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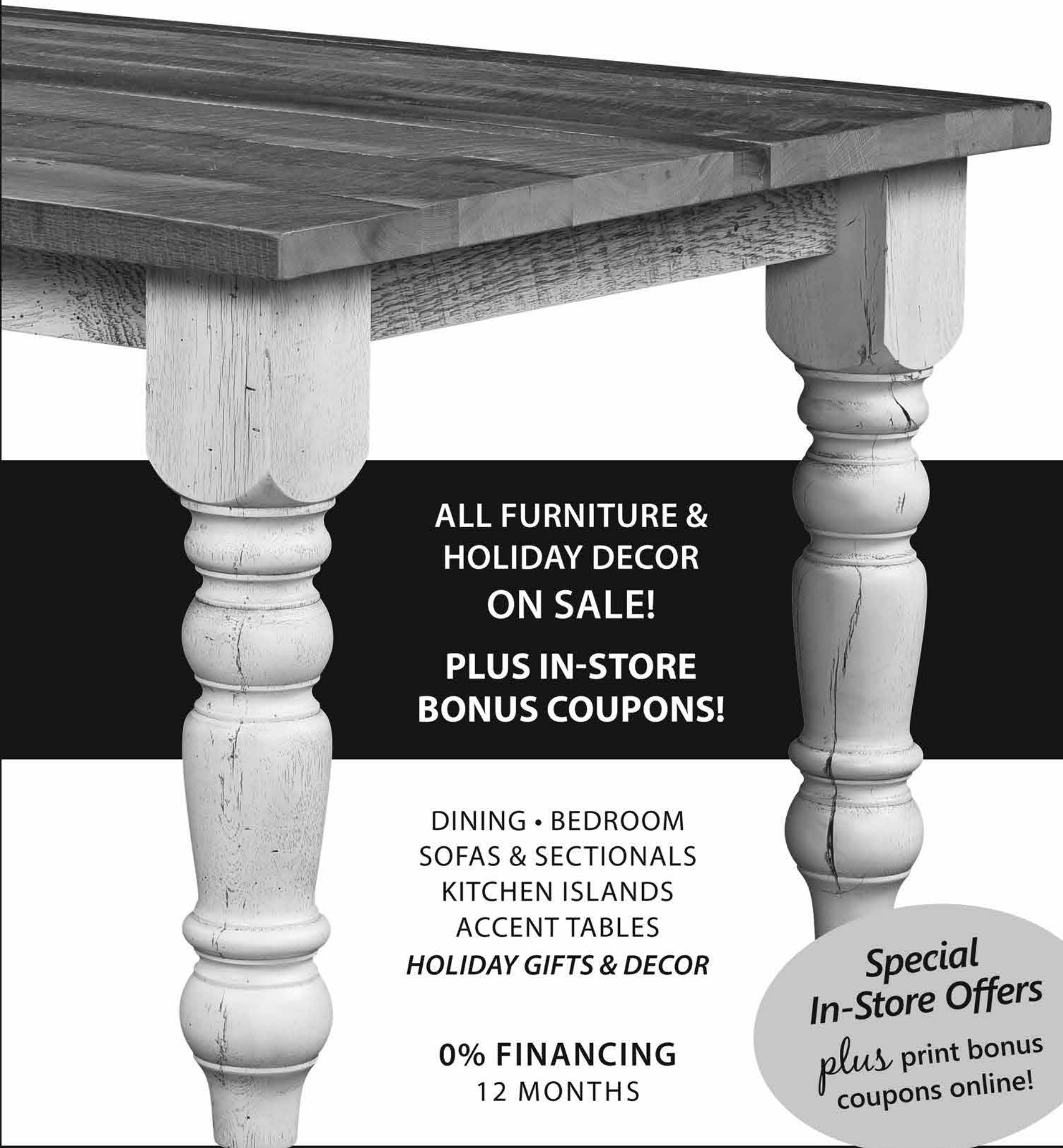
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Town Manager: Rocky Hill, Recycler Nearing Resolution on State Grant Snag

By Mark DiPaola

Rocky Hill town officials are optimistic about their chances of being able to accept a CT DEEP food scrapping pilot program grant – without running afoul of an agreement with its current recycling contractor. Murphy Road Recycling, the Hartford-based waste processing entity that entered a contract with Rocky Hill last year, is applying for State DEEP permitting to perform the functions of the town's envisioned pilot program – the pickup/transportation and separation of organic waste from the trash stream – and Town Attorney Ken Slater likes their chances, Town Manager Ray Carpentino reported at the Town Council's November 21 meeting.

"They are working with DEEP, and according to Ken Slater, DEEP is looking very favorably at this application to service the town," Carpentino said. "There may be modifications to the DEEP grant, but we're not sure what those details are yet."

The state provided Rocky Hill with \$737,000 to launch the one-year waste diversion pilot program, which will provide participating households with color-coded

bags for the separation of organic and disposable waste. The initiative is part of a broader push to reduce trash hauler "tipping" fees and usher in a more sustainable waste management model – with landfill and trash-to-energy plant supply dwindling.

The conflict derives from Murphy Road contract language DEEP Bureau Chief Jennifer Perry says prohibits Rocky Hill from seeking another contractor to service the pilot program – even if their current vendor doesn't perform the needed functions.

Amid negotiations between DEEP, Murphy Road, and the town, the consensus was for the recycling contractor to seek state permits to serve as Rocky Hill's pilot program vendor.

"Right now, we're still waiting for DEEP and Murphy Road to provide us with a couple of options as to how they'll be picking up, separating, and transporting the materials, whether offsite or within our own recycling facility," Carpentino said.

Mayor Lisa Marotta said the latest update is encouraging.

"It is exciting news that there is communication and collaboration that Murphy Road is looking into the permitting process to do what we're trying to achieve," Marotta said. "At the end of the day, we don't care who the vendors are – we have a goal and we hope to accomplish that goal with DEEP funding if it's possible. I think it's positive."

Councilor Allan Greenspan said he just wanted to make sure that the town doesn't run out the clock, if there is one.

"DEEP issued the grant and they're negotiating with Murphy Road, so I'm struggling with why this is taking so long. It's like the right hand fighting with the left," Greenspan said. "I just want to make sure we don't lose our opportunity to get the grant because it lapses."

"I doubt that will happen," Carpentino said. "Rocky Hill is a priority for DEEP, and if we come up on the deadline, there is an extension clause."

Rocky Hill is one of 16 Connecticut municipalities to secure DEEP funding for similar programs – was never given a deadline for accepting or rejecting the grant.

"We were going along a different path when it was initially applied for back in July. Then this contract issue came up and we had to stop," Carpentino said. "We had to evaluate the impact of that contract and what would happen to us as a town if we went with the grant. Now with Murphy Road trying to perform those activities, that's taking time."

Upcoming in Rocky Hill

- December 5 – Government Operations Committee
 - When: 5 p.m.
 - Format: In-Person (*With YouTube viewing option)
 - Where: Town Hall Council Chambers at 761 Old Main Street
 - December 5 – Town Council
 - When: 7 p.m.
 - Format: In-Person (*With remote YouTube viewing option)
 - Where: Town Hall Council Chambers at 761 Old Main Street
 - December 8 – Finance Committee
 - When: 6 p.m.
 - Format: In-Person (*With YouTube viewing option)
 - Where: Town Hall Council Chambers at 761 Old Main Street
- *All meetings can be viewed remotely via the "Rocky Hill Connecticut" YouTube channel.

The Cromwell Historical Society Presents Old Christmas Return'd 2022 Christmas Open House

Saturday, December 3, 2022, from 4 to 8 p.m. (weather date December 10)
 Stevens-Frisbie House – 395 Main Street in Cromwell

Christmas returns to the Stevens-Frisbie House on December 3 as the Cromwell Historical Society presents Old Christmas Return'd.

For the first time in three years, the Stevens-Frisbie House will be open to visitors. Guests will be greeted by costumed historians from the first decade of Cromwell's history inside the House and enjoy various activities throughout the grounds, veranda, and barn. Refreshments, crafting, and a gift shop will be offered in the barn while a Yule fire and wreath walk are presented in the yard. Add some historic inspiration to your holiday celebration with a visit to the Stevens-Frisbie House!

While admission to Old Christmas Return'd is free, donations to benefit the work of the Cromwell Historical Society are appreciated. Parking for this event will be along New Lane and at the First Congregational Church parking lot at 361 Main Street. Due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, the Stevens-Frisbie House itself will be open to the public with limited capacity. To learn more, please visit www.cromwellhistory.org or the Society's Facebook page www.facebook.com/cromwellhistory.



Joseph Goodrich and Larissa Matthews Engagement Announcement

"She said YES!"
 Glenn and Jacqueline Matthews of Rocky Hill, announce the engagement of their daughter, Larissa Matthews to Joseph Goodrich, son of Brian and Alice Goodrich of Rocky Hill.

Larissa is a Developmental Service Worker with the State of Connecticut and Joseph is an Equipment Application Engineer with Henkel.

No date has been set.

Letters to the Editor

Eversource Rate Hikes

To the Editor:
 Last week, soon after Election Day, Eversource announced that electric supply rates will go up nearly 50% in 2023. Natural gas prices for home heating have also increased approximately 25% over the last month and are expected to go up even more. Over half of all electricity in Connecticut is produced using natural gas. We have abundant natural gas production in the United States. Connecticut energy prices are spiking because of a lack of pipeline capacity to transport natural gas from the gas fields in Pennsylvania and Texas to Connecticut during winter high-demand months.

The industry has proposed several pipeline projects to bring more natural gas into Connecticut. These projects have been opposed by many in our State Legislature. In

absence of such projects, prices will continue to rise. Consumers like me would like to know where State Representative Kerry Wood stands on the issue of adding more pipeline capacity to transport natural gas to Connecticut, and her plan to solve this crisis of affordability for her constituents in Rocky Hill and Wethersfield.

Pankaj Prakash
 Town Councilor, Rocky Hill

Standing Up Against Divisive Rhetoric and Bullying

Dear Residents,
 This is in response to the Letter to the Editor dated 11/17/22 from the Rocky Hill Democrat Town Committee (RHDTC) attacking Councilor Pankaj Prakash, the Republican candidate for State Representative this November. While most of us have moved

Letters to the Editor

forward since Election Day with continued respect and support for our state and local officials, it is clear the Rocky Hill Democrat Town Committee has not. The RHDTC is more than happy to continue the divisive, misleading, and less than truthful campaign of Representative Kerry Wood even after the election is over. Indeed, its 11/17/22 Letter to the Editor yet again exemplifies a growing desire to ridicule and divide those who share opinions contrary to RHDTC beliefs.

As we move into a new year and a new local campaign season, it is our hope that the

RHDTC changes its tone and tenor when addressing the public and those who voluntarily serve our community in an elected capacity. We must remember that irrespective of party affiliation, we all share many commonalities, often run in the same circles, and ultimately are responsible for the climate of our community. There is no appetite for bullying or slander in our community. Our town has taken many steps forward to build unity. Divisive rhetoric will never find a home in Rocky Hill!"

-The Republican Town Committee



What's Happening

Rocky Hill & Cromwell?

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

Town Hall Staff Send Christmas Care Packages to Troops Overseas

By Mark DiPaola

The holiday season often comes with a reminder that many active military families spent it apart, but Melissa Hicks never needed to be told twice.

The Rocky Hill Human Services Department Director has a husband who was active-duty Army for years, and now her son serves in the Airforce.

"We're a big military family, and I know we have a lot of hometown heroes who have served," Hicks says.

So this fall, she had an idea; to mobilize town hall staff for Operation Christmas Boxes – a care package pledge drive to help overseas soldiers feel more at home this Thanksgiving, as well as the December holidays.

"We asked them to fill the boxes with things that represent what being home for

the holidays truly means," Hicks says.

And they went all out – assembling boxes filled with candy, kids' crayon drawings, greeting cards, and other tokens of holiday cheer.

"Our staff jumped right in," said Town Manager Ray Carpentino. "If we make life a little better for them overseas, it'll have been worth it. It's the least we can do."

Hick's Human Services team pledged 30 boxes right off the bat, according to Mayor Lisa Marotta – their goal was to add another 20 from other departments.

"The Town of Rocky Hill through its Human Services Department, under Director Melissa Hicks, is delighted to announce that its "Operation Christmas Boxes" project was a huge success!" Marotta wrote in a November 18 press release. "As of today, Human



Services has at least 75 boxes to send out."

While staffers far exceeded expectations, Hicks says she isn't too surprised – the Town Hall has several veterans of its own on staff.

"It was a good opportunity with the timing, it being right after Veterans Day," Hicks said. "This really is the season where our de-

partment is active in that."

While it's Town Hall's first run with Operation Christmas Boxes, it certainly won't be the last, Hicks and Carpentino say.

Hicks thinks they can make it even bigger next year.

"The sky's the limit with this," she said.

Cromwell Knights of Columbus 3rd Annual Food Drive – Helping Our Neighbors

The Knights of Columbus, DeSoto Council No. 6 of Cromwell will be sponsoring its 3rd Annual Food Collection Drive beginning November 19, 2022.

The campaign runs the weeks of November 21, November 28, December 5, and December 12.

Last year the generosity of residents, local businesses, and neighboring towns generated 3,474 pounds of nonperishable food items and \$2,700 in monetary donations.

Now, three years after the pandemic, businesses have slowed, unemployment has risen, and the costs of rent, utilities, gas, medicine, and food have been hiked by inflation. Cromwell residents face tough choices, and they need this kind of community support more than ever.

