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Vol. 68, No. 12 March 25, 2021

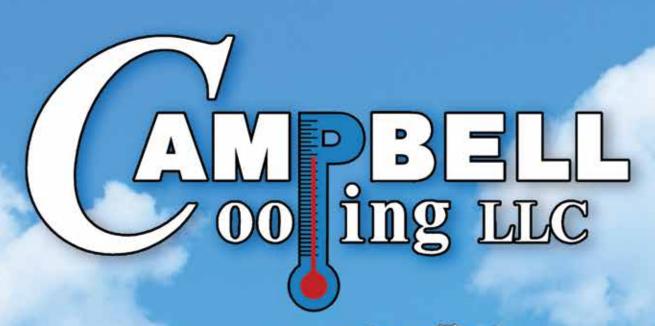
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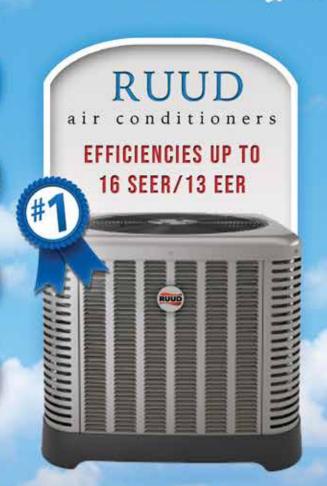
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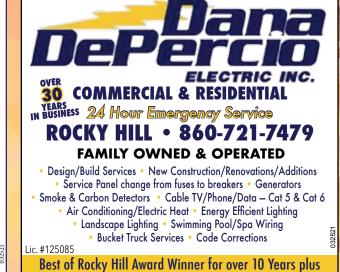
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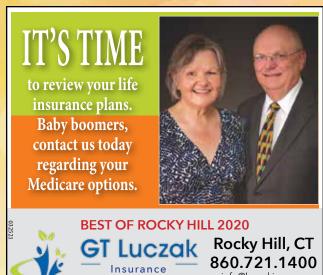




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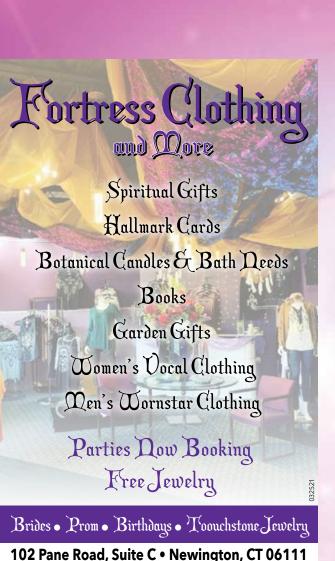
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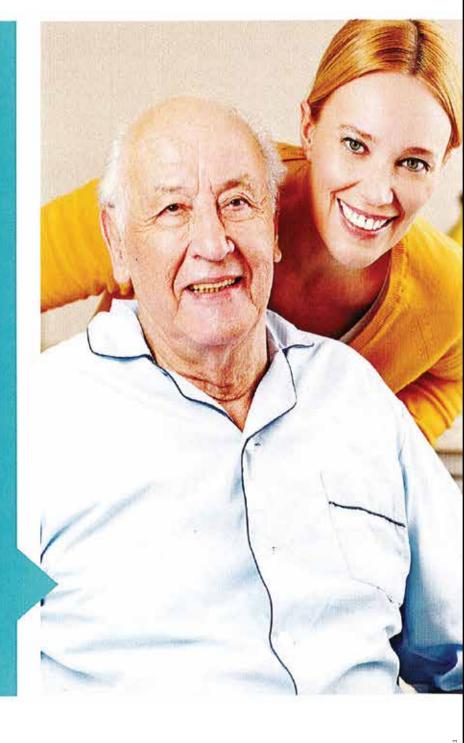
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Rocky Hill Council Begins Plans for Diversity Committee

by Mark DiPaola

The Town Council is looking to form a diversity and inclusion committee with the goal of expanding local government participation - but they'll need to pass a new ordi-

The initiative is being spearheaded by Mayor Lisa Marotta and Town Councilor Chris Duff, who collaborated on drafting the tentative ordinance.

"The intention behind this is to get new voices into the conversation," Duff said during the Council's March 15 meeting. "Part of our role is listening and opening a door to others who might not participate. There are a lot of ways people can be underrepre-

CHS Project Grad Clothing Drive

Cromwell High School Project Graduation is hosting a clothing drive Saturday, May 15, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at Cromwell High School. Rain or shine. Contactless. Drive up and drop off. No need to get out of the car. Please place clean items in large plastic bags. We accept usable, clean clothing for men, women and kids of all seasons and sizes. Used shoes (packed separately). Accessories such as handbags, ties, hats and gloves. Household items such as pillows, blankets, quilts, sheets and towels are welcome too. All proceeds will be used to celebrate the Cromwell High School Class of 2021 in June in person or virtually. For more information, please email Linda Dworak at bruce.linda.dworak@snet.net

Carpino, Candelora Join Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, **Equity and Opportunity Meeting**



State Rep. Christie Carpino and House Republican Leader Vincent Candelora joined the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity to co-host a QPR Gatekeeper Training on suicide prevention. Master Trainer Thomas Steen instructed almost two dozen participants, including Portland and Cromwell residents and local officials, on the best methods to help someone considering suicide and resources available. Resources and information can be found at www.preventsuicidect.org and www.qprinstitute.com.

Marotta and Duff will introduce the language when the Council reconvenes on April 5. They expect to set a public hearing date on that night as well.

The idea first came up last year, during the Council's Sept. 21 meeting. Marotta said that her and Duff discussed it over subsequent weeks, ultimately landing on the ordinance approach - a process that would enshrine the committee in Town Charter

We want to get this right," Marotta said. "It's not something that's meant to be temporary - we want it to be something that transcends generations."

Last summer, Rocky Hill was one of several Connecticut towns to host demonstrations in honor of George Floyd, a black man slain by Minneapolis police officers in viral video footage that sparked outrage across the country.

And while march organizers praised the Town - Police Department and government alike - as an example as what they'd Congregational Church Pastor Brian Donahue and a group of residents have engaged municipal and school district leaders about creating a more equitable classroom environment.

"With so many difficult conversations going on now, and our need to recognize what our role is, we had to take a step back and imagine what this commission would look like, and how it could benefit everyone," Marotta said. "I'm super excited to explore the opportunities."

Duff said that his hope is that the Committee ultimately finds ways to remove barriers to participation. The Committee would meet at least 6 times per year to discuss initiatives for doing so.

"We have to make decisions on the budget and other programs, but there are 9 of us and we have a town of 20,000 people and everyone sees things differently," Duff said "This is about getting those stories into this

RHUMC Easter Week Services

Rocky Hill United Methodist Church, 623 Old Main St., Rocky Hill, will hold the following Easter week services:

Sunday, March 28, at 11 am: Palm Sunday

Friday, April 2, at 7 pm: Good Friday Sunday, April 4, at 11 am: Easter Come join us in the celebration of Holy Week. All are welcome.



Rocky Hill Project Graduation Used Clothing Drive

Saturday April 24, 10 am- 1 pm

Drop Off at Sunny Farm, 259 New Britain Ave <u>Used</u> Clothing, Outerwear, Shoes, Boots, Belts, Purses

Do you have something to say?

We welcome all letters to the editor that are signed and include a name and daytime phone number for verification. We reserve the right to edit all letters for length or other concerns. Mail your letter to P.O. Box 289, 222 Dividend Road, Rocky Hill, CT 06067, fax 860-257-8591 or e-mail editor@rarereminder.com. We do not publish anonymous letters

Virtual Programs at the Cora J. Belden Library

Winter Reading Challenge! - January 1 Friday, March 26 at 10:00 AM through March 31, 2021

Last chance to join our Winter Reading Challenge! The more you read and log, the better your chances of winning one of our great digital prizes. All ages can participate. Check the Cora J. Belden Library's website at www.rockyhillct.gov/library for more de-

Virtual Storytime - Mondays and Wednesdays in March at 11:00 AM

Join us online as we foster early literacy by exploring words through books, rhymes and songs. This Zoom program is recommended for children birth to 5 years and their caregiver. Registration is required.

One on One Tech Help - Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays in March at 2:00 PM Sign up for a 1 hour time slot on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays to go over any tech questions you may have with Mike Murphy. These sessions will be conducted on Zoom or via phone.

invited to explore sound as we create our own instruments! Register to get the Zoom meeting ID and password and reserve a STEAM Adventures kit.

Downloading Ebooks 101 - Monday, March 29 at 2:30 PM

Come learn how to use our library databases to get FREE ebooks. Registration is required to receive the Zoom ID.

Genealogy Basics: Tracing Your Revolutionary Roots - Monday, March 29 at 6:30 PM Did your ancestor support the American cause during the Revolution? This virtual program will introduce you to the major sources that trace their "service" during the War, from pension files to town meeting records. Whether you want to join DAR or SAR or simply learn more about your ancestors' activities, this program will give you the resources needed to tell their stories. Presented by Genealogist Bryna O'Sullivan.

Children ages 3-5 and their caregivers are Move to the music, hear a story and practice April 3 at 3:00 PM rhythms with rhymes, then end with a quieter lullaby to get kids ready for bed. Recommended for children ages 2-6.

> Knit One, Zoom Too! - Tuesday, March 30 at 11:00 AM

> Join us remotely for some fiber fun! Newbies welcome! Registration is required to obtain the Zoom ID.

> LEGO Club Online - Tuesday, March 30 at

Back by popular demand! Recommended for ages 5 and up. Registration is required to obtain the Zoom ID.

Parent Program Series: Adjusting to New Situations - Thursday, April 1 at 8:30 PM Whether it's a new baby in the family, a new school, a new home, or anything else, change is hard! Help your child survive and thrive through these life events. This program will be presented by Kelly Maynes, PsyD. Registration is required.

Gone to the Dogs Read-A-Long - Saturday

Ioin us to read out loud to your favorite furry friends on Zoom! Remember to stop at the library or give us a call if you want to check out a special dog book after you have signed up! This program is recommended for ages 5 and older. Please register by noon the day of the program.

Buying a New Computer - Tuesday, April 6

Are you in the market for a new computer or laptop but you don't know the difference between an HDD and an SSD, or 4GB of RAM vs. 16GB of RAM? Join us via Zoom for this technology training class. Registration is required.

Mystery Book Discussion - Wednesday April 7 at 6:30 PM

This month, we will be reading Bluebird Bluebird by Attica Locke. Registration is required to receive the Zoom ID for this event Extra copies of the book will be available to checkout from the library.

Preschool STEAM: What Do You Hear? -

Music and Movement - Monday, March 29



What's Happening Rocky Hill & Cromwell?

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In Push for Upgrade, Rocky Hill to Get New Website, App

by Mark DiPaola

The Town of Rocky Hill is getting a new website – along with an app that will allow residents to receive real-time community alerts and updates via email.

Local officials and residents were calling for a digital communications upgrade before the COVID, but the pandemic - as well as last summer's post-hurricane power outages - have only amplified those calls from within Town Hall, said Mayor Lisa Marotta.

"I think communication is everything and we recognize that there are significant weaknesses," Marotta said during the Town Council's March 15 meeting. "Even as the pandemic comes and goes, there will always be something - we're seeing it now with property crime and the crazy weather, so any app that allows us to communicate with the public in real time is essential."

The optional app will be available through platforms like the Google and Apple stores, said Town IT Director John Mur-

"We don't want people to think we'll be bombarding them with messages. They can opt in and opt out as they please," he said.

The website revamp was actually a natural progression to the discussion regarding the app - which began in May 2020 with a working group of personnel from various Town Hall departments - Murphy told the Council during the March 15 meeting.

"We have to do something with the existing website," Murphy said. "It's very dated. Not very mobile friendly. It's a less than ideal user experience."

And according to Google Analytics tracking over the past year, 48 percent of Rocky Hill residents access the municipal website using either a smartphone or tablet.

"That means that 48 percent of our visitors are having a less than adequate experience," Murphy said.

The Town's contract with its current web developer expires in June.

The IT Department plans to enlist the firm CivicPlus - which boasts 20 years of experience building web sites for municipal governments - when the deal sunsets.

The new contract carries \$16.9 million in costs this year - development and subscription fees combined - and the total climbs to \$18.2 million by 2023. Murphy thinks it's worth the expense

general site navigation woes and lack of accessibility come with their own inefficiencies and costs, he savs. "Users are having difficulty finding

the information they need, and that translates into people picking up the phone and it becomes a time-consuming endeavor to

give people info they need that they would be able to find themselves if the site was designed better,' Murphy says. "It'll be much more functional and attractive, easier to navigate and easier for staff to update. Most importantly, it will be ADA compliant."

The site will also include a citizen request tracker feature - complete with progress updates relayed back to the sender.

Residents will also be able to pick and choose what types of department updates and town notifications they'd like to receive.

"I think this is gonna help immensely," said Deputy Mayor Ed Charamut. "We did have a tremendous need during the heat of the pandemic with the emergency management operations and people really relying on the website for updates and any information. I'm all for it."

Cromwell Belden Public Library March Events

Music & Movement: Thursdays at 11:15 AM, ages 0-5, drop-in, hosted virtually on Facebook Live. Come wiggle, sing, dance, and get silly with Miss Emily on Facebook Live!

Virtual Storytime: Fridays at 10:30 AM, ages 0-7, registration required, hosted virtually on private Zoom. Join Mrs. Ashley on Zoom for stories and songs in this interactive virtual storytime!

"Where the Wild Readers Are" Book Club: Monday March 29th, 6:30 PM, grades K & 1, registration required, hosted on private Zoom. Calling all kindergarteners and first graders! Join our newest book club where learning meets fun! YOU get to choose the book you read, based on each month's theme. The theme for March is Transportation! Then, meet us on Zoom to identify key elements of our books and to talk all about them.

Kids in the Kitchen: Saturday, March 27th, 11:00 AM, ages 7-12, registration required, hosted on private Zoom. Join Registered Dietitians from Food Explorers to make a homemade dinner for your family! Parents can relax (while supervising) as kids take charge of a family meal. Ingredients are listed with event registration. The recipe for March

Kindness Kids: Pick-Up March 1st through March 31st, ages 0-12, registration required. Spread kindness to others this season! Each quarter we will be doing a different project in order to help or be kind to others. Pick up a kit to create a bouquet of paper flowers for a homebound senior. Finished flowers can be dropped off at the library by April 16th to be passed out to seniors.

