm The Children, c/o Liberty Bank, Att: Karen Wolfram, 315 Main Street, Middletown, CT 06457 (or) by credit card through PayPal via our website <http://middletownkiwanis.org>.

## 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.

## Middlesex Chamber Welcomes

## Geno Auriemma

(Middletown, CT.) Chairman Sean Hayes of the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce announced that the University of Connecticut, Women's Head Basketball Coach, Geno Auriemma, will serve as keynote speaker at a Chamber Breakfast Meeting on Monday, March 18, 2024. The Breakfast Meeting will be held at the Sheraton Hartford South Hotel, Rocky Hill from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. The cost is \$30 for Chamber Members and \$40 for non-members.

## Friendship Force Call for Members

Friendship Force Connecticut is active and traveling and accepting new members! Our chapter has 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, biomes and the Lost Gardens of Heligan, while sharing meals with the local residents. In May 2024, we will be hosting ambassadors from Niagara, Canada and showing them the wonders of our state. Then, we will be traveling to Santa Barbara followed by San Francisco. Some of our members might even join the Boston chapter on their trip to Brazil in March. For more information about our chapter and on how you can join, visit [facebook.com/ffconnecticut.org](https://facebook.com/ffconnecticut.org), email [ffconnecticut@gmail.com](mailto:ffconnecticut@gmail.com) or go to [friendshipforce.org](http://friendshipforce.org)







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### Single Spring Dance

APRIL 19 (Friday) SINGLE SPRING DANCE at Polish American Club, 541 North Main Street, Bristol from 7 to 11 pm. We'll dance to the music of our DJ Cadillac Jack. It will be a fun night! You can purchase food at the open kitchen from 7-9 pm. Dress to impress and door prizes. Admission \$17. For info, call Gail at 860-463-6906. Sponsored by Singles Social Connections.

### Newington Special Education Fair

The Newington Special Education PTO, (SEPTO) Parent Teacher Organization will be holding a Special Education Resource Fair, on April 20th 2024 at Newington High School 605 Willard Ave Newington, CT 06111 from 11 AM- 3PM. Everyone is welcome. This is a FREE event. Event will be showcasing services in the Greater Hartford Area. There will be 25+ vendors offering information and breakout sessions on a variety of topics. All money raised supports Newington SEPTO. Any questions: 860-515-8724 [newington.ct.septo@gmail.com](mailto:newington.ct.septo@gmail.com).

### Retiree's Group Monthly Meeting

Pratt & Whitney and UTRC Retirees are invited to the "March" meeting. It will be held at the PWA Club Inc., 200 Clement Rd (off Silver Lane) East Hartford, on Wednesday, March 20, 2024. Join us for conversation, coffee and doughnuts at 9:30 AM. Our program begins at 10:00 AM. This month's program will be "East Hartford Police Department with K-9 Dogs. For further information contact the Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Club at (860) 565-6236. Note: There will not be a monthly meeting if East Hartford Schools are closed due to inclement weather. There is a meeting if there is a school delay. For further information contact the Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Club at (860) 565-6236.

### CCD Call for Members

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

### Tax Savings for Newington Vets

The maximum income limit for Newington's low-income based veterans exemption program has been increased from \$45,000 (for married and single) to \$47,800 for Single and \$56,600 for Married. These new income limits are in effect for this filing period, applications are due by October 1, 2023. If you have already applied this year (having applied in 2023) there is no need to re-apply. If you are a veteran who has never been on the program and feel you may qualify, or did not qualify under old income limits, however may qualify under the new income limits – Please Apply. Contact the Assessor's Office at 860-665-8530 or [assessor@newingtonct.gov](mailto:assessor@newingtonct.gov) for more info.

### Kycia Farm Rewilding Seminar

March 14, 2023: "Rewilding With Purpose: Creating Composed and Intentional Ecosystems At Home" Zach Potter-Vose of Blue Arrow Gardens will dispel the myth that "rewilding" means having an overgrown yard that frightens the neighbors. Instead, he'll discuss "rewilding" as a means of using an ecosystem-based approach to landscaping that encourages the natural relationships between plants and their environment.

### Wethersfield Art League

#### Invites You to Join!

The Wethersfield Art League is a non-profit organization that has been serving the community for 65 years. 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 [Wethersfield-ArtLeague@gmail.com](mailto:Wethersfield-ArtLeague@gmail.com) or Phone: 860-563-9637. Visit us on Facebook or Instagram: @WethersfieldArtLeague.

### 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.

### 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. If you've given in the past--thank you! Would you please help us again this season? If you've never given, please consider helping present all of our concerts with a donation. 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](http://newingtonucc.org).



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**Call/Text or email to register: 860-834-0036  
[syncocize@gmail.com](mailto:syncocize@gmail.com)**



### Kycia Farm Composting Seminar

March 21, 2023: “Composting” Sherill Baldwin of CT DEEP will address the issue of reducing waste with beneficial composting. Participants will learn about the principles of composting, including where to put your pile, what can go in your pile, different compost bin designs, odor control, and how to use the finished compost. Representatives from Blue Earth Compost will have information available.

