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The Chronicle

Middletown's Community Newspaper

Volume 24, Number 9
September 2026

FLOCK Camera Plan On Hold After Growing Public Outcry



By Margaret Radman
Freelance Writer

MIDDLETOWN— Once touted as a cutting-edge tool to help police solve crimes and save lives, Flock Safety's surveillance technology is facing new scrutiny in Middletown after Mayor Gene Nocera declined to sign a proposed $50,000 contract for the company's Drone as First Responder Program, amidst growing backlash over privacy concerns from the community.

Nocera's decision came following public outcry from residents at a recent Town Council meeting drawing some 20 to 30 vocal objectors who spoke out against the public safety technology that would have been used by fire and police departments.

"The testimony highlighted significant concerns about privacy, public trust, and the possibility that surveillance footage ... could, if improperly accessed or misused, be exploited in ways that compromise the privacy of our residents," Nocera said.

The $50,000 contract for the Drone as First Responder Program was broadly opposed by area residents who viewed it as an infringement on privacy and Fourth Amendment rights. Opponents further claimed that the technology could be used indiscriminately to facilitate unjust immigration enforcement.

But Police Chief Erik Costa supported the technology, saying it was misunderstood, explaining that the drone was not equipped with automatic license plate reader (ALPR) capability and its purpose was not investigative. "The drone's purpose is not surveillance, it's first response," he confirmed.

While this technology is distinct from speed enforcement cameras that are still in use in Middletown, increasing public objection surrounding the use of all types of automated surveillance raises concern that citizens will oppose any form of automated surveillance on the same grounds.

Such is the case in Greenwich and Fairfield that have modified speed camera use, Kent that voted down the use of automated

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Top-Selling Author Fondly Remembers Growing Up In Small-Town Cromwell



By Gary Kleeblatt
Freelance Writer

CROMWELL—Keep your eye on the audience.

That's the recipe for success for Nicolas DiDomizio, who grew up in Cromwell and has authored four books already - at only 38 years old.

"I love to laugh," said DiDomizio, who now lives in Saratoga Springs, NY with his partner and their dog. "As a reader, that is what keeps me engaged - with a fun voice that's smart and clever and makes people laugh."

"The entire goal is to keep the reader engaged and entertained and laughing," he said of what guides his writing.

He knows what he's doing. His latest novel - "A Murder Most Camp" - climbed the USA Today bestseller list in May. And he has received acclaim from critics and authors. Star author James Patterson praised DiDomizio's work as "unforgettable." The New York Times wrote that "DiDomizio's voicey, lively writing shines." Other publication reviews have been similarly positive, including from People Magazine.

DiDomizio lived in Cromwell his entire childhood. He credits a middle school teacher for recognizing and nurturing his writing skills. She recommended that he attend a UConn

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Let's Help Our Friends And Neighbors

By Community Foundation of Middlesex County

Right now, a growing number of people across our community need a helping hand. They are our neighbors—hardworking individuals striving to make ends meet, seniors living on fixed incomes, and young people working to get a strong start. They want to care for their loved ones and provide the basics we all need to thrive.

At the Community Foundation of Middlesex County (CFMC), we see inspiring examples every day of people coming together to lend a hand and strengthen our community. We celebrate the local nonprofits, volunteers, donors, and towns working together to help, and we invite everyone to join them and do their part, in whatever way they can.

Hunger Action Month and Diaper Need Awareness Week. September is Hunger Action Month, making it the perfect time to get involved and make a difference. In our region, 1 in 7 people and 1 in 6 children face hunger. Food pantries, meal sites, and food drives throughout Middlesex County are stepping up to meet these growing needs. To make nutritious food more accessible, many pantries now operate directly inside town halls, churches, and schools. September also shines a light on another important community need: ensuring every family has an adequate supply of disposable diapers. While diapers are an everyday necessity, they remain out of reach for many families because government safety-net programs do not cover them—and yet child care programs require them. Helping families access these necessities is a simple but meaningful way to preserve dignity, reduce everyday stress, and help parents focus on what they do best—raising healthy, happy children.

You Can Make an Impact. Making a difference can start with something as simple as donating to a local food or diaper center or nonprofit. And you do not have to do it alone. Partner with your workplace, civic organization, or social group to host a drive for a local food pantry or diaper distribution center. Roll up your sleeves and volunteer to help local organizations collect, sort, and distribute donated items. Together, we can turn our care for our community into meaningful action—and help ensure our friends and neighbors have the essentials they need to thrive.

Partnering for Lasting Change. A healthy community is a thriving community, and it is one we are incredibly proud to support. We are deeply grateful for the local organizations that provide access to nutritious food and essential items, and we thank everyone who volunteers time, provides financial support, or brings a passion for making a difference to where they live, work, and play. We celebrate – and thank – those who work through CFMC to support their specific areas of interest. Together, we establish funds that provide vital support for animal welfare, arts and culture, health and social services, history, education, economic security, the environment, civic improvements, recreation, and so much more.

CFMC is proud to be accredited with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations®, the nation's highest and most rigorous standard for philanthropic excellence. We encourage you to get involved and support a cause in your local community today. Call us at (860) 347-0025 or email info@MiddlesexCountyCF.org to get the conversation started.



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Residents Push For Safety Measures With Railroad Bridge Rehabilitation Plan



By Margaret Radman
Freelance Writer

MIDDLETOWN—As plans get underway for rehabilitation of the 115-year-old, 1142-foot-long Portland-Middletown Railroad Bridge, discussions are being taken up by project planners to incorporate safety measures into the blueprint to help prevent tragedies and suicides that have become all too familiar at the nearby Arrigoini Bridge.

The renowned railroad bridge, that was featured prominently in Billy Joel's River of Dreams video in 1993, is still in use to a limited degree, primarily by Red Technologies, a hazardous waste disposal facility in Portland, according to statements from state Department of Transportation (DOT) Project Manager Nicholas Martin.

The infamous bridge has earned fame for both good and not so good reasons, mainly because of its proximity to the Arrigoni Bridge that has been the site of multiple tragedies and suicide attempts over the last 17 or so years.

Historically, the Middletown Police Department documented about 80 emergency calls regarding suicidal individuals on or near the Arrigoni Bridge over a nine-year stretch from 2008 to 2017, according to sources.

Most recently, in 2025, first responders handled back-to-back crisis calls just days apart. On Oct. 22, a motorist called in a jumper; a multi-agency search using police dogs located a man with severe injuries near Portland Street. Less than a week later, on Oct. 27, emergency personnel, marine units, and dive teams deployed sonar and drones for a separate incident, ultimately recovering a deceased individual from the water, according to media sources.

The most disturbing of these incidents was the 2015 case of Tony Moreno who tossed his infant son off the Arrigoni bridge and then jumped off himself in an apparent suicide attempt that he survived. Moreno is currently serving a 70-year sentence for the death of his son.

These tragic events triggered the installation of taller fencing along the Arrigoni bridge with the addition of hotline signs, and raised the question at the Aug. 4 DOT-led railroad bridge renovation meeting of increasing safety measures and including suicide prevention designs as part of the planned bridge upgrades.

The meeting outlined the overall goals of the $87 million project that would essentially reinforce the bridge integrity to include:

-Increasing load capacity

-General structural rehabilitation to strengthen the bridge substructure

-Replacing fender systems - the structures around the bridge piers that protect the bridge from vessel impacts

-Modernization of mechanical and electrical systems

-New signage for marine traffic with posted tides and bridge closures

But residents raised the possibility of incorporating suicide-prevention measures into the bridge project, with one vocal member of the pubic sharing her personal tragedy of losing her son who jumped from a Connecticut bridge. She made the point that the bridge design should feature things like barriers or guardrails, better lighting, emergency phones, and crisis intervention signs that would be deterrents to individuals in crisis and provide more options to them at a critical time of need.

"This isn't just another infrastructure project. It's an opportunity to save lives," said Tia Woods at the Q&A session of the meeting.

"When we rebuild bridges, we don't just think about steel, concrete and engineering — we think about safety," she added.

Though there are no documented incidents of anyone attempting suicide from the Portland-Middletown Railroad Bridge, DOT Project Manager Martin asserted that he would push the project team to incorporate safety features as bridge reconstruction moves forward, which is not expected to begin until fall of 2028.

"There is no cost you can attach to a human life," Martin said, who shared that he, too, had experienced personal loss and recognized the importance of suicide awareness.

"I promise you we will be having these conversations," he confirmed.

FLOCK Camera Plan On Hold After Growing Public Outcry

Continued from page 1

traffic technology entirely, Milford that has paused ALPR installation while speed and red light cameras are being debated, along with Windsor and Killingworth that dropped their contract with Flock for ALPR's.

Furthermore, Gov. Ned Lamont has called for a statewide pause on the installation of new ALPR's pending further guidance from the Connecticut Police Officers Standards and Training Council on data collection, access, storage and sharing, according to an August press release.

"I understand that this equipment is intended to keep our towns and roads safe—and that's a good thing—but we must have clear policies in place regarding what is happening with this data, who has access to it, and how it can be used," Lamont said.

Though the consensus among law enforcement agencies is that the benefits of surveillance technology outweigh the drawbacks, barring any state mandates, its future may face ongoing challenges as decisions about its use ultimately rest with municipalities and the residents they represent.



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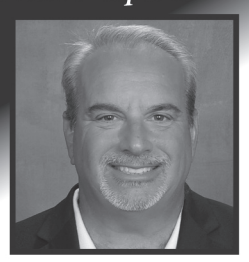
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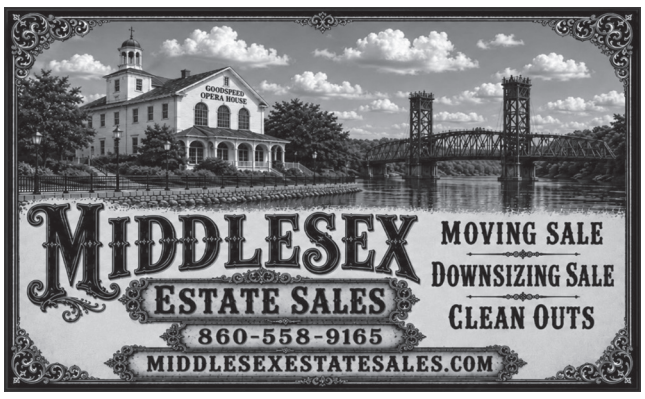
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Mattabassett Sludge Burning Exceeded Air Emission Standards

By Joyce Boncal
Freelance Writer

CROMWELL— There is no getting around it - wastewater treatment is a dirty business.

Have you ever wondered where the "dirty" water from your house, apartment, or condominium goes? That water, known as sewage, travels through an underground network of pipes to a wastewater treatment plant. For residents of Cromwell, Middletown, New Britain, Berlin, Newington, Rocky Hill and Farmington, that destination is the Mattabassett District wastewater treatment facility at 245 Main Street in Cromwell.

According to the Mattabassett District facility, the plant has operated around the clock, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, since opening in 1968. Today, it treats between 25 and 35 million gallons of wastewater each day.

If the plant treats water, how did it end up violating air emission standards? The answer lies in the final stage of the wastewater treatment process.

When sewage arrives at the plant, it first passes through screens that remove large debris such as wipes, rags, sticks, and plastic. Sand and gravel settle out, while heavier solids sink to the bottom of large settling tanks where they form sludge. Oil and grease float to the surface, where they are skimmed off.

The remaining water then enters aeration tanks, where oxygen is added to encourage naturally occurring bacteria to consume dissolved organic matter - a process similar to composting. As the water becomes cleaner, additional solids settle out and become more sludge. The treated water is then disinfected before being discharged into the Connecticut River.

The remaining sludge is treated, dried, and ultimately burned in a sewage sludge incinerator. This significantly reduces the volume of waste, however, incineration can release pollutants into the air, including mercury. For that reason, the incinerator must comply with strict state and federal air emission standards.

Bill Flood of the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) said the Mattabassett District was fined $65,400 for "failure to submit certain required reports, to timely apply for renewal of its operating permit, and to timely perform emission testing of its sewage sludge incinerator." The district has since obtained a renewed operating permit that expires in December 2029.

Elevated mercury emissions were detected during testing in 2024. According to DEEP records, the facility passed its mercury emissions test on Aug. 21, 2025, after repairs were made to a leaking bypass valve that had been identified as the source of the excess emissions.

Cromwell Mayor James Demetriades said he was concerned that the town was not notified by DEEP until after the agency and the Mattabassett District had entered into a consent order. During the July 8 Town Council meeting, Deputy Mayor Al Waters expressed concern that wildlife may have been affected by mercury exposure. This is not the first time the facility has faced mercury-related issues; Mattabassett also exceeded mercury emission limits in 2002.