Birth to Pre-K Take & Make - Butterfly Puppet: Pick-Up March 1st through March 31st, registration required, registration opens March 1st. We can't wait for you to enjoy this fun, take-home project. Call or check out the events section of our website to sign up - kits go fast!

Grades K-3 Take & Make - Button Canvas: Pick-Up March 1st through March 31st, registration required, registration opens March 1st. We can't wait for you to enjoy this fun, take-home project. Call or check out the events section of our website to sign up - kits go fast

Grades 4-6 Take & Make - DIY Robot Hand: Pick-Up March 1st through March 31st, registration required, registration opens March 1st. We can't wait for you to enjoy this fun, take-home project. Call or check out the events section of our website to sign up - kits go fast!

Fiction Addiction: Wednesday, March 31st, 6:30 PM, registration required, hosted on private Zoom. Join us on Zoom for our pick-your-own book club for teens! Read any young adult book from the month's assigned genre/theme, and meet us online to chat about it. This is not your grandma's book club! You can expect games, laughs, and discussion with other readers about why YOUR book pick is the best. So grab some bookaholic friends, read a book, and come hang out on a Wednesday night!

Teen Take & Make - Lucky Star Garland: Pick-Up March 1st through March 31st, registration required, registration opens March 1st. We can't wait for you to enjoy this fun, take-home project. Call or check out the events section of our website to sign up - kits go fast!

Thursday, Night Book Club: Thursday, March 25th, 6:30 PM, registration required, hosted on private Zoom. Join us for our monthly book club meeting - all are welcome! In March we will discuss The Magpie Murders by Anthony Horowitz. This clever book-within-a-book follows editor Susan Ryland, as she begins to suspect that the mystery manuscript she's reading might contain more truth than fiction. Extra copies are available - call us to reserve!

Adult Take & Make Craft - Book Page Easter Eggs: Pick-Up March 1st through March 31st, registration required, registration opens March 1st. Register each month to get all the supplies (and instructions) you need to try out a new craft or project. In March we'll be learning how to make a decorative Easter eggs, using pages and passages from old

Adult Take & Make Craft - Shaped Bird Feeders: Pick-Up March 1st through March 31st, registration required, registration opens March 1st. Register each month to get all the supplies (and instructions) you need to try out a new craft or project. In March we'll be making 100% edible bird feeders you can hang on your porch or in your yard, to help out our local bird friends in these cold months.

Spice World - DIY Garam Masala Spice Mix: Pick-Up March 1st through March 31st, registration required, registration opens March 1st. Want to try something new in the kitchen, but don't know where to start? Sign up each month and receive a custom mix of spices from Penzeys Spices and recipes to match. You'll get a chance to try samples of spices you might not have in your pantry, and be able to customize the mix to your taste!



Cromwell Arts Alliance will hold their second poetry event in early April. Due to COVID-19 we are going to hold a virtual "Poetry Night". If you are a writer or aspiring writer thirteen years or older we are looking for you to participate.

To participate or to get more information on the event email us at cromwellartsalliance@gmail.com and include "Poetry Night" in the subject line.

- Participants must be thirteen or older
- Poem must be original work and family friendly
- You must submit your poem reading via a video or audio file (less than 5 minutes long)
- Submit your work by emailing us at cromwellartsalliance@gmail.com with "Poetry Night" in the subject line. Please include your name, phone number, and address
- Submissions must be received by March 20, 2021
- All submissions will be reviewed and subject to approval
- Approved submissions will require a signed waiver (provided at the time)
- Event will be hosted on April 7, 2021



"Bringing out the inner artist in every resident"

Ivy & Mane Salon Donates to Cromwell Recreation



The Cromwell Recreation Department has received a generous donation of \$500 to be used for its 2021 Summer Concert Series from the owners of Ivy & Mane Salon, Mattie Gould and Dick Steele. Ivy & Mane is located at 199 Shunpike Rd., Cromwell.

From left, Cromwell Town Manager Anthony Salvatore, Dick Steele, Mattie Gould, Public Health Coordinator Sal Nesci and Cromwell Recreation Director Scott Kieras.



What's Happening Newington?

Send us your news!

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

Legislators Push for Expanded Breast Cancer Diagnostic Coverage

by Mark DiPaola

Joan Lunden received the diagnosis sometime in 2014.

"I've heard those words no one ever wants to hear – 'you have cancer," Lunden recalls

Breast cancer, specifically, and if it wasn't for the interview the then-Good Morning America host had just conducted with Dr. Susan Love, the news could have come later and much worse.

Lunden is among the 40 percent of women that, according to the National Cancer Institute, have the kind of dense breast tissue that make early-stage signs of breast cancer almost undetectable on a mammogram.

"[Dr. Love] said, 'you have to be getting ultrasounds.' If I hadn't been sent on that interview, I wouldn't have known," Lunden says. "I probably wouldn't be standing here today."

The costs of breast ultrasounds – attimes thousand of dollars in out-of-pocket expenses – further complicate things for those with dense breast tissue.

It's the reason why Newington resident Jan Kritzman rallied Senator Matt Lesser (D-9) and Newington House Reps Gary Turco (D-27) and Kerry Wood (D-29) two years ago to help her fight for legislation expanding patient access to preventative screenings.

mandating that insurers cover mammogram, ultrasound, and MRI screenings – and cap the out of pocket costs associated with them.

Kritzman, a dense tissue breast cancer survivor herself, had lobbied unsuccessfully for years before pushing the bipartisan legislation through in 2019.

The 2019 law prohibits insurers from levying out-of-pocket expenses for breast cancer mammograms, ultrasounds, or MRIs while mandating both baseline mammogram coverage for women 30 and older, as well as annual screenings for those that receive a doctor's recommendation.

Under that legislation, insurers must also cover physician-recommended ultrasound screenings.

Kritzman says that she had been going

to the same doctor for 25 years before even learning that she had dense breast tissue – this was before 2009 legislation requiring medical providers to notify patients. On that day, they took the extra step and followed her usual mammogram with an ultrasound.

"It's like looking for a snowflake in a snowstorm," she says. "I was lucky. We can't base breast cancer prevention on being lucky."

So on March 18 she was back before the Insurance and Real Estate Committee to testify in favor of House Bill 6626, which would expand the 2019 coverage mandates to diagnostic imaging.

The problem, proponents say, is that after the mammogram of ultrasound picks up something suspicious, patients are looking at hefty fees for the follow up imaging.

"We get some surprised and upset phone calls for people because they thought a procedure was covered," Lesser said. "In some cases, it's because of this diagnostic screening issue."

The 2019 bill passed with broad bipartisan support, and at the Committee level at least, its revisions seem to enjoy the same – House Representative Tammy Nuccio, a Republican, says that for her, the issue is personal.

"I was a little frustrated with the past legislation because it only affects people with full insurance and not across the board," Nuccio said. "I'd have issues myself. They want you to go for another mammogram and another ultrasound and it's thousands of dollars - I could not afford it."

When it comes to preventing breast cancer deaths, time is of the essence, Kritzman said

"Do you know what breast cancer can do in 2 years? It can go from early, to very late," she said. But time is money, and everyone – even

insurance companies – stand to save in the long run from early detection, Kritzman said.

"Early detection – that's lumpectomy

and radiation - costs anywhere between \$30,000 and \$60,000. Late stage is more clinical trials and chemotherapy - that's \$500,000," she said. "Ignoring the early diagnosis is very bad business."

Expanding the 2019 bill's scope to in-

Expanding the 2019 bill's scope to include diagnostic screenings is just a logical progression, said Turco who, in his testimony, recounted watching his own mother battle breast cancer and survive.

"Does it make sense to have it covered when there is nothing suspicious and not have it covered when there is? No. It should be both," Turco said. "We don't want to give anyone a reason not to go get their ultrasound, MRI, or mammogram when their doctor asks them to because they can't afford it."

GFMC Fundraiser for Veterans Programs

On Wednesday, April 21, from Noon to 9:00pm GFWC Newington/Wethersfield Woman's Club will be holding a fundraiser at TJs on Cedar. On dine-in, take-out or delivery orders (any item on menu including drinks) TJs will give us 20% of sales. Just be sure to bring one of our flyers or mention GFWC when ordering.

Throughout the year we participate in many events for Veteran's including Luncheon Ceremonies for Veteran's Day, Boxes to Boots, Stand Down, Holiday Cards for Newington & Rocky Hill & Wreaths Across America.

We donate toiletries, afghans, jackets, sweaters, and other clothes to homeless vets. We also give monetary donations to support homeless vets and vets with MST (Military Sexual Trauma).

About 200 of the estimated homeless vets in Connecticut are women. One out of four women and one out of one hundred men have MST. Raffle Prizes!

Newington Student Assistance Fund

The process to submit applications for the Newington Student Assistance Fund (NSAF) Interest Free Student Loans has been changed. Applications for loans are available to download on the website at www.nsafinfo.org. Completed applications must attached in an email and emailed to: loans@nsafinfo.org no later than noon on the first Friday in June. While the Newington High School Counseling department will continue to have the loan application information on their website, applications will no longer be accepted by them. For more information or questions, please go to www.nsafinfo.org.

With the high cost of college education and technical training, people are looking for financial help. The Newington Student Assistance Fund is a non-profit organization whose mission, for over the past 50 years, is to assist residents of Newington obtain post-secondary education or training. Loans are available to any Newington resident.

All funds used to issue loans are raised through an annual solicitation drive. The loan amount is \$1,000 and students may reapply each year. All loans are interest-free. Loan recipients pay the principal back in monthly installments following graduation or the termination of studies/training, which also allows for the continuation of providing new loans.

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

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

I have lived over 7 decades in New York City and Connecticut. In that time I have attended school, raised a great family with my wife, worshipped at church, had a fulfilling career, and have a number of caring friends. I am very tired and upset when the white male is called any number of names including a white supremacist and racist! I have developed relationships with people of all races, creeds, religions, sexual preference etc. I attended integrated schools, lived in integrated neighborhoods and worked with all types of the people in the workplace. The uneducated, spoiled and hateful people have too much time on their hands and have nothing better to do than to put people down and start their cancel culture aided by the "fake media" who run their own "protection racket" business and the corrupt social media operations.

We have created Fort Pelosi in Washington D.C. We look like a third world country with the fencing, razor wire and thousands of troops. We were told about the riots that were going to happen on January 20th not only in Washington D.C but in all 50 states. There were more pigeons at our state capital and people riding on Fastrak buses than demonstrators! The next battle date was going to be March 4th. What did we see, a handful of reporters trying to speak to guard members. On top of all of this the guard gets fed lousy food and sleeps on cold floors. Is this the United States of America or what! When is this outrage going to end? I know when the riots break out in various cities this spring and summer, we can deploy them to these cities to put down the real riots or as the Democrats like to say "peaceful protests" as the fires burned brightly in the background of the news reporters on the scene.

Then there is illegal immigration. No crisis just a real challenge! No further border walls needed. No covid testing needs to be done. At least the people coming across the border are polite; they are wearing Biden shirts that ask him to "please" let them into the country. I didn't know there was a Walmart along their journey where these shirts could be purchased! Who pays for the food, clothing, and Nike sneakers throughout this trip and provides cell phones. No need for an FBI investigation that will take too long and absolve everyone. A few reasonable choices would be the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, George Soros, Mike Bloomberg, or the DNC. This entire situation is out of control period!

Moving on to the Covid bill. 90% of it has nothing to do with Covid. No democrat can possibly explain or justify to real people why this 90% is needed. Sen Blumenthal said no problem we are at 0 interest rates! Wow, what a justification. It is so comforting to know that the Boston bomber and his fellow cell mates throughout the country will be receiving their 1,400 stimulus check as well. So much for unity Joe!

We need to stand up for this country every day on all levels. While our forefathers are turning over in their graves I pray to God we can stop the madness.

Nicholas DeFrancesco

Newington Kindergarten Registration

The Newington Public Schools are in the process of conducting kindergarten registration for children who will enter kindergarten in August 2021. In order to be eligible for kindergarten in August 2021, a child must be five (5) years of age on or before January 1, 2022.

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

Registration packets will be mailed prior to Feb. 26. Please contact your child's school if you do not receive this information or if you have any questions regarding the process.

RUTH CHAFFEE SCHOOL 160 Superior Avenue Phone: 860-666-4687

ELIZABETH GREEN SCHOOL 30 Thomas Street Phone: 860-666-3394

JOHN PATERSON SCHOOL 120 Church Street Phone: 860-666-4657

ANNA REYNOLDS SCHOOL 85 Reservoir Road Phone: 860-521-7830

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

Do You Have Something to Say?

We welcome all letters to the editor that are signed and include a name and daytime phone number for verification. We reserve the right to edit all letters for length or other concerns. Mail your letter to P.O. Box 289, 222 Dividend Road, Rocky Hill, CT 06067, fax it to 860-257-8591 or e-mail it to editor@rarereminder.com. We do not publish anonymous letters.

The views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Rare Reminder.



What's Happening Newington?

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MDC Seeks Backlog of Sewer Treatment Fees from DEEP

by Mark DiPaola

The Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) is asking local leaders and state lawmakers to levy pressure on the State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) – for a backlog of sewer treatment fees the MDC claims its owed.

The issue dates back to 2016, when the MDC discovered that CT DEEP had been erroneously billed at a lower sewer treatment rate for the groundwater from the state-owned landfill in Hartford.

The MDC accepts groundwater contaminants, but charges more to do so. According to MDC CEO Scott Jellison, the District Commission admitted its clerical error, and sought to move forward under the correct rate.

"We didn't go backwards," Jellison said. Nevertheless, CT DEEP accused them of price gauging, and the dispute – currently the subject of 4 ongoing legal actions – began.

Since 2016, the State agency has accrued north of \$13 million in delinquent fees, and that's a big piece of what's been driving up the sewer tax rate – held flat for the first time in several years back in 2020 - Jellison told local officials of its 8 member towns during a Thursday morning virtual meeting.

