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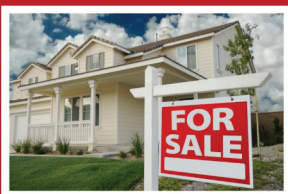
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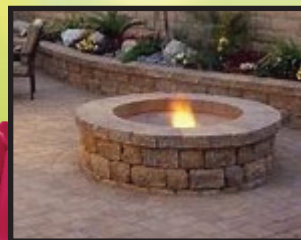
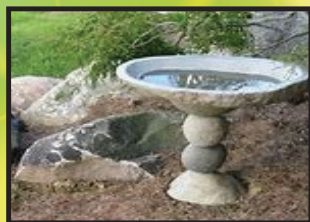
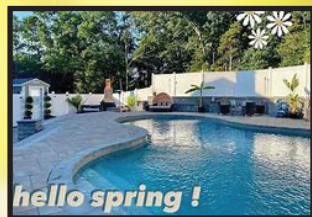
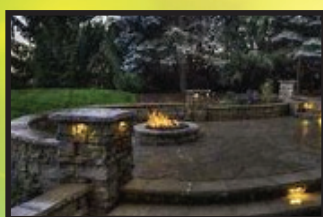
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announcements or any upcoming events.

Town Board Seek Input On Plan Of Development

Liam McLoughlin
Staff Writer

ROCKY HILL — It's hard to know what the future will look like, but town officials are giving it their best shot as work to finalize the Plan of Conservation and Development document continues.

As of the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting held on March 26, the town had received 200 responses to their published survey. The survey is available for residents to respond to until April 15.

According to town planner, Kim Ricci, the survey received close to 200 responses at the time of the meeting, and she expected more to come in. She also said the age of respondents ranged from age 20 to 94. The survey is split into multiple choice and open ended questions.

The multiple choice section allowed Ricci and her colleagues to develop some quantitative data to evaluate some of the sentiments swirling around Rocky Hill.

She noted that 30% of respondents "strongly agree" that having housing options is important

to focus on, and 62% "strongly agree" that a more walkable community should be a main foundation of the plan.

Other multiple choice questions included in the survey revolved around topics like the trail system, sustainability efforts, town identity, fine arts, and others.

It seems as though the open ended questions sparked more debate and creativity from residents, as Ricci reported one respondent requested a "monorail" to be installed in town. Others had different ideas regarding transportation and accessibility in town, focusing more on the implementation of more sidewalks and a reduction in traffic.

"I noticed a theme not only in the questions, but the uh survey results," Ricci said during the meeting. "The themes were sidewalks, walkability, bike-ability, traffic calming, because of speeding, too much traffic...I'm thinking of complete streets as an overarching kind of theme there."

Other responses to the open-ended questions

included focusing on embracing the town culture, and whether or not to build more apartment complexes, which Ricci said was "50/50" between the respondents.

Some members of the public in attendance shared their feelings and concerns of the POCD process so far.

"What I'm having trouble with wrapping my head around is that we have this public meeting which a few people have shown up to, and presumably a few others are going to see, and 200, plus, people have done the survey, which is great," Allan Smith, a local realtor and member of the Rocky Hill Housing Authority, said. "But no one's really able to comment on the draft that is being proposed and sent in before it's actually done."

Following these comments, chairman Dimple Desai explained that residents are encouraged to attend any of the meetings and share their ideas.

He also discussed what the next few weeks will look like for the commission, and when residents can attend to discuss the developing plan.

He said that the POCD draft is due by April 15 to the town council and Capitol Region Council of Governments for comments. The draft must then be uploaded to the town's website by May 15, which will be followed by a PZC special public meeting on June 11 for further comments and adoption.

Members also reinforced the idea that the POCD is a "living document," and they hope to revisit the plan every few months at a special meeting to make changes, updates, and listen to residents' ongoing concerns.

"This POCD is generic enough that anything that can happen, or new trends that come [are] adaptable," Desai said. "That's the beauty of having a POCD. It has goals and objectives in a broader sense."

Celebrate Start Of Spring With Family Easter Event

By Cathy Maldonado
Freelance Writer

CROMWELL - The Youth Services department invites you to welcome the spring season by joining them for a festive and family friendly Easter Celebration event on April 11, from 10 to 11:30am at the Town Hall Gym.

This fun-filled event is perfect for children and families, with a themed craft, tasty snacks, and a delightful story to enjoy together.

After the crafts and stories, the fun continues with the exciting Easter Egg Hunt!

Get ready to explore around Town Hall in

search of hidden eggs, and don't forget to bring your camera—because the Easter Bunny will be there as a special guest.

This event is open to both residents and non-residents, with a fee of \$5 for residents and \$10 for non-residents.

Preregistration is required, so make sure to sign up in advance to secure your spot!

Come celebrate the season with the Youth Services Department and make this Easter one to remember!

Library To Host Clothing Swap

By Cathy Maldonado
Freelance Writer

CROMWELL - The Belden Public Library is hosting a Sustainable Saturday Clothing Swap on Saturday, April 12, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., where if you are looking for a fun new wardrobe that's eco-friendly and won't break the bank the Belden Library has just what you need.

You can exchange gently used clothing for fresh finds—at no cost!

"This will be the first Clothing Swap we've had here," said Kristy Crisler, Assistant Director of Belden Public Library. "I've previously hosted Clothing Swaps at other libraries with great success, and I knew it would be a great fit for the Cromwell Belden Public Library given its record of sustainability-minded interests and efforts."

Crisler emphasized that the goal of the event is to help the community refresh their wardrobes in a sustainable way. "We live in a time of fast fashion and disposable culture, and many people want to make environmentally conscious choices but may feel overwhelmed," she explained. "An event like this provides a fun and accessible way to be sustainable."

To participate simply bring your gently used clothing to the library during Thursday April 10 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. and Friday April 11, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., then return on Saturday, April 12, to browse and take home new-to-you pieces.

Participants may bring up to two bags or box-

es of clothing to donate, ensuring that all items are clean, in good condition, and suitable for spring and summer.

Donations should be in sizes appropriate for teens and adults. However, the library cannot accept damaged clothing with holes or tears (unless intentionally distressed), stained or odorous items, undergarments, socks, or children's clothing.

There's no pressure to donate—if you just want to shop, you're welcome to come by and explore.

Belden Public Library has long been committed to sustainability through initiatives such as the Library Children's Garden, the Food Scrap Recycling Program, and participation in the Sustainable Libraries Initiative.

"We knew a Clothing Swap fit right in with our other sustainability efforts," Crisler said. "We're also proud to partner with Cromwell Recycling Coordinator Anthony Salvatore Jr., who will ensure that any leftover clothing from the swap is properly recycled."

Whether you're donating, swapping or just browsing, this event is an easy and enjoyable way to embrace sustainable fashion.

Mark your calendar and join the library for a greener, thriftier, and more stylish Saturday.

For more information, visit the Belden Public Library or contact the library staff.

Don't miss the swap!

Hospital Vocal Group To Celebrate 35 Years

Please mark your calendars as we celebrate 35 years of lifting spirits and healing souls. The Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords (MHVC) will present our "Spring Musical Celebration" on Saturday, May 3 at 7 p.m. at Portland High School, 95 High St.

We invite you to join us for an evening of music featuring our 90-voice chorus and ten-piece orchestra performing a selection of musical favorites that capture the essence of the spring season.

Our Music Director, Samuel Tucker, has curated an eclectic program showcasing the diverse talents of our chorus. The repertoire includes patriotic arrangements such as "The Battle Hymn" and "America the Beautiful," along with timeless classics like "Shenandoah," "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy," and "Puttin on the Ritz."

Additionally, the program will feature con-

temporary selections including "Moondance" and "Yacht Rock," a medley of smooth songs from the '70s and '80s. Under the accompaniment of Alan Dougherty and his ten-piece orchestra, the performance promises to be engaging, with the potential for audience toe-tapping and sing-alongs.

Proceeds from the concert fund scholarships for Middlesex County high school seniors pursuing careers in music or nursing. To date, we have awarded \$89,000, excluding the scholarships to be presented at this spring concert. We sincerely thank Middlesex Health and our loyal supporters.

Tickets are \$25. Call 860-347-2787 or 860-342-3120 for tickets, or visit www.vocalchords20.org. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

Library To Host Bead Making

By Cathy Maldonado
Freelance Writer

ROCKY HILL - The library wants to help you unleash your creativity with The Perler Bead Creations on April 15 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Registration is recommended but not required.

"We are asking for registration so we can have an idea of how many people are coming but they can come and drop in any time during that time frame to create a Perler Bead Design," said Maeleah Carlisle, Children's Librarian. "This helps kids practice hand eye coordination and use creative artistic skills."

This great engaging craft program is for kids ages 6 to 12 to help them explore their artistic side with Perle beads, tiny, colorful beads that can be arranged into imaginative designs and then fused with heat to create a lasting masterpiece.

Whether your child prefers following patterns or inventing their own shapes, it's a great way to build hand eye coordination while having fun.

No need to stay the entire time! It's a drop in event during the event time slot. Some come in whenever is convenient for you.

Registration is not required but recommended.

Note: Due to the use of small beads, this activity is recommended for children ages 6–12.

To register or for more information, call 860-258-7623 or go to rhctlibrary.org

This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Rocky Hill Library, who continue to support creative and enriching programs for our community.

Children Invited To Easter Egg Hunt

By Cathy Maldonado
Freelance Writer

CROMWELL — Spring is in the air, and what better way to celebrate the season than with an exciting event designed just for young children and their families?

Join the Recreation Department and celebrate the Easter Egg Hunt. The event will be on April 11, from 10 to 11:30 am at the Town Hall.

Children will have the chance to get creative with Easter-themed crafts, enjoy free play opportunities, and snack on refreshing treats and drinks.

"As this event is for children ages birth to five, we do not separate the age groups. We do have two separate areas of Town Hall where they will 'Hunt' for eggs," explained Rosanne Krajewski, Cromwell Recreation Department. "The Senior Center, which is on the main level of Town Hall, and the Recreation Department, which is on the

lower level of Town Hall."

Children will be excited to discover that the Easter eggs they find are filled with special treats.

While the hunt itself is thrilling, these sweet surprises add an extra layer of excitement to the celebration.

The event costs \$5 for residents and \$10 for non-residents. Pre-registration is required at cromwellrec.com, as walk-ins will not be permitted.

Advance registration helps us prepare for the number of attendees. Families are encouraged to bring their own baskets for collecting eggs, but if you forget, don't worry—bags will be available for use.

For more information about this event go to cromwellrec.com

Library To Host Activities During School Break

By Randall Cox
Freelance Writer

ROCKY HILL - The town's public schools will be closed for April break starting April 12, which coincides with Passover. Schools will reopen the Monday after Easter on April 21. Being home from school for nine days is likely thrilling for students, and something a bit less than thrilling for parents. Below are a list of activities hosted by the Cora J Belden Library for students during the holiday.

On Monday, April 14 and Tuesday, April 15 are volunteering opportunities for teens. On Monday the librarians will need help with their spring cleaning efforts, while on Tuesday they are looking for help setting up the Perler Bead Creations program in the Children's Department.

The Perler Beads Creations program will be held from 2 to 3:30 pm. "Unleash your creativity with a Perler Bead design! Create a vibrant, colorful design while honing your hand-eye coordination skills." The activity is open to students aged six to 12. This is a "drop in" activity which means students can stay for part of the time or the whole time. Registration is required and is now open. Parents please note that this activity includes the handling of very small beads.

On Wednesday, April 16 in the Stepney Room from 2 to 3:30 p.m. kids are invited to attend Gross, Weird, Cool Science—Things To Make You Go Ew!, What? And Wow! "Find out about real world zombies, fish that can climb trees, a worm with more butts than any other animal, an animal that can come back to life after being frozen solid and more! Prepare to laugh, be amazed and learn so many cool things about science." Recommended for kids four and up. Registration is limited to the capacity of the Stepney Room.

On Thursday, the library is looking for more teen volunteers to help prepare for STEM Lab: Chain Reactions. Volunteers should be on hand from 1:30 to 3:45 p.m. The STEM activity, which will take place in the Stepney Room, is from 2 pm to 3:30 p.m. This activity, in which students will create their own Rube Goldberg devices, with parts provided by the library, is open to kids aged five to 11. Register one slot per family. Like the Perler Beads creations, this is a "drop in" activity. Stay as long as you like.

On Friday, April 18, the library will be closed in observance of Good Friday.



What's Happening Rocky Hill & Cromwell?

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

Thinking Of Spring Cleaning? Town Has Recycling Guidelines

By Cathy Maldonado, Freelance Writer
ROCKY HILL - Spring has arrived and with it is bringing lots of spring cleaning. The town would love to remind you that not everything is recyclable and that there are many resources available when it comes to disposing unwanted goods.

The trash is coming by and it's looking a little too full, you know what that means? There might be some items in that trash can that do not belong there.

When it comes to what's recyclable and what's not it gets a little hard to figure out sometimes. You do your best and read all the labels but what about electronics, where do they go? We'll here we are to answer as many questions as we can.

The town offers convenient recycling services for residents, promoting eco-friendly practices that help conserve resources and reduce waste.

With options such as curbside collection and access to the local Transfer Station, the town provides several options for responsible recycling.

Residents have access to the Transfer Station, located at 59 Old Forge Rd. The Transfer Station is available for residents only, and proof of residency must be presented upon arrival. No contractors are allowed to use the facility.

The station operates on seasonal hours, with winter hours (Jan. 2 to March 6) on Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., and summer hours (March 6 to Dec. 27) on Thursdays and Fridays from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Public Works Director may close the facility during severe weather, including thunderstorms, heavy snow, or hurricanes. If in doubt, residents should call 860-258-2766 on the Friday before an expected weather event.

The Transfer Station accepts various materials, including brush, leaves, grass clippings, computers, TVs, electronics, CDs, tapes, latex paint, tires, 20lb empty propane tanks, furniture, mattresses, scrap metal, household trash, and recyclables.

However, certain materials are strictly prohibited, such as hazardous waste, sheetrock, ceramic tile, roofing materials, concrete, stone, and dirt.