Mercury released into the atmosphere can settle onto soil and surface waters, where microorganisms convert it into methylmercury, a highly toxic form that accumulates in fish. Monitoring fish tissue is one of the most effective ways to determine whether mercury has entered the local environment and food chain. However, no recent data could be found indicating that DEEP has conducted fish tissue testing in waters surrounding the Mattabassett facility.

Members of the public may attend and speak during the Mattabassett District's monthly board meetings which are held at the Administration Building, 245 Main Street, Cromwell. The next meeting is on August 17 at 7 p.m.



God Sees, God Cares!

"He (GOD) appointeth the number of THE STARS; He calleth them all by their names. GREAT IS OUR LORD, and of great power: His understanding is infinite"
Psalm 147:4-5

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God Really Is After All

He is OVER ALL, He is FOR ALL. God is not absent. God is only a step away. Believe and receive Christ Jesus with all your heart today, without delay. "But as many as RECEIVED HIM, to them gave HE power to become the children of God, even to them that BELIEVE ON HIS NAME" (John 1: 12). "HE THAT HATH THE SON HATH LIFE; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the Name of the Son of God; that ye may KNOW that ye have ETERNAL LIFE" (1 John 5:12-13). "And this is LIFE ETERNAL, that they might KNOW THEE the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent" (John 17:3).

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Three Locations Fined For Tobacco Violations

By Liam McLoughlin
Staff Writer

CROMWELL — Cromwell Police performed unannounced compliance checks on businesses selling tobacco products and e-cigarettes last week, revealing three to be reportedly non-compliant.

The police department announced a total of 24 checks were performed on Aug. 10.

The surprise inspections were conducted with help from the state Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, as part of the Tobacco Prevention and Enforcement Program.

According to police, the checks were performed "in an effort to determine compliance with state laws concerning the prohibition of the sale of tobacco products and/or electronic cigarettes to youth under the age of 21."

Clerks from Cloud World Smoke Shop and Cloud City were said to be found in violation of a state statute banning the sale of an "electronic nicotine delivery system or vape product" to someone younger than 21. They were fined $1,000.

A clerk working at Teddy's Gulf Gas Station was said to be in violation of a statute banning the sale of cigarettes or tobacco products to individuals younger than 21. The clerk was fined $300 for a first time infraction.

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School Cell Phone Ban Remains Issue For Local School Boards

By Margaret Radman
Freelance Writer

AREA—As Connecticut schools prepare to return to the classroom, students could face tighter restrictions on cell phones under new state guidance enacted at a recent August legislative session recommending that districts mandate controls on personal devices during the school day.

The Connecticut State Board of Education's recommendation comes after an attempt to establish a statewide cell phone ban during class time failed during an earlier legislative session in 2024, leaving decisions regarding cell phone use at the discretion of school districts.

"There was a proposed law in this last legislative session that would have banned cell phones from the beginning to the end of the day but that was not taken up and not passed this legislative session so now these new recommendations from the State Board of Education serve as just a recommendation and not a law," according to recent media coverage in Newington.

The State Board of Education unanimously adopted these updated guidelines to help districts implement comprehensive technology policies just ahead of the 2026–27 school year.

The legislative act recommends bell to bell restriction not just on phones but all personal and emerging technology such as smart watches.

Demand for stronger regulation of personal device use in the classroom comes amidst growing concern that excessive cell phone and electronic device use among youth is distracting, interfering with student concentration, resulting in poor social, emotional, and health outcomes, according to U.S. Surgeon General findings.

Furthermore, educators have cited cell phones as a major classroom disruption, according to State Department of Education studies.

Current bell to bell district bans - the entire school day - on personal technology device use at the elementary and middle school level are at about 70% of schools statewide, with high school bans at about 31%. Districts who have adopted a no cell phone policy require phones and personal devices to be silenced and stored away for the entire school day.

Opponents to a complete ban argue that they will be unable to communicate with their children during an emergency although officials maintain that in the event of an emergency, open lines of communication between parents and students will remain intact.

The current recommendation that falls short of a complete restriction allows for flexibility within districts, argue its supporters.

"Every school district has their own context. …is up to the board and administration," remarked Fran Rabinowitz of the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents.

"I agree we shouldn't have phones in the classroom but our school boards are really good at doing their job," commented Cromwell State Rep. Christie Carpino.

Despite the failed 2024 attempt to ban cell phone and personal technology use in the classroom, Gov. Ned Lamont is in support of a ban at the state level, with expectation for a bill to be reintroduced at the next legislative session in early 2027.



Coffee Social - For Solo Agers

NEWINGTON— Solo Agers Connect will hold a coffee social for those over 50 aging alone on the third Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. at Chick-Fil-A, 3240 Berlin Tpke. The group provides an opportunity for solo agers to get together for coffee and conversation with their peers in the area. Registration is appreciated. Register online at https://soloagersconnect.com/events or call 860-930-3253.

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WARNING OF THE ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING OF THE CROMWELL FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The Annual Meeting of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in meetings of the Cromwell Fire District will be held at the Cromwell Town Hall, 41 West Street in the Town of Cromwell on Monday, October 5, 2026 at 4:00 PM local time. The purpose of the meeting is to elect three (3) Commissioners for a term of three (3) years each. Polls open from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Absentee ballot applications will be available online at www.cromwellfd.com and at the Fire District Office, 1 West Street, Cromwell, CT after September 4, 2026.

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Officials Set Salary Range, Benefits As Town Manager Search Continues

By Liam McLoughlin
Staff Writer

CROMWELL — A pipeline transportation company is planning to upgrade its Progress is being made in the search for the next town manager as the Town Council has set a salary amount for the position.

At a special meeting, the Town Council, along with the current Town Manager Anthony Salvatore, Human Resources Director Ginger Frasca, and Finance Director Sharon DeVoe, discussed contract details for the soon-to-be vacant position.

The group entered an executive session for these discussions.

"I encourage the Town Council to be extremely thoughtful in this evaluation," resident James Rude said prior to the council entering executive session. "We need our new town manager to be experienced, energetic, creative, personable and visionary — one who can move Cromwell forward to bigger and better things."

Following the executive session, councilors approved a salary range between $160,000 and $190,000 for the position.

The group also set minimum qualifications for the position, including "experience in advising elected or senior level officials, fostering collaborative labor and community relations and managing complex government operations."

A full list of the position summary, minimum qualifications, preferred qualifications, 15 essential functions, has yet to be released, but will be published, according to Mayor James Demetriades.

The position will also receive relocation reimbursement and a travel reimbursement at the discretion of the town council, he said.

"Let me just give my compliments to Ginger for her research and advocacy and work on this. This is very impressive," Mayor Demetriades said at the end of the meeting.

Local Improvements Planned As Part Of Gas Pipeline Project

By Liam McLoughlin
Staff Writer

CROMWELL — A pipeline transportation company is planning to upgrade its Cromwell infrastructure to help increase its natural gas capacity and improve the reliability throughout the northeast.

Enbridge proposed the enhancement to its Algonquin Gas Transmission system, operated by Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC, in September 2025, reporting that improvements will result in the ability to deliver 75 million cubic feet of natural gas per day.

According to the project website, Enbridge explains the northeast has experienced some of the highest energy prices in the U.S., and this enhancement project is seen as a solution to the "bottleneck of pipeline constraints that have plagued the region, helping to enhance peak-day capacity."

"This project is designed to increase reliable supply and improve affordability by reducing winter price volatility for customers," Enbridge said in 2025.

The AGT is a 1,131-mile natural gas pipeline that stretches across the northeast, from New Jersey into Massachusetts, touching land in New York, Connecticut and Rhode Island.

The project seeks to address the needs of existing infrastructure, and will not require the construction of new compressor stations.

However, one compressor station due for an upgrade is in Cromwell. The company has specified the site will receive software modifications. Other upgrades to various parts of the multi-state system include pipeline installations, replacements, extensions.

In a statement responding to another project on Enbridge's books designed to boost natural gas service to the region, dubbed "Project Beacon," the Sierra Club Connecticut chapter condemned the upgrades. The club said the state is "overreliant on methane gas for electricity when renewable options are readily available to meet the region's needs."

The grass roots environmental agency also said the Enbridge-owned compressor in Cromwell has previously violated air permits, which resulted in the emission of "excess amounts of health-harming volatile organic compounds" within one mile of the Cromwell Middle School.

According to a VOC RACT Compliance Plan prepared by TRC Environmental Corporation, AGT, LLC, entered into a compliance plan in 2021 to achieve "an overall 86% reduction in allowable VOC emissions from natural gas venting" after exceeding 50 tons per year in 2014.

While final approvals are still required, Enbridge plans to do the work in 2028 with completion estimated for 2029.

Military Whist

St. John Church, 5 St, John Court, Cromwell, will be hosting a Military Whist on Thursday, September 10th. Doors open at 5:30 pm for refreshments and social hour. Game begins promptly at 6:30 pm with Kevin Welch as caller. Admission fee is $10. Raffle prizes and a 50/50 raffle will also take place. The church hall is handicapped accessible-elevator is located at entrance near the front side parking lot. More parking in rear of church.

Meditation and Talk Sundays

Buddhist Faith Fellowship offers Meditation & Talk Sundays twice monthly from 9:00–10:45 AM at 343 Washington Terrace, Middletown, overlooking the Shōyōan Teien Japanese Garden. Each session includes guided meditation, talk, and discussion on mindfulness and everyday life. Open to all, with free street parking available. Learn more: https://www.bffct.org.

Movies at the Cromwell Senior Center

Join us every Friday at 1 p.m. in the Library's Arch Room for a fresh showing of a new film on the big screen. Please contact the senior center for more information and to register, at 860-632-3447.

New Members Welcome at CCCWC

Want to be part of a group of women who work hard to support area libraries, schools, students, veterans, and more – all while having fun? The Central Connecticut Community Women's Club meets the 2nd Wed. of the month, Sept-May at 7 pm in Cromwell Town Hall, 41 West St., Rm. 222. For more information, check us out on Facebook.



Rare Reminder & The Chronicle join together to produce a

Fall 2026

super savings coupon book

Published Oct. 29
Deadline Oct. 15

Upcoming Schedule: Feb. 2027, April 2027 & July 2027

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

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

Total circulation is over 55,000!

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

Call your sales representative today!
860.563.9386 or
email sales@rarereminder.com

Rare Reminder, Inc.
P.O. Box 289, 222 Dividend Road • Rocky Hill, CT 06067

SHOULD I DEED MY HOUSE TO THE KIDS?

We are asked this question often. It's a significant concern when preserving our lifestyles and assets are both very much on all of our minds. And the simple answer is: maybe. When someone transfers their home (or anything else for that matter), there are legal consequences involving ownership rights and responsibilities, insurance, income taxes, gift taxes and possible future Medicaid (Title 19) eligibility. And then what happens if someone then gets sick, undergoes a major life change or passes away?

We're your hometown lawyers. Let our family protect yours.



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Residents of the Westfield District who are interested in the fire, rescue and/or EMS service(s) are strongly encouraged to apply for membership!

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0423cm

Top-Selling Author Fondly Remembers Growing Up In Small-Town Cromwell

Continued from page 1

writing workshop and DiDomizio took the opportunity. "It was a formative moment because I didn't know writing was a strong point for me," he remembered.

He said Cromwell made an impact on him - just not what people might expect if they come from elsewhere. "Cromwell doesn't fit most people's idea of what Connecticut is,' DiDomizio said. 'It's not Greenwich or Fairfield. But I appreciate that small town experience because it made the world a less scary place."

He went on to attend Western Connecticut State University, where he was further encouraged to develop his writing. Then he attended New York University where he studied the music business. That landed him a job at MTV upon graduation, and then on to a media startup business, and then Apple, where he still works in marketing.

He wrote the first novel in 2021, "Burn It All Down," then wrote "The Gay Best Friend" in 2023, and "Nearlywed" in 2024. DiDomizio describes himself as a "genre" author of mysteries and romantic comedies. He said he merged the comedy and the murder mystery genres in the most recent "A Murder Most Camp." He said his publisher encouraged him to explore the murder mystery theme.

"Murder mysteries are always a proven market," he said.

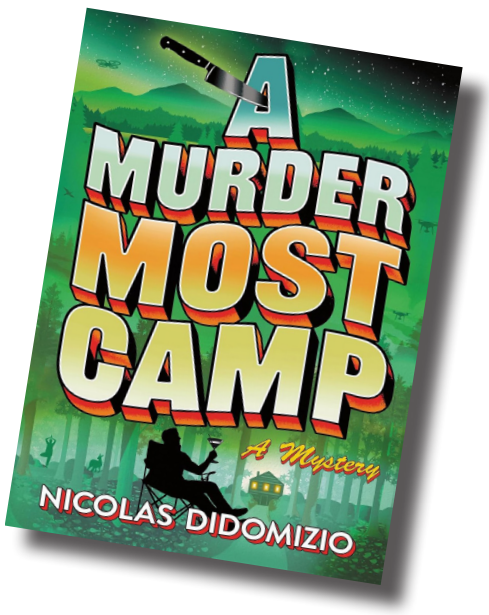
DiDomizio is also demanding of himself enough to push the envelope of any of the genres he works in.