Remediating the groundwater contaminants alone costs \$1.9 million in costs per year, according to MDC officials.

"This isn't just MDC not getting the money. It's 8 towns - some 400,000 people in the greater Hartford area," said MDC Commissioner Bill DiBella.

And the dispute has environmental ramifications – risk that exacerbates the longer it drags out – DiBella said.

The "leachate" contaminants corrode the sewer pipe, leaving it susceptible to hazardous leaks.

"They want to make sure that contaminated water doesn't leak into the river," Jellison said. "There's an environmental issue whether we get paid or not."

Back in 2018, the MDC performed cleaning and maintenance work.

Just this year, inspections found that the problem had resurfaced - replacing the entire pipe would be a \$265,000 endeavor, Jellison said.

"It's no surprise. At this point the pipe that serves the landfill only has about 40 percent capacity," he said. "I'm very concerned that the fact we haven't cleaned this pipe because we're not getting paid, [and] the MDC does not want to be blamed for causing an environmental catastrophe."

With Legislative Window Closed, MDC Looks to Budget for Recourse

Pre-2020 MDC budget hikes – and the ad valorem and water bill increases that have come with it – have been a sore topic for the local officials in the MDC's 8 member towns.

Lawmakers representing those districts have joined the chorus of criticism, and among the bills being entertained this legislative session are proposals to place MDC under Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) oversight.

Now, the District Commission is asking those same state and municipal leaders to pressure CT DEEP to pay.

"This exacerbates any budget issue the MDC has, and they pass it along to the 8 member towns," said Newington Deputy Mayor Gail Budrejko, who was among the town leaders in attendance last Thursday. "A compromise has to be reached, but certainly the State's offer is far short. I don't want to see Newington and the other member towns stuck having to pay more until this is resolved."

DiBella says that through negotiations, the agency never disputed the merits of the rate increase.

"The argument was that they just couldn't afford it," he said.

While it's too late to submit legislation, the Appropriations Committee could add more to DEEP's budget – a tough sell, with the legislature trying to balance COVID response and economic recovery in an excep-

ionally tight year.

"I think if the voices of the member towns are critical to getting any kind of resolution," DiBella said. "Our eight towns use this facility, but 72 towns contribute to this landfill in Hartford. Our towns should not be shouldering this charge alone forever."

MDC/DEEP Talks Fizzle Following Latest Settlement Offer

MDC leaders told local officials that the

state agency's offer is an additional \$500,000 per year – the first monetary proposition between the two parties since 2017, when a \$300,000 pitch derailed settlement talks.

Jellison says DEEP, in meetings held with Attorney General William Tong's Office, seems to have abandoned the price gouging charge – a step forward in negotiations.

When the two sides reconvened last March, however, the understanding was that neither would talk dollar figures, MDC says.

"We said we wouldn't ask them for [\$1.9] million a year, but by that same token, you can't offer us \$300,000 to \$500,000," Jellison said.

DEEP has been far less vocal about both the negotiations and the suit as a whole.

"It is inappropriate for DEEP to com-

ment on ongoing litigation but we remain committed to resolution on this matter," an agency spokesperson wrote via email.

Litigation Limbo Promises Further Leral Costs

Last year MDC sued the State of Con-

necticut over the fee dispute, but the State leveraged a sovereign immunity defense, ultimately prevailing in its motion for dismissal.

MDC appealed, and the Connecticut

Supreme Court heard arguments back in January. If they overrule, MDC gets its day in court at the Superior level.

"It's aggressive. It's costly. We've spent

upwards of \$400,000 so far," said MDC Attorney Chris Stone. "The state left us with no choice however, and we proceeded accordingly."

Rocky Hill MDC Commissioner Ray Sweezy didn't like the \$500,000 settlement offer either, but he asked Stone just how much member towns will be in for should the matter continue to drag out.

"It's difficult to predict," Stone said. "We've spent \$400,000 solely for the right to sue the State of Connecticut. "If we're afforded the right to sue for the debt, it'll be at least another \$200,000 to \$300,000."

Town of Newington Tax Notice

TOWN OF NEWINGTON REAL ESTATE. PERSONAL PROPERTY & SUP-PLEMENTAL MOTOR VEHICLE TAXES

Notice is hereby given to Newington taxpayers the second installment of the Real Estate and Personal Property and Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax bills which were originally due on January 1, 2021 were extended to April 1, 2021 due to Governor Lamont's Executive Order

No. 9R. The last day for payment is April 1st. If the January 1st taxes are not paid on or before April 1, 2021, they will be considered delinquent and interest will be charged back to the original due date of January 1st at the rate of 1.5% each month. There will be no exceptions.

Payments may be mailed to Tax Office, 200 Garfield St., Newington CT 06111, dropped off in the Tax Payment

box located in the parking lot across from the Police Station, or online (with service fee) at www.newingtonct.gov Revenue/Tax Dept. - Tax Payments. Please read all information before making a payment. If a tax-payer has been delinquent and requires a release with the Motor Vehicle Dept. or to make a vehicle purchase, payment must be made by bank check or money order. All motor vehicle taxes must be current for the release. NO Debit or Credit Cards can be accepted in the Tax Office or by telephone.

If a taxpayer no longer has a vehicle or is no longer in business, contact Assessor's Office at 860-665-8530.

Due to COVID-19 and for everyone's safety, the Town Hall is closed to the public. Staff is available by telephone at 860 665-8540. Hours are Mon. – Fri., 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Middlewoods Offers Free Online Paint Class for Caregivers and Aging Loved Ones

Caregivers and their aging loved ones are invited to participate in an upcoming free live online paint class offered by Middlewoods Senior Living Communities and United Methodist Homes (UMH) on Thursday, March 25, from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

The event will provide caregivers with a unique opportunity to connect with their loved one while taking part in a virtual, instructor-led painting class. A spring-themed painting will be featured. No experience is needed. The class will be led by Laura Healy, Activities Director at Middlewoods of Newington, who has several years of experience facilitating art classes for older adults in healthcare and senior living settings.

"Many caregivers and seniors themselves want to know what life is like for residents who live in a Middlewoods senior living community," shares Healy. "Our monthly paint class provides a perfect creative outlet and is one of our residents' favorite social activities. It's also a great way to experience a small part of the lifestyle here at Middlewoods."

Paint kits with necessary supplies will be provided. Space is limited to 10 participants per location, so please reserve your spot today. A Zoom link will be sent out via email the day of the event.

Please RSVP at the location you wish to pick up your supplies:

Farmington: RSVP to Ginny Brown at 860.284.5700 or at gbrown@umh.org. 509 Middlewood Road, Farmington

Newington: RSVP to Elizabeth Giungi at 860.667.1336 or egiungi@umh.org. 2125 Main Street, Newington

Paint kits will be available for pick up during business hours starting March 22nd. Please call the community to schedule your contactless pick-up.

Newington Community Gardens With warmer weather just around the corner, it's time to start thinking about safe and

With warmer weather just around the corner, it's time to start thinking about safe and productive outdoor activities that you can be a part of. Why not reserve a Community Garden plot through the Newington Parks and Recreation Department for the upcoming gardening season? The Community Gardens are located next to the Deming Young Farm property at 282 Church Street in Newington. Please be aware that the Community Gardens are open to Newington residents only.

Garden plot sizes are 20 x 20 feet and will be roto-tilled and marked by the Town. Gardening guidelines are available at the Parks and Recreation office and on our website at www. newingtonct.gov/parksandrec. The planting date will be dependent on soil and weather conditions but is anticipated to be Memorial Day. Water will be available for gardeners but please bring your own containers. The fee for each garden plot is \$35. Register in the Parks and Recreation office Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. by utilizing our curbside drop-off, fax number, or mail-in option.

Returning gardeners may reserve their garden plot any time before Friday, March 26, 2021. Registration for new gardeners begins at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 1, 2021 on a first-come, first-served basis. Please call the Parks and Recreation office at 860-665-8666 for more information.

Parks & Recreation Creative Playtime Preschool Program

The Newington Parks and Recreation Department's Creative Playtime Preschool Program is looking forward to enjoying our first school year in the brand-new Maureen Romano classroom in the new Town Hall! This extremely affordable program offers a unique and flexible schedule that you can tailor to meet your family's needs. The 2021-2022 school year will offer either a full day from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., a morning session from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or an afternoon session from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Our new extended hours for the 2021-2022 school year also offer new employment opportunities!

We have several part time Assistant Teacher positions available for our new preschool classroom. Although employment benefits will not be offered, there are other benefits to enjoy, including a brandnew facility located in the center of Newington with flexible hours and competitive wages. You will also enjoy working in a fun and imaginative atmosphere with fabulous

co-workers! Licensed by the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood since 2007, the program is going into its 15th year of operation, and the 2021-2022 school year will offer more than ever before! There will be an exclusive preschool outdoor play area across the street at Mill Pond Park, and the Town library is only steps away.

Proper COVID-19 protocols will continue to be followed as needed in the new school year.

If you are interested in part time em-

ployment as an Assistant Teacher in our Creative Playtime Preschool Program, apply today by completing and submitting an Employment Application found at www. newingtonct.gov to our office at 200 Garfield Street, Newington. Once you are on the website, click on "I Want To" and then "Apply For" and then click on "Employment Opportunities" and you will find the Employment Application there. You can also call the Newington Parks and Recreation office at 860-665-8671 for more information.



What's Happening Wethersfield?

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Flanigan Announces Run for Second Council Term

by Mark DiPaola

Wethersfield's youngest elected official will be seeking a second Town Council term.

Republican Councilor Tyler Flanigan, a UConn student in his early 20s, announced last week that he intends to run again this coming fall.

"After much consideration, I have decided to seek re-election this year," Flanigan said in a prepared statement. "There is still critically important work to be done. How local officials handle a post-pandemic world will largely determine the economic and social stability of our towns. I hope to continue to work on behalf of Wethersfield's residents to create a more affordable, stronger town."

Flanigan, who was elected last fall as the local GOP swept to a 6-3 Council supermajority, says that the culmination of impending graduation and upcoming party nominations left him at a crossroads.

"Now that I'm in the closing stages of my academic career, I had to closely analyze what my future looks like," Flanigan said. "If I wasn't able to give Wethersfield residents the proper attention and effort necessary on the Council, I wouldn't run. At the end of the day, I will always look at Wethersfield as my home, and we have unfinished business on the Council."

A big part of that, Flanigan says, is the affordability promise he ran on almost two years ago. While the pandemic has only exacerbated the challenge, last year's no-tax increase budget was an encouraging first step, he said.

"As with most municipal budgets, the main challenge will be the balancing act between providing necessary services while understanding how much Wethersfield's residents have struggled during these tough economic times," Flanigan sad. "While the pandemic is the latest crisis, our state has struggled with affordability since the recession, and Wethersfield has not been immune to those effects. I feel we need to serve as watchdogs to ensure that every dollar in our

budget is spent wisely."

In coming months, the Council will deliberate on how to curb the impact of other cost drivers, such as waste management and water and sewer expenses under the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC).

Local officials have less control over the latter, but MDC officials are asking member towns to help levy pressure against Connecticut DEEP – which the Commission claims owes over \$13 million in Hartford landfill contaminant remediation in its sewer system.

While Flanigan was noncommittal as to what he thinks the town's specific position should be, he believes local officials need to remain proactive – on multiple fronts.

"Local officials absolutely need to have an active role in communicating with organizations like the MDC, as well as others such as Eversource," he said. "Middle- and lower-class families are struggling in Connecticut's economy, and the situation will only intensify as the pandemic continues, increas-ing the importance of our voices as elected officials."

Though it's his first time serving in an elected capacity, Flanigan isn't new to politics – in 2018 he ran a Republican primary against GOP nominee Ed Charamut, who would go on to face Democratic Senator

Matt Lesser in a race for the 9th District.

Flanigan has also worn the campaign manager hat – in fellow Councilor Pat Pentalow's 2020 run for the State House and former Rocky Hill Mayor Henry Vasel's 29th House District bid.

"I also hope to serve as an example of the next generation of leaders as we grapple with a post-pandemic world," Flanigan wrote. "I have always advocated for young people to get involved in the public process. Just as I did in my first bid for the Council, I will once again be balancing my studies with my professional life, as well as my political life. I urge all my fellow young people to get involved in causes they are passionate in. It truly makes a difference."

Wethersfield Schools Look to CREC Program to Diversity Staff

by Mark DiPaola

Wethersfield Public Schools (WPS) is pushing to diversify its teaching staff – and they're looking to enroll in a CREC program for that purpose.

In 2019, the Connecticut State Department of Education (SDE) launched the CREC Teacher Residency Program – an alternative certification route that places aspiring educators in school districts for mentorship and classroom experience in lieu of graduate school, a costly endeavor that can be prohibitive for those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Now, Wethersfield will be taking part – last week the BOE unanimously approved the funding needed to host two teacher residents.

"I think this is long overdue. We see our district becoming increasingly diverse and our staff population has not been able to keep up," said Superintendent of Schools Michael Emmett. "This is a rigorous program and a great way to increase diversity in our staff. It breaks down some of the barriers to getting certified."

The program includes 18 months of courses and a year-long mentorship with participating districts.

When the program was first rolled out, Governor Lamont and the SDE had set out to recruit 1,000 black and Latino teachers before this year.

According to the Learning Policy Institute, a D.C.-based education think tank, having at least one teacher of color can

help boost the academic performance of minority students and ultimately close the achievement gap.

"Connecticut has long faced a persistent achievement gap," Emmett said. "We're always committed to trying to close that, and the research shows that this is another avenue where we can make a difference for the students."

The CREC Residency Program breaks participating districts down into 4 "sites". The program's 5-year goal is to recruit at least 15 teachers of color at – at each one – annually.

The full rollout will include the addition of 7 sites, with annual recruiting goals ramping up over subsequent years.

At the local level, the need is driven by English Language Learner (ELL) student population growth, Emmett says.

There are now over 300 students in the district utilizing

There are now over 300 students in the district utilizing ELL services, and since Emmett arrived in 2008, they've increased the number of ELL instructors from 2 to 6.

More recently, WPS leadership has fielded its own calls, from students mostly, for greater school environment equity. That's what prompted Emmett and his team to form a Diversity Coalition with town government leaders and other community members – the group's been meeting periodically since September.

