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A TREAT FOR A TREAT ANIMAL SHELTER DRIVE

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(Snow Date - December 16th)

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Drive up to Maple View Center with your donations for local animal shelter or humane society pets, and take home a holiday treat! Items needed include bags and cans of cat or dog food, dog and cat pill pockets, toys, collars, tennis balls, leashes, and gift cards.

Thank you for treating our four-legged friends this holiday season.

Please contact Amy Foreman with any questions.

🖂 AForeman@NHCA.com

860-331-0470



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



Cromwell Welcomes New Public Works Director

by Mark DiPaola

A longtime Public Works Director in Middletown is crossing the proverbial pond.

The Cromwell Town Council has voted - unanimously to hire 17-year Public Works Director William Russo to lead the way on municipal parks, roads, vehicles and more. Russo, who spent 36 years in Middletown's Public

Works Department, will start in Cromwell on January 3.

"It's my pleasure to appoint Mr. Russo," said Town Manager Tony Salvatore. "He brings a lot of knowledge, and I really expect we'll see some positive changes."

Technically, he'll be retiring from the Department he joined in 1984, but Russo says he just wasn't ready.

"I'm very humbled I was chosen. That's an honor to everyone that's worked with me, because you don't work in a city of 48,000 people and 200 miles of road and do it alone,"

he says. "I'm not ready to retire and do nothing. I accept the Cromwell's athletic facilities. challenges, and I'm excited."

Russo began his career in Middletown as a public works laborer, working his way up through the years to the lead administrator role he's held since 2004.

"I'm not an 8-4:30 guy. I'm available Saturday. After 6 p.m. at night. I like being out in snowstorms."

He says when he met with Salvatore in a series of interviews, it just felt right.

"Each time I spoke with the Town Manager, we became more comfortable with each other," Russo said. "We talked about parks, roads, and sidewalks - where he wanted to go in the future?

Russo's Middletown tenure included the maintenance of Palmer Field - a hotspot for high school state championship games over the years.

He says he hopes to bring the same level of care to

Russo also expressed a desire to provide the same mentorship he says he benefitted from while rising through the ranks in Middletown.

"I like to teach. Every day you look to improve on the day before," he said. "I like to observe - some of the best ideas I get are out of the workforce. That was my style in Middletown, and it'll continue in Cromwell."

Russo rose to the top of a 5-candidate list for the position, undergoing interviews with a panel of public works directors sourced from other towns.

"I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Russo on Monday, and since then, all I hear are good things," said Mayor Allan Spotts. "I look forward to working with you."

Councilor Al Waters echoed the sentiment.

"You never see me this happy," Waters said. "When you see something good, you brag about it."

Rep. Wood Reminds Residents of Heating Assistance Options

State Representative Kerry Wood (D - Rocky Hill, Newington, Wethersfield), is reminding residents in need of heating assistance this winter of the services and programs that are available in the state to keep their families and homes warm.

"With cold temperatures approaching and the price of heating oil on the rise, residents in our towns should be aware of the programs that are available to them if they are having a difficult time keeping up with their heating bills," said Rep. Wood. "From nonprofits like Operation Fuel to Connecticut's moratorium on heating source shutoffs to relief through UniteCT, no family should be left in the cold this season."

The following energy assistance programs are available in Connecticut:

Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP): This program is administered by the Connecticut Department of Social Services and provides winter heating cost assistance to over 75,000 income-eligible households annually, regardless of heat source. Homeowners and renters are eligible to apply for CEAP. Residents can apply to this program through their local Community Action Agency. For Newington, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield residents, reach out to the Community Renewal Team (CRT) at 860-560-5600 or visit www.crtct.org. Additional information is available at www. ct.gov/staywarm or by calling 2-1-1.

Nonprofit Heating Assistance Services: Operation Fuel and other nonprofits provide year-round energy assistance to low- to moderate-income households that are not eligible for CEAP or run out of benefits. Visit operationfuel.org/ to learn more.

COVID-19 Payment Plans for Utility-Heated Customers: The Connecticut Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA) has directed all utility providers to offer COVID-19 payment plans for residential and non-residential customers to enroll in through the end of the emergency declaration. These plans are available to customers in need of financial assistance to pay a past due balance and current bill. Customers should contact their utility provider for more information about these plans and to enroll.

Electric Utility Bill Assistance Via UniteCT: This program provides rental and utility assistance to residents financially impacted by COVID-19. Funds can help pay down back bills. Additional information is available at https://portal.ct.gov/DOH/DOH/ Programs/UniteCT.

Winter Protection Program - Moratorium on Heating Source Shut-Offs: Connecticut has a moratorium on heating source shut-offs for eligible households from November 1 to May 1. Customers can contact their utility provider for more information about the Winter Protection Program and others they may qualify for. Call 2-1-1 or visit https://uwc.211ct.org/winter-protection-winter-moratorium/ to learn more.

Energy Savings Solutions - Energize CT: Energize CT can help residents save on energy bills through information and financial incentives to make their homes more energy efficient. Visit energizect.com for

further information.

Protections Regarding Third-Party Electricity Suppliers: Connecticut has enacted a series of consumer protections for electric supplier customers over the last decade. The protections include prohibiting variable rates and enabling PURA to prevent customers designated as "utility hardship" from being switched to electric suppliers. This year, Governor Lamont signed Public Act 21-117 to prohibit cancellation fees for residential customers under contract with an electric supplier and strengthens PURA oversight over electric suppliers.

More information about heating assis-

tance programs available in Connecticut is available by calling

2-1-1. Residents can also call their local human services department below:

Newington Human Services: Call 860-665-8590 or visit https://www.newingtonct. gov/2431/Human-Services

Rocky Hill Human, Youth and Senior Services: Call 860-258-2799 or visit https:// www.rockyhillct.gov/309/Assistance-Programs

Wethersfield Social, Youth and Senior Services: Call 860-721-2977 or visit https:// wethersfieldct.gov/content/398/430/default. aspx





or Services

Membership-Are you at least 55 years old and interested in staying active and connected to your community? Become a member of the Rocky Hill Senior Center located in our new state of the art facility. Membership is complimentary for Rocky Hill residents and \$20 per year for non-residents. Applications may be accessed on the Town's website, may be picked up at the Senior Center or mailed by request. Meet new people, experience a wide variety of recreational activities and enhance your quality of life! Lunch at the Center-The Senior Services Department offers a five day a week hot lunch program to senior residents age 55 and over. Lunch is served Monday - Friday at noon at the Senior/Community Center. Please call (860) 258-2786 three days in advance to reserve your lunch or register on line at Registrations.rhparkrec.org. Menus are available on line, in our monthly newsletter or at the Center. A vegetarian option is available upon request. We are not able to accommodate walk-ins for lunch. The cost is \$4.00 for members and \$8.00 for non-members. Ornament Globe Proj-Snow Art ect-Tuesday, December 2021, 14, 1:00- 2:00pm. Join staff from Autumn Lake as they guide us in creating a simple snow globe ornament. Instruction, materials and

for this free program by 12/10/21. This program is sponsored by Autumn Lake.

a sweet treat will be provided. Please register

Holiday Tea -Wednesday, December 15, 2021, 2:00pm-This entertaining program, presented by Donna & Ron Lasko reveals the origin and true meanings behind the oldest known Christmas Carol "The 12 Days of Christmas". You will take a journey that explains the 10,000 year history of this great holiday season and how it evolved into the 12 days. Learn the secret meanings of the oldest Christmas Carol that has puzzled modern man for centuries. Enjoy freshly brewed hot Holiday Tea served with sweet treats prepared by the Chef at The Residence at Ferry Park. Feel free to bring your favorite tea cup or we can provide one for you. Donna & Ron Lasko have gained national attention as speakers, lecturers, writers & consultants for tea events. Their 25 plus programs, presented in an enjoyable fashion, have been designated by the media as educational-entertainment. This event is cosponsored by The Residence at Ferry Park and Home Helpers. Cost: \$5 Members, \$10 Nonmembers. Limited seating. Please call 860-258-2786 or register on line at registrations.rhparkrec.org.

On Tuesday, November 30th, Santa Claus made a special virtual appearance from his North Pole Workshop to six families to benefit the Cromwell Creative District (CCD) on Giving Tuesday. Each family paid for a 15-minute visit to Santa, who in turn, donated all of the proceeds to CCD. Altogether, Santa was able to donate \$250.00.

"Having been a long-time friend of Santa, I know firsthand how excited he is to see children of all ages on Zoom," said David Sizemore, a local Cromwell resident who helps Santa with arranging family visits with the jolly old elf, as well as providing the Zoom links to connect families to the North Pole. According to Sizemore, by season's end, Santa will likely host over 100 Zooms with families throughout the United States as well as in countries as far away as Australia.

Ann Grasso, Vice Chair of CCD, whose grandchildren visited with Santa, had this to say about the visit:

"Santa's appearance in sunny California was a treat for brothers two and four, especially because Santa was incredibly well-prepared with names of their friends, things they do well and things they might need to do better. For tech-based kids, a call with Santa seems more real than all the merry men in red suits spotted throughout the season."

CCD would like to thank David Sizemore and all of the families who purchased sessions with Santa!

For more information about the Cromwell Creative District, please visit www.cromwellcreativedistrict.org.



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



Ames Property Developement Plan Presented to Zoning Board

by Mark DiPaola

Rocky Hill residents got their first look at a rental housing/commercial development proposal for the long-vacant former Ames property, and they weighed in on it over the course of a 3-hour Planning and Zoning public hearing last Wednesday.

The plan calls for 213 units of apartments - 10 percent of which will be priced at 80 percent or less of the area's median income - spread out across 9 buildings that will share the 2418 Main Street parcel with a 10,000 square foot office building and commercial retail outlets.

"This isn't our first time bringing this to the town," said developer Michael Belfonti. "We've gotten a lot of input over the past six months. This is the final product of everyone's input."

Belfonti and his team met with Town Planner Kim Ricci and other town staff, even going through a non-binding preapplication process for prior iterations - a chance for both town and developer to determine fit before too much time and money is invested in a given scheme.