### Rocky Hill Senior Center 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 \$20 per year for non-residents. Applications may be picked up at the Senior Center or mailed by request. Meet new people, experience a wide variety of recreational activities and enhance your quality of life!

### Hartford Artist Reception

An Artist Reception will be held on Sunday, April 14th from 3-4:30p.m. at St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church in Hartford (285 Church St.). A Virtual Panel Discussion will be held on Monday, April 22nd (Earth Day) from 7-8:30p.m. Panelists Included: Artist, Diana Rogers Environmental Photographer and Artist, Jeffrey Feldman, Environmentalist, Editor and Publisher of Estuary Magazine, Richard H. Shriver. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

### Rocky Hill Historical Society

Happy, healthy New Year wishes to the townspeople of Rocky Hill! The Rocky Hill Historical Society is open on Saturdays 12:30 p.m.- 3:00 p.m. Located at 785 Main Street in a former maritime school built in 1803, the RHHS exhibits include Native artifacts, maritime and military artifacts, and a research library. We are a small part of the past, present, and future of our town, and hope to share resources with you. Call for special appointments at (860)563-6704. Cheers to all in 2024!

### 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.

### Heritage Celebration Dinner

On Saturday, March 16, 2024, 4:00 p.m.–6:30 p.m., enjoy a roast turkey dinner with a variety of sides. Choice of desserts. Hot or cold apple cider, coffee and tea. Dine-in or takeout. Reservations recommended. Walk-ins subject to availability. Fee is \$15.00 PER PERSON. To make dine-in or takeout reservations, call or text to 860-798-9927 or 917-856-8175 Location: Wethersfield United Methodist Church, 150 Prospect Street, Wethersfield, CT.

### WHS 60th Reunion

Wethersfield High School “Class of 1964” will be holding their 60th Reunion on Saturday, September 28, 2024. The reunion will be held at The Back Nine Tavern at Stanley Golf Course in New Britain, CT. We are searching for all classmates and friends. More information is on our Facebook page: Wethersfield High School (Connecticut) Class of 1964. Contact Bob Jinks at [1106raj13@gmail.com](mailto:1106raj13@gmail.com) for more information.

### 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](mailto:santiagoya@crtct.org) or 860-539-6233 for more info.

### 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>.

### NHS 50th Reunion

Newington High School ‘Class of 1974’ is celebrating their fabulous 50th, with a reunion at the Indian Hill Country Club on Sept. 28, 2024! We are searching for all classmates, friends, and teachers from that class; please send contact info to Lynne Fournier at: [lfournier@aol.com](mailto:lfournier@aol.com). Can’t wait to hear from you!

### Rocky Hill Memorial Day Parade

The Town of Rocky Hill invites you to participate in the Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 27th at 9:30 a.m. starting at Rocky Hill High School. Whether you represent a Veterans Association, a military organization, school, community group or business we warmly welcome your involvement. If you would like to participate, please contact one of the co-chairs: Rita Chhabra (860) 258 2772 or Henry Vasel (860) 982 0875.

### Ukrainian Easter

#### Festival

UKRAINIAN EASTER FESTIVAL, St. Mary’s Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 54 Winter St., New Britain, 860-229-3833, Saturday, March 23, 9 to 2, featuring our famous Easter bread, decorated eggs, Ukrainian foods, and more. Ample parking. Handicap accessible. Join us!

### Middlesex County Acts of Kindness

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

### 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!

### BHS 50th

#### Reunion

The Berlin High School class of 1974 Is celebrating their 50th reunion on June 8th, 2024 at the Italian American Club in Berlin. We are searching for all classmates, friends, and teachers. Please send contact info to Barbara Fappiano Nieman at [Niemabf@aol.com](mailto:Niemabf@aol.com). Help spread the word!

### Rocky Hill Food

#### Share Fridays

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

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**Sunday, March 24th**  
**9am to noon**

**324 Main St., Cromwell (above ABC Trattoria)**

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- 3 lbs. Beef Oven Roast
- (2) 10-12 oz. NY Strip Steaks
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- 4 lbs. Pork Roast

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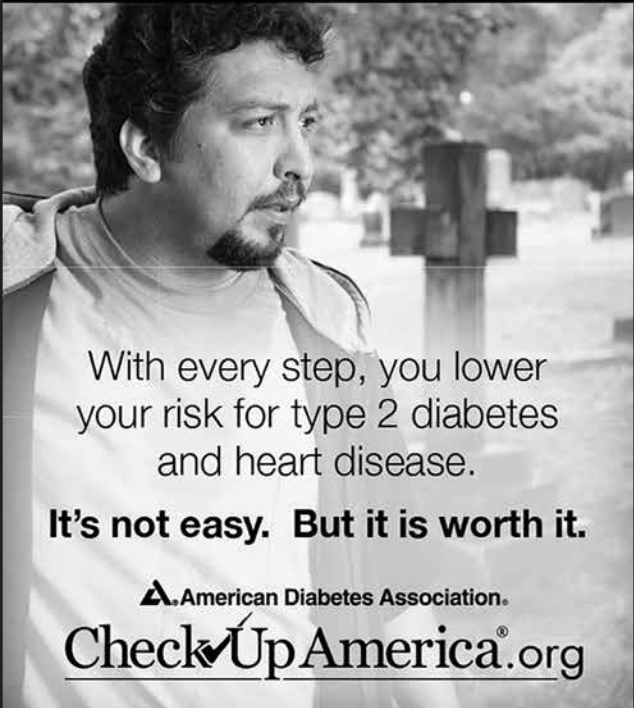
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# REAL ESTATE

