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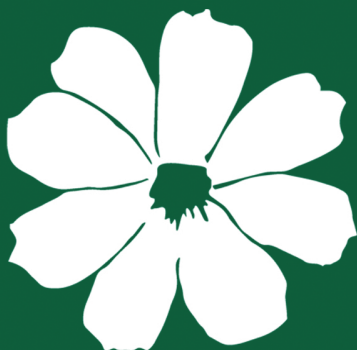


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# What's Happening Rocky Hill & Cromwell?

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announcements or any upcoming events.

## High School Choir, Jazz Band Take Top Spot At National Event

**Liam McLoughlin**  
Staff Writer

CROMWELL — The Cromwell High School Select Choir and Jazz Band have returned home with gold after their stellar performances at the Heritage Music Festival.

Alongside their directors, Karly Nelson and Mike Schmidt, 21 students traveled across the country to Anaheim, CA to participate in this year's competition, which ran April 10-13.

The Heritage Music Festival is an event organized by WorldStrides. They host events across the country, enabling students to perform on a national stage, and gain expert instruction from industry professionals.

Their adventure began early on April 10, departing from Cromwell High at 3 a.m. After landing in California, they enjoyed some world famous burgers from In-N-Out, before heading to Cerritos College to work with the directors of Jazz and Choir at the college.

“Our students learned so much from these

professors,” Karly Nelson, the choir director, said. “It was great that they had this time to work with them before our competition the next day.”

She explained that the department has competed in many events locally, but never as far as the Golden State.

“The school has never done this competition, which is partly why we wanted to do it,” Nelson said. “We have been pretty successful in competitions on the east coast and wanted to see how we would do against a completely different area.”

There were schools from all over North America, including Arizona, Illinois, and Canada in attendance. To get ready to compete against all these different schools, Nelson says both ensembles dedicated four, 50 minute rehearsal sessions per week.

“When rehearsing for a competition, it looks a little different than rehearsing for school concerts,” she said. “The rehearsals are more intense

as far as pacing, and we brought in guest educators to work with our groups for extra feedback.”

After being awake for nearly 24 hours, finally getting to sleep at 10 p.m. California-time, students had only a few hours of shut eye before getting up early to perform.

According to Nelson, the competition was a “clinic format.” Instead of playing in front of a large audience, students played for a panel of three judges who took notes and recorded feedback during the performance.

Despite being the most intense part of the entire trip, the Cromwell Select Choir and Jazz Band showed that hard work and practice pays off and took home first place honors.

“We always enter these competitions with a winning mentality,” she said. “We just worked as hard as we possibly could, put everything we had into the competition, and came out with the win. Mike Schmidt and I are incredibly proud of our CHS musicians everyday, not just when we compete. The work that they put into their craft is second to none. Not only do they work on their

music skills individually, they have to come together as a family to trust in each other to be the best they can be.”

Sean Stackpole, a senior alto saxophone musician, was given additional praise as one of only six students in the competition to receive the Maestro Award, “given to students who display extraordinary music ability and sensitivity,” Nelson said.

Nelson and Schmidt plan to continue taking their students to these sorts of competitions, and try to enter at least one each year.

In the near future, members of the Cromwell Music Department are set to play at the Great East Music Festival at Six Flags in May, in a Jazz Festival with the Middle School on May 15, and the school's final concert called “The Prisms Concert,” which is scheduled for June 3.

“The work of a musician is like no other, and the fact that we have students who are performing at such a high level is a testament to who they are as people,” Nelson added.

## Authorities Identify Body Found In River

**By Nicole Zappone**  
Staff Writer

ROCKY HILL - At the end of April, Rocky Hill Police officers received a report from a boater on the Connecticut River in Rocky Hill about a body in the water near the shoreline south of Ferry Park.

The call came in on Sunday, April 27, at approximately 8:53 a.m.

When police arrived at the scene, it was confirmed that the individual was deceased.

About three days later, on April 30, police confirmed the identity of the deceased as 72-year-old Mary Colasanto. Colasanto was reported missing back in March.

When Colasanto was reported missing, police responded to the Glastonbury boathouse on Welles Street at around 6 a.m. on March 30. Glastonbury police, Investigations Divisions, Connecticut State Police K-9 teams, CREST, and the Hartford Dive Teams were deployed for the search.

The case remains under investigation, and if anyone has any information regarding this incident, they are asked to contact the Glastonbury Police Department at 860-633-8301.

No further details have been released.

## Attempted Vehicle Theft Leads To Arrest, Charges

**By Nicole Zappone**  
Staff Writer

CROMWELL -- The Cromwell Police Department responded to a call over the weekend to Up in Smoke regarding a report of an individual being detained by customers after attempting to steal a motor vehicle.

The incident took place April 28, at approximately 12:58 at the business located at 91 Berlin Road.



Valle

According to people, the accused, who was identified as Jahil Valle, 21, of Meriden, had entered a customer's vehicle that was running while unoccupied and attempted to drive away.

Valle then crashed into a sign, and the owner of the vehicle proceeded to run out of the business and pull the accused out of the car.

The Cromwell Police Department arrived on the scene shortly after.

Valle was charged with larceny of a motor vehicle, criminal trover in the second degree, and criminal mischief in the first degree.

He was released on a \$10,000 bond and was scheduled to appear at Middletown Superior Court on May 6.

## Local Arts Alliance Group Announces Photo Contest

**By Cromwell Arts Alliance**

CROMWELL - Get your cameras and cell phones ready. In keeping with our commitment to encourage and support all art forms in our community, the Cromwell Arts Alliance is holding its fourth annual photography contest.

The contest's subject is “Signs of Spring,” and we are looking for submissions by June 15.

Contest is open to all ages. Photographers may enter up to three photos.

Official entry forms and contest details can be found at [CromwellArtsAlliance.org](http://CromwellArtsAlliance.org).

Prizes of \$50 will be awarded to the winning photographers in each of these categories:

- Wildlife/Nature
- Weather
- Spring Activities
- Gardens/Blooms

## 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

All entries can be submitted one of the following ways:

1. Printed (Size 8 x 10) and mailed to “CAA”, c/o Rosemary Matus, 4 Blackhaw Dr. Cromwell, CT. Please mark packages “Fragile” and include cardboard to protect your prints.

2. Email to [CromwellArtsAlliance@gmail.com](mailto:CromwellArtsAlliance@gmail.com).

Winners will be announced during the Cromwell Arts Alliance Networking Event on June 30 at 7 p.m. in the Belden Room of Cromwell Belden Library. If you are not able to attend, we will notify you via email.

Note: Prints are preferred because all entries will be displayed at the Cromwell Arts Alliance Networking Event.

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!

## 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](mailto:mimith@cox.net) by May 15.

## Green Expo

EV CAR OWNERS! Show off your latest technology EV at the RH Congregational Church's Green Expo. Our May 31 event, from 10 to 1, focuses on environmentally-sound and eco-friendly practices. We have numerous exhibitors from farmers and solar system information to eco-friendly household products and e-bikes as alternative transportation. We want your EV on display to educate the public! Contact Sandi Kelly – [sandict@cox.net](mailto:sandict@cox.net) or 860-930-6787.

## Group Collecting Used Wheelchairs

AREA - Wheels for the World will pick up for free used manual wheelchairs (in any condition), wheelchair parts, walkers, metal crutches, and canes. No motorized wheelchairs.

We can make a referral for any equipment that Wheels for the World can't accept.

Call Marshall at (203) 747-0543 or Ken (860) 754-7602 to arrange for collection. Wheels for the World is a charity of, Joni & Friends, their website: <https://joniandfriends.org/wheels-for-the-world/>.

## 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.





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## Banks, Agencies Explain Programs To Help First-Time Home Buyers

By Margaret Radman  
Freelance Writer

ROCKY HILL - Representatives from local and state housing agencies along with mortgage specialists convened in Rocky Hill on April 30 for a special housing forum to address pressing housing issues, with participation from the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) rent rebate administrators, and loan specialists.

Key speaker Brian Boyaji, Business Development Officer of CHFA, highlighted the agency's work with getting families and individuals into their forever homes. The agency is dedicated to alleviating housing shortages for low to moderate income families and individuals, said Boyaji.

Boyaji explained how CHFA, through its many programs, helps to bring home ownership into reach for low to moderate income residents, describing home ownership as a pathway to "generational wealth."

Since 1969 CHFA has helped 150,000 families help to purchase their first home, Boyaji added.

Last year, despite all the challenges in the real estate market including housing shortages, elevated prices and inflation, CHFA had a ban-

ner year, closing 3,800 sales, and providing \$1 billion in financing for new home loans. "We work with about 12 different HUD approved lenders in Connecticut," he said.

Boyaji explained that CHFA provides loans at a lower rate than many major banks. He said CHFA lending is primarily a program serving first time home buyers of low to moderate income, but their services are also available to previous homeowners who have not owned a home for the past three years.

Applicants must meet additional eligibility requirements related to income and credit scores and must be purchasing a home within a specific price range, which varies by county. In Rocky Hill, for example, a couple can earn up to \$122,000 to qualify for CHFA financing, with the maximum allowable home price set at \$537,360.

Down Payment Assistance

CHFA also offers assistance with down payments offering a below market interest rate of 5% on loans that can be used for both down payments and closing costs, that is essentially a sec-

ond or subordinate mortgage, Boyaji said.

Through initiatives like "Time to Own, buyers are able to fully write off their balance in 10 years. The Time to Own program is a needs-based down payment assistance program that offers interest free loans of up to \$25,000, with no monthly payments. It is a forgivable 10-year "subordinate mortgage" that decreases by 10% each year.

Income guidelines for Time to Own vary by county but generally are set at 80% of the area median income, putting the income limit at \$97,920 for a single person in Rocky Hill.

For those who do not qualify for Time to Own, there is also the Smart Move program for help with down payments where money can be borrowed at a rate of 3% over 20 years.

CHFA Lenders

Representatives from both Liberty Bank and Washington Trust who partner with CHFA, also discussed the best path to home ownership, confirming the criteria basics of credit, income, and assets that are key drivers in determining mortgage eligibility.

"We take pride in putting people into homes," said Michelle Donofrio of Washington Trust, who touted the many benefits of home ownership, notably equity and stability.

Typically, banks use the middle of the three credit scores which must be at least 620 for a CHFA mortgage. Other programs may require 660 but this varies depending on the lender, noted Liberty Bank loan officer Linda Urbanec, who said applicants are able to use a combination of grant funds to put together a financing package.

Rental Subsidies and Rebates

For those who are not on a path to home ownership, representatives from the Connecticut Housing Authority who work in tandem with CHFA, and Rocky Hill Human Services gave a rundown on rental subsidies.

CHA Executive Director Susan Carotenuti explained that rental subsidies are for adults aged 62 or older and the disabled. Subsidies are calculated on a sliding scale based on the applicant's gross income up to about \$70,000 for a single person, with a tenant's expected contribution set at about 30% of their total income.

"We have partnered with the Department of Housing, CHFA, and the Town of Rocky Hill consistently over the years" added Carotenuti, to provide affordable rentals for qualified individuals. Grant funds also support services including resident socialization, education, food pantries, and necessary updates, she added.

Currently, plans are underway to get generators in all CHA apartment complexes, that is a lifeline for those needing refrigeration for medications or electricity for oxygen tanks.

Also discussed was the rental rebate program, introduced by Cristal Philbrick of Human Services that is administered by Connecticut municipalities for residents who are 65 or older or disabled. Proof of income from the previous year will be required. Rebates are a one-time only payment of \$700 for singles and \$900 for couples.

Application can be made directly through Human Services any time between April 1 and Sept. 30.

## World's Top Golfers Committed To TPC

By Liam McLoughlin  
Staff Writer

CROMWELL — Golf fans should be gearing up for quite an exciting Travelers Championship this summer.

The tournament is currently set to welcome seven of the Top 10 best ranked golfers on the PGA Tour, including Scottie Scheffler, #1, Rory McIlroy, #2, Xander Schauffele, #3, Collin Morikawa, #4, Ludvig Aberg, #5, Justin Thomas, #6, and Viktor Hovland, #9.

Scheffler is the returning champion, after beating Tom Kim, ranked 37th, by a single stroke in a playoff round. He walked away with a grand total of \$3.6 million, 18% of the total purse, while Kim won \$2.16 million.

McIlroy is currently the most notable of the bunch to commit to come to Cromwell this year, fresh off his stunning win at Augusta National Golf Course at the Masters Tournament. Slipping on that iconic green jacket, after 17 years of trying, solidified McIlroy's status as one of the greatest golfers ever, while also racking up an impressive \$104,246,906 tournament winnings in the process.