"I try to strike a balance between meeting expectations and subverting them," he concluded.

"A reader wants their attention to be held but it needs to be grounded in the truth. That's the hard part."

He's also disciplined enough to continue to be a productive writer while also working full time. "It's a lot but I squeeze it in very early mornings, weekends and nights," DiDomizio said. He also credited the publishing industry with helping him hone his craft.

"I got an MFA through experience," he said. "I got great feedback from literary agents for 15 years and from publishers. So I'm self taught and then the industry trained me."



Arts Group Awards Local Scholarship



CROMWELL — The Cromwell Arts Alliance recently awarded Matthew Fiske a $500 Scholarship. Fiske graduated from Cromwell High School in June, and will be using the scholarship towards Western Connecticut State University for music education.

CAA Scholarships are awarded yearly to Cromwell residents ages 10 through adults to use towards programs related to the arts.

Residents can look out for the next scholarship information in the spring of 2027.

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

Cromwell

08/04/2026 — **1-G Co Squire Dr**
Morris, Rachel
To Fitzpatrick, Janae — $172,300

08/06/2026 — **59 Coles Rd**
Fizinus, Leonardo
To Better Buyer LLC — $230.000

08/03/2026 — **93 Court St**
Bradley, Deborah M — Bradley, Eric
To Butakova, Sergey — Butakova, Inna — $506,000

08/06/2026 — **32 Franklin Rd**
Carlin, Andrew — Carlin, Cassandra
To Coe, Daniel — Alicea, Kayla — $530,000

08/04/2026 — **11 Watch Hill Cir #11**
Cerasani, Roberto
To Patel, Krisha — $345,000

07/30/2026 — **17 Edgewood St**
Trapp, Adam — Defurio, Ashley
To Williams, Cheryl — Fragomeni, Tiffany — $450,000

07/31/2026 — **17 Lancaster Rd**
Aylward, Carol A
To Trapp, Adam — $587,500

07/29/2026 — **142 Woodland Dr #142**
Phelan, Seth W — Delgobbo, Alyssa M
To Zaidi, Syed — $181,000

07/21/2026 — **7 Capilos Dr**
Vandersloot, Kevin A — Vandersloot, Michelle E
To Dewey, David — Brownstein, Emma C — $505,000

07/23/2026 — **8 Vicki Ln**
Gustavsen, Lisa M
To Kelly, Thomas — Kelly, Abby — $390,000

07/20/2026 — **22 West St**
Halligan, Christine
To Mangino, Chayse — Masto, Michael — $457,500

07/24/2026 — **206 Woodland Dr #206**
Boyle, Kareem
To Erickson, Caelan — $181,000

07/14/2026 — **15 Cherokee Ct #15**
Kowalczyk, Barbara J
To Barbeau, Rianna L — Arini, Rosa M — $315,500

07/17/2026 — **Cromwell Gdns #2-223**
Akhter, Wasim — Parveen, Sahesta
To Katta, Rohith K R — $190,000

07/16/2026 — **9 Nordland Ave**
Mccann, Jessica
To Saunders, Gregory — $180,000

07/15/2026 — **19 Winthrop Blvd**
Albertsen, Sidney C
To Jd Investment Prop LLC — $340,000

Middletown

08/04/2026 — **72 Annello Way**
Lichtcsien, Susan L
To Sheppard, John P — $700,000

08/05/2026 — **67 Bell St**
Canfield, Craig E
To Campbell, Levi C — Petrario, Sarah — $540,000

08/05/2026 — **46 Bretton Rd**
Laviero, Hillary
To Iacullo, Samuel — Iacullo, Rebecca — $485,000

08/07/2026 — **58 Brown St**
Ciarleglio, Gary — Ciarleglio, Tanya
To Falco 2nd, Mark E — Falco, Katelyn L — $445,000

08/05/2026 — **31 Burr Ave**
Prentiss, Criag G
To Myer, Andrew — Myer, Edward — $315,000

08/04/2026 — **37 Cranberry Ln**
Merida Irt — Merida, Lara R
To Lim, Sukbin — $650,000

08/06/2026 — **515 E Main St**
Elysium LLC
To Gemstone Holdings LLC — $226,000

08/03/2026 — **17 Inverness Ln**
Perez, Jose — Coronado, Claritza
To Ocolon, Gabriel D — $250,000

08/06/2026 — **87 Lewis St**
Goldreich, Lisa B — Brown, Marcie A
To Morales, Wendy L — $380,000

08/05/2026 — **737 Newfield St**
Wbl Spo I LLC
To Mcfarlane, Omar — $425,000

08/03/2026 — **210 Ridge Rd**
Kilian, John P — Kilian, Beth S
To Stafford, Jameson — Gurley, Skyler — $398,500

08/04/2026 — **234 S Main St #416**
Osborne, James W
To Gogliettino, Cathyann — Gogliettino, Richard J — $295,000

08/07/2026 — **1258 Saybrook Rd**
Gombotz, Susan M
To Rook, Tyler P — Souza, Dorothy B — $450,000

08/03/2026 — **30 Snipes Ter**
Poppel Marcelyn Est — Ordway, Michelle J
To Hale, Emma J — $405,000

07/29/2026 — **390 Ballfall Rd**
Mary A Ziemba Ret — Ziemba, Mary A
To Delapaz Jr, Luis A — $400,000

07/27/2026 — **325 Barbara Rd**
Ganci Jr, Corrado
To Bicki, Alexander — $355,000

07/31/2026 — **656 Bartholomew Rd #656**
Vierling, Sean M — Hug, Samantha
To O'Albee, Lindsey A — O'Shaughnessy, Clare — $375,000

07/28/2026 — **91 Berkeley Rd**
Thompson, Melissa D
To Pettigrew, Maria — Pettigrew, Ian — $360,000

07/31/2026 — **23 Burgundy Hill Ln #23**
Olson, Tyler — Kelley, Katherine
To Ricketts, Tariq M — $124,000

07/29/2026 — **131 Carriage Corssing Ln #5105**
Venice, Natalie
To Zacchia, Vincenzo — Zacchia, Virginia — $255,000

07/27/2026 — **201 College St #8**
Noetzel, Kathryn
To Sullivan, John W — Sullivan, Carol — $190,000

07/31/2026 — **111 Dekoven Dr #202**
Ramandi, Nick — Yousefirmandi, Zahra
To Lagana, Salvatore J — Lagana, Kristen M — $175,000

07/31/2026 — **14 E Lake Dr**
Alstrits, Michael C
To Banks, Ashley — $330,000

07/31/2026 — **7 Evergreen Ave**
Markovics, James
To Sst Painting & Carpentry — $157,600

07/29/2026 — **43 Flynn Ln**
Steiner, David H — Steiner, Susan A
To Cecunjanin, Semso — $550,000

07/28/2026 — **40 Hillcrest Ave**
Bendzans, Carly
To Dimauro, Gabriela — $420,000

07/30/2026 — **74 Johnson St**
Dietz, Chrstian
To Ogilvie, Claire — $410,000

07/30/2026 — **408 Maromas Rd**
Casella, Richard — Casella, Michayla
To Stewart, Margaret — $450,000

07/28/2026 — **5 Ridge Rd**
Mascolo Jr, Joseph A
To Piche, Nathan — $340,000

07/27/2026 — **409 Ridge Rd**
David P Shulz Lt — Schulz, Eden W
To Wheelwright, Tess — Jardine, Samson K — $415,000

07/31/2026 — **650 Ridgewood Rd**
Canzellarini, Carol
To Hassett, Jason — Hassett, Maggie — $55,000

07/31/2026 — **1985 S Main St**
1985 South Main St LLC
To Black Diamond Partners — $350,000

07/31/2026 — **2015 S Main St**
Tricon International Ltd
To Black Diamond Partners — $350,000

07/31/2026 — **38 Sylvan Dr**
Kelley, Wesley W — Kelley, Kathleen M
To Austin, Gregory R — $500,000

07/20/2026 — **88 Bailey Rd**
Nancy J Debiasio T — Debiasio, Robin E
To Astone, Matthew — $390,000

07/21/2026 — **308 Cambridge Cmns #308**
Mulligan, Jamie M
To Gwillim, Kelly — Gwillim, Robert — $321,000

07/20/2026 — **108 Cambridge Cmns**
Taylor, Justin S
To Pinckney, Ryan — $365,000

07/21/2026 — **8 Countryside Ln #5**
Camire, Lynn J
To Molinaro, Jason G — $245,000

07/20/2026 — **168 Hendley St**
Bergeron, Jason
To Capeci, Bradley — $402,500

07/21/2026 — **133 Highland Ave**
Ksp Ventures LLC
To 34 Hawthorne LLC — $220,000

07/20/2026 — **35 Industrial Park Pl**
Gerber, James S
To 35 Ipp LLC — $1,450,000

07/23/2026 — **33 Knoll Ridge Ct**
Howell, Renee
To Gothoskar, Shruti — Bardapurkar, Sameer — $770,000

07/22/2026 — **20 Maple St**
Steffman, Emily A — Steffman, Jared L
To Birch Property Group LLC — $185,000

07/21/2026 — **694 Millbrook Rd**
Hamm, Christopher D
To Cullen, Jessica L — Cistulli, Daniel S — $490,000

07/23/2026 — **30 Nathan Hale Rd**
Mazzotta Land Dev LLC
To Painchaud, Rita — $120,000

07/20/2026 — **337 Newfield St**
Barbara Mclellan Ret
To Mclellan, Brian — Centerpience Behavioral Heal — $150,000

07/13/2026 — **121 Bartholomew Rd**
Pham, Danh — Nguyen, Trucha
To Anderson, Eric — Worobok, Chelsea — $560,000

07/17/2026 — **13 Carriage Crossing Ln #13**
Dietz, Rachel M
To Hameed, Adnan A — $205,000

07/13/2026 — **160 Cimarron Rd**
Italia, Salvatore — Italia, Vincenza
To Johnson, Gregory — Stefanko, Kathryn — $420,000

07/13/2026 — **12 Copper Beech Dr**
Demerchant, Daniel — Demerchant, Denise
To Javdan, Bahar — Oryan, Alireza — $920,000

07/13/2026 — **103 Grand St**
Cayer, Ryan
To Galvez, Laurencia M — $245,000

07/17/2026 — **133 Highland Ave**
Flynn, Shaun — Flynn 3rd, Gerald V
To Ksp Ventures LLC — $90,000

07/15/2026 — **600 Laurel Glove Rd**
Girardi, Mark — Ney, Olivia
To Lindsey, Sean — Welsh, Taylor D — $537,000

07/17/2026 — **162 Liberty St**
Yg Flips LLC
To Brownstone 162 Liberty LLC — $225,000

07/13/2026 — **136 Spencer Dr**
Corpora, Lisa M — Davis, Spencer N
To Vicente, Crystal F — $312,000

07/14/2026 — **324 Washington St**
Freyer, Kevin — Boldue, Brittany
To Pearson, John — Pearson, Giovanni — $582,000

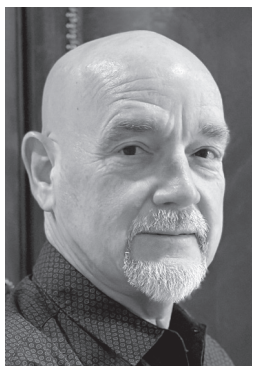
Woodrow Wilson High Class Reunion

The class of 1961 Woodrow Wilson High School, Middletown, CTis having a 65th Class Reunion at Luce's Restaurant, Main Street,Middletown on September 26, 2026. We have lost touch with several classmates and are tryingour best to make contact. Hopefully you might know where they are and cancontact Bill Sheedy at wesheedy@gmail.comwith the information. Names are as follows: Devra Davis Silva, Richard Bonney,Judith Cameron, Barbara Renison Reed, John Wolcott, Sandra Morell Frickett,Stanton Murphy, Susan Birdsey Byrne, Ursala Ardnt Gardner, Francis Hilsdon,Eileen Britt Wachsman, Katherine Grockowoski Keene, Lynn Hemsley Sutton. There might be others, send any info you have. Thanks foryour help. This is probably our last reunion. We would love to see you all atthe event! Reservation forms will be sent out in July 2026 – send back to BillSheedy at PO Box 1091, Middletown, CT. 06457.