While the Teacher Residency Program won't be limited just to Wethersfield residents and staffer, one of the first places the district will look is inhouse, Emmett told the Board.

"We will be looking in-district to see if there are paras

or specialists with a bachelor's degree and looking to take that next step," he said.

The program costs over \$65,000 per enrollee – a \$20,000 stipend resident stipend, a \$10,700 fee to CREC, and the \$6,000 paid to the mentoring teacher.

The figure also leaves room for resident teacher health benefits, Emmett said.

"It's tough to quantify right now because you don't know if it's going to be a single person or a family," he said.

Wethersfield will start with two resident teachers this coming fall – the BOE's budget proposal includes \$65,000 for one position, while the second will be covered through Open Choice revenue.

Residents that complete the year-long mentorship program will become a full-time teacher with the district, provided there are openings – in an event that there aren't, the host district helps place the newly certified educator in another town

But Emmett thinks the demand will be there.

"I have yet to have a year where we have not had at least three retirements," he said.

Upcoming at the Wethersfield Library

UKRAINIAN EASTER EGG DIS-PLAY AT WETHERSFIELD LIBRARY Ukrainian Easter Eggs (Pysanky) will be on display at the Wethersfield Library for the month of April. The display is sponsored by the Ukrainian American Community and the handpainted eggs are the artistic work of Zirka "Vera" Rudyk.

Call 860-257-2826 if you, or an organization you are part of, would like to utilize the display case at the library. The library is located at 515 Silas Deane Highway in Wethersfield. For information and directions to the Library, visit www.wethersfieldlibrary.org or call 257-2811.

FOR TEENS: PIGGY BANK PAG-EANT

masterpiece! We'll vote via email and

Decorate a plain piggy bank however you want with whatever you have on hand. Then send us a picture of your an Amazon gift card! Email library@ wethersfieldlibrary.org to register. Piggy banks will be available for pickup at the library starting April 5. Send us your piggy's pic by April 19. May the best pig win!

AUTHOR TALK AND INTERVIEW Join local author Howard Greenblatt and legendary basketball player Johnny Egan, Tuesday April 6th at 6:30 p.m.on Zoom as we discuss Greenblatt's new book: The Johnny Egan Story.

The book, a biography of Egan's basketball career, follows him as he grew up in Hartford, starred at Weaver High School and Providence College, before enjoying a fifteen year career in the National Basketball Association as a player and coach. Listen as Greenblatt interviews Johnny Egan about his time living in Wethersfield during his professional career. Register via email at:

Facebook, and the winner will receive library@wethersfieldlibrary.org

ALL AGES TAKE & MAKE: SEED BOMBS

Make wildflower seed bombs out of soil and clay and bring some spring to your yard! Kits will be available for pick up at the library starting April 19. Email library@wethersfieldlibrary.org to register.

DESIGN A SUNNY PERENNIAL BORDER

How do you create a sunny perennial garden that will delight you with colorful blooms and flowers for cutting from Spring to Fall? Join us on Tuesday April 20th at 6:30 on Zoom to learn. Topics include plant layering, new and reliable perennials, companion plants and design techniques that will make your garden POP! Register by email: library@wethersfieldlibrary.org

<u>Legal Notice</u> <u>Town Of Wethersfield</u> <u>Zoning Board of Appeals</u>

Notice is hereby given that at a virtual meeting of the Wethersfield Zoning Board of Appeals held on Monday, March 22, 2021 in the Council Chambers of Town Hall, 505 Silas Deane Highway, the following actions were taken:

- 1. Application No. 6242-21: Jonathan Makowski, seeking a variance to allow non-conforming building to be enlarged contrary to the applicable provisions of the regulations. (ii) variance to allow building area of 16.51% as against 10% maximum permitted. (iii) Variance to allow side yard set back of 10.37 ft. as against 25 ft. minimum required, to facilitate addition to the south eastern side of the building. Variance application is contingent upon the pending purchase agreement to acquire approximately 400 sq. ft of land. (Agriculture Zone, AG) Location: 135 Elm Street. APPROVED AS SUBMITTED
- 2. Application No. 6243-21: Wolcott Hill Properties c/o John Papas, seeking a variance to allow parking spaces serving business use at 683-689 Wolcott Hill Road to be located on section of the property zoned residential. (Variance is being requested contingent upon residential property known as tax I.D. # 177 095 being combined with 683-689 Wolcott Hill Road) Location: 683-689 Wolcott Hill Road. APPROVED AS SUBMITTED

Zoning Board of Appeals Jim Pelletier, Acting Chairman

By Charles F. Morrison, Duly Authorized

Dated at Wethersfield Connecticut, this 23rd day of March, 2021

Thank You for Reading The Rare Reminder. Visit us online at www.RareReminder.com



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

Relive Care Center Provides Socialization and Specialized Care

by Mark DiPaola

Ellen Healy was 67 when she was diagnosed with dementia stemming from Alzheimer's.

The specialist prescribed some medication to slow the progression as Dan Healy, Ellen's husband, braced himself for what was to come – and it came fast.

"It's unbelievable how fast it happened to us," Dan said over the phone. "It's a heartbreaking situation. We have 10 grandchildren. She doesn't know any of them."

While family members pitch in as much as they can with Ellen's care, Dan has taken on the lion's share of the load.

"It's a 24-hour a day thing," Dan says. "It is what it is. You can't change it and you know it's not gonna get better, but you do what you

But doing it constantly was, admittedly, taxing, he says. So Dan weighed their options, starting with longterm care facilities.

Ultimately, he opted against it.

"I couldn't put my wife in a place like that," he said. "Those places are just a place to put somebody. It didn't

Then he met Nazila Tatashadze. She runs Relive Care Center – a Rocky Hillbased daycare.

For adults.

Tatashadze admits that the pitch can be a little jarring for people at first.

"People hear daycare and think, 'this isn't something my mom and dad would go to, she says.

Go down to Relive Care Center's 15 Elm Street facility and you might find seniors playing chair volleyball, doing yoga, having a dance party, or hanging out in the Center's café area - a subtle nod to the "community center" philosophy guiding the design of 21st century senior centers. "They're having lunch/

snack. They're exercising. Socializing," Tatashadze

Which means their caregivers are getting some well-deserved rest. "People want to age at

home, but a lot of dementia patients have gotten worse the past 6 months because they're literally stuck at home," she says. "They're not getting socialization. I want families to know that there's another option."

Due to the pandemic,

individuals with Alzheimer's and their caregivers have seen their options thin over the course of the past year, says Carolyn DeRocco, Vice President of Programs and Education for the CT Alzheimer's Association.

With adult care respite programs - suspending operations due to either safety concerns or revenue slowdowns presented families with a dual problem, she

"We know with individuals living with dementia, it's easier to have a routine and a schedule," DeRocco says. "It's also difficult enough to understand why am I wearing a mask? Why can't I see people? Having to remind people to wear a mask or handwash - we have to remind people."

Then there's the critical activity and socialization component - or lack thereof. The CT Alzheimer's Association made a pivot to virtual programming, hosting art museum tours and bake-offs via Zoom.

DeRocco advises families that call the Association's 1-800-272-3900 help line to get creative in the

"Even if we can't get out, what can we do? Chair exercises? Music on and dance in the living room?" DeRocco says. "The social activities are important."

That's the reason Tatashadze says she was determined to remain open throughout the pandemic - she shut down for just one month last year due to



Photo courtesy of Relive Care Center in Rocky Hill

an attendance dip, and it's been full speed ahead since reopening.

"We're busier than ever now," she says.

A typical day at Relive Care Center begins with a morning breakfast of eggs and oatmeal.

Members exercise at 10 a.m. - this can mean anything from a kickball game to mini golf.

Relive Care works in memory games and arts and crafts throughout the day as "We believe in exercis-

ing the body, but also the mind," Tatashadze says. "We're just trying to do a lot of things to create a positive environment." One of those things is

making it look as much like a home as possible.

"I wanted to make the clients comfortable," she says. "It doesn't look like a nursing home or hospital, that's why people like it here."

Tatashadze's longer term vision is to serve as a community center - one that pulls in local area players for everything exercise classes to education and senior legal advice.

On November 4, Tatashadze plans to host an Alzheimer's fundraiser in partnership with 25-30 senior health organizations - a services fair of sorts.

'We're trying to make this a one-stop shop," she says of the Center. "It's hard when people have to move or look for someone. It's a lot of stress. We're trying to make it easy for people."

Ellen has been a member for the past two years.

"They're like family down there," Dan says. "It's changed Ellen's life for the better. I feel like she's getting something out of life.'

And, while it might be subtle, Dan says he's noticed some improvement in her cognitive function.

"She was really bad before she went there. She didn't talk or anything to me," he says. "Now she'll say some words. 'I love you'. Or, 'thank you or taking care of me'. That means a lot."

For more information on Relive Care Center, visit www.relivecarecenter.com or call (860) 372-4656.

Wethersfield Greater Together Community Fund Program

Make an impact where you live and work and help our town thrive! The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving has allocated \$100,000 to benefit the residents of the town of Wethersfield through its Greater Together Community Fund program. This program was established "To support the community in taking ownership around the needs in their town, encourage broad and

inclusive civic engagement and anchor the

Hartford Foundation in each town." \$50,000 of these funds are available for "immediate use" and the remaining amount is available as "endowed funds" to be leveraged in future. Wethersfield is one of 29 towns in Connecticut being funded within this program.

Before we, the Advisory Committee for the Wethersfield Greater Together Community Fund, begin to accept applications for grants, we want to hear from YOU! What do you think are our community's greatest needs? What improvements would make Wethersfield a better place to live, work, and visit? Please take our brief survey and let us know! It takes about 10-15 minutes, and

don't worry, if we missed something important to you, there is an opportunity for comments. Participation in the survey will help Wethersfield's Town Advisory Committee determine grant recipients that are reflective of the entire community's diverse needs and

PLEASE: In addition to completing the survey yourself, do place it on your personal and/or business Facebook page(s) for others to complete---the more participation, the better!. To find the survey, please https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ We thers field Community Funds.

GFMC Fundraiser for Veterans Programs

On Wednesday, April 21, from Noon to 9:00pm GFWC Newington/Wethersfield Woman's Club will be holding a fundraiser at TJs on Cedar. On dine-in, take-out or delivery orders (any item on menu including drinks) TJs will give us 20% of sales. Just be sure to bring one of our flyers or mention GFWC when ordering.

Throughout the year we participate in many events for Veteran's including Luncheon Ceremonies for Veteran's Day, Boxes to Boots, Stand Down, Holiday Cards for Newington & Rocky Hill & Wreaths Across America.

We donate toiletries, afghans, jackets, sweaters, and other clothes to homeless vets. We also give monetary donations to support homeless vets and vets with MST (Military Sexual

About 200 of the estimated homeless vets in Connecticut are women. One out of four women and one out of one hundred men have MST. Raffle Prizes!

Have something to say?

We welcome all letters to the editor that are signed and include a name and daytime phone number for verification. We reserve the right to edit all letters for length or other concerns. Mail your letter to P.O. Box 289, 222 Dividend Road, Rocky Hill, CT 06067, fax it to 860-257-8591 or e-mail it to editor@rarereminder.com. We do not publish anonymous letters.

Upcoming Events at Wethersfield Academy for the Arts

Wethersfield Academy for the Arts has re-opened for Youth and Adult Classes based on CT State guidelines and Connecticut Art Alliance recommendations. For details, go https://www.wethersfieldarts.org/files/pdfs/CD-0354_ ReopeningPoster_051220DE.pdf

Youth Programs

Summer Youth Art Program - June 21st - July 23rd Now accepting registrations for five weeks of fun and creative art projects for ages 6 and up. For complete listing including early registration fees go to https://www.wethersfieldarts.org/files/pdfs/SYA-Program-2021.pdf

Ongoing Classes

Includes classical drawing, oil painting, and anime and character development. For compete listing and details go to https://www.wethersfieldarts.org/youth-arts-programs.html

Virtual Concert Miss Maybell and the Jazz Age Artiste's

April 1st, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Join us for an evening of music from Ragtime to Jazz and learn how American songwriting changed in the early 20th century. Free. Pre-register at info@wethersfieldarts.org.

Workshops Drawing the Self-Portrait - Virtual Instructor: Sandra Sanchez 3-Day Workshop; April 15 -17, 9:30 am - 4:00 pm Students will develop a highly resolved self-portrait from life. The instructor will create a demonstration drawing and provide individual critiques for each student. This drawing class will set the student on the road to painting the selfportrait. All skill levels and ages are welcome.

Figure Drawing Workshop - In studio (COVID protocols

followed including HEPA air filtration) Instructor: Kathryn Engberg

One Day Workshop, April 25th, 9:30 am – 4:00 pm Students will strengthen their figure drawing skills by working with a live model holding a single pose. Includes instructor led lecture and demonstration. All skill levels welcome.

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

CASA MIA AT THE HAWTHORNE

2421 BERLIN TURNPIKE BERLIN CT 06037

COVID SAFE SERVER ATTENDED BRUNCH BUFFET 11:30-4:30PM

Featuring breakfast items, lunch items, carving stations, kids corner and more!