Hazardous waste—including gasoline, brake fluid, mercury thermostats, paint strippers, aerosol cans, pesticides, and pool chemicals—should be taken to an MDC Hazardous Waste Collection Day. Residents can call 860-278-3809 or visit www.TheMDC.com for collection details.

Due to the limited size of the Transfer Station, the number of trips on Friday afternoons and Saturdays may be restricted to one pickup load per resident. Additionally, commercial landscaping vehicles are strictly prohibited per DEEP regulations.

Lynne Witowski, Community Development Services and Joe Lentini, explain that... "anything that plugs in should be brought to the transfer station."

"Blue recycling carts are for all clean plastic, glass, and cardboard food and beverage containers. Do not place containers from automotive fluid supplies, pesticides, insecticides or pool chemicals," Witowski said. "Recycle carts should not have oily pizza boxes or any plastic containers that didn't have food in them. Those containers should be placed in the trash."

When in doubt follow the golden rule and throw it away.

"Rinse and clean all containers prior to disposal and break cardboard down to fit in cart," said Lentini.

Residents can also take advantage of curbside

recycling, managed by Trash Away, if you need to contact them you can do so at (860)-225-1206.

Connecticut has a universal recycling list that outlines which materials are acceptable for recycling. To ensure the effectiveness of the program, all recyclables must be empty, clean and open.

Recyclables should not be shredded, boxed, bagged, or bundled. Items like Styrofoam are prohibited from curbside collection and must be taken to the Transfer Station.

"The residential recycling averages 10% contamination," said Witowski.

"The recycling from our Transfer Station had two contaminated loads in 2024, the loads were accepted by the vendor. The town was issued a verbal written warning to manage it better," Witowski added "The transfer station attendants do a fantastic job monitoring all the disposal areas, keeping contaminants out of disposal dumpsters."

Proper cart placement is also important.

Carts should be placed within four feet of the curb, but not in the street. Keep them at least three feet away from other objects, with the lid facing the street and the handle away from it. Overfilled carts are not accepted—ensure the lid is closed and any large boxes are broken down to fit inside.

"If you're not confident where to dispose of an item, then please ask an attendant. 99% of time we have the solution for any issue and the proper disposal location of item," said Witowski

Single Stream Recycling

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

 MAGAZINES	 JUNK MAIL	 OFFICE PAPER	 PHONE BOOKS
 PAPER BAGS	 NEWSPAPERS	 PLASTIC #1, #2, & #5	 CARDBOARD (FLATTEN)
 ALUMINUM (CANS)	 PAPERBOARD FOOD/MEAT/JUICE CONTAINERS	 METAL CANS/CONTAINERS	 GLASS BOTTLES & JARS

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS

*NO PLASTIC BAGS, ELECTRONICS OR BATTERIES, PLEASE DO NOT BAG YOUR RECYCLABLES

 PLASTIC BAGS	 GARBAGE	 BATTERIES OR BATTERY-CONTAINING DEVICES INCLUDING LITHIUM ION	 ELECTRONICS
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In cases of excess recycling, residents are encouraged to drop off extra materials at the Transfer Station during normal business hours. If you need a replacement for your recycling cart, contact the Community Development Office at 860-258-2766.

Committee, Town Officials Tweak Community Garden Plan

**By Liam McGloughlin
Staff Writer**

ROCKY HILL — Town officials are racing to get the new community gardens open for residents to enjoy and take advantage of this spring.

At last week's Open Space Land Acquisition and Farmland Preservation Subcommittee meeting last week, residents and committee members continued discussions over the preliminary design plans of the garden's configuration.

Ed Ciccarello, a resident and member of the local group "Friends of the Farm," gave a short presentation to the committee outlining some of the components he felt were most important to update on the current plan.

"You included 98 beds," Ciccarello said, speaking about the proposed plan. "This is the UCONN study and in the study they recommended 55 beds." He explained that over-tilling the land to make room for a large number of beds could lead to erosion, mud, and weed growth, which are likely to cause unwanted damage.

He also stressed the importance of accessibility, specifically in regards to parking and bed height.

"If I go in from New Road and I park on that road and if I want to walk down, I got to walk down a pretty steep hill. I'm 69, I'm a pretty good walker but I would think we need to design this for people who are mobility challenged," Ciccarello said. "I think you're talking about raised beds — I appreciate that and if we can get some literally off the ground, so we don't have to bend over...I think that would be a nice thing to have."

Members of the committee seemed to react positively to comments from Ciccarello and others at the meeting.

"You do have great ideas," said the director of public works and community development services, Steve Sopelak. "This is a preliminary plan. You know, we're not farmers, we're not experts. We're basing what we're doing on other town's experiences." The surrounding towns Sopelak mentioned included Cromwell, Wethersfield, Farmington and South Windsor.

"I think, as well, there needs to be a little more cooperation with the town," said chairman Francis Whelan. "We need to sit down with your group (to) hear some of your ideas of what you want to go down there and we could give you guys ideas of what the town wants you to focus on...So thank you and please continue communicating with us and we'll try to get you involved as much as possible."

This is an ongoing project, and members agreed that the gardens are unlikely to reach it's final configuration this season.

During the meeting, the committee members took what seem to be the final steps to finalize the plot leasing application, which should become available in the next few weeks. According to discussions, the gardens will be open from May 15 to October 31 of this year, and the number of available plots will depend on the interest from the community.

Fundraiser To Support Local Creative District

CROMWELL - Cromwell Creative District (CCD) is participating in the annual Birdies for Charity fundraiser, a collaboration between the Traveler's Championship, Webster Bank, and local nonprofits.

Happening now through the end of the Traveler's Championship in June 2025, Webster Bank will offer a 15% match to all donations CCD receives through the Birdies for Charity link.

With such a great incentive, CCD uses Birdies

for Charity fundraiser as its annual fundraising campaign. Donating to CCD means supporting its mission to revitalize downtown Main Street, support local business there, and enrich the lives of Cromwell's residents.

To participate, you can donate at <https://partnerhq.com/birdies/travelerschampionship> click "donate now" and select Cromwell Creative District from the charity drop-down!

CT Dept of Veteran Affairs Coffeehouse

The Connecticut Department of Veteran Affairs in Rocky Hill will be hosting a coffee house on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. We look forward continuing serving our Veterans with coffee, baked goods and the opportunity to be with fellow Veterans. It begins at 9:30 and ends at 11:30 all Veterans are welcome! Any questions please feel free to contact Matt Bortolan: 860-616-3820 or/and Dawn Hinckley 860-616-3840. 287 West Street, Rocky Hill CT, 06067.

Middle School Solar Project Vote Added To Budget Referendum Date

**By Liam McGloughlin
Staff Writer**

CROMWELL — Residents will be back at the ballot boxes in a few weeks time to determine the possible addition of solar panel installation for Cromwell Middle School (CMS) project.

At the last Town Council meeting, officials voted to approve referendum verbiage and set an official date for the town to decide on whether or not photovoltaic panels will be included in the reconstruction of the middle school.

This referendum topic is to be included alongside the budget approval referendum question.

"We still want to do it on the same day as the budget referendum," said Town Manager Anthony Salvatore. "That's the goal we talked about — to have one referendum and the top three will be the budget questions, and the bottom will be the question on adding this (PV system) into the scope of the project."

Following a short discussion, the mayor and other council members agreed that having a single referendum with multiple questions made the most sense, and was the most convenient for voters.

The council also discussed the CMS Building

Committee's request for an additional \$24,000 to construct a "20 foot by 14 foot shed on a concrete pad" to use for equipment storage.

"That would have to go to referendum, as well," said Salvatore. "I'll be blunt, I think it's going to start to confuse."

Mayor James Demetriades agreed, and suggested that the town tackle this sort of addition as a "normal capital project" next year. Councilman Al Waters also agreed that adding something else to the project would be at the expense of residents.

"I concur if it's outside the scope, I think we should leave it for the time being outside the scope and go with what we're planning on going with, get that done, and move forward" said Waters. "My concern is that they keep adding. Initially there was a surplus, or shall we say there was money to be left over, and being a taxpayer I feel that our bond will come down if they don't spend that money."

In the end, the Town Council approved a motion to set the date for the referendum as May 6, from 12 to 8 p.m. at Cromwell High School.

Town Manager's Budget Calls For 1.8-Mill Tax Hike

**By Randall Cox
Freelance Writer**

ROCKY HILL The proposed budget for fiscal year 2025-2026 has been released by the Town Manager's office. In a letter to Mayor Lisa Marotta and other local officials, Town Manager Ray Carpentino detailed the anticipated expenditures for the upcoming year. Below are some of the details of the proposed budget, as well as the dates of public hearings and budget workshops that are open to town residents.

The letter served as the introductory note to the more detailed breakdowns for all town departments—their operating costs and total budgets. Rocky Hill uses software called ClearGov to calculate and organize budget proposals, which allows for "ease of use, clarity and transparency to the budget process," according to the letter.

Carpentino goes on to state that, "This proposed budget sets out to sustain a stable financial footing by reducing inefficiencies and setting aside enough capital reserves to fund priority capital projects and address emergencies. It prioritizes reducing reliance on borrowing, minimizing the need for sudden tax increases or service cuts to fund unexpected expenditures while retaining the town's creditworthiness."

The total of the proposed budget is anticipated to be "\$103,666,114, representing an increase of 3.59% and a mill rate of 30.99, an increase of 1.82 mills." The largest portion of the budget will go to the Board of Education, with an anticipated

budget of approximately \$55 million. Other large portions included salaries and benefits, totaling more than \$26 million, and purchased fees and services, approximately \$9 million.

Where you come in: On April 22 a public hearing will be held for residents to voice their thoughts and opinions on the budget, either as a whole, or for specific departments or expenditures. This is your chance, as a member of the public, to make your voice heard on the new budget. The hearing is at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers.

In the days following the public hearing, three budget workshops are scheduled on April 24, 29 and May 1. At these workshops the individual town departments will present their proposed budgets. We can expect to hear from, among others, the Town Council, The Town Manager, Human Resources, and the Town Clerk. These meetings are all held in Council Chambers, and can be viewed online as well.

Numerous considerations and calculations go into crafting a town budget, especially one that stretches to eight or nine figures annually, and affects the more than 20,000 people who reside in Rocky Hill. Then the budget goes through a lengthy and rigorous process of moving from a proposal to a reality. The first step is the publishing of the proposal. The next step is for residents to get involved by attending the public hearings and workshops

Local DTC Seeking Candidates For Fall

ROCKY HILL - The Rocky Hill Democratic Town Committee is seeking potential candidates to run in the November 2025 local election for town offices, Mayor, Town Council, Board of Education, Zoning Board of Appeals and Board of Assessment Appeals.

Any Rocky Hill registered Democrat interested in potentially seeking elected office please contact Nominating Chair Mimi Theroux at mimith@cox.net by May 15.



What's Happening Wethersfield?

Send us your news!

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

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

Advisory Committee Changes Swing School Site, Focuses On Details In Preparation For Town Vote

By Joan Hunt
Staff Writer

WETHERSFIELD - At its March 31, meeting, the Wethersfield Advisory School Building Committee voted to change its recommendation for the swing school location from the Stillman site to the one at Kycia Farm. The new school would be built first in the schedule, current Highcrest students would be moved into it, and subsequent school populations would use the current Highcrest school while their buildings are being renovated.

"I think that the integration of the farm with the new Highcrest school is what really went off it my head as a lightbulb, to see some educational possibilities, not to mention the chance of a new field to be part of the school construction that will allow our sports community to expand its activities, as well," said committee Chair Jon Weiner.

"As a Board of Education member, I actually look forward to bringing some agricultural education into our schools, and I think the tie-in to the Kycia property could lend itself to a nice educational process that we do not have yet," said Weiner.

The master plan would split the construction project into two referendums. The first is to build the school at Kycia farm, then renovate Webb as a 5-6 academy, and then Charles Wright Elementary School. This is now being referred to as "Highland Elementary School for new construction on the Kycia parcel."

The second referendum will be to renovate Emerson Williams, then Hamner, and finally to demolish the original Highcrest school.

Once the Board of Education and the Town Council formally adopt the plan and the schedule, pricing will begin. Numbers for the first referendum will be fine-tuned conceptual estimates, but the cost estimates for work included in the second referendum will necessarily be looser, because the construction is to be several years out.

During a series of meetings held by the school building committee over the last couple of weeks, TSKP Project Manager Mike Scott shared some specifics about how the first part of the building project should go. After the new school is built at Kycia, the Highcrest students will move into it, and the Webb student population will move into

the old Highcrest building.

Once the Webb building is renovated into a 5-6 Academy, all the district's fifth and sixth grade students will move into that building. Then the K-4 students at Charles Wright will move into the old Highcrest building, while their building is being completed.

"That would be our recommended conclusion of referendum one," said Scott. "It gives you a brand new school, it gives you a new 5-6 intermediate school, and it addresses Charles Wright and right-sizes it."

Referendum Schedule

Downes Construction VP of Operations Tom Romagnoli recently outlined the schedule in preparation for the referendum:

-April 7 - Town Council resolution and forming a building committee for the swing site project.

-April 9 or 10 - ASBC presentation of cost model for comprehensive plan

-April 22 - Board of Ed presentation of comprehensive plan resolution authorizing Superintendent to apply for grant for Phase 1 only

-May 5 - Town Council presentation of comprehensive plan resolution authorizing Superintendent to apply for grant for Phase 1 only

-May 13 - Board of Ed minutes documenting acceptance of educational specifications for phase 1 only

-May 19 - Town Council introduces bond ordinance and sets public hearing date

-June 16 - Public hearing about bond ordinance and referendum non-advocacy period begins

-June 30 State grant filing deadline for phase 1 only

-Sept. 23 - Tentative referendum date

Children's Summer Camp At Kycia Farm Property

By Joan Hunt
Staff Writer

WETHERSFIELD - A community collaboration of the best kind, the first ever Kids on Kycia Farm Camp will premier on June 23 and run through June 27 this summer. This program, which was two years in the making, is a pilot for many more fun things to come, beginning with kids in grades K-2

It will be an exciting week that is designed to teach little ones the basic science and practice of agriculture, complete with seeds, sun and soil. The curriculum was designed by Wethersfield teachers Sue Fennelly and Elaine Paradise, and developed by landscape architect Jennifer Contaxis, who will be the first teacher this summer.