Cars Helping the Blind

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

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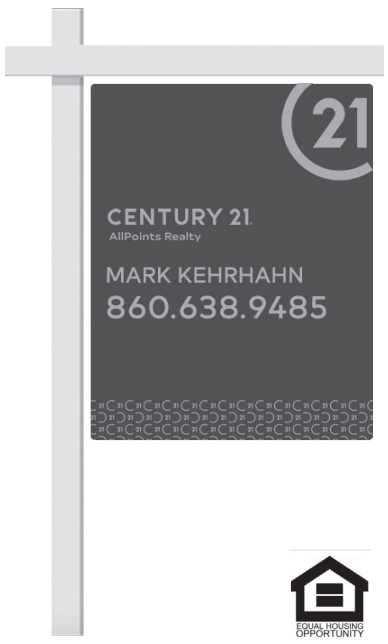
Whether you're considering selling your home, or beginning the quest to find your first/next home, let me partner with you to accomplish your goals! As a team member of Century 21 Allpoints, we have the experience, resources, relationships and proven track record to guide you through this volatile Market.

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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY
012325

Library Offering Laptops For Free Long-Term Loan

By Liam McLoughlin
Staff Writer

CROMWELL — Surfing the web is getting a whole lot easier for residents as the Cromwell Belden Public Library is now offering long-term laptops at no cost.

The library made the announcement last week, saying it's officially joined Laptop ConneCT, a state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection program providing eligible residents with laptops.

"Access to a reliable computer shouldn't be a barrier to job searching, telehealth appointments, online classes, or simply staying connected," said Kara Canney, director of CBPL. "Through Laptop ConneCT, we're able to put that access directly into the hands of Cromwell residents who need it most."

Every laptop is a Dell Pro 16, and comes with a case, power adapter and charging cable. Each will be covered by a five-year warranty covering repairs and battery replacements.

Residents interested in the laptop program must be at least 18 years old, hold a valid library card and participate in one of the following programs:

-Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
-Connecticut Energy Assistance Program
-Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program
-Medicare
-HUSKY Health

To apply, residents must attend two meetings at the library, as well as skills training and a device distribution appointment.

CBPL will begin distributing laptops in September.

Those interested in learning more can call the library at 860-632-3460, or email kcanney@cromwellct.gov to learn more.



New Members Welcome at CCCWC

Want to be part of a group of women who work hard to support area libraries, schools, students, veterans, and more – all while having fun? The Central Connecticut Community Women's Club meets the 2nd Wed. of the month, Sept-May at 7 pm in Cromwell Town Hall, 41 West St., Rm. 222. For more information, check us out on Facebook.

Volunteers in Psychotherapy

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

CPD Food Pantry is Open

The Cromwell Police Department's free food pantry is open. The pantry is available 24/7 in the Cromwell Police Department lobby at 5 West St. Cromwell PD takes donations for non-perishable foods, hygiene products, and bottled water/juices! The Animal Control Officer also has cat/dog food available upon request!

Mums For Sale

MUMS FOR MOM & EVERYONE ELSE! The Cromwell First Congregational Church is holding its annual mum sale on Saturday, September 12th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The sale will take place in the church parking lot at 361 Main Street, Cromwell. Stop buy and purchase those lovely fall flowers to grace your home or give as a gift.



Classifieds

HOME IMPROVEMENT: Painting interior/exterior power washing, wall paper, sheet rock, taping gutter cleaning. Licensed and insured call Nick 860-224-0000.

WANTED TO BUY: your sterling silverware, tea set, or any item made of sterling. Top cash price paid on the spot. I can come to your home or meet you at a place of your choosing. Call/text Dominic at 860-836-5013 or email dmbappraisal@sbcglobal.net.

JOSH'S JUNK REMOVAL: All items removed at a reasonable rate. Call for estimate. We also remove sheds and hot tubs. Insured. Josh Langdon 48hrs. Cleaning Service. 860-922-4621.

WANTED: Individual firearms, collections & estates including, military & related items. Federally licensed firearms dealer. Appraisal. Richard Pleines. 860-663-2214.

PRINCE OF GUTTER CLEANING: Hand cleaned out then rinsed. Starting at $125. Insured. Josh Langdon 860-922-4621.

I PAY TOP: Cash for your Grandma's Costume & Fine Jewelry stash! Older & Newer jewelry and collectibles wanted, the good, the bad & the ugly! The more the better! Call for an appointment, I will come to you. 25 yrs exp. Call Julie Gorneault 203-443-9602.

WINDOW CLEANING: Residential, $9 per window inside and out. Reg & Insured. Call 860-883-6775. Mr. Squeegee.

WANTED TO BUY: All antiques; toys, military, watches, advertising, jewelry, coins, clocks, signs, all musical instruments, guitars, saxophones, keyboards, trumpets, amplifiers, accordions, vintage electronics, hi-fi stereo, amplifiers, pro-audio, radios, ham equipment, tube type equipment, plus more. 1 item or entire estate. Call 860-707-9350.

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Lamont Calls For Pause On License Plate Readers

By Liam McLoughlin
Staff Writer

AREA — Gov. Ned Lamont is calling for all work associated with the installation of license plate readers be paused as the state works to review the safety of the cameras.

"Citizens are justifiably concerned about technology that may keep roadways safe, on the one hand, but that may potentially collect a vast amount of data about drivers, on the other," Lamond said in a Aug. 7 letter to the Connecticut Police Officers Standards and Training Council.

In his letter, he requested that the council use the next 30 days to develop enhanced guidance for statewide police departments that recommends specific policies.

He's asking for the following objectives be achieved:

• Identifies the various camera and ALPR technologies and the relevant statutory framework for each of those technologies;

• Outlines requirements for permissible use of the data collected by such devices;

• Discusses the relevant Trust Act, Shield Law, and data confidentiality provisions in state law; and

• Recommends the policies to be created and adopted by a local or state agency

Locally, Rocky Hill and Newington have explored the usage of automatic license plate readers and red light cameras, met with both support and opposition to the projects.

The use of red light cameras and ALPR technologies was opened to municipalities following the passing of House Bill 5917 into law, concerns over safety and privacy have sustained. To quell some of these concerns, the governor signed Public Act 26-14 which included provisions to "clarify safety concerns." But in his most recent letter, Lamont admitted that questions "remain about what type of technology is being deployed, where these cameras are being installed, and how the data is being used and shared."

Town Receives State Grant For Bike Safety Programs

By Margaret Radman
Freelance Writer

CROMWELL — A $5000 state Department of Transportation grant awarded to Cromwell Youth Services to promote bicycle safety and to educate the public comes just in time as students prepare to bike to school in the upcoming weeks and to ride recreationally, prioritizing safety.

With the growing popularity of bicycling and the increase in bike riders, the town will be distributing free safety equipment and will be providing education on safe biking at an upcoming bike rodeo through funds from the grant.

Residents of all ages will be able to pick up free safety gear like helmets, high visibility gear, bicycle lights for front and back, locks, maintenance materials, reflective stickers, and bicycle repair kits, said Youth Services Administrator Sarah Calos.

Interest in bicycling has expanded in recent years, that began during the Covid era as people were looking to get exercise outside in noncontact environments. Additionally, the recent spike in E-bikes, that takes the heavy lifting out of going up hills, has attracted a wider age and fitness group, adding to the biking population. E-bikes also have widespread appeal to youth under the age of 16, who can now get around more efficiently.

With clear benefits of E-bike users reducing traffic congestion and emissions, and seeing real savings in gas for licensed drivers, there are also hazards that come with this surge that have resulted in an increase in injuries and fatalities, according to the CTDOT.

Addressing these concerns, the upcoming bike rodeo will highlight biking safety and education, teaching the importance of a properly fitted helmet, hand signals, and basic road navigation while riding bicycles, E-bikes, and scooters.

The educational component will also address the different types of E-bikes, some requiring operators to be at least 16 years of age.

"Part of our initiative will be to increase awareness and education to parents and students about the laws that would also include rules of the road…
and different classifications of E-bikes folks don't know about. Some may be riding illegally and not know it," Calos said.

Another focus of the safe biking initiative is to bridge the gap between the town and local bike shops that will result in putting funds back into the local economy, Calos added.

In addition to the rodeo event, residents will also be able to pick up items for biking safety at the Youth Services Office either by appointment or just by stopping in.

The date for the bike rodeo is to be announced on Cromwell's Facebook page.













Goodwill To Provide Support For Townwide Tag Sale

CROMWELL — Goodwill of Southern New England has announced it will be supporting the Third Annual Cromwell Town-Wide Tag Sale, a popular community tradition originally created and founded by the Cromwell Cultural District.

Designed to foster local connection, fund cultural programming, and encourage sustainable living, the event offers residents and businesses a seamless way to turn clutter into cash while keeping 100% of their sales profits.

To support the Cromwell Cultural District's vision, Goodwill is managing event logistics, organizational planning, and promotional efforts. Registration to secure a spot on the official town-wide map is $20 for private residences, churches, and non-profits, and $45 for commercial businesses. 100% of all registration fees directly support the Cromwell Cultural District to fund community arts and local programming throughout the year.

"As a proud Cromwell resident, I am thrilled to see our community come together for an event originally envisioned and created by the Cromwell Cultural District," said Robert Burns, Chief Operating Officer of Goodwill of Southern New England. "Goodwill is honored to partner with them and power the logistics, marketing, and sustainability efforts so their event can continue to flourish."

To further champion sustainability and offer convenience for participants, Goodwill will host a stress-free donation collection at Pierson Park at the end of the tag sale, where sellers can drop off their unsold items.

Participants can register and secure their spot on the official event map online at www.goodwillsne.org/tagsale. Paper sign-up forms are also available at the Cromwell Town Library and Town Hall. Any questions about the event can be sent to tagsale@goodwillsne.org.

Goodwill of Southern New England is a progressive, community-based organization committed to its mission to enhance employment, educational, social, and recreational opportunities for people with disabilities and other challenges in South Central and South Eastern Connecticut as well as Rhode Island. Their history of helping people reaches back as far as the Civil War.

Goodwill of Southern New England owns and operates 20 retail stores and two outlet stores across south-central and eastern Connecticut and Rhode Island. Every purchase and donation directly supports our social enterprise model, generating vital funds for our mission-driven programs. Plus, their stores provide meaningful employment opportunities for Goodwill clients with disabilities and other special needs.



Arts Group Announces Annual Photo Contest

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

The contest's subject is "Cromwell Through the Years" in honor of Cromwell's 175th anniversary. The group is looking for submissions by Nov. 1.

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

Official entry forms and contest details can be found at CromwellArtsAlliance.org.

Prizes of $50 will be awarded to the winning three photographs.

All entries can be submitted one of the following ways:

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

-Email to CromwellArtsAlliance@gmail.com.

Prints are preferred because all entries will be displayed at the Cromwell Arts Alliance "Artists Connect" Event.

Winners will be announced during the Cromwell Arts Alliance "Artists Connect" Event on Nov. 21 at 11 a.m. in the Belden Room of Cromwell Belden Library. Anyone unable to attend will be notified by e-mail.



Arts Alliance Plans Connection Event

CROMWELL — The Cromwell Arts Alliance will present "Artists Connect", an annual event bringing artists together. Artists of all genres are invited to join and connect with each other Saturday, Nov. 21, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Cromwell Belden Public Library.

The group welcomes visual, performing, media, literary, decorative and craft artists and everything in between.

There will be refreshments and conversation, with the opportunity to display or share your work.

Photo contest winners will be announced and displayed at this event.

There will be raffles and prizes.

Contact the CromwellArtsAlliance@gmail.com with any questions.



Cromwell 5K Race

Runners and walkers of all ages are invited to take part in the Cromwell Riverport 5K Road Race on Saturday, September 26, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., in Cromwell. The 5K will kick-off day three of the Cromwell Riverport Festival and features a flat, scenic course along the Connecticut River. The race is suitable for first-time runners as well as experienced athletes, and the finish area is ideal for cheering spectators. Discounted registration is $25 through July 1 ($30 after July 1). Kids 10 & under are $20. Race shirts are included for participants ages 11+ who register before September 1. Proceeds support festival activities, and runners are encouraged to stay and enjoy the full day of Riverport Festival events following the race. Race details and online registration are available at runsignup.com search Cromwell Riverport 5K.







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A Rundown On Kitchen Cabinet Projects

Updated kitchens are in demand, and homeowners are not hesitating to open their wallets when renovating these popular spaces in their homes. According to a 2025 study from Houzz, the median spend on kitchen renovations rose to $60,000 between 2024 and 2025.

Homeowners concerned about the high price tag of kitchen renovations should know they have some less expensive means to giving their kitchens a new look. Cabinet projects can dramatically alter how a kitchen looks and feels. This rundown of cabinet projects can help homeowners answer any questions they have about this unique and budget-friendly way to revitalize their kitchens.