He joins a short list of golfers who have successfully achieved what's known as the Career Grand Slam — needing to have won each of the four majors to complete. Tiger Woods, Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player, Gene Sarazen, and Ben Hogan

are the only other golfers to ever achieve such a feat.

Justin Thomas, coming off of a win at the RBC Heritage tournament in South Carolina on April 20, is the latest to commit to play at TPC River Highlands in June. His appearance was confirmed by tournament officials last week, saying "This just in — JT is back" on their social media.

Thomas is a two-time PGA Tour Major Champion, and has won a total of 16 tournaments in his 12 years of being a PGA Tour professional. These wins have seen him amass a total of \$66,626,027 in prize winnings.

This year's Travelers Championship "elevated tournament purse" is said to be \$20 million — the same as last year.

The winner will also receive 700 FedExCup points. McIlroy currently sits in first on the FedExCup rankings, with 2,433 points. Thomas is close behind with 1,669 points, 764 points behind McIlroy, according to the PGA Tour website.

Given the "Signature Event" designation of the tournament, which is set to last until 2030, the traditional 36-hole cut is eliminated and all players will play a total of 72 holes.

This year's Travelers Championship is scheduled to run from June 18-22. More information can be found at their website.

## Town Council Votes To Sign Agreement With Regional Development Agency

By Liam McLoughlin  
Staff Writer

ROCKY HILL — Town Council members have made their partnership with the Municipal Redevelopment Authority official following a successful adoption of a new resolution.

At last week's Town Council special meeting, Mayor Lisa Marotta and fellow council members briefly discussed how a partnership with the MRDA would work, especially in regards to the town's autonomy.

"Again, it's important to note that if the town does not want to do something, we don't have to," Ray Carpentino, town manager, said. "It's controlled by the town. Nothing's being forced."

Knowing this, a motion was made to accept a proposed resolution to join the MRDA as a "Member Municipality." This partnership allows Rocky Hill to take advantage of a number of different MRDA functions and benefits.

Some of these items include the ability to "stimulate economic and transit-oriented development," "encourage residential housing development within development districts," "manage

facilities through contractual agreement or other legal instrument," and "stimulate new investment within development districts and provide support for the creation of vibrant, multidimensional downtowns," as stated in the drafted resolution.

The motion passed unanimously.

Following the acceptance of this resolution, Rocky Hill's zoning regulations and district maps will now be reviewed by representatives of the MRDA to decide whether they're eligible to establish housing growth zones. If not, they will work with town officials to propose changes that would then deem them eligible.

Once certified, "A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be executed with the Town establishing boundaries for the HGZs," and will allow developers to come in to develop "housing and/or mixed use developments," pending approval from the town, and receive federal funding from the MRDA.

### Sunshine Tea

The First Congregational Church, 355 Main Street, Cromwell is holding a SUNSHINE TEA on Sunday, June 8th at 2:00 p.m. There is a cost of \$10 per person. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED. Call 860-635-4806 before June 1st to make a reservation. Bring friends and family and enjoy a relaxing cup of tea and treats.

## Library To Host Program On How To Safely Forage

By Margaret Radman  
Freelance Writer

ROCKY HILL - Want to take a walk on the wild side? Come and explore all nature has to offer with a presentation by The Three Foragers—a unique family of three—as they share nearly two decades of experience identifying, harvesting, and cooking wild plants and mushrooms found throughout New England.

On May 13, from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Rocky Hill Public Library, the trio will offer a special presentation sharing their knowledge of how to recognize, collect, and prepare wild plants, berries, flowers, roots, nuts, greens, and mushrooms from the region.

Backed by about 19 years of experience and expertise gained from dozens of mentors, attendance of multiple workshops and classes, and memberships in many organizations on the subject, The Three Foragers bring along a wealth of knowledge to share.

Included in their accomplishments are over 200 guided walks and 300 classes including slideshow demonstrations to libraries, nature centers, garden clubs, land trusts, and so much more. This

is not to mention their book published in 2016 entitled: Adventures in Edible Plant Foraging: Finding, Identifying, Harvesting, and Preparing Native and Invasive Wild Plants.

Author Karen Monger also contributed to a published survival guide by writing the chapters on edible plants and fungi.

The Three Foragers have both an informative blog that is updated regularly with recipes as well as an engaging Facebook page listing future events including presentations, walks, tasting sessions, recipes, and tips. Check for upcoming activities, at <https://www.facebook.com/the3foragers/> or their blog page.

To register for the May 13 presentation, go to <https://engagedpatrons.org/EventsExtended.cfm?SiteID=3884&EventID=556001&PK=> or call 860 258 7623.

\*Three Foragers Disclaimer: Never eat anything from the wild without first consulting an expert! Please forage responsibly. Educate yourself and have fun.

### Birdies for Charity Fundraiser

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!

### Join TOPS

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

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# What's Happening Wethersfield?

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

## First Kycia Farm Spring Event Successful With Many Activities

By Joan Hunt  
Staff Writer

WETHERSFIELD - It was a warm day with intermittent sun, and the rain held off last Saturday so that the first ever Spring Fest celebration at the Kycia Farm property was a nice success.

As promised, there were plenty of opportunities to learn about nature and conservation, animals to touch and observe, and activities for the kids, in addition to pizza and snacks and organizations to join if people wanted to.

The event was presented by The Friends of the Kycia Farm, who handed out membership forms at the entrance. If you missed that, and want to know more, contact the organization online.

Beekeeper Dahlia Tarza from the Backyard Beekeeper's Association was very helpful in explaining how bees live, how they help us, and how we can help them with their important work. She said it is a lot of work to become a beekeeper, but attracting pollinators to your back yard is easy and helpful.

Literature shows that honeybees are attracted to many common and easy to grow plants such as

rosemary, oregano, purple coneflower, and even common sunflowers. Children should be taught not to disturb them when they are collecting pollen and nectar, but they are not in your yard to sting you. Actually, less than half of the world's bees are capable of stinging, and these are only females. But those who have allergies should take particular care, of course.

The Eleanor Buck Wolf Nature Center brought a few animals, including turtles and snakes, for people to look at. Two alpacas from Quinnipiac Valley were on hand for young visitors to enjoy, as well. Most alpacas don't like to have their heads rubbed, we learned, but are very friendly and enjoy people.

Ana's Face Painting was a hit with the kids, who sported a variety of spring motifs on their faces as the day progressed. A variety of plants were on sale to support the Beardsley Zoo, and kids got a chance to plant a sunflower plant to give their mothers for Mother's Day.

It was a fun and free day, and most likely the first of many such annual events at the Kycia Farm.



Dahlia Tarza from the Backyard Beekeeper's Association brought a viewing frame to the Spring Fest to show how bees work together first-hand.



Ana's Face Painting was a big hit with the children at the Spring Fest last weekend at Kycia Farm.

Thank you for reading the Rare Reminder.

## State Officials Say Evidence Links Child, Animal Abuse

By Nicole Zappone  
Staff Writer

NEWINGTON - Gov. Ned Lamont joined other state officials and animal welfare advocates at a news conference April 30 at the headquarters of the Connecticut Humane Society in Newington.

This news conference was held to commemorate Child Abuse Awareness Month and Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month, and to highlight the proactive work being done among Cstate agencies to cross-report accounts of animal cruelty for assessment and possible investigation to determine the safety of children in households where these reports have occurred.

Many studies have shown there is a strong connection between situations of animal abuse, child maltreatment, and other forms of interpersonal violence, including domestic violence and elder abuse.

Professionals refer to this correlation as "The Link."

Over the past several years, staff from state agencies, including the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Department of Agriculture (DOAG), have been strengthening their partnerships to respond to "The Link" by cross-reporting those instances to one another.

When they receive reports of reasonable suspicion of animal cruelty from state, regional, and municipal animal control officers, DOAG staff are mandated to forward that information to DCF staff, who then review whether any children in those homes could be affected.

"It's clear that in homes where animal cruelty has occurred, child abuse or other forms of domestic violence may be present," Lamont said. "By cross-reporting this information between state agencies, our staff can proactively investigate whether other forms of violence are occurring in a home and take measures to protect any children, adults, or animals who may be impacted."

Children and Families Commissioner Jody Hill-Lilly said animals, like children, are vulnerable to abuse and neglect in every community and deserve complete protection.

"That's why we're increasing staff support, improving data collection, and strengthening our cross-reporting with the Department of Agriculture to address The Link between animal abuse and other forms of child abuse and neglect," said Hill-Lilly. "This includes mandatory training for frontline staff to identify signs of abuse during home visits. We're grateful to Governor Lamont, the Department of Agriculture, and our advocacy partners for their support in protecting our most vulnerable."

The state of Connecticut has demonstrated increases in animal cruelty reports over the last several years, partly due to increased education and outreach efforts by both DCF and DOAG.

DCF, for example, has made cross-reporting a part of the agency's mandated reporter training.

Across 14 offices, DCF has recently more than doubled the number of cross-reporting liaisons responsible for helping to triage cases between DCF social workers and animal control officers

and providing monthly training and educational support to staff.

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Last year, The Link was apparent in 16 reports that met the standard for an abuse/neglect investigation based on the initial information provided in the written report.

Of those 90 reports, 13 were made on families already involved and receiving support from DCF.

The partnership between the DOAG and the DCF Child Abuse and Neglect Careline continues to be strengthened to ensure that the reports are received immediately. This would allow DCF to proceed as necessary and DOAG to close the loop with local animal control officers.

"The Connecticut Humane Society has and will always stand as a voice for the voiceless," said James Bias, Executive Director of the Connecticut Humane Society. "We recognize that acts of animal cruelty are rarely isolated and are too often linked to cases of child abuse. It is so important that every report is taken seriously and every investigation is pursued with urgency. Accountability is essential to ending the cycles of both animal cruelty and child abuse. These are the most vulnerable of our community, and they deserve more."

Research studies show that animals were harmed in 88% of homes where a child was physically abused, and 75% of female survivors of domestic violence report their pets were threatened or intentionally harmed by their partner.

The studies also showed that children exposed to domestic violence are three times more likely to be cruel to animals and that 45% of caseworkers working with the elderly encountered animal abuse or neglect co-occurring with elder abuse.

"There is a well-documented link between animal cruelty and child abuse, with studies consistently showing that violence toward animals often occurs with domestic violence, including abuse of children," said Robin "Zilla" Cannamela, president and co-founder of Desmond's Army Animal Law Advocates. "As Desmond's Army often seeing in court, abusers may harm or threat-

### No Parking Zone - Beverly Road

WETHERSFIELD, CONN - The Wethersfield Police Department has received multiple complaints regarding vehicles parking along both sides (north & south) of Beverly Road, which severely restricts the available travel lane width. This inhibits two-way traffic flow and emergency vehicle access, creating a public safety hazard.

To ensure sufficient space for two-way traffic flow and prevent access issues during critical emergency responses, the Town of Wethersfield Engineering Department will be installing "No Parking Anytime" signs along the north side of Beverly Road between Wolcott Hill Road and Longvue Drive.

ened pets as a mean of controlling victims, making it more difficult for them to seek help or leave unsafe conditions."

Cannamela added that recognizing this connection, the organization has expanded its support not only with animals but also to help the people who love them.

As part of the effort, the organization will pay up to \$300 for the first month of boarding costs for pets of domestic violence victims entering a licensed safe facility.

"This compassionate initiative helps remove a significant barrier for survivors, giving them the freedom to escape abuse without the fear of abandoning their pets," Cannamela said. "This

## Sign Up For Spring Walking Competition Between Towns

By Margaret Radman  
Freelance Writer

WETHERSFIELD - Ready, set, go - get in shape and participate in the four-town walking competition sponsored by the Central Connecticut Health District (CCHD), that began May 1 and runs through to the end of the month.

Once again, CCHD is sponsoring the annual Walk This May walking challenge this month for both residents and employees of Rocky Hill, Berlin, Newington, and Wethersfield.

Last year "Team Rocky Hill" won the "triple crown" and was top overall for both steps and participants with 33.85 million steps, and 132 participants, according to media sources.

### Men's Garden Club Plant Sale

Wethersfield Men's Garden Club (<https://www.facebook.com/Mens-Garden-Club-of-Wethersfield-165623468911>) will hold its annual plant sale from 9am to 1pm on Saturday May 10 in the Wethersfield Town Hall parking lot (515 Silas Deane Highway). The sale features heirloom and conventional flowers, shrubs and vegetables, including Webb-Deane-Stevens samples. Proceeds from the sale support multiple local garden/agricultural charities and maintenance of the Frank Weston Rose Garden next to the Wethersfield Town Hall. 10% off your purchase with a paper copy of this notice.