"I am so proud of the work that Sue Fennelly and Elaine Paradis did to sketch out the course, and that Jennifer Contaxis fleshed out and will bring to life," said Friends of Kycia President Jim Woodworth.

The Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Department, then under the direction of Kathy Bagley, worked hard to make this project happen, and the Friends of Kycia Farm secured a significant micro-grant from the Department of Agriculture to help create and support this great initiative.

As the enthusiasm caught on, Friends of the

Wethersfield Public Library and many individuals contributed age-appropriate science, nature and other farm-related books to the project to create a lending library of more than 125 books. Other members of the community have donated their time, a truck, hay bales and other items to guarantee the success of the Kids on Kycia Farm Camp.

This initial camp will be limited to six to 10 children in grades K-2, who will enjoy a week of hands-on arts and crafts, sensory activities, and games, as they learn about pollinators, growing methods and techniques at the Kycia Farm property.

Future plans involve similar camps with age groups in grades 3-5, grades 6-8 and eventually grades 9-12, with the goal within the next three years of giving Wethersfield a fully realized K-12 agricultural education program.

"The farm camp is going to point the way for a fulfillment of the goals of the Friends of the Kycia Farm, Inc. to help the town take advantage of the legacy of the Kycia family's 100-plus years of hard work feeding the people of Wethersfield," said Woodworth.

The camp runs weekdays from 9 a.m. until noon, and the cost is \$150.



Hospital Vocal Group To Celebrate 35 Years

Please mark your calendars as we celebrate 35 years of lifting spirits and healing souls. The Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords (MHVC) will present our "Spring Musical Celebration" on Saturday, May 3 at 7 p.m. at Portland High School, 95 High St.

We invite you to join us for an evening of music featuring our 90-voice chorus and ten-piece orchestra performing a selection of musical favorites that capture the essence of the spring season.

Our Music Director, Samuel Tucker, has curated an eclectic program showcasing the diverse talents of our chorus. The repertoire includes patriotic arrangements such as "The Battle Hymn" and "America the Beautiful," along with timeless classics like "Shenandoah," "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy," and "Puttin on the Ritz."

Additionally, the program will feature con-

temporary selections including "Moondance" and "Yacht Rock", a medley of smooth songs from the '70s and '80s. Under the accompaniment of Alan Dougherty and his ten-piece orchestra, the performance promises to be engaging, with the potential for audience toe-tapping and sing-alongs.

Proceeds from the concert fund scholarships for Middlesex County high school seniors pursuing careers in music or nursing. To date, we have awarded \$89,000, excluding the scholarships to be presented at this spring concert. We sincerely thank Middlesex Health and our loyal supporters.

Tickets are \$25. Call 860-347-2787 or 860-342-3120 for tickets, or visit www.vocalchords20.org. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

Monte Carlo Whist - Fun, Games And Supper

The Ladies Guild of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church is hosting a Monte Carlo Whist on Saturday, April 12, 2025 in the Lower Church Hall at 63 Popieluszko Court in Hartford. The Whist will start at 6:00 p.m. and be conducted in both English and Polish. An optional light supper will be available for purchase beginning at 5:00 p.m. Supper choices are: Potato Pancakes - Hot Dog with Chili - Chicken Cutlet Sandwich with Coleslaw. Admission for the Whist is \$5.00. Tick-

ets will be sold at the door. Beginners welcome. Come for the supper, even if you don't play cards! Handicap accessible. Bring your friends. Proceeds will benefit the Guild's Scholarship Fund. Information: 860-659-0356

AOH April Food Drive

The Ancient Order of Hibernians Hartford Division 2 is sponsoring a Food Drive on Sunday, April 27 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Collection will take place at Christ the King Parish at 601 Silas Deane Highway in Wethersfield in the parking lot that is between the church and the middle school. The food will be given to the pantry at Saint Augustine Church in Hartford. Please bring non-perishable items with canned meats and soup in the greatest need in addition to pinto and pink beans. We are also looking to collect cooking oils, spices, and condiments. Thanks for your support!

Wethersfield Library Spring Book Sale

The Friends of the Wethersfield Library Spring Book Sale will be held on Sat. April 26th from 10:00-4:00 and Sunday April 27th from 1:00-4:00. On Sunday a bag of books will be \$7.00 There will be a great selection of books, CD's, DVD's and audiobooks for adults children and teens. This is a good time to stock up for summer getaways or for some relaxing summer reading. Cash, checks, and credit cards are accepted.

Christ the King Parish Women's Club Meeting

A Vote of Her Own: The Fight for Women's Suffrage in Connecticut

The Women's Club of Christ the King Parish will hold its General Meeting on Thursday, April 24, 2025 at 2:00 pm in Father Crawford Hall at the Church of the Incarnation, 544 Prospect Street, Wethersfield. Rebecca Gavin, Director of Education from the Connecticut Museum of Culture

and History will present a program of photos, letters and pamphlets from the museum collection that will help people understand one of the most hard-fought political battles of American History. Rebecca will highlight how some well-known women of Connecticut worked for or against the women's right to vote. Parishioners, friends and guests are welcome.

Palm Sunday Concert

Melodious Accord: A Concert of Praise Celebrating the Centennial of Alice Parker's Birth

Sunday, April 13 at 4:00 PM
The public is cordially invited to hear music of American composer Alice Parker (1925-2023), including her Melodious Accord cantata, in a Palm Sunday concert by the First Church of Christ choir on April 13 at 4:00 PM. It will be the final installment of the 2024-2025 Meetinghouse Concert Series.

The cantata is based on hymn tunes and texts found in the 1832 shape-note hymnal titled Genuine Church Music. Soloists include Michelle Fiertek, soprano, Anne Graczyk, alto, Alexander O'Neil, tenor, and Constantine Tsourakis, baritone. The choir will be accompanied by brass quintet, harp, organ, and percussion, all under the direction of Music Director Sean McCarthy.

The audience will be invited to join the choir and orchestra in singing festive arrangements of some of our most beloved hymns. The concert is free, with a donation accepted at intermission. For additional information please call 860-916-5312.

Composer, conductor and teacher Alice Parker

was born in Boston in 1925 and passed away on Christmas Eve 2023 at her home in Hawley, Mass. She began composing at an early age and wrote her first orchestral score while still in high school. She graduated from Smith College with a major in music performance and composition. Later she received a master's degree from the Juilliard School of Music, where she studied choral conducting with Robert Shaw.

Her life's work was in choral and vocal music, combining composing, conducting and teaching in a creative balance. Her arrangements for the Robert Shaw Chorale of folk songs, hymns and spirituals form an enduring repertoire for choruses around the world. She also composed in many other forms, from operas to cantatas, sacred anthems to secular dances, song cycles to string quartets. She was commissioned by such groups as the Vancouver Chamber Chorus, the Atlanta Symphony Chorus and Chanticleer. Her many conducting, teaching and recording engagements over the years brought her gifts to hundreds of church and cathedral choirs, as well as numerous collegiate ensembles through the United States and Canada.

2nd Annual Spring in the Air Arts and Crafts Fair

The Wethersfield Art League invites you to our Spring Fair on April 12-13 from 10am-4pm where we will showcase the talents of our members with Spring-themed art and hand-crafted items for sale. Located at 193 Wells Road in Wethersfield in the Little Red Schoolhouse building. We'll have items suitable for Easter and Spring decorating as well as Mother's Day gifts in all painting mediums, photography, mixed media, fiber arts and painted pottery and rocks. Bring your friends and join us for a breath of fresh Spring air!

Church To Host Easter Egg Hunt

WETHERSFIELD - Trinity Episcopal Church will host an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 19 at 10:30 a.m. at the church, 300 Main St.

Children ages one to 10 are welcome, but asked to bring their own basket.

There will also be other activities for the children, and coffee for adults.

Thank you for reading the Rare Reminder.



What's Happening Wethersfield?

Send us your news!

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

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

Calling all Artists!

2025 Wethersfield Art League Show
Join us in displaying your art at the Keeney Memorial Cultural Center located at 200 Main Street in Old Wethersfield. We will be displaying all creative media including paintings, mixed media, sculpture, photography, pottery, fiber art, and carved wood. Awards will be given at the reception on Saturday May 31 from 1-3PM. The exhibit will be open to the public from 10AM to 4PM daily until June 26. We are proud to announce that national and international award-winning artist Shauna Shane will be our judge. Her expertise in multi-artistic mediums is the perfect fit for

our eclectic art exhibition.
The drop off for the show is:
Tuesday, May 27 from 1-3:30PM
Wednesday, May 28 from 10AM-noon
Entrance fees are \$15 for the first entry, \$10 for the second, and \$5 for the third. The sponsor's dues must be up to date, which are \$30 or \$35 per family and can be paid when dropping off your art. Checks or cash accepted. All art must be 36" or less in overall size. Please direct all questions to Connie at (860) 989-1873 or Wethersfield-ArtLeague@gmail.com

The Wethersfield Art League Announces New Demo & Spring Workshops

The Wethersfield Art League will hold its monthly meeting at 6:30pm on Thursday, May 1st at the Pitkin Community Center, 30 Greenfield St in Wethersfield. Watercolor artist Shauna Shane will demonstrate a fresh way of seeing the world and its beauty through the magic of watercolor while sharing the process and technical points including designing and planning while keeping the freshness and vibrancy of color through the painting. Demo follows a brief business meeting.
All workshops listed below are limited to the first 10 enrolled and paid. \$40 for art league members and \$50 for the public. Checks may be made payable to "WAL" and mailed to 193 Wells Road, Wethersfield CT 06109. For further details on membership or enrollment in workshops, contact us at Wethersfieldartleague@gmail.com or leave a message at 860-500-7899. All workshops held at the Little Red Schoolhouse.
Sat. April 26 - 10am-2pm Scott Rhoades will teach an acrylic workshop, "New England Landscape". Bring an image of your favorite barn, house or other building (or one will be provided) and you will create a landscape to include sky, distant mountains, a meadow, stone wall and your

building. Each student will create a unique painting with details that are meaningful for you. A second painting of a "hearty" birch is included with this WS. A full supplies list will be provided upon enrollment. Bring your own lunch.
Sat. May 10 - 10am-2pm Shauna Shane will teach a workshop, "Confident Watercolor". Shauna will begin the workshop discussing the steps necessary to design & plan a painting, identifying light, dark & negative shapes rather than identifying petals and flowers. She will cover the most effective way to load the brush for fresh, vibrant color & how to see the world in a more effective way. Full supply list provided to enrolled attendees via email.
Sat. May 17 - 10am-2pm Diana Lyn Cote will teach a multi media workshop, "Mix it Up!". Diana will focus on exploring light, color texture and composition in combining layers of multiple media. Bring whatever media you love (or would love to try) whether it's Paintstiks, acrylics, torn paper, gel printing, pastels or other media and we'll mix it up! Diana will have plenty of inspiration to have fun and create something beautiful and unexpected. Some materials will be provided.

Wethersfield Public Library April 2025 events

EARTH DAY TAKE AND MAKE: SEED BOMBS
This Earth Day, make wildflower seed bombs out of soil and clay and bring some spring to your yard! Kits will be available for pick up at the Information Desk starting April 22nd. First come, first served.
April Art Exhibit at Wethersfield Library
The Wethersfield High School Art Department will continue to showcase student work at the Wethersfield Library through the middle of April. Please come see the artistic talents of our students!
CLIMATE CHANGE: EARTH2025
Join us as we take a sweeping look at man's evolutionary journey and the inadvertent planetary dangers our modern lifestyles have created. Hear and see how the three foundations of life: Earth's biodiversity, oceans and climate system have been impacted by climate change and what we need to do for a healthy future. This 70-minute multimedia presentation is presented by Ken Wolslegel, Environmental Scientist. Register on our Events Calendar at wethersfieldlibrary.org.
FOR TEENS: DIY MAGNET POETRY

Teens join us Tuesday, April 22nd at 2:45 and create your own magnet poetry in honor of National Poetry Month! This program is free and open to teens in grades 7-12. All supplies are provided. Register on our Events Calendar at wethersfieldlibrary.org.
FOR TEENS: WASHI TAPE SUNCATCHERS
Teens join us Tuesday April 29th at 2:45 to make beautiful washi tape suncatchers. This program is free and open to teens in grades 7-12. All supplies will be provided. Register on our Events Calendar at wethersfieldlibrary.org.