\$32 ADULTS | \$18 KIDS AGE 4-12 CALL 860-357-2061

CASA MIA ON THE GREEN

600 COLD SPRING ROAD ROCKY HILL CT 06067 FAMILY STYLE MENLI 12:00 AND 3:00PM SEATINGS

Four-course family style served meal \$30 ADULTS | \$15 KIDS

CALL 860-563-7000



PICK UP Saturday April 3rd before 7pm or Sunday April 4th 9am - 11am

DINNER PACKAGE

Beef Tenderloin Honey Glazed Ham Roasted Potatoes | Sweet Potato Mash Garlic Beans | Salad | Rolls & Butter Tuxedo Cake

\$60 for 2 people | \$160 for 6 people | \$250 for 10 people

COMBO PLATTER \$75

(feeds up to 8 people)

Clams Casino - Fried Mozzarella - Stuffed Mushrooms - Arancini

ADDITIONS ****

	feeds 4 ppl	feeds 8 ppl	PKI
ANTIPASTO	\$25	\$45	DI
TURKEY BREAST	\$35	\$55	
CHICKEN(ANY STYLE)	\$30	\$45	16oz Pri
LEG OF LAMB	\$40	\$65	Mixed
MIXED FRIED FISH	\$35	\$55	Roaste
FRIED CALAMARI	\$25	\$45	S
STUFFED SHRIMP	\$35	\$55	Rolls
CLAMS CASINO	\$35	\$55	10115
LASAGNA	\$25	\$40	\$60 f
GARLIC GREEN BEANS	\$15	\$25	\$170 f
ROASTED POTATOES	\$15	\$25	, ,
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PRIME RIB NNER

ime Portions Vegetables ed Potatoes Salad s & Butter for 2 people for 6 people

CASA MIA AT THE HAWTHORNE | Berlin | 860.357.2061 CASA MIA ON THE GREEN | Rocky Hill | 860.563.7000

Wethersfield UMC Clothing Donations

Cleaning out your closets? You can bring your used clothing donations to Wethersfield United Methodist Church at 150 Prospect St. in Wethersfield. The church is now partnering with St. Pauly Textile Inc. to provide a wood-frame clothing drop-off shed for community use (see pictures).

This shed is designed to give community members a uniquely clean, convenient, and well-cared-for option to donate their used clothing to. St. Pauly Textile Inc. partners with businesses and various organizations to distribute donated items both here in the U.S. and worldwide, where they're ultimately re-worn by people who need them. Wethersfield United Methodist Church receives funding for donated clothing, and additionally has the option to use donations to serve community needs.

With over 1,300 clothing drop-off sheds in place, St. Pauly Textile Inc. collects over 90,000 pounds of clothing every day and estimates that this clothing ends up in 44 different countries (including the U.S.) yearly. In 2019, the company was able to help keep over 20 million articles of clothing out of landfills, which clothed an estimated 2.5 million people worldwide. The company was founded in 1996 and is an A+ rated member of the Better Business Bureau.

Accepted items: clothing, shoes, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, curtains, pillowcases, and stuffed animals. 1/14/21

Cars Helping the Blind

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

Toastmasters

Bloomfield Toastmasters is dedicated to improving public speaking and interpersonal communication techniques among the local and on-line community. We offer our practice, training and positive feedback twice monthly at 7pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays. Our transition to Zoom meetings has helped our members and guests to practice and improve their on-line exchanges in social, business and family settings. We periodically have joint meetings with other local Toastmasters clubs; our next one will be March 23. For further info or to attend our next meeting, contact-7139@toastmastersclubs.org or call 860-721-8612. 3/11/21

Lions Club – Be Kind signs

The Rocky Hill Lions Club is selling "Be Kind" signs for \$10. All proceeds will go to the Lions Club Scholarship Fund and other charitable endeavors sponsored by the Lions. Please call Phil Theroux at (860) 559-8746 if interested. 3/18/21

Free Online Paint Classes

Caregivers and their aging loved ones are invited to participate in an upcoming free live online paint class offered by Middlewoods Senior Living Communities and United Methodist Homes (UMH) on Thursday, March 25, from 1 – 2 p.m.

The event will provide caregivers with a unique opportunity to connect with their loved one while taking part in a virtual, instructor-led painting class. A spring-themed painting will be featured. No experience is needed. The class will be led by Laura Healy, Activities Director at Middlewoods of Newington, who has several years of experience facilitating art classes for older adults in healthcare and senior living settings.

"Many caregivers and seniors themselves want to know what life is like for residents who live in a Middlewoods senior living community," shares Healy. "Our monthly paint class provides a perfect creative outlet and is one of our residents' favorite social activities. It's also a great way to experience a small part of the lifestyle here at Middlewoods."

Paint kits with necessary supplies will be provided. Space is limited to 10 participants per location, so please reserve your spot today. A Zoom link will be sent out via email the day of

Please RSVP at the location you wish to pick up your supplies: Farmington: RSVP to Ginny Brown at 860.284.5700 or at gbrown@umh.org. 509 Middlewood Road, Farmington

Newington: RSVP to Elizabeth Giungi at 860.667.1336 or egiungi@umh.org. 2125 Main Street, Newington

Paint kits will be available for pick up during business hours starting March 22. Please call the community to schedule your contactless pick-up. 3/18/21

Rocky Hill Historical Society

The Rocky Hill Historical Society Thursday at 7 pm Series continues March 25 with a Celebration of Women's Month. Rocky Hill leaders Mayor Lisa Marotta, The Honorable Claudia Baio, CT State Representative Kerry Wood, and Deputy Commissioner of CT Homeland Security Regina Rush-Kittle will participate in panel capturing the spirit of these trying times. They will discuss their life journeys and the women that have influenced them. A Q&A session follows. Register at infoRHhistory@gmail.com or contact us at 860-563-6704. A Zoom invite will be sent March 25. 3/4/21

RH Project Grad Clothing Drive

Rocky Hill Project Graduation will hold a Used Clothing Drive Saturday, April 24, from 10 am-1 pm. Drop off at Sunny Farm, 259 New Britain Ave. Used clothing, outerwear, shoes, boots, belts and purses. 2/18/21

Taste of Middlesex County The Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce announced that

the sixth annual Taste of Middlesex County is here! Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the chamber is reinventing the Taste of Middlesex County in order to meet Connecticut Safety Guidelines and to help support our local restaurants by offering two tasty weeks in 2021: February 15-21 and June 21-27! Like past years, this celebration of local food will allow resi-

dents to discover Middlesex County's award-winning food scene! While the flavors are sure to still impress, this year will look a little different as the chamber is leaving it up to the restaurants on what they would like to offer.

These restaurant weeks are designed to highlight the numerous and diverse dining experiences within the greater Middlesex region. Participating restaurants have come up with ideas such as a fixed price menu (\$20.21 or \$30.21), meals for two, family meals, or dine-in/carry-out options.

Participating restaurants so far include: 1741 Pub & Grill in Middlefield, Eli Cannons Tap Room in Middletown, Fire at the Ridge & Ridgeside Tavern in Middlefield, Scotch Plains Tavern in Essex, and Water's Edge Resort & Spa in Westbrook.

If you love gourmet meals and scoring a bargain, the Middlesex Chamber encourages community members to save your appetite for these particular weeks!

To learn more or to register your restaurant to participate, please visit https://www.middlesexchamber.com/pages/tasteof-middlesex-county. You can also follow updates on social media by searching the hashtag #TasteOfMiddlesex. 2/4/21

Toastmasters

Bloomfield Toastmasters is dedicated to improving public speaking and interpersonal communication techniques among the local and on-line community. We offer our practice, training and positive feedback twice monthly at 7pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays. Our transition to Zoom meetings has helped our members and guests to practice and improve their on-line exchanges in social, business and family settings. We periodically have joint meetings with other local Toastmasters clubs. For further info or to attend our next meeting, send an email to: contact-7139@toastmastersclubs.org 3/18/21

Greater Middletown DSA

Are you a progressive interested in the common good in Cromwell? Perhaps you want to inspire change in the community through direct action and organizing? Join the Greater Middletown DSA at our next meeting March 29 at 7pm which will take place on Zoom. Enter bit.ly/MiddletownDSA for further information or email comms.cctdsa@gmail.com 3/18/21





Italian Street Food

Authentic Italian Street Food Salads • Piadas • Starters Zuppas • Pastas



Open Sunday to Wednesday, 3-9 p.m. Open Thursday to Saturday 3-10 p.m. 945 Cromwell Ave., Rocky Hill

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@ctpanizzo



CATER!

Call-in Caregivers Support Group

Caregivers support groups provide emotional, educational and social support in a positive and uplifting atmosphere for those who care for an older loved one, particularly those with dementia. For many years, Hartford HealthCare Center for Healthy Aging has offered monthly in-person support groups at numerous senior living communities and senior centers to focus on stages of the disease, communication, strategies and family dy-

To observe safe social practices, Hartford HealthCare Center for Healthy Aging is hosting two call-in caregivers support groups each week led by dementia specialists and resource coordinators. The call-in groups are held Mondays, 10 a.m., and Fridays, 2 p.m. At the meeting time, participants can call 860.972.6338 and enter access code 19623#.

Participants do not need to have attended a caregivers support group in the past. Confidential discussion and telephonic assessments can also be had one-on-one with a dementia professional outside of the online group. 7/30/20

First Congregational Church, Cromwell

Spring has arrived and so has Easter! Please join First Congregational Church in Cromwell as we honor Christ glorious sacrifice during Holy Week: Good Friday, April 2nd at 7:00 pm; Easter Sunday Sun Rise Service starting 6:15 am at Cromwell Landing (if park isn't available alternative site will be Frisbee Landings/Riverport Park); Easter Sunday Service, April 4th at 9:30 am. Church services will be held in the church Sanctuary located at 355 Main Street. Parking is just north of the church, handicap accessible. The following COVID-19 protocol is in place. Masks must be worn and social distancing will be practiced. Temperatures will be taken prior to entering the sanctuary. Visit our website fcccromwell.org to learn what we have done to keep all safe. If you can't attend in person you can watch our services via Facebook or on our website. For further information you can contact the church office at 860-635-4806.

Re-employment Support Group

The Rocky Hill Re-employment Support Group, whose main focus is on networking to find employment, will now meet by appointment only. To schedule an appointment at Saint James Church, please call Marty Carlson at 860-529-3630. 1/4/18

Rocky Hill Memorial Day Parade

Participants needed for the Rocky Hill Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 31, starting at 9:30 a.m. at the High School. Please contact Rita Chhabra (860) 258-2772 for more informa-

Wethersfield Art League Fundraiser

The Wethersfield Art League has lost Lieschen Seabeck, a longtime valuable active member and friend of many years. To honor her, we are asking for donations to create a hanging system for displaying member artwork at the Little Red Schoolhouse. This system will be commemorated in her name and will be used to have members display artwork for sale to the public. One wall will be designated to an artist of the month with possible afternoon open house hours.

No amount will be too small. Please send your donations for the Art Hanging System to: Connie McCartney, 119 Apple Tree Lane, Portland, Connecticut 06480. Please make checks out to WAL with a note "Memorial Fund".

Although the schoolhouse is not having classes due to the pandemic, some members have been cleaning and refreshing at the schoolhouse to make room for classes as well as getting repairs done to the handicap ramp and our sign out front.

Many of our members continue painting and creating beautiful art work and we look forward to resuming classes later this year.

Friendship Force Connecticut

Friendship Force Connecticut (a chapter of FF-International) sponsors outbound visits to other states and nations and hosts inbound visits from reciprocal clubs. Our chapter remains active despite a temporary suspension of visits. We have monthly group social activities (properly distanced) and are looking forward to a resumption of travel. Our next tentative inbound visit is from Cornwall, UK (June 2021), where we plan to host their ambassadors in our own homes and show them the glories of Connecticut. Our next outbound visit is to Milwaukee, WI, August 2021, where our ambassadors will stay in the homes of the host club members and partake in activities and meals of the local residents. If you would like to join Friendship Force and travel with our club and host members from other clubs, subject to your own availability, please contact Ginger (ginger43@cox.net) for more information. 10/15/20

Cromwell Creative District

Do you enjoy seeing your town revitalized? Do you want to support local businesses? Are you a creative thinker? If so, then you belong in Cromwell Creative District (CCD)! CCD is a completely volunteer-run nonprofit that works collaboratively with local businesses, nonprofits, and civic groups to attract business and visitors to the historic and riverfront areas of downtown Cromwell. Whether your interest is in volunteering on a specific project, sharing creative ideas, or taking on a leadership role within the group, Cromwell Creative District has something for you! Learn more at www.facebook.com/cromwellcreativedistrict and www.cromwellcreativedistrict.org and "Rethink How You See Cromwell." 2/11/21

Virtual Memory Loss Screening

Memory loss is not unusual as people age. And forgetting someone's name or an appointment does not mean an individual has Alzheimer's disease. There are other factors – including medications – that can contribute to memory loss or confusion.

Hartford HealthCare Center for Healthy Aging is offering free virtual memory screenings that can be scheduled at a person's convenience. Confidential memory screenings average 20 minutes and consist of five questions to assess memory. These screenings are not a diagnosis but can indicate if someone should follow up with a full medical exam.

Memory screenings can be the first step to diagnosis for anyone concerned about memory loss or experiencing warning signs of dementia; whose family and friends have noticed changes in them; who believe they are at risk due to a family history of dementia; or who want to see how their memory is now and for future comparisons. Early detection of memory loss can help physicians more effectively treat cognitive impairment and possibly slow down changes in the brain.

For more information or to schedule a virtual memory screening, call Hartford HealthCare Center for Healthy Aging,

CCD Seeks Membership Chair

Cromwell Creative District (CCD) is seeking a personable, detail-oriented individual for the position of Membership Chair! The Membership Chair will be in charge of: recruiting and welcoming new CCD members, updating membership lists accordingly, and attending monthly CCD meetings (currently held telephonically). You do not have to be a resident of Cromwell. If interested, please email cromwellcreativedistrict@gmail. com. For more information on CCD, visit www.cromwellcreativedistrict.org. 2/25/21

Newington MS Support Group

The Newington MS Support Group meets at the Newington Senior and Disabled Center located at 120 Cedar St., Newington. from 12 - 2 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. For more information, please contact Charlie at 860-667-1314 or Tom at 860-236-2751. There are more than 6,500 Connecticut residents diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS), an oftentimes debilitating disease affecting the central nervous system. The National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Connecticut Chapter offers more than 25 support groups throughout Connecticut. These groups bring together people who share a common life experience as it relates to MS and its effects. For more information on multiple sclerosis and the many ways you can help make a difference, please visit www.ctfightsMS.org or call the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Connecticut Chapter at 800-FIGHT Check us out at www.RareReminder.com Thank you for saying you saw it in The Rare Reminder 3/25/21

ONLY \$4495

ONLY \$**79**95

TIME BUNDLE

Our Own

Seafood Stuffed

Stuffed Sole

\$500 each

XLg. Stuffed Shrimp!

\$5⁵⁰ each



NEWINGTON MEAT

AND CATERING

WE'RE ALWAYS GLAD TO "MEAT" YOU!