## MARKETPLACE



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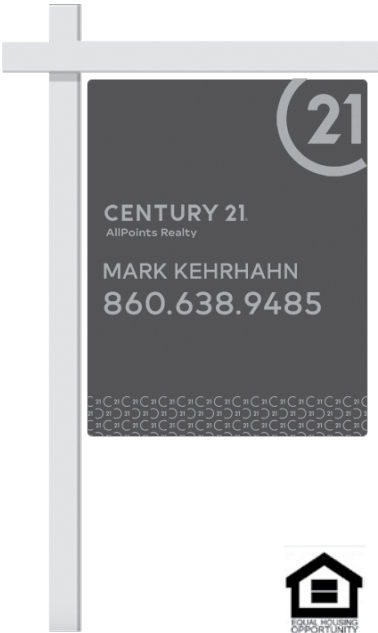
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Please call Ray LeFoll or Lisa Amendola at 860-563-2355 to schedule an appointment to view the space.



011124

### Dos and don’ts of kitchen remodels

According to Remodeling magazine’s “2014 Cost vs. Value Report,” a major kitchen remodeling project should enable homeowners to recoup 74.2 percent of their initial investments. Kitchen renovations have long been a safe way to improve the functionality and value of a home. But not every kitchen project is a guaranteed winner. Homeowners may inadvertently make changes that end up sticking out like a sore thumb rather than improving the space. Take a look at these kitchen remodeling dos and don’ts to guide your next undertaking.

DO consider the way your kitchen will look with the rest of the home. Keep architectural integrity in mind when designing the space. A farmhouse sink and country cabinets can look out of place in an ultra-modern home.

DON’T overlook the importance of a seasoned designer or architect. These pros will know the tricks to maximizing space and achieving the ideal layout of appliances and may be able to recommend local contractors and vendors.

DO look beyond surface details to the structural integrity of the design. The kitchen should be functional, long-lasting and beautiful.

DON’T design just for today, but look to the future as well. Unless you are willing to spend \$50,000 every five years, look for styles and materials that will last for the long haul. Older homeowners may want to make adjustments now that address potential mobility issues down the road.



### PROPERTY

#### Cromwell

**02/26/2024** **15-C Co Squire Dr**  
Cimino, Robin; Greenberg, Roslyn  
To Haywood, Christopher \$90,000

**02/26/2024** **Riverview Pl**  
Shaw, Nancy L  
To Mahoney, Sean \$225,000

**02/21/2024** **Woodland Heights Condo #38**  
Kzesinski, Nataliya  
To Roman, Lucyna \$182,000

#### Middletown

**02/22/2024** **28 Bacon Ave**  
Demaio Joseph C Est; Demaio 3rd, Joseph S  
To Royal Realty Holdings LLC \$87,500

**02/22/2024** **28 Bacon Ave**  
Demaio, Joseph S  
To Roal Realty Holdings LLC \$87,500

**02/22/2024** **28 Bacon Ave**  
Royal Realty Holdings LLC  
To Superior Prop Group LLC \$205,000

**02/21/2024** **165 Brown St**  
Fumi Realty Inc  
To Musanti, Amy \$340,525

**02/22/2024** **76 Burgundy Hill Ln**  
Rasmussen, Kirt J  
To Galindo, Dylan \$122,000

**02/22/2024** **87 Burgundy Hill Ln**  
Peckham, Delano W; Abkemeier, Mary L  
To Prime Prop Renovations LL \$95,000

**02/22/2024** **1 Canterbury Ct #7**  
Girton, Gregory H  
To Carey, Kara L \$235,000

**02/23/2024** **53 Durwin St**  
Zieler, John A  
To K & R Properties LLC \$155,000

**02/22/2024** **44 Gowin Rd**  
Schultz, Marian S  
Hall, David; Molyneux, Jordan \$270,900

**02/22/2024** **110 High St**  
Chair Holdings LLC  
Maddi, Goutham K \$300,000

**02/20/2024** **84 McCormick Ln**  
Bunaev, Alexander S; Hernandez, Jennifer  
To Johnson, Richard C; Johnson, Patricia A \$386,000

**02/20/2024** **182 Pearl St**  
Juall Holdings LLC  
To Yumbla, Fredy M \$255,000





# REAL ESTATE MARKETPLACE



**Available building for lease in Rocky Hill**  
**2294 Silas Deane Highway**  
**Great for office, retail or take out restaurant**  
**Gross building area – 960 square feet**