Thankfully, the Cromwell Food Pantry is available – but we can't do it without you.

To put things in perspective, the shelves at the Cromwell Food Pantry were nearly empty on several different occasions starting at the end of May through September of this year. Fortunately, DeSoto Council No.6 here in Cromwell was able to help restock the shelves through our purchases of some of the desperately needed non-perishable food items and personal hygiene items for the Cromwell Food Pantry. We were able to make these purchases as a result of the generous financial donations we received during our Food Collection Drive.

Over the past four years, demand has been as follows:

- 2019: 92 Households, 158 People
 - 2020: 101 Households, 179 People
 - 2021: 112 Households, 194 People
 - 2022: 151 Households, 293 People
- ...and 2022 is not over yet! From 2019 to 2022 there has been an 85% increase in the total number of people receiving assistance from the Cromwell Food Pantry.

YES, WE NEED ANOTHER FOOD COLLECTION DRIVE!! The number of local residents going to the Cromwell Food Pantry for help is rapidly increasing, but the resources (i.e., nonperishable food items and personal hygiene items) are not keeping pace with the demand. Please consider helping our local friends and neighbors by coming to the Cromwell Scout Center, located at 1 Herbert Porter Road in Cromwell (directly behind Henderson Baseball Field in Watrous Park, off of Geer Street) and dropping off some of the non-perishable food items and personal hygiene items that our Cromwell Food Pantry desperately needs. If you want to make a financial donation, that will be most welcome too.

The hours of operation at the Cromwell Scout Center to receive donations will be

Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. NO DONATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON WEDNESDAYS OR SUNDAYS.

To help us assist local families, we are kindly asking for donations of non-perishable food items as well as personal hygiene items. Households that receive some assistance through Connecticut's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") cannot purchase personal hygiene items with funds from this program. The Cromwell Food Pantry distributes personal hygiene items to our struggling neighbors as well as non-perishable food. The following is a list of the Non-Perishable Food items needed:

The following is a list of the Non-Perishable Food items needed:

- Cans of vegetables
- Cans of soup
- Cans of fruit
- Cans of tuna
- Canned beef stew
- Canned chicken
- Boxes of mac and cheese
- Boxes of cereal
- Boxes of crackers
- Boxes of pasta
- Boxes of rice
- Jars of peanut butter
- Jars of pasta sauce
- Jars of instant coffee
- Jars and/or packets of hot chocolate

The following is a list of the Personal Hygiene items needed:

- Antibacterial cleaning supplies
- Bars of soap
- Deodorant
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Cleaning products
- Laundry detergent

If you would like to help through a financial donation, we welcome checks. Please make all checks payable to "K of C DeSoto Council No.6". Checks may be dropped off at the Cromwell Scout Center during the weeks of our Food Collection Drive.

The Coordinator of DeSoto Council's 3rd Annual Food Collection Drive is David Masse. To contact David about this Food Collection Drive, please send your inquiry or message to cromwellkofc@yahoo.com. Please put "David Masse" on the subject line.

We thank you in advance for your compassion and support.

Upcoming in Cromwell

December 6 – Planning and Zoning Commission

- When: 7 p.m.
- Format: In-Person
- Where: Town Hall at 41 West St.

December 7 – Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency

- When: 7 p.m.
- Format: In-Person
- Where: Town Hall at 41 West St.

December 8 – Conservation Commission

- When: 7 p.m.
- Format: In-Person
- Where: Town Hall at 41 West St.

December 8 – Recreation Commission

- When: 5 p.m.
- Format: In-Person
- Where: Town Hall at 41 West St.

Do You Know a Terrific Cromwell Humanitarian? Nominate them for Lion's Club recognition!

The Cromwell Lions Club is looking to honor a non-member town resident at our District's Annual Lions Club Humanitarian Dinner – and we're asking the citizens of Cromwell for recommendations!

We're looking for citizens who go over and above to show kindness in the world around them.

A volunteer first responder that always responds to our emergencies. A special teacher that goes the extra mile with students. A manager of a store that ALWAYS donates to community events. A social worker who strives to care for those in need. A special neighbor that smiles as they put others at ease...or someone else entirely – the possibilities are endless!

Have someone in mind?

Great. We just ask that you submit a written nomination of 150 words or less.

Nominee cannot be currently serving as a Lion.

What should I write?

Please send us colorful stories, meaningful gestures, compassionate actions, and general examples of your nominee's human-

itarian spirit!

What happens if they win?

If selected by our committee, the Nominee will be invited to attend the Humanitarian Banquet. The Nominee's letter will be read before hundreds at St. Clement's Castle on Sunday January 22, 2023.

Out of all the nominees one special recipient will be honored with LCIF's highest award- a Melvin Jones for their humanitarian service to their community.

What's the deadline for nomination submissions?

Nomination letters must arrive on/before December 16, 2022.

They may be emailed to: cromwellclionsclub@gmail.com (or)

Mailed to:
Cromwell Lions Club PO Box 224 Cromwell, CT 06416

Questions? Please contact Lion President Lisa Klein at:

Cell: 760-258-7131
Office: 860-635-5637

Do you have something to say?

We welcome all letters to the editor that are signed and include a name and daytime phone number for verification. We reserve the right to edit all letters for length or other concerns. Mail your letter to P.O. Box 289, 222 Dividend Road, Rocky Hill, CT 06067, fax it to 860-257-8591 or e-mail it to editor@rarereminder.com.



What's Happening Newington?

Send us your news!

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

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

Councilmembers Address Colleague's Comments on School System

By Mark DiPaola

Town Councilors voiced their support for the Newington school system last Tuesday night – a week after a Board of Education (BOE) resolution backing the BOE Chair and district Superintendent and a month following a single Town Councilmember's call for their resignation.

Democratic Councilors Mitch Page and Kim Radda, as well as GOP Mayor Beth DelBuono, addressed Republican Councilor Mike Camillo's statements during the councilor comments segment of the November 22 meeting – on October 25, Camillo used that same forum to accuse Newington Public Schools (NPS) district officials of trying to "indoctrinate" students through the circulation of an equity and inclusion survey, charge that students are underperforming academically, call for tighter school budgeting, and demand the resignation of BOE Chair Dr. Bruce Fletcher and NPS Superintendent Dr. Maureen Brummett.

"My wife Lynne and I moved to Newington in 1991, in large part because of our school system. Our four sons attended Elizabeth Green, Martin Kellogg, and Newington High School, and they've gone on to further learning and did wonderful things in large part due to the education they received here in our town. We're most proud of our sons for their kindness to others, regardless of religion, race, age, class, gender, or sexual orientation." Page said at the November 22 Council meeting. "On October 25, disparaging comments were made about our Board of Education, our Superintendent, our teachers and staff, and our students and their families. I am asking the mayor and all of the leaders sitting here to join me tonight in going on record to reject any councilor's comments that may be hurtful, false, potentially dangerous, and born of ignorance and fear."

"We heard several statements and accusations leveled at the town's BOE, including calls for the resignation of our Superintendent and Board Chair," Radda added. "This type of rhetoric serves to create divisiveness and distrust."

Camillo told his Council colleagues on October 25 that he was trying to "start a conversation" – one that began behind the scenes through text messages to Fletcher.

"I've texted the Board Chair. The Superintendent. [I said] do something," Camillo says during the October 25. "Please resign, both of you. I've asked you. I'm in public now. It has to stop."

Camillo's charges covered both the school curriculum and the Board of Ed. budget – he said that the BOE is "robbing Newington taxpayers in the name of children" and that students are "testing poorly" to the detriment of local property values.

"You have kids graduating in high honors from high school, and they can't read, write, or do arithmetic," Camillo said.

You can find more detailed coverage of the Councilor's October 25 statements here: <https://tinyurl.com/ynevtbvb>.

That night, both the Mayor and Councilor Page advised Camillo to take his grievances up with the Board directly – preferably in a forum where they have an opportunity to respond, as no BOE representatives were at the October 25 Council meeting.

"Come down and have a cup of coffee, and we'll talk about it," Camillo said. "I want answers. This is real."

The BOE and district administration answered Camillo twice over subsequent weeks – in two public meetings – before passing a November 16 resolution in support of both Fletcher and Brummett.

At the November 2 Board meeting, Fletcher confirmed that Camillo had texted him during budget deliberations earlier that year, admonishing him over the district's facilities and fiscal management before calling on him to step down.

"My response to that is I was elected by the people, not by him," Fletcher said at the November 2 meeting. "I'm not a politician -- I'm going to do what's best for the district and the town. I'm taking a stand tonight. I'm not resigning. I think we all need to stand up and say we're not going to be pushed around. We have to govern ourselves," Fletcher said during the November 2 meeting. "If there's something inappropriate here, we will take care of it. I could never live with myself if I allowed cheating and stealing to go on. I can't turn a blind eye to that."

That evening, the Board spent over an hour addressing each of Camillo's comments – bristling at claims that the district graduates high honors students with insufficient math and reading skills.

"That is 100 percent false. Our school profiles speak to the accomplishments of our students," Brummett said on November 2. "Last year our students left the high school with 1,000 college credits. You cannot earn college credits if you cannot read or write."

The indoctrination charges, they say, are unfounded – Brummett says that the survey is simply a tool for helping educators learn how to better meet the learning needs of an increasingly diverse student body.

The survey was circulated in partnership with both the Newington Chamber of Commerce and department heads in Town Hall.

The first section, labeled "how do you imagine the future of NPS?", asks respondents how optimistic they feel about the district, and what can be done to improve.

"NPS is committed to having a long-lasting impact on all of its interested parties. This includes students, parents, faculty, administrators, and the wider Newington community," the survey reads. "As a member of this community, you can help build and shape NPS. Your perceptions, experiences, and preferences matter."

The next section covers district "strengths and weaknesses" -- with a set of multiple-choice questions asking participants to rate NPS for its parent communication, engagement of families, policies, responsiveness to feedback, access to support, and "ability to bring all members of the community together."

Other sections ask participants to check off any barriers they've encountered, as well as what they feel is "needed to achieve success."

"The introductory remarks were that we're trying to be thoughtful, proactive, and responsive on how we provide the community with an education, and this is part of the process in seeing how we're doing," Brummett said at the Board's November 2 meeting. "I've vetted the survey many times to ensure there was nothing in there that can be offensive or misconstrued. I have not gotten any parent complaints, nor citizen complaints. The bottom line is, there is no indoctrination in any way, shape, or form."

Camillo later said that his indoctrination claims go beyond the survey itself and into the NPS curriculum.

"They're into their personal lives, and they don't belong there," Camillo said on November 17. "They're indoctrinating our kids and it has to stop."

BOE members who spoke at the November 2 meeting acknowledged how broader equity and inclusion efforts in the classroom have been likened to "Critical Race Theory" (CRT) – the controversial concept at the center of the so-called "culture wars" sweeping the country.

CRT -- a more specific academic concept focused on the idea that racial bias shapes public policy and the legal system -- is not a part of the NPS curriculum, Brummett said last year. Despite claims to the contrary, this differs from the district's equity and inclusion work, which focuses on ensuring all students benefit from the classroom experience, Board members say.

"It gets conflated and turned into this new thing," Board member Jessica Weaver said at the November 2 BOE meeting. "The intention is to make sure we're meeting every student where they're at. We have a changing population with very different needs."

At that meeting, BOE Vice Chair Beth Manke Hutvagner said that as a teacher, she knows the stakes -- she recounted seeing students struggle, years ago, when districts were less equipped to serve their high-needs populations.

"We're providing for more students and identifying needs more than we ever have before, and for the first time in a long time, giving kids what they need," Hutvagner said. "Education has come a long way."

But it's still very much a work in progress, those at the Board table said that night.

Brummett says the district continues to adapt its curriculum to better serve its "high needs" students – namely, multilingual learner (ML), free and/or reduced-cost meal eligible, and special education populations that have grown over the years.

The Board passed a resolution supporting Fletcher and Brummett on the evening of November 16.

We cover the related discussions in greater detail here: <https://tinyurl.com/2p84dhrc>.

"I hope this motion can be a sign to these two leaders that we're not listening to that noise," said

BOE member Michael Branda, who made the motion. "We know your leadership, and what you're doing for the town and the schools, no matter what somebody who doesn't know anything about what you do says."

Branda also urged both the Mayor and Council to address Camillo's statements.

Mayor DelBuono said that she backs the BOE – but that she won't be calling for an official Council statement in response to Camillo.

"I don't feel like I should have to defend myself or say I support our Board of Education. I certainly support the Board and the work they do, having served on the BOE previously for eight years and being a teacher myself," DelBuono said. "That said, I also support the right to free speech. I think anyone at this table has the right to express their opinions. That doesn't mean we have to support or agree with it. I do support the Board of Ed. I think they're working hard for our students. I have a good relationship with Chairman Fletcher, and I look forward to continuing that."

Camillo stated a week prior that he had been commenting that night as an individual.

"This is Mike Camillo, a resident -- not a town councilor," Camillo said on November 17. "I made my statements publicly because otherwise they don't hear you."

"When we sit at this table, we are elected officials – town councilors, not private residents," Radda said on November 22. "We must remember that we speak from that role and from that responsibility. Tonight, I speak as a councilor. I ask for the council to formally reject the inflammatory and ill-conceived statements and stand together to promote civil discourse."

Six BOE members voted in favor of the resolution supporting Brummett and Fletcher, while two abstained. But even among the affirmative voters, there was trepidation about Board/Council relations heading into what's anticipated to be another year of challenging budget negotiations.