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

The Wethersfield Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Council Chambers, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, Connecticut.

**Public Hearing 2207-25-Z KCH Trading Inc.** seeking a Zoning Text Amendment in accordance with Section 10.1.F (Amendments to the Zoning Regulations) of the Wethersfield Zoning Regulations to amend Section 2.3 (Definitions) and add new Section 5.14 (Warehouse Supermarket/Adaptive Re-Use) in the RC District.

**Public Hearing 2209-25-Z Commercial Development Services Group LLC** seeking a Special Permit in accordance with Section 5.2 (Permitted Principal Uses), 5.3 (Accessory Uses & Structures) and 5.8 (Alcoholic Beverages) for multi-tenant building with office, restaurant, place of assembly, outdoor dining and other similar uses at 207 Church Street.

Planning and Zoning Commission  
David Elder, AICP, Town Planner  
Duly Authorized

Dated at Wethersfield, Connecticut, this 5th day of May, 2025





# What's Happening Wethersfield?

Send us your news!

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

E-mail any news, photos, upcoming  
events or announcements to  
[editor@rarereminder.com](mailto:editor@rarereminder.com)  
or call 860-563-9386.

## New Exhibits, Spring Gardens Highlight Museum Re-Opening

By Joan Hunt  
Staff Writer

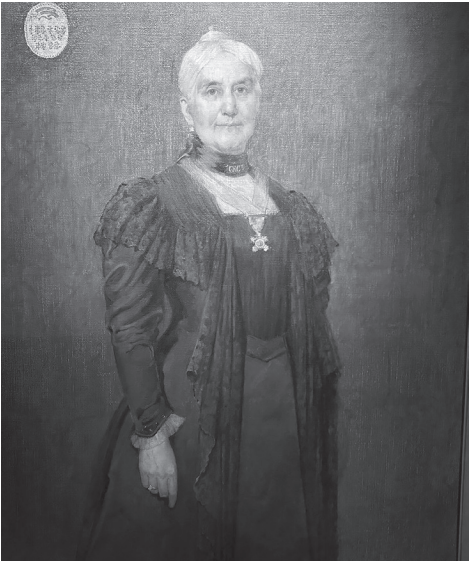
WETHERSFIELD - The Amy Cogswell Colonial Revival Garden was in spring bloom last Wednesday afternoon, when members were welcomed to a sneak preview of the new exhibitions at the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum in Old Wethersfield.

The exhibits, which opened to the public May 1, reflect on the relational aspect of collecting and how people share their knowledge and expertise through time to preserve history's great treasures.

Executive Director Brenton Grom said the collection in the Kuckro gallery called "Out of the Attic" has grown from the research done by the museum's new curator and director of preservation and collections, T.R. Revella Hamilton. On board since September, his review of the archives has revealed not only a collection of things but also the stories of the many people who have contributed to their being collected and preserved.

Hamilton not being available for the preview, Grom shared his insights with members and supporters of the museum and members of the National Society of the Colonial Dames in Connecticut.

A commanding photo of the Dames' founder Elizabeth Hart Jarvis Colt dominates the exhibit, as she was also a prime example of an extraordinary collector who used her considerable fortune



Elizabeth Hart Jarvis Colt, founder of the National Society of the Colonial Dames in Connecticut, is the central focus of the exhibit called Out of the Attic at the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum that opened for the season on May 1.

### Father's Day Walk - Old Wethersfield

Take Dad for a Walk!  
Sunday, June 15  
1:30 - 3:00 pm  
Meet at Hanmer School (between playscape and Board of Ed building)  
Discover what makes the trees along Hartford Avenue so special. There are newly planted trees to old growth trees. Join arborist John Kehoe's engaging tour identifying our trees. Wethersfield's Tree City status comes alive with stories, the history of tree species, and

to purchase and preserve historical objects from many periods.

Grom said that most of New England's museums are between 100 and 125 years old, and like this one their collections have been shaped and influenced by the people who cared about them. The Webb-Deane-Stevens began with the Webb house in 1919, he said, but it wasn't until the 1970s that the museum began to look the way it does today.

For much of the interim, there was little or no professional staff, and the Dames, who still own and operate it, put their own time, energy and money into collecting and preservation. Many have contributed to this work, some from circles well outside of Wethersfield, said Grom. These connections include former President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, financier J. P. Morgan, and closer to home the Morgan Bulkeley family.

Bulkeley, who served as the state's governor and later as a senator, was originally from East Haddam, but moved his family to Hartford for his career. He married Fannie Briggs Houghton from San Francisco, and she became an early member of the Colonial Dames, becoming another big influence on the history and preservation of the area. Grom said, having been raised in San Francisco, Fanny most likely looked at Connecticut as a "California girl," and her perspective might not have been so different as a modern visitor's would

the importance of sustaining what trees do for us when we value the diversity of old growth trees.  
Wear comfortable shoes and bring a water bottle. Rain or shine. Refreshments at end  
Open to the public, Suggested Donation of \$10 per family to Wethersfield Village Improvement Association. Check or cash in envelope day of  
For further information: [wethvia@icloud.com](mailto:wethvia@icloud.com)  
Wethersfield Village Improvement Association

be to the museum.

A smaller exhibit called "How to Build a Georgian House: Preservation in Action" is located in the breezeway of the museum and describes 18th Century construction techniques in detail.

"These houses were built between 1752 and 1789," said Grom, and at that time there were very few architects." He said it was more a process of house builders picking out elements of design and executing them with varying degrees of success. "There was a lot of muscling things into existence," he said.

Fortunately, however, the museum has acquired a lot of historical knowledge about how things were done in the past so that these same techniques can be used in the ongoing projects and renovations that need to be done in order to keep the houses in good condition. Displays on masonry and brickmaking are included in the smaller exhibit.

The Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum is open from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday through October. In addition to house tours, exhibits, the lovely garden and a gift shop, there are many attractions coming up this summer on the campus. The Revolutionary War Encampment takes place on Saturday, May 24, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Check the museum website for more details.

### Adopt a Town Container or Garden Bed

Looking for individuals, families or businesses willing to Adopt a Container or Garden Bed for a year to beautify the main thoroughfares of Wethersfield  
BUSINESS SPONSOR: \$150 with planter in front of business. Will be planted and cared for 1 year  
MEMBERSHIP: \$30 Gardening workshops, receptions, Tree Walks, Support WVIA!  
FAMILY/FRIENDS ADOPTOR: FREE

Adopt a container or garden bed for one year. Automatic members to WVIA.  
Workshop(s), plants provided, just plant, water through the growing season  
Contact us at email below; checks to address below. THANK YOU!!  
WETHERSFIELD VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION  
150 Main St. Wethersfield, [wethvia@icloud.com](mailto:wethvia@icloud.com)

### Group Collecting Used Wheelchairs

Wheels for the World will pick up for free used manual wheelchairs (in any condition), wheelchair parts, walkers, metal crutches, and canes. No motorized wheelchairs.  
We can make a referral for any equipment that Wheels for the World can't accept.  
Call Marshall at (203) 747-0543 or Ken (860) 754-7602 to arrange for collection. Wheels for the World is a charity of, Joni & Friends, their website: <https://joniandfriends.org/wheels-for-the-world/>.

Thank you for reading the Rare Reminder.

### Letters to the Editor

#### Latest School Renovation Process and Cost!

I attended the April 9, 2025 Wethersfield Advisory School Board Committee (WASBC) regarding the renovations of our elementary schools and read the Rare Reminder article dated April 17, 2025 "School Building Committee Unveils Projected Cost for Recommendations" and wish to add some comments. The elementary school project is being applied on the taxpayers by educational specifications, the BOE, school administrators, teachers and Special Interest groups. I recommend everybody to watch the presentation on-line located on the town website.  
TSKP and Downes Construction (consultants for the Town) presented their school project work-in-process and financial aspects to WASBC and the public for the five elementary schools, one build new and four renovations and a demolition, developing a conceptual estimate and or opinion for the entire total project. In order to develop the cost-baseline for the total project the consultants used recent Connecticut School Construction project costs generated from recent bids from other communities like Hartford, Bridgeport, New Haven and Cromwell developing a cost per square foot based on similar projects. With the cost-baseline per square foot they then apply escalation to the cost-baseline to develop the final total school project estimate.  
The TSKP consultant discussed his conceptual plan to build each of "the Pre-K through grade 4 schools to have the same classroom counts, the same classroom size and the same classroom population" and "will meet our current population plus what we anticipate to be about 10% swing that is based on two demographic studies that were done in 2018 and 2022 where they were predicting that the elementary school population could rise as much as 10%", and "that's a requirement of the Grant". The Webb renovation will have similar classroom requirements but expand greatly in size to accommodate the much larger grades 5 and 6 population.  
The consultant talked about having two separate referendums, the first scheduled for September 23, 2025, new Highcrest, Webb and Charles Wright and the second referendum in the fall of 2028 which would include Emerson Williams, Hamner and demolition of existing Highcrest.

The second referendum is three years out and it was decided to develop costs based on two different projected prices. For instance, Emerson Williams total cost is at \$55,000,000 to \$65,000,000, Hamner total cost is \$75,000,000 to \$86,000,000 and demolition of Highcrest is \$8,000,000 to \$9,000,000.  
The combined referendums are currently estimated at \$362,500,000 to \$384,500,000. The failed referendum of November 8, 2022 for the same five schools was \$278,366,545.

Robert Young  
Wethersfield, CT

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

#### LEGAL NOTICE OF ADOPTION TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD

At the Regular Meeting of May 5, 2025, the Town Council of the Town of Wethersfield adopted the following:

##### RESOLUTION R25 - 003

To formally accept and record the extension of the Belcher Road public right-of-way on the town land records.

##### RESOLUTION R25 - 004

To name the T-Ball Field on the Broad Street Green in Honor of Judy and Richard M. Keane.

##### RESOLUTION R25 - 005

To Authorize the Approval of Wethersfield's Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices Municipal Plan Which Aligns with Connecticut Public Act 23-116 and the Connecticut Department of Transportation's Safety Goals and Initiatives to Improve Roadway and Pedestrian Safety.

The full text of these documents is available for public inspection in the Town Clerk's Office.

Dated at Wethersfield, Connecticut this 8th day of May, 2025.

Susan I. Schroeder  
Town Clerk

#### LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD

The Town Council of the Town of Wethersfield will hold Public Hearings on Monday, May 19, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, CT 06109 for the following:

##### RESOLUTION R25 - 006

AUTHORIZE THE WETHERSFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION TO APPLY TO THE COMMISSIONER OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND TO ACCEPT OR REJECT A GRANT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW HIGHCREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON THE KYCIA PROPERTY, RENOVATION OF WEBB ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, RENOVATION OF CHARLES WRIGHT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, RENOVATION OF EMERSON WILLIAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, RENOVATION OF HANMER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND FOR DEMOLITION OF THE EXISTING HIGHCREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

##### RESOLUTION R25 - 007

APPROVE THAT THE WETHERSFIELD ADVISORY SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED AS THE BUILDING COMMITTEE WITH REGARD TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW HIGHCREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON THE KYCIA PROPERTY, RENOVATION OF WEBB ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, RENOVATION OF CHARLES WRIGHT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, RENOVATION OF EMERSON WILLIAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, RENOVATION OF HANMER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND FOR DEMOLITION OF THE EXISTING HIGHCREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

##### RESOLUTION R25 - 008

AUTHORIZE THE PREPARATION OF SCHEMATIC DRAWINGS AND OUTLINE SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW HIGHCREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON THE KYCIA PROPERTY, RENOVATION OF WEBB ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, RENOVATION OF CHARLES WRIGHT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, RENOVATION OF EMERSON WILLIAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, RENOVATION OF HANMER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND FOR DEMOLITION OF THE EXISTING HIGHCREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

##### RESOLUTION R25 - 009

AUTHORIZE THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD TO APPLY FOR A COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND GRANT UP TO \$250K, AND ALLOW THE TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE WILLIAM J. PITKIN COMMUNITY COMPLEX RENOVATION/ADDITION PROJECT.

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Dated at Wethersfield, Connecticut this 8th day of May 2025.

Susan I. Schroeder  
Town Clerk







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

## State Officials Say Evidence Links Child, Animal Abuse

By Nicole Zappone  
Staff Writer

NEWINGTON - Gov. Ned Lamont joined other state officials and animal welfare advocates at a news conference April 30 at the headquarters of the Connecticut Humane Society in Newington.