Conveniently located near the intersection of Route 99(Silas Deane Highway) and Route 160(Elm St.)  
Highly visible location. One mile from Interstate 91. Ample parking.  
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## TRANSFERS

<b>02/20/2024</b> 178 South Main Street LLC To Flannery, Liam	<b>176 S Main St #180</b>  \$470,000
<b>Newington</b> <b>02/15/2024</b> Giamatti Janine A Est; Scalise, Conor A Amirov, Ruslan	<b>Camp Ave</b>  \$315,000
<b>02/14/2024</b> Vignone, Joseph P To Vignone, Danielle B	<b>135 Cherry Hill Dr</b>  \$120,000
<b>02/20/2024</b> Oconnell, Anna M; Oconnell, Derek R To Carta, Fabio	<b>498 Churchill Dr</b>  \$271,000
<b>02/12/2024</b> Nowshad, Mobarak H; Nowshad, Nusrat J To Shivakoti, Laxmi; Upadhyay, Bhadrashwar P	<b>6 Groveland Ter</b>  \$320,000
<b>02/12/2024</b> Basile Theresa S Est; Basile, Scott M To Mykytyn, Liubomyr	<b>45 Michael Ln</b>  \$340,000

<b>02/20/2024</b> Vigue Frances Est; Jacques, Julie To Karolczyk, Fryderyk	<b>30 Millbrook Ct</b>  \$142,000
<b>02/23/2024</b> Maglisco, Frank To Jurczyk, Jeffrey	<b>102 Moylan Ct</b>  \$165,000
<b>02/15/2024</b> Aa Denorfia Bldg & Dev LL To Amin, Sachin; Patel, Brittany	<b>65 Peckham Farm Dr</b>  \$780,200
<b>02/15/2024</b> Thompson, Mark A To Feliciano, Estelita	<b>105 Sunrise Cir</b>  \$261,500
<b>02/12/2024</b> Lamoureux Michael E Est; Lamoureux, Eugene To Restrepo, Jack	<b>58 Vincent Dr</b>  \$315,000
<b>02/15/2024</b> Lazu, Julie L To Singleton, Creashun	<b>Woodsedge Condo #40-3B</b>  \$180,000
<b>Rocky Hill</b> <b>02/20/2024</b> Bennett Joan L Estp Deforeest, Amy To Archambeault, Jeanette; Cardona, Kenneth F	<b>227 Old Main St</b>  \$275,000

<b>02/21/2024</b> Towd Point Mortgage T To Mednick, Ryan	<b>49 Walnut Rd</b>  \$195,500
<b>02/16/2024</b> Schwarcz Steven Est; Schwarcz, Steven To Muminovic, Amra	<b>67 West St</b>  \$325,000
<b>Wethersfield</b> <b>02/20/2024</b> Melandro, Elissa B To Pitchell, John J	<b>30 Highcrest Acres</b>  \$439,900
<b>02/20/2024</b> Tina G Demarco T; Demarco, Tina G To Rapo, Fatjon; Rapo, Liviola	<b>15-17 Highview Ave</b>  \$411,000