On November 22, Radda also looked ahead to the budget – she called for the formation of a "bi-partisan" BOE/Council joint committee.

"[This is] something that has been done in the past to discuss how to deescalate a contentious and possibly toxic environment, to find a way to move forward together for the best interests of all residents in our community," Radda said.

The Councilor responses come a week after Camillo dug in his heels – he says he's "not going away."

"Nothing I said is false," Camillo said on November 17. "I'm not a bully. I had an opinion and facts. They [Brummett and Fletcher] need to resign."

When pressed for specifics, Camillo says his concerns derive, in part, from conversations he'd had with parents – he acknowledged that struggling students may need more support but says the school curriculum should focus on covering "the basics."

But understanding how an individual's lived experiences might pose barriers in the classroom is critical to ensuring that every student has a chance to succeed academically, Board members say.

The school population is also becoming more racially diverse, and persistent achievement gaps – a reflection of statewide trends – further underscore the need for equity and inclusion work, Brummett says.

At the Board's November 16 meeting, Brummett -- as part of a separate agenda item for setting district goals -- presented the most recent Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) test data, which measures the percentage of students performing at levels 3 or 4 in subject areas like English/Language Arts (ELA) and math.

In 2017, 54% of NPS students met that benchmark in ELA -- a deadlock with statewide level 3 and 4 attainment rates for that time. The district surged ahead, to 60% (compared to the state's 55%) the next year, before dipping to 56%

Make the 2023 Legislative Session Work for You!

By State Rep. Gary Turco

Please join me for coffee and bring your concerns, ideas and questions on Saturday, December 3 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to Panera Bread on 3120 Berlin Turnpike in Newington.

I am looking forward to listening to residents from the 27th District, which now includes parts of Newington and New Britain, ahead of the 2023 legislative session that begins in a few weeks.

in 2018-2019.

In 2020, 50% of Newington students hit levels 3 or 4 -- there's no state data for that year because SBAC tests were suspended due to the pandemic's learning disruptions.

For the 2021-2022 academic year, 52% of SBAC scores landed at levels 3 or 4 -- versus 49% for the state.

"These numbers are promising," Brummett said. "What you see in Newington is very typical for the state. We're coming back strong, but not quite where we were at, and we are above the state average."

In math, the district exceeded statewide performance for each of the three years before the pandemic, dropping from 53% to 37% between 2019 and 2020. The 2021-2022 data shows what district leaders hope is a rebound -- with 44% of students at level 3 or 4, compared to the statewide 40%.

"We are higher than the state, but obviously we aspire to be higher than 44% for those performing at level 3 and 4," the Superintendent said.

But the district still has a lot of work to do to ensure all students are making the recovery, Brummett said.

While nearly 75% of White students in Grades K-8 reached proficiency in reading, numbers were lower for their Black and Hispanic peers, according to the NPS data.

In math, around 50% of Black students were proficient -- less than half of Hispanic students hit the benchmark. About 70% of White students attained proficiency in that subject area.

"We want to have the achievement and opportunity gap eliminated," she said. "We want all of our students to do well."

Brummett says that will mean establishing "equity teams" at each school and implementing "culturally responsive" teaching practices.

The latter is an approach that, according to EdWeek.org, aims to raise the academic expectations of all students, regardless of race, by recognizing "cultural differences" as "assets"; rather than "barriers" -- an attempt to combat implicit bias and stereotyping that have undermined students of color in the classroom, advocates of the approach say.

One example of culturally responsive teaching, EdWeek.org writes, is to make lessons more relatable to students by framing concepts with their culture and "lived experiences."

"We believe when kids are not doing well, one way that can be helped is by being responsive to the different cultures in the room," Brummett said.

Page and Radda say that the district's equity work is driven by both an academic and civic imperative during a time of nationwide division.

"On a regular basis, our BIPOC and LGBTQ+ communities are under attack in the U.S. and around the world as evidenced by the hate crime shooting in Colorado Springs this past Saturday night, where several people were killed and others injured," Page said. "More than ever, we need our students and adults to be educated in an ongoing way about respect, love, caring, inclusion, equity, and working with people different than ourselves. Lynne and I are very grateful for the diversity in Newington. It makes us better as a town, and we thank the Superintendent, the staff, and the Board of Ed. for everything they do for all of our students."

Radda says she has faith in the district and its efforts to close the achievement gap.

"Over time, Newington has become increasingly diverse, which is something I celebrate," she said. "I see diversity as enriching our community as well as calling us to grow and adapt and address the needs of a more diverse population. It's a challenge, and it's a challenge I think we're more than capable of meeting."

Do You Have Something to Say?

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

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



What's Happening Newington?

Send us your news!

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

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

Town Clerk to Serve as Acting Town Manager

By Mark DiPaola

The Town Council has tapped Newington's Town Clerk to serve as Acting Town Manager, with a search committee seeking candidates for current chief administrator Keith Chapman's permanent replacement.

Town Clerk James Krupienski's appointment -- good for 90 days, unless the Council opts to renew it -- was approved on November 14 by a 7-0 Council vote, with Councilmembers Mike Camillo and Sharon Braverman absent.

Chapman's resignation takes effect December 2 -- Krupienski, who was hired as Town Clerk in 2016, will become Acting Town Manager at 12 a.m. on December 3.

"I'm confident Mr. Krupienski will serve us well and I'm looking forward to that," said Mayor Beth DelBuono.

So were Newington residents, who sounded off on social media to offer their congratulations.

"I'm happy to help out the Town of Newington in any way that I can, and the public's support is encouraging," Krupienski said over the phone the next morning. "I'm excited -- this is a new chapter in my life."

One resident said that she hopes to see Krupienski take the permanent role. The Town Clerk, who's been a municipal employee at some level or another since 2001 -- he worked in Vernon and South Windsor before his Newington tenure -- says he'll be throwing his hat in the ring.

"It may or may not be me, but I will apply for it and see where I get in the process," Krupienski said.

The Council formed a town manager search

committee on October 25 -- with the intention of launching a nationwide recruitment effort -- and they may bring on an executive talent procurement firm to help facilitate.

While the Town Charter puts a 90-day limit on acting town manager appointments, it allows the Council to extend it.

"After 90 days, if the council has not finished the search, which we may not be able to do in that amount of time, it would be up to the town council to come back again and make another appointment for 90 days -- it could be that person or another person," DelBuono said during the meeting.

Chapman, a former Newington town manager who retired more than 20 years ago, returned on an interim basis in 2020, after the dismissal of former chief administrator Tanya Lane.

Chapman was later appointed to the permanent position.

He announced on September 30 that he would step down -- the Council formally accepted his resignation at the October 25 meeting.

"It's gonna be with regret, but I'm gonna vote to accept this. I have to support his wishes and decision," Deputy Mayor Budrejko said that night.

"This is one I'm approaching with a bit of a heavy heart. Mr. Chapman, you started with us with the idea of a six-month interim role, and you ended up staying on with us," DelBuono said. "I think you've done an amazing job for the town of Newington. I'm thankful for your out of the box thinking and you've clearly instilled that in your staff. They're clearly coming up with innovative

ways to get things done."

Councilors praised Chapman for his work on economic development, well as his fiscal management -- the town has seen three consecutive Mill Rate decreases and \$300 million in new investments since 2020.

Councilor Tim Manke thanked him for his leadership throughout the pandemic.

"You considered the safety of the citizens and the staff under your leadership and still tried to provide the services to the town," Manke said. "You kept us moving forward and functioning, and that's important."

Now the role falls to Krupienski, who began his career in 2001 as a building department assistant in Vernon. Throughout his Vernon tenure, he served as town manager's office assistant, and eventually, Assistant Town Clerk.

He became Deputy Town Clerk in South

Windsor in 2010.

"It's been quite a ride," Krupienski said.

He says he could see himself in a town manager position as far back as his time in Vernon -- but that it wasn't the right time to pursue it, with two young children to raise.

The Council approached him about an acting town manager role when Chapman expressed intentions to resign this past summer -- plans that were later walked back.

Now, with Chapman's December 2 departure looming, Krupienski says he's ready to take the helm.

"My children are older. I've taken a lot of roles in town government," Krupienski said. "My job is always interesting, which is what I love about it, and I think being in this role, I'll see other facets of the town."

This Week in Local Government

December 1 - Anna Reynolds Project Building Committee Regular Meeting

- When: 5:15 p.m.
- Format: Virtual
- Where: Zoom (*see login info below for access)

December 1 - 150th Steering Committee Regular Meeting

- When: 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- Format: Hybrid Virtual
- Where: Zoom

December 1 - Zoning Board of Appeals Regular Meeting

- When: 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
- Format: Virtual
- Where: Zoom

December 7 - Newington Housing Authority Regular Meeting

- When: 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
- Format: In-Person
- Where: 241 West Hill Road, Keleher Park Community Room, Newington, CT

December 7 - Economic Development Commission Regular Meeting

- When: 7 p.m.

- Format: Virtual
- Where: Zoom

December 8 - Environmental Quality Commission Regular Meeting

- When: 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Format: Virtual
- Where: Zoom - go to www.newingtonct.gov/Calendar.aspx?EID=5310 to get the sign in link

December 8 - Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting

- When: 7 p.m.
- Format: In-Person
- Where: 190 Richard St., Newington CT

*To attend/participate via Zoom:

1. Go to www.newingtonct.gov
2. Scroll down to the home page's calendar section
3. Click on the event link for the meeting you'd like to attend
4. On the event's dedicated page, you should see a link to 'download agenda'
5. Find the Zoom login info on the agenda document

NHS 2022-2023 1st Quarter High Honor Roll

Grade 9

Yusef Alsaqri, Thomas DeNapoli, Ian Joo, Natalie Mitusina, Kira Salvador, Anica Anan, Kaitlyn Dugas, Zaid Khan, Tremain Morris, Genesis Sanchez, Murtaza Ather, Dante Ficaro, Monica Kowalczyk, Gianfranco Murillo, Suri Sanchez, Ishaan Badugu, Caroline Fisher, Owen Kuca, Giovanni Murillo, Jenna Sanseverino, Siena Beqiraj, Sean Fleming, Aiden Ky, Gerick Napuli, Chloe Savastra, Joseph Biondi, Juliana Flores, Daniel Lacoste, Bryce Nguyen, Angel Shaji, Sydney Blueford, Fiona Ganci, Minyoung Lee, Kenna O'Brien, Julia Singh, Jilian Bouchard, Meghan Genova

, Maye Lemire, Katelyn Oliver, Justyna Slezok, Brooklynn Bradley, Jerry Gong, Nora Lewandowski, Maia Ouellette, Alexandra Taschuk, Victoria Bucior, Nayla Gonzalez-Costa, Brianna Lile, Abigail Pratt, Thanh-Lam Tong, Taha Bukhari, Sahasra Gudipudi, Clara Mage, Jonah Prignano, Gabriel Trifone, Kathryn Byrnes, Sofia Guida, Briana Marques, Antonio Punzalan, Kalia Truong, Olivia Canepari, Marsi Guri, Reagan Mayo, Juliet Resto, Heath Weeden, Caitlin Claffey, Arianna Henrique DeFarias, William Mazzabufi, Jacob Rivera, Jason White, Matilde Costa, Ty'Lasia Huff, Paige Mazzaccaro, Aidan Rodriguez, Jayona Willis, Camree Cournoyer, Alexia Interlandi, Erin Mckirdy, Santiago Rodriguez, Victor Wronka, Dominik Czyz, Kripa Jacob, Daylin Miller, Ava Rosa, Zachary Zawisza, Audrey DeFrancesco, Sam Jacob, Paige Mimnaugh, Samuel Salgado Gonzalez

Grade 10

Colin Alemany, Thea DeWitt, Paulina Kolkowski, Mailia Nieves, Logan Shaw, Chloe Alvi-zo, Ava dos Santos, Adrian Kowalczyk, Benjamin Nyez, Gabrielle Sims, Nathan Ameny, Shyam Garibnawaj, Kailey Krusewski, Mariyah Paladino, Emily Skubisz, Jonathan Annino, Kamryn Gaydos, Taylor Kutniewski, Myranda Parker, Lanna Stuckey, Aly Arroyo, Krystie Gervais, Ethan Lassen-Crawford, Achyut Patel, Ava Tavares, Avery Atkinson, Joseph Gionfriddo, Kuba Latawicz, Emily Percy, Andrew Tran, Sebastian Baran, Zachary Girolamo, Joshua Lee, Isabella Peruccio, Leah Turner, Tamaya Barnes, Madilynn Glaude, Isabella Longo, Hallie Peterson, Aashritha Varada, Anna Bielaszka, Bonnie Gong, Austin Loya, Theresa Pham, Bianca Vieira, Avery Bonet, Tristan Gorman, Jayden Lu, Anh-Minh Phan, Sarah Visalga, Noah Borrup, Olivia Grat-tage, Selena Malave, Ryan Pouliot, Ella Vumback, Hailie Broadbent, Delila Guster, Jaylin Man-son, Madison Prentice, Matthew Vuong, Brian Carago, Cadiana Holmes, Janelle Marquez, Aubrey Prestia, Srishti Wadhwa, Carly Cierniewski, Gage Howard, Kamil Michalski, Selah Prignano, Catarina Whitehouse, Lilah Civitillo, Natalia