Free Breakfast for Vets and First Responders

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

Nicholas C. DePaolo July 30, 1945 - April 2, 2020



Nicholas C. DePaolo of Wethersfield, CT passed away peacefully in his bed on Tuesday, April 2, 2020 at the age of 74. He was born in Hartford, CT on July 30, 1945, to the late Nicholas M. and Antoinette DePaolo.
Nick graduated with the class of '63 from Bulkeley High School with Scholastic Honors and was awarded a Fox Scholarship. As a senior he became captain and quarterback of his football team, as well as President of his class. He graduated from Central Connecticut State University, obtaining both his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Education, and went on to teach Biology and Sciences in the West Hartford School system for years. His thirst for excellence followed him into the classroom where he challenged and enriched his students' learning to stretch far beyond the bounds of the textbook. His sense of adventure led him to enjoy the outdoors through

activities such as scuba-diving, skiing, and a two-week white-water rafting trip down the Colorado River.
Nick had a boundless amount of love to give, and he would do so freely and generously throughout his life and up through his final days. One of his most inspiring traits was his unwavering resilience as he navigated life's journey, radiating a remarkably gracious and appreciative attitude toward life, including through the most trying of times. He lived truthfully, authentically, and honestly, continuously seeking genuine emotional connections with those around him, showering others with uplifting compliments, warmhearted smiles, and heartfelt handshakes whenever possible. His love and compassion for others, his love of laughter, his love of music, his love of children, his love of biology, his love of the ocean, and countless other life treasures he cherished were second only to that of the immeasurable love he had for his two children.
Nick is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Nicholyn DePaolo; daughter, Lisa DePaolo; sister and brother-in-law, Barbara and Martin Hancock; grandchildren Duke and Ruby DePaolo; nephew Fred Leone; niece Dawn Benson and family; cousin Mark Tosi and family.
While his family will miss him terribly, they will cherish his honorable soul and vibrant spirit throughout their own lives and on into eternity. For now, his family would like to share his essence through one of the many musicians he loved.
"Shower the people you love with love. Show them the way that you feel. Things are gonna work out fine if you only will." -James Taylor

Legal Notice Town of Wethersfield Historic District Commission

The Wethersfield Historic District Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 22, 2025 at 7:30pm at the Wethersfield Town Hall, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, CT, Conference Room #3, on the following applications seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness:



- Application #8336-25** David Brown, seeking to install 23 solar panels on roof of house and garage at 47 Spring Street.
- Application #8337-25** Liz DeVito, seeking to replace windows in home with Andersen A-Series Fibrex composite windows at 49 Foote Path Lane.
- Application #8338-25** Rachael Coffin, seeking to install 24"x18" painted PVC business sign with black painted letters on barn and also hang a 24"x18" painted PVC sign on existing post with carved black letters at 137 Main Street.
- Application #8339-25** Steven Clarke, seeking an amendment to Application #8237-24 to alter design of carport at 83 Main Street.
- Application #8340-25** Donald Griffin, seeking to construct a 24' wide x 26' long x 16' high two-car detached garage with fiber cement siding, Harvey Majesty windows, Thermacore 5740VS garage doors, gooseneck lighting, and Therma-Tru entry doors at 24 Church Street.
- Application #8341-25** Tim and Kate Kumnick, seeking to construct 6' x 12' one-story addition on rear of house with siding to match existing, Therma-Tru entry doors, Harvey Majesty windows, Trex composite railing at 86 Church Street.
- Application #8342-25** Nicholas Roman, seeking to replace windows in Masonic Hall with Andersen 400-Series Tilt-Wash double-hung insert windows at 245 Main Street.
- Application #8343-25** Charles Drake Enterprises LLC, seeking to maintain existing outside dining space, including tables, chairs, umbrellas, outdoor wait station, tent, and artificial turf at 161 Main Street.

Town of Wethersfield
Historic District Commission

Kim Wolf
Duly Authorized
Dated at Wethersfield, Connecticut,
this 7th day of April 2025

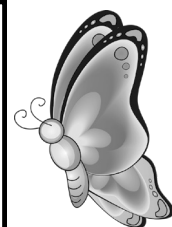
LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION Town of Wethersfield PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

The Wethersfield Planning and Zoning Commission held a public meeting on April 1, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, Connecticut and made the following decision:

Application 2203-25-Z Zachary Silva seeking a Special Permit in accordance with Section 3.6.C (Accessory Building & Structures) of the Wethersfield Zoning Regulations for a shed over 200 Sq. Ft. at 56 Cedar Street – **APPROVED with CONDITIONS.**

Application 2202-25-Z Tesla c/o Scott Austin seeking a Special Permit in accordance with Section 5.3.A.13 (Accessory Uses & Structures) of the Wethersfield Zoning Regulations for the installation of electric vehicle charging stations at 1267-1319 Silas Deane Highway – **CONTINUED TO 4-15-25.**

Planning and Zoning Commission
David Elder, AICP, Town Planner
Duly Authorized
Dated at Wethersfield, Connecticut, this 2nd day of April, 2025



LEGAL NOTICE Town of Wethersfield PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

The Wethersfield Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Council Chambers, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, Connecticut.

Public Hearing 2204-25-Z Stefano Construction 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 101 Black Birch.

Planning and Zoning Commission
David Elder, AICP, Town Planner
Duly Authorized
Dated at Wethersfield, Connecticut, this 26th day of March, 2025.



What's Happening Newington?

Send us your news!

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

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

Family Activities For Easter At Stew Leonard's Store

By Margaret Radman
Freelance Writer

NEWINGTON - Looking for fun family activities to celebrate Easter? Check out these local festivities that are perfect for engaging the little ones in exciting, fun-filled experiences.

Though alternatives to egg decorating are being explored by some consumers to avoid the high cost of eggs, Easter traditions like the Easter bunny, Easter egg hunts and Easter baskets remain strong, and these are some of the activities the kids can come and enjoy at Stew Leonard's.

Come have breakfast with the Easter bunny on April 12 and 13 from 9 to 10 a.m. for a buffet-style selection of breakfast treats. Each child will receive Easter coloring sheets. Admission is about \$17 for anyone over age two; under age two is free. See link below for registration.

Then on April 15 from 4 to 5:30 p.m., Stew Leonard's will host the Egg-Stravaganza egg hunt for kids up to age eight.

The free event features an Easter egg hunt where kids will be greeted by costumed characters throughout the store. There will be five lucky winners who will find a winning ticket inside their egg, that is redeemable at customer service for a WOW Easter basket.

Though the event is free, registration is required through the link below.

Due to the popularity of this event in years past, this is a ticketed event for children aged 8 and under. Parents and caregivers do not need tickets.

For Stew Leonard's registration, visit their website at: https://stewleonards.com/stew-leonards-events/?_gl=1*zt0i1w*_ga*MTE5MDE1MzY2MS4xNzQzNzY5NjE2*_ga_8HS4YCF7HP*MTC0MzgwNjc0NS42LjEuMTc0MzgwNjg1OC4y-OC4wLjExNzI5NzQ1MDI.

Town Native Seeks Sponsors For Boston Marathon Run

NEWINGTON - Lauren Planas, a Newington native, will be running the Boston Marathon this year on behalf of Multi-Service Eating Disorders Association, Inc. (MEDA), a non-profit organization dedicated to the prevention and treatment of eating disorders.

As a sports performance and eating disorder registered dietitian, Planas' line of work has led her to collaborate with MEDA providers and refer clients to their services over the years. MEDA offers a variety of clinical and therapeutic services to help individuals and their loved ones through the various stages of their eating disorder recovery, as well as professional trainings for eating disorder focused practitioners to help el-

evate their client-centered care.

Planas is excited to be able to give back to this organization that helps so many while promoting a healthy relationship with nutrition and exercise throughout her training and fundraising efforts.

The opportunity to run the Boston Marathon on behalf of an organization requires fundraising \$10,000 to raise awareness and support the services such organizations or charities provide. Any donations on Lauren's behalf for MEDA are incredibly appreciated, and can be made at the following link. Donation Link: <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E334883&id=124>

Newington Parks and Recreation Seeks Sponsorship for First-Ever Circus at Mill Pond Park

The Newington Parks and Recreation Department is thrilled to announce plans to bring a spectacular circus performance for the first time to the Life. Be In It. Extravaganza on Wednesday, July 16th, 2025 at 6:45 PM. This unforgettable event will feature awe-inspiring acts including clowns, acrobatics, silk performers, high-wire tricks, and much more—all under the excitement of a real big top tent.

In order to make this dream a reality, the department is actively seeking a public/private partnership with a local business or civic group to sponsor the \$3,000 fee. This sponsorship will cover the cost of the big top tent, a high-wire boom truck, and the circus ring, allowing the performers to dazzle attendees with a one-of-a-kind, 40-minute show.

"This will be so much fun!" said Bill DeMaio, Superintendent of the Newington Parks and Recreation Department. "We'll do everything in our power to advertise and market the first business or organization that steps forward to help us bring this imaginative idea from New York to

Newington. After all, who wouldn't love to see a professional circus performance for free right here in Mill Pond Park?"

The Life. Be In It. Extravaganza is already a beloved tradition in Newington, drawing thousands of residents and visitors for over 43 years from across the country. With the addition of a professional circus, this year's event promises to be the most memorable yet, generating excitement and significant community engagement.

In return for their generosity, the sponsoring business or civic group will receive prominent recognition through event promotions, advertising, and on-site branding. This is a unique opportunity to support a community initiative while gaining exposure to an enthusiastic audience.

Don't miss the chance to be a part of Newington history! Let's work together to bring the magic of the circus to Mill Pond Park this summer. Interested sponsors are encouraged to contact the Newington Parks and Recreation Department at 860-665-8666 or through email at parksandrec@newingtonct.gov.

Newington Art League to Host Free Art Demonstration

The Newington Art League (NAL) will conduct its general membership meeting on Wednesday, May 14th at 6:30 PM, in the Ceramics Room at the Newington Senior and Disabled Center. The address is 120 Cedar St, Newington, CT 06111.

After this short meeting, artist Gina Dunlap will demonstrate the use of Cold Wax Medium (CWM) and oil paint CWM is made of beeswax and an Alkyd resin by the Gamblin company. It is easy to use. Just mix the CWM 50/50 with oil paint and gather your mark-making tools: scribes, pencils, sponges, toothpicks, stencils, and Gina's favorite, the bowl scraper. Anything goes. Let your imagination soar and your inhibitions disappear.

CWM can be used for texture, color glazing over existing painting to add depth, collages, stencils, and for gouging through layers to reveal areas of interest. And yes, you can paint entirely with sponges.

In this demo Gina will show you how to mix paint with CWM, what substrates to use, and as many application techniques as possible.

About the Artist

Long before taking a painting, Gina Dunlap was an award-winning silversmith and folksinger. She studied jewelry making at the Kulicke Stark Academy (now the Jewelry Arts Institute) in New York City and Chelmsford College in Eng-

land. She lived in the UK for five years, studying enameling and silversmithing with some of the country's leading artists. There she taught jewelry techniques at Chesterton College in Cambridge England. For many years taught Advanced Silversmithing at Wesleyan Potter's in Middletown Connecticut and other jewelry workshops in New England and California.

Gina was a solo folk singer in New York City before joining traditional Irish groups as a lead singer, playing the Irish flute, tin whistle, bodhran, and guitar. She was active in the New York Irish music scene, helping to found the Irish Arts Center and the Irish Cultural Project as well as several long-running traditional music sessions.

More recently she performed sea shanties and other traditional Maritime music along with her prize-winning original songs at Maritime festivals across the United States, Britain, and Ireland. With the sea music Band Shipping News she released *Wives' Tales*, a CD of Maritime songs. She serves on the board of the Portsmouth Maritime Folk Festival in New Hampshire. Next year will mark her 15th wedding anniversary. She has three grown children (two of whom live in Scotland), and three grandchildren (two Scotts and an American).



Hospital Vocal Group To Celebrate 35 Years

Please mark your calendars as we celebrate 35 years of lifting spirits and healing souls. The Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords (MHVC) will present our "Spring Musical Celebration" on Saturday, May 3 at 7 p.m. at Portland High School, 95 High St.

We invite you to join us for an evening of music featuring our 90-voice chorus and ten-piece orchestra performing a selection of musical favorites that capture the essence of the spring season.

Our Music Director, Samuel Tucker, has curated an eclectic program showcasing the diverse talents of our chorus. The repertoire includes patriotic arrangements such as "The Battle Hymn" and "America the Beautiful," along with timeless classics like "Shenandoah," "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy," and "Puttin on the Ritz."

Additionally, the program will feature con-

temporary selections including "Moondance" and "Yacht Rock", a medley of smooth songs from the '70s and '80s. Under the accompaniment of Alan Dougherty and his ten-piece orchestra, the performance promises to be engaging, with the potential for audience toe-tapping and sing-alongs.

Proceeds from the concert fund scholarships for Middlesex County high school seniors pursuing careers in music or nursing. To date, we have awarded \$89,000, excluding the scholarships to be presented at this spring concert. We sincerely thank Middlesex Health and our loyal supporters.

Tickets are \$25. Call 860-347-2787 or 860-342-3120 for tickets, or visit www.vocalchords20.org. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

Catch 'Em All Reading Adventure

GFWC Newington/Wethersfield Woman's Club Education and Library Chairman, Pamela Garde, is pleased to announce our newly updated reading challenge for all elementary school students in Newington. Our sincere appreciation to Beverly Blount-Lawrence, Director of Curriculum & Instruction and to the Media Specialists who created the Pokémon Bingo Challenge from April 21 through May 19. Each school will receive \$100 toward the purchase of books to add to their Media Centers.

The squares on the bingo card offer so many

great choices such as read a graphic novel, a poem or a mystery. Other squares will offer fun ways to do so, such as reading with a flashlight or in a silly voice. It is a perfect way to get students to read in a variety of genres they may not have chosen otherwise. Each child will have a Pokedex Tracker to list the Pokémon they have caught!

This Catch 'Em All Reading Adventure replaces the "Jump into Spring with Reading" contest that was started in 2003 by club and continued through last year. As always, it is clubs desire to increase each student's love of reading!!

Paint n' Sip April 23rd at Wood-n-Tap

The Newington Art League (NAL) will host a Paint n' Sip at the Wood-n-Tap in Newington on Wednesday, April 23 from 5:30-8:00. Artist - Jamain Naidoo will provide all the supplies needed.

There will be light appetizers and a cash bar. The fee will be \$40 and sign up will be available on the Newington Art League website at <https://newingtonartleague.org/>. ALL ARE WELCOME. No art experience is necessary.

The selected piece you will work on is "Cherry Blossoms with the Moon", and you bring the finished piece home. Jamain is a professional artist, and will walk you step by step through the featured painting, while you enjoy appetizers and drinks.

About the Artist: Jamain Naidoo from the Artful Soul CT has taught art for over 10 years and has led hundreds of successful paint nights and other creative events.

Newington High School Announces 2nd Annual Resource Fair on Saturday, April 12

Newington, CT - Newington Special Education Parent Teacher Organization (SEPTO) is excited to host its 2nd Annual Resource Fair on Saturday, April 12, from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. This free event will be held at Newington High School, located at 605 Willard Ave Newington CT 06111 (CAFE), and is open to all free of charge.

The Resource Fair will feature a wide range of local organizations, businesses, and educational resources, offering valuable information on health, education, career opportunities, community services, and more. Attendees will have the chance to meet with representatives from various fields, learn about available services, and discover opportunities that can benefit both individuals and families in the Greater Hartford Area.

Event Highlights:

- Free resources and information from local

vendors and organizations

- Educational and extracurricular resources for the special needs population
- Family-friendly activities and giveaways

"We're thrilled to bring the community together again for this important event," said Diana Lamenzo Executive Director of Newington SEPTO. "The Resource Fair is a great opportunity for everyone to access valuable services and learn about the many resources available in Newington and the surrounding areas. We look forward to welcoming all of our neighbors."

This event is free to attend, and there is no registration required.