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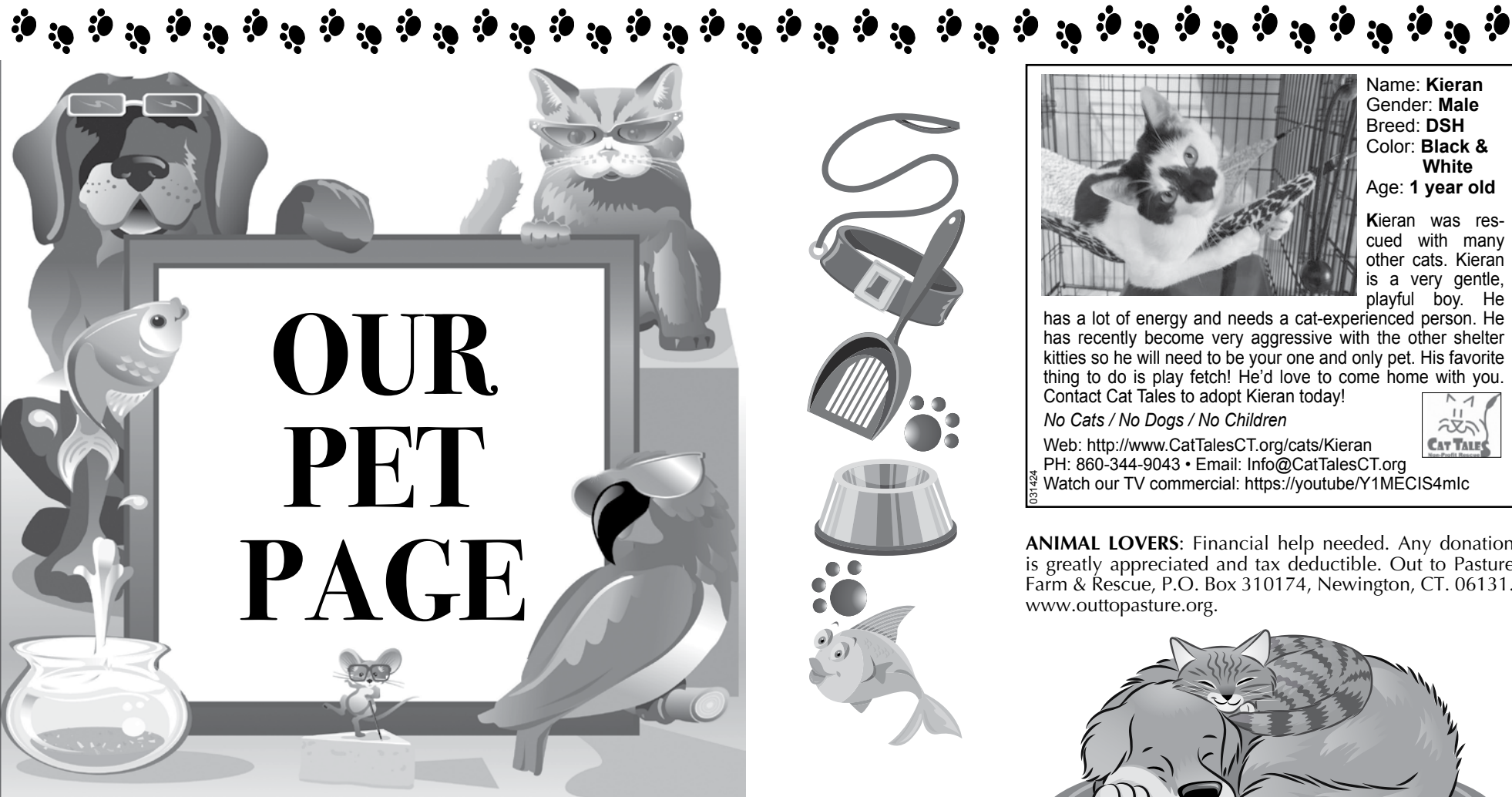
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Casey is a large, handsome brown tabby with white. He has beautiful hooded eyes that make him look serious or sad but he is very happy and so grateful. Casy is a five star kitty; loving, social and a lap cat. He is also doing well with the other foster kitty and he is also doing well with Lilly the dog. A lap cat! Please fill out an application on our website at [www.hucatrescue.org](http://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](http://www.hucatrescue.org).

**ADOPT DUSTY ROSE.** Dusty Rose is as sweet as pumpkin pie! This beautiful little dilute tortie was found in a cat colony in Hartford. She is just so friendly. Could it be that someone passed away and she was put out to fend for herself? We will never know for sure. We do know that she is a doll and deserving of pampering. She is a senior girl around 8 years old and she is so easygoing that she will adjust easily to any home. Please fill out an application on our website at [www.hucatrescue.org](http://www.hucatrescue.org). Thank you!






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Visit [www.POAinc.org](http://www.POAinc.org), or call 860-569-0722



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

**Meet Sammie!**

Sweetheart Sammie loves to lay on your lap for a long nap, lounge high in his cat tree, and play with wand toys! This awesome 3 year old has it all! To learn more, please contact Our Companions at



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March is  
**Pet Poison Awareness Month**

**ADOPT COOKIE.** Cookie is a striking beauty with a big personality. Cookie is very outgoing and friendly. She will require a warm up period. Cookie was given away as an only kitten before she was even eight weeks old. She doesn't know how to act at times and she will be quite protective of you after a warm up period. She bonds deeply. You can watch Cookie's video by going to our website and linking to our YouTube channel. Please fill out an application on our website at [www.hucatrescue.org](http://www.hucatrescue.org).

**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](http://www.hucatrescue.org).



Name: **Kieran**  
Gender: **Male**  
Breed: **DSH**  
Color: **Black & White**  
Age: **1 year old**

Kieran was rescued with many other cats. Kieran is a very gentle, playful boy. He has a lot of energy and needs a cat-experienced person. He has recently become very aggressive with the other shelter kitties so he will need to be your one and only pet. His favorite thing to do is play fetch! He'd love to come home with you. Contact Cat Tales to adopt Kieran today!

**No Cats / No Dogs / No Children**

Web: <http://www.CatTalesCT.org/cats/Kieran>  
PH: 860-344-9043 • Email: [Info@CatTalesCT.org](mailto:Info@CatTalesCT.org)  
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### THE TOP SIX REASON FOR FOSTERING A CAT:

Our deepest desire is that all kitties, everywhere, find loving, permanent homes. We think it's important to understand how cats fostered in homes benefit and how you can make a big difference.