Jankowski, Madeline Michaud, Nayeli Rios, Gabriela Wierzbecki, Kiley Connors, Elesia Joseph, Hassan Munawar, Lucas Robson, Kaylee Wilson, Jonah Courtemanche, Oliver Kallen, Daren Ngo, Nicholas Rodriguez, Ricky Yang, Faith DeFranc-es, Sean Kelly, Katelyn Nguyen, Christian Ro-sado, Lukas Zelechowski, Noah Devanney, Gabriella Kocheva, Quang Nguyen, Noel Roy, Ryan Zogu

Grade 11

Milan Abraham, Ema Costa, Srivaishnav Gu-dipudi, Carley Leonard, Cody Rubino, Brooke Accatino, Jake D'Amato, Andre Guillotin, Ra-chel Malec, Angelina Ruiz, Olivia Adamczyk, Joseph Damato, Hebah Habib, Anna McGold-rick, Izaylin Smith, Sarah Aldrich, Evan De-Marco, Ashley Hilliard, Libbey McGrath, Mya Smith, Adam Alexander, Parisha Desai, Gabriel Houle, Avery Mickens, Isabella Stair, Anasta-sia Ambrose, Grant DiBella, Natalie Hrytsyna, Gabriella Molfetas Duran, Bruno Stosur, Dylan Anctil, Vietanh Dinh, Gina Hughes, Aryanna Morris, Eshan Tanseer, Mujtaba Ather, Elizabeth Doll, Ryan Hurley, Filip Nadratowski, Ethan Tata, Cecelia Bacon, Ryan Dunn, Lianna Johnson, So-phia Napuli, Jake Tatem, Sebastian Baez, Caitlyn Dzialo, Collin Karanian, Steward Nunez, Alex-ander Tong, Rachael Bailly, Madelynn Farragher, Andzelika Kluska, Viktor Orzolek, Amarelys Velez Santiago, Elizabeth Barron, Emma Free-man, Michael LaCava, Leilah Osbourne, Emma Vumback, Evangelia Bikakis, Elizabeth Gallagher, Molly Lavoie, Charles Pade, Casey Wang, Mya Blanco, Mya Gallicchio, Huy Le, Milly Patel, Ella Webster, Katherine Bohlke, Mia Golec, Phuoc Le, Ian Rainville, Colleen Whitman, Kaylei Cao, Kyra Goss, Kayla Lefurgey, Sophia Rathbun, Claudia Wilson, Angelina Carago, Maja Grebowiec, Mi-kaya Lenzi, Isabella Rodriguez, Maggie Woods, Madison Conforto, Chelsea Greca, Aliana Leon, Taylor Ronski, Alina Yavorska, Abigail Zoll

Grade 12

Mason Affricano, Abigail Corcoran, Charis Jack, Julia Napoletano, Nathan Santos, Zeina Al Ramahi, Tiana D'Aquila, Emily Jarmosko, Far-han Navid, Kelly Saunders, Beckham Alderucci, Robert Daraz, Eli Johnson, Dang Nguyen, Stacey Sheno, Sarah Amaral, Saachi Dave, Maria Joseph, Katarina Oliveira, Madelyn Smith, Desiree Apa-ro, Danielle Dei, Sreya Joseph, Seila Osmanovic, Maria Soares Silva, Danel Barreto Rivera, Ella DePase, Treasa Joseph, Maryssa Paladino, Peter Stack, Jackson Beaman, Henry Dietter, Almira Juraldzic, Meera Patel, Jack Stair, Cassiopeia Be-gich, Emma dos Santos, Julia Kaczynski, Jacob Perez, Kolin Stegmaier, Morgan Belaski, Lauryn Drew, Kayla Kaim, Mia Peterson, Riley Sullivan

Access Health CT 2023 Enrollment is Open

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AHCT is the only place Connecticut residents can qualify for financial help to lower health-care coverage costs. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) extends the enhanced subsidies that make coverage more affordable by greatly reducing monthly payments (premiums) for many people who enroll through AHCT. It also provides finan-cial help for those with somewhat higher incomes who can face high premiums but weren't eligible for help in the past.

More people will be eligible for this financial help in Plan Year 2023. If an individual is covered by an employer-sponsored plan that does not provide affordable coverage for the rest of their family members, their spouse and dependents can enroll in a plan through AHCT and poten-tially be eligible for enhanced subsidies.

Some Connecticut residents may be eligible for free or low-cost coverage through the HUSKY Health Program (Medicaid/Children's Health In-surance Program) and the Covered CT Program. The Covered CT Program was created by the State of Connecticut and provides no-cost health insurance coverage, dental coverage and Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) administered by the Connecticut Department of Social Services.

Signing up for dental insurance through AHCT is now easier than ever. The process is streamlined and more customer-friendly, allow-ing people to shop, compare and enroll in a den-tal insurance plan at the same time as a health

insurance plan.

"This year marks our 10th anniversary at Ac-cess Health CT, and we remain committed to our mission to reduce the rate of the uninsured and eliminate health disparities in Connecticut," said Chief Executive Officer of AHCT, James Michel. "Now is the time customers can enroll in a plan that works best for themselves and their families. We are here to walk them through the process step by step and ensure they receive all financial help they may be eligible to receive."

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Author in Residence Inspires Local Students

By Mark DiPaola

Ask a high schooler to write poetry, and you'll likely get an eyeroll, but in October, 130 Wethersfield middle school students took the leap of faith – in a writer's workshop led by author Jeanne Zulick.

The work of one student, an immigrant from Bosnia, blew his peers away, says Silas Deane Middle School Library/Media Specialist Leslie Poulis, who facilitated the workshop.

"This little interaction gave him the courage to talk about his home country – what he missed about it," Poulis says. "Everyone just looked at him like, 'wow!'"

Zulick was invited to Silas Deane as part of the Wethersfield Education Foundation (WEF) nonprofit's Author in Residence program, which has been looking to ignite those 'wow' moments for students since its inception just two years ago – WEF started the initiative in honor of the late Mark F. Granato, an acclaimed historical fiction novelist who passed away in 2020.

Zulick, a refugee advocate and former public defender who comes from a family of immigrants, in her own way, knows what the student from Bosnia was going through. She says writing helped her find confidence and a sense of belonging while growing up in a new country.

"I write books about kids finding their place in the world," Zulick writes on her author website. "Even as a young girl, I was al-

ways trying to find my place. The right book is a way of doing that."

Zulick writes that she turned to Madeline L'Engle's sci-fi/fantasy icon "A Wrinkle in Time".

Since the 1962 novel is before the time of today's youth, she used Disney movies to illustrate the beats and plot structure within a well-told work of creative fiction, Poulis said.

Then, she had the students try their hand at it.

"She had a lot of very innovative ways of getting the kids engaged and excited," Poulis said.

In one exercise, students were asked to come up with a story based on a random object in a box.

"I learned that you can get inspiration from every object and person around you no matter what it looks like," one student wrote in a testimonial Poulis shared with us.

In another one, participants were handed a rough draft of Zulick's work – and invited to do their own revisions.

Poulis said that she was surprised at how closely the student edits resembled the later versions Zulick shared.

"To work with a published writer, ask her questions, and try your hand at writing was great for them," Poulis says. "She was good at saying 'don't worry, we're not judging you here. The key thing is to be yourself and be

free to express yourself in your writing."

Zulick also provided the students with tips on character development – backstory, motive, and all. The exercise transcended the literary world, in that it helped participants further develop empathy, Poulis says.

"I learned that you should put yourself in someone else's shoes when someone is having a hard time," another student wrote to Poulis.

Zulick spent two days at Silas Deane Middle School, holding four workshops for Grade 7 participants and four more for those in Grade 8. The visit covered journalism and nonfiction writing, as well as poetry and creative fiction.

The workshops drew 80 eighth graders and 57 seventh graders.

"At first, I was worried. The signups were

slow," Poulis said. "I think after the first day, some of the kids may have talked to people. We had a great turnout. I had hoped we'd get at least 50 in each grade."

Poulis, a former English/Language Arts teacher who runs an afterschool writing group for interested students, says she hopes to provide Silas Deane Middle School with building block programs for the writing courses offered at Wethersfield High School.

She says programs like this help.

Some participants submitted a piece of their own writing for Zulick's review – and were ecstatic to receive personalized written feedback – Poulis says.

"She wrote a personal note to each kid," she says. "Those kids were so thrilled they had a personal note from her about their writing."

This Week in Local Government

December 5 – Town Council Regular Meeting

- When: 7 p.m.
- Format: In-Person (with YouTube livestreaming)
- Where: 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield CT

December 6 – Library Board Regular Meeting

- When: 7 p.m.
- Format: Virtual
- Where: Zoom

December 6 – Planning and Zoning

- When: 7 p.m.

- Format: In-Person (with YouTube livestreaming)

- Where: 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield CT

December 8 – EDIC

- When: 12 p.m.
- Format: In-Person
- Where: Town Hall Lower Level Conference Room 3 at 505 Silas Deane Highway

December 8 – Youth Advisory Board

- When: 7 p.m.
- Format: Virtual
- Where: Zoom

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Wethersfield Academy for the Arts

Holiday Wreath Workshop

Sunday, December 4th, 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Use fresh greens, holiday decorations and a bow to transform an art frame into a beautiful seasonal wreath for your home. Includes all materials, demo, individual assistance, and complimentary refreshments. Bring garden clippers, wire cutters, gloves and glue gun (if you have one). Cost: \$35 per person. RSVP by e-mail to info@wethersfieldarts.org by December 1st with payment. Contact 860-994-8304 for more information.

Figure Drawing Session

December 11th, 10:00 am - 2:30 pm

No instruction, monitored. Easels supplied. Cost: \$25. RSVP by email: info@wethersfieldarts.org.

Workshops

Figure Drawing

Instructor: Tyler Berry

3 day workshop, January 20th - 22nd, 9:30 am - 4:00 pm

Students will strengthen their drawing skills and anatomical knowledge through drawing the figure

from life. Starting with a series of short poses and leading into one long pose the instructor will guide

the class through the process with demonstrations and individual critiques. For artists with all skill levels.

Model fee included.

Classes

Watercolor - Open Studio

Instructor: Grace Scharr McEnaney

December 1st, 8th, 15th, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Complete those unfinished paintings, breakthrough your obstacles to start a new one and learn to

refresh the entry point fundamentals of

watercolor through painting, as needed. Lots of individual attention, guidance and advice as to how to move forward in your work in a way that feels comfortable and right for you. Bring your painting along with your questions! Students can register for one or more than one class. Pre-registration required. Cost: \$40 (with membership) per 2 hour session.

Bargue/Cast Drawing

Instructor: Veronique Fournier-Wynne
6 weeks starting January 9th, any 3 hours between 4:00 - 8:00 pm

Based on the 19th century French Academic drawing course, designed by Charles Bargue, students will develop sight size drawing skills with a focus on shapes, form, line and values. Demonstrations and Individual critiques. For artists with all skill levels.

Figure Drawing

Instructor: Pete Anderson

6 week class beginning January 10th, 5:00 - 8:00 pm

Students will develop skills and confidence in figure drawing. Start with Figure 1 process, by learning the elements of focus and patience in putting lines on paper, stepping back and learning in an observational manner. Measuring in several academic methods, creating simple forms and shadow mapping will lead into the Figure 2 Mastercopy process. Appropriate for artists at all levels. Students will be able to take the monthly Figure Drawing long pose sessions, with live model, at no extra cost, while this class is in session.

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

Thank you for reading the Rare Reminder.

Visit us online at: www.rarereminder.com



What's Happening Wethersfield?

Send us your news!

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

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

Prospect St. Arrest Warrant Standoff Brought to Peaceful Resolution

By Mark DiPaola

A day-long standoff between multiple law enforcement agencies and a suspect with an outstanding warrant closed off a portion of Prospect Street the weekend of November 18 – before officers were able to make an arrest.

The incident began Friday, November 18, at 10 a.m., when East Hampton Police officers requested Wethersfield Police Department (WPD) assistance serving a Jeffrey Howlett with an arrest warrant – Howlett was wanted for violating a protection order and was reportedly at 16 Tristian Court in Wethersfield – according to a WPD incident press release.

According to the written account authored by WPD Sergeant Michael Wren, the suspect “did not respond to officers on the

scene” when they attempted to engage him.

Police closed Prospect Street from Ridge Road to Willow Street and called in the Capital Region Emergency Services Team (CREST) to assist.

Some residents evacuated, while others sheltered in place.

“Very serious situation that could have easily escalated, and with the tragic incident in Bristol in the back of our minds, I went to bed Friday night I said a prayer for the department,” said Mayor Michael Rell at the November 21 Town Council meeting.

Wethersfield, East Hampton, and CREST officers spent that night and Saturday morning attempting to coax Howlett out of the home – “without success,” according to Wren.

That changed at 7:30 a.m. November 18,

when the suspect cooperated and a “clean arrest” was made, according to WPD.

“Kudos to you and your leadership and to the PD as well as the CREST Team,” Rell told WPD Chief Raphael Medina at the November 21 meeting. “Hopefully we don’t have that ever again, but we know we’re well-served not only with the police force but the CREST team.”

Medina, who was out of state that weekend on town business, lauded WPD Captain Mark Petruzzi, who was running the department in his absence and spearheaded the response.

“It was an interesting weekend to say the least, with that incident that could have gone differently. If he wasn’t here, I would have been on a plane back the next day,” Medina said. “Kudos not only to our department, but to the fire department, the fire marshals, the surrounding towns, the state’s attorney’s office, the residents that live in that area that put up with us shutting down that road for a day, and the residents of that neighborhood who cleared their homes. At the end of the day, to have a positive resolution with no injuries and to be able to make a clean arrest is reassuring.”