Easter Kielbasa Prime Rib Roast Spoon Roast Beef Tenderloin Crown Roast of Pork Stuffed Leg Of Lamb

Swedish Korv



STORE SMOKED EASTER KIELBASA $^{\$}2^{00}\,\mathrm{Off}$ per link Limit 2 Links per customer/coupon coupon. Prices subject to change. Exp. 4/3/21

LARGE COOKED

COCKTAIL SHRIMP

\$8⁹⁹ per lb. 2 lb. Bags \$17⁹⁸

FAMILY PACK

4 lbs. Country Pork Ribs

STEAK LOVERS BUNDLE

• (4) 6 oz. Filet Mignon (2) 10-12 oz. NY Strip Steaks • (1) 24 oz. Boneless NY Sirloin • (2) 10-12 oz. Delmonicos

SUPER FREEZER BUNDLE

4 lbs. Ground Round Hamburger 2 lbs. Lean Stew Meat 2-1/2 lbs. Beef Pot Roast (8) Cube Steaks

16 Boneless Spare Ribs 2-1/2 lbs. Boneless Pork Roast 2 lbs. Sweet or Hot Sausage 8-1/2 Boneless Chicken Breasts \$13995 **\$155 Value**

n. Prices subject to change. Exp. 5/29/21 | With coupon. Prices subject to change. Exp. 5/29/21 |

TIME BUNDLE

16 Center Cut Pork Chops

16 - 1/2 Chicken Breasts

4 lbs. Lean Stew Meat

4 lbs. Beef Oven Roast

Hamburger

4 lbs. Pork Roast

10 lbs. Lean Ground Round

16 Lean Tender Cube Steaks

LARGE COOKING

(1) 3 lb. Beef Pot Roast (1) 3 lb. Pork Loin or Chops 5 lbs. Hot Dogs 2 lbs. Extra Lean Stew Beef (2) 1-1/2 lb. London Broil **BEEF & PORK BUNDLE**

(1) 24 oz. Boneless Sirloin Steak 3 lbs. Beef Oven Roast 8 Country Ribs 2 Ibs. Extra Lean Round Stew Beef • 2 lbs. Extra Lean Ground Round Hamburger

• 2 lbs. Hot or Sweet Italian Sausage
• 3 lbs. Pork Loin Roast

\$**89**95 \$165⁹⁵ **\$189 Value** With coupon. Prices subject to change. Exp. 5/29/21 With coupon. Prices subject to change. Exp. 5/29/21

CAA Virtual Poetry Night

Cromwell Arts Alliance will hold their second poetry event in early April. Due to COVID-19 we are going to hold a virtual "Poetry Night". If you are a writer or aspiring writer 13 years or older we are looking for you to participate.

To participate or to get more information on the event email us at cromwellartsalliance@gmail.com and include "Poetry Night" in the subject line.

Participants must be 13 or older

Poem must be original work and family friendly

 You must submit your poem reading via a video or audio file (less than 5 minutes long)

 Submit your work by emailing us at cromwellartsalliance@ gmail.com with "Poetry Night" in the subject line. Please include your name, phone number, and address

Submissions must be received by March 20

•All submissions will be reviewed and subject to approval

 Approved submissions will require a signed waiver (provided at the time)

Event will be hosted on April 7 1/28/21

Foodshare @ Elm Ride Park

Mobile Foodshare is a pantry-on-wheels that brings fresh produce and other food to our neighbors in need. Please join us at Elm Ridge Park @ 1:15 pm. Fridays, Mar 19, Apr 2, 16 & 30, May 14 & 28, June 11 & 25, 2021. Please bring your own bags and mask. 11/5/20

Rocky Hill Lions Club

Do you have one hour to spare a month? Are you looking to give back to the community? If so, then the Rocky Hill Lions Club needs you! The Lions Club is a volunteer-run, non-profit organization that has served the community for over 70 years. We offer scholarships to high school students, donated a buddy bench to Moser school and the town green, on-going glasses donation to help people with sight impairments, and was recently a gold sponsor for Santa Express 2020. There is so much more we do. Please contact Phil or Mimi Theroux at (860) 559-8746 or (860) 529-2460 for more information. 3/18/21

Cromwell Farmers Market

We are looking for farms, local artisans, food makers. We are a100% made in Connecticut market, Nothing we showcase is mass-produced. If you would like to be a vendor, please head over to our website www.cromwellfarmersmarket.org Fridays June 11-Sept 4, 4-7 pm. 3/18/21

Prayer Group

Activate the Cure, an interdenominational Christian ministry, invites all cancer patients, survivors, friends, family and caregivers to attend a weekly one-hour prayer gathering at the Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute, 183 North Mountain Rd., Plainville. For more information including the current schedule, visit www.activatethecure.com or contact Joellen Putnam at 203-213-6495 or activatethecure@yahoo.com. 1/19/17

Drive-Through Easter Dinner

Rocky Hill Human, Youth & Senior Services will be offering our Traditional Easter dinner and treat for any Rocky Hill resident that won't have a meal on Easter Sunday. This drive-thru event will take place on Thursday, April 1, from 12 pm - 2 pm at RHHYSS located at 699 Old Main Street. Please call the office at 860. 258.2799 to reserve your dinner. Deadline to register is Friday, March 26. 3/18/21

Woman's Club of New Britain

The Woman's Club of New Britain will meet at 2PM on Thursday, April 1. The meeting will be held at Shuttle Meadow Country Club, 51 Randecker Ln., New Britain. Entertainment will be provided by Tony Sands - "It Was a Very Good Year."

You'll never get a chance to see Frank Sinatra, or even Frank Sinatra Jr. perform in concert, but some people say that Tony Sands is the next best thing! This show is a must-see for any

Tony has incorporated stunning graphics that entice you the moment the stage lights dim, and the music begins. The show starts with Sinatra's early days with Tommy Dorsey in the bright lights of NYC, and then brings you to his comeback at the Madison Square Garden, the 'Main Event.' Following the program, coffee, tea, and cookies will be served. Guests are welcome to attend for a small fee. 3/25/21

St. Gabriel's Church Episcopal Church

68 Main Street East Berlin. 9 a.m. Holy Communion. Community fellowship, preaching, teaching, caring family friendly church. Bible study on Tuesday from noon to 2 p.m. 860-828-

Wethersfield Dollars for Scholars

Wethersfield Senior Students who reside in Wethersfield and are planning to attend college or trade school in the fall of 2021 are invited to begin the application process in order to be considered for a scholarship from the Wethersfield Dollars for Scholars. You may begin the process by setting up your profile by visiting https://wethersfield.dollarsforscholars.org. The deadline for applications is March 19.

The scholarship awards ceremony is scheduled for May 26, de-

If you have any questions or need additional information, contact WDFS President, Denise Fote at 860-794-8912. 2/18/21

Stuck at Home Because of COVID?

Get the skills you need to get back to work. Register for our Free Online classes and earn your High School diploma! If you have a computer, you can go to school. Middletown Adult Education has Free Online High School completion classes to earn your diploma. We also offer a Free Online GED program to prepare you for the GED exam. Registration is ongoing for area residents. Call 860-343-6044. 1/21/21

Rocky Hill Farmers Market

The Rocky Hill Parks & Recreation Department is now accepting vendor applications for the 2021 season! Market dates are: 6/23, 7/21, 8/18, 9/15 from 4-7 p.m. at Ferry Park. Please call (860) 258-2772 for more information. 2/25/21

Upcycling Contest Committee

Newington will be having an Upcycling Contest in 2021. The contest committee is now forming and is seeking volunteers. The Committee will meet two times per month via zoom.

The contest will enable the Town to earn points in its efforts to be certified as a "SustainableCT" town.

For more information or to sign up, email Joyce Boncal at jbct2jbct@gmail.com.

Newington's EQC was established by ordinance in 1987 to research and advise the Town Council on those environmental innovations and obstacles that could impact the community. Updates to the organization of the commission were made in 2016 to meet the changing needs of the Town. 12/10/20

Regional Farmers Market

Connecticut Grown, The Hartford Regional Farmer's Market season begins Saturday April 3, 5am-9am Saturday and Sunday open to the public 101 Reserve Rd. Hartford, CT. 06114, CT-Grown.gov/RegionalMarket 860 719-2297.3/18/21

Understanding Your Medicare Options

The complexities of Medicare leave many people wondering about how to make the best choice for them. Medicare educators are presenting many virtual classes from now through March focusing on topics including: how does it work; the different parts of Medicare; when to enroll; how to choose a plans and options including Medicare Advantage Plans, Medicare Supplement Plans and Prescription Drug Plans followed by a question and answer period.

Upcoming dates include: March 18, 22, 24, 25, 29 and 31. For convenience, the times vary.

"Medicare 101" is sponsored by Hartford HealthCare and Integrated Care Partners. Registration is required; call 1.855.HHC. HERE/1.855.442.4373 or visit HartfordHealthCare.org/Virtual Classes. After registration, an email will be sent with easy instructions on joining the virtual class.

People who are unable to join a class can call the Medicare Education Department at 860.972.9030 or email ICPMedicareEducator@hhchealth.org. 1/28/21

RHUMC Service

Rocky Hill United Methodist Church, 623 Old Main St., Rocky Hill, welcomes you our Sunday services at 11 am. Communion is served every first Sunday of the month. All COVID-19 procedures will be followed. Masts must be worn.. 12/17/20

Community Clothing Collection

Looking to clean out those closets after the holidays? The Central Connecticut Community Women's Club (CCCWC) is sponsoring a Community Clothing Collection from January through April 2021. They will be collecting any size and style of gently used clothing for men, women, and children (no undergarments or bathing suits). The donations will be used to benefit a town-wide Clothing Sale planned for April 24. Donation bins are located at The Cage, 14 Alcap Ridge and FOUND Apparel, Willowbrook Plaza, both in Cromwell. CCCWC is a charitable non-profit organization, dedicated to community service and to promote common interests in education, philanthropy, public health, civic and fine arts.

For more information, visit centralctcommunitywomensclub.

Wheels for the World

Greetings, please allow me to introduce an organization that aids people in need of mobility, no matter where they are in the world. Joni and Friends, Wheels for the World.

We collect unwanted mobility devices, send them to refurbishing centers and when they are in like new condition, we distribute them all over the world to people who need them, but could NEVER afford them. How can you get involved? You can volunteer to help do non-contact collections, transport equipment, distribute information (spread the word) to potential donors and other organizations. You can help load trucks going to the refurbishing centers or help provide storage of equipment. We network with several other organizations and local medical equipment loaner closets.

If this sounds like something you want to be a part of or to donate, call Cindy Dunbar at (203) 747-0542 or email at cdunbar9191@gmail.com or visit Joniandfriends.org for information about your application to join us. God bless you. 2/18/21

Virtual Meditation for Parents

Virtual Meditation for Parents, live-streaming Saturday, March 27, 10am- 11:15am. Parenting is often described as one of life's greatest joys. However, parents know that the day-to-day work of raising children is often stressful and overwhelming. In this class, learn practical tools to develop a firm foundation of inner peace, patience and love to empower your parenting. Tap in to your potential to parent joyfully, infusing meaning and spiritual progress into your family life. Class will include simple guided meditations and practical advice on patience and love. Cost: \$12. No one is turned away for lack of funds. Available on demand through April 30. Info and registration: meditationinconnecticut.org 3/18/21

CHS Project Grad Clothing Drive

Cromwell High School Project Graduation is hosting a clothing drive Saturday, May 15, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Cromwell High School. Rain or shine. Contactless. Drive up and drop off. No need to get out of the car. Please place clean items in large plastic bags. We accept usable, clean clothing for men, women and kids of all seasons and sizes. Used shoes (packed separately). Accessories such as handbags, ties, hats and gloves. Household items such as pillows, blankets, quilts, sheets and towels are welcome too. All proceeds will be used to celebrate the Cromwell High School Class of 2021 in June in person or virtually. For more information, please email Linda Dworak at bruce.linda.dworak@snet.net 2/4/21

Al-Anon Family Groups

Problem drinking affects as many as one in four people in our community, but many are still uninformed about Al-Anon Family Groups, free services to friends and families who suffer from a loved one's drinking. There are local meetings held in Newington, Rocky Hill, Wethersfield and cities all over the world, run by members who have been affected by someone's drinking. Please call 1-888-425-2666 (1-888-4AL-ANON) 3/23/17

CT Tax Deadline Extended

At Governor Lamont's direction, Commissioner Mark D. Boughton announced today that the Department of Revenue Services (DRS) is extending the filing and payment deadline for Connecticut individual income tax returns to Monday, May 17th, 2021.

This extension aligns with the U.S. Department of the Treasury's announcement Wednesday, where it indicated federal income tax filings and payments would be extended until May 17th, 2021.

"Given the relatively late start to the federal income tax filing season and recent passage of the America Rescue Plan Act, which includes provisions that impact tax filing this year, yesterday's announcement is understandable," said Commissioner Boughton. "Taxpayers do an excellent job of filing their Connecticut income tax returns accurately and on time. To further assist and support them, Connecticut will align with the extended federal deadline."

Commissioner Boughton added that

since Connecticut's individual income tax return begins with federal Adjusted Gross Income, it is often beneficial to complete one's federal return first. Those with questions about their state taxes should contact the agency; DRS professionals are available to provide assistance.

File Electronically

The DRS highly recommends electronic filing, including via the DRS online Taxpayer Service Center, which is easy, secure, and free to use. Electronic filing, along with requesting direct deposit, is the fastest way to receive a refund, if one is expected.

Taxpayers are encouraged to visit the DRS website for additional updates. To reach DRS by phone during normal business hours - Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. - call 860-297-5962 (from anywhere); 800-382-9463 (within CT, outside Greater Hartford area only); or 860-297-4911 (Hearing Impaired, TDD/TT users only).

Afternoon Paint Party

Paint Party at The Newington Masons, 80 Walsh Ave., Newington on Wednesday, March 31, at 1 pm. Should last until 3/3:30pm. *Bring your own snacks and drinks. \$30. Covid guidelines followed; please bring masks, hand sanitizer, and keep 6ft apart. Call Jean at 860-667-7647 to reserve a spot, and to pre-pay. You must pay prior to the event(artist has to buy all the materials for the number of participants). 3/4/21

GFWC Woman's Club

Are you spring cleaning and looking to make space? Then please give us a call when you have placed your soft goods in kitchen garbage bags and/or 30 gallon trash bags (clothing, shoes, pocketbooks, bedding, towels, etc.) to include in our Saver's FUNDrive. Final collection day April 21. All proceeds will benefit this community volunteer service organizations scholarships and other worthy projects.