Refacing and replacing each merit consideration. Homeowners unfamiliar with cabinet projects may not realize they have two very different options to consider. Refacing allows homeowners to transform the look and feel of a kitchen while keeping the existing cabinet structure in place. When refacing cabinets, new doors, drawer fronts and typically hardware are installed to replace the existing ones. When replacing cabinets, the existing cabinet structure is torn out and completely new units are installed. Replacing might be done when the structural integrity of the existing cabinets is questionable or when homeowners are not fond of the existing cabinet layout and decide to change it completely.

Cabinet refacing or replacing projects will not cost nearly as much as a complete kitchen overhaul. The cost of any home renovation project is unique to each home. No two homes are the same, and variables like layout and square footage will affect the price of most projects, including cabinet renovations. But homeowners should know that the average cost of cabinet refacing projects and replacement projects falls far short of the $60,000 price tag of kitchen renovations noted by Houzz. According to Angi.com, refacing cabinets costs between $900 and $6000 on average, while cabinet replacement projects can cost anywhere from $2,000 to $30,000. The wide ranges reflect the variables unique to each home. Homeowners are urged to contact a professional who specializes in cabinet refacing and replacement to get an accurate estimate of how much these projects will cost in their homes.

Cabinets also can be repainted. If refacing or replacing cabinets also threatens to bust the budget, homeowners can consider repainting or re-staining existing cabinets. This is a particularly cost-effective project because it gives the kitchen a new look but does not require homeowners to purchase new doors, drawers or hardware. This is a potentially good option for homeowners whose existing cabinets are structurally sound and painted but started to fade in regard to their color. It's also a potentially sound temporary option for homeowners who are hoping to do a full kitchen renovation at some point in the near future but looking for a less costly and temporary means to give their kitchens a fresh look.

Cabinet projects can create a different feel in the kitchen without requiring homeowners to make as sizable a financial investment as a full kitchen overhaul demands





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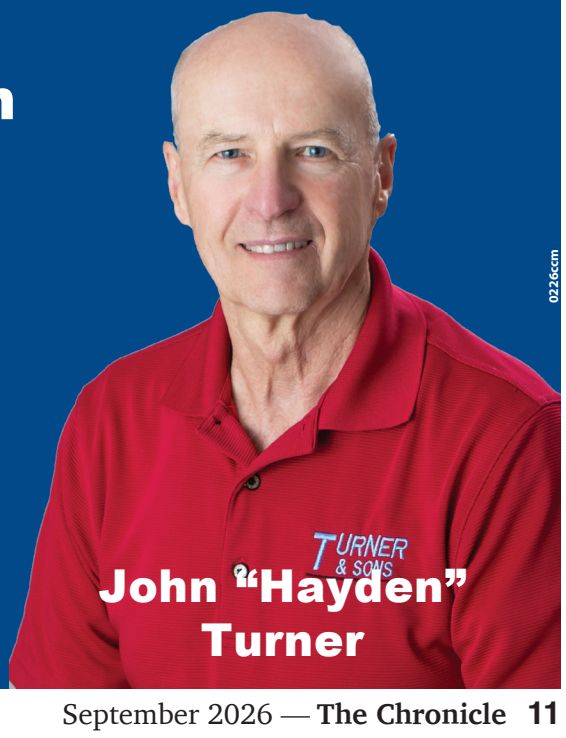
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Home Improvement

5 Signs A Washing Machine Needs Repair (Or Replacement)

Washing machines may be the unsung heroes of many households. People rely on them on a daily basis and take for granted that they will keep laundry clean. Only when a washing machine is not operating properly might a homeowner devote more attention to this important appliance.

People should keep an eye out for signs that a washing machine is not operating optimally and may be in need of repair, even though, as Consumer Reports notes, broken washers are few and far between. According to their most recent member survey, only 14 percent of washers broke between the second and fifth years of ownership. The following are some common washing machine problems that can indicate a repair is on the horizon.

Leaking water: If you find puddles or slow drips beneath or around the machine, a repair may be needed. Torn door seals, loose hose connections a cracked internal drum, or a failing drain pump all can contribute to leaking water, says Mr. Appliance.

Control panel failures: A repair is necessary if the machine won't turn on or if the control panel is unresponsive.

Water doesn't drain: Clothes that are soaking wet at the end of a cycle or a drum that still has water in it is cause for concern. It could be something simple like a coin trapped somewhere, but it also might be something more troubling like a failing drain pump.

Vibrating or 'walking': Mr. Appliance says if the washing machine shakes violently or shifts position, it could mean the machine is unbalanced or the internal suspension rods and springs are broken or worn out.

Loud noises: Any time the washing machine is making a noise that is out of the ordinary is a cause for concern and warrants an inspection.

Some homeowners may wonder if they should repair or replace a washer. Consumer Reports says an older washer with a lot of wear and tear may be better off replaced. However, if the machine is relatively young and expensive, a repair may be the better financial choice. Always check to see if the washing machine is still covered by the manufacturer's warranty before calling a repair person. Most washer warranties last one year, though Speed Queen brand offers warranties of up to seven years on some models. Washing machines in disrepair can be challenging because laundry will quickly pile up if a breakdown occurs. Homeowners can learn to spot the signs a washing machine needs to be repaired or replaced

The Benefits Of A Professional Gutter Cleaning



Gutters serve an important role on a building, catching rainwater from the roof and channeling it away from the structure. Without properly functioning gutters and downspouts, basements can flood, foundations may become cracked and soil can erode. Gutters also help maintain roof and siding longevity, ensuring that rainwater will not pool under shingles or siding. Wet leaves also create habitats for pests to live, notably for mosquitoes, termites, rodents, and birds.

Homeowners can clean their own gutters, but the job is often best left to professionals. Here are some of the reasons to leave gutter cleaning to an expert.

Pros have the equipment. As with any project, having the right equipment means it will be done correctly. Handyman services and professional gutter cleaners already have the gear to reach gutters and tackle the mess, unlike some homeowners who will have to purchase tools.

Pros are trained in safety. Gutter cleaning professionals are trained in proper safety procedures and have the right equipment to safely scale homes. Gutter cleaning involves climbing ladders, walking on roofs, and handling slippery debris. It also may require working close to electrical and cable wires entering the home. Homeowners who don't know how to navigate these conditions safely risk falls or other injuries.

Pros can spot other damage. Professionals may spot damage to a home that homeowners do not see. This may include cracked seams, loose fasteners, sagging sections, and even roof damage. This allows homeowners to get a jump on the problem early on before it progresses to something more serious.

Pros save homeowners time. One of the obvious perks to letting a professional clean the gutters is that it saves homeowners time. The expert can get the job done in less time and more efficiently than a novice weekend warrior.

Mr. Handyman, a home improvement service, says the general recommendation is to get the gutters cleaned at least twice a year: once in the spring after trees have dropped their seeds, and again in the fall after all leaves have fallen. People with heavier amounts of natural debris may need more frequent cleanings. A professional gutter service will typically include inspection of the entire gutter system; removal of all debris from gutters and downspouts; flushing of gutters and downspouts to ensure water flows correctly; assessment of water being directed away; and identification of areas in need of repair. Gutter cleaning is an important step that safeguards a home by keeping gutters and downspouts in working order.

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How To Navigate Eating With Celiac Disease

Celiac disease affects a significant number of people across the globe. According tot he Celiac Disease Foundation¨, roughly 80 million people worldwide have Celiac disease, which is an autoimmune disease that is triggered by the consumption of gluten.

The consequences of consuming gluten can be very unpleasant for people with Celiac disease, which underscores the importance of finding the right foods. But the prevalence of Celiac has perhaps made it easier for people to navigate the disease, and the following are some dietary tips that might make mealtime even more manageable.

Seek naturally gluten-free foods. The CDF advises individuals with Celiac to seek foods that are naturally gluten-free. Gluten is a mixture of two proteins that is present in cereal grains, especially wheat, and causes illness in people with Celiac. Fruits, vegetables, meat, poultry, fish and seafood, dairy, beans, legumes, and nuts are naturally gluten-free.

Be careful with wheat grass and barley grass. The CDF notes that wheat grass and barley grass are gluten-free, but the organization cautions that the seeds contain gluten. So if wheat grass and/or barley grass are not harvested or processed correctly, each may contain gluten. The organization Beyond Celiac recommends people look for certified gluten-free products when shopping for wheat grass, and the same rule of thumb can apply to barley grass.

Recognize that grains are not necessarily off limits. The CDF reports that there are many naturally gluten-free grains, including quinoa, rice, millet, and potato. Each of these gluten-free grains and more can be enjoyed by people with Celiac without putting their health in jeopardy. When shopping for gluten-free grains, the CDF advises shoppers to avoid purchasing grains from bulk bins due to the possibility of cross-contamination.

Read the ingredients list before buying something new. While certain products qualify as gluten-free, that does not necessarily mean they are. For example, the CDF notes that corn flakes and puffed rice cereals are not typically considered to contain gluten, but they might contain malt flavoring or extract, each of which does contain gluten. In addition, the CDF reports that avenin is a protein similar to gluten that is found in oats. Some people with Celiac have an immune reaction to avenin when consuming oats, which are generally considered to be gluten-free. So it pays to read food labels and keep a list of ingredients that contain gluten.

Consumption of gluten can be very dangerous and unpleasant for people with Celiac disease. But a careful approach to diet can ensure people with Celiac enjoy delicious foods without getting sick.



Long-Term Benefits Of Getting Braces



Braces are commonly worn by school-aged children. Estimates vary, but numerous sources suggest no fewer than 50 percent and as much as 70 percent of children get braces or seek treatment from an orthodontist prior to adulthood.

Braces are known to straighten teeth and make people more confident in their appearance, but the benefits of braces go beyond cosmetic enhancements. When considering whether or not to get braces, people should know that getting them can provide a host of long-term benefits.

Gum disease prevention: Gum disease is caused when bacteria accumulates along the gum line. When that occurs, people are vulnerable to infection and inflammation. Crooked or improperly spaced teeth can make certain areas inaccessible during routine brushing, and that can make the mouth vulnerable to the buildup of plaque and bacteria. When that occurs, the gums can be affected by inflammation and infection that ultimately can cause gum disease. Braces help to straighten teeth and ensure proper spacing between them, which can help to prevent gum disease.

Reduced risk for cavities: The buildup of bacteria on misaligned and poorly spaced teeth also can increase the risk for cavities. While it can be harder to clean teeth while wearing braces, the Cleveland Clinic notes that once the braces are off, the straighter teeth and more accessible spaces in the mouth help to prevent cavities.

Prevent the erosion of bone: The Atlanta Center for Advanced Periodontics notes that misaligned teeth can cause dental bone loss. That's because misaligned teeth prevent normal chewing, which results in a loss of stimulation to the bone. When that happens, the bone that holds teeth in place can break down. Braces help to ensure proper alignment of teeth, and over time that can help to prevent dental bone loss.

Braces and reduced risk for TMJ disorders: The Mayo Clinic notes that the temporomandibular joint (TMJ) connects the jawbone to the skull. Disorders affecting the TMJ can cause pain in the jaw joint and in the muscles that control movement of the jaw. While the Mayo Clinic notes it can be difficult to pinpoint the exact cause of a TMJ disorder, a misaligned bite can stress the jaw. That stress can potentially contribute to a TMJ disorder. Braces can help to address a misaligned bite, and over time that can reduce risk for a TMJ disorder.

Braces are often associated with producing immediate and positive results. But there are various long-term benefits to braces that merit consideration as well.

Did You Know?

Nutritional needs change as a person goes through different stages in life. For example, older adults typically do not need to eat as much as a younger person. According to Dr. Sarah Booth, director and senior scientist at the Jean Mayer USDA Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University in Boston, when people age, they need fewer calories to maintain the same weight. Also, multiple changes occur with age, and those shifts affect how a body digests and uses the food a person eats. According to federal dietary guidelines, women 60 and older require between 1,600 and 2,200 calories per day. Men in this age group require 2,000 to 2,600 calories per day. Calories should come primarily from nutrient-dense foods, with an emphasis on vegetables, fruits, whole grains, lean meats, and low-fat dairy. Older adults need to make every calorie count, and they may need to work with a nutritionist to get the foods they need to stay healthy.



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POA PET OF THE WEEK

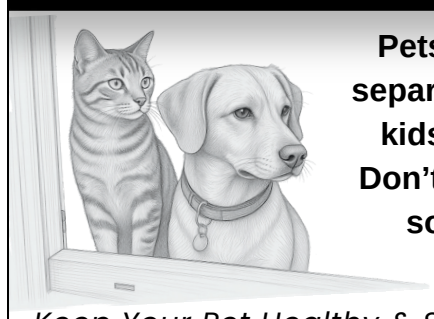
"A non-profit, all-volunteer animal rescue organization."