1. Foster homes reduce euthanasia. Some municipal shelters euthanize once the facility has reached its capacity, so every animal that finds a foster home can help to reduce a shelter's euthanasia rate.
2. Foster homes provide customized care to help cats get adopted faster. The personalized care includes proper feeding, a proper medication schedule for older cats and proper socialization for young kittens. This can help animals recover quickly from illness and injuries and better prepare them for adoption leaving shelter workers at a better ratio to help the animals in their care.
3. Foster homes reduce stress. For their safety, animals at municipal shelters are in kennels and time is spread thin between the animals. This can lead to health problems as well as depression.
4. Fostering is a great solution for people who love pets and want to help an animal in need but cannot commit to the lifetime care of a pet.
5. Fostering provides happy goodbyes and happy tears. Saying goodbye to pets can be very difficult, but when you foster, your tears are tears of joy when your foster pet finds their forever home.
6. Fostering can lead to foster failure and that's ok. It's ok if you fall in love and if the timing is right, then adoption may be an option and a happy end for everyone.

Please visit our website at [www.hucatrescue.org](http://www.hucatrescue.org) and fill out an adoption application if you are interested in fostering and preparing a cat for adoption. Thank you!



EVERY MORNING MY HUMAN SHAVES OFF HIS FACE FUR. HE'S FUNNY LIKE THAT.

-TUCK

A PERSON IS THE BEST THING TO DRAPES TO A SHELTER PET.

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**I want to go home**

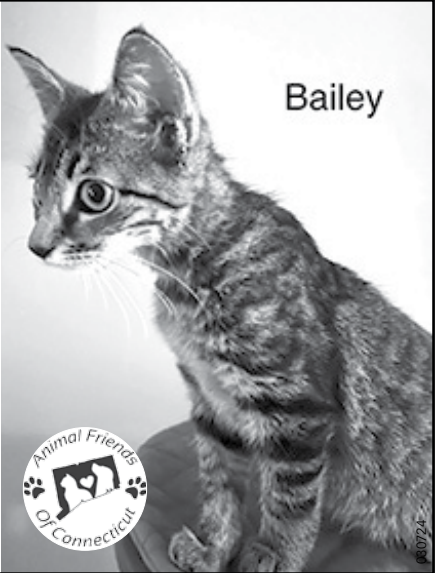


Jelly is a regal, stunning, large brown tabby with white boots. He is very chill, friendly and social. At seven years old, Jelly has retired from running around the neighborhood and is very happy chasing sunbeams and looking out the window. He is a greeter and has already bonded with his foster parents so he will do the same for you. He's fine with other cats but he would enjoy being an only kitty. Please fill out an application on our website at [www.hucatrescue.org](http://www.hucatrescue.org). Thank you!





Bailey is a 9 week old curious male who has just arrived a week ago with his brother (Mele-last week's pet). They are hoping their stay is a short one and they find a loving home soon. They would like to be adopted together, but can go separately. Both are healthy, friendly fellows. If interested call AFOC at 860-693-0303 for more information .



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



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SAVE A SHELTER PET TODAY

How to Help Pets Shed Extra Pounds

Overweight and obesity can affect the family pet. Carrying excess weight has similar consequences for dogs and cats as it does for people, namely increasing risk for certain diseases. According to the pet retailer Chewy, being overweight can contribute to hip dysplasia, osteoarthritis, high blood pressure, diabetes, and even some forms of cancer. It is vital for pet parents to help their companion animals maintain a healthy weight. Despite this, Rover.com says more than half of America's dogs can be classified as overweight. A healthy weight range varies depending on the breed and age of the pet. However, individuals can speak to their veterinarians to identify an ideal weight for their furry friend. In fact, it is always advisable to maintain a dialogue with a veterinarian regarding a pet's weight, especially when the pet is a cat. According to VCA Animal Hospitals, feline physiology differs from humans and canine physiology. If a cat does not eat for as little as two consecutive days, it can develop a life-threatening liver disease called hepatic lipidosis.

Pet owners can keep these tips in mind as they seek to help their companion animals lose weight.

- Get ready to count calories and adjust food accordingly to create a calorie deficit that is right for your pet. Most pets need less food than their owners may think. In addition, the food measurements on pet food bags tend to overestimate the amount of feeding. Determine calorie need and then measure carefully. Also, cut back on allowing animals to eat treats and table scraps.

- Consider a specialty food that is designed to balance nutritional needs. Many "diet" foods contain higher amounts of protein or fiber to help the pet feel fuller, rather than other foods that offer more carbohydrates and fillers. The food may be more expensive, but it will come with the benefit of potentially helping your pet have a better quality of life after it loses excess weight.
- Introduce new foods gradually as many pets can be finicky eaters. VCA Animal Hospitals says to transition cats with one-quarter of the new food and three-quarters of the old one for four to five days, then slowly increase the proportion of new food. It may take cats between two and three weeks to start eating a new food. Wet foods tend to be more palatable to picky cats than dry foods.
- Use a slow feeder to help your pet drag out feedings to feel satiated with less food.
- Increase exercise by taking dogs on more walks and engaging in active play with cats whenever possible. Adding 30 to 60 minutes to walks can help, and using a laser pointer for cats to chase can help them burn energy and shed excess pounds.
- Move the food bowl around the house so that pets have to travel to find it, thus exerting energy. Cats in particular may lounge near bowls for an easy meal.
- Rather than one large meal a day, split up feedings to two to three times per day to stretch satiety across the day.
- Keep the water bowl full. Sometimes dehydration can mimic the symptoms of hunger. Plenty of fresh water also can help pets feel full.