This news conference was held to commemorate Child Abuse Awareness Month and Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month, and to highlight the proactive work being done among Cstate agencies to cross-report accounts of animal cruelty for assessment and possible investigation to determine the safety of children in households where these reports have occurred.

Many studies have shown there is a strong connection between situations of animal abuse, child maltreatment, and other forms of interpersonal violence, including domestic violence and elder abuse.

Professionals refer to this correlation as “The Link.”

Over the past several years, staff from state agencies, including the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Department of Agriculture (DOAG), have been strengthening their partnerships to respond to “The Link” by cross-reporting those instances to one another.

When they receive reports of reasonable suspicion of animal cruelty from state, regional, and municipal animal control officers, DOAG staff are mandated to forward that information to DCF staff, who then review whether any children in those homes could be affected.

“It’s clear that in homes where animal cruelty has occurred, child abuse or other forms of domestic violence may be present,” Lamont said. “By cross-reporting this information between state agencies, our staff can proactively investigate whether other forms of violence are occurring in a home and take measures to protect any children, adults, or animals who may be impacted.”

Children and Families Commissioner Jody

Hill-Lilly said animals, like children, are vulnerable to abuse and neglect in every community and deserve complete protection.

“That’s why we’re increasing staff support, improving data collection, and strengthening our cross-reporting with the Department of Agriculture to address The Link between animal abuse and other forms of child abuse and neglect,” said Hill-Lilly. “This includes mandatory training for frontline staff to identify signs of abuse during home visits. We’re grateful to Governor Lamont, the Department of Agriculture, and our advocacy partners for their support in protecting our most vulnerable.”

The state of Connect has demonstrated increases in animal cruelty reports over the last several dues, partly due to increased education and outreach efforts by both DCF and DOAG.

DCF, for example, has made cross-reporting a part of the agency’s mandated reporter training.

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Of those 90 reports, 13 were made on families already involved and receiving support from DCF.

The partnership between the DOAG and the DCF Child Abuse and Neglect Careline continues to be strengthened to ensure that the reports are received immediately. This would allow DCF to proceed as necessary and DOAG to close the loop with local animal control officers.

## Man Sentenced By Court In Local Gun Store Thefts

By Liam McLoughlin,  
Staff Writer

NEWINGTON — A Willimantic man is to spend up to nine years in federal prison following his sentencing in Hartford April 29.

Kwitzpatrick Duffany, 37, was first arrested by State Police in Ashford in June 2023, just days after he burglarized Hoffman’s Gun Store. He’s been detained since his arrest.

According to the U.S. Attorney’s Office documents, Duffany entered the store by “by climbing onto the balcony over the main entrance, cutting into the siding with a knife, and dropping down from the ceiling.”

Surveillance footage of inside the store shows Duffany and two other individuals filling duffel bags with guns, adding up to 38 in total. Hoffman Guns holds a federal license.

After leaving the store, Duffany is reported to have sold and “traded several of the stolen guns for cash and drugs.” On the day he was arrested, he was found with a “loaded Smith and Wesson 9mm handgun” and drugs.

## 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](mailto:parksandrec@newingtonct.gov).

“The Connecticut Humane Society has and will always stand as a voice for the voiceless,” said James Bias, Executive Director of the Connecticut Humane Society. “We recognize that acts of animal cruelty are rarely isolated and are too often linked to cases of child abuse. It is so important that every report is taken seriously and every investigation is pursued with urgency. Accountability is essential to ending the cycles of both animal cruelty and child abuse. These are the most vulnerable of our community, and they deserve more.”

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Last year “Team Rocky Hill” won the “triple crown” and was top overall for both steps and participants with 33.85 million steps, and 132 participants, according to media sources.

## 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

## 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-

ened pets as a mean of controlling victims, making it more difficult for them to seek help or leave unsafe conditions.”

Cannamela added that recognizing this connection, the organization has expanded its support not only with animals but also to help the people who love them.

As part of the effort, the organization will pay up to \$300 for the first month of boarding costs for pets of domestic violence victims entering a licensed safe facility.

“This compassionate initiative helps remove a significant barrier for survivors, giving them the freedom to escape abuse without the fear of abandoning their pets,” Cannamela said. “This initiative also teaches children that pets are important family members deserving protection from harm.”

Anyone can report animal cruelty by contacting the local animal control department in the town where those concerns have been noted, DOAG’s Animal Control Office at 860-713-2506, or [AGR.AnimalControl@ct.gov](mailto:AGR.AnimalControl@ct.gov).

Those making a report can remain anonymous.

Any reasonable suspicion of child maltreatment can be made to DCF’s Child Abuse and Neglect Careline by calling 1-800-842-2288. The hotline is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and callers can remain anonymous.

The goal of the challenge is simple: to get everyone moving. Walking is one of the simplest ways to add physical activity to a daily routine. Participants will track their steps during the month of May. The town logging the most steps wins.

Steps may be logged in on a free pedometer, provided by CCHD (while supplies last) or activities can be automatically linked to a fitness device.

For further details and to register, visit <https://cchd4town.walkertracker.com/login> or call 8607858380 x 216.

New York City and Chelmsford College in England. 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).

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>

Thank you for reading the Rare Reminder.





## Men’s Garden Club Plant Sale

Wethersfield Men's Garden Club (<https://www.facebook.com/Mens-Garden-Club-of-Wethersfield-165623468911>) will hold its annual plant sale from 9am to 1pm on Saturday May 10 in the Wethersfield Town Hall parking lot (515 Silas Deane Highway). The sale features heirloom and conventional flowers, shrubs and vegetables, including Webb-Deane-Stevens samples. Proceeds from the sale support multiple local garden/agricultural charities and maintenance of the Frank Weston Rose Garden next to the Wethersfield Town Hall. 10% off your purchase with a paper copy of this notice.

## Group Collecting Used Wheelchairs

AREA - Wheels for the World will pick up for free used manual wheelchairs (in any condition), wheelchair parts, walkers, metal crutches, and canes. No motorized wheelchairs. We can make a referral for any equipment that Wheels for the World can't accept. Call Marshall at (203) 747-0543 or Ken (860) 754-7602 to arrange for collection. Wheels for the World is a charity of, Joni & Friends, their website: <https://joniandfriends.org/wheels-for-the-world/>.

## SPRING POPS!

Sunday, May 18 - 4:00  
FREE CONCERT  
Music from Wicked, Mamma Mia, Billy Joel, and more. Choirs, soloists, band, handbells, organ Peter Niedmann, Music Director.  
Church of Christ, Congregational, 1075 Main St., Newington, CT [newingtonucc.org](http://newingtonucc.org)

## Women’s Group Plans Activities

The Newly-Retired Newington Women's group has planned the following activities:  
May 14--Thrift Thrills--11 a.m.  
June 6--Vineyard Potluck--4:30 p.m.  
July 30--Goodspeed Play--2 p.m.  
Any questions? Call Jean at 860-920-9943.

### 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.

## Hofstra Recognizes Student Employees

HEMPSTEAD, NY (04/18/2025)-- During National Student Employment Week, Hofstra University is celebrating the impact and experiences of student workers across campus and in the surrounding community. Through the student employment program - whether through Federal Work-Study or other opportunities - students are receiving more than just a paycheck. They're building transferable skills, gaining practical experience, forming meaningful professional relationships, and in many cases, engaging with the wider community.  
The following list are students that are student workers at Hofstra:  
Ralph Barba of Middletown  
Andrew Schilling of Newington  
Jalen Coleman of Middletown  
Thomas Pier of Cromwell

## District Assistant Superintendent Garners CASPA Honors

I am pleased to announce that Stephen Foresi, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, has been selected as the 2025 CASPA (Connecticut Association of School Personnel Administrators) Personnel Administrator of the Year Award. He was selected by the CASPA Recognitions Committee for his outstanding work and accomplishments in Human Capital Development.  
Stephen Foresi has been the Assistant Superintendent of Schools in Newington since July 2014. He will be recognized at The CASPA Awards Ceremony on Friday, May 2, 2025 at the Annual CASPA Conference at Waters Edge Resort in Westbrook, Connecticut.



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

### LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

This is to give notice that the Newington Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at 6:30 P.M. at Town Hall, 200 Garfield Street, Newington, CT in accordance with the provisions of the Town Charter, Article IV, Section C-405 & C-406, in regard to the following proposed ordinance.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE #2325-04

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF NEWINGTON THAT:  
**Chapter 8, Article XII Permanent Municipal Building Commission**, of the Newington Code of Ordinances is hereby amended as follows:

#### Chapter 8 BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS AND BUREAUS ARTICLE XII PERMANENT MUNICIPAL BUILDING COMMISSION

**Establishment.**  
Pursuant to **Article VI, §C-610**, of the Charter of the Town of Newington, there is hereby established a commission to be known as the “**Permanent Municipal Building Commission**” hereinafter referred to as the “**Commission**”

**Powers and Duties.**  
The Commission shall be responsible for the execution of major construction, major renovation, or major demolition projects for the Town of Newington, including but not limited to responsibilities related to school buildings whether or not described in C.G.S. §10-291. The Commission shall oversee and supervise the development of preliminary plans, including architectural drawings and cost estimates, and major construction, major renovation or major demolition projects involving Town, Board of Education, and Fire Department buildings. Upon approval of the Town Council, or in the absence of a quorum of the Town Council within 24 hours of an emergency, upon the approval of the Town Manager, this Ordinance shall not apply to emergency repair or emergency renovation projects.

The Commission shall recommend to the Town Council for its approval and execution by the Town Manager, contracts with architects, engineers, building contractors, and others on behalf of the Town of Newington with respect to a major construction project, major renovation project, or major demolition project for which the Commission has been charged. The Commission shall exercise such other powers as are necessary with respect to major construction projects involving a municipal or school building for which the Commission has been charged, and provide interim status reports to the Town Council on a quarterly basis, or more frequently upon request.

Upon completion of a project, the Commission shall make a complete report and accounting to the Town Council and the Town Manager and recommend acceptance of the building project.

**Definitions.**  
The following definitions shall apply throughout the ordinance:

1. “**Building Project**”: any major construction or alteration of a Town, Board of Education, or Fire Department building or structure, in accordance with the Newington Town Charter.
2. “**Major Construction Project**”: any build new, build as-new, and associated work.
3. “**Major Renovation Project**”: a significant change, or addition, to the layout or structure of an existing Town, Board of Education, or Fire Department building or structure.
4. “**Demolition Project**”: including but not limited to excavation, filling, and grading of the building or the project site.
5. “**Major Changes**”: revisions that arise during construction to the scope or size of a building project which will affect the function or size of a Town facility or building, or the appropriation set for the project.
6. “**Proposing Body**”: the Town of Newington department, appointed or elected board, committee, or commission sponsoring or requesting a major construction project, major renovation project, or major demolition project.
7. “**Statement of Need**”: a written narrative provided by the proposing body presenting the public interest reasons for undertaking a major construction project, major renovation project, or major demolition project including but not limited to, details regarding programs for the proposed facility, the function and purpose(s) which the facility is anticipated to fulfill, anticipated expanded services, auxiliary public use, additional personnel required to maintain the facility, annual maintenance costs, expected hours of the facility's availability, recommendations, if any, on the size, scope, location, and special features of the facility, and overall effect on the Town.

**Membership.**  
Membership shall adhere to the minority representation requirements set in Connecticut General Statutes § 9-167, and consist of no more than seven (7) members appointed by the Town Council, who shall not be any ex-officio members as described below, and shall serve without compensation:

- Five (5) permanent voting members:
  - Three (3) reviewed and recommended by the Town Manager who shall be qualified because of their experience in the fields of architecture, landscape architecture, building construction, contract review or building trades
  - Two (2) reviewed and recommended, one by each of the political parties with largest representation on the Town Council, with similar qualifications as detailed above
- Two (2) additional voting members:
  - Either recommended by the proposing body for each public building project on which the Commission has been charged, and shall vote only on matters pertaining to the project for which they have jurisdiction
  - Or, in the case of the Lucy Robbins Welles Library, as the Library and surrounding property is under the ownership and control of the Board of Trustees, the Library Board of Trustees shall recommend for appointment for any project affecting the Library grounds or structure, two (2) voting members appointed to the Commission by the Town Council.