For more information about the 2nd Annual Resource Fair, please contact Diana Lamenzo at 860-515-8724.

Local Students named to Emmanuel College's Fall 2024 Dean's List

BOSTON, MA (02/24/2025)-- In recognition of their outstanding academic achievement, Emmanuel College has named more than 1,000 students to the Dean's List for the Fall 2024 semester. To earn a spot on the Dean's List, Emmanuel students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or higher for a 16-credit semester.

The following local students were named to the Dean's List:

Juliana Buonopane of Wethersfield (06109). Buonopane is a Double Major; Studio Art; Secondary Education major.

Zoe Martin of Wethersfield (06109). Martin is a Writing, Editing and Publishing major.

Trey Guest of Newington (06111). Guest is a Accounting major.

Ava Heimgartner of Wethersfield (06109). Heimgartner is a Double Major; Neuroscience; Psychology - Counseling & Health Psychology major.

Michelle Pelletier of Middletown (06457). Pelletier is a Sociology - Social Work major.

Kathryn Walsh of Newington (06111). Walsh is a Communication and Media Studies major.

Lindsay Ronski of Newington (06111). Ronski is a Graphic Design major.

Cameryn Hickey of Cromwell (06416). Hickey is a Undeclared major.



What's Happening Newington?

Send us your news!

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Wrong-Way Driver Faces Multiple Charges

Liam McLoughlin
Staff Writer

NEWINGTON — A Newington man is due back in court at the end of May on numerous charges, including reckless driving and his third offense of illegal operation of a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol/drugs.

Aaron Miranda, a Newington native, was arrested by Troop-H State Police personnel for driving the wrong way on Route 5/15 South and I-91 North.

The "investigating trooper," Trooper Nicholas Jones, wrote in his report that Troop-H had received "eleven 9-1-1 calls reporting a black sedan driving the wrong way." Officers responded following these calls and located Miranda near exit 26 on Great Meadow Road.

According to a press release published by the State Police Public Information Office of Media Relations, officers initiated a traffic stop, identified Miranda, and observed "several signs of impairment" during the investigation.

These signs of impairment included a "strong odor of alcohol emanating from the vehicle and the driver's eyes appearing red and glossy," the release said. Miranda also report-

edly told police he had been drinking prior to driving.

"Based on these observations, Miranda was asked to perform the Standardized Field Sobriety Tests, to which he ultimately did not perform to standard. As a result, Miranda was arrested and transported to Troop H for processing for operating under the influence."

After arriving at Troop H in Hartford, officers performed a chemical breath test, which revealed Miranda had a blood alcohol content that "was more than twice the legal limit.

Miranda has been additionally charged with first degree reckless endangerment, failure to drive upon the right side of the road, driving the wrong way on a divided highway, and illegal entry onto a limited access highway.

He was held on a \$10,000 bond, and was due in court on March 31. He has since been released from custody after signing a "promise to appear," according to the Connecticut Judicial Branch website.

The court is currently awaiting a plea from Miranda, and he is due back in court on May 29.

Town To Seek Bids To Repair Current Pools

Liam McLoughlin
Staff Writer

NEWINGTON — The community pool saga continues as committee members give the "all-clear" to send out an RFP to contractors.

In between Town Pool Committee meetings, Jonathan Altshul, met with a pool contractor from "Superior Pools" to learn more about the current status of the town's swimming pools.

In a memorandum submitted on Mar. 19, Altshul wrote, "While both pools have residual water and leaf residue on their floors that made doing a comprehensive visual inspection impossible at the moment, the contractor's overall impression was that both pools are in relatively good condition for their ages and that they may be repairable."

During discussion in the March 24 meeting, Altshul explained that the contractor who evaluated the pool has expertise in concrete repair, rather than as a pool engineer or architect. He added that it was only a visual inspection, and didn't evaluate other key components, such as piping or mechanical elements.

Given the preliminary nature of this study,

members discussed the need to complete an RFP to better understand the work required.

"Yes, we need to do a comprehensive study, from the ground up, and that's the way it needs to get done," chairperson Eileen Francolino agreed.

The big question regarding issuing an RFP, however, is its cost. In his memorandum, Altshul stated that he expects an RFP to "exceed the \$30,000 threshold" for a "soup-to-nuts" evaluation of the pools at Mill Pond Park and Churchill Street, which would then require an RFP.

While the town does have \$200,000 allocated in the capital budget for the pools, Altshul explained that the money is primarily needed for getting the pool ready for the season, minor repairs, patches, etc.

A meeting between the committee and the Town Council is expected to discuss the potential for increasing the budget to pay for the study.

Following discussion, committee members voted unanimously to send out the RFP. According to the document, responses are due by April 24, and a decision is due by May 1.

'Oz Dust Gala': Newington Children's Theatre Company's '25 Fundraiser April 26

The Newington Children's Theatre Company, Connecticut's longest-running nonprofit children's theatre, invites you to its spring fundraiser to celebrate its 62 year, NCTC's Oz Dust Gala, Saturday, April 26, at 6 p.m. at the Indian Hill Country Club in Newington.

This family-friendly event includes food and drinks, prize drawings, photo booth, and singing and dancing, with entertainment provided by Shark Entertainment. The "Oz Dust" theme is from the movie "Wicked," but any attire is welcome. Dessert will be provided by The Kakery of Newington.

"More than a fundraiser to help get us closer to our goal of building a performance space of our own, the gala is a terrific family-friendly celebration of NCTC's 62 years and counting," says Chris DeFrancesco, NCTC board president. "It's a wonderful night in support of a wonderful cause, and a way to say 'thank you' to all who make the program thrive. Please join us this year!"

Reserve your tickets for this year's fundraiser — \$60 per adult, \$30 for children 14 and under — at nctcarts.org/special-events. VIP tables for 10 are \$550.

The title sponsors for Season 62 are Tabletop Gaming Center of Newington, Dan Martin Construction of Newington, and Mindful Transformations of West Hartford. Anyone interested in sponsoring NCTC's Oz Dust Gala or making contributions for prize drawings, please email nctc1617@gmail.com.

More information about the Newington Children's Theatre Company, including tickets for upcoming performances, available programs, and how to support the theatre financially or by volunteering, is available at nctcarts.org, with regular updates on NCTC's Facebook page, @NCTCarts, and Instagram page, @nctcarts

American Legion Post 117 Newington Meetings

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

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

Newington Dog Contest is Back! Join the Fun – Pick the Perfect Pooch – to win Tag #1

The Newington Town Clerk will be holding a "Perfect Pooch" contest prior to the start of the licensing period.

To participate, send a non-returnable photo of your dog by April 30th, to: Town Clerk, 200 Garfield St., Newington, CT 06111. The pictures will be posted in the Town Clerk's office. Anyone visiting the Town Clerk's office will be able to vote for the "Perfect Pooch" candidate of their choice.

Voting will begin on May 1st and votes will be tallied on May 30, 2025. The first, second and third place dogs will be issued license numbers 1, 2 and 3.

Dog licenses are issued beginning on the first business day of June. To obtain a license, send a spaying/neutering certificate to the Town Clerk's office. The fee is \$8 for spayed/neutered dogs, and \$19 for non-spayed/neutering dogs. Rabies vaccination information must be current for the licensing period, beginning July 1, 2025. Rabies vaccination certificates will be returned to the owner with the new licensing tags.

Licenses may also be obtained in person at the clerk's office. Licenses issued after June 30th are assessed a penalty of \$1 per month. Call 860-665-8545 with any questions.

Newington Student Assistance Fund Interest Free Loan Applications Available

With the high cost of college education and technical training, students are looking for financial help. The Newington Student Assistance Fund (NSAF), is a non-profit organization whose mission, since 1966, is to assist residents of Newington obtain post-secondary education or training. All loans are interest-free and are available to any Newington resident.

The application for loans is available to download on the website at www.nsafinfo.org. Completed applications must be attached in an email and emailed to: loans@nsafinfo.org no later than noon on June 6, 2025. While the Newington High School Counseling department will continue to have the loan application information on their website, applications are not accepted by them. For more information or questions, please go to www.nsafinfo.org.

Funds used to issue loans are raised through an annual solicitation drive. The loan amount for the 2025-2026 academic year is \$1,500 and students may reapply each year. In addition, loan recipients pay the principal back in monthly installments following graduation or the termination of studies/training which also allows for the continuation of providing new loans.

NSAF also administers two annual scholarships that are awarded to a male and a female student at Newington High School. Scholarship awards are based on criteria developed by the NSAF Board of Directors with emphasis on school and community service plus academic achievement. This scholarship was originally administered by the directors of the Indian Hill Country Club and was transferred to NSAF in 1994. In addition, NSAF presents the Cammy O'Connor Book Awards to a member of each class.

Newington Senior Center Bus Trips

Tuesday, April 15, 2025 - Swing into Spring with the King Richie Santa's tribute to Elvis, Villa Louisa, Bolton. Register in person at the:

Newington Senior & Disabled Center, 120 Cedar St., Newington. Monday & Tuesday 10:00 to 12:00, Thursday 11:15 to 12:45.

Retiree's Group Monthly Meeting

Pratt & Whitney and UTRC Retirees are invited to the "April" meeting. It will be held at the PWA Club Inc., 200 Clement Rd (off Silver Lane) East Hartford, on Wednesday, April 16, 2025. Join us for conversation, coffee and doughnuts at 9:30 AM. Our program begins at 10:00 AM. This month's program will be "Jeff Wieselberg-Piano and Music Vocals."

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.

Annual Victorian Tea

Newington Historical Society and Trust Presents Annual Victorian Tea, Sunday, April 13, 2025

Two seatings (one at 11 a.m. and second one at 1 p.m.), Kellogg-Eddy House and Museum 679 Willard Ave, Newington

Call for required reservation 860-666-7118 during office hours: Monday or Friday 8 a.m.-11 a.m., or Wednesday 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

Answering machine or electronic mail messages will not be accepted.

Registration fee \$25 per person

Members reservations will be accepted 3/24-4/11. Non-member reservations will be accepted 3/31-4/11.

Tours of the Kellogg-Eddy House Museum will be available following each seating at noon or 2 p.m. These tours are free and open to the public.

Women's Group Plans Activities

NEWINGTON - The Newly-Retired Newington Women's group has planned the following activities:

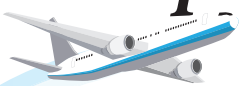
- April 16--Pizza Party--11:30 a.m.
 - April 25--Dinner Dance--6 p.m.
 - May 2--First Friday--5:30 p.m.
 - May 7--Capitol Tour--9 a.m.
 - May 14--Thrift Thrills--11 a.m.
 - June 6--Vineyard Potluck--4:30 p.m.
 - July 30--Goody's Potluck--2 p.m.
- Any questions? Call Jean at 860-920-9943.

Monte Carlo Whist – Fun, Games And Supper

The Ladies Guild of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church is hosting a Monte Carlo Whist on Saturday, April 12, 2025 in the Lower Church Hall at 63 Popieluszko Court in Hartford. The Whist will start at 6:00 p.m. and be conducted in both English and Polish. An optional light supper will be available for purchase beginning at 5:00 p.m. Supper choices are: Potato Pancakes - Hot Dog with Chili - Chicken Cutlet Sandwich with Coleslaw. Admission for the Whist is \$5.00. Tickets will be sold at the door. Beginners welcome. Come for the supper, even if you don't play cards! Handicap accessible. Bring your friends. Proceeds will benefit the Guild's Scholarship Fund. Information: 860-659-0356

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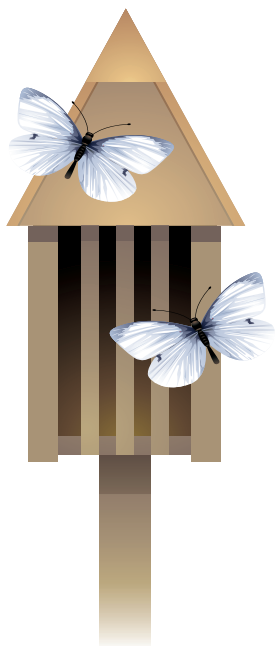
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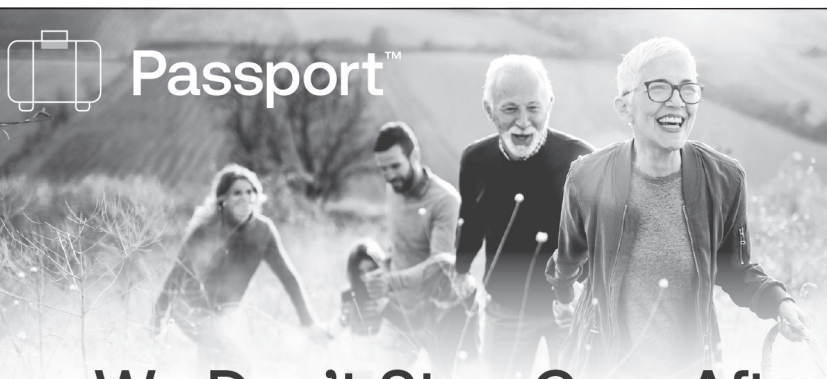
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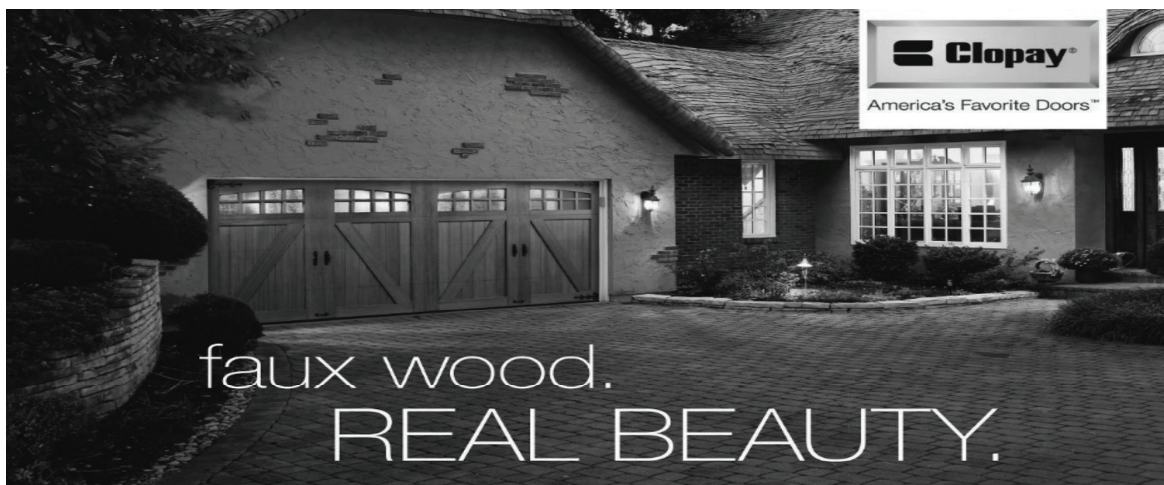
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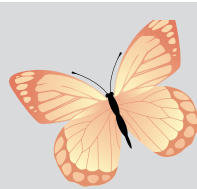
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The Rare Reminder encourages readers to submit letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 400 words. Submission deadline for the upcoming issue is Monday by 12 p.m. Anonymous letters will not be published. Please include a name and phone number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



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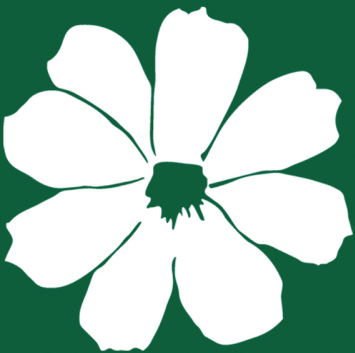
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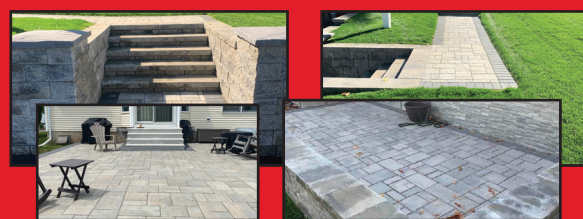
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Irreversible is not a word you want to hear from your Doctor but it's a common one if you've been diagnosed with Chemotherapy-Induced Peripheral Neuropathy or CIPN.