Please call Donna at 860-986-9707 or Ursula at 860-597-0650 with your bag count or with any questions. All donations are greatly appreciated! 3/25/21

Rocky Hill Historical Society

Thursdays at 7 pm is a new series of virtual (Zoom) programs to help you gain a greater appreciation of the Rocky Hill experience. You can take a virtual walk in Historical Districts, view an extensive collection of vintage valentines, learn how to make an Almond Joy in your kitchen, join a panel discussion with a trio of notable Rocky Hill Women, celebrate Earth Day along with other history celebrations. There will be something for everyone - history matters. 2/11/21

UNICO Eats

The next Wethersfield sponsored UNICO Eats will be held at Grange Fresh, in the old Grange building in Old Wethersfield, on Wednesday, March 31. You may call Grange Fresh to place your order that day at (860) 785-8866. There will be a special meal for the UNICO Eats event that night. Thank you for helping our local businesses stay in business! Please look out for more information about our possible September Wethersfield UNICO Macaroni Dinner! 3/11/21

Mobility Equipment Collection

Wheels for the World a ministry of Joni and Friends, IDC in CA, collects mobility equipment, sends them for refurbishing and then distributes them to people who need them and can't afford them all around the world. Each delivery also includes the gospel of Jesus Christ in their language.

We've taken the non-contact approach. Anyone wishing to do-

nate equipment can call 203-235-4686 or 203-747-0542 and ask for Cindy or Marshall Dunbar. 10/29/20

Holy Trinity Chicken Dinner

On Wednesday, April 14, from 5:30-6:30 pm, Holy Trinity Church, 200 Summer St., Plantsville, is having a chicken dinner with roasted potatoes and vegetable, salad, rolls and butter. Dessert: Cheesecake with or without cherry topping. Curbside pickup in front of the church or a limited number of COVID distance seating in our hall. To order curbside pickup or to make a reservation to sit in our hall (limited) call Sandy @ 860-681-5483. 3/25/21

Virtual Meditation for Parents

Virtual Meditation for Parents, live-streaming Saturday, March 27, 10am- 11:15am. Parenting is often described as one of life's greatest joys. However, parents know that the day-to-day work of raising children is often stressful and overwhelming. In this class, learn practical tools to develop a firm foundation of inner peace, patience and love to empower your parenting. Tap in to your potential to parent joyfully, infusing meaning and spiritual progress into your family life. Class will include simple guided meditations and practical advice on patience and love. Cost: \$12. No one is turned away for lack of funds. Available on demand through April 30. Info and registration: meditationinconnecticut.org 3/18/21

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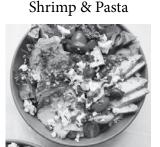
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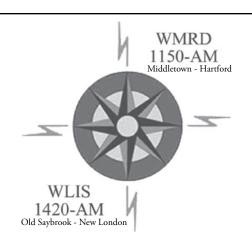
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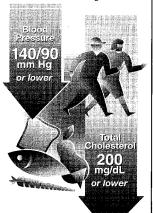


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Cromwell				45 Burgundy Hill Ln		03/02/2021	80 Lancaster Ct	
03/03/2021 Park, Sang J	7 Black Birch Dr		Littlefield, Ronnie A To Haider-Bokhari, Syed A		\$70,000	Pickering, Kevin D To Pickering, Diane M		\$57,753
To Kalinkova, Vilyana P; Perille	o, Frank N	\$440,000	03/02/2021	575 Butternut St		03/04/2021	77 Miller St	
03/03/2021 Carlson, Carol P	1 Lion Gardiner		Muraca, Janet; Pehota, Anna To Aresco, Louis J; Aresco, S		\$61,500	MSW LLC To Sandy, Darleen C		\$127,500
To Veilleuz, Carmen L; Veilleu	ıx. Daniel J	\$510,000		4 Carriage Crossing Ln		03/04/2021	79 Miller St	\$127,300
03/03/2021	5 Pleasant St	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	Lanciotto, Jessica L; Rodrigue			MSW LLC	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
Watson, Courtney B; Watson,	, Daniel E	¢250 000	To Safabaz LT; Safa, Brian	70 F M Ct	\$137,900	To Sandy, Darleen C	70.14 61	\$127,500
To Davis, Olivia 03/01/2021	148 Salem Dr	\$250,000	03/04/2021 Digalbo, Mark R	79 E Main St		03/02/2021 Cox, James M; Cox, Missy I	73 Moss Gln	
PS1 LLC;Singhal, Promila	140 Jaiem Di		To Tarris, Charles L		\$237,500	To Deemer, Robert J		\$429,900
To; Khan, Aziz U		\$157,900	03/01/2021	103 Elizabeth Ln		03/05/2021	51 Murray St	
03/01/2021 Wargo, Shawn	11 Woodland Dr		Obrien Schwarz IRT; Slowikov To Bailey, Chaundra C	vski, John	\$336,500	Kania Vivian D Est; Kania, Dav To Willette, Noelle T; Brassav		\$315,000
To Frink, Colin P		\$90,000	03/05/2021	26 Erin St	, ,	03/03/2021	118 Prospect St	
03/05/2021	12 Woodland Dr		Patrie, Maureen E To Lavieri, Carmine		\$55,000	Prue, Nelson G To Escalante, Pablo A; Ridzor	· Courtmon C	\$192,600
Cadella, John A To Richards, Carole S		\$102,000	03/05/2021	209 Farm Hill Rd	\$33,000	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	1, Courtney 3 1540 Randolph Rd	\$192,000
•	37 Woodland Dr	ψ.σ=/σσσ	Laribee, Noah J	207 1 41111 1111 114		Baldyga Walter M Est; Baldyg	ga, Stephen D	
Vargas, Nancy J		¢444.000	To Connors, Shanleigh	047 - 128 - 1	\$188,000	To Marques, Megan L		\$270,000
To Karsky, Alicia		\$111,000	03/04/2021 Inglis, Karen	316 Farm Hill Rd		03/01/2021 Healy, Linda L	234 S Main St #409	
Middletown			To Fazzino, Jeffrey J		\$225,000	To Ferrucci, Lynn A		\$150,000
03/02/2021 Astle, Richard P; Astle, Antoir	46 Aresco Dr			44 Higby Rd		03/02/2021	53 Shelley Rd	
To Cox, James M; Cox, Missy		\$394,900	Taylor-White, Donna M To Fitzgerald, Tracy S		\$150,500	Zadroga, Ashley A To Welinsky, Johnna		\$219,900
	211 Burgundy Hill Ln		03/05/2021	117 Highland Ave	+ 0/000	03/02/2021	53 Spring St	<i>+2.71,00</i>
StAmand, Joanne To Hegazi, Paula; Hegazi, Mo	hamed M	\$67,000	Haas, Clifford A	J	¢150,000	Rollins, Jahmel	, •	¢227.000
		+ /000	To WJMC LLC		\$150,000	To Beauvelt, Christopher C		\$227,000

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Wytrykowska, Karolina To Rizio, Stepahnie \$171,000 03/02/2021 1261 Washington St #2 Grant, Kristopher C
To Demerchant, Connor J; Demerchant, Elizabeth A \$125,000 **New Britain** 31 5th St Ryan, Mark D; Ryan, Catherine E To Chantharasouk, Amy \$55,460 Newington 03/04/2021 23 Cobblestone Ct Kalisz, Mark J; Kalisz, Barbara G To Thomas, Jacqueline \$299,900 03/04/2021 232 Connecticut Ave Ortiz, Marangelie \$285,000 To Yunus, Tom 03/03/2021 442 Cypress Rd Ripley, Thomas W To Cugno, Craig

\$165,000 **03/05/2021** D2 LLC 9 Elmwood Ct To Joaran LLC \$275,000 03/02/2021 100 Flagler St Flagler Rebuilt LLC To Breer-Ortiz, Sonja E; Ortiz, Angel \$349,000 03/02/2021 189 Goodale Dr Weiner, Gady To lacobucci, Mary P \$267,000 03/03/2021 43 Hampton Ct Mendez Zenobia Est; Urbina, Walt To Hill-Cameron, Adrien

\$139,360

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Pangilinan, Gervacio F; Pangilinan, Shauna L To Daneshmand, Ahmad; Dehlavi, Sakineh 03/04/2021 68 Moreland Ave Kasper, Chester J To Borino, Thomas M \$215,000 03/04/2021 196 Roseleah Ave Cassone, Anthony To Phuoc-Tran, Hien \$260,000 03/03/2021 43 Webster Ct Golia, Philip; Landry, Benoit R To Lunski, Aleksander \$160,100 Rocky Hill 03/04/2021 101 Can Shoemaker, Sarah E; Morello, Sarah E To Kemdi-Ebo, Kelechi 101 Cambric Pl \$210,000 03/01/2021 11 Danforth Ln Pallotti, Joseph J To Agrawal, Shyamsundar G; Agrawal, Poonamshy A \$225,000 03/02/2021 26 Fawn Run Mongeon, Jacqueline M Damato, William; Damato, Cheryle \$527,000 03/01/2021 71 Ridge Rd Compass Point Group LLC To Collis, Thomas W; Collis, Mariann \$250,000 03/02/2021 504 Sky View Dr Fedell, Melissa A \$220,000 Nikocevic, Melani; Marrikanti, Dileep K Wethersfield 03/01/2021 91 Folly Brook Blvd Forouhar, Faripour A Graziano, Frank

03/01/2021 Hamilton, Jourdan A To Sorensen, Jessica L; Johnston, James H \$190,700 Schumann Roy W Est; Schumann, Nancy L To Padula, Antonio \$300,000 03/01/2021 416 Nott St Preniqi, Dan To Huric, Amina \$163,000 03/02/2021 469 Old Reservoir Rd Mitney, Roberta L \$390,000 To Ingrassia, Alexandra 03/03/2021 23 Potter Xing Frede, Nancy To Omiecinski, Michael J \$168,900 03/04/2021 Vu, Jimmy M Nguyen, Thuy T To Scanlon, Stephanie E 80 Reed Dr \$159,000 03/03/2021 38 Spring St Karimian, Reza To Kemp, David \$142,500 03/04/2021 65 Stillwold Dr Fanelli, Eric; Fanelli, Lisa To Gasuk, Alan; Gasuk, Sheila H \$265,000 03/02/2021 27 Wildwood Rd Turner, Laura M To Andrews, Michael R ;Andrews, Laura \$305,000



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Thank You for reading the Rare Reminder.



Easter Parade Drawing Contest! 8 Fun-Packed Easter Baskets will be awarded!

Hurry! DEADLINE IS

Monday, March 29, 2021 - 12 noon

Winners will be judged based on design, creativity, color and neatness. Contest is open to any child up to 10 years old. The contest is divided into four age divisions: Youngsters age 4 & under, 5-6, 7-8 and 9-10 years old. There will be one winner and one runner-up per division.

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Please Check One: ☐ age 4 & under; ☐ 5-6; ☐ 7-8; ☐ 9-10 yrs.

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Bring in or mail entries to: Colette Breton, Rare Reminder, Inc., P.O. Box 289, 222 Dividend Road, Rocky Hill, CT 06067 NO later than MONDAY, MARCH 29th by noon. Winners will be notified by the Rare Reminder and announced in the APRIL 1st edition of the Rare Reminder. PRIZES MUST BE PICKED UP NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, APRIL 2nd BY 12:00PM. (Due to tremendous response, we will be unable to return drawings.)



JAKE IS A HANDSOME, RUSSIAN blue mix. He is a bit cautious because he was just recently rescued. He is very sweet and enjoys attention. Jake also enjoys the company of other cats. He is in need of a nurturing home that will help him regain his confidence. Please fill out an application on our website at www.hucatrescue. org. Call 860-479-5173 or email hucatrescue@gmail.com.



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

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.

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Nikki is a beautiful, Main Coon mix, dilute tortie. She is fully vetted at four months old. Nikkie is looking for a kitty whisperer to work on her confidence with people. She is not aggressive, just a little scared. Nikkie has a handsome brother Mickey also searching for a nurturing home. Please fill

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860-479-5173 or email hucatrescue@gmail.com.

TERRY IS A STUNNING, GRAY tabby. He is a little nervous at first but warms up quickly. Terry is very sweet and enjoys attention. A wonderful boy! Please fill out an application on our website at www.hucatrescue.org. Call

Adopt Me!





Howie is a 7-8 year old bully breed mix (maybe some American Bulldog), who weighs about 80 lbs and has medium energy. He was picked up as a stray at a local park and spent a long time recovering from this trauma. Howie is a very smart boy and loves treats, so training him is fun if you come with a proper treat supply. Because

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

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

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LACEY IS A BEAUTIFUL, BOMBAY mix. She is a very sweet girl and has a mild special needs. Because of an old injury, Lacey requires a stool softener twice a day to help her with her bowel movements. Lacey cooperates and takes it easily. She is quiet, sweet and grateful. Please fill out an application on our website at www.hucatrescue. org. Call 860-479-5173 or email hucatrescue@gmail.

MICKEY IS A HANDSOME, dark gray fluffy teenager. He is in need of a nurturing home to keep on building his confidence. He came in a scared kitten and has been so receptive that he learned quickly to trust. He is a very sweet boy and a love. He will be a great addition to your family. Please fill out an application on our website at www.hucatrescue.org. Call 860-479-5173 or email hucatrescue@gmail.com.



www.aspca.org/news/announcing-top-10-pet-toxins







Names: Winston & Churchill Gender: Males
Breed: DSH Color: Brown Tabbys Age: 4 years old

Winston and his brother Churchill were found abandoned in one of our feral colonies. They are very bonded and must be adopted together. They are extremely affectionate and friendly. They love to be petted, are playful and very cuddly when in the mood. They are both super sweet boys who would love to go home with you! *No Dogs*

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OUR BEAUTIFUL SENIOR lady, Gabby, is still in search of a rescue home. She is a lap cat; loving and affectionate and considers herself equal to humans who she loves. Gabby is on inexpensive thyroid medication which she takes easily every day. Mediation and a yearly blood panel with our vet will be provided to a loving person who will offer their home to Gabby. Gabby is a polydactyl and a talker! Please fill out an application on our website at www.hucatrescue.org. Call 860-479-5173 or email hucatrescue@gmail.com.