**Terms.**

- The five (5) permanent voting members shall serve as follows:
  - The three (3) members reviewed and recommended by the Town Manager shall be appointed for initial terms of three (3) years, two (2) years, and one (1) year respectively
  - The two (2) members reviewed and recommended by each of the political parties with largest representation on the Town Council shall be appointed for initial terms of one (1) year each
- After the expiration of each initial term, each member shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years. All terms shall begin on December 1 and expire on November 30, unless appointed by the Town Council to fill the remainder of a vacancy term.
- The (2) additional voting members, reviewed and recommended by the proposing body, shall serve for the duration of the project for which they are appointed.

Any member that serves on any other elected or appointed board, commission or position within the Town of Newington shall recuse themselves from voting on matters over which they would also have jurisdiction.

**Vacancy.**  
Any vacancy in the Commission shall be reviewed and recommended by the relevant recommending authority, and the member appointed by the Town Council shall serve for the unexpired term of its predecessor. If any member shall cease to be a resident of the town, they shall cease to be a member of the Commission.

**Ex-Officio Membership.**  
The following may serve as ex-officio members of the Commission for projects under their jurisdiction, but without the power to vote:

- The Mayor and the Town Manager, or their designee(s)
- The Chairperson of the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools, or their designee(s) on any project for the construction, renovation or demolition of Board of Education buildings as referred to the Commission
- The Fire Chief and the Chairperson of the Board of Fire Commissioners, or their designee(s), on any project for the construction, renovation or demolition of Fire Department buildings as referred to the Commission

**Advisory Membership.**  
The following may serve as advisory members of the Commission for projects under their jurisdiction, but without the power to vote:

- The Building Official, Facilities Director, Fire Marshal, Town Engineer, Chief Information Officer, Director of Administrative Services, or other applicable Department Heads, or their designee, as determined by the Town Manager

**Officers; Records.**  
The Commission shall elect a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary from its membership and shall keep a public record of its activities. All public meetings shall be recorded in accordance with the “Information and Guidelines for Boards, Committees, and Commissions” adopted July 23, 2019, as may be amended.

Reasonable and necessary expenses of the Commission shall be included in the cost of any project, including a Commission Clerk, as authorized in the Town Charter, §C-610 & Article IX, Personnel. All meetings and records of the Commission shall follow applicable state statutes, regulations, and guidelines.

**Reimbursement.**  
Each Commission member may be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the course of their duties for the Commission, as approved by the Town Manager.

**Building Project Procedures.**  
A building project should be undertaken in accordance with the following procedures:

1. **Establishment of Proposing Body.** Should the Town Council, in consultation with the Town Manager, determine a need may exist in the Town for major construction, major renovation project, or major demolition project of a Town, Board of Education, or Fire Department building, the Town Council shall establish or identify a proposing body to review the project and determine a statement of need.
2. **Establishment of Need.** Upon the completion of their review, and within 90 days of the Town Council establishment or identification, the proposing body shall transmit a written statement of need to the Town Council for the major construction, major renovation project, or major demolition project of the facility for which they were charged to review.
3. **Project Initiation.** Should the Town Council, after reviewing the statement of need, determine that a valid need exists for major construction, major renovation project, or major demolition project the Town Council, by majority vote, shall first refer the proposed location of the facility to the Town Planning and Zoning Commission for its review consistent with C.G.S. §8-24; charge the Commission with oversight of said project, and appoint the two (2) voting members, reviewed and recommended by the proposing body, to serve on the Commission for the duration of the project.  
If the Commission determines that it cannot meet any timeline associated with this Ordinance, including with the receipt of state or federal grants for a particular project, the Commission shall make a recommendation to the Town Council that the project not be subject to this Ordinance. The Town Council may adopt or reject the Commission's recommendation. If the Town Council rejects the Commission's recommendation, the Commission shall oversee the project in accordance with this Ordinance.
4. **Preliminary Steps.** The Commission shall hold at least one (1) joint meeting of the Town Council, the Commission, and the proposing body to review the statement of need. The Commission may request additional joint meetings with the Town Council and proposing body in order to fully review the statement of need. Within 30 days following the joint meeting, the Commission shall report to the Town Council on any recommended modifications or updates to the anticipated scope and costs of the project as identified in the statement of need; if the Commission is unable to report to the Town Council within this timeframe, the Commission shall request an extension of an additional 30 days from the Town Council.  
5. **Appropriation.** Should the Town Council, after reviewing the recommendations of the Commission, determine that the statement of need and any modifications within the preliminary steps are acceptable for funding, the Town Council may establish an appropriation for the major construction in accordance with the Town Charter and any other applicable Town policy or procedure, or, initiate the process of transmitting the appropriation to referendum in accordance with Town Charter C.408.  
  
If the proposed project fails at referendum the Town Council shall determine if the proposing body will present a revised plan, and that the major construction, major renovation, or major demolition project will follow Building Project Procedures items 2-4 as indicated above.
6. **Commission Charge.** Following the establishment of an appropriation for a major construction project, major renovation project, or major demolition project the Commission, in consultation with the proposing body shall be charged with the execution of the project, and shall be authorized and responsible to administer the project within the financial constraints of the project budget. The Commission charge includes but is not limited to:
  - a. Solicit and recommend to the Town Council for its approval and execution by the Town Manager, contracts with architects, engineers, building contractors, and others on behalf of the Town of Newington with respect to major construction projects, major renovation project, or major demolition project for which the Commission has been charged. If the Town Council fails to approve of a recommendation of the Commission, the Commission shall make a new recommendation and refer it to the Town Council for action within 15 days but no later than 30 days following the Town Council's disapproval. If the Town Council fails to approve of the recommendation of the Commission for a second time, the Town Council may make its own selection or determine the selection is unnecessary.
  - b. Supervise the construction or alteration of the building project, in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes including approving change orders and disbursements within the project budget or as approved by the Town Council to the Town Manager for signature or final payment, and meeting with employed contractors and the Town Manager or their designee on a regular basis. The Commission may empower the Commission Chair to oversee these duties for items in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00.
  - c. Determine emergency modification or change in the contract which does not affect the financial constraints of the project budget, upon certification by the Town Manager that an emergency or extraordinary situation exists. Emergencies are situations in which the project would be seriously hampered or in which public peace, health and safety are seriously threatened. Prompt written notification of such situations should be brought to the proposing body and the Town Council's attention by the Town Manager.
  - d. Report to the Town Council and Town Manager if, in consultation with the proposing body, the Commission finds new changes in the statement of needs or final plans that may cause any change in the overall costs of major construction, major renovation, or major demolition, outside of the approved appropriation. Any change order requiring an increase in cost above the original construction contract shall be subject to the approval of the Director of Finance as to the availability of funds. After reviewing the changes that may affect the overall costs, the Town Council may establish an appropriation following the guidelines of Building Project Procedures Section 5.
7. **Final acceptance.** After construction, alteration and/or demolition, of the project has been completed to the satisfaction of the Commission, as-built plans for the project have been received from the architect and/or engineer, and the proposing body has been asked for its comments, the Commission shall refer the facility to the Town Council for acceptance. The referral shall include a report on the status of the facility and the comments of the proposing body together with any applicable warranties, guarantees, service manuals, surety bonds, original drawings, as-built drawings, Owners Representative or Consultant work log, etc., and operator training. When a project has been fully and satisfactorily completed and a final report from the Commission's Chairperson has been approved by the Town Council, the additional voting members shall no longer serve on the Commission. After all outstanding bills have been paid and the Town's independent annual audit has been completed, all unexpended balances in the building project's funds shall revert to the Town's general fund.

**Savings Clause**  
Any prior project, which has already been approved at a Referendum, prior to the ratification of this Ordinance, will not be subject to this ordinance.

A copy of the proposed ordinance is available in the Town Clerk's Office, 200 Garfield Street, Newington, CT.

Dated at Newington, CT this 8th day of May, 2025

Attest: James E. Krupienski, CCTC  
Newington Town Clerk



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**TOWN-WIDE TAG SALE DAY:** Saturday, May 10, 8:30-2:30, 145 sales, Free map, Historical Society, 492 Main St., Portland.

**WANTED:** Used and abused boats, cars, trucks, RVs and motorcycles. Top dollar paid. Free pick up 860-777-6314.

**MULTI FAMILY TAG SALE:** Sat May 10th. 8-3. Rain date May 17th. 110 Southwell Rd, Wethersfield. Furniture, albums, bikes, perennial and jade plants. kids stuff, kitchenware, TV, grill.

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Artists of all levels (and ages) are welcome! An annual individual sponsorship costs just \$30, a family sponsorship just \$35. Classes, workshops and open studios are held at the Little Red Schoolhouse, 193 Wells Road, Wethersfield. Stop in to one of our open studios Mondays 10am-noon, Wednesdays 11:30am-1:30pm and Thursdays Woodcarving 11:30am-1:30pm to check out the creativity of our artists. Email questions to [WethersfieldArtLeague@gmail.com](mailto:WethersfieldArtLeague@gmail.com) or leave a message at 860-500-7899. Visit us on Facebook or Instagram @: WethersfieldArtLeague

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

## Volunteer Medical Transportation

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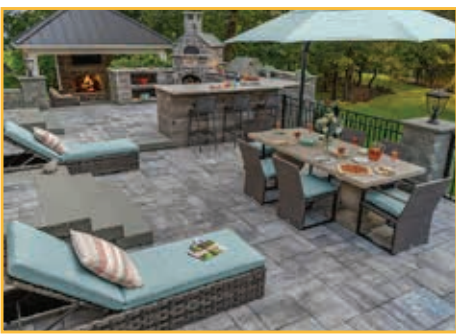
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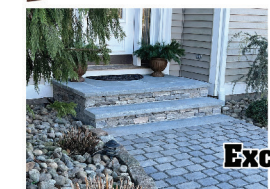


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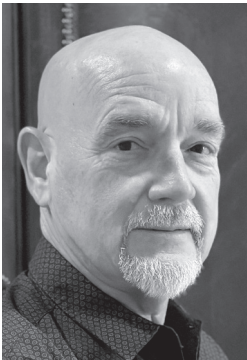
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## A Guide To Mortgage Interest Rates

Buying a home is the most expensive purchase many people make in their lifetime. Some people do it only once, while others are in the market with greater frequency. In any instance when the home buying process involves securing a mortgage, buyers can benefit from knowing a thing or two about mortgage interest rates.

A mortgage interest rate can help buyers determine if a given home is affordable or beyond their budget. Rocket Mortgage says mortgage interest rates can have a major impact on long-term costs, so it is imperative to seek the lowest rates possible. However, an assortment of economic variables affect mortgage interest rates, and conditions unique to each buyer also can affect the rate they're eligible to obtain. Understanding home loan rates can help potential buyers better navigate the complex process of buying a home.

What is mortgage interest?  
When a person buys a

home with a mortgage, he or she doesn't just pay back the amount borrowed, which is called the principal. The loan also requires paying interest, which is essentially the cost of borrowing money. Mortgage interest is calculated as a percentage of the remaining principal, says Investopedia.

How are mortgage rates set?

Mortgage rates are not determined by a single variable. They are derived from a combination of factors that includes the Federal Reserve's monetary policy, economic conditions and a borrower's personal financial situation. The Federal Reserve (in the United States) influences the overall rates by adjusting the federal funds rate, or the rate at which banks lend to each other overnight. This not only impacts mortgage rates, but also additional interest rates, according to Fannie Mae. Lenders will ultimately decide on the specific rates to offer borrowers.

How does a borrower's financial situation affect mortgage rates?

Lenders will conduct a thorough assessment of a potential borrower's creditworthiness. They will look at, among other things, a borrower's credit score and debt-to-income ratio. A higher credit score typically results in a lower interest rate. A lower DTI indicates a lower risk to the lender, also potentially resulting in a lower interest rate. Squaring away finances well in advance of applying for a mortgage can help home buyers secure lower interest rates that could save them considerable sums of money over the life of their mortgages.

How do loan types affect mortgage interest?

A home buyer will pay interest no matter the mortgage type, but there are options to select a fixed or adjustable interest rate, or even interest-only mortgages.

According to Bankrate, with a fixed-rate mortgage, the interest rate remains the

same throughout the life of the loan, meaning the payment for principal and interest will remain consistent. Additional charges that are wrapped into mortgage payments could change, however. Property taxes and homeowners' insurance charges could increase, for example. Fixed rates tend to be lower when the term of the mortgage is

shorter. So borrowers can opt for a 20-year mortgage over a 30-year to save some money on interest.

An adjustable-rate mortgage (ARM) will see the interest rate change during the repayment period. It may start with a low introductory rate for the first several years of the loan, but then can go up or down depending on market indexes and

benchmarks. Many lenders put a cap on how high the interest rate can go, however.