But perhaps the strongest endorsement for such a project is in the property's town center zoning designation - which calls for mixed use development, said Joe Williams, a Shipman and Goodwin land use attorney representing the applicant.

'You said you wanted to have a town center, you implemented that in your zoning regulations, and the private sector has reacted to it and is trying to give you what you want," Williams said. "It's a mixed-use development, it's walkable, engages pedestrians and provides them access, and provides for shared parking, so there's some synergy among the uses."

The proposed site plan's amenities would include a walkway network and "pocket parks" - complete with benches, bike racks, and a possible fountain.

"This is a fun space that's going to bring people into the site," said project landscape architect Carly Picard.

It would also add greenspace to a 12acre property that currently has none.

"We have an opportunity to redevelop a site that's sat there for 18 years, and one of the important parts is a significant increase in greenspace," added landscape engineer Tom Daly.

The former Ames property - vacant for the past 20 years – is in walking distance to the Connecticut River and downtown district, as well as bus line stops.

The Zoning Commission has continued the public hearing, so residents will have at least one more chance to weigh in, but those that spoke Wednesday night saw the proposal as positive momentum for the longstagnant property - even if they had some concerns regarding pedestrian safety and housing density.

"This project is way overboard on the residential use," said town resident Barry Goldberg. "It doesn't sound like a mixed use."

Main Street resident Peter Perotta expressed concerns about traffic in an area that sees a lot of cut-through motorists from Exit 23 off I-91.

"I'm across the street, I pull out every day and let me tell you, the traffic is a nightmare," he said. "When I-91 is closed down, they use the Silas Deane to come down from Exit 23, so please look at that closely. It's not all peaches and cream when it comes to traffic."

Belfonti's team of consultants did take a look at traffic impact - projecting 98 generated "trips" from the site during weekday morning peak hours.

Estimates for afternoon peak hours were 141 trips.

Plans include the addition of left-only turn lanes coming out of the site and traffic signal upgrades - the latter of which is a Connecticut DOT project. Belfonti's final intersection plan will be subject to State Office of Traffic Administration approval.

Other residents said they'd like to see

additional traffic safety fixes - for offsite walkability that would serve the purpose of connecting the property to other flagship sites in the area, such as the foundry.

"I'm encouraged to see something being done," said town resident Laurie Boske. "We have so many projects going on in Rocky Hill and we want to connect it all - how is this project going to connect to the Foundry or to the river?'

Several speakers praised Belfonti's commitment to maintain the property long after construction.

"I think it was done in a way in which the developer has skin in the game," said Steve Slattery.

Vochal Chords Holiday Concert

Mark your calendars! The Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords are back! We will present our annual holiday concert on Sunday, December 12 at 2 pm, Portland High School, 95 High Street. Kick off the holiday season by listening to our 75 member chorus and 6 piece band, performing some of your holiday favorites such as "The Little Drummer Boy"," O Holy Night" and " Joy to the World". For the classical lovers in the audience, we will be singing selections from Vivaldi's "Gloria" and Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus". This year we will be joined by Portland High School's Advanced Choir under the direction of Samuel Tucker. Don't miss this concert! It's sure to be a knockout!

The Vocal Chords recently celebrated it's 31st year of lifting spirits, relieving stress and healing souls through music. Community outreach is also a part of our organizations history. Recently, our members generously donated 371 pounds of food and \$1,337.00 to the Amazing Grace Food Pantry. Yearly, the Vocal Chords graciously give of their time to perform at the annual Middlesex Health Hospice Service and at the Veteran's Day Celebration at Portland High. Since inception, we have awarded over \$74,000 in scholarships to graduating high school seniors in Middlesex county pursuing a career in nursing or music.

Tickets to the event are \$20 and can be purchased from any member or by calling Joyce at 860-342-3120 or Diane at 860-347-2787. For more Information, go to vocalchords20.org or visit us on Facebook! Don't forget to "like" and "follow" us while you're there.

Rocky Hill High School First Quarter Honor Roll

GRADE 12: HIGH HONORS

Naysa Abraham, Ariya Afrazi, Jacob Aleksandrowicz, Sean Asante, Melanie Ballard, Jeffrey Beliveau, Rose Blair, Ryan Brady, Kristina Caron, Sania Chaudhary, Massimo Cianci, Luke Collura, MariaIsabel Corcoran, Conrad Czarnecki, Stuti Desai, Madison Dillon, Teresa Donofrio, Kaitlyn Dunham, Gillian Fernstrom, Sahana Ganesh, Shaswat Ganisshan, Valeriy Germanovych, Abaigeal Harding, Elsana Hasanovic, Cole Holt, Bryson Kelly, Benjamin Kiesel, Rachael King, Justin Latif, David Leal, Emerson Maddock, Andzeika Malska, Bethany Manwaring, Maiya Martin, Makayla Martin, Bryan Martinez, Jason McGowan, Malena Melcon, Matthew Mitchell, Jason Moleiro, Jake Morello, Marvin Odobashi, Emily Olmstead, Jayden Osei-Tutu, Chinenye Ozowalu, Shaili Patel, Sophia Pawlak, Jack Pawlich, Marina Perry, Peter Pettino, Emily Poisson, Brian Proko, Wiktoria Ptak, Zephyr Rambharose, Esha Reddy Ramireddy Gari, Shoubhit Ravi, Nicholas Redick, Tyler Reid, Matthew Rostkowski, Reno Scelza-Useted, Komal Shah, Suhani Sheth, Sean Sides, Salvatore Signorello, Evan Sikorski, Aryan Singh, Ashley Stevens, Candace Tabb, Jeffrey Vanturas, Julianna Violette, Clarence Wright, Justin Zepperi, Ariana Zoto.

E 11: HIGH HONORS

na Borukhovich, Patrick Boyle, Olivia Bozzi, Endi Bregu, Emma Burrows, Jacob Bush, Robert Bush, Luke Castanho, Nina Ceruti, Ava Coco, Caitlin Conneely, Nathan Corcoran, Madeline Cosker, Kyle Demarest, Suma Dendi, Fotina DiPaola, Grace DiTunno, Grace Donahue, Candice Edmunds, Andrew Falcigno, Brianna Ferla, Grant Fishberg, Christina Garcia, Simar Gowda, Caden Huddleston, Ariza Irfan, Pranav Iyer, Alec Jimenez, Zhi Jin, Nicholas Jokl, Erika Kenny, Oleg Korotkyy, Alexa Kuhn, Perla Kurti

Daniel Lin, Noah MacDonald, Amber Mamica, Lily Margiotta, Addison Meisterling, Ayaan Moledina, Baanie Mundra, Emma Munoz, Maleena Muzio, Gracie O'Connell, Katie O'Connell, Kristian Odobashi, Elena Olender, Emily Palumbo, Rijul Panchal, Jheel Patel, Shrushti Patel, Alissa Perna, William Perry, Leah Potter, Gianna Quaresima, Muktha Ramesh, Ayush Rath, Leonardo Rios, Alyssa Ritskowitz, Mia Rivadeneira, Casey Robinson, Hannah Saccente, Layba Safdar, Sohan Salian, Danielle Santostefano, Delainey Segar, Riddhi Sharma, Divita Singh, Kushagr Singhal, Alexandra Stevens, Faith Stewart, Skylar Sweeney, Heet Thakkar, Hrideyesh Tyagi, Tanisha Varkala, Jayden Vassallo, Hannah Walsh, Julia Ward, Fides Wong.

GRADE 9: HIGH HONORS

Adonis Guerra, Jacob Jimenez, Leonardo Kerz, Aaron Khanna, Daniel Knoepfel, Ethan Lachnicht, Moirin McNamara, Annalisa Morabito, Julia Moulin, Justin Mudge, Braeden Murawski, Ethan Pancoast, Pooja Patel, Siya Patel, Vishruti Patel, Jenna Paulino, Jake Polites, Kyra Powers, Joseph Quaresima, Ananth Rao, Ryder Scelza-Useted, Jaimin Shah, Julia Sirois, Erin Slavin, Jazier Valle, Emily White, Emma Wilkinson, Jessica Yoon.

GRADE 11: ACADEMIC HONORS

Favour Amayo, Ariana Androulidakis, Cadence Arnold Abhinav Atthota, Lejla Beskovic, Derek Blackler, Abigail Boutin, Aidan Boutin, Jacob Camarro, Tyler Carlstrom, Isabella Castrillo, Benjamin Centurelli, Meagan Conlan, Marissa Cristofaro, John Da Rocha, Maheen Dalawar, Christina DeNovellis, Victoria DiMascio, Mya Doyle, Lauren Eager, Anesh Gobi, Robert Gwara, Kollin Lamontagne, Jela Laveau Pimentel, Mathilda Logan, Brianna Maniscalco, Anthony Marcucci, Mikayla Marshall, Mason Mitchell, Austin Murawski, Zachary Myers, Kaan Ozuolmez, Ryan Pandolfo, Swapnil Roy, Alania Saraci, Jillian Shea, Abhishek Sidhu, Ines Skrevani, Norah Sylvestro, Brendan Whalen, Sarah Whelan, Dylan Zepperi.

Caralyn Andonucci, Brayden Bayek, Alen Becirovic, Johanna Brown, Jacob Carnelli, Logan Cirelli, Jordan Clemens, Ella Cristalli, Luanna Da Rocha, Shlok Deshmukh, Nico DiMatteo, Kallitsa DiPaola, Vanessa Echevarria, Alexander Eigo, Juliana Elloian, Taylor Fetzko, Alyssa Gau, Parth Gohil, Audrey-Lillian Grant, Frank Guerrera, Arvan Hafeez, Mason Heḋges, Julissa Hidalgo, Tabassum Irfan, Megha Iyer, Shaun Jacob, Palak Jain, Devesh Karthik, Mahek Kasmani, Shauna Kehoe, Dorkasin Khamonezhad, Anel Korkutovic, Vrisan Kuttin, Brett Kwiatkowski, Jasmine Ly, Rebecca Markowitz, Kyzair Martinez, Emily Massicotte, Aiden Mayette, Kylie McClure, Nicholas Miceli, Arshiya Mohammed, Loredana Morello, Jada Moulin, Nihira Mulkar, Samantha Murphy, Thea O'Connor, Kate Oostendorp, Ronald Orsini, Grace Öszurek, Eshani Patel, Mia Pelaez, Tyler Poulin, Jaiden Reyes, Derek Ritchie, Piero Rodriguez, Shania Rodriguez, Sara Ross, Elizaveta Rozenraukh, Zachary Rupaka, Briela Santos, Avantika Sengupta, Emma Simons, Andrew Spada, Brendon Stevens, Alisa Suljic, Abhinav Swaminathan, Anne Teresa Antony, Jocelyn Thomas, Tessa Thomas, Amanda Walker, Paulina Zelazny, Sihang Zhang.