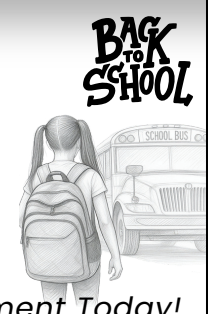
Tito, 3 yrs, is a force. He's confident. So much so that he's confident about his confidence. This makes him lots of fun and a happy extrovert who likes to play and interact and be a man of the people. He even enjoys the sound of his own voice, chattering nonstop to himself and anyone who will listen. It's hard not to like Tito. What is hard is keeping him confined in a place he doesn't want to be. Whoever shares their life with Tito must share their whole life – he won't settle for less. When it comes to other cats – Tito's confidence can work for or against him. More reserved cat companions will detest his swagger. So too, might other confident cats, who sense a rival. Tito's success with other felines will be circumstantial. But nothing, when it comes to Tito, will ever be boring.

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

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PET TIPAGE

Faq About Adopting A Dog

The decision to bring a dog into a home requires careful consideration. Dogs make wonderful additions to a home, and adoption is a popular means to finding a dog. According to the ASPCA, approximately two million dogs were adopted in 2025 in the United States, and millions more are likely to be adopted in the years to come. People thinking of adding a furry friend to their family may have some common questions about pet adoption. Answering those questions before bringing a dog home can help prospective pet owners make the best decision for themselves and the dog that might become the newest addition to their families.

Are all dogs the same?
While all dogs need a loving home and regular attention from their owners, different breeds have different temperaments and character traits. Dogs also have different energy levels and sociability. Some dogs may be high energy and enjoy the company of people and other animals, while others may prefer less active days spent exclusively with their families. Before adopting a shelter dog, it's important for prospective owners to consider which temperament will best suit their household. Compatibility is an important variable when choosing a dog, so people considering adoption should try to get a handle on a dog's temperament prior to initiating an adoption.

Will the dog adapt immediately?
It can take awhile for a dog to adapt to a new home. Preparing the home in advance to ensure it is welcoming and dog-ready can increase the chances the dog will adapt more quickly. But even that is not a given. When picking a space for the dog, experts advise choosing a secure and quiet space, which can allow the dog to gradually acclimate to its new home in a calm setting.

Can I walk in and adopt a dog?
While each facility is different, hopeful dog owners typically will be vetted by officials at a local shelter before they are allowed to adopt. It s the goal of shelter officials to place a dog in a safe, loving and caring home, so officials typically inquire about a prospective owner s home and home life during the vetting process. Some may even schedule a visit to a potential owner s home to check if there are other pets already living there, as some dogs are best suited to homes without other animals. Officials also may arrange a meet and greet between the dog and all residents of the home where the dog might end up. Compliance with the vetting process is important, and non-compliance may compromise the ability to adopt.

Are shelter dogs already trained?
Some shelter dogs are trained and some are not. But even trained dogs may backslide upon entering a new environment. So prospective dog owners looking to adopt should be ready and willing to train the dog they ultimately adopt. Training requires consistency and commitment. Training also helps dogs feel secure, which is why it's so important that prospective dog parents be willing to do whatever is required to train or re-train a dog after adoption.
Adoption is a great way to find a dog. Prospective dog owners are urged to ask questions about the process of adoption and to get to know any dog they might adopt prior to bringing the animal home.

Did You Know?

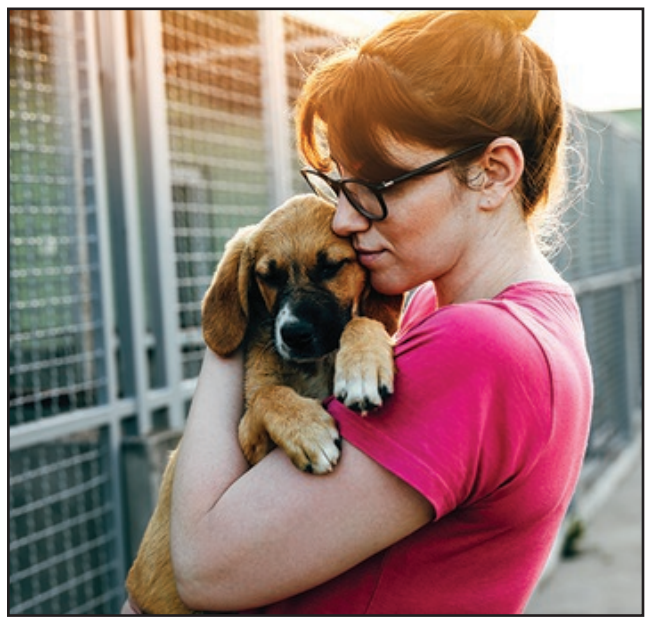
Millions of dogs enter shelters and rescues in the United States each year. According to the ASPCATM, 2.8 million dogs entered shelters and rescues in 2025. While the ASPCATM reports euthanasia rates for shelter dogs decreased by 7 percent between 2024 and 2025, 320,000 dogs were still euthanized in 2025. Dogs, and large dogs in particular, also are spending more time in shelters than they were as recently as five years ago. The extended time in shelters has led to issues concerning shelter capacity, as many facilities have limited space for new animals. Prospective dog owners are urged to consider adoption when looking for a dog, as adoption can help prevent euthanization and alleviate space issues at local shelters. Adoption also tends to be less expensive than purchasing a dog directly from a breeder.



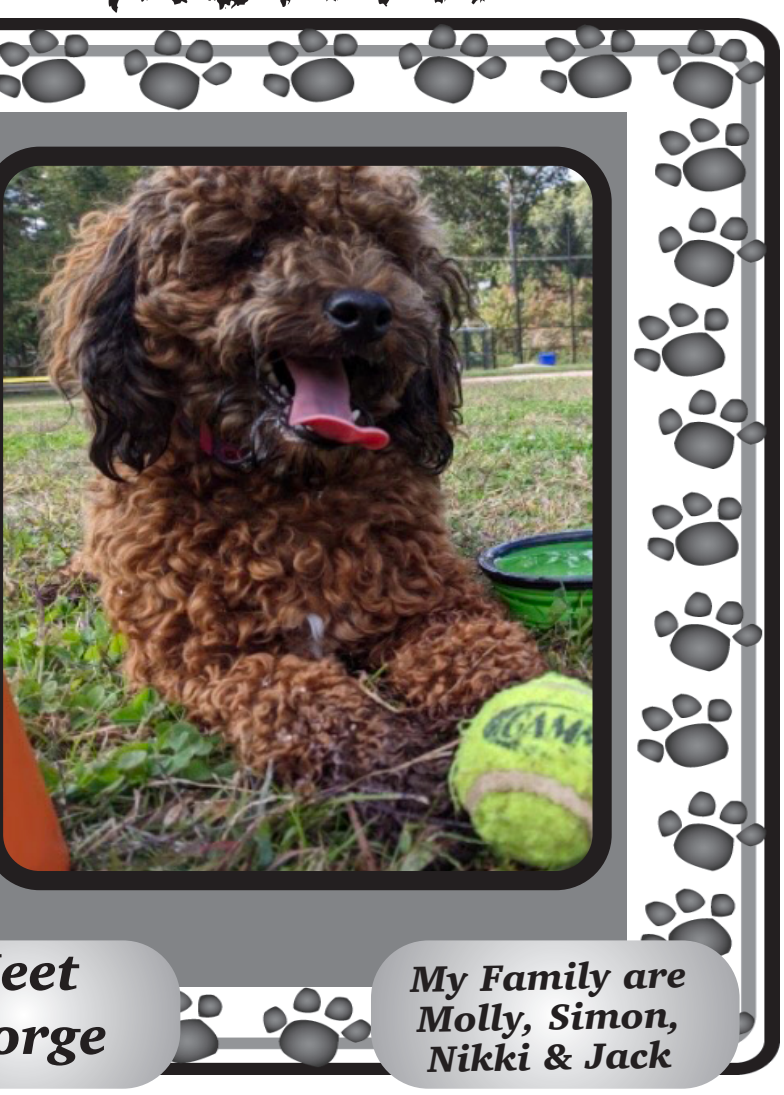
Cat Tales
Pasta Dinner Fundraiser
Benefiting abused, neglected and abandoned cats and kittens within our community.



Cat Tales will be holding a Pasta Dinner Fundraiser on Friday, September 25 at 7PM (Doors open at 6PM) and runs until 9PM. Taking place at the Elks Club at 44 Maynard Street, Middletown. Dinner includes penne pasta, meatballs, sauce, Caesar salad, Italian bread, and dessert - catered by Lino's! Wine, beer & cocktails available at the cash bar. Raffles, Punch Box and 50/50! Cash and credit cards accepted. Bring 2 rolls of Paper Towels or 3 Cans of Friskies pate or Fancy Feast canned food for a ticket to the door prize! $30 per person. See website below for online payment OR mail a check to CAT TALES, PO Box 901, Middletown, CT 06457. Please write "PASTA DINNER" on your check and include the names of those you are purchasing for +number of seats. You will be placed on an attendee list. No tickets or confirmation will be issued for this event. Please visit https://CatTalesCT.org/pastadinner/ for more information. See you there!



PET OF THE MONTH



Fall Fair Season In Region Offers Lots Of Fun Options

By Joyce Boncal
Freelance Writer

AREA —The fair season has begun in Connecticut and throughout New England, and it's all set to be a grand season. If you're an avid fair-goer and are fortunate enough to have many weekends off from work,the Association of Connecticut Fairs offers a Fair Season Pass. For more info, go to: https://www.ctagfairs.org/p/news--resources/seasonpass

The fairs also offer contests for those having a baking, photography or quilting talent. For entry applications and contest rules, go to: www.ctagfairs.org.





The Fair Schedule For 2026 Is:

-**Woodstock Fair,** Sept. 3-7; 23 Roseland Park Rd., Woodstock
-**Haddam Neck Fair,** Sept. 4-7; 26 Quarry Hill Rd., Haddam Neck
-**Goshen Fair,** Sept. 5-7; 116 Old Middle St., Goshen
-**Hebron Harvest Fair**, Sept. 10-13; 347 Gilead St., Hebron
-**North Haven Fair**, Sept. 11-13; 290 Washington Ave., North Haven
-**Wapping Fair**, Sept. 10-13; 75 Brookfield St., S. Windsor
-**Bethlehem Fair**, Sept. 11-13; 384 Main St. N, Bethlehem
-**Granby Grange** Agricultural Fair, Sept. 12; 212 N.Granby Rd., Granby
-**Hillstown Grange Fair**, Sept. 12; 617 Hills St., East Hartford
-**Wallingford Grange Fair,** Sept. 12; 586 Center St., Wallingford
-**Berlin Lions Agricultural Fair**, Sept. 18-20; 430 Beckeley Rd., Berlin
-**Four Town Fair, Sept. 17-19;** 56 Egypt Rd., Somers
-**Guilford Fair, Sept. 18-20;** Lovers Lane, Guilford
-**Orange Country Fair,** Sept. 19-20; 525 Orange Center Rd., Orange
-**Durham Fair,** Sept. 24-27; 24 Town House Rd., Durham
-**Harwinton Fair**, Oct. 2-4; Locust Rd., Harwinton
-**Portland Agricultural Fair,** Oct. 2-4; 1401 Main St., Portland
-**Riverton Fair, Oct. 9-11;** 16 Riverton Rd., Riverton

No fair schedule could go without mentioning The Big E, although it's in West Springfield, MA., 1305 Memorial Ave. It is the fourth largest fair in the U.S. September 18- October 4 is its 2026 season. For more information see their website www.thebige.com.









Fall Home Improvement Guide

The Fall 2026 Home Improvement Guide will be inserted into the Rare Reminder and Middletown Chronicle and MAILED to almost 55,500 homes in Newington, Wethersfield, Rocky Hill, Cromwell and Middletown.

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

Published September 24, 2026
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Upcoming Local Events for September 2026

Mohegan Sun Casino

Prepare for an extraordinary evening of legendary rock! The Australian Pink Floyd Show, universally acclaimed as the gold standard of Floyd tributes, is bringing their jaw-dropping live experience to the Mohegan Sun Arena. Mark your calendar for September 10th at 8:00 PM as this world-class 10-piece ensemble delivers flawless, note-for-note recreations paired with a dazzling arena light production, precision lasers, and hypnotic visual displays. Feel every chilling note of "Comfortably Numb," sing along to the iconic rhythms of "Another Brick in the Wall," and get swept away by the majestic expanse of "Shine On You Crazy Diamond" live! Don't miss the ultimate Pink Floyd celebration!