Various factors determine mortgage interest rates for home buyers, including market conditions, credit standing, federal rates, the type of loan, and term length.







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**ROCKY HILL CENTER:** New construction, large apartments, new appliances, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, garage. Heat, hot water, AC not included, coin laundry, \$2000. 860-794-1228.

**For All Your Real Estate Needs, Call**  
**JAY CIRIKOVIC**



**Jay Cirikovic**

Century 21 All Points

**203.525.8452**

[JayCirikovic@gmail.com](mailto:JayCirikovic@gmail.com)



122624

**ONE-BEDROOM CONDO:** that sleeps two. Beautiful view of Vineyard Sound with a furnished deck overlooking the pool. It is a short walk to the Ferry, beach and shops of Vineyard Haven. Full kitchen, with A/C, Wifi, TV, and parking. July and August, and first week in September available. Online at [Weneedavacation.com](http://Weneedavacation.com), ID 7718. Call 860-550-3198 or 860-558-5193.

**MATURE AND RESPONSIBLE ADULT LOOKING:** for an updated and well maintained one bedroom apartment, in the following towns: Colchester, Marlborough, Hebron, Glastonbury, and/or Wethersfield. Call 860-837-4488.

**SELL YOUR HOUSE FAST:** Any condition- "AS-IS"-Fast Cash Closings -No Hassles. Local & Professional -No Fees -No Commissions [www.valleyresidentialgroup.com](http://www.valleyresidentialgroup.com) 860-589.4663.

**CANDLELIGHT APARTMENTS, GLASTONBURY:** RENT NOW, one bedroom available, renovated, first floor. Rent is currently \$1,750 per month. Includes heat/hot water, trash, sewer. Onsite storage and assigned parking available. Property is a SMOKE FREE Complex. Please call via text or cell 860-913-6723, Office 860-529-1725.

**BEACH COTTAGE RENTAL:** Old Lyme, 7 room house, very clean, nice yard. \$1000/week. No Pets. July & August available . Call 860-798-2294.

**Thank you for reading**  
**the Rare Reminder!**

## PROPERTY TRANSFERS

<b>Cromwell</b>	
<b>04/17/2025</b>	<b>46 Washington Rd</b>
Robbins Rachel A Est	Robbins, Roy M
To Donahue Sr, Christopher M	\$322,000
<b>04/14/2025</b>	<b>16 N Ridge Dr</b>
Daddario, Thomas	Daddario, Johanna
To Lincavicks, Reilly A	Blanchard, Scott M
<b>04/15/2025</b>	<b>3 Carroll Pl</b>
Damiata, Penelope B	
To Moehler, Christopher	Mazzotta, Corinne
<b>04/17/2025</b>	<b>206 Skyview Dr</b>
Hurd, Karen L	Hurd, Kyle H
To Pallapothu, Mahesh	\$295,000
<b>04/16/2025</b>	<b>16 Grove Rd</b>
Johnston Henry G Est	Johnston Jr, Henry G
To Schuman, Amanda	\$275,000
<b>04/17/2025</b>	<b>6-B Wightman Pl</b>
Vanderzee, Robert E	
To Slifer, Tristan	Slifer, Tanner
<b>East Hampton</b>	
<b>04/15/2025</b>	<b>31 Highland Ter</b>
Carroll, Daniel	She, Menglin
To Yvon Beaudoin Builder Inc	\$120,000
<b>Middletown</b>	
<b>04/17/2025</b>	<b>770 Newfield St #3A</b>
Philippi, Richard A	Philippi, Carol W
To 770 Newfield 3a LLC	\$155,000
<b>04/17/2025</b>	<b>770 Newfield St #3B</b>
Philippi, Richard A	Philippi, Carol W
To 770 Newfield 3b LLC	\$155,000
<b>04/17/2025</b>	<b>136 Westfield St</b>
Page, Robert C	Page, Marion M
To Automated Technologies In	\$210,000
<b>04/14/2025</b>	<b>27 Mill St</b>
Barnhart Crane & Rigging	
To Karma Energy LLC	\$110,000

<b>04/14/2025</b>	<b>35 Wall St</b>	
Toper, Cameron J		
To Massaro, Jillian		\$363,500
<b>04/15/2025</b>	<b>8 Yellow Rd</b>	
Valk, Mary M	Valk, Daniel	
To Mcdowell, Thomas W	Mcdowell, Samantha L	\$400,000
<b>04/16/2025</b>	<b>326 Barbara Rd</b>	
Keeney Sr, Edward V		\$340,000
To Millan, Joshua		
<b>04/16/2025</b>	<b>8 Bow Ln</b>	
Archer, John C		\$545,000
To Pereira, Hector		
<b>04/15/2025</b>	<b>10 Countryside Ln #4</b>	
Carey, Eileen B		\$215,000
To Setzler, Taylor R	Beatty, Jesse W	
<b>Newington</b>		
<b>04/14/2025</b>	<b>29 Hopkins Dr</b>	
Amir, Mian	Ct Hsng Fin Authority	\$226,000
To Berrios, Johnny		
<b>04/14/2025</b>	<b>51 Crown Rdg #51</b>	
Mackenzie, Sara R		\$384,500
To Dolan, Roberta A		
<b>04/14/2025</b>	<b>76 Dowd St</b>	
Thomas, Cheryl		
To Ferraj, Arberi	Ferraj, Enxhi	\$413,500
<b>04/16/2025</b>	<b>40 Fisk Dr</b>	
Murphy, Brendan	Delvecchio, Marissa	\$335,000
To Gurung, Rajendra K		
<b>04/14/2025</b>	<b>45 Evergreen Rd</b>	
Chen, Shuo		\$240,000
To Jiang, Ling		
<b>04/14/2025</b>	<b>62 Woodland St</b>	
Cosgrove, Priscilla A		\$340,000
To Maurer, Amanda G		

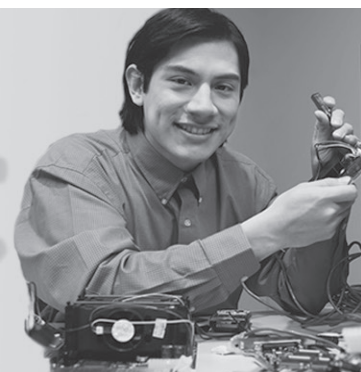
<b>04/14/2025</b>	<b>26 Spruce St</b>	
Morin, Donald	Morin, Valdora	
To McLaughlin, John T		\$300,000
<b>04/15/2025</b>	<b>18 Augusta Dr</b>	
Frigo, Alma		\$375,000
To Olmez, Oner		
<b>04/16/2025</b>	<b>2176 Berlin Tpke</b>	
Bdc Holdings Inc		\$1107,000
To Pack N Stor Wethersfield		
<b>Rocky Hill</b>		
<b>04/15/2025</b>	<b>1006 Gray Fox Ln #1006</b>	
Patel, Jetun	Patel, Taral	
To Coppola, Jeffrey	Coppola, Judy K	\$415,000
<b>04/14/2025</b>	<b>9 Rose Ct #9</b>	
Puchalski, Gary	Puchalski, Ellie	\$410,000
To Dodge, Maureen		
<b>04/15/2025</b>	<b>7 Brookwood Dr #C</b>	
Flowers Gregory C Est		\$132,000
To Kane, Thomas B	Johal, Guneet K	
<b>04/14/2025</b>	<b>19 Brimfield Way #19</b>	
Serrantino Vincenza Est		\$354,000
To Serrantino, Paul	Mackenzie, Sara R	
<b>04/16/2025</b>	<b>30 Elm St</b>	
Amaning, John A		\$365,000
To Stancil Jr, Raymond M		
<b>Wethersfield</b>		
<b>04/15/2025</b>	<b>Clarkridge Rd</b>	
Harvey Jr John F Est	Sullivan, Timothy M	\$442,500
To Berman, Caroline	Berman, Michael	
<b>04/15/2025</b>	<b>361 Brimfield Rd</b>	
Barbosa, Kellyann		\$460,000
To Childs, Richard J	Diaz Pena, Raul E	
<b>04/15/2025</b>	<b>68 Westlook Rd</b>	
Amoddio Ana M Est	Amoddio, Carmelo	\$315,000
To Garofolo, Leanne E		







# Employment



## HELP WANTED

Help needed in our Printing Department.

**Full and Part-time Hours  
Available Monday – Friday**

**Email Jim for more information:  
[jim@rarereminder.com](mailto:jim@rarereminder.com)**

*No phone calls please. Must be 18 years old.*

CIT9-4-24

**CLERK III:** The Town of Wethersfield is accepting applications for Clerk III. For additional information and Employment Application, visit the Town's website at [www.wethersfieldct.gov](http://www.wethersfieldct.gov).

**PART TIME RETAIL:** Popular retail apparel and footwear store now hiring for after school and evening shifts. Please note weekend availability is required for all positions. Schedules are suitable for students. Applicants should be prepared to multi task in a retail environment. Responsibilities may include cashier, customer service and light stock work. Please apply in person M-F between 10 am and 5 pm at Mickey Finn's, 874 Berlin Turnpike, Berlin. No phone calls please.

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

**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.

**WAIT STAFF AND DELIVERY DRIVERS WANTED:** Apply in person. Village Pizza. 233 Main St. Wethersfield, CT.

RIVEREAST

## News Bulletin

Serving Amston, Andover, Cobalt, Colchester, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough, Middle Haddam and Portland

**Full-time and part-time positions available.**

The Rivereast News Bulletin seeks responsible, highly-motivated and self-starting reporters to cover Andover, Colchester, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough and Portland.

**Duties include covering  
breaking news, town government,  
police news, and writing feature  
stories. Experience preferred  
but not required.**

Email resumes and writing samples  
to [citizenjobs@yahoo.com](mailto:citizenjobs@yahoo.com).



CIT5-8-25

**SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS NEEDED:** Rocky Hill/ Berlin/ Meriden/ Southington. Must be 21 years or older and possess a driver's license for at least 3yrs. Paid training to acquire CDL license and endorsements available. The opportunity to bring your children to work, No Childcare\$\$ Contact Sheila at New Britain Transportation 860-828-0511 ext. 221 or visit us at 257 Woodlawn Rd Berlin, CT.

**PRIVATE CAREGIVER:**

looking for a job taking care of elderly. I come recommended. 248-225-9631.

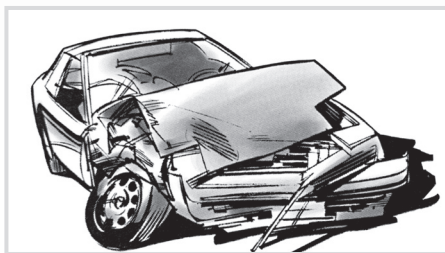


# Automotive Forum

## Did you know?

Distracted driving is a major threat on the roadways. Anything that takes drivers' attention away from the road can be considered a distraction, and that includes phones, food, passengers, and even vehicle features like a GPS system. However, distracted driving is preventable. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says nine people in the United States are killed every day in crashes that involve a distracted driver. The National Highway

Traffic Safety Administration says distracted driving claimed the lives of 3,308 people in 2022. In addition, data from Transport Canada's National Collision Database indicates distracted driving contributed to an estimated 22.5 percent of fatal collisions and 25.5 percent of serious injury collisions in 2021. These distracted driving numbers reflect a growing trend of distracted driving-related incidents.



**FOR SALE:** 1987 16 ft. Sylvan Aluminium boat. 2006 60 HP Evinrude motor on 2017 Venture trailer, including Garmin fish finder, trolling motor, gas tank, 2 batteries. Photos upon request. \$5800. Call 860-977-3510.

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

**FOR SALE:** 1968 Camero RS Retro-Mod 6 speed standard, hideaway headlights, Maroon with white strips, runs and looks great. Serious inquires only please. 860-346-2460.



**JOSEPH'S AUTOBODY**  
Complete Collision Repair Experts  
Serving The Middlesex Community  
Since 1982

133 Sebethe Drive, Cromwell

860-635-3008



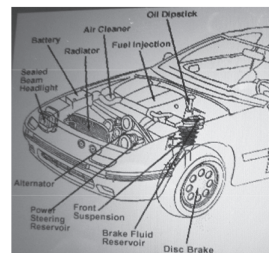
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*Everybody knows "The Brothers"*



Located at:  
50 County Line Drive  
Cromwell, CT 06416  
Phone: 860-635-5842  
[brothersautobody@yahoo.com](mailto:brothersautobody@yahoo.com)

**For All Your Mechanical Needs**



> Oil change/lube > Tires  
> Brakes > Steering  
> Suspension > Exhaust  
> Heating/Air Conditioning  
> Scheduled Maintenance  
> All Engine Diagnostics

**We Do It All!**

Two ASE Master Certified Technicians on Staff  
Reliable Diagnostics for Accurate, Quick Repairs  
Quality Guaranteed Repairs at Fair Pricing

**Call and schedule an appointment today!  
860-635-5842**

010925







Whisky is a handsome, tuxedo 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](http://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](mailto: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 three years old. Please fill out an application on our website at [www.hucatrescue.org](http://www.hucatrescue.org). Thank you!