James S. of Newington survived testicular cancer only to be living life in constant pain. He felt as though he were walking on pins and needles, becoming weaker and weaker everyday. **"I was beginning to be worried that one day I would be wheelchair bound."**

Nearly half of patients who undergo chemotherapy will develop CIPN. Chemotherapy medications travel throughout the body and attack cancer cells; sadly they can also cause severe damage to healthy nerves. CIPN can begin within weeks of starting treatment and can worsen as treatment continues. Unfortunately, a high number of people will be forced to endure the symptoms associated with CIPN for months, or even years, after they've finished chemo.

When asked how CIPN was affecting his quality of life, James responded, **"It was difficult to even walk up and down stairs and do other things we usually take for granted."**

The most common symptoms include:

- pain, tingling, burning, weakness, or numbness in arms, hands, legs or feet
- sudden, sharp, stabbing or shocking pain sensations
- loss of touch sensation
- clumsiness and trouble using hands to pick up objects or fasten clothing
- loss of balance and falling

For some, their nerves recover over time. For most, the nerve damage is 'irreversible.' James had been told just that by a series of Doctors and specialists. Essentially, they could cure his cancer but couldn't fix the damage done by the curative drugs.

Then James made a call to Connecticut's Best Acupuncture (CBA) right here in Newington. Brandee Going and Dr. Sean Going are using the time tested science of acupuncture alongside a technology originally developed by NASA. This breakthrough therapy assists in increasing blood flow and treats this debilitating disease by expediting recovery and healing.

"We have multiple floors in our house, so there are always stairs. This morning, I walked right down the stairs and got in the

car," James shared. **"I remember thinking, 'that's become mighty easy for me' - I didn't have to hold on to the handrail or anything! It's life changing to have this mobility back!"**

Again and again, CBA meets with patients who were once diagnosed as "untreatable" or "incurable" but after receiving treatments at CBA, they are now living lives free from pain and suffering. For over 14 years, both practitioners have been reversing the effects of CIPN and other varieties of Peripheral Neuropathy, including those caused by diabetes, without invasive surgeries and medications that come with uncomfortable side effects.

If you've recently beat cancer only to find that you're living a life in constant pain and discomfort, or you're struggling with the same symptoms as a result of Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy, the incredible team at CBA can help!



Connecticut's Best Acupuncture is now accepting new patients but only for a limited time. In an effort to best serve their patients, both current and future, they have made the difficult decision to limit the number of patients seen in their clinic.

Only 10 new neuropathy patients will be accepted before the end of the winter, so call **(860)578-9865** or visit **ConnecticutsBestAcupuncture.com** now to schedule a consultation.



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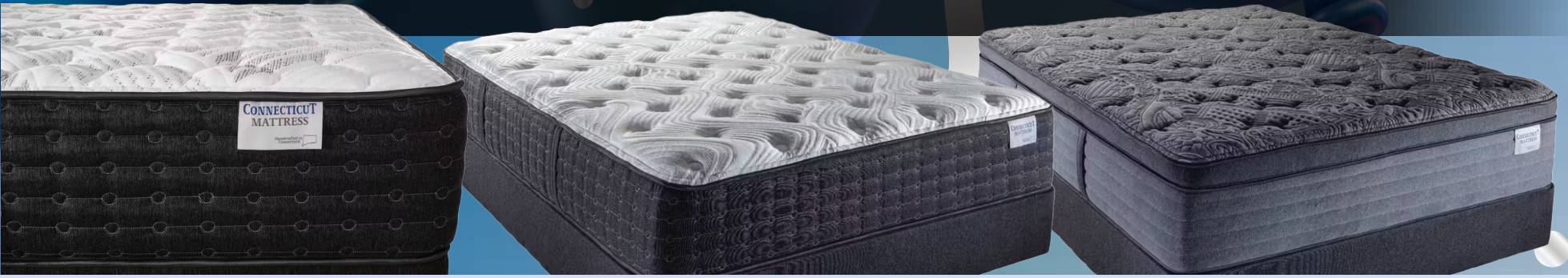
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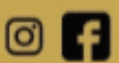


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How To Establish A Peaceful Backyard Retreat



Backyards have undergone quite a transformation over the last decade-plus. The days when patios and decks were all a backyard living space had to offer are largely a thing of the past, as homeowners have realized just how valuable it can be to commit to a stunning backyard.

The real estate experts at Zillow estimate that homes with backyard features such as outdoor televisions, outdoor showers and outdoor kitchens command 3.1 percent more than expected upon reaching the market. If 3.1 percent doesn't sound like a lot, it actually equates to nearly \$11,000 on a typical home. But there's more to gain than money when converting a backyard space into a relaxing respite. Such spaces can provide a welcoming escape from the hustle and bustle of daily life, all the while giving homeowners and residents a comfortable space to soak in the great outdoors. With that in mind, homeowners can take the following steps to establish a peaceful backyard retreat.

Refresh the landscape. Even if your vision is centered on outdoor furniture and a space that accommodates movie nights under the stars, it's still best to refresh the existing landscape

if it needs a little upkeep. Overgrown trees, hedges and bushes can create the same cluttered vibe that dominates interior spaces overrun with items. If necessary, work with a local tree service or landscape architect to trim, or even remove, trees and hedges that are crowding the backyard and making it feel claustrophobic or giving it an unkempt look. Aim for a landscape that affords a balance of sun and shade so the space is as comfortable as possible throughout the day.

Set up multiple gathering spaces, if possible. Once a backyard retreat is established, everyone who calls the property home might find the space hard to resist. Keep this in mind when planning the space and aim to set up multiple gathering spaces. An outdoor kitchen with a nearby dinner table can be a great space to enjoy al fresco dining, but a separate area to read a book or watch a movie or ballgame can make the space more versatile. Some may want to relax away from the noise of the grill area, and multiple gathering spaces ensures there's always a peaceful spot to unwind out back.

Add a water feature. Running water has a way

of calming the nerves, and that's good to keep in mind when planning a backyard retreat. Water features run the gamut from garden ponds to koi ponds to fountains to hot tubs. Homeowners can identify which feature best aligns with their idea of relaxation and then work with a landscape architect to ensure it's installed in their backyard oasis.

Don't forget shade. Temperatures are rising in many areas of the globe, and that's worth noting when planning a backyard retreat. Even the most ardent sun worshippers likely won't want to be exposed to the sun at all times when relaxing in their backyards. Strategically chosen means of providing shade can make spaces enjoyable all day long. Consider umbrellas, gazebos, pergolas, and even retractable awnings to cover patios and decks when the sun is at its highest each afternoon. If you plan to spend ample time in the grass, make that more enjoyable by planting shade trees, which also can protect the grass from drought and make it more comfortable underfoot.

A RELAXING BACKYARD RETREAT CAN MAKE FOR AN IDEAL SPACE TO ESCAPE THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE OF DAILY LIFE

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From A Selection Of Styles, Including Mid-Century Modern Ranch, Spanish Colonial/Southwest, Bohemian Craftsman, Italianate, French Chateau, And Tudor. The Modern Farmhouse Style Was The Most Popular Choice In 42 Of The 50 States, Proving That Home Style Preference Is Not Beholden To Geography. Respondents Gave A Host Of Reasons For Favoring The Modern Farmhouse Look, Including That The Style Is Aesthetically Appealing But Not Boring And That It Looks Simple, Cozy, And Not Too Busy.

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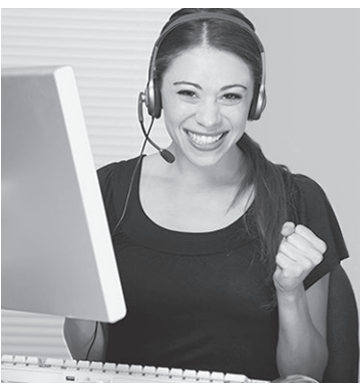


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SEEKING EMT'S: Newington Volunteer Ambulance is currently seeking EMTs to fill open positions. If you're a certified EMT-B or EMT- Intermediate and want to use your skills, contact us at 860-667-5825. Leave a message or stop by 71 John H. Stewart Drive and pickup an application. Please remember to pull to the right for green lights. Ambulance corps members use green lights to respond to emergency medical calls.

MECHANIC NEEDED: Part-time, working on small engine equipment at Rolling Greens Golf Club, Rocky Hill Make your own hours, 20-30 hours/wk. Call Ken at 860-670-1642.

GLASTONBURY QUILT SHOP: in need of additional help. Sewing ability a plus. Join a great staff serving great customers. Full or part time. Call Ron at 860-416-0133.

MITCHELL'S ON MAIN: Is looking for line cook. morning shift, reliable. Part-time/Full-time. Competitive wages. Call Tom 860-613-0770.

STONEHEDGE GARDEN CENTER: is seeking qualified candidates for immediate part-time seasonal positions, including sales associates, cashiers, nursery yard personnel, and mid-sized truck drivers. Interested individuals are encouraged to apply in person at the following location: Stonehedge Garden Center 1616 Willard Avenue Newington.

SEASONAL MAINTAINER/GROUNDSKEEPER: The Glastonbury Housing Authority is seeking individuals to perform a wide variety of semi-skilled tasks in connection with the maintenance of apartment grounds and buildings. Must possess a valid CT Motor Vehicle Operator's license and be at least 18 years of age. Seasonal: Mid-May - August, 40 hrs/w. Please complete employment application at our office from 8:30am-4:30pm at Glastonbury Housing Authority, 25 Risley Road, Glastonbury. Position open until filled. AA/EOE.

Seeking : FT / PT Counter Sales Rep & Drivers For Steady Truck Rental Facility.

Customer service & computer skills required. Other duties involved.

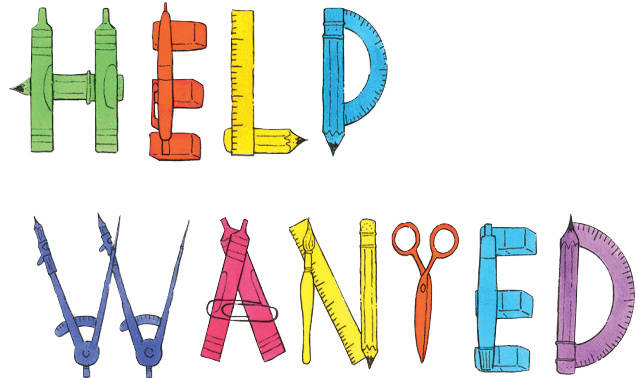
Must have valid driver's license & reliable transportation. Drug screen required.

Call Stephanie at 860-289 -2508

Personal Lines Insurance: Lombardo Insurance Agency in Rocky Hill, CT is seeking a personal lines customer service representative. Thirty hours a week.

Please email your resume to info@lombardo-ins.com

860-236-6064



Automotive Forum

Call 860-563-9386 To Place Your Classified Ad!

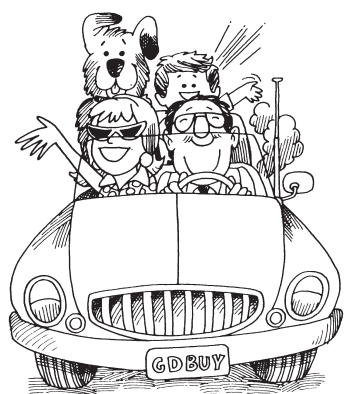
FOR SALE: Travel Trailer 2020 Forest River Salem FSX Model 177BH. Asking \$14,000 OBO. 2nd owner, bought in 2021 and used on 5 trips. Everything in great condition. Currently winterized and located in Southington, CT at my home. Length 22ft, dry weight 3,074 lbs, sleeps up to 6. Call Brian 860-517-9572.



2013 HARLEY DAVIDSON: Softail Heritage, low mileage, fully dressed, black, bike cover, screaming eagle pipes, battery charger, flag, back rest with travel hard box. To see the bike in Berlin Ct, please call 860-830-4541.

FOR SALE: 2008 Honda Accord, white, V6, 4 dr, body perfect, sunroof, 165K, as is, \$2500. 860-670-2982.

2014 TRIUMPH DAYTONA: in pristine condition with 9,972 miles. Asking \$9,972, the same as the mileage. Please call Alfonso Carbone 860-798-6095.