GRADE 10: HIGH HONORS

Benjamin Allison, Vaibhavi Annu, Daryl Asante, William Aube, Laveen Aujla, Sowmitha Bala Sunder Raj, Kylie Ballard, Abheri Basak, Cole Bates, Ved Bathula, Faith Beliveau, Madison Bergenholtz, Zara Bilal, Anniston Binns, Arian-

Samantha Albano, Zainab Artan, Nijah Baloch, Christopher Brunetti, Alexia Bushi, Zachary Carnelli, Reshmi Chowdhury, Corey Christensen, Lucy Criscuolo, Diva Dave, Erik Demarest, Michael DiBattisto, Liviana DiMascio, Daniel Di-Tunno, Nicholas Elloian, Gabriel Flores, Madison Ford, Jai Gandhi, Connor Garry-Benco, Alexander Gau, Andrew Giliberto, Zaim Guster, Jake Hedges, Brady Holzmiller, Jessica Huang, Abhiram Inampudi, Isabella Irizarry, Lauren Italia, William Jeong, Evan Joseph, Jahnavi Keelu, Salma Korkutovic, Deona Kurian, Nicholas Leone, Brooklynn Luby, Jenna MacDonald, Justin Malabanan, Sydney Maxwell, Brodie McNamara, James Miano, Emma Miazga, Emily Morris, Joseph Motes, Raajeswari Muthukumar, Fiona Ndoni, Ethan Nguyen, Michelle Niewiadomska, Sofia O'Connell, Ioannis Oikonomou, Emelie Ortiz, Diya Patel, Kaitlyn Pereau, Premkumar Periyanayagam, Arohan Raizada, Hardik Ramagiri, Marielis Ramirez, Peter Rhouddou, Peyton Robinson, Sidrit Rrumbullaku, Jake Sadownick, Srisha Sarsanwar, Evan Scheuritzel, Harper Schramm Kelley, James Scirpo, Amy Shieh, Logan Simons, Kevin Stevens, Sean Tangney, Elena Valle, Mirnes Velic, Hansika Vipparthi, Anaya Waghmare.

GRADE 12: ACADEMIC HONORS

Edward Backiel, Ryan Bozzi, Tyler Brown, Isaias Burgos Ortiz, Sarah Butler, Desmond Connolly, Antonio Cristofaro, Joseph DelMastro, Tyreice Dominique, Ryan Drumm, Jasmine Edmunds, Samantha Eisenhaur, Olivia Ferreira,

GRADE 10: ACADEMIC HONORS

Arshiya Afrazi, Julia Aleksandrowicz, Peyton Bates, Madeline Cardello, Madison Cook, Jonathan Crespo, Adam Cruz, Destiny Culp, Danielle Dahbour, Jaiden Daigle, Emily Degree, Vietanh Dinh, Lilyana Drapeau, Victoria Durinick, Peyton French, Ava Jacobs, Nevaeh Johnson, Elora Keko, Alyssa Longo, Michael McDonough, Archisha Mitra, Caden Mordovanec, Jason Nadeau, Jaiden O'Connell, Sean O'Connell, Christian Olak, Rujuta Panchal, Nicole Polites, Noelia Roderick, London Ruiz, Olivia Speal-Dominick, Aidan Sulliman, Olivia Sullivan, Cole Triblets, Benjamin Uccello, Dominick Violette, Shea Wilkinson, Jennifer Williams.

GRADE 9: ACADEMIC HONORS

Matthew Adamczyk, Anna Aderhold, Zaisy Blackler, Ayden Collura, Anastasia Colon, Jack Curns, Angelina Daley, Nicholas Faits, Olivia Hopkins, Raghav Jaiswal, Albina Kerci, Edward Kocaqi, Ashley Kownacki, Pranav Kulandaivel, Ava LeConche, Paige Marchand, Jacelee Martinez, Abigail Mitchell, Abygail Munoz, Emelia Pacheco-Hager, Harshani Patel, Danica Reis, Brayden Rule, Cole Salamone, Luciano Saporoso, Brianna Schiavone, Giuliana Sessa, Annalina Sjoblom, Julian Skarzynski, Hailey Tejeda, Christian Vazquez-Parziale, Jaden Veal, Prem Verma, Vishal Vinodh.



Turco Forms Exploratory Committee for Senate Run

by Mark DiPaola

Newington's State House Representative is eyeing a tentative run for Connecticut Senate.

Democrat Gary Turco, a second-term lawmaker presiding over town's 27th Assembly District, has formed an exploratory committee to entertain running for the 9th District Senate – but he says he'll only commit to that path if Democratic Senator Matt Lesser opts to pursue the Secretary of State's Office.

"I'm considering it, if he decides to move on," Turco said of Lesser, who is in the exploratory phase for the Office being vacated by Denise Merrill. "I know it's a year away, but time flies, and it's good to get those conversations started now."

The 9th District includes parts of Newington, Middletown, Wethersfield, Rocky Hill, and Cromwell.

Even if Turco decides to seek a third House term, he'll be looking at an altered electoral landscape, with a recent redistricting changing his constituency in the 27th – which will now include a larger New Britain portion than before.

Newington, meanwhile, will hold the largest 9th District voting bloc, thanks to a population increase – Turco thinks that makes a strong case for having a future Senator that resides there.

"During my time serving as State Representative of Newington, I have worked hard to be a leader that listens, cares, and delivers for my constituents. Already, we have accomplished so much together, such as increasing millions in state aid, preserving open space, boosting economic development, and helping to lower residents' cost of living," Turco wrote in a press release. "I welcome the possible opportunity to bring this same leadership to neighboring towns and work cohesively to help make our communities better and brighter places to live."

But he expects no shortage of interest for a seat that drew a Democratic primary in 2018, when former 9t District Senator Paul Doyle retired from public service. That year saw Lesser and former 29th House District Rep Tony Guerrera – the current DMV Deputy Commissioner – vie for a spot on the general election ballot.

Lesser, a self-styled progressive legislator who presided over Middletown's 100th House District for 10 years prior to his first Senate run, has worked closely with Turco on healthcare reform, workforce development, and labor issues over the past three years.

"Rep Turco has done a fabulous job," Lesser said. "He's been an incredible legislator and a good friend."

But Lesser stopped short of throwing his endorsement one way or the other – he's still deciding whether to even vacate his current seat.

"We're not there yet," Lesser said. "I'm still testing the waters. I love my job and am absolutely focused on being the Senator for the 9th District. If the seat becomes open, we'll let that play out. We have an incredible array of talent in the district." his team will be doing the same – the State Rep says he plans to hold a series of community conversations throughout the 9th District to help determine whether a Senate run is viable.

Check us out at www.RareReminder.com

"We welcome this announcement, because if Senator Matt Lesser decides to seek statewide office, the 9th Senatorial District will need a strong advocate, like Sen. Lesser, to continue fighting for the people of the 9th District," said Newington Democratic Town Committee Chair John Kelly, who serves as a Democratic State Central Committee Member for the 9th District. "In his two terms in the General Assembly, Gary Turco has clearly shown his leadership on so many critical issues, such as healthcare advocacy, economic development for job creation, tax cuts for seniors, improving mass transit, and fiscal responsibility to help Connecticut's economy grow. I know that, if he runs and is elected, Gary will continue his work on these issues and all of the issues that will affect the 9th Senate District."