# Paws & Caws

WE CARE FOR YOUR PET LIKE OUR OWN

## Pet Sitting & Dog Walking

Insured and Bonded  
Pet CPR & First Aid

**Call or Email Today!**  
**860-310-1518**  
**[info@pawsandcaws.com](mailto:info@pawsandcaws.com)**

## Meet Olive!

She will fill your home with the sweetest sounds, hums, and love!

Olive is an English Zebra Finch who would love to join some other finch friends in a new home.

To learn more, please contact Our Companions at

**860.242.9999 Ext. 302**  
**[OurCompanions.org](http://OurCompanions.org)**  
**[Helpline@OurCompanions.org](mailto:Helpline@OurCompanions.org)**

**Our Companions**  
Animal Rescue & Sanctuary

Names: **Abigail**  
Gender: **Female**  
Breed: **Domestic Medium Hair**  
Color: **Grey Tabby**  
Age: **7 years old**

**Cat Tales**  
Non-Profit Rescue

Abigail was a great mommy to her babies and now is looking for a home her own. She doesn't like to be picked up or held. Abigail loves to be petted once she knows and trusts you. Her favorite spot to be scratched is under her chin.

Abigail has an old eye ulcer that has scar tissue on it, making her blind in that one eye. She is an independent kitty who would love to have a quiet home with a patient person who is willing to give her time to adjust. She is very calm and sweet. Please contact Cat Tales to adopt sweet Abigail today!

No Dogs / No Children  
Web: <http://www.CatTalesCT.org/cats/Abigail-2>  
Phone: 860.344.9043 Email: [info@CatTalesCT.org](mailto:info@CatTalesCT.org)  
Watch our TV commercial: <https://youtu.be/Y1MECIS4mlcNo>  
Dogs / No Cats / No Children / FIV

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

**Cat Tales**  
Non-Profit Rescue

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](mailto:ejssje12@gmail.com) No Dogs/No Children, <https://CatTalesCT.org/cats/Logan-2/>

# POA

**PET OF THE WEEK**

Leon, 1 yr, is learning how much fun toys are. Even if he's a trifle shy and hesitant to get out of his safe bed, Leon loves to play with whatever toys are brought to him. Leon would love a quiet home with an adult or two who can help him continue learning to feel safe. A soft bed in a sunny window, followed by evenings snuggling next to someone who will stroke him and reassure him and adore him—interspersed with plenty of play time, of course—this would be Leon's idea of heaven on earth.

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

## 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](mailto: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.

Clarabelle is a 1-year-old female who has recently given birth to 5 kittens. Clarabelle was found taking shelter under a porch in New Britain. She and her kittens are safe now. They just need a little more time together but can be reserved. If interested call Animal Friends of Ct. at 860 693-0303 for more information.

Miles is a handsome, five month old teenager. He is a striking, classic and Bengal brown tabby. He was born in a manufacturing warehouse so he had to be cautious but warms up with a little time. He is blossoming in his foster home and just absolutely loves the other cats. His ideal home should have another cat. Miles is also good with dogs. Miles loves to play with water. Please fill out an application on our website at [www.hucatrescue.org](http://www.hucatrescue.org).

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

ADOPT TIPPER. TIPPER IS A HANDSOME, SEVEN YEAR OLD BOY. HE IS SEARCHING FOR A NEW HOME BECAUSE HIS MOM IS BATTLING SOME HEALTH ISSUES. TIPPER IS VERY SWEET AND FRIENDLY AND LOVES TO SIT WITH YOU WHEN YOU ARE WATCHING TV. HE IS GOOD WITH OTHER CATS AND DOGS. TIPPER RECENTLY WENT TO THE VET FOR A WELLNESS CHECK-UP AND HIS BLOOD WORK IS ALL GOOD. WON'T YOU OPEN YOUR HEART TO THIS SWEET MATURE BOY? PLEASE FILL OUT AN APPLICATION ON OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.HUCATRESCUE.ORG](http://WWW.HUCATRESCUE.ORG).

Our little Claire is ready for her forever home! She's been through a lot trying to survive as a tiny kitten. She is now six months old and a princess who loves attention and cuddling. Claire 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. She is a lovely, grey tabby. Please fill out an application on our website at [www.hucatrescue.org](http://www.hucatrescue.org).



# Humane Ways To Address Uninvited Garden Guests

A beautiful garden is a wonder to behold. After a homeowner toils in the yard amending the soil and planting, it's imperative that a garden be given the best chance to thrive. However, the natural wildlife that shares the space might see that newly cultivated land as the perfect place to enjoy an easy meal or gather nesting materials.

Every gardener likely has a tale about chipmunks, squirrels, woodchucks, and rabbits making nuisances of themselves in the garden. Many of these animals seem to have a taste for bulbs and other plants, which can wreak havoc on what gardeners carefully plan and plant. Finding balance so everyone can get along may require patience and some well-crafted deterrents.

Provide food elsewhere. Try luring the animals away to another area of the yard where the meal is even easier to come by. Squirrels and chipmunks love to dig and bury their caches, so a far-off corner with freshly tilled soil along with some berries, nuts and additional treats might attract them to that area instead of a newly established garden.

Install fencing. While chipmunks and squirrels can scale fences easily, such acrobatics may be more challenging for



lumbering groundhogs or rabbits. Make digging more difficult by laying chicken wire fencing on top of the soil and stake it down in some areas.

Use a scent deterrent. Some animals are put off by the smell of other animals or

aromas they find unpleasant. The capsaicin in red pepper and cayenne can be off-putting to these animals, so sprinkling it around the garden may ward off pests but not harm the plants. Just reapply after each rain. Similarly, some people have had luck using pep-

permint. Plant mint around where you do not want the squirrels and chipmunks. Since mint can grow fast and become invasive, its best to plant in containers and move accordingly.

Use water or movement. Animals can be scared away if they are sprayed with water, so a well-aimed water gun can chase away the animals when a gardener is able to stand watch. It may be easier to set up pinwheels that blow in the wind, or hang aluminum pie plates or old compact discs from strings near the garden, which may deter animals from getting too close.

Build a greenhouse. When dealing with tenacious squirrels and chipmunks, the only solution may be to block off all access. Utilize an enclosed greenhouse for the garden, which will keep animals out and even extend the growing season.

Many animals can become nuisances in a yard, particularly in and around gardens. Some humane solutions could remedy the situation



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** To feed feral cats behind Job Lot on the Silas Deane Hwy. I will provide the food. Lucy 860-833-0094.

**MALTESE PURE BRED:** puppies with papers. Born 2-18-25 - Wethersfield - \$1800. 860-593-3340.

**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!

**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.

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

Call the Classifieds at 860-563-9386

*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](mailto:production@rarereminder.com)

**My Name is Cooper**

**My Mom is Lauren**



# Cromwell Human Services

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

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



## Cromwell Town Hall

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

# Having a Tag Sale?

Reach more than 75,000 Homes

**For Just \$15  
A Week**

(Now through June 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.

**Just e-mail us at  
[classifieds@rarereminder.com](mailto:classifieds@rarereminder.com) or  
call 860-563-9386.**

Deadline is every Tuesday at 10am  
for that week's papers.

## 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, May 29.

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, May 29**

**Deadline: Friday, May 23**

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

Rare Reminder, Inc.

222 Dividend Road, P.O. Box 289, Rocky Hill, CT 06067  
860-563-9386 | [sales@rarereminder.com](mailto:sales@rarereminder.com)

## 2025 Summer Home & Garden Guide

The Summer 2025 Home & Garden Guide will be inserted into the Rare Reminder and Middletown edition of The Chronicle and mailed to almost 55,000 homes in Newington, Wethersfield, Rocky Hill, Cromwell and Middletown.

Our readers look forward to receiving the Home & Garden Guide and will retain it for reference. The guide features many services needed to assist homeowners in maintaining and improving their homes...both inside and out.

Published **May 22, 2025**  
Deadline **May 9, 2025**

**BONUS!!!**

Re-run your home improvement ad (with no changes) the following week (May 29) in the Rare Reminder and receive that ad at 1/2 price!

**Fall Home Improvement - Sept. 25**

**Call Today!**

**860-563-9386**

**Rare Reminder, Inc.**

222 Dividend Road, P.O. Box 289,  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067  
[sales@rarereminder.com](mailto:sales@rarereminder.com)





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010925

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860-436-5159  
[noblecarecenter@gmail.com](mailto:noblecarecenter@gmail.com)

010925

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

### EV Exhibitors Wanted

EV CAR OWNERS! Show off your latest technology EV at the RH Congregational Church's Green Expo. Our May 31 event, from 10 to 1, focuses on environmentally-sound and eco-friendly practices. We have numerous exhibitors from farmers and solar system information to eco-friendly household products and e-bikes as alternative transportation. We want your EV on display to educate the public! Contact Sandi Kelly – [sandict@cox.net](mailto:sandict@cox.net) or 860-930-6787.

### 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](http://www.nctc.org).

## Would you like to donate food to those in need?

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

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

Please visit our website for  
updates at  
[www.wethersfieldct.com](http://www.wethersfieldct.com)

010925



**All donations can be  
brought to the  
following locations:**

**Department of  
Social and Youth  
Services**

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

**William Raveis  
Real Estate**

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

**First Church**

250 Main Street  
860-529-1575

**Call the classifieds  
860-563-9386**



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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.

**ALAN SOUCY HOME IMPROVEMENT:** Free estimates on: Roofing repairs, leaks, entire roofs. Siding. Additions. Windows & doors. Baths & kitchens. Decks. Al, 860-657-6462. BBB Member.

### Newly Retired Newington Women Now on Facebook!

Celebrating their special occasion, NEWLY-RETIRED NEWINGTON WOMEN and their director Jean Henry (2nd from right), are happy to announce that they have changed from a meetup group to a FACEBOOK group! Same great group, fun activities and twice-a-month daytime events! \$10 yearly dues. You don't have to be from Newington to join!

**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.graverstreecare.com](http://www.graverstreecare.com)

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011824



## SPRING POPS!

Great free concert full of fun music coming up soon! Sunday, May 18 - 4:00. Music from Wicked, Mamma Mia, Billy Joel, and more. Choirs, soloists, band, handbells, organ. Peter Niedmann, Music Director. Church of Christ, Congregational (1075 Main St., Newington, CT). [newingtonucc.org](http://newingtonucc.org).

## Cromwell Memorial Day Parade

The Cromwell CT American Legion Post 105 is celebrating its 100 year anniversary. Please join us to celebrate Memorial Day with a parade along Main Street on May 30th at 6pm. If you are a local business or civic organization interested in participating in the parade please feel free to contact the Parade Marshall at: 302-270-5612.

## WHS Interact Club

The Wethersfield High School Interact Club invites seniors for a fun filled evening of great food and entertainment on Saturday, May 17th from 5:00-8:00pm. Tickets may be purchased for \$10 from the Wethersfield Senior Center, 30 Greenfield Street until May 12th. To RSVP or for more information, please contact the Senior Center at 860-721-2770 or [senior.center@wethersfieldct.gov](mailto:senior.center@wethersfieldct.gov) OR Nella Szilagyi, Interact Club Advisor at 860-571-8284 or [nszilagyi@wethersfield.me](mailto:nszilagyi@wethersfield.me).

## Wethersfield PD Comment Portal

The Wethersfield Police Department (WPD) is preparing for national accreditation with an annual web-based assessment, and they need community feedback. Since 1992, the WPD has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). Their next assessment is from August 15-August 23, 2025. Employees and community members can add comments on the CALEA Accreditation Public Portal (<http://cimrs2.calea.org/909>). The link is also available on the WPD website. For details, visit [www.calea.org](http://www.calea.org).

**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](http://www.gamblersanonymous.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.

**KITCHEN-BATHROOM REMODELING:** Looking to remodel your kitchen or bathroom. Call today for a free consultation (860) 224-0000. Licensed & Insured.