These steps can help pets lose weight and feel better. Vets may suggest certain intervals for weigh-ins to monitor progress.

# Petfinder

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# SPORTS CORNER

## Consecutive CCC Crowns for WHS Cheer

By Josh Howard

For the second year in a row, the cheerleading squad from Wethersfield High School finished atop the Central Connecticut Conference (CCC) – North.

The Eagles tallied a score of 86.6 at the conference finals at Southington High School on Feb. 17, taking the top stop in the North and posting the second-best overall score to Plainville (88.5) in the entire 21-team conference.

Head coach Ali Cormier said that it has been a mix of strong leaders and talented athletes who have carried the Eagles the last few years, allowing the team to hang consecutive conference banners inside WHS.

“Each kid cares more about the program’s success than they do their individual success,” stated Cormier, who has been the head coach of the program since 2016.

This winter, Cormier relied on the leaderships of four seniors — all team captains — in Jade Ettienne, Sienna Garofalo, Emily McNeise, and Deliz Spring.

Cormier noted that each captain brought a uniquely diverse talent to the table, ranging from organizational skills to boosting morale to creativity to community involvement.

“Their different positive qualities blended together, and it was really nice to have some different strengths,” added Cormier, a former cheerleader and graduate of WHS.

The senior cheerleaders closed out their high school careers by placing fourth overall (highest in program history) at the 2024 CIAC Coed Cheer Championship on March 2 before placing top-ten at the “Team of the Year” competition this past

weekend.

Starring in the team’s success in competition was a handful of athletes who made both All-CCC and Connecticut High School Coaches Association (CHSCA) All-State.

Millena Miranda, Megan Doyle, Sophia Klementon, Zach Morytko, and Kylie Tardette received the double distinction, each adding all-conference and all-state to their resumes.

All five are also slated to return next season as Miranda is the junior, while Doyle, Klementon, Morytko, and Tardette are sophomores.

The five all-state athletes highlighted a group that featured the four senior captains along with juniors Maddy Dakin, Haley Gott, Adriana Sansabrino, and Gisella Vargas, as well as sophomore Talyah Rodriguez.

The consecutive conference titles come on the heels of a couple seasons of uncertainty.

When the Class of 2024 first entered WHS, cheerleading was one of the sports most affected by the Covid-19 restrictions. During the 2020-2021 season, stunting was prohibited, and all postseason competition was canceled.

“During the pandemic we were really halted with competitive cheer, but since then each year we’ve built off the previous year,” noted Cormier. “Each group of captains since that year has really put in the work and been committed to the program.”

Having cheered for and graduated from WHS, Cormier knows the program inside and out. She returned to the school to take over the junior varsity job in 2012 before



**Wethersfield High School cheer won the CCC - North for a second straight season. The conference clinching Eagles featured five all-state athletes, who will all be returning next season.**

assuming the varsity job eight years ago.

The 2023-2024 season marked her 16th year in the program as either an athlete or coach.

Since taking over the varsity job, the Eagles have won the conference title four times — also capturing the crown in 2018 and 2020.

“We’ve really blended traditional cheer with competitive cheer, and it’s been exciting to watch the program grow,” added Cormier. “These kids have come back with

the same energy every year and have been able to advance their skills.”

Because cheer is a two-season sport (fall and winter) that spans over seven months, Cormier noted that the time and effort her athletes put in is second to none, adding, “it takes a lot of commitment and passion.”

With the five all-state athletes returning next year and a solid group of JV cheerleaders moving up, the Eagles are in prime position for a conference three-peat next winter.

## The Starting Five - Athletes of the Week

By Josh Howard

**Maya Tomczyk - Cromwell High School (Cheerleading):** Tomczyk was named the Shoreline Conference (SLC) Player of the Year. Tomczyk, a junior, was joined on the All-SLC First Team by sophomore teammate Samantha Wasik. It marked the second straight season that Tomczyk was honored as a first-team all-conference selection and the third straight season that a Cromwell cheerleader was awarded SLC Cheerleader of the Year, with 2023-graduate Emily Sousa earning the distinction the previous two seasons.

**Charlie Maxwell - Haddam-Killingworth/Rocky Hill (Ice Hockey):** Maxwell had a hand in all four of the Terriers goals, scoring once and dishing out three assists as the Rocky Hill co-op defeated Wilton 4-1 in the opening round of the Division III state tournament on March 3. Maxwell, a senior from Haddam-Killingworth High School, led an offensive charge that also received goals from Cole Bates, Olaf Talar, and Dominick Violette. Following the first-round win, the Terriers — who entered the tourney at the No. 9 seed — lost to top-seeded Bethel/Brookfield/Danbury/Immaculate in the quarterfinals, ending the high school career for Maxwell and eight other seniors.