Over the next few months, Turco and

Newington High School First Quarter Honor Roll

Grade 12 High Honors: Ashley Acosta, Salma Al Ramahi, Ryan Alexander, Chelsea Alvizo, Ava Arroyo, Amanda Avenoso, Rebekah Bailly, Arianna Barnes, Kaitlyn Bialy, Megan Bjunes, Jack Bogatz, Michael Bohlke, Olivia Boling, Anthony Bongiovanni, Jonah Bor-rup, Alexandre Bourassa, Andrew Bugnacki, Catherine Cala, Dylan Casey, Jesus Cintron, Samuel Cultrera, Alexandra Daha, Brenda De-Blois, Hannah DeMarco, Katherine Doll, Jessica Drozd, Olivia Duran, Rachel Errickson, Bianca Figueroa, Rebecca Fisher, Anthony Forbes, Alexandra Freeman, Reggie Furlow, Meghana Gadde, Nicholas Gagliardi, Emily Gaudet, Sean Gerwien, David Gorski, Taylor Greca, Philip Havens, Morgan Hellman, Nyle Hopping, Colleen Horan, Austyn Howe, Sean Hurley, Cade Irons, Lauren Johnson, Maya Johnson, Aaron Jones, Alyse Karanian, Sami Khan, Kevin Khuu, Adam Kozikowski, Thomas Kubko, Jacob Lasek, Zachary Liebl, Robert Longo, William Lynch, Menna Majdoub, Emma Margarido, Michelle Martula, Jordan Middlebrooks, Fasiha Mirza, Marlon Mitu-sina, Kaya Moni-Rutkowski, Lindsay Muir, Christine Nguyen, Brianna Norton, Michelle Novikova, Arby Nurcellari, Christopher Page, Marc Pantano, Nicole Parafati, Jaydin Parker, Kayla Parker, Shiven Patel, Margaret Pizzella, Natalie Portonova-Nolan, Chase Prestia, Angelica Pupek, Rose Quigley, Samantha Reese, Matthew Rethis, Swehtam Rondon Dela Cruz, Ian Rothauser, Hailey Saunders, Andrew Schilling, Julia Sena, Laiba Shahzad, Matthew Simonetti, Amar Singh, Anusha Singh, Ramandeep Singh, Madeline Sirois, Diana Sliwinski, Wyatt Smith, Mathew Tata, Carissa Tate, Vidhisha Thakkar, Noah Tharaldson, Brivana Thomas, Emmanuel Thomas, Samyuktha Thotta, Elena Timmons, Kelsey Tinker-Palaia, Carissa Toth, Priscilla Tran, Bryce Turner, Anna Vumback, Emma Walker, Daniel Whitman, Sophie Wood, Paige Zajack, Jhonjairo Zaldivar, Henry Zaleski, Karissa Zocco, Marliese Zocco. Grade 11 High Honors: Mason Affricano, Zeina Al Ramahi, Sarah Amaral, Alvin Amenyo, Cassyopeia Begich, Morgan Belaski, Ju-lia Bielski, Eric Bierc, Grace Bissoni, Padraig Brown, Gabriela Caceres, Julian Caldwell, Alaina Charette, Joshua Chrzanowski, Jackson Civitillo, Ryan Claffey, Ellia Claffey-Hessel-tine, Abigail Corcoran, Robert Daraz, Danielle Dei, Ella DePase, Henry Dietter, Samuel Drozd, Valerie Egoroff, Sydney Fenn, Drew Gallinoto, John Gallinoto, Jacob George, Alisa Granovsky, Macy Guion, Jodie Hammond, Oumou Hann, Mackenzie Hillman, Nicholas Houle, Trisha Iyer, Charis Jack, Emily Jarmoszko, Eli Johnson, Maria Joseph, Sreya Joseph, Treesa Joseph, Almira Juraldzic, Julia Kaczynski, Simran Kaur, Michael Kozikowski, Natalia Kusnierz, Matthew Lagace, Andy Le, Breonne Lewis, Michelle Li, Michael Lilley, Andrea Manocchio, Bryce Mayo, Nathan Michaud, Lindsey Morgenthau, Isabella Myjak, Farhan Navid, Dang Nguyen, Katarina Óliveira, Seila Osmanovic, Meera Patel, Mia Peterson, Julia Peyton, Shane Pienkos, Brendon Pigott, Aiden Placeres, Alexander Pushkar, Marian-gel Quiros Zeledon, Elsa Raymond, Julia Remiszewski, Maria Reyna, Carlee Rice, Abigail Riggins, Reese Sadler, Kyle Saindon, Matthew Samarotto, Keila Sharofi, Stacey Sheno, Peter Stack, Jack Stair, Kolin Stegmaier, Payton Tavares, Clay Taylor, Shenai Taylor, Bora Tekin, Justin Tran, Jaidyn Tucker, Noella Tuzolana, Juliano Vargas, James Vendetti, Sarah Vilson, William Visalga, Zachary White, Victor Wolak, Jaiden Woods, Olesia Zaverbna, Jakub Zbikowski, Kristijan Zvonarek.

Grade 10 High Honors: Milan Abraham, Brooke Accatino, Olivia Adamczyk, Sarah Aldrich, Adam Alexander, Chantelle Alvizo, Matthew Ampuran, Dylan Anctil, Rachael Bailly, Elizabeth Barron, Katherine Bohlke, Kaylei Cao, Angelina Carago, Hannah Comeau, Madison Conforto, Ema Costa, Jake D'Amato, Evan DeMarco, Elizabeth Doll, Caitlyn Dzialo, Madelynn Farragher, Victoria Filippone, Elizabeth Gallagher, Mya Gallicchio, Alexander Gavrilis, Alyssa Gimmartino, Gigi Ginelewicz, Mia Golec, Marife Gomez, Lahelah Gordon, Kyra Goss, Maja Grebowiec, Chelsea Greca, Srivaishnav Gudipudi, Andre Guillotin, Hebah Habib, Ashley Hilliard, Natalie Hrytsyna, Gina Hughes, Ryan Hurley, Maeve Ingram, Ava Johnson, Collin Karanian, Anan Khan, Andrew Kurkovsky, Michael LaCava, Molly Lavoie, Huy Le, Phuoc Le, Carley Leonard, Al-exa Madel, Rachel Malec, Anna McGoldrick, Libbey McGrath, Marissa McPherson, Gabriella Molfetas Duran, Filip Nadratowski, Sophia Napuli, Charles Patian, Finip Fudirato Kas, Sophia anne Pinote, Steven Plaksin, Sophia Rathbun, Mason Reilly, Lindsay Ronski, Taylor Ronski, Michael Silva, Izaylin Smith, Mya Smith, Andrew Stafford, Isabella Stair, Eshan Tanseer, Ethan Tata, Jake Tatem, Patience Tesz, Alexander Tong, Casey Wang, Ella Webster, Jillian Webster, Colleen Whitman, Maggie Woods, Abigail Zoll.

Grade 9 High Honors: Colin Alemany, Chloe Alvizo, Rachel Amaral, Adriana Arango, Avery Atkinson, Sebastian Baran, Tamaya Barnes, Anna Bielaszka, Avery Bonet, Noah Bor-rup, Hailie Broadbent, Diego Canellas, Brian Carago, Liana Chojnowski, Lilah Civitillo, Jo-rah Courtemanche, Josha Courte Trich Da nah Courtemanche, Isabela Cucuta, Faith De-Frances, Noah Devanney, Thea DeWitt, Ava dos Santos, Matthew Errickson, Connor Gallup, Kamryn Gaydos, Krystie Gervais, Joseph Gionfriddo, Madilynn Glaude, Bonnie Gong, Tristan Gorman, Olivia Grattage, Shannah Gray, Spencer Hamilton, Gage Howard, Ally-son Howell, Natalia Jankowski, Elesa Joseph, Oliver Kallen, Sean Kelly, Kailey Krusewski, Taylor Kutniewski, Ethan Lassen-Crawford, Joshua Lee, Julia Lengenfelder, Austin Loya, Jayden Lu, Benjamin Lynch, Abdullah Malik, Jaylin Manson, Janelle Marquez, Daniel Mar-tins, Peyton Matthews, Madeline Michaud, Ashley Muharremi, Hassan Munawar, Daren Ngo, Katelyn Nguyen, Quang Nguyen, Mailia Nieves, Benjamin Nyez, Quinn Orlowski, Mariyah Paladino, Myranda Parker, Achyut Patel, Emily Percy, Isabella Peruccio, Hallie Pe-terson, Theresa Pham, Anh-Minh Phan, Selah Prignano, Naveli Rios, Lucas Robson, Nicholas Rodriguez, Noel Roy, Logan Shaw, Yana Shturypita, Katherine Simone, Emily Skubisz, Ava Tavares, Andrew Tran, Leah Turner, Aashritha Varada, Sarah Visalga, Ella Vumback, Matthew

Vuong, Srishti Wadhwa, Jessica Wakefield, Zander Waluk, Gabriela Wierzbicki, Kaylee Wilson, Ricky Yang, Lukas Zelechowski.

Grade 12 Honors: Meagan Agosto, Zachary Aldieri, Muhammad Ali, Nathan Allaire, Andrew Allen, Mardiya Amadou, Christian Amaral, Cecilia Ancona, David Battistini, Michael Bikakis, Naturelle Blue, Holly Bon-figlio, Stone Bouchard, Jessica Brescia, Sydney Brewer, Alex Bugnacki, Allie Bugnacki, Mylei Cao, Dylan Correll, Selena Cortavarria, Eliano Cruz, Kendall Day, William DeChello, Nicholas DiLuciano, Emma Dowle, Madison Ellis, Lilliany Ferguson, Caden Gallup, Collin Giudice, Derek Goyzueta, Nicholas Grattage, Brian Guri, Victoria Havens, Lyrehc Healey, Aaron Hober, Christopher Johnson, Charles Judge-Blair, Amy Kore, Emily Kyle, Alexander Lengenfelder, Faith Liccardi-Alexander, Katherine Lilley, Mya Lungu, Bridget MacKenzie, Emilia McGoldrick, Tyree McMillan, Kon-standina Merqina, Dylan Miller, James Mills, Erin Murphy, Zachery Muse, Dylan Nadeau-Oddo, Thi Thanh Thanh Nguyen, Vy Nguyen, Lavinia Oliveira De Freitas, Eleanor Owens, Michael Padilla, Anson Phan, Isabella Presutti, Nyla Rivera, Ethan Roberts, Katie Rodriguez, Kenneth Rodriguez, Adriana Romano, Gracie Schilling, Roungthip Sengsouvandara, Juliet Simone, Sarah Sinsigalli, Rachel Smart, Corey Smith, Shakir Smith, Margot St. Remy, Jonathan Strong, Sara Studzinski, Kaden Tate, Kaleigh Tsakiris, Aleyshka Velez Rodriguez, Nikhil Vishwanath, Robert Wakefield, Samantha Webster, William Wieland, Kliven Xhixho, Kathryn Ziomek.

Grade 11 Honors: Anika Abraham, Beckham Alderucci, Desiree Aparo, Olivia Bernier, Angelica Bodine, Alivia Borselle, Kyle Bross, Cole Camardo, Ralph Campos, Robert Cappellucci, Sophia Chrostowski, Jacob Colon, Juliette Corriveau, Alexander Cucuta, Tiana D'Aquila, Taylor Daniele, Ruben Delgado, Emma dos Santos, Loren Escala, Michaela Feldblum, Eric Flores, Brianna Gadarowski, Savannah Gallagher, Jaiden Gartrell Roldan, Hailey Gaydos, Angelina Genovese, Sequoia Graves, Gavin Gray, Zachary Hamilton, Jabor Hannan, Brooke Hendon, Journey Holley, Leekel Kelley, Nickolas Kelley, Mohammed Khan, Shana Kilkenny, Taelyr Ladden, Chase Leonard, Brandon Levesque, William Lubas, Isabella Marocchini, Sashaly Mora, Julia Napoletano, Thanh Ngo, Cooper Nguyen, Ethan Olandt, Evan Oliver, Elizabeth Omiecinski, Maryssa Paladino, Almira Pehratovic, Javier Pena, Riley Piechowicz, Andrijah Pleasant, Rosalia Pouliot, Vincenzo Previti, Kylie Ratti, Elias Reji, Daniellyz Rodriguez, Amari Rosemond, Josiah Ross, Julia Roy, Natalie Rusczyk, Denise Sanseverino, Kelly Saunders, Eric Saw-yer, Madelyn Smith, Jezzmarie Sousa, Matthew Southwick, Hannah Statchen, Sophia Stickles, Kayden Suchocki, Riley Sullivan, Taylor Swiatowiec, Daniela Tavares, Dan Thomas, Mikayla Vasi, Joey Yang, Muhammad Zain.