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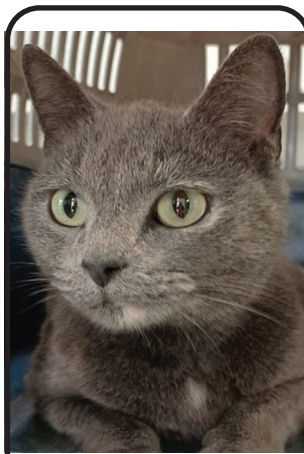
Two ASE Master Certified Technicians on Staff
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Classifieds Work!



OUR PET PAGE



Pippa is a sweet and friendly female. She is 3 years old and was rescued in Plainville. Pippa will make some lucky person a loving companion. She is up to date with her shots and is ready for adoption. If interested call Animal Friends of Ct. at 860=693-0303 for more information.

Meet Twix!

He is a dapper 10-year-old gentleman looking for a home. Twix seems to prefer to be king of his castle as an only pet. That just means more Twix for you! To learn more, please contact Our Companions at



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



POA PET OF THE WEEK

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



Hello, I'm Moby, a distinguished, whiskered 10yr old gentleman with a true knack for cuddling! I'm in search of a quiet home where I can spend my golden years as the purr-fect companion by your side. When I'm curled up next to you, I'll be purring non-stop while making biscuits on my favorite blanket. If I'm in the mood for a treat, you'll know—I'm not shy about reminding you!

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



Cheddar is a large, handsome boy with copper eyes. He is mostly white with some orange tabby and we do believe that he might be a Siamese mix which is more apparent with his brother Gouda. Cheddar is a goof! He has a big personality and he is vocal. Cheddar is outgoing and friendly. You can watch his video online on his webpage or on our YouTube channel. Please fill out an application on our website at www.hucatrescue.org.



Lenny is an adorable, 12 week old kitten with a big, wonderful personality! Purring Lenny does everything to extremes. He plays hard and he cuddles seriously. He's been a joy to foster but it's time to find a forever family that will pamper him. Please fill out an application on our website at www.hucatrescue.org.

Miles is a handsome, five month old teenager. He is a striking, classic and Bengal brown tabby. Miles is in need of a nurturing home so build his confidence. He was born in a warehouse so he had to be cautious. He is blossoming in his foster home and just loves the other cats. His ideal home should have another cat. Miles is also good with dogs. Please fill out an application on our website at www.hucatrescue.org.

Our miniature, little cutie, Claire is ready for her forever home! She's been through a lot trying to survive. She does test positive for FIV antibodies but only 3% of cats that test positive actually get the retrovirus. Claire is not aggressive at all to other cats so she can be in a home with non positive cats. Claire is very cuddly and loves attention. Please fill out an application on our website at www.hucatrescue.org.

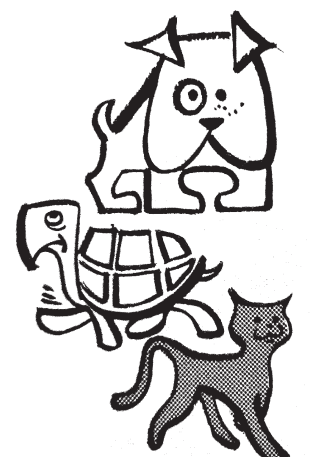
teduxedo rescued from the city streets. He is very happy and grateful to be in a home. Whisky is outgoing and friendly. He is good with other cats and good with the foster home's two dogs but not so good with a third yappy energetic dog. He would also be content being an only cat. Please fill out an application on our website at www.hucatrescue.org.

FOSTER HOMES NEEDED. We could not do what we do without foster homes. Please consider fostering a cat or kittens from our waiting list. Cats are sensitive and do not thrive in shelter settings. They need loving foster homes to help them on their next step to a permanent home. Please email hucatrescue@gmail.com if interested in joining our foster program.

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

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

that came to our last Meet & Greet. Nine beautiful felines went home. A special thanks to our friends Margaret and Terri for their support. HUCR



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.

VISIT A SHELTER NEAR YOU!

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

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

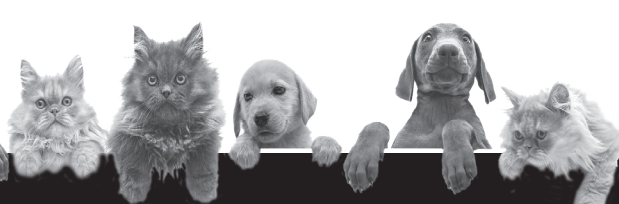
WHISKERS PET RESCUE: Is a no-kill animal welfare organization with an adoption center located in Bennett Square in Southbury. We are a nonprofit charity made up entirely of volunteers committed to caring for animals who have been abandoned, injured, abused or neglected. Should you wish to adopt a whiskered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

MALTESE PURE BRED: puppies with papers. Born 2-18-25 - Wethersfield - \$3000. 860-593-3340.

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Call the Classifieds at 860-563-9386

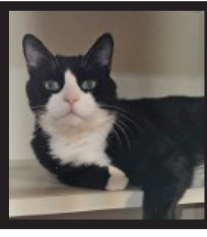


Want your pet to be featured on our pet page as the Pet of the Week?

Email us a photo of your pet or pets, with his and/or her name AND your name (the owner) to: production@rarereminder.com
 Mailing address:
 P.O. Box 289, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

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

-Rare Reminder, Inc.



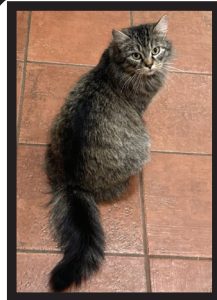
Name: **WILLIAM WALLACE**
 Gender: **Male**
 Breed: **Domestic Short Hair**
 Color: **Black & White**
 Age: **3 year old**



William Wallace is very playful and loving once he trusts you. He absolutely hates to be picked up and will not tolerate it. He will need some time and patience to adjust to a new home. He also likes to be petted and likes attention. We are unsure how he is with other cats.

No Cats / No Dogs / No Children

Web: <http://www.CatTalesCT.org/cats/William-Wallace>
 Phone: 860.344.9043
 Email: info@CatTalesCT.org



Name: **LOGAN**
 Gender: **Female**
 Breed: **Domestic Long Hair**
 Color: **Brown Tabby**
 Age: **1 year old**



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

Logan was living most of her life outdoors. She and her pregnant sister were transitioned to indoor living from an outdoor cat colony. She is spayed and enjoying life **INDOORS ONLY**. She absolutely loves friendly cats and would do wonderfully in a home with a feline companion to follow around the house. She enjoys pets, butt scratches and belly rubs once she trusts you. She tolerates being held. She is still cautious but coquettish, curious and bright. She will bloom in a calm home. Please contact Erica at ejssje12@gmail.com No Dogs/No Children, <https://Cat-TalesCT.org/cats/Logan-2/>

Cat Tales
Pasta Dinner Fundraiser
 Benefiting abused, neglected and abandoned cats and kittens within our community.

Cat Tales will be holding their Spring Pasta Dinner Fundraiser on Friday, April 25 at 7PM (Doors open at 6PM) and runs until 9PM. Taking place at the Elks Club at 44 Maynard Street, Middletown. Dinner includes pasta, meatballs, salad, bread, dessert & coffee. Wine, beer & cocktails available at the cash bar. Door Prizes & Raffles! Bring 2 rolls of Paper Towels or 3 Cans of Friskies pate canned food for a ticket to the door prize! \$25 per person. See website below for online payment OR mail a check to CAT TALES, PO Box 901, Middletown, CT 06457. Please write "PASTA DINNER" on your check and include the names of those you are purchasing for +number of seats. You will be placed on an attendee list. No tickets or confirmation will be issued for this event. Seating available for purchase through April 22. Please go to <https://Cat-TalesCT.org/pastadinner/> for more information.



Common Health Issues That Affect Aging Pets

Pet owners, devotion to their companion animals is evidenced in the lengths modern pet parents go to keep their furry friends happy and healthy. A recent survey from GOBankingRates found that 70 percent of pet owners spent between \$600 and \$1,200 on their pets in 2023, which underscores how important companion animals are to the people who take care of them.

Millions of pet owners might admit there's no limit to what they would do to protect their pets, but even the most devoted dog owner or cat caregiver recognizes that age can catch up to companion animals. Much like humans can't stop their own bodies from aging, pet owners have little recourse against Father Time when it comes to caring for their pets. The American Veterinary Medical Association notes that cats and dogs are living longer now than ever before, so it's good for pet owners to familiarize them-

selves with common health issues that can affect older pets.

Senior pets
 The AVMA notes that cats are generally considered 'senior' after 10 years of age. It's a little harder to pinpoint when dogs enter their golden years, as the size disparity between breeds affects their senior status, or lack thereof. The AVMA notes small or toy breeds (less than 20 pounds) acquire "enior" status between eight and 11 years of age; medium-sized breeds (20 to 50 pounds) between eight and 10 years of age; large breeds (50 to 90 pounds) between eight and nine years of age; and giant breeds (more than 90 pounds) between six and seven years of age.

Cancer and senior pets
 The AVMA reports that cancer is the cause of death in roughly 50 percent of all dogs and around one-third of senior cats. Cancer in

pets may produce a variety of symptoms, including:

- Abdominal swelling
- Bleeding from the mouth or nose or other body openings
- Difficulty eating or swallowing
- Breathing difficulties
- Lumps, bumps or discolored skin
- Sores that will not heal
- Persistent diarrhea or vomiting
- Decreased appetite or body weight
- Swelling, heat, pain, or lameness that cannot be explained

Additional issues affecting aging pets

Though cancer is responsible for a significant percentage of deaths among senior cats and dogs, it's not the only issue that can affect aging pets. The AVMA notes a number of common health problems affect pets as they age, including:

Heart disease: The Animal Medical Center, a New York-based nonprofit orga-



nization, notes degenerative valve disease, dilated cardiomyopathy and heartworm disease are common types of heart disease in dogs. Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy is a common heart disease found in cats.

Kidney or urinary tract disease: The Veterinary Diagnostic Library at Michigan State University notes that chronic kidney disease

affects up to 10 percent of aging dogs and 35 percent of aging cats.

Liver disease
 Diabetes: The AVMA reports that diabetes is most often diagnosed in dogs between the ages of seven and 10 and in cats older than six years of age.

Joint or bone disease
 Overweight or obesity
 Vision or hearing loss:

The AVMA notes senior pets can develop cataracts that affect their vision and may not respond as well to voice commands as they did when they were younger.

CATS AND DOGS ARE LIVING LONGER. PET PARENTS CAN PREPARE FOR THEIR PETS' GOLDEN YEARS BY LEARNING ABOUT COMMON AILMENTS THAT AFFECT AGING ANIMALS.




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



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

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

PET OF THE WEEK



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

My Name is Polly

My Human Name is Laura, Henry, Emily



Cromwell Human Services

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

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



Cromwell Town Hall

41 West St. Cromwell, CT
860-632-3449

Support for the Visually Impaired

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

Get Help with Your Diploma

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

Meals on Wheels Seeks Volunteers

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

American Legion Post 117 Fundraiser

Military Monday at Puerto Vallarta 2385 Berlin Turnpike, Newington on Monday June 30, 2025 from 3:00 PM - Close. 20% of the Food & Beverage sales will be donated to Post 117.

Comedy Night Fundraiser

Annunciation Parish in Newington will hold a Comedy Night fundraiser on May 3, 2025, in the former St. Mary's school at 652 Williard Avenue, Newington. Doors open at 6:00 pm and showtime is at 7:00 pm. Cost is \$ 25 per person. For tickets or information please call Jay Dumais at 860-836-8243 or email at jay11dum@gmail.com

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FENCE: Dog fence, Vinyl, cedar, chain link, repairs. Bollards. For Free estimates call Eric at 860-231-1799. Saddle Hill Landscaping (formally D&D Fence).

ZIGAS PAINTING & POWERWASHING LLC: Residential, interior/exterior. Ceilings are our specialty! Senior discount. Licensed/insured. Free estimates. Call 860-681-3762.

DEE'S ANTIQUES, PAYS \$\$ CASH MONEY \$\$: Buying gold jewelry, sterling silver jewelry and gold and silver coins. Military items, musical instruments, vintage advertising signs and memorabilia, old toys, old hunting, and fishing items. Servicing the community and family respectively for 50 years. Call 203-235-8431.

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Ask your Sales Representative for details.

For more information call the Rare Reminder at: 860-563-9386



Oz Dust Gala Fundraiser

The Newington Children's Theatre Company, Connecticut's longest-running nonprofit children's theatre, invites you to its spring fundraiser to celebrate its 62 year, NCTC's Oz Dust Gala, Saturday, April 26, at 6 p.m. at the Indian Hill Country Club in Newington. This family-friendly event includes food and drinks, prize drawings, photo booth, and singing and dancing, with entertainment provided by Shark Entertainment. The "Oz Dust" theme is from the movie "Wicked," but any attire is welcome. Dessert will be provided by The Kakery of Newington. Reserve your tickets for this year's fundraiser — \$60 per adult, \$30 for children 14 and under — at nctcars.org/special-events. VIP tables for 10 are \$550.

www.rarereminder.com

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

Charter Oak Chapter

209 Farmington Avenue Farmington, CT 06032

860.678.2800

www.charteroak.redcross.org



Build a kit.



Make a plan.



Get trained.



Give blood.



American Red Cross
Greater Hartford Chapter

TEN 011805

072208

Health & Wellness Page

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

The Rare Reminder will next be publishing a monthly Health & Wellness Page on Thursday, April 24.

Attract new clients.

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

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

Publishing: Thursday, April 24
Deadline: Friday, April 18

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

Rare Reminder, Inc.
222 Dividend Road, P.O. Box 289, Rocky Hill, CT 06067
860-563-9386 | sales@rarereminder.com

Science Bowl Seeks Teams

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

Bake Sale and Craft Fair

Please join us at our "Annual Spring Bake Sale and Craft Fair" at Notre Dame Church Hall, 272 Main Street, Durham, Saturday, April 12 from 10 AM to 3 PM. We have an assortment of crafts, hand made Easter and Spring Décor, Wreaths, Spring Flower Plants, a variety of Crocheted & hand Knitted Items, and our ever popular assortment of baked delicacies. Let us have a fun day of shopping and fellowship. Thank you for your support.