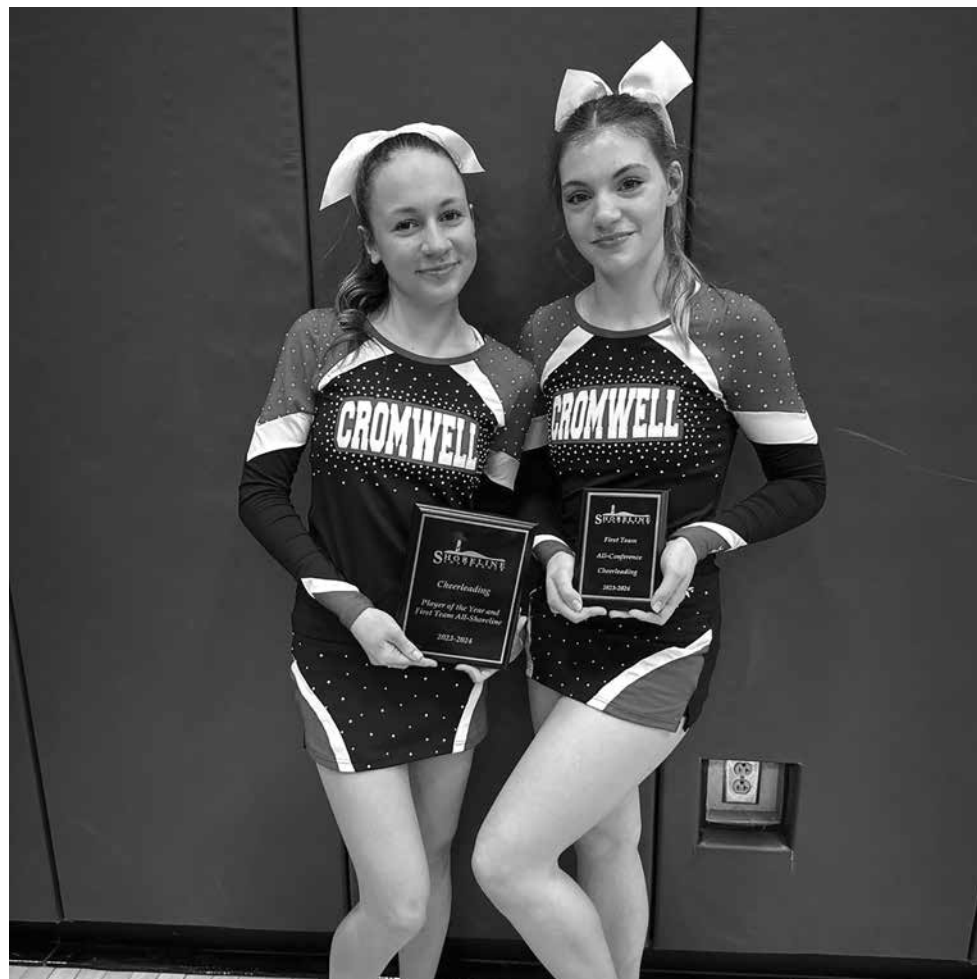
**Kuba Latawiec - Newington High School (Swimming):** Latawiec broke the school record in the 500 Freestyle at the Central Connecticut Conference (CCC) North championships, winning the race with a time of 4:58.04 at NHS on March

1. Latawiec, a junior, also took home a conference title the 200 Individual Medley with a time of 2:03.45 and teamed with Filip Nadratowski, Jake D’Amato, and Matthew Vuong to help the Nor’easters capture a 200 Medley Relay title with a time of 1:45.06.

**Emily Schneider -Wethersfield High School (Ice Hockey):** Schneider, a junior, was named All-Central Connecticut Conference (CCC) after helping the local co-op — also featuring players from Southington, Avon, Newington, RHAM, Coventry, Berlin, Watertown, Plainville, and Lewis Mills — win 11 regular season games, advance to the CCC championship game, and win a state tourney game.

**Bela Cucuta - Newington High School (Basketball):** Cucuta combined to score 54 points as the Nor’easters breezed through the first three rounds of the Class LL state tournament. Cucuta, a junior, opened the state tourney by scoring 24 points in only 21 minutes as Newington eliminated South Windsor in the first round on Feb. 28. Last Friday, the Nor’easters lost to Hamden in the state semifinals, falling one game short of a state championship appearance. Cucuta, who scored her 1,000th career point earlier this winter and averaged over 21 points per game this season, is one of four Newington starters slated to return next season.

To nominate an athlete for The Starting Five or with sports-related comments/questions, email [joshhowardsports@gmail.com](mailto:joshhowardsports@gmail.com).



**Cromwell High School junior Maya Tomczyk (left) was named the Shoreline Conference (SLC) Cheerleader of the Year. Tomczyk is pictured with sophomore teammate Samantha Wasik, who also made the All-SLC First Team.**



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