Valeria Bolanos, Kelly Braga, Jade Brancifort, Cooper Broadbent, Luke Canepari, Gabri-ella Chrostowski, Ray Dako, Joseph Damato, Parisha Desai, Grant DiBella, Chloe Drouin, Alyssa Dugas, Jonmichael Duran, Eric Edgington, Melanie Estrada, Leah Fahey, Gabri ella Femiak, Kenneth Figueroa, Danica Fox, Emma Freeman, Ethan Freeman, Dillon Fusco, Maeve Gunning, Joel Gutierrez, Andrew Hastings, Jaime Hernandez, Liliana Hernandez, Gabriel Houle, Treyshaun Huff, Samuel Jania, Lianna Johnson, Logan Kappes-Sommer, Kyle Klimas, Andzelika Kluska, Milena Kluska, , Shashir Kollu, Hubert Krol, Arthur Kusnierz, Jacqueline Lapierre, Molly Lenehan, Aliana Leon, Aiden Liriano, Michael Martula, Skyler Marziano, Kyle McKissick, Ella Michaud, Avery Mickens, Julian Middlebrooks, Riley Mills, Aryanna Morris, Jack Nenna, Emma Nystrom, Viktor Orzolek, Leilah Osbourne, Megan Paradis, Milly Patel, Jacquelyn Pellegrini, Marco Perez, Mia Perez, Alexia Pleasant, Brooke Poulin, Mohammed Rahman, Ian Rainville, Chanellis Rodriguez, Isabella Rodriguez, Nicole Rodriguez, Rebecca Rodriguez, Cody Rubino, Angelina Ruiz, Brianna Sanchez, Marissa Sanford, Gabriella Stolfi, Bruno Stosur, Connor Such, Nicholas Sullivan, Mia Theri-ault, Amarelys Velez Santiago, Claudia Wilson, Elisa Zeqo.

Grade 9 Honors: Samantha Affricano, Janelle Amaning, Nathan Amenyo, Jonathan Annino, Aly Arroyo, Maya Barfield, Nathan Bell, Aiden Bengtson, Eliza Bezbakh, Ryan Bjunes, Sophia Bonetti, Camelia Boudissa, Jonathon Breer, Erica Bross, Zara Bukhari, Jayden Burke, Kane Byrd, Brynn Caetano, Joselyn Castro, Devin Catania, Iane Cayunda, Nevaeh Chaput, Lailah Christopher, Carly Cierniewski, Jordan Cirigliano, Maya Colello, Audrey Colon, Kiley Connors, Dylan Cordeiro, Vincenzo Corvino, Ayden Crampton, Ava DePase, Vincent Di-luciano, Leticya Dos Santos, Isadora Dosreis, Alexandria Duran, Anaya Farmer, Mia Ficaro, Erin Fisher, Arielle Galarza, Shyam Garibnawaj, Emily Gillman, Zachary Girolamo, Tyler Giudice, Delila Guster, Muhammad Haider, Milena Hoyos, Mason Iskra, Alexander Jacobs, Sebastian Jimenez, Haeven Jones, Madison Kelbacher, Sean Kelley, Anthony Kicek, Abigail Klimovich, Mihir Kodimela, Ádrian Kowalczyk, Morgan Kriedel, Hayden Labbe, Amanda Lagueux, Kuba Latawiec, Samantha Lee-Reid, Isabella Longo, Amelia Lopa, Samuel Lopa, Olivia Lozada, Alexander Malan, Kamil Michalski, Destinee Nieves, Mia Nogareda, Mariana Nunes, Steward Nunez, Shaun Paiva, Ernesto Pedraza, Haylie Pena Mercado, Jack Petronio, Ryan Pouliot, Madison Prentice, Aubrey Prestia, Adam Redman, Kalyn Reynolds, Jackson Romano, Christian Rosado, Jack Santo, Emily Seguro, Krish Sharma, Carla Silvasantisteban, Damyen Simpson, Gabrielle Sims, Riley Sorrentino, Kenneth Soto, Thomas Stack, Aiden Stegmaier, Lanna Stuckey, Fletcher Swart, Corin Tate, Brayan Taveras, Dylan Thomas, Ethen Thomas, Cora Tracey, Derek Tuzolana, Natalie Vanderpool, Isaiah Velez, Bianca Vieira, Jaydin Williams, Ryan Zogu.

Grade 10 Honors: David Agdish, Anastasia Ambrose, Cecelia Bacon, Sebastian Baez, Omayra Batista, Leequon Benford, Rachel Bihlmeyer, Vianca Bilbraut, Mya Blanco,



Governor Lamont Issues State COVID Update

by Mark DiPaola

COVID infection rates are on the rise again, but state and local officials remain reluctant to impose broad-based mask mandates.

Governor Ned Lamont told Capitol reporters Monday that he expects vaccination buy-in and booster shots to carry the state through its holiday season surge. By Tuesday morning, the statewide infection rate had climbed from 5.8 percent to 8.3 percent.

Lamont's statements on Monday - in response to a reporter's question as to whether he'd look to expand mask-on mandates beyond school settings - came following the weekend arrival of the omicron variant, which infected a single Hartford County patient.

"People are doing the right thing without any heavy-handed measure," Lamont said during the CT-N-televised press briefing. "We were a little less compelled a month or two ago [to get booster shots]. We are compelled now. Free drinks are a good incentive, but the variant is the real incentive."

Statewide infection rates are up, but so is vaccination, with a Hartford Courant-reported 72.1 percent of all eligible residents having received their first and second shots. Ninety-five percent of those eligible have had at least one dose

But boosters, according to CDC data disseminated by CT Insider, have been slower to catch on, with just 26 percent of eligible Connecticut residents having received one - that report was published just two days prior to the Governor's Monday update.

All but a handful of Connecticut towns have creeped back up into the State Department of Pub-

lic Health's (DPH) red infection level - for municipalities with 15 or more cases per 100,000 people.

Central Connecticut Health District (CCHD) Director Dr. Charles Brown expects that to come down after the holiday season, especially with vaccination availability for children ages 5-11 in the mix.

But for the short-term, at least, the state should be taking the lead on health and safety measures such as mask mandates, Brown says.

"I think the state should take responsibility, so it is consistent," he said over the phone. "The state has gone through a paradigm shift, to shifting to an individual risk management paradigm. I think as vaccines become more prevalent and we get things under control, that paradigm can work. The problem we have now is that things aren't under control - we're seeing an exponential rise in cases."

Governor Lamont told NBC CT that "the overwhelming number of those infected are unvaccinated" - he stuck to his position on statewide mask mandates.

"Be cautious, be careful, get the booster, and watch out for big crowds," he said during the NBC interview.

Newington had a big crowd Saturday night, when hundreds of residents gathered on Main Street for a tree lighting ceremony and Christmas caroling. While many welcomed the return of the storied holiday tradition, the scene was cause for public health director anxiety.

"Right now, there's so much virus in the community, everyone is taking a risk when they go out in large crowds," Brown said. "We as a health district, would not recommend that, especially when people go out and expel a lot from their lungs."

Town Councilor Mike Camillo, who was among Saturday's carolers, told the Facebook Live audience on NCTV's Talk to the Mayor that he came down with a bad COVID case Monday, though where he contracted it is unclear.

But on Monday night he appeared upbeat - though a bit tired as he teleconferenced into the Steve Parker-hosted segment with all 9 newly-elected Council members

"I was really sick this morning and this afternoon till I got 4 shots, one on each arm and one on each side of my stomach," Camillo said. "And here we are 3 hours later, and I'm talking to you."

Brown says that the CCHD conducts contact tracing for all cases within its 4-town jurisdiction - positive tests recorded by a medical provider go into a database that CCHD and other health districts can access.

"Public events are challenging, because there's no list as to who was there," Brown said.

Time is of the essence, and the coronavirus's worst spikes have delayed contact tracing for up to two weeks.

While Brown says that the CCHD's most dedicated contact tracers – a core group of 10 volunteers backed by state-level personnel, when needed – can handle the current caseload, he fears that may soon change as numbers climb.

The CCHD advises town managers in Newington, Rocky Hill, Wethersfield, and Berlin though the shared public health resource entity has no authority to make municipal-level policy.

Newington reported 19.8 cases over its last two-week period, according to Monday's DPH data.

Newington's return to red alert status would once again close Town Hall, accessible to the public by appointment only.

While the Mortensen Community Center remains closed, schedule Parks and Recreation programs - such as basketball will be permitted without spectators and with a mask-on policy for athletes.

Library programming will revert to virtual, with 1st and 2nd floor browsing still available. The senior center will is closed, with limited access to the public.

"It's been a learning experience for all of us, and just when we think we have everything under control, we get thrown a curve with a new variant," Chapman said on Talk to the Mayor. "We don't know what's going to happen with that, so we have to air on the side of caution. The last thing I want to see is anyone get sick unnecessarily or anyone die."

Among frustrated residents that sounded off on social media, one of the loudest gripes was over consistency.

Students and teachers have been in school, for example, since September, and that environment has had the highest number of unvaccinated people, with the youngest students only recently eligible though public health officials contend that the classroom setting is the best at preventing spread, due largely to standing mask mandates.

"I'm all about taking this pandemic seriously...but maybe it's time we start putting protocols in proper context and having consistency with protocols?" said town resident Michael Branda, a Board of Education member who

runs the popular Newington News Facebook page. "What are we doing to get out of the red? If we need to restrict town services, then put proactive measures in the entire town to slow the spread."

Specifically, mask mandates for Newington businesses, added town resident Rose Lyons.

"I have more of a chance of picking up something in a grocery store than Town Hall," she said over the phone.