RH Historical Society Seeks Volunteers

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

Palm Sunday Concert

The public is cordially invited to hear music of American composer Alice Parker (1925-2023), including her Melodious Accord cantata, in a Palm Sunday concert by the First Church of Christ (Wethersfield) choir on April 13 at 4:00 PM. It will be the final installment of the 2024-2025 Meetinghouse Concert Series. Soloists include Michelle Fiertek, soprano, Anne Graczyk, alto, Alexander O'Neil, tenor, and Constantine Tsourakis, baritone. The choir will be accompanied by brass quintet, harp, organ, and percussion, all under the direction of Music Director Sean McCarthy. The concert is free, with a donation accepted at intermission. For additional information please call 860-916-5312.

Pinkalicious The Musical

Newington, CT - The Newington Children's Theatre Company (NCTC) announced registration for the first Regan Martins Memorial Scholarship Production, Pinkalicious the Musical!, which is open. The Regan Martins Memorial Scholarship was established in honor of Regan Martins, a beloved member of the NCTC family who passed away in August 2024 at the age of twelve. The fund will cover the cost of tuition for children who are selected to participate in the Pinkalicious the Musical! production. Registration is split into two age groups, ages 8 & up and ages 5-7. Rehearsals, for ages 8 and up, begin on April 8, 2025, while rehearsals for ages 5-7 begin April 26, 2025. Rehearsal will run from April 8 to June 5, with performances June 6-8, 2025. To register for Pinkalicious the Musical! or to learn more about the Regan Martins Memorial Scholarship Fund, please visit www.nctc.org.

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.



Call today to place your ad, 860-563-9386

or log onto www.RareReminder.com

JUNK REMOVAL: One item or a truck full, with neat prompt service for over 25yrs. Gregory's Hauling 203-235-6210.

EXPERT HANDYMAN SERVICES: Affordable and reliable handyman services for your home including 24 Emergency Service. Honest and local. WE DO IT ALL! Call Edgar at Eagle Pro Property Maintenance at 860-834-8373.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS: Problem drinking affects as many as one in four people in our community, but many are still uninformed about Al-Anon Family Groups, free services to friends and families who suffer from a loved one's drinking. Please call 1-888-425-2666 (1-888-4AL-ANON).

GRAVER'S TREE CARE: Tree removal, pruning, tree maintenance, spraying, stump removal, deep-root feeding. Tree injection for control of insects and diseases. Bruce Graver, Licensed Tree Surgeon, 860-563-6581. Visa, Mastercard, American Express. www.graverstrecare.com

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

NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

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



Having a Tag Sale?

Reach more than 75,000 Homes

For Just \$15

A Week

(Now through May 15)

Your Tag Sale ad will appear in:

-Rare Reminder, mailed Thursdays to 40,500 homes in Newington, Wethersfield & Rocky Hill/Cromwell

-Glastonbury Citizen, mailed Thursdays to 5700 paid subscribers in Glastonbury

-Rivereast News Bulletin, mailed Fridays to 27,500 homes in Portland, East Hampton/Cobalt/Middle Haddam, Marlborough, Hebron/Amston, Andover and Colchester.

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Setback Card Tournament

Friday, April 25 at St. Pius X Church Hall, 525 Woodtick Road, Wolcott. Registration at 6:30pm with the 7 game tournament beginning at 7pm. Tickets are \$20 each and will be available at the door. Your ticket price includes snacks and beverages during play and desserts at the conclusion. Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 scorers. For further information, contact Janet at Tynan_janet@comcast.net or call 203 233-6407.



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011824

RH DTC Call for Candidates

Are you interested in serving your community? The upcoming municipal elections in November 2025 are your opportunity to make a difference! The Rocky Hill Democrats are seeking individuals who are passionate about local government and committed to the well-being of our town. If you are considering running for Mayor, Town Council, Board Of Education, in our municipal elections, we encourage you to get involved. For more details, contact Mimi Theroux: mimith@cox.net. Together, we can shape the future of our community!

AOH April Food Drive

The Ancient Order of Hibernians Hartford Division 2 is sponsoring a Food Drive on Sunday, April 27 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Collection will take place at Christ the King Parish at 601 Silas Deane Highway in Wethersfield in the parking lot that is between the church and the middle school. The food will be given to the pantry at Saint Augustine Church in Hartford. Please bring non-perishable items with canned meats and soup in the greatest need in addition to pinto and pink beans. We are also looking to collect cooking oils, spices, and condiments. Thanks for your support!

Help Our Concert Series!

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

Libraries Need Friends!

The Friends of the Wethersfield Library would like more community members to join us continuous book sales in the Library book nook, raffles, and periodic pop-up book sales to expand programs such as 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.

Bereavement Support Group

The Church of St. Mary in Portland would like to invite you to attend our Bereavement Support Group every second Monday of the month at 6:30pm in the Church Hall and every fourth Tuesday of the month at 2pm in the Church Library. All are welcome, please consider joining us at 45 Freestone Ave, Portland. To preregister, please call Susan Bongiorno Frizen at (860) 685-1966.

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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010925

American Legion Post 117 Newington Meetings

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

Free Friday Breakfast for Vets And First Responders

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

Birdies for Charity Fundraiser

CromwellCreative District (CCD) is participating in the annual Birdies for Charity fundraiser, a collaboration between the Traveler's Championship, Webster Bank, and local nonprofits. Happening now through the end of the Traveler's Championship in June 2025, Webster Bank will offer a 15% match to all donations CCD receives through the Birdies for Charity link. With such a great incentive, CCD uses Birdies for Charity fundraiser as its annual fundraising campaign. Donating to CCD means supporting its mission to revitalize downtown Main Street, support local business there, and enrich the lives of Cromwell's residents. To participate, you can donate at <https://partnerhq.com/birdies/travelerschampionship> click "donate now" and select Cromwell Creative District from the charity drop-down!

Wethersfield Library Spring Book Sale

The Friends of the Wethersfield Library Spring Book Sale will be held on Sat. April 26th from 10:00-4:00 and Sunday April 27th from 1:00-4:00. On Sunday a bag of books will be \$7.00. There will be a great selection of books, CD's, DVD's and audiobooks for adults children and teens. Cash, checks, and credit cards are accepted.

Volunteers in Psychotherapy

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

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

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

GOT SCRAP? Free pick up, appliances, hot water heaters, AC, outdoor items equipment, car parts batteries, excluding oil tanks and furnaces. Items must be outside. Call 860-770-9014.

HOME REPAIR SERVICES: Interior, exterior from changing locks to refinishing basements. No job to small. Licensed, #604141, insured. Call Dan 860-719-4885.

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NAMI SUPPORT GROUPS: Do you have a loved one suffering from mental health challenges? NAMI trained volunteers assist at Support Groups. They are fused on providing an opportunity for people to share and learn from each others common experience. Groups are free and participation is strictly confidential. Contact 860-882-0236 or www.namifarmingtonvalley.org.

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Adult Day Center

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.

Cars Helping the Blind

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



St. Jude Ads

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

Selection A \$39.80

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

Selection B \$35.40

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

Selection C \$26.80

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

Selection D \$14.00

ST. JUDE Thank you again for answering my prayers. Publication promised. _ _ _ _.

Please publish prayer A B C D,
with the initials: _____
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Address _____
Phone _____
Mail to: Rare Reminder, P.O. Box 289, Rocky Hill, CT 06067
St. Jude ads run as Rare Reminder classified ads, in the first available issue after receipt of ad. Ads shown are slightly smaller than actual classified ads. Rates effective April 01, 2015.

Thanks for reading the Rare Reminder.

Would you like to donate food to those in need?

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

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



All donations can be brought to the following locations:

Department of Social and Youth Services

505 Silas Deane Highway
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860-721-2977

William Raveis Real Estate

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

First Church

250 Main Street
860-529-1575

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



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Newington Fundraising Program

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

South Catholic Class Reunion

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

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

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SPORTS CORNER

Newington Hockey Star Shooting to Elm City

By Josh Howard

After a senior season filled with accolades, Newington High School's Kalyn Reynolds has committed to four more years on the collegiate ice.

"I am excited and grateful to announce my commitment to play hockey and continue my education at Albertus Magnus College," Reynolds announced last fall. "I'd like to thank my family, my coaches and my friends for supporting me."

Reynolds made the decision on her next destination prior to having a season to remember this winter playing for the Nighthawks co-op, a team that consists of players from multiple schools and towns.

Following her final year with the co-op, Reynolds was named Connecticut High School Girls Hockey Association (CHS-GHA) All-State first-team. She also earned all-conference and was named the Central Connecticut Conference (CCC) Player of the Year, along with being selected for the team's Most Valuable Player (MVP) award.

Her success correlated with the team's success as the Nighthawks were named the CHS-GHA Team of the Year after winning a total of 15 games and advancing to the state semifinals.

"We all had the same goals, and we all showed up to practice wanting to push each other to become better players," Reynolds said of her final season with the Nighthawks. "That is what made us special."

During her four years with the program, Reynolds helped the program capture a pair of conference championships and she finished up with a program-record 42 career goals in the regular season.

Reynolds noted that the individual recognition this winter was rewarding from both a personal and team aspect.

"It means so much," noted Reynolds. "It means that all of my hard work paid off, but I couldn't have done it without my coaches, teammates, and family. They have been a big part of my career."

Reynolds first laced up the skates competitively at the age of nine and quickly found a second home on the frozen pond.

"It's fast paced — you're never not moving," expressed Reynolds, who also played club ice hockey for the Connecticut Northern Lights. "It's super competitive and I get to connect with people that have the same passion as me. I've made so many friends that will be lifelong friends."

In New Haven, Reynolds will join a Falcons program that plays in the New England Hockey Conference (NEHC).

Albertus Magnus was the first college that Reynolds toured, and on that visit, she was instantly sold.

"It had everything I was looking for. It's a small school, which I wanted, and class sizes are small so I knew I wouldn't be just a number," stated Reynolds, who will major in business management with a minor in



Kalyn Reynolds, a senior at Newington High School, will play ice hockey at Albertus Magnus College in New Haven.

marketing. "It's also close to home and the coaches are amazing. I'm just excited that I get to keep playing hockey at the next level."

Along with embracing the challenge of college hockey, Reynolds is also ready for a new chapter outside of her hometown.

"I've grown up in Newington my whole life, so I'm ready to meet a whole new group of people and experience college," she expressed. "I'm just excited to get that new landscape and environment."

WHS Football Center College Bound

By Josh Howard

After manning the middle for an offense that ran through opponents this past fall, Wethersfield High School senior Mason Everett will continue his football career at the next level.

Everett has committed to Nichols College, where he will play for the Bisons in Dudley, Massachusetts.

He called his next stop a "great destination" and a "perfect match."

"I absolutely loved the school and the coaches were awesome," expressed Everett. "I knew it's where I wanted to be for the next four years."

Everett was recruited to Nichols to play center after anchoring an Eagles offensive line this past fall that ran for 2,405 yards (nearly 220 yards per game) and 37 touchdowns.

Wethersfield head coach Matt McKinnon praised Everett for both his play and leadership along the offensive line.

"He always led by example on and off the field. He was just as much a great student as he was as a football player," McKinnon said of his All-Academic center. "He's committed to excellence with school, in the weight room, and on the field."

This fall, Everett was a senior voice for an Eagles team that had a complete turnaround. In 2023, the Eagles finished winless (0-10) and returned this fall resembling a completely different squad, winning 9 of 10 regular season games to qualify for the playoffs.

Following the disappointment of 2023, Everett said he and his fellow seniors, "Weren't going to let that happen again."

We wanted to do something special this year, and that's what we did."

The college bound center was primarily a defender in youth football and then shifted to the offensive line in high school before eventually finding his sweet spot in the middle of the offensive line thanks to the encouragement of McKinnon.

"It was struggle at first, but coach was really real positive with me," recalled Everett. "Now I like everything about it. I like to talk a lot, and communicating is a big part. I just like being the leader, the guy in the middle."

Everett will join a college program that competes in the Conference of New England (CNE). He will bolster a potent Bisons offense that averaged 33.3 points per game last season under first-year head coach Vinny Marino.

McKinnon noted that is departing center is ready for the challenges that college football will present.

"Nichols is very lucky to have him," noted McKinnon. "I know he will succeed with school and athletics in his career up there."

Prior to making his way to the Bay State, Everett is finishing up his final sports season at WHS with the Eagles baseball team this spring.

After living in Wethersfield his entire life, Everett noted that a change of scenery is welcome.

"Obviously I knew it would be a challenge, but I like taking on challenges head on," stated Everett, who will major in sports management. "I'm most excited about competing when I get there. My passion for football has always been there and I'm ready for it."



Wethersfield High School senior Mason Everett will play college football at Nichols College in Massachusetts. Everett is pictured after signing his letter of intent at WHS with his mom, Kaethe Everett, to his left and father, Adrian Everett, to his right.



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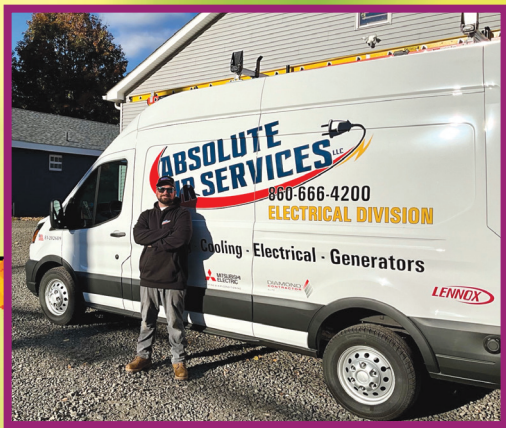
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Zeppole, Pasticiotte are Available

Welcome to an amazing experience of quality and service, a place where the Customer matters. D&D Market is built on the same principles that it was founded on in 1932 with quality Cheeses, Meats, Deli, Olives and Groceries, many imported from Italy. Catering is also available. Come in and have our knowledgeable staff serve you.

–Danny D'Aprile



Sale Dates: April 10, 2025 - April 16, 2025