Get ready to crank up the volume! Rock and Roll Hall of Famers ZZ Top are bringing their legendary Texas boogie and iconic riffs to the Mohegan Sun Arena on September 12th at 8:00 PM. Prepare for an unforgettable, high-energy night packed with timeless guitar-driven anthems, including timeless megahits like "La Grange," "Sharp Dressed Man," and "Legs." Adding fuel to the fire, rock 'n' roll powerhouse George Thorogood joins as a special guest to set the stage ablaze. Don't miss two titan acts delivering one explosive night of pure blues-rock excellence.

Let loose for a night of non-stop laughter as record-breaking comedy icon Jeff Dunham returns to the Mohegan Sun Arena! On Friday, September 11th at 8:00 PM, experience the ultimate master of ventriloquism live on stage. Dunham is bringing his fan-favorite crew of iconic characters for a high-energy show packed with side-splitting humor.Prepare to be entertained by his greatest hits, including the outrageously energetic Peanut, the cranky and unfiltered Walter, and the wildly popular Achmed the Dead Terrorist! Whether you are a longtime fan or seeing the magic in person for the very first time, this promises to be the premier comedy event of the season.

Enjoy an unforgettable night of raw, powerful alt-rock energy! Seven-time Grammy winner Alanis Morissette is bringing her extraordinary tour to the world-class Mohegan Sun Arena on October 2nd at 8:00 PM. Prepare to experience an electrifying, cathartic performance as the iconic singer-songwriter commands the stage with her unfiltered lyrics and distinctive vocals. Sing along at the top of your lungs to generation-defining anthems like the blistering "You Oughta Know," the ultimate sing-along "Ironic," and the uplifting "Hand in My Pocket."

Don't miss your chance to witness music royalty live in concert for one spectacular autumn evening.

Foxwoods Casino

Flashback to the ultimate rock 'n' roll showdown! Beatles vs. Stones – A Musical hits the stage at the Foxwoods Great Cedar Showroom on Saturday, September 5th at 8:00 PM for an unforgettable night of iconic tracks and electric competition. Two of the greatest tribute bands in the world go head-to-head, trading timeless hits in an all-out musical battle. Transport yourself back to the golden age of rock as you sing along to Beatles anthems like "Hey Jude" and "Yesterday," paired against the raw, bluesy energy of Rolling Stones classics like "Satisfaction" and "Gimme Shelter. Who will reign supreme? Grab your tickets now, bring your friends, and decide for yourself at the biggest musical event of the season!

Get ready for a night of non-stop laughter as comedy legends Steve Martin and Martin Short take the stage at the Foxwoods Great Cedar Showroom on September 25th at 8:00 PM. This dynamic duo brings decades of iconic humor, razor-sharp wit, and incredible stage chemistry for an unforgettable live performance. Experience an extraordinary evening packed with hilarious stand-up, unpredictable banter, and musical surprise as they celebrate their greatest hits—from Steve's beloved classics like The Jerk, Father of the Bride, and his signature banjo brilliance, to Marty's unforgettable character work on SNL, Jiminy Glick, and Three Amigos!, right up to their smash hit Only Murders in the Building.

Toyota Oakdale Theater • Wallingford

Become a part of music history with an unforgettable night of rock 'n' roll royalty! On October 4th at 7:00 PM, legendary Beatles drummer Ringo Starr & His All-Starr Band are taking the stage live at the Toyota Oakdale Theatre for an extraordinary, high-energy concert event. Experience music history as Ringo performs timeless Beatles classics like "Yellow Submarine" and "With a Little Help from My Friends," alongside his iconic solo anthems "It Don't Come Easy" and "Photograph." Joined by an incredible lineup of legendary artists, the band will also deliver a hit-packed setlist featuring beloved crowd favorites from rock history. Don't miss your chance to be part of this incredible celebration of Peace & Love!

The Bushnell • Hartford

Step back into the roaring twenties for an unforgettable night of glamour, spectacle, and timeless elegance! The sensational Broadway hit production of The Great Gatsby is taking center stage at The Bushnell Theater from September 29th through October 4th. Prepare to be mesmerized by breathtaking choreography, lavish costumes, and a powerhouse score featuring standout crowd-favorites like "For Her," "Roaring On," and "Past Is Prologue." Whether you are a lifelong fan of F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic masterpiece or experiencing the dazzle for the very first time, this extraordinary theatrical event promises an electrifying evening of passion, high-society drama, and world-class entertainment. Don't miss the party of the decade! Secure your seats today before tickets sell out!

Hartford Healthcare Amphitheater Bridgeport

Get ready for an extraordinary evening of rock-and-roll royalty as John Fogerty and Steve Winwood share the stage for an unforgettable concert at the Hartford HealthCare Amphitheater, Bridgeport, CT on September 9th at 7:30 PM. Experience the soundtrack of a generation performed live under the stars. Rock out to John Fogerty's timeless anthems like "Proud Mary," "Fortunate Son," "Bad Moon Rising," and "Centerfield". Then, feel the soul-stirring grooves of Steve Winwood as he delivers iconic classics including "Higher Love," "Gimme Some Lovin'," "Roll With It," and "Back in the High Life Again". Don't miss this rare double-header of music legends!

Xfinity Theater • Hartford

Hartford, get ready for an unforgettable night of high-octane country music! Country superstar Jason Aldean is bringing his massive Songs About Us Tour 2026 to the Meadows Music Theatre on Saturday, September 12th at 7:30 PM! Experience a powerhouse, hit-packed performance packed with stadium-shaking energy and timeless anthems. Sing along live to his iconic #1 smash hits including "Dirt Road Anthem," "Big Green Tractor," "Burnin' It Down," "My Kinda Party," and "Try That in a Small Town" alongside brand-new music! Grab your boots, rally your crew, and lock in your seats for Connecticut's premier outdoor concert event of the season.

People Bank Arena• Hartford

Hartford, get ready for an unforgettable night of high-octane country music! Country superstar Jason Aldean is bringing his massive Songs About Us Tour 2026 to the Meadows Music Theatre on Saturday, September 12th at 7:30 PM! Experience a powerhouse, hit-packed performance packed with stadium-shaking energy and timeless anthems. Sing along live to his iconic #1 smash hits including "Dirt Road Anthem," "Big Green Tractor," "Burnin' It Down," "My Kinda Party," and "Try That in a Small Town" alongside brand-new music! Grab your boots, rally your crew, and lock in your seats for Connecticut's premier concert event of the season.

Fairs & Festivals

WoodStock Fair:

Enjoy an unforgettable weekend at the Woodstock Fair! We are bringing you two nights of legendary, high-energy music you won't want to miss. Saturday, September 5 at 8:00 PM Kick off the weekend with Kool and the Gang! Get ready to dance to timeless, feel-good classics like "Celebration" and "Get Down On It". It's going to be a soul-powered party under the stars! Sunday, September 6 at 8:00 PM Keep the momentum going with country superstar Trace Adkins! Experience his iconic, deep-baritone vocals live as he performs powerhouse hits like "You're Gonna Miss This". Two massive nights, endless memories, and pure entertainment. Grab your tickets now and celebrate Labor Day weekend in style!

Durham Fair:

Get ready for an unforgettable night under the lights at Connecticut's premier autumn celebration! The Durham Fair returns with high-energy thrills, massive midway rides, mouthwatering local eats, and world-class entertainment on the main stage. Country music superstar Tyler Hubbard takes the stage on Saturday, September 26 at 7:30 PM! The multi-platinum singer-songwriter behind hit after hit will bring his electric, stadium-sized energy to the fairgrounds for a night of powerhouse anthems and unforgettable fan favorites. Whether you come for the legendary agricultural showcases, classic carnival atmosphere, or incredible live music, this is the season's must-see event. Grab your friends, gear up for peak fall vibes, and experience high-caliber country live in Durham!

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Terms To Know When Buying A Car



Buying a new car is no small task. When shopping for a new car, it's easy to let details like the color of the vehicle and creature comforts like connectivity take control of the transaction, but buyers also know how important the bottom line can be.

Next to a home, a car might be the most expensive item many consumers ever purchase. In fact, according to Cox Automotive, the average transaction price of a new vehicle in the United States in early 2023 was just over $48,000. A lot of money changes hands at car dealerships every day, so buyers can undoubtedly benefit from learning or relearning the lingo that surrounds such transactions.

Annual percentage rate (APR): The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau notes that APR is the cost consumers pay each year to borrow money. This includes fees and buyers should know that APR is different from the interest rate. Drivers can negotiate a lower APR, and the CFPB notes that it can benefit buyers to compare the APR on competing auto loans.

Balloon payment: The balloon payment is a large sum that is due at the end of some auto loans. Many drivers will pay a predetermined amount each month during the terms of the loan. Once that loan reaches maturity, they then own the car outright. With a balloon loan, buyers still make monthly payments, but when the loan reaches maturity they must make a balloon payment in order to take full ownership of the vehicle.

Capitalized cost reduction: The online financial resource Investopedia notes that a capitalized cost reduction is any upfront payment that reduces the cost of financing. This can include a cash down payment and a trade-in vehicle.

Closed-end lease: Individuals considering leasing their next vehicle will likely come across this term. Car and Driver notes that a closed-end lease is one that gives the driver leasing the vehicle the option to buy it at a set price at the end of the term or walk away without any financial liability (damage or modifications to the vehicle upon returning it may result in charges). Leases typically are closed-end, but it's still best that drivers confirm that prior to signing on the dotted line.

Dealer preparation fees: The lending experts at Capital One note that dealer preparation fees are the charges a dealership issues to prepare a car for transfer to the buyer. These fees might cover the cost of washing the vehicle and additional services before buyers take it off the lot. Capital One notes these fees average between $100 and $500, and buyers should know that they are negotiable.

Extended warranty: Car and Driver warns that most extended warranties offered by dealerships cover very little, so buyers should read the terms carefully before purchasing an extended warranty. Extended warranties offered by manufacturers tend to be more useful to buyers.

MSRP: This familiar acronym stands for "Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price." The MSRP is the total of the base price plus all of the options listed on the window sticker of the vehicle.

Prepayment penalties: Prepayment penalties penalize drivers for paying off a loan before it reaches maturity. Though the vast majority of drivers who finance the purchase of a vehicle will not have prepayment penalties in their agreements, buyers with lower credit scores might. Anyone with such a penalty in the terms of their agreement should try to negotiate it out of the deal.

Term: The term refers to the length of the purchase or lease agreement. Many leases feature terms between 12 and 36 months, while purchase agreements can feature terms as long as 72 months (six years).

Knowing the lingo before buying a new car can increase the chances drivers get a good deal on their next vehicle.

4 Car-Buying Tips To Consider

Drivers spend a lot of time in their vehicles, and that's perhaps one reason why new car buyers are willing to spend so much on a new automobile. According to a recent report from Kelley Blue Book, the average transaction price of a new vehicle in June 2025 was just under $49,000. Drivers who have not purchased a new car in a while may be overcome by sticker shock when they start shopping for a new car, but plenty of reliable vehicles can still be had for less than $49,000. Motorists in the market for new vehicles can consider these four tips as they begin their search for a new ride.

1. Consider buying in fall. Fall can be a buyer-friendly time to purchase a new vehicle because many dealerships may be seeking to unload outgoing model years to make room for the coming year's models. In such instances, dealerships may sell outgoing model year vehicles for thousands of dollars less than the incoming year's models. Inventory of outgoing model years may be limited, which can reduce the options drivers have in regard to various amenities, such as vehicle color and accessories. But if such details aren't high on buyers' priority lists, then buying in fall can be advantageous.

2. Make a sizable down payment, if possible. Interest rates remain high, so the less drivers will need to borrow when buying a new car, the more money they'll save in interest charges over the life of the loan. The consumer advocates at Consumer Reports recommend new car buyers put at least 15 percent down and ideally between 20 and 25 percent at the time of purchase. The higher the initial down payment, the more manageable the ensuing monthly payments become.

3. Get your credit ducks in a row. Of course, the size of the down payment won't be the only number that determines the amount of a monthly payment. Drivers' credit ratings affect their interest rates, so it's best to maintain a good reputation or rebuild a poor one in the months leading up to a new car purchase. Pay off existing consumer debt entirely, if possible. If that's beyond reason, then make sure to make all monthly payments on time & pay more than just the minimum required each month.

4. Shop for incentives. Consumer Reports notes that dealerships & manufacturers offer a wide range of incentives that can help to reduce the cost of a new vehicle. Cashback offers and zero percent financing are two notable incentives buyers can shop for. After researching which vehicles to buy, shop around for incentives packages to help narrow down your options.