A Little Help for Your Friends (of the Wethersfield Library)?

Book Raffle to Assist Longtime Library Supporters

The Friends of the Wethersfield Library are holding a raffle and book sales until Dec. 5 to make up for revenue losses caused by a September pipe burst on the facility’s lower level.

The break heavily damaged the lower level (children’s books, storage for donated

books for book sales, meeting rooms, staff offices), forcing its temporary closure till early spring.

The Friends of the Library provides the Public Library with \$15,000 per year to cover the summer reading program, museum passes, and other programming.

Contact Gretchen Kelly at gfk716@cox.net for more info.

Holidays on Main Returns Tonight!

The Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Wethersfield invite everyone to join friends at the annual Holidays on Main Celebration on Thursday, December 1 from 5 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Visit with Santa at the firehouse, participate in a silent auction at Webb Barn and enjoy horse and wagon rides and the tree lighting.

Please note the following street closure from 4 p.m. – 9 p.m.: Main Street from Center Street to Hartford Avenue; Church Street from Willard Street to Main Street; and Marsh Street from Broad Street to Main

Street.

In addition, starting at 3 p.m., no parking will be allowed on Main Street from Center Street to Hartford Avenue.

A shuttle bus will be available for the event with parking at the Wethersfield Town Hall at 505 Silas Deane Highway and the Pitkin Community Center at 30 Greenfield Street.

Please come out and join the festivities. If you have any questions, please contact the Parks & Recreation Department at (860)721-2890 or Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce at 860-721-6200.

The Webb Deane Stevens Museum Holiday Events

WETHERSFIELD, CT – November 21, 2022 — The Webb Deane Stevens Museum today announced its December hours and holiday events.

The Museum and Gift Shop will be open to the public Thursday, December 1, through Friday, December 23, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and on Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. All three historic houses will be decorated for the holidays and open for daily tours. The Museum will also host a Candlelight Stroll featuring live entertainment, refreshments, and house walk-throughs on Thursday, December 8, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

“We’re excited to welcome the community to the Museum this holiday season,” said Joshua Campbell Torrance, Executive Director of the Webb Deane Stevens Museum. “Whether you’re visiting with your family every year, or if you’re stopping by for the first time, there is always something new and fresh that will surprise and delight.”

Customs and décor associated with a New England Christmas of the 1840s will be on display in the Isaac Stevens House’s foyer, dining parlor, parlor, kitchen, and children’s bedroom and toy room. Holiday décor and celebrations as they have evolved into the 20th century will be highlighted in the foyer, Yorktown Parlor, and best parlor of Joseph Webb House. The Silas Deane House parlor, study, kitchen, and dining room will be decorated for the observance of New Year’s Day during the 18th century, when women of the household held their annual receptions.

Guided Holiday House Tours will be scheduled Tuesday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. On Saturdays, house tours will be held at 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 2:30 p.m. and Sundays at 1 p.m. & 3 p.m. The Museum is closed on Mondays.

Admission: \$15 per adult; \$12 per senior over 60, AAA members, and active/retired military/veterans; \$6 per student and children (5-18), \$30 per family (2 adults + children).

Candlelight Stroll
Thursday, December 8, 2022
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Stroll through the Webb Deane Stevens Museum’s three historic houses, all festively decorated for the holiday season and lit by candlelight. Guides will greet guests in each house to offer a brief history of the holiday décor and to answer questions. Light refreshments will be served, and songs of the season will be performed by Wethersfield High School’s Choralaires.

Admission: NSCDA-CT and Museum Members: \$25 per person. General Public: \$30 per person. Tickets can be purchased in advance online at <https://webb-deane-stevens.org/december-event/>.

The Webb Deane Stevens Museum is located at 211 Main Street, Wethersfield, Connecticut. On-site and street parking is available. For more information, visit wdsmuseum.org or call 860-529-0612.

Do You Have Something to Say?

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

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

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD

The Town Council of the Town of Wethersfield will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, December 5, 2022** at 7:00 p.m. from the Town Council Chambers, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, Connecticut for the following:

AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT APPLICATION

The full text of this document is available for public inspection in the Town Clerk’s Office.

Dated at Wethersfield, Connecticut this 1st day of December 2022.

Susan I Schroeder, Town Clerk



Legal Notice Town of Wethersfield Historic District Commission

The Wethersfield Historic District Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at 7:30pm at the Wethersfield Town Hall, 505 Silas Deane Hwy, Wethersfield, CT, in Conference Room #3, on the following applications seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness:

- Application #8046-22** Mario Luciani, seeking to install 4’ high white vinyl picket fence around front yard at 179 Broad Street.
- Application #8047-22** Brigid Kennedy and Stephen Haynes, seeking to install 21 Tesla solar panels on front and rear roofs of home at 285 Garden Street.
- Application #8048-22** William Perry, seeking to install 54” high black aluminum fence in rear yard at 33 Belmont Street.
- Application #8049-22** Paul Addamo, seeking to change existing double garage doors to one Clopay garage door and one ThermaTru six-panel walk-through door at 38 Center Street.

Town of Wethersfield
Historic District Commission

Kim Wolf
Duly Authorized
Dated at Wethersfield, Connecticut,
this 28th day of November 2022



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ALATEEN: Part of the Al-Anon Family Groups, is a fellowship of young people whose lives have been affected by alcoholism in a family member or close friend. We help each other by sharing experience, strength and hope. In Person Meetings Thursdays 7:30pm at United Methodist Church 401 New Britain Ave Newington, CT

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120122

Jingle Bell Jam

The Rocky Hill Senior Center's Christmas luncheon will be held Dec. 7. Event will feature a stuffed chicken breast meal and music by our very own Sing for Joy chorus. Cost is \$8 for members and \$12 for nonmembers.

Donate Your Car

Donate your car, truck or van and help raise funds for a local private school. Free, fast tow-away. Running or Not Running. Can be used for a charitable tax deduction. Call Charter Oak Education dba Sterling Education at 860-643-1100. 1/10/19

Jingle Bell Run at Elm Ridge Park

Kick off the holiday season with the Jingle Bell Run at Elm Ridge Park on Dec. 17 at 9 a.m. Event is a 2-mile run that begins at 9:30 a.m. All proceeds will benefit education in Rocky Hill through funding for innovative projects, grants, and scholarships.

Rocky Hill Food Share Fridays

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

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. Adults only, registration required. Please contact the senior center for more information and to register, at 860-632-3447.

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!

GFWC Scholarship College Women

Scholarships are available for women who are Connecticut residents enrolled in a college or university in their junior or senior year matriculating for a Bachelor's degree or post-graduate degree. Funded by the General Federation of Women's Clubs of CT, the Mary Phipps and Dorothy Schoelzel scholarship application is online. The deadline for applying is February 10, 2023. To apply, go to: www.gfwcnewington.org and select 'Click Here to Download Phipps Schoelzel Scholarship' Mail to: GFWC Phipps Schoelzel Scholarship, P.O. Box 310046 Newington, CT 06131-0046.

Light Up Wethersfield with Luminaria

Each luminaria Kit costs \$2.00, and includes the 16-hour candle, special bag and instructions. Kits are available at Wethersfield Travel, 219 Main Street, Old Wethersfield through 12 p.m. on Thursday, December 22. To order your kits, call 860-402-8989 and schedule your pickup (checks only this year, no cash). All proceeds go to the Keane Foundation, After School Enrichment Programs, and the 9/11 Memorial Sports Center.

Holidays on Main Dec. 1

Old Wethersfield's storied festival returns on Dec 1, with food vendors, music, horse and carriage rides, wine tasting at the Webb Barn, a 6:30 p.m. tree lighting, and more. The event runs from 5-9 p.m. and is still seeking vendors - learn more at <https://wethersfieldchamber.com/>.

Rocky Hill Adopt-A-Family Program

The Human Services Department distributes holiday food baskets during November and December to individuals and families in need. Baskets, which include gift cards to buy fresh food, for the holidays are available outside normal food pantry usage. Call 860-258-2799 for more info.

Toastmasters Holiday Celebration

Bloomfield Toastmasters, which is now offering in-person meetings, will host their annual holiday celebration on Tuesday, December 13 at 6:30 pm. at the Bloomfield Senior Center (330 Park Ave). The evening will include inspirational speeches and holiday-themed impromptu exercises for the any in the audience who wish to participate. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Please RSVP. For further info contact us at bloomfieldtoastmastersct@gmail.com.

Understanding Your Grief

New Support Group begins Monday, February 28th. Understanding Your Grief is designed to lead participants towards hope and healing. When grieving the death of a loved one, it can be hard to understand the complex - painful- thoughts and feelings. The materials presented are written by one of North America's leading grief educators, Dr. Alan D. Wolfelt, Ph.D. This ten-week program will help you understand the normal and necessary journey of grief. This cohort will meet on Mondays beginning February 28th from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at First Church of Christ, 250 Main Street, Wethersfield, CT. Questions or to register please call Caring Ministries at 860.529.1575. Printed materials are they only charge. Participants may order books at: www.firstchurch.org/grow.understanding-grief. 1/20/22

Help Warm the Children!

The Middletown Kiwanis Club's Warm the Children program helps to lessen the burden for families in need by providing each child from birth through age 12 with up to \$90 worth of new winter clothing and footwear (\$70 if under age 4). We have again partnered with JC Penney's Commercial Services Department to provide good quality clothes at discounted prices. Funds to pay for clothing originate mostly from individual contributors and no donation is too small. Learn how you can help by visiting <http://middletownkiwanis.org>. All donations are tax deductible. Donations can be made by check or money order and sent to Warm the Children, c/o Liberty Bank, Attn: Karen Wolfram, 315 Main Street, Middletown, CT 06457 (or) by credit card via <http://middletownkiwanis.org>.

Help Cromwell Food Programs

Cromwell Human Services is seeking help with ensuring 100 local families have a Thanksgiving dinner, as well as a full December holiday meal. You can help by purchasing food items, sponsoring a family through our Adopt a Family for the Holidays program, and making a monetary donation to the Cromwell Food Bank. Learn more at <https://www.cromwellct.com/human-resources>.

Caregiver Support Group

Caregiver Support Group is being held the second Monday of each month at 5 p.m. Please join us for educational discussions and an opportunity to learn and share with others who understand. Complimentary care is provided for your loved one during your session. A support group provides an opportunity to learn more about the different stages of this progressive disease and offers tips on ways to cope. The support group will be facilitated by Gina Smith, LPN and held at The Atrium at Rocky Hill, 1160 Elm Street Extension, Rocky Hill CT. Please rsvp to Roxanne at 860-563-5588 or email Rmagnolia@benchmarkquality.com

Steven Frisbie House to Reopen Dec. 3

Christmas returns to the Stevens-Frisbie House on December 3, as the Cromwell Historical Society presents Old Christmas Return'd to mark the first reopening in three years. Guests will be greeted by costumed historians from the first decade of Cromwell's history and enjoy various activities throughout the grounds, veranda, and barn. Refreshments, crafting, and a gift shop will be offered in the barn while a Yule fire and wreath walk are presented in the yard. While admission to Old Christmas Return'd is free, donations to benefit the work of the Cromwell Historical Society are appreciated. Parking for this event will be along New Lane and at the First Congregational Church parking lot at 361 Main Street. Due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, the Stevens-Frisbie House itself will be open to the public with limited capacity. To learn more, please visit www.cromwellhistory.org or the Society's facebook page www.facebook.com/cromwellhistory.

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.

WCNB Dec. 1 Meeting

The Women's Club of New Britain will meet at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday December 1, 2022. The meeting will be at the First Congregational Church, 830 Corbin Ave. New Britain, CT. The name of the program is: Christmas Cheer. The New Britain High School Madrigals will entertain us and lead us through the holidays. We will enjoy hearing renaissance-period music and seeing their costumes. Coffee, tea, and cookies will be served. Guests are welcome to attend for a \$10.00 fee.

Call-In Support Group

Looking for a safe space? Talk to a professional about the question and or concerns you may have regarding dementia. Every Friday from 2 to 3 p.m., there will be a call-in support group facilitated by Kristine Johnson, dementia specialist, Hartford HealthCare Center for Healthy Aging. Sponsored by Hartford HealthCare Center for Healthy Aging. Join the call at: 860.972.6338 - Meeting Room: 19623#. 12/16/21

RHHS Holiday Plant/Wreath Sale

The Rocky Hill High School holiday plant and wreath sale will take place from 2:45 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Dec. 2 at 50 Chapin Avenue, and Dec. 3 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Middletown Pancake Breakfast

Middletown's Third Congregational Church will hold its annual pancake breakfast from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Dec. 10 at 94 Miner Street. Breakfast is pancakes with bacon or sausage, orange juice, milk, tea or coffee. Adults pay \$10, children \$5. Price includes family pictures with Santa, by our professional photographer. Hope to see you there!

AOH Christmas Toy/Gift Card Drive

The Ancient Order of Hibernians Hartford Division 2 is sponsoring a Christmas Toy/Gift Card Drive on Saturday, December 10, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Collection will take place at Christ the King Parish (Wethersfield) on the Silas Deane Highway in the parking lot between the church and the Silas Deane Middle School. The toys and gift cards will be given to children as part of "The Giving Tree" program at Saint Augustine Church in Hartford. Please consider bringing new and unwrapped toys and gift cards to stores such as Target, Walmart and Barnes & Noble. We will also be selling our "famous" March Raffle Calendars at the drive for \$10 each, which make great stocking stuffers! Proceeds benefit the Hartford Saint Patrick's Day Parade and the fight against hunger in the local area.