Chapman, who is Newington's chief public safety officer, has been reluctant to go that far, telling the Council that he doesn't feel it's local government's role to dictate how private businesses operate.

Town Hall, however, has been a different story - during hybrid government meetings, in-person attendees filled out contact tracing questionnaires. Mask policies remain in effect in the building and, when Councilors convened there last Tuesday for a public meeting, Chapman - who participated via video conference - made it a point to remind them of that.

When questions regarding a town wide mask mandate came up months ago, Chapman said he was leaving such a decision to the state.

Town managers in Rocky Hill and Wethersfield required face coverings for a period, ending the policies when infection rates dropped in early fall.

Even in those communities, officials lamented the town-totown inconsistency.

"I think it's politics versus science," Brown said. "I think we're gonna be inconsistent for some time, because [officials] don't want to take that step."

Rep. Wood Reminds Residents of Heating Assistance Options

State Representative Kerry Wood (D - Rocky Hill, Newington, Wethersfield), is reminding residents in need of heating assistance this winter of the services and programs that are available in the state to keep their families and homes warm.

"With cold temperatures approaching and the price of heating oil on the rise, residents in our towns should be aware of the programs that are available to them if they are having a difficult time keeping up with their heating bills," said Rep. Wood. "From nity Action Agency. For Newington, Rocky nonprofits like Operation Fuel to Connecticut's moratorium on heating source shutoffs to relief through UniteCT, no family should be left in the cold this season."

The following energy assistance programs are available in Connecticut:

Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP): This program is administered by the Connecticut Department of Social Services and provides winter heating cost assistance to over 75,000 income-eligible households annually, regardless of heat source. Homeowners and renters are eligible to apply for CEAP. Residents can apply to this program through their local Commuct.gov/staywarm or by calling 2-1-1.

Nonprofit Heating Assistance Services: Operation Fuel and other nonprofits provide year-round energy assistance to low- to moderate-income households that are not eligible for CEAP or run out of benefits. Visit operationfuel.org/ to learn more.

COVID-19 Payment Plans for Utility-Heated Customers: The Connecticut Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA) has directed all utility providers to offer COVID-19 payment plans for residential and non-residential customers to enroll in through the end of the emergency declaration. These plans are available to customers in need of financial assistance to pay a past due balance and current bill. Customers should contact their utility provider for more information about these plans and to enroll. Electric Utility Bill Assistance Via UniteCT: This program provides rental and utility assistance to residents financially impacted by COVID-19. Funds can help pay down back bills. Additional information is available at https://portal.ct.gov/DOH/DOH/ Programs/UniteCT. Winter Protection Program - Moratorium on Heating Source Shut-Offs: Connecticut has a moratorium on heating source shut-offs for eligible households from November 1 to May 1. Customers can contact their utility provider for more information about the Winter Protection Program and others they may qualify for. Call 2-1-1 or visit https://uwc.211ct.org/winter-protection-winter-moratorium/ to learn more.

Energy Savings Solutions - Energize CT: Energize CT can help residents save on energy bills through information and financial incentives to make their homes more energy efficient. Visit energizect.com for further information.

Protections Regarding Third-Party Electricity Suppliers: Connecticut has enacted a series of consumer protections for electric supplier customers over the last decade. The protections include prohibiting variable rates and enabling PURA to prevent customers designated as "utility hardship" from being switched to electric suppliers. This year, Governor Lamont signed Public Act 21-117 to prohibit cancellation fees for residential customers under contract with an electric supplier and strengthens PURA oversight over electric suppliers. More information about heating assistance programs available in Connecticut is available by calling 2-1-1. Residents can also call their local human services department below: Newington Human Services: Call 860-665-8590 or visit https://www.newingtonct. gov/2431/Human-Services Rocky Hill Human, Youth and Senior Services: Call 860-258-2799 or visit https:// www.rockyhillct.gov/309/Assistance-Programs Wethersfield Social, Youth and Senior Services: Call 860-721-2977 or visit https:// wethersfieldct.gov/content/398/430/default. aspx

Hill and Wethersfield residents, reach out to the Community Renewal Team (CRT) at 860-560-5600 or visit www.crtct.org. Additional information is available at www.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Recently, I attended a "pizza and policy" meeting with my Newington neighbors and sponsored by Reps Gary Turco and Manny Sanchez. I suggested a change in our bottle bill. What do you think neighbors?

Only 9% of plastic is recycled. That is just pathetic. Beverages are sold around the world at a rate of about 1,000,000 per minute! We simply must take recycling more seriously.

At a nickel a bottle or can, most of us can't be bothered to bring the empties back to the store. We use Sam's Club mostly. Three recycle machines sit outside. Now with the cold, who wants to stand out there?

Plus, if the machine needs service, a customer can spend 30 minutes waiting in the cold. Again – for a nickel, forget about it.

When we buy beverages, they charge us for every bottle or can. With such a small percentage being returned, someone is making money!

Here is my suggestion: charge a nickel going out - and a dime coming back! I am sure all of you would be ok with that. It would sure green up our world.

Rod Ferguson





Send us your news!

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

Turco Forms Exploratory Committee for Senate Run

by Mark DiPaola

Newington's State House Representative is eyeing a tentative run for Connecticut Senate.

Democrat Gary Turco, a second-term lawmaker presiding over town's 27th Assembly District, has formed an exploratory committee to entertain running for the 9th District Senate – but he says he'll only commit to that path if Democratic Senator Matt Lesser opts to pursue the Secretary of State's Office.

"I'm considering it, if he decides to move on," Turco said of Lesser, who is in the exploratory phase for the Office being vacated by Denise Merrill. "I know it's a year away, but time flies, and it's good to get those conversations started now."

The 9th District includes parts of Newington, Middletown, Wethersfield, Rocky Hill, and Cromwell.

Even if Turco decides to seek a third House term, he'll be looking at an altered electoral landscape, with a recent redistricting changing his constituency in the 27th which will now include a larger New Britain portion than before.

Newington, meanwhile, will hold the largest 9th District voting bloc, thanks to a population increase - Turco thinks that makes a strong case for having a future Senator that resides there.

"During my time serving as State Representative of Newington, I have worked hard to be a leader that listens, cares, and delivers for my constituents. Already, we have accomplished so much together, such as increasing millions in state aid, preserving open space, boosting economic development, and helping to lower residents' cost of living," Turco wrote in a press release. "I welcome the possible opportunity to bring this same leadership to neighboring towns and work cohesively to help make our communities better and brighter places to live."

But he expects no shortage of interest for a seat that drew a Democratic primary in 2018, when former 9t District Senator Paul Doyle retired from public service. That year saw Lesser and former 29th House District Rep Tony Guerrera - the current DMV Deputy Commissioner - vie for a spot on the general election ballot.

Lesser, a self-styled progressive legislator who presided over Middletown's 100th House District for 10 years prior to his first Senate run, has worked closely with Turco on healthcare reform, workforce development, and labor issues over the past three years.

"Rep Turco has done a fabulous job," Lesser said. "He's been an incredible legislator and a good friend."

But Lesser stopped short of throwing his endorsement one way or the other - he's still deciding whether to even vacate his current seat.

"We're not there yet," Lesser said. "I'm still testing the waters. I love my job and am absolutely focused on being the Senator for the 9th District. If the seat becomes open, we'll let that play out. We have an incredible array of talent in the district."

Over the next few months, Turco and

his team will be doing the same - the State Rep says he plans to hold a series of community conversations throughout the 9th District to help determine whether a Senate run is viable.

"We welcome this announcement, because if Senator Matt Lesser decides to seek statewide office, the 9th Senatorial District will need a strong advocate, like Sen. Lesser, to continue fighting for the people of the 9th District," said Newington Democratic Town Committee Chair John Kelly, who serves as a Democratic State Central Committee Member for the 9th District. "In his two terms in the General Assembly, Gary Turco has clearly shown his leadership on so many critical issues, such as healthcare advocacy, economic development for job creation, tax cuts for seniors, improving mass transit, and fiscal responsibility to help Connecticut's economy grow. I know that, if he runs and is elected, Gary will continue his work on these issues and all of the issues that will affect the 9th Senate District."

Upcoming Events at the Wethersfield Library

FOR TEENS: WELCOME BACK PARTY

On Wednesday, January 5 at 1 PM, join us for a Welcome Back Party at the Wethersfield Library! We'll have games, snacks, and crafts to celebrate our return to in-person programming. This is an early dismissal day for the schools. This program is free and open to teens in grades 7-12. Registration is required and limited to 12 participants. Teens may register in person at the Wethersfield Library, by emailing li-brary@wethersfieldlibrary.org, or by calling (860) 257-2811.

FOR ADULTS: PAINT NIGHT

Pamela Halligan will teach a super fun step-by-step acrylic paint on canvas class. All materials will be provided. Class size is limited to 12. This program will take place in-person at Wethersfield Library on Monday, January 10th from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. To register, email library@wethersfieldlibrary. org or call at 860-257-2811.

Wethersfield Library is located at 515 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield CT.

FOR TEENS: STAR WARS SNOWFLAKES & HOT CO-COA

Teens join us on Tuesday, January 11th at 2:45 for a Star Wars-themed Lazy Crafternoon! We'll be learning how to cut six-sided snowflakes for a variety of characters while enjoying some hot chocolate. We've got templates for the Man-dalorian, Grogu, Darth Vader, Storm Troopers, R2D2, BB-8, Chewie, Porgs, and more! This program is free and open to teens in grades 7-12. Registration is required and limited to 12 participants. Teens may register in person at the Wethersfield Library, by emailing library@wethersfieldlibrary.org, or by calling (860) 257-2811.

TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD PUBLIC NOTICE

Use of State CDBG Program Income for an Activity that is Different than the Original Activity that Generated the Program Income

This is to notify all citizens that the Town of Wethersfield Department of Housing (DOH) to use State Community Development Block Grant (State CDBG) Program Income funds in the amount of seventy-eight thousand dollars (\$78,000.00) for improvements at Harvey Fuller Senior Housing Complex. These State CDBG program Income funds were generated by the repayment of State CDBG-funded housing rehabilitation/economic development loans, and the regulations for the State CDBG Program require the Town of Wethersfield to provide its citizens with reasonable advance notice of, and opportunity to comment on, its proposed use of these funds for an activity that is different than the original activity that generated them.