**DECKS, DECKS, DECKS:** New Deck? No problem! Deck repair? No problem! Call today for a free consultation (860) 224-0000. Licensed & Insured.

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

## 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](mailto:schs1975reunion@gmail.com).

## WETHERSFIELD LIBRARY

### Raffle

The Friends of the Wethersfield Library are holding a Summer Fun raffle. Tickets will go on sale for \$5 apiece, at the library, Monday, March 10, 2025 through May 5, when the drawing will be held at 10AM. Raffle items include a rolling Igloo cooler, picnic dishes, beach towels, a table cloth, a puzzle and sun bloc. A \$100 gift certificate for any Wethersfield Park and Rec sponsored activity, along with certificates to Stop & Shop, Main Street Creamery, and Village Pizza are also part of the raffle. All proceeds will go towards funding programs at the library.

## Join Wethersfield Dollars for Scholars

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

## Bike to Church Day

Sunday, May 18 – Rocky Hill Congregational Church and Wall Bike Rocky Hill are encouraging people to bike to their house of worship on Sunday May 18, Bike to Church Day. Rocky Hill Congregational Church will hold a special Blessing of the Bikes with a prayer for protection and joyful riding at 9:45 a.m. outside the church at 805 Old Main St. Free fun stickers and door prizes. ALL ARE WELCOME, regardless of where or whether you worship.

## 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.

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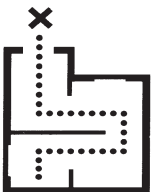
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For information about disaster preparedness literature and presentations visit [www.PrepareForLife.org](http://www.PrepareForLife.org) or contact your local Red Cross chapter.

Charter Oak Chapter  
209 Farmington Avenue Farmington,  
CT 06032  
**860.678.2800**  
[www.charteroak.redcross.org](http://www.charteroak.redcross.org)



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Get trained.

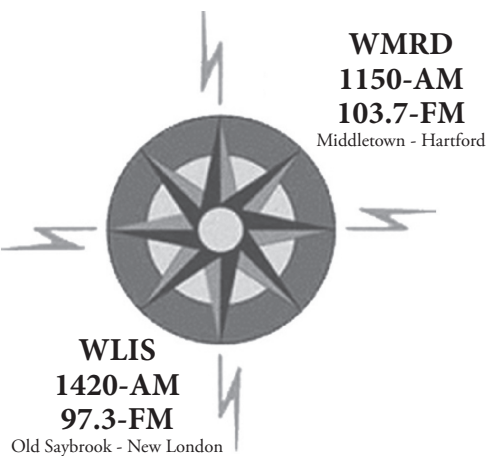


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072325



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](mailto:editor@rareremider.com).

100412



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

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

**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.

**New Age Fair**  
NEW AGE FAIR Sunday, May 18, 10 AM - 4 PM. 30 Greenfield St., Wethersfield. Readings, vendors, lectures, Free admission. [myasc.org](http://myasc.org) 860-568-8617.



**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 qA qB qC qD,  
with the initials:\_\_\_\_\_.

I have enclosed payment for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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.

**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, pan-cakes, coffee, toast & juice and the “Surprise Special”. The Ma-son hall is located at 80 Walsh Ave(behind CVS) . Breakfast is held from 7:30-11a.m.

**Friendship Force Seeks Members**  
Friendship Force Connecticut is active and traveling and ac-cepting new members. We have resumed full travel activities, as well as monthly group social activities. For more informa-tion about our chapter and on how you can join, visit facebook. com/ffconnecticut.org, email [ffconnecticut@gmail.com](mailto:ffconnecticut@gmail.com) or go to [friendshipforce.org](http://friendshipforce.org).

**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 conve-nient and may qualify you for a tax deduction. Call 1-855-659-9314 or visit [www.carshelpingtheblind.org](http://www.carshelpingtheblind.org). 12/30/15


**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 sort-ing necessary! For those of you who haven't yet brought their cans and bottles to the shed, the Newington Parks and Rec-reation 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 dona-tions, 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.

# Celebrating Seniors

If you're a Senior, we would like to publish your photo and/or an article AT NO CHARGE! This can be pertaining to a special occasion (birthday, achievement, anniversary, retirement).

As space permits, it will appear in our Mature Living section, which is published on the third week of every month.

Please send to:  
Carol Nelson  
Rare Reminder  
PO Box 289  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067



# SEEKING EMT'S

*Newington Emergency Services, Inc.*

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



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

**Science Bowl Seeks Teams**  
Are there any middle school students in the towns of Crom-well, 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 stu-dents 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 'Re-gional Competitions and Deadlines' link on the left; then click on 'Middle School Regionals' on the left and lastly scroll down and click on Connecticut.

**Rocky Hill Memorial Day Parade**  
We are proud to announce the annual Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 26th at 9:30 a.m. The parade will begin at Rocky Hill High School (50 Chapin Ave). We encourage the participation of veteran associations, military organizations, schools and community groups. Organizations and individu-als interested in participating or sponsoring the event are invited to contact the Rocky Hill Parks & Recreation Depart-ment at (860) 258 2772 or email [rchhabra@rockyhillct.gov](mailto:rchhabra@rockyhillct.gov)

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

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

**NSAF 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 applica-tion for loans is available to download on the website at [www.nsafinfo.org](http://www.nsafinfo.org). Completed applications must be attached in an email and emailed to: [loans@nsafinfo.org](mailto:loans@nsafinfo.org) no later than noon on June 6, 2025. While the Newington High School Coun-seling 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](http://www.nsafinfo.org).

**2025 Wethersfield Art League Show**  
200 Main Street in Old Wethersfield. Open to 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. The drop off for the show is: Tuesday, May 27 from 1-3:30PM and Wednesday, May 28 from 10AM-noon. Entrance fees are \$15 for the first entry, \$10 for the second, and \$5 for the third. Checks or cash accepted. All art must be 36” or less in overall size. Please direct all ques-tions to Connie at (860) 989-1873 or [WethersfieldArtLeague@gmail.com](mailto:WethersfieldArtLeague@gmail.com).

# Come Join Our EMS Unit

# “Help us Help you”

# Volunteers

We're seeking and will train Emergency Medical Technicians Medical Response Technicians.

Call the Cromwell Fire Department

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or stop by  
**82 Court Street, Cromwell**  
[www.cromwellfd.com](http://www.cromwellfd.com)





# SPORTS CORNER

## Eagles MVP Headed to New Hampshire



Erik Bellovoda, pictured making a one-handed interception against Newington, will play college football at Franklin Pierce University in New Hampshire. (Photo: John House Photography @cnsunionphotography)

By Josh Howard

After earning the Most Valuable Player on the defensive side of the football at Wethersfield High School, Erik Bellovoda is taking his love of the game and defensive prowess to the Granite State.

“I am very blessed and excited to announce that I am committed to play Division II football at Franklin Pierce University,” Bellovoda stated in February. “I’d like to thank my family, friends, coaches and teammates for their constant support through my journey. I want to give a special thank you to my mom and dad for being my biggest supporters and never missing a single game.”

Bellovoda is fresh off a senior season in which he was a team captain and all-conference middle linebacker for an Eagles squad that won nine games and made the playoffs.

From the first game to the last game, his production never wavered as he racked up 125 tackles (20 for loss), three sacks, and a pair of interceptions to lead an Eagles defense

that blanked four opponents and held three others to a single score in 2024.

WHS head coach Matt McKinnon called Bellovoda “fearless” and “a true competitor that left his mark” on the program.

“Erik is one of the smartest football players I have ever coached. He ran our entire defense on the field,” added McKinnon, “He was an outstanding captain and another coach on the field, who saw things at an elite football IQ level.”

Bellovoda said being selected as the team’s Defensive MVP was a “big honor”, adding, “We had a stellar defense all-around, and I am exceptionally lucky to play with these guys and get that award.”

His hike to New Hampshire to play college football is a nearly decade long process for the Wethersfield native, who first started playing the contact sport in the third grade.

His parents originated from Albania in Europe and he started out in ‘futbol’ before discovering the Americanized version.



Bellovoda signs his letter of intent to play football at the next level during Wethersfield High School’s signing ceremony in February.

“I watched it on TV one day and from the first time I picked up a ball, I fell in love with it,” recalled Bellovoda. “I started to take it seriously and really had fun playing it and wanted to see where it could take me.”

Once he was on the field, Bellovoda became a Swiss Army Knife throughout youth football, playing basically every position on the field before setting in as a standout linebacker in high school.

Bellovoda said playing a variety of positions has increased his understanding of all aspects of the game and allowed him to thrive at his current position in the heart of the defense.

In his final game at Cottone Field, Bellovoda and his fellow seniors left on a high note, defeating Newington in overtime to bring the Thanksgiving Classic trophy back to WHS for the first time since 2019.

Bellovoda swung the momentum in the win when he made an acrobatic one-handed interception in the second quarter that led to

a go-ahead touchdown.

“The whole season was exceptional, and taking the trophy back from Newington in overtime was unbelievable,” he recalled.

At his next stop, the soon-to-be graduate will be joining Ravens squad in Rindge, NH that competes in the Northeast-10 Conference (NE-10).

“I knew it was the place for me — I’m really excited to go,” noted Bellovoda, who will major in finance. “It’s an opportunity to meet and collaborate with new people that all have the same goal as me, and I just can’t wait for it.”

McKinnon said that Franklin Pierce is getting a “workhorse” that delivers on and off the field.

“Franklin Pierce is getting a dominant linebacker for their program. I have no doubt he will turn heads very quickly up there during training camp,” added McKinnon. “At the same time, they will get a model student who takes the classroom just as seriously as the game of football.”

## The Starting Five - Athletes of the Week

By Josh Howard

**Jillian Morgan - Cromwell High School (Lacrosse):** Morgan has been both a versatile and productive player for the Panthers this spring, playing a variety of positions and scoring five goals on multiple occasions. Morgan, a sophomore, has registered 30 goals through Cromwell’s first eight games. The Panthers next home game is slated for Tuesday, May 13 when they welcome Valley Regional to CHS for a game at 4 p.m.

**Ben Michaud - Newington High School (Baseball):** Michaud delivered from both the mound and plate during the Nor’easters 4-3 win over New Britain on April 30. Michaud, a sophomore, pitched a complete game, striking out nine, and also had a base knock that sent home Jaylin Manson for the first run of the game. The deciding run came in the top of the third when Elijay Bengtson singled to drive home Dylan Chamberland. Following the third inning, Michaud didn’t surrender a run to protect the one-run lead. Newington, which has a record of 5-5 entering the week, has an important home game against South-

ington slated for Wednesday, May 14 at 3:45 p.m.

**Mia Ferreira - Rocky Hill High School (Softball):** Ferriera, a freshman, scored the walk-off winner in the bottom of the seventh inning as the Terriers rallied by scoring three runs in the frame to defeat Bristol Eastern 8-7 on April 28. Ferriera also pitched a flawless top of the seventh, striking out two, to set up her own heroics when she laid down a bunt, sending home Fiona Ndoni to tie the game (7-7) before Juliana Incarvito singled on a fly ball that sent Ferriera home for the game-winner. Allyson Killoran also had an outstanding game, racking up four hits to drive in three run and score two more.

**Anushka Gandhi - Wethersfield High School (Tennis):** Gandhi defeated Berlin’s Klaudia Fidyk (6-1, 6-1) in the No. 1 singles match as the Eagles beat the Redcoats (4-3) on April 30 at Berlin High School. Gandhi, a junior, was one of three Eagles to win in straight sets as Lucy Casanova defeated Julia Solek (6-3, 6-4) in the No. 2 singles match and Stephanie Nicolai defeated Nicole Akulin (6-0, 6-4)

in No. 3 singles. The Eagles duo of Avery Szwed and Rosa Thigpen then took down Julia Pelc and Kate Roberti in three sets to win the No. 1 doubles match, securing the victory for WHS.

**Brody Reid - Rocky Hill High School (Baseball):** Reid had three hits, driving in three runs and scoring three others as the Terriers rallied to beat Wethersfield 13-10 on May 1. Reid, a junior, drove in what amounted to be the winning run when he signed to right field, scoring Mason Margiotta to give the Terriers an 11-9 lead in the bottom of top of the seventh inning. Reid also closed the game from the mound, pitching the bottom of the seventh. James Miano also scored three turns and had two RBIs for the Terriers. Rocky Hill is 6-7 entering the week and next play on the road at Berlin (Sage Park) on Monday, May 12 at 6 p.m.

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



Cromwell High School sophomore Jillian Morgan has been productive on the lacrosse fields, scoring 30 goals through the Panthers first eight games.





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