Christmas by Candlelight

Church of Christ Congregational in Newington will host a free Christmas concert on Sunday, December 11, at 4 p.m. at 1075 Main Street in Newington. Join us for an evening of choirs, orchestra, handbells, and organ. Show will also feature choral music for the season and sing-along carols. Music is by Handel, Rutter, Willcocks, Niedmann, and more. For more info, visit newingtonucc.org or call 860-416-0474.

Monthly Blood Pressure Clinics in Newington

The Newington Senior Center hosts free blood pressure clinics the second Tuesday of every month from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. at 120 Cedar St. Blood pressure clinics will be provided by Karen Bellini, R.N. of Berlin VNA the second Tuesday of each month. No registration required.

Rocky Hill Historical Society Free Tours

Rocky Hill Historical Society, located at Academy Hall, 785 Old Main Street, will be conducting free tours of its museum and displays at 1 p.m. on the following Saturdays: July 23, August 20, September 17, October 22, November 12, and December 10. Tour size is limited. For questions and/or to register, please email your name (and names of any additional members of your party) to infoRHhistory@gmail.com. 07/14/22

Free GED Classes

Middletown Adult Education is offering free tutoring online or in-person. Classes are offered in Middletown and Old Saybrook, and registration is ongoing for area residents. Call Middletown Adult Education at 860-343-6044 for details.

Rocky Hill Christmas Bazaar

The Rocky Hill United Methodist Church will host its annual Christmas Bazaar from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Dec 3 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Location is 623 Old Main Street in Rocky Hill.

Mason Community Breakfast

The Newington Masons have a community breakfast the first Sunday of every month! Come join us. Price is just \$10,(\$5 for children) and includes eggs, bacon, sausage, homefries, pancakes, coffee, toast & juice and the "Surprise Special". Come eat breakfast with your neighbors! The Mason hall is located at 80 Walsh Ave(behind CVS) . Breakfast is held from 7:30-11am; come in front or back door and come downstairs to kitchen. 12/2/21

Tai Chi Classes

Third Congregational Church in Middletown is holding tai chi classes on Fridays at 10 AM. Weather permitting, classes are held on the church grounds and moved indoors as needed. A weekly donation of \$5 or \$10 is requested. No experience is needed to participate and exercises can be done seated, if needed. Beginners and experienced practitioners are all welcome. Third Church is located at 94 Miner St. 9/23/21

Caregivers Support Group

The Alzheimer's Association Caregivers Support Group Returns! This support group is designed for the caregivers of family members suffering from dementia. The focus is on caregiving challenges, issues, and needs with possible solutions, ways of coping and information about community resources. Meetings take place the first Monday of the month from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at First Church of Christ 250 Main St., Wethersfield. For more information and to register contact Caring Ministries 860.529.1575 ext. 117. 8/26/21

Al-Anon Family Groups

Do you wish the drinking would stop? Al-Anon Family Groups can help. Phone and electronic meetings available. For information visit www.alanon.org or call 1-888-8AL-ANON (1-888-825-2666) 11/12/20

Seeking Volunteers for Middlesex County Acts of Kindness

Volunteers can provide free home-based assistance to Middlesex County residents in need. Volunteers help neighbors with household chores, yard work, companionship or transportation at their convenience. Even just one hour a week or month will make a difference to help keep people living safely and independently in their homes. Contact Michelle Puzzo, President and Co-founder UR Community Cares at info@urcommunitycares.org. 04/07/22

Virtual Knitting at Cromwell Senior Center

The Cromwell Senior Center will host virtual knitting sessions every Friday at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. Connecticut adults only, registration required. Join fellow fiber-enthusiasts and work on your current project! All are welcome - so don't be afraid to bring your latest crochet or quilting project, too.

Meditation Classes and Workshops

Odiyana Buddhist Center offers meditation classes and workshops at 450 New London Turnpike, Glastonbury. Weekly classes on Wednesdays are at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 10 a.m. Meditation has many benefits including improved physical and emotional well-being. Learn simple techniques to start a meditation practice, for a peaceful mind. Guided meditations and Buddhist teachings. Everyone is welcome. No one turned away for lack of funds. Info at meditationinconnecticut.org.

Christmas by Candlelight

Church of Christ Congregational will host a free concert on Sunday, December 11 at 4 p.m. at 1075 Main Street, Newington, Connecticut. Concert will feature choirs, handbells, orchestra, and organ. Music for the season is by Handel, Rutter, and Willcocks and includes sing-along carols. Peter Niedmann is the Director of Music. Learn more at newingtonucc.org or by calling (860) 666-4689.

Help Newington Human Services

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

Travel Films at Cromwell Library

Meets every Wednesday at 2 p.m. in the Library's Arch Room. Adults only, registration required. Kick back and escape to far-off destinations, with hosts like Rick Steves and Samantha Brown.

Calling Cromwell Humanitarians

The Cromwell Lions Club is looking to honor a non-member town resident at our District's Annual Lions Club Humanitarian Dinner - and we're you for recommendations! Please submit a written statement (150 words or less) highlighting the individual's compassionate actions in the community. Nominee will be invited to attend the Humanitarian Banquet. Deadline is December 16. Submissions may be sent to cromwellclionclub@gmail.com or by mail to Cromwell Lions Club, PO Box 224 Cromwell, CT 06416. Contact Lisa Klein at 760-258-7131 for more info.

Food Pantry

Saint Paul's Lutheran Church Food Pantry, at 371 Wolcott Hill Road in Wethersfield is open Thursday's between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. All are welcome. Feel free to call 860-529-5397 with questions. 03/10/22

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

The Rocky Hill United Methodist Church at 623 Old Main Street will hold their Christmas Eve Candlelight service at 4 p.m. Dec 24. Join us to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.



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Deck the Halls with CCD

Cromwell Creative District will once again be awarding 3 residences and 1 businesses #inthedistrict with cash prizes for the most festive decorations this holiday season! Three lucky homes will be awarded a \$50 prize, and one business will receive \$75. CCD volunteers will be viewing the decorations Dec. 5-9, and winners will be contacted directly by Dec. 12.

Meals on Wheels Volunteers Needed

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

Rocky Hill Hanukkah Feast Dec 14

The Rocky Hill Senior Center invites community members to feast in the spirit of Hannukah on Dec. 14. Meal includes beef brisket, latkes, glazed carrots, and a delicious sweet kugel dessert. Zev and his All Star Klezmer Band will light up our afternoon with traditional Hannukah and Christmas music. Cost is \$8 for members and \$12 for non-members.

Friendship Force Holiday Party

Friendship Force Connecticut will host its annual holiday party at Casa Mia at the Hawthorne in Berlin, CT on the afternoon of Saturday Dec 3. Friendship Force CT sponsors outbound visits to other states and nations and hosts inbound visits from reciprocal clubs. If you would like to meet our members at our holiday party (\$38 for full dinner), email Tom at ttraue@snet.net (RSVP required by Nov 30). If you would like to join Friendship Force and travel with our club and host members from other clubs, subject to your own availability, please visit ffconnecticut.org or contact ffconnecticut2020@gmail.com for more information.

El Jr. Musical in New Britain

New Britain/No Boundaries Youth Theater presents Elf Jr, the Musical! on December 9 and 10 at 7 p.m., and Sunday December 11 at 2 p.m. Cooper Hall, at South Church, 90 Main St, New Britain. Tickets are \$15 for adults, and \$10 for seniors ages 55+ and children under 16. Tickets available online at <https://nbyt.ludus.com>.

Rocky Hill Blue Christmas Program

The Rocky Hill United Methodist Church at 623 Old Main Street will hosts its Annual Blue Christmas program at 6 p.m. on Dec 21. Join us on the shortest day of the year for a 6 p.m. soup and bread meal, followed by reflection and service at 7 p.m. This service is helpful to those feeling the emptiness caused by loved ones who are no longer with us.

Holiday Open Houses at Middlewoods

Middlewoods of Newington Independent and Assisted Living Community will host two upcoming holiday open house events beginning Tuesday, November 22, from 4-6 p.m. and Saturday, December 3, from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Join us for a tour of the community and learn firsthand why residents choose to call Middlewoods home. Stop by for a visit at either open house event and take home a pie for your holiday celebrations. Those interested in attending should RSVP to Elizabeth at 860-667-1336 or egungi@umh.org. Walk-ins are also welcome.

Addiction Services

The holidays can be tough on those who have struggled with addiction. It can be a recipe for relapse between holiday stress and family gatherings with alcohol. If you have a loved one struggling with drug or alcohol use, you should seek treatment for them immediately. Being close with family for the holidays may also have caused you to notice that they are not doing well and struggling with addiction. Take the time to talk to them, ask them what they may be struggling with, and discuss treatment. We hope everyone is having a wonderful Holiday season. To learn more about the dangers of waiting visit: <https://www.narcononnewliferetreat.org/blog/the-dangerous-waiting-game.html>

Addiction screenings: Narconon can help you take steps to overcome addiction in your family. Call today for free screenings or referrals. 1- 800-431-1754. 1/13/22

Rocky Hill Holiday Programs

The Human Services Department distributes holiday food baskets during November and December to individuals and families in need. Baskets, which include gift cards to buy fresh food, for the holidays are available outside normal food pantry usage. Call 860-258-2799 for more info.

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

Wethersfield Dinner/Theatre Outing

The Wethersfield Senior Center will offer a dinner/theatre day outing to Branford on December 6. Trip includes a Home for the Holidays Cabaret performed at the award-winning Chowder Pot by Legacy Theatre Artistic Director Keeley Baidson Knudsen. Cost is \$113, and covers show admission, meal, and Datto bus transportation. Bus departs community center at 9:30 a.m. and returns 6 p.m. More info at senior.center@wethersfieldct.gov.

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Cromwell Food and Holiday Help

Cromwell families, save yourself the holiday season stress and apply for the Cromwell Human Services Adopt a Family and Holiday Food programs, which help to defray related costs. Eligibility income-based. Application available on the Town Website at <https://www.cromwellct.com/> and by mail for homebound residents. Learn more at <https://www.cromwellct.com/human-resources>.

Winterfest at Lucy Robbins Welles Library

The Friends of the Lucy Robbins Welles library's Winterfest fundraiser will be held on Friday, January 20, 2023 (snow date January 27) from 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. at the Lucy Robbins Welles Library, 100 Garfield Street, Newington CT. Tickets are \$20.00 and can be purchased at the library. Must be 21 years old to attend. The evening includes wine, beer and spirits tasting, light refreshments, teacup and silent auctions, and musical entertainment provided by Dually Noted. Buy your tickets early - this event sold out the last time it was held! For details, visit www.newingtonct.gov, or call the library at 860-665-8700.

Christ the King Christmas Party

The Annual Christmas Party celebration of the Women's Club of Christ the King Parish will be held on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, at the Wethersfield Country Club. Social and Teacup Auction is at 6 p.m. Dinner is at 7 p.m. Entrée Choices: Chicken Francaise, Salmon, Sliced Beef Tenderloin. Cost: \$44 per person. Reservations, call Paula 860-563-9506. Members and guests welcome.

Rocky Hill Senior Center Membership Key Tags and Photos

The Rocky Hill Senior/Community Center has begun issuing Key Tags and taking photos for membership identification. The tag/photo will be used for Senior Center, Fitness Center and Pool Memberships. The front desk staff will be available to issue tags and take photos during regular office hours. 080422

Cromwell Arts Alliance

Are you an artist or someone interested in supporting arts programming in Cromwell? Perhaps you want to inspire creativity in others through classes or workshops? Maybe you have yet to discover your hidden creative abilities! The Cromwell Arts Alliance invites you to learn more about the organization and the opportunities we support for artists of every kind, art lovers and those who just want to explore their creative side. Connect with us at www.facebook.com/CromwellArts or contact CromwellArtsAlliance@gmail.com. 11/20/14

Holiday Cookie at Cromwell Church-

First Congregational Church, 355 Main Street, Cromwell, CT will hold a Holiday Cookie Sale on Saturday, December 10, 2022, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be a smorgasbord of cookies sold by the pound. Let us do the cookie baking for your seasonal get-togethers and satisfy your sweet tooth! Ample parking is available in the lot two houses north of the church, and the church is handicapped accessible.

White Flag by Judy Mandel

The Lucy Welles Robbins Library welcomes back best-selling Newington author Judy Mandel on Dec. 14 at 6:30 p.m. Mandel will share her new book, White Flag. This timely book deals with substance use disorders and how family trauma can affect many generations. Books available for purchase and signing. Registration required.

New RHHS Ornament

The latest historically themed ornament in a series of 17 is ready in the Rocky Hill Historical Society's Academy Hall Museum for visitors to purchase. The design features a historic photo of Rocky Hill's first trolley car. Visitors are able to view the full collection of ornaments at 785 Old Main Street Old Main Street.

CCD Call for Members

Do you enjoy seeing your town revitalized? Do you want to support local businesses? Are you a creative thinker? If so, then you belong in Cromwell Creative District (CCD)! CCD is a completely volunteer-run nonprofit that works collaboratively with local businesses, nonprofits, and civic groups to attract business and visitors to the historic and riverfront areas of downtown Cromwell. Whether your interest is in volunteering on a specific project, sharing creative ideas, or taking on a leadership role within the group, Cromwell Creative District has something for you! CCD currently holds meetings virtually/telephonically at 9am on the third Saturday of each month. Learn more at www.facebook.com/cromwellcreativedistrict and www.cromwellcreativedistrict.org and "Rethink How You See Cromwell!" 8/19/21

Wadsworth Mansion Holiday Bazaar

The Wadsworth Mansion's annual Holiday Bazaar will be held December 4 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Expect to find unique holiday gifts for your family and friends. Featured vendors from the Open Air Market will be selling their handmade products. Come and shop for the holidays! Enjoy lunch and hot beverages in the bar provided by David Alan Catering. For a full list of participating vendors, visit <https://www.wadsworthmansion.com/>.