VIRTUAL PROGRAM FOR ADULTS: THE ART OF COZINESS

Embrace the season in a uniquely cozy way with practical tips to support comfort and happiness at home. We will explore cooking ideas, home décor approaches, and lifestyle strategies that create warm, joy-filled environment filled with simple pleasures. This class is grounded in cultural approaches to coziness that apply to all of our lives, particularly as we seek new ways to enjoy time at home and celebrate togetherness. Class will be held Wednesday, January 12th 6:30 PM via Zoom. Email to register for Zoom link: library@ wethersfieldlibrary.org.

VIRTUAL PROGRAM FOR ADULTS:

DECLUTTER USING THE KONMARI METHOD Discover how you can benefit from the life-changing Kon-Mari Method of category-by-category tidying. The Kon-Mari Method[™] focuses on keeping only those items which bring joy to your life rather than focusing on what needs to be eliminated. A detailed explanation of how the method works will be presented. A question and answer period will follow. This program will take over Zoom on Thursday, January 13, from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. To register, email library@ wethersfieldlibrary.org.

FOR TEENS: ANIME CLUB

Teens join us on Tuesday, January 18 at 2:45 pm to watch the latest anime! This program is free and open to teens in grades 7-12. Registration is required and limited to 12 participants. Teens may register in person at the Wethersfield Library, by emailing library@wethersfieldlibrary.org, or by

> Legal Notice **Town of Wethersfield Planning and Zoning Commission Virtual Meeting Via Zoom**

The Wethersfield Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a virtual public hearing on Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

calling (860) 257-2811.

VIRTUAL ART APPRECIATION PROGRAM

Join us Tuesday January 18th at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom for Art & World II: Hitler's Cultural Ambitions and Nazi Theft. Jane Oneail of Culturally Curious will present. From his failed attempts as a painter to his grand plans to loot European masterworks, art played a central role in Hitler's personal life and political strategies. Learn about Nazi exhibitions of so-called "degenerate art," theft from churches, museums and private collections as well as the challenge of restoring works to their rightful heirs today. Register by email: library@wethersfieldlibrary.org

FOR ADULTS: MACRAMÉ WORKSHOP

Join us on Thursday, January 20th, 6:30 p.m. to learn macramé: the art of knotting cord or string in patterns to make decorative articles. You will be instructed on how to make a simple plant hanger to decorate your house. All supplies will be provided. Email to register: library@wethersfieldlibrary. org. Wethersfield Library is located at 515 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield CT.

FOR TEENS: PAINT PARTY

Teens join us on Tuesday, January 25 from 2:45-4:45 for a Paint Party! Pam from Pam's Picassos will be showing us step by step how to paint a gorgeous piece of artwork to take home. This program is free and open to teens in grades 7-12. Registration is required and limited to 12 participants. All supplies will be provided. Teens may register in person at the Wethersfield Library, by emailing library@wethersfield-library.org, or by calling (860) 257-2811.

FOR ADULTS: CREPE PAPER RED POPPY FLOWER

Join paper floral artist Susan Canavan on Tuesday January 25th at 6:30 p.m. as she leads a live, in-person, workshop handcrafting the colorful red poppy flower. Adults are in-vited to create floral art using the highest quality Italian and German crepe paper. All materials are provided. Email to register: library@wethersfieldlibrary.org.

Questions or verbal/written comments about the Town of Wethersfield's proposed use of these State CDBG Program Income funds for improvements at Harvey Fuller Senior Housing Complex may be directed by mail to Town of Wethersfield, Town Manager's Office, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, CT 06109 or by telephone at 860-721 2801, or email cheryl.pearce@wethersfieldct.gov, or by fax at 860-721-2994, within fifteen (15) days of publication date of this notice. In addition, information may be obtained at the above address Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:00pm.

Dated at Wethersfield, CT this 7th day of December 2021 Bonnie Therrien, Interim Town Manager

120921

Because of Covid-19 concerns, this will be by virtual and/or phone conferencing. Please check the Town of Wethersfield website for the live stream link prior to the meeting, to hear and be heard on the following applications:

3003-21-Z Brian Shanley/CT Ear Nose & Throat seeking a Special Permit in accordance with Section 5.2.C (Permitted Uses) of the Wethersfield Zoning Regulations for a change of use to medical office space at 249 Main Street.

3004-21-Z Phoenix 1210 LLC seeking Special Permit and Site Plan and Design Review in accordance with Section 10.1.E (Change of Use) of the Wethersfield Zoning Regulations for modification to previously approved site plan to change the Phase Two Building Use from Medical Office to School at 1210 Silas Deane Highway.

3005-21-Z Lucas Kyriakos seeking a Special Permit in accordance with Section 5.2 (Permitted Uses) of the Wethersfield Zoning Regulations for Outdoor Music/ Entertainment to amend Application No.'s 1700-10-Z, 1723-10-Z, 1857-15-Z & 1896-16-Z at 222 Main Street.

Planning and Zoning Commission **Denise Bradley Duly Authorized** Dated at Wethersfield, Connecticut, this 6th day of December 2021.

Legal Notice **Town Of Wethersfield** Zoning Board of Appeals

Notice is hereby given that the Wethersfield Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on Monday, December 20, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room of Wethersfield Police Dept., 250 Silas Deane Hwy. Wethersfield Connecticut to hear and be heard on the following applications:

1. Application No. 6254-21: variance from section 7.2 B. (Fence Regulations): to allow 6 ft. high privacy fence to be constructed on street line in the front yard where 4 feet maximum height is permitted (Residential Zone B). Location: 733 Silas Deane Hwy. Applicant: Ivette Vaughn

Town of Wethersfield Zoning Board of Appeals John D. Gustafson, Chairman

20921

By Charles F. Morrison, Duly Authorized

Dated at Wethersfield Connecticut, this 3rd day of December 2021.

Wethersfield?

Send us your news!

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

Council Has Deadline to Decide on Waste Management Plan

What's Happening

by Mark DiPaola

Wethersfield has until March 2022 to decide whether to stick with the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA) handling its trash – and pay inflated tipping fees - or try its luck elsewhere, but viable alternatives appear elusive.

That was the advice MIRA CEO Tom Kirk gave to the Town Council last month, as he laid out an increasingly untenable waste management scenario for towns across the state - one that's expected to be exacerbated by the Hartford MIRA plant's summer 2022 closure.

"In the absence of that plant, Connecticut is in a difficult situation," Kirk said. "We have about 2.4 million tons of garbage per vear.'

About 712,000 tons of that is processed at the quasi-public MIRA plant, with various private facilities taking on 1.2 million tons and the remaining 400,000 shipped to out of state landfills.

MIRA,'s network of transfer stations in Essex, Torrington, Waterford, and Ellington – will remain in operation.

"Connecticut is no. 1 in sustainable waste management, converting most of solid waste into renewable energy," Kirk said. "We're ranked with Denmark, Germany and other modern European economies. Unfortunately, we're taking a step backward - in closing the plant, we'll need to find another half million tons in capacity."

MIRA, which was unable to obtain the public financing piece of its plans for a longawaited facility renovation, has opted to close the plant - but the 49 towns that currently have MIRA waste management contracts through 2027 can stick around under an amended agreement structure that would allow opt-out if private haulers hike tipping fees over a certain threshold.

Haulers that responded to a round of MIRA RFPs asked for the removal of the agreement's opt-out provision - to guarantee load quantities and ensure they could recoup their expenses, Kirk said.

While the two sides would negotiate the tipping fee threshold that could activate it, that was a thin reassurance for Councilors that heard MIRA's pitch.

The proposed tipping fee for 2022 is

\$105 per ton – that goes up to \$114-119 by the following year, with 2028 projections in the \$139-146 range.

"I get that they want a five-year guarantee - if I were them, I would too," said Councilor Dan O'Connor. "But where's the guarantee to Wethersfield that they don't in two years double our fees?"

"If they hike it to exceed the threshold, the towns can opt out - if you have a place to go," Kirk said. "If the hauler knows you have no place to go, we could be stuck between a rock and a hard place. We have very little leverage. There's limited places to haul it, and how many towns are going to put up their hands and say I'll build a transfer station."

Kirk says the earliest bids have been less than enticing.

Part of the challenge is competition for limited landfill space - not just in Connecticut, but across the New England region - which has left many communities scrambling to seize on a short-term solution, Kirk said.

"What's more environmentally conscious? Putting it in a landfill in a different state, or continuing to burn it?" asked Councilor Kevin Hill.

Deploying fleets of trucks to ship it to landfills as far as Ohio - or to South Carolina by train - means diesel fuel and dollars, Kirk says.

"Putting it in a hole in the ground is infinitely worse," Kirk responded.

But waste to energy conversion isn't what it used to be as a revenue generator with per kilowatt sales at just 3 cents from 11 cents just a few years ago, he said.

"The top solution is not to make the garbage in the first place," the MIRA CEO said.

That much was left to a consortium of towns that met with Connecticut DEEP throughout last fall to work on local-level waste diversion - but consumer-driven initiatives like pay-as-you-throw can be a tough sell, admitted Interim Town Manager Bonnie Therrien.

"If you want to get the public angry, mess around with the trash," Therrien said.

Councilor Mary Pelletier hopes that a new surge of federal relief dollars can help. "Maybe some of that can be directed to-

ward a solution," she said. l

Rep. Wood Reminds Residents of Heating Assistance Options

State Representative Kerry Wood (D - Rocky Hill, Newington, Wethersfield), is reminding residents in need of heating assistance this winter of the services and programs that are available in the state to keep their families and homes warm.

With cold temperatures approaching and the price of heating oil on the rise, residents in our towns should be aware of the programs that are available to them if they are having a difficult time keeping up with their heating bills," said Rep. Wood. "From nonprofits like Operation Fuel to Connecticut's moratorium on heating source shut-offs to relief through UniteCT, no family should be left in the cold this season."