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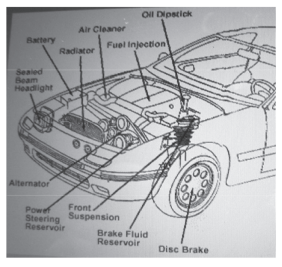
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Mooney Moves To Sunshine State

By Josh Howard

Taylor Mooney, a 2026 graduate of Cromwell High School, is taking her athletic talents and enthusiasm for the beyond to the Sunshine State where she will attend Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU) in Daytona, Florida.

She will join the Eagles running teams as she majors in aerospace engineering at what she called her "dream school."

"Since middle school, I've wanted to go there," said Mooney. "Academically it's one of the best schools for my major and the running was kind of a bonus."

Mooney has been fascinated by all-things-aerospace since receiving one of Neil deGrasse Tyson's books as a gift for Christmas, noting, "As soon as I read it, I kept telling my parents that is what I wanted to do."

On the athletic side, Mooney was originally a soccer player before shifting to a three-season runner at CHS where she discovered another passion for competing on the trails and tracks.

As a senior, the all-state runner continued to work her way up the leaderboards on the cross country trails, placing top ten at the conference and class championship, before running at the State Open for the second straight season and then competing at the Northeast and New York Regionals.

Her efforts helped the Panthers place second overall at both the conference and state championships.

She then won both the 1,600 meters and 3,200 meters, along with placing as the runner-up in the 1,000 meters to propel the Panthers to their first Shoreline Conference (SLC) championship during winter's indoor season. Mooney was part of 28 total team points during the conference championship, earning her the Most Valuable Player honors.

Mooney called the team championship, "surreal", adding, "It was amazing to celebrate with the team and see all that hard work we put in pay off."

Joe Asmus, who coaches both cross country and track at CHS, said that Mooney "set the standard for not only what we want our distance runners to be, but what we want individuals to be from our program."

"Taylor's impact on our program will be felt long past her graduation from Cromwell," added Asmus, "[She was] always willing to give advice to younger runners, hosting team get-togethers at her house, and hyping her teammates when she is not competing. She will be missed, but her impact she left on our program will never be forgotten."

Outside of competition, Mooney learned dance since she preschool and was a standout in the classroom where she was part of National Honor Society and Spanish National Honor Society.

When searching for her next landing spot outside her hometown, Mooney said that she was not ready to give up athletics, noting "I've loved the friends I've made through running and it gives me such a peace of mind. It clears my heads to go on a run."

At her next stop in the Florida, she will join an Eagles running program that competes in the Sunshine State Conference (SCC).

Mooney said she's ready for a life beyond Cromwell, from both an academic and athletic standpoint, noting , "I'm excited to be with girls who will push me and about being around so many people with the same interests as me."



Mooney was a three-season runner for the Panthers, earning MVP as the track and field program captured a conference championship this past winter.

Mercy Runner Bolts to Baltimore

By Josh Howard

After helping secure several state and conference championships at Mercy High School, Calista Nephew will be attending Loyola University of Maryland where she will compete with the Division I Greyhounds running programs that compete in the Patriot League.

Nephew, born and raised in East Hampton, said the school in Baltimore "checked all the boxes."

"I was looking for something that was a fit for me and when I went there it felt like all the pieces of the puzzle came together," she added. "The team was very supportive and the coaches were very supportive."

Loyola is getting an accomplished runner that was part of four state championships in high school, including three straight on the cross-country trails.

As a senior, she posted a personal-best finish at the class championship as the Tigers of Middletown won a third straight Class MM state title. She also competed in the State Open all four years, along with competing multiple times at the New England and Northeast regionals.

She was also a standout on the track where she excelled in the 800 meters and as a leg on multiple relay squads, including closing her high school career as part of the 4x800 relay team that won the Class MM state championship in May.

Matt Conyers, Mercy's cross-country and track and field head coach, said the Nephew was willing to put in the effort since day one.

"She had big goals and she believed in the work it would take to get there," added Conyers. "It's rare to get an athlete like Calista. She is as determined as any athlete that I have seen at Mercy."

Despite all of the success on the trails and track over the last four years, running wasn't Nephew's first athletic pursuit.

She started as a basketball player in youth and picked up running cross-country in middle school to train for the winter season on the courts.

But once she arrived at Mercy, she decided to make running a year round venture, following in the footsteps of her family.

"My whole family is runners and I thought it would help me make friends and immerse myself in the community, and once I was at Mercy I kind of fell in love with it, " noted Nephew, whose parents are avid distance runners and her brother, Cameron, was an all-state runner at Xavier High School.

Once in Middletown, Nephew quickly made a name for herself and was a key piece to a Tigers running program that elevated to new heights over the last four years.

Prior to her arrival, Mercy's cross-country program hadn't won a state title since 1993 and she said that the Class of 2026 members embraced the challenge from day one of high school.

With a total of four state championships across the three running seasons, the departing senior class is the most successful of any sport in the history of Mercy High School.

"It's a remarkably special group and Calista was at the center of it," stated Conyers, who added the Nephew has the right mindset for college running. "She will put in the work, she holds herself accountable, she holds her coaches accountable, and she holds her teammates accountable."

Nephew said this year's senior class pushed each other in practices and on race days, using one other for motivation and as a springboard up the leaderboards.

What once was considered a chore to go for a run has turned out to be a way of life for Nephew, who stated that she now uses her distance training to stay "calm."

"The thing I like best about running is you can do it no matter where you are," she added. "It's my own time to relax."

Outside of running, Nephew was a member of National Honor Society, the Science National Honor Society, and the English and French Honor societies at Mercy. She was also a part of the Ambassador Program, which welcomes prospective families, leads campus tours, and shares personal school experiences, and helps new students transition smoothly into high school.

She also volunteered at a cat shelter locally this past year.

In Maryland, Nephew is joining a running program led by Amy Horst. Horst has been heading the Greyhounds teams for over a decade.

Nephew said she has a combination of "nerves and excitement" about her adventure.

"It's definitely scary because Baltimore is a bigger city and East Hampton is a smaller town where you always see someone you know," explained Nephew, who will study psychology at Loyola. "But I'm excited to explore somewhere new and I'll always know I have East Hampton to come back to, which is reassuring."



Picture on Left

Nephew helped the Tigers win multiple conference and state titles during her time in Middletown. She is pictured with her teammates following the team capturing the Class MM cross-country championship this past fall.



Taylor Mooney, a 2026 graduate of Cromwell High School, will attend Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida where she will compete for the school's running program and study aerospace engineering. (Photo credit - Jack Tibball @ capturedbytibbs on Instagram).



2026 Mercy High School graduate Calista Nephew will run cross-country and track at Loyola University of Maryland.

Family-Friendly Activities For Fall

Fall is a welcome season for many people. The cooler temperatures and still-ample sunlight mean there is plenty of time to enjoy the great outdoors even if summer has ended. Fall activities dot the calendar, with several different options for individuals and families to get involved. According to Acenda Integrated Health, incorporating family time into a schedule is crucial for a child's development. It's also key to have time to get a break from busy schedules. Fall is a great time to do just that with these activities.

Apple-picking: Few things are more refreshing than taking a bite out of an apple fresh off the tree. Orchards are bursting with apples this time of year, and an afternoon spent picking apples is a great way to spend time together.

Leaf treasure hunt: Everyone can head outdoors with a bag or basket to gather leaves. Look for the brightest color or the crunchiest leaf that can be found. The leaves can be pressed between wax paper to save them.

Fall festivals: Outdoor festivals are ideal for families because they tend to feature crafts, food, music, and activities.

Fall baking: Turn those plucked apples into pies or muffins, or use pumpkin and cinnamon to fill a home with delicious seasonal smells. Kids can help stir, pour and sprinkle ingredients.

Corn maze: Corn mazes may be set up adjacent to pumpkin patches, so the family can pick out the perfect pumpkin to carve and then try to navigate the maze.

Spooky walk: Halloween lands right in the heart of fall. Enjoy a walk through the neighborhood checking out people's Halloween decorations. A night walk with flashlights to listen to the sounds of animals can be 'scary' in its own right. Another idea is to go to a haunted house or walk sponsored by a school or amusement park.

Football: Enjoy a pick-up game of flag or touch football. It's a great way to enjoy time outdoors and expend some physical activity.

Fall is a perfect time to enjoy family-friendly activities.



Facts About The Autumnal Equinox

It's a moment and not a day. Despite what many people think, the autumnal equinox is not an entire day. In fact, the equinox is a precise astronomical event. It occurs at the exact moment the sun crosses the celestial equator, an imaginary line in the sky directly above the Earth's equator.

It's not 'equal night.' Although the word equinox comes from the Latin word 'aequus' (equal) and 'nox' (night), we do not get exactly 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of darkness on the equinox. This is because of how the Earth's atmosphere refracts sunlight. The sun appears above the horizon even after it has technically set, according to the National Weather Service.

Northern lights can be seen. Those hoping to catch a glimpse of the aurora borealis will find the weeks surrounding the autumnal equinox are the prime window to do so, according to NASA. Geomagnetic storms that trigger these stunning light displays occur twice as frequently around the fall and spring equinoxes compared to the summer and winter solstices.

It's not always on the same day. The autumnal equinox does not fall on the same day each year. It usually lands on September 22 or 23, but it can occasionally occur on September 21 or 24 (in the northern hemisphere), indicates the U.S. Naval Observatory.

The autumnal equinox is a unique and often enjoyable day on the calendar.



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Stuffed Sole Crab meat stuffing served over spinach

Balkan Meatballs Beef meatballs sauteed with scallions, roasted red peppers, grape tomatoes in a marsala cream sauce

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BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES | NEW ENGLAND PROPERTIES

Featured Properties

Coming Soon



Middletown
$489,900
Amazing Abode

Oversized Cape on gorgeous, private lot. Attached garage plus oversized 2-car detached garage with high ceilings and amazing room above garage waiting to be finished. Versatile floor plan with first floor bedrooms with full bath and 2 large bedrooms upstairs with full bath. New kitchen, new baths.

Coming Soon



Middletown
$234,999
Wonderful
Forest Glen Ranch

Large room, open floor plan. Includes oversized galley kitchen with dining area. Great room with fireplace. Second bedroom den. Large primary. Lots of windows and light.

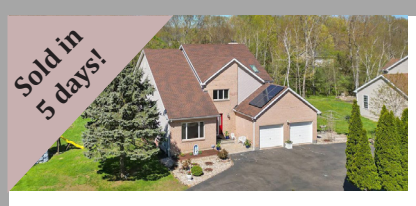
Sold in 5 days!



Middletown
$559,900
Sonoma Woods

Run - do not walk to view this stunning contemporary Cape. Features include first floor primary suite, first floor laundry, vaulted ceilings, beautiful hardwood floors, architectural built-ins and walkout basement. The list goes on and on. Do not miss out!

Sold in 5 days!

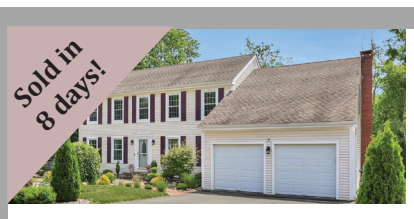


Middletown
$549,900
Currier & Ives Setting

Gorgeous landscaping, gardens & wooded, private setting. Grand 2-story entry with open staircase, front vaulted office/flex room, oversized center dining room - all of this leads into an amazing vaulted great room with fireplace & large, completely remodeled, stunning kitchen.

"Be not afraid of growing slowly; be afraid only of standing still."
~
Chinese Proverb

Sold in 8 days!



Middletown
$599,900
Westfield Hills

Boasts a large open kitchen, good size eating area, dining room, front to back great rm & family rm w/FP. Upstairs offers 2 large bedrms & an oversized primary w/large ensuite, huge walk in closet, additional sitting area, office/nursery. Lower level is beautifully finished w/a kitchen setup, family rm, additional bedrm, bath & laundry w/its own private access for a complete in law situation.

Sold in 6 days!



Cromwell
$459,900
Updated Inside & Out

Professionally landscaped lot with over sized private deck. The interior will blow your socks off with vaulted ceilings, oversized eat in ki tchen with cherry cabinetry, large dining room open to great room with vaulted ceilings, Large primary with ensuite & oversized garage.

Phase II Lake Overlook Estates, East Hampton

Now Open

Starting from $744,900

1.22 & 2.21 acre amazing home sites with beautiful seasonal lake views



Ranch Plan Just Added



Last Lot Available



Lot 4
Seasonal views of the lake.
Still time for changes and personal selections!

East Hampton
Starting from $647,900

Expanded Colonial I - this stately home offers a spacious and dramatic first floor with two story entry and double sided balcony overlook. The large kitchen is open to eating area and large great room. The upstairs continues to impress with an oversized primary bedroom with 2 large walk in closets, an en suite with soaking tub and oversized walk in tile shower. Foundation and framing will start 2nd - 3rd week of April. House to completed within 6 - 7 months.

CM09.26