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Christmas Bazaar

St. Colman Church will host a Country Christmas Bazaar and Children's Festival at 170 Hubbard Street in Middlefield on Dec. 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We will be featuring Crafts by the Craft Group, Granny's Attic, Jewelry, Straw Raffle, Home Made Baked Goods lovingly donated by church parishioners, Knitted Items, Plants, Children's Activities and Games, and Raffle Baskets. Lunch is also available to be purchased. Santa arrives at 1 p.m. Let us have a fun day of shopping and fellowship! Thank you for your support.

Wethersfield Library Raffle and Book Sale

The Friends of the Wethersfield Library are holding a raffle and book sales until Dec. 5 to make up for revenue losses caused by a September pipe burst on the facility's lower level. The break heavily damaged the lower level (children's books, storage for donated books for book sales, meeting rooms, staff offices), forcing its temporary closure till early spring. The Friends of the Library provides the Public Library with \$15,000 per year to cover the summer reading program, museum passes, and other programming. Contact Gretchen Kelly at gfk716@cox.net for more info.

Daily Lunch for Newington Seniors

The Newington Senior & Disabled Center offers a daily hot meal everyday at noon. Lunch is available for anyone age 60+. Seating begins at 11:45 a.m. Service is free and available to residents and nonresidents alike – there is a \$3.00 per meal suggested donation to help the Community Renewal Team defray costs. Donations are voluntary and anonymous. Please call 860-665-8778 for more info or to register.

Wethersfield: Get Help with Expenses

Please call Wethersfield Social and Youth Services at 860-721-2977 for information regarding federal, state, and local assistance programs such as renters' rebate, energy assistance, food stamps, and housing resources. You can also find more info at <https://wethersfieldct.gov/social>.

Help Youth Find Academic Success

CRT is seeking volunteers for its school-based RSVP READS program, which partners local elementary school students and provides reading guidance for one hour per week from October through May of each school year. We anticipate operating in six (6) local communities: Berlin, New Britain, Manchester, Portland, Vernon, & Wethersfield beginning in mid-October. Call (860) 519-3484 if interested – assignments will be made by the beginning of October.

Economic Justice Discussion

Join the Newington Human Rights Commission for a community conversation about economic justice on Thursday, December 1, 2022, from 6:30 - 8 p.m. at the Lucy Robbins Welles Library at 100 Garfield Street in Newington. You will hear from local advocacy organizations working to end some of the most basic human rights issues. Resources will be discussed. Light refreshments will be served. This event is free and open to the public.

Tech Help for Wethersfield Seniors

The Wethersfield Senior Center is offering 1-on-1 tech instruction iPhones, iPads, Android phones, Android notebooks and tablets; fun and useful applications, Windows, Microsoft Office and more. Sessions are based on your individual needs and questions. \$10/hour suggested donation. For more information, to schedule 1:1 instruction or to register for any of the WCLC classes please email: techhelpforseniorswethersfield@gmail.com or call the Senior Center.

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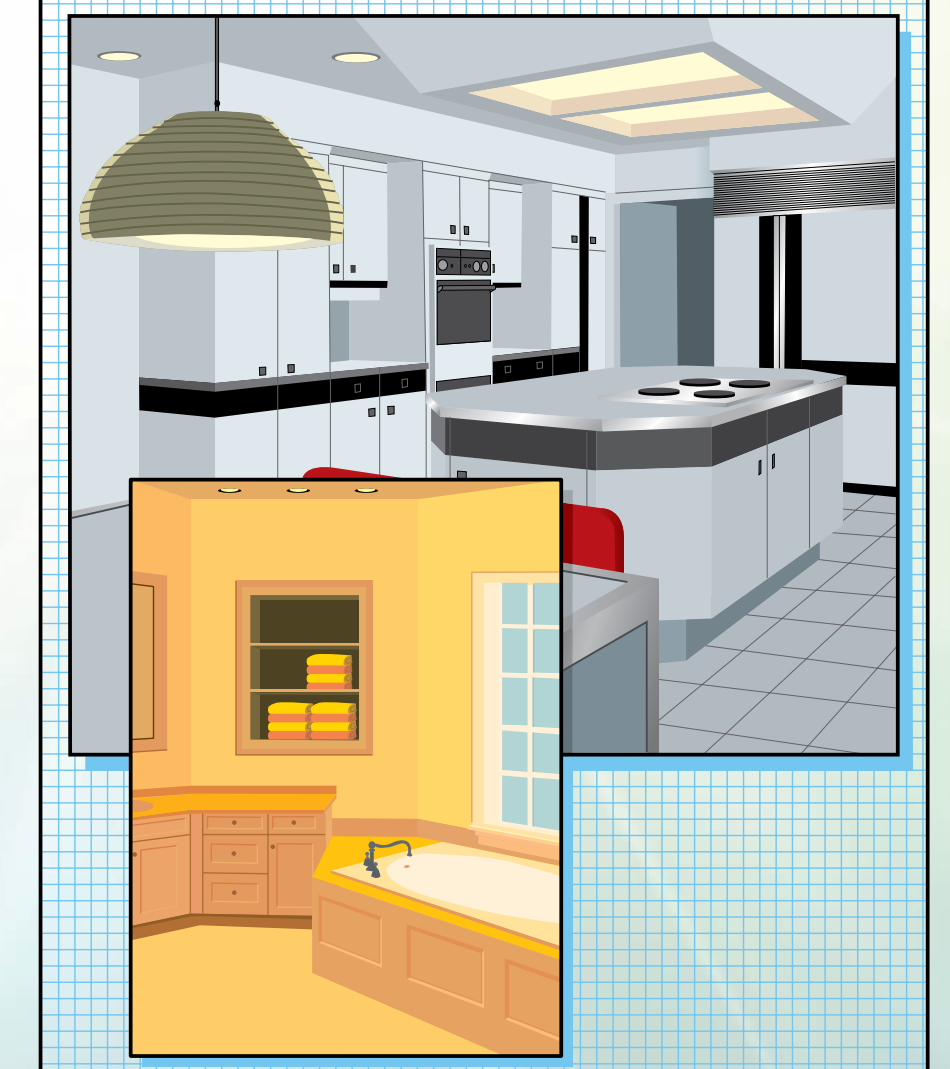
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Come the spring, when graduating seniors have already picked a college, students with their eyes on the finish line may feel like pulling back a bit. According to Southern New Hampshire University, the term "senioritis" refers to a common condition reflecting a

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lack of motivation by students who are reaching the end of their coursework. While it occurs in high school seniors and college seniors, those in trade schools or other programs also can experience senioritis. Students hope that they can simply coast until the end of school. It's important not to let senioritis set in to the point that students' academic futures are suddenly compromised.

- Consider the repercussions. According to the University of the People, many colleges have a policy that incoming freshmen must maintain a certain GPA to become students at their institutions. Letting grades slip can ruin chances of attending the school you worked hard to get into, even if you've already been accepted. Dartmouth College, for example, notes that they reserve the right to rescind an offer if "the student's final academic record has lowered significantly." A similar policy is enforced by Stanford University.
 - Schedule breaks. Take advantage of time off from school and on the weekends to engage in fun activities. Respite from school work can help you return to studies fresh and ready to engage anew.
 - Plan your senior courses wisely. Work with your guidance counselor to schedule courses throughout your time at school so your senior year schedule features few rigorous classes and includes more enjoyable electives.
 - Hold each other accountable. Get together with a close group of classmates to inspire one another to continue to study and maintain good grades. Accountability to another person can serve as motivation.
 - Ask for help and support. It's common for seniors to want to slack off if they're feeling overwhelmed and stressed. If various factors in your life are causing you anxiety, reach out to your parents and friends for help.
 - Establish strong habits. Learning to stay focused even throughout the spring of senior year can help set the course for good habits that spill over into college, like time management and focus.
- Avoiding a case of senioritis can be challenging, but it is in students' best interests to stay focused on their work until they don their caps and gowns.



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11/07/2022 Gaudet, Suzette B To Gaudet, Deborah	36 Bell Pond Dr	\$304,525
11/07/2022 Dacunha Children T; Stamand, Lori To Carvos, Manuel G; Carvos, Elena	986 Cloverdale Cir	\$330,000
11/08/2022 Karabetsos, John; Karabetsos, Demetra To Doebrick, Andrew C; Doebrick, Amanda F	35 Deer Ledge Ln	\$470,000
11/10/2022 Saunders, Greg To Sinclair, Nathan S	22 Highcrest Rd	\$360,000
11/08/2022 Carbone, Lena To Cooper, Matthew W; Cooper, Jennifer	120 Highland St	\$900,000
11/07/2022 Gorman, Janice E To Stephens, David; Lee, Ji A	135 Robbins Dr	\$315,000
11/11/2022 Pelchat, Philip J To Sanchez, Alexis; Sanchez, Tiffany	749 Wells Rd	\$405,000

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13⁹⁹ Bag	12⁹⁹ Bag	11⁹⁹ Bag

OYSTER BAY FARM RAISED PEELED & DEVEINED RAW SHRIMP

Frozen 2 Lb. Bag 8-12 Count	Frozen 2 Lb. Bag 13-15 Count	Frozen 2 Lb. Bag 21-25 Count
31⁹⁹ Bag	28⁹⁹ Bag	19⁹⁹ Bag
Frozen 2 Lb. Bag 16-20 Count	Frozen 2 Lb. Bag 26-30 Count	17⁹⁹ Bag
21⁹⁹ Bag		

OYSTER BAY INDIVIDUALLY QUICK FROZEN RAW SHRIMP
FARM RAISED • EASY PEEL • SHELL-ON

Frozen 2 Lb. Bag 16-20 Count	Frozen 2 Lb. Bag 21-25 Count
17⁹⁹ Bag	15⁹⁹ Bag
Frozen 2 Lb. Bag 13-15 Count	19⁹⁹ Bag

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FARM RAISED EASY PEEL • SHELL-ON

Frozen 2 Lb. Bag 6-8 Count	Frozen 2 Lb. Bag 8-12 Count
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Frozen 2 Lb. Bag 4-6 Count	38⁹⁹ Bag

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14⁹⁹ Ea.

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Wild Caught

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37⁹⁹ Lb. (8-10 Oz.)

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16⁹⁹

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Wild Caught
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23⁹⁹

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2.5 Lb. Pkg.

15⁹⁹

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4⁴⁹

Wild Caught Frozen Squid Rings
1 Lb. Pkg.

4⁹⁹

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-Lisa
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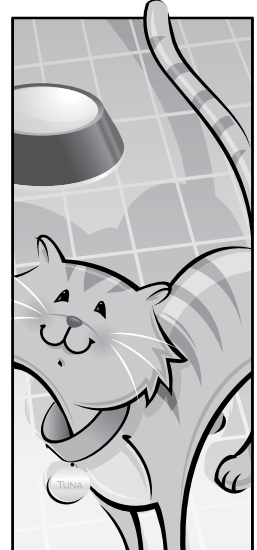
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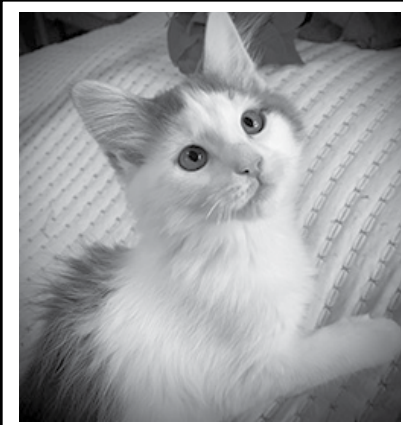
ADOPT A KITTEN FROM OUR LITTER OF SIX. Harley and Frisco are two adorable brown tabbies. Jetson, Magic and Tippy are precious, all black. They were abandoned in a box set out on a curb. They are Boo's brothers and all are friendly, sweet and energetic. At only nine weeks old, they must go home in a pair if you do not have any other cats. The kittens are not on our search engines online so we can give CT residents the opportunity to apply first. Please fill out an application on our website at www.hucatreue.org. Thank you!

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

ADOPT HEIHEI. Heihei is a stunning, longhaired, Siamese/Ragdoll mix. Heihei is not doing well with changes in his life so he needs to find a new home where he can shine and be an only kitty. He is a young adult at only four years old. Please fill out an application for Heihei on our website at www.hucatreue.org. Call 860-479-5173 or email hucatreue@gmail.com.



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Fluff is a beautiful, 12 week old, Maine Coon mix from a litter of four. She is mostly white with gray spots. Fluff is very friendly and sweet. She has three brothers that she bosses around. She is a darling and ready to own your home. Please fill out an application on our website at www.hucatreue.org. Call 860-479-5173 or email hucatreue@gmail.com.