REHOMING A PET is never an easy decision but in those rare circumstances where it is necessary to rehome a pet, do so responsibly and humanely. Adoptapet.com now has a Rehome feature to help families who have made the decision to rehome a pet. Shelters and rescue groups focus on those pets in urgent need of help and those that have been abandoned. Rather than placing your pet in overcrowded shelters, Rehome is a better option. For those families that might need help getting through a little rough patch, we recommend the retention site at https://rehome.adoptapet.com/help-keep-pet

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Batman is a handsome, young adult. He's been through a lot so he is naturally cautious at first but he does crave and enjoy people attention. Batman is very polite with other cats but would

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PENNY IS A BEAUTIFUL, MAINE Coon mix. She is a young, senior and in need of a loving, caring home. Penny came to us all matted and barely able to move. She was bored and neglected and all she did was eat and eat. Penny is overweight and must lose weight slowly. She loves her badly needed lion cut. She can feel our pets now and it makes her very happy. She had not felt that in a long time. A wonderful, sweet girl. Please fill out an application on our website at www.hucatrescue.org. Call 860-479-5173 or email hucatrescue@gmail.com.

I want to go home





Archie is a handsome, orange and white tabby who was found begging at a nice woman's door. He is friendly, confident, social and affectionate on his own time. It is estimated that he is a young adult. Archie is eager to find a home and be part of a family again. Please fill out an

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Meet Fritz!

"Peaceful Ruler" is fitting for this 2 year old male cat, Fritz. He's active, loves to play and even likes to snuggle and will even curl up for a nap on your lap! Fritz is a very sweet companion and can get along with some cats but would do best as the only king in his home. Fritz is FIV+, however cats with FIV can live long, normal healthy lives. If you think you could be his forever home, please contact Our Companions at







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



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Addressing Backyard Pet Waste

Pets benefit households in myriad ways. The Animal Health Foundation notes that being around pets can decrease cortisol – a horactivated by stress. Pets also may inspire their owners to engage in physical activ-



ity, such as walks around the neighborhood or play sessions in the back-yard, and a physically active lifestyle can reduce a person's risk for various diseases.

To reap the rewards of a pet, owners must be willing to put in the effort to care for companion animals. This includes those tasks that can be unsavory, such as cleaning up pet waste. Not only is pet waste messy, if left out and about it can be an eyesore, a health risk and affect the quality of the soil in one's yard.

Regular removal of pet waste benefits the environment as well as pets and their owners. There are a variety of solutions that can help people rid their lawns of pet

• Put it in the trash. If allowed, placing waste in a trash receptacle is an option. However, certain areas of the country do not allow feces disposal in landfills. Bacteria found in animal excrement also can leach into the environment if not handled properly.

- Flush it. Another solution is to flush waste down the toilet. But that is not always convenient and it requires owners to bring waste indoors. Do not flush cat waste that is covered in litter
- Utilize a sewer line attachment. This disposal system is connected directly to a septic tank or sewer line. It will require washing out debris and waste that gets stuck in
- Use an enzymatic dog waste dissolver. Soaking waste and using an enzymatic product can dissolve it more safely than using lime or another chemical. It can be used out in the open, or applied to waste stored in a
- Create a septic-style composter. Some people create a mini septic station in their yards in which the waste can break down and then dissolve into a predetermined corner of the property, away from where it can affect the landscape.
- Use a hose and water. Solid waste is not the only concern in the yard. Concentrated urine may contain high levels of nitrogen as well as salts and other compounds, according to The Spruce: Pets. These components alter the pH of the soil and cause patches of grass to die and turn yellow or brown. Females cause more damage because they squat and make a puddle of urine, while males tend to lift their legs and disperse the spray. Wash-

ing down areas where pets urinate can help dilute the urine and prevent

Various products and strategies can help pet owners neatly and safely remove pet waste from their yards.

860.229.8960



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

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

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

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





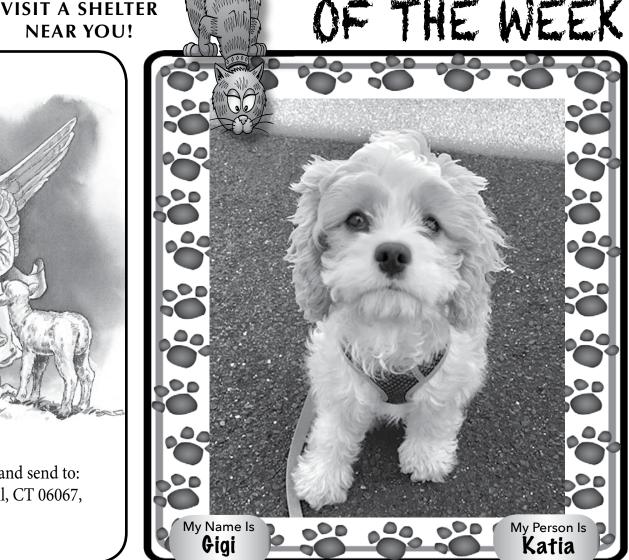
your pet on our PET PAGE

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**

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Rare Reminder 222 Dividend Road Rocky Hill

PART TIME RETAIL: Popular retail apparel and footwear store now hiring cashiers, all shifts. Weekend availability is required for this position. Applicants should be willing to multitask in a busy retail environment. Please apply in person at our courtesy desk, M-F between 10am & 5pm. Mickey Finn's, 874 Berlin Turnpike, Berlin.

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POSITION AVAILABLE: Looking for full time employee for our window and siding crew. Experience with aluminum brake and wrapping is a huge plus. Call 860-568-2063 to inquire about the position.

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P A R T - T I M E LANDSCAPING: 15 hours per week, cutting grass, trimming bushes, etc. for several commercial properties on Silas Deane Highway in Rocky Hill and Wethersfield. Great for retiree. 860-563-2355.

OWN A ROKU, AMAZON FIRE & APPLE TV STATION: Program it for sports, politics, community, your business or anything you want. Apply for Ownership at TelevisionSyndication.com.

DRIVERS NEEDED: To deliver auto parts using own vehicle, full time or part time. Call 860-989-2179 ask for Anthony.

LANDSCAPER LABOR/ **DRIVER:** must have experience and clean driving record. Call Rose 860-233-2815.

PREVENTION COORDINATOR: The Town of Wethersfield is accepting applications for Prevention Coordinator. For additional information and employment application, visit the Town's website at www.wethersfieldct.gov. Recruitment will remain open until April 1, 2021.

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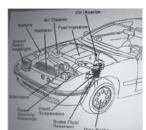
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SPURIS CURILIE

Picture Perfect Week for Newington Girls

by Josh Howard

Newington girls' basketball wrapped up an undefeated regular season with a 53-26 win over Rocky Hill last Friday night, improving the team to 12-0.

Going undefeated was cause for celebration but it was win #11 that was special for another reason.

During a 63-14 victory over Bulkeley/SMSA last Tuesday, the Indians had every uniformed player score during the team's last regular season home game.

"We had everyone score

on our bench and that's the kind of things we like to see," said head coach Marc Tancredi, "The great thing about it is that our starters aren't worried they didn't get into double figures, they're happy that every got to score."

All 15 players scored at least two points, which is a rare feat to say the least.

Ella DePase (10), Karissa Zocco (9), Madison Romanello (8), Brianna Gadarowski (6), Lilly Ferguson (4), Alexie Armour (4), Marlie Zocco (4), Maia Ericson (4), Kayleigh Sanchez (2), Maya Johnson (2), Arianna Barnes (2), Emma Vumback (2), Ella Stair (2), Reese Salder (2), Lia Pouliot (2) each broke into the scoring column.

Tancredi started all four of his seniors (Armour, Romanello, Ericson, Sanchez) in the home finale and said each offer something unique, on and off the court, "They've been incredible. Early on we named them as our captains and they've really been true leaders for us by leading by example and showing our younger group how to prepare. They've



#23 Lilly Ferguson blocks a shot as #3 Karissa Zocco and #20 Brianna Gadarowski look on during Newington's 63-14 win last Tuesday.

done a great job."

From the opening tip it was a mismatch as Newington took a commanding 32-2 midway through the second quarter, before taking the foot off the gas and turning it over to the bench.

DePase, a sophomore, scored all of her game-high 10 points in the third quar-

"We talk about it as a staff that we have to look forward and we're trying to get girls in to get them confidence, so when they step out with a bigger role on the varsity floor, they'll be confident and make an impact."

Ball movement has been the name of the game since Tancredi took the program in 2019. This season the team has emphasized this by sharing the ball more than ever, registering double-digit assists in 11 of 12 games this season.

Ferguson, a transfer from East Catholic and the team's leading scorer, has fit

right in with her willingness to distribute.

"She's super unselfish and she's very versatile. She tries to get others involved and it's great to have her with us," Tancredi said of Ferguson, "She's transitioned here seamlessly. She's a great kid and that's part of the reason why she's been so successful here."

The seniors and Ferguson, along with the Zocco sisters, have a noticeable rapport on the court.

The Zocco twins came off the bench and made an immediate impact at the midway point of the first quarter when Karissa stole a pass and immediately fired a 60-foot cross-court pass to Marlie for a fast break layup.

"The players trust in one another and they know each other's abilities. We're not just keying on one player getting a certain number of shots a game. If someone is going to take away one of our threats, we'll just go somewhere else and we'll have confidence in that. We have prolific scorers, but we have really good compliment players as well."

Newington closed out the regular season with the 27-point win at Rocky Hill, assuring a perfect regular

Ferguson had her usual stellar all-around performance (13-points, 7-rebounds, 5-steals), and [Karissa] Zocco added 12 points and five steals.

Questions or comments? Email josh@rarereminder. com or follow on Twitter @ RareReminderJH

V for Venditti: Sophomore's Range Lifts Eagles Over Terriers

by Josh Howard

Late in the third quarter, Wethersfield's Vanessa Venditti had just missed a pair of free throws and Rocky Hill had reduced a once double-digit lead to four points.

Venditti, a sophomore who head coach Jeff Russell praised for her swag, was undeterred and took over by draining three straight three pointers over a three-minute span as the Eagles held off the visiting Terriers 36-27 last Tuesday night at WHS.

"She's got genuine confidence. It's helpful that she does have confidence, because in high school sports if you have a kid that can go get a bucket you're in games," added Russell, "She's been that person for us so far this year. She's got the ability to get hot quick."

Wethersfield led from start to finish, charging out to a 11-0 lead four minutes into the game.

Alexa Grenier dominated the paint early, scoring 7 of her game-high 13 points in the first quarter.

Grenier, a junior, missed the start of the season but has since been a steady force.

Russell said that Grenier always had the ability and now she has the confidence to go along with it, "She's had a couple spurts this year where she has taken over defensively and offensively. She had a couple of threes tonight, she made some inside plays, and

she's a terrific passer."

Following a disappointing start, Rocky Hill slowly clawed back into the game behind an exceptional defensive effort. After allowing 24 points in the first half, the Terriers limited the Eagles to 12 (all from beyond the arc) over the final 16 minutes.

Head coach James McKinnon praised his team for the defensive turnaround when addressing them following the loss, "I think we need to believe that we can be in games against these top schools. It takes us four or five minutes to catch on that we are just as good as these schools, and I think defensively we we're right there."

After holding the Eagles scoreless for the first four minutes of the third, Peggy Minga's three-pointer narrowed the deficit to 24-20.

On the following possession, Venditti nailed a three from the right wing.

Rocky Hill senior Jennifer Kimball countered by banking in a three-pointer from straight away before Grenier canned a clutch shot from downtown in the closing seconds of the third, providing the home team a 30-24 advantage.

Venditti hit two more triples early in the fourth and the Terriers offense stalled, scoring only three in the final frame.

"I've got to give Venditti credit, she can shoot from anywhere and she really stepped up for them," added McKinnon, "We need to get better offensively, like finishing around the basket. We're not there yet and we can't afford to miss these shots in the paint. We make a few more of those it's a different game down the stretch but give Wethersfield credit they made the shots when they needed to."

Minga had a team-high nine points and grabbed six rebounds, while Jillian Chipkin added seven points and a ripped down a dozen rebounds.

Minga has worked her way back from an injury to add much-needed firepower for the Terriers lineup.

"It's great to have Peggy back. She's a hard worker with so much perseverance after 13 months of rehab with torn ACL and meniscus. For her to come back was emotional for her and her family and I'm so glad that she's able to finish out her senior year playing."

Following the Wethersfield loss, the Terriers closed the regular season with a home win over Maloney and a loss to Newington, wrapping up a 2-5 regular season.

Due to a Covid-related delayed start, Rocky Hill was forced to play all seven games over a 10-day span.

Hannah Conneely had a team-high 10 points in each of the final two home game, adding seven steals in the win over Maloney.

Chipkin added 12 more rebounds against Maloney, finishing the regular season with double-digit boards in six of seven

Wethersfield followed with a convincing win over Bulkeley/SMSA, closing the regular season at 9-3.

It was the team's ninth win in ten games, following an 0-2 start.

Russell credited the turnaround with a deep bench that rounded into shape.

"Some kids have developed into those integral roles. Our kids have more clearly defined roles, which allows you to play and practice better because you're repeating the things in practice that you need to do in a game. Also, our intensity picked up and we still struggle to score a bit but our defense and our rebounding is better. We've only been outrebounded in one game this year," stated Russell, who commended the team for rolling with the punches during an unconventional season, "It's a very energetic group. Good or bad, even if we miss free throws or something doesn't go right, things roll off their backs. It's nice to have kids that are always ready for the next play. They're

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ST. JUDE, Thank you again for answering my prayers. Publication promised. A.O.

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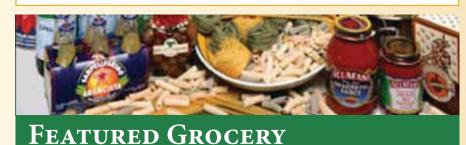
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