Name: Roxie
Gender: Female
Breed: DSH
Color: Black & White
Age: 2 years old

Roxie came to Cat Tales with her five very young kittens. She was a very protective and indulgent mama. All of her kittens have been adopted so it's now time for Roxie to find a home of her own. She is a quiet kitty who perks up whenever she's given attention. She loves to be petted and brushed. She had an injury to her tail either by a door or a dog. She cannot raise it all the way but this does not stop her. She needs to be the only pet in your home and will require time and patience until she can trust you. If you are looking for a mellow and affectionate addition to your pet family, she may be a good choice. *No Cats / No Dogs / No Children*

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Adopt A NEW Best Friend!



Kittens!
This trio is 4 months old, sweet, a little shy and ready to find their forever home. Come and meet Apollo, Ember and Ellie. Contact Maria by phone or text at 860-306-6075, I am a CT CAT CONNECTION, foster volunteer.

ANGEL AND OREO are two gorgeous young kitties. You could say she has a kitty 'angel' watching over her. Angel was diagnosed with FIP. Feline infectious peritonitis is a viral disease of cats caused by certain strains of coronavirus though not the one that causes COVID-19. The virus will spread through a cat's body causing systemic inflammation. Up to 95% of cats diagnosed with FIP die without treatment. Angel responded well to a new treatment and Oreo was with her the whole time, comforting her. It's been six months since her treatment and they are now ready for a loving home. Angel is a Ragdoll mix with blue eyes. Oreo is a handsome, mostly white boy. Please fill out an application on our website at www.hucatreue.org. Call 860-479-5173 or email hucatreue@gmail.com.

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Taco is about 1 year old and is very friendly. The poor fellow was thrown from a car in a Taco Bell parking lot. He is a muscular fellow who is quite vocal. Maybe just happy to be rescued. Once he is neutered, he will be available.
If interested call AFOC at 860-693-0303.

ADOPT BOBBY. Bobby is a sweet, easygoing eight year old kitty. He is a beautiful charcoal gray and he is a Manx mix - no tail at all! Bobby is searching for a new home because his caregiver passed away. He is on a urinary diet which keeps him clear of crystals. Bobby loves attention. A companion kitty. Please fill out an application on our website at www.hucatreue.org. Call 860-479-5173 or email hucatreue@gmail.com for a faster response.



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Dallas, 2, is 28lbs of fun and adventure. He's always up for a long walk and letting his Beagle nose take in all the sniffies along the way. Got squeaky toys? Excellent! This boy LOVES to play, run, and kick up his heels (can you say ideal fetch and hiking partner?). He enjoys the company of other dogs and would be happy with another similarly sized or larger pup in the home.

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I want to go home



Jetson is a stunning, Bombay mix from our litter of six that was abandoned in a cardboard box. He loves attention and purrs on the spot. Jetson would love to go home with one of his five brothers. Please fill out an application on our website at www.hucatreue.org. Call 860-479-5173 or email hucatreue@gmail.com.



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ADOPT MOLLY. Molly is a striking, Maine Coon mix. This beautiful, calico lady is ready to find a forever home. She is easygoing, calm, loving and affectionate. She can be in a home with other cats and she would also be happy being the only kitty where she could get all of your attention. Molly is finally through being a mom. She had several litters as she lived in a home that would not spay her. She even lost some kittens to the outdoors. Her last litter was born in our care and all have gone home. It's now Molly's turn to shine and be pampered. Please fill out an application on our website at www.hucatrescue.org. Call 860-479-5173 or email hucatrescue@gmail.com.

Common Conditions Affecting House Cats

Cats are beloved pets across the globe. In 2020, there were roughly 53 million cats owned as pets in the United States and Canada combined.



Cats are admired for their can-do attitudes. They're independent, quirky and often clever. While some people may describe cats as aloof, plenty of pet cats desire daily affection and cuddle sessions with their pet parents.

It's important for cat owners to familiarize themselves with common feline behaviors and personality traits. That familiarity can help cat owners recognize when something may be "off" with their cats. While cats are good at self-care, there are times when owners must step in and offer assistance.

Here's a look at common conditions that can affect pet cats.

- **Tick-borne diseases:** Cats may not spend as much time outdoors as dogs, but they still can pick up ticks if they are let out from time to time or cohabitate in homes with dogs. Ticks can carry various illnesses, but bobcat fever (cytauxzoonosis) is one to be concerned about. It's quite serious and often fatal.
- **Feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV):** This slow-acting virus may not be noticeable until the disease makes the cat ill years after initial infection. A weakened immune system can open the cat up to a number of other illnesses and secondary infections. With good care, a cat could live months or years before the chronic stages of FIV.

- **Vomiting:** Cats groom themselves and can get fur stuck in their throats and digestive tracts, producing hairballs that are ultimately spit up. However, cats may vomit for other reasons, including ingesting something poisonous or dangerous, like string. Cats that are vomiting often can become dehydrated, which could lead to a medical emergency.

- **Feline urinary tract diseases (FLUTD):** The pets division of WebMD indicates roughly 3 percent of cats visiting vets are diagnosed with FLUTD. Cats can develop it for a variety of reasons, including stress in a household, eating dry food, and being overweight. It's always an emergency if a cat can't urinate or has pain doing so.

- **Fleas:** Cat owners may lament fleas, as they can be a problem and spread fast. A cat is at risk of developing anemia if it becomes infested with fleas. Topical treatments and oral medications can help prevent or eradicate fleas.

- **Heartworm:** The ASPCA warns that, like dogs, cats can get heartworm from the bites of mosquitoes. Despite its name, heartworm primarily causes lung disease in cats.

- **High-rise syndrome:** Cats that reside in urban areas in multistory homes may be susceptible to falls. Windows without screens or where screens are not well-secured can pose risks to curious cats who want to take in the sun and fresh air. Falls can cause serious injuries, even death. The problem has become so prevalent that vets gave the condition the name "high-rise syndrome."

Cats are susceptible to various illnesses and injuries. Awareness of these conditions can help cat owners protect their cats more effectively.



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

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

Mailing address: P.O. Box 289, Rocky Hill, CT 06067
Although we love all of your entries, due to quantity received, there is no guarantee your pet will be put in the paper. Photos mailed in cannot be returned. Our apologies.
-The Rare Reminder, Inc.

PET OF THE WEEK

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

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



Make check payable to Rare Reminder, Inc. and send to:
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Mimi

My People Are
Bonnie & Rich

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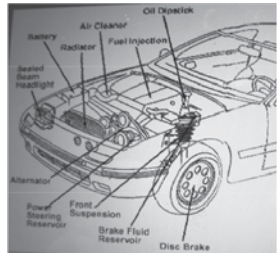
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SPORTS CORNER

Nor'easters Upset Eagles in Thanksgiving Classic



Wethersfield's Ethan Lemos lines up at receiver as Newington's Brendon Pigott lines up at cornerback in the 46th annual Thanksgiving Classic at Cottone Field.

By Josh Howard

Newington football defeated Wethersfield 17-14 to win the 46th annual Thanksgiving Classic in front of a standing-room-only crowd at Cottone Field on Nov. 23.

Playing in his final game, senior quarterback Paddy Brown ran for and threw a touchdown and kicked a crucial field goal as Newington dealt Wethersfield only their second loss of the season.

"To go out this way with the guys I've played with since youth is really awesome," said Brown. "This means everything. We've put in so much hard work over the years, and it is good to have that feeling of getting a win and going out like this to end our high school careers."

Wethersfield, who entered the game having won eight of nine games this fall, was seeking to avenge a 28-20 loss to their neighboring rivals at Alumni Field in Newington a year ago.

Early on it looked like the Eagles would get revenge, marching 72 yards in 10 plays on the team's second possession. The drive culminated with a 19-yard touchdown pass from Cam Righi to Ethan Lemos with four minutes left in the opening quarter.

Newington responded on the following drive, covering 70 yards in seven plays. Brown called his own number on the seventh play, following blockers around the left end for a 14-yard rushing touchdown.

Midway through the second quarter, punter Ishaak Ileaasu flipped field position when he pooched a punt down to the one-yard line.

On the following possession, Newington capitalized on a short field by driving seven plays and scoring with two seconds left in the half when Brown connected with Akari Rosemond on a back-shoulder fade from 10-yards out.

The last second touchdown was one of many momentum shifting plays that Brown and his receivers made on the night.

"It was just about our guys getting open and us doing our jobs," said Brown.

Newington then went on a monster 15-play drive to start the second half, taking seven minutes and 26 seconds off the clock before Brown, who is also

the team's kicker, split the uprights from 29-yards out, upping the road team's leads to 17-7.

Head coach Jason Pace credited his savvy, do-it-all signal caller, calling Brown "a true warrior."

"Paddy has never wavered from what we stand for and our core values. He understands how to approach every single game the right way and he's been a leader on and off the field," added Pace. "He has done everything we ask of him."

After running only three offensive plays in the third quarter, Wethersfield's defense responded in the final quarter by creating two turnovers.

The first was a fumble recovery by Nicholas Guglielmo, which led to a spectacular 29-scoring run by Righi to cut the deficit to three points with 6:45 left in regulation.

On the following possession, Justin Nadella picked off Brown at the Newington 44-yard line. Wethersfield was unable to capitalize as Newington's Aidan Bengtson deflected a Righi pass on fourth down.

The Eagles had one final chance, but Righi was intercepted by Chase Leonard with 1:52 to play in regulation.

"The play before I had messed up and my coach had yelled at me from the sidelines. The next play he threw it right to where I was supposed to be, and I just picked it off," said Leonard, who joked. "I blacked out after that. I don't remember anything after that play."

Brown praised Leonard and the defense, adding, "They stepped up. They are the reason why we won this game."

A first down run by Brown sealed the victory and allowed Newington to keep the trophy for at least one more year.

Newington controlled time of possession, particularly in the second half, and Pace credited his unsung heroes up front, led by seniors Amari Rosemond, Victor Wolak, and Elijah Smith.

"We knew [Wethersfield] was a physical football team that likes to control the game through their rushing attacking, which has led to a lot of wins for them. We understood that we were going to have to stop the run and for the most part we bottled it up and offensively we were able to establish the run," said Pace.



Senior players and coaches from the Newington High School football team following the Nor'easters 17-14 victory over Wethersfield on Nov. 23.

"I'm proud of those guys. They are the guys that don't ever get the credit, but they put in the work, and they really fought and battled."

The victory was big in more ways than one. Along with providing bragging rights, it also provided a positive finish to a difficult season for the Nor'easters.

Newington started the season with six straight losses—four by a single score. They rebounded to win three of their final four, finishing 3-7.

"It's just great to be able to finish the season this way. We've had our challenges throughout the year; a lot of close games, a tough schedule, but we've never made excuses," said Pace. "I'm proud of this group for putting it all together and finishing this game."

For Brown and the seniors, the game against Wethersfield was the equivalent to a state championship game.

"The season may have not gone the way we wanted it to, but we were able to end it the way we wanted it, with a win," said Brown.

Running back Luca Corvino, who was the team's leading rusher this season, said the seniors were talking about this game even before the season had started.

"This is the one that matters," added

Corvino. "For most of us, this is the last four quarters that we will ever play. We left it all out there."

Back in 2019, when the seniors were freshman, Wethersfield beat Newington 35-0 at Cottone Field.

"In my book that was a big motivator. We couldn't let that happen again," said Leonard. "This is how we wanted to end our season as seniors."

For Wethersfield, the loss snapped a six-game winning streak, and concluded an 8-2 regular season.

Prior to the game against Newington, the Eagles had already clinched a spot in the Class MM playoffs, yet head coach Matt McKinnon made no excuses for the loss.

"Hats off to Newington. They did a really nice job on defense," said McKinnon, who said his defense gave the team a chance to win with the two fourth-quarter turnovers.

"We knew that was our chance to win the game, but a couple of things just didn't go right," added McKinnon. "The effort was there; we just have to do better."

Newington now holds a 25-20-1 advantage in the series, which first started in 1976 with Newington winning the initial battle 24-22.

Panthers Superior in Shunpike Showdown

By Josh Howard

Cromwell/Portland football won the Shunpike Showdown for a fourth straight time, defeating Rocky Hill 38-7 at Pierson Park on the eve of Thanksgiving.

The win improved the Panthers to 9-1 and earned them the top-seed in the Class SS playoffs.

Playing in his first Shunpike Showdown, freshman Tyler Cipolla returned the opening kickoff of the game for a touchdown to open the flood gates as the home Panthers scored the first 31 points.

Quarterback Cole Brisson connected with Jack Nolan for a pair of touchdowns and Alex Hair added two more rushing touchdowns in the lopsided victory.

After losing the three games in the holiday series, which dates back to 2015, the Panthers have won the last four by a combined score of 121-42.

Rocky Hill's Joey Motes hit Frankie Guerrero on a 37-yard touchdown in the four quarter for the Terriers only points in the loss.

Rocky Hill ended the season with a record of 7-3, just missing out on a spot in the Class SS playoffs.

Despite losing all-conference senior captain Alex Peruta to a season-ending injury in September, the Terriers ended up winning the Central Connecticut Tier IV Championship behind a great team effort and the talents of Guerrero, who scored 19 touchdowns this fall.

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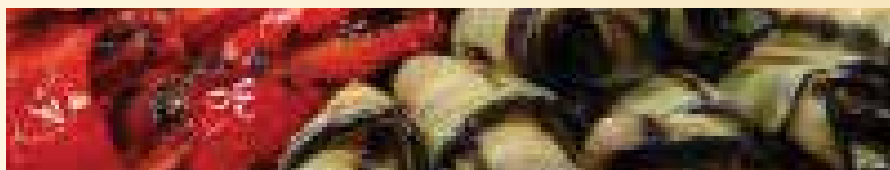
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