The following energy assistance programs are available in Connecticut:

Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP): This program is administered by the Connecticut Department of Social Services and provides winter heating cost assistance to over 75,000 income-eligible households annually, regardless of heat source. Homeowners and renters are eligible to apply for CEAP. Residents can apply to this program through their local Community Action Agency. For Newington, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield residents, reach out to the Community Renewal Team (CRT) at 860-560-5600 or visit www.crtct.org. Additional information is available at www.ct.gov/staywarm or by calling 2-1-1.

Nonprofit Heating Assistance Services: Operation Fuel

and other nonprofits provide year-round energy assistance to low- to moderate-income households that are not eligible for CEAP or run out of benefits. Visit operationfuel.org/ to learn more.

COVID-19 Payment Plans for Utility-Heated Customers: The Connecticut Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA) has directed all utility providers to offer COVID-19 payment plans for residential and non-residential customers to enroll in through the end of the emergency declaration. These plans are available to customers in need of financial assistance to pay a past due balance and current bill. Customers should contact their utility provider for more information about these plans and to enroll.

Electric Utility Bill Assistance Via UniteCT: This program provides rental and utility assistance to residents financially impacted by COVID-19. Funds can help pay down back bills. Additional information is available at https://portal.ct.gov/DOH/DOH/Programs/UniteCT.

Winter Protection Program - Moratorium on Heating Source Shut-Offs: Connecticut has a moratorium on heating source shut-offs for eligible households from November 1 to May 1. Customers can contact their utility provider for more information about the Winter Protection Program and others they may qualify for. Call 2-1-1 or visit https:// uwc.211ct.org/winter-protection-winter-moratorium/ to learn more.

Energy Savings Solutions - Energize CT: Energize CT

can help residents save on energy bills through information and financial incentives to make their homes more energy efficient. Visit energizect.com for further information.

Protections Regarding Third-Party Electricity Suppliers: Connecticut has enacted a series of consumer protections for electric supplier customers over the last decade. The protections include prohibiting variable rates and enabling PURA to prevent customers designated as "utility hardship" from being switched to electric suppliers. This year, Governor Lamont signed Public Act 21-117 to prohibit cancellation fees for residential customers under contract with an electric supplier and strengthens PURA oversight over electric suppliers.

More information about heating assistance programs available in Connecticut is available by calling

2-1-1. Residents can also call their local human services department below:

Newington Human Services: Call 860-665-8590 or visit https://www.newingtonct.gov/2431/Human-Services

Rocky Hill Human, Youth and Senior Services: Call 860-258-2799 or visit https://www.rockyhillct.gov/309/Assistance-Programs

Wethersfield Social, Youth and Senior Services: Call 860-721-2977 or visit https://wethersfieldct.gov/content/398/430/default.aspx

Upcoming Events at Wethersfield Academy for the Arts

Wethersfield Academy for the Arts offers both virtual and in studio Youth and Adult Instructor: Marek Czarnecki

The Topic is Guilding Programs. We adhere to Covid-19 rules for One day workshop, Saturday, January 22nd;

rienced artists. Students start with graphite trait. We will look at different techniques pencil on paper, receiving demonstrations from the Renaissance to the 19th Century, on materials, how to approach a drawing, including the Flemish technique and the sight-size and comparative measurement drawing, and tricks to aid in the making of more representational drawings. The curriculum starts with simple projects and moves progressively onto harder more complex work, each one incorporating more techniques to build upon previous lessons. Emphasis is on accuracy and training your eye so as not to be dependent on grids or tracing, thus making it possible to pursue drawing actively and freely in other areas like portraiture from life and landscape sketching. Includes Bargue plates.

technique of Bouguereau. Working in sightsize and from life, we will examine the process beginning with the preliminary composition on paper in graphite then the transfer to canvas. This class is appropriate for teens through adults.

social distancing and mask wearing

Holiday Gift Certificates

Available for youth and adult workshops & classes. E-mail info@wethersfieldarts.org for details.

- Adult Workshop
- Figure Drawing Workshop
- Instructor: Tyler Berry
- 4 day workshop, December 27th 30th, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm
- Students will strengthen their drawing skills and anatomical knowledge through drawing the figure from life. Instructor will guide participants through the drawing process starting with short poses leading to one long pose. Includes demonstrations and individual critiques. Suitable for all skill levels. Includes model fee.
- For details on all classes and events, go to http://www.wethersfieldarts.org, e-mail info@wethersfieldarts.org or call 860-994-8304.

1:00 – 5:00 pm

Gold fills us with awe. It is so beautiful and practical, we use it to value all other materials. It is eternal; it never fades or rusts. There is no substitute for it. Owning it guarantees ultimate earthly power.

Participants will learn the history, uses and meaning of gold, the different formats and grades of gold; the tools used to handle gold leaf, and finally its practical Also includes demonstration of how to make paint from gold, called "shell gold", and the two basic techniques for applying gold leaf.

Adult Classes

Bargue / Cast Drawing

Instructor: Veronique Fournier-Wynne 6 weeks - January 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st; Feb. 7th, 14th

Choose any 3 hour period from 3:00 - 8:30 pm

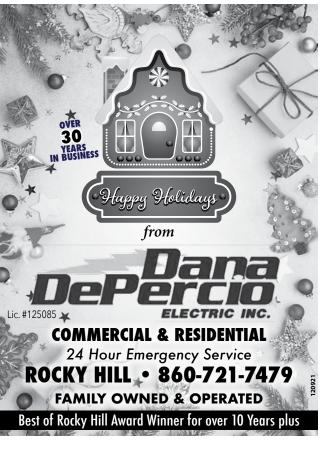
This is the beginning of drawing with the Charles Bargue discipline to train your eye to see. This is also a great refresher for expe-

Oil Painting Still Life or Mastercopy Instructor: Veronique Fournier-Wynne 6 weeks, Jan 12th, 19th, 26th; Feb. 2nd, 9th, 16th

Choose any 3 hour period from 3:00 - 8:30 pm

Learn to paint realistically with the oil paint medium. Everyone will work at their own pace, allowing both beginners and experienced painters to join. You can paint a still life arrangement or paint a mastercopy porThe Natural World in Watercolor Instructor: Nick Frasco 6 weeks, January 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th, Feb 4th, 11th; 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm Advance your skills in watercolor expression for the natural world. Birds, flowers, animals (pets), etc. Watercolor use and mixing principals, best practices and planning emphasized. Individual attention and teaching of core understanding in the techniques of watercolor. For beginner through experienced artists.

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



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

GOT SCRAP? Free pick up for unwanted metals appliances, hot water heaters, AC, cast iron outdoor equipment excluding oil tanks and furnaces. Call 860-770-9014.

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

PAINTING-INTERIOR/EXTERIOR: Ceiling & sheetrock repair, wallpaper removal. Exterior repairs, powerwash mildew removal. 20 years experience. Licensed, insured. Free estimates, Senior discount. Steve, 860-983-4327.

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For More Information Call 203-237-2619

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

GARAGE DOORS: Garage door installation or repair. Garage door openers installed. Please call Gary Redekas (American Excellence LLC. License #511752). 860-658Thank you for saying you saw it in The Rare Reminder 12/9/21

Free Braille Calendars

The National Federation of the Blind of Connecticut has 2021 Braille calendars free of charge. For more information, please call (860) 289-1971 or email info@nfbct.org. 11/19/20

Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum Events

Please join us this month for an array of wonderful heartwarming holiday events for the young and young-at-heart!

Saturdays with Santa and Mrs. Claus - December 4, 11 and 18. 10 am-12 pm

Bring your little ones to visit with Santa! Regular museum admission.

Holiday Story Hour - December 8, 15, 22 and 29, 11 am-12 pm Join us for special holiday stories and crafts every Wednesday in December! Regular museum admission. Details HERE.

Mix and Mingle Storytelling Event: Tell It! - December 9, 6-7:30 pm

Tell It! is a platform where true, personal stories are shared in front of a live audience. Come join us for an evening of stories, fun, and holiday cheer! Admission: \$5 / payable at the door. Wild Nights at the Museum - December 16, 6-8 pm

Join Be Wild Yoga at the Holcombe Education Center for a 75-minute yoga class, a delicious meal provided by Heirloom Market, and a guided community conversation. Cost: \$40/ per person.

Winter Open House - December 18, 10 am-6 pm

Join us for a fun-filled winter celebration! Activities include a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus, face painting and children's crafts, live Celtic Christmas and Winter Solstice music from Ringrose & Freeman (with special guests The Carroll Sisters), strolling carolers, candlelight house tours, and holiday exhibitions. We will be accepting non-perishable food items for Connecticut Foodshare throughout the day. Regular museum admission. 12/9/21

Friends of Dinosaur Park

Are you passionate about Dinosaurs, Nature, Earth Sciences and Education? The Friends of Dinosaur Park and Arboretum, Inc., a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that supports the exhibits and educational programs at Dinosaur State Park, seeks new members for its Volunteer Management Board. Are you able to work well in a team setting, assist in any projects and tasks, and complete assignments in a timely manner? Experience in related areas is preferred but not required. As a Board Member, you will be required to attend a monthly in-person meeting and commit approximately 10 hours per month. To apply, please submit a resume or letter of interest and bio to: boardmembersearch@dinosaurstatepark.org 10/14/21

ROOFER, ROOF-REPAIRMAN, CORRADO FAMILY ROOFING TRADITION: All general roof repairs, full roofs, roof stain and mold removal, roof ventilation, Skylights Installation, Siding and Replacement Windows, Aluminum Trim, Chimneys, chimney repairs & Gutter Installation. Gutter down spouts, gutter tune ups & Gutter Cleaning, leaf guards. No job to small. 59 years local trusted experience. Residential Home Improvement LLC. Licensed & insured HIC#569972. Professional reasonable, rates. Free estimates. CALL FRANK OR GREGORY F. CORRADO, 860-869-1596, 860-529-3377.

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

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

Rocky Hill Historical Society

Visit us Saturdays at Academy Hall anytime between 12:30-3 pm. to purchase a 2021 Collectible Christmas Ornament. Also autographed copies of Hidden History of Rocky Hill written by town historian Bob Herron will be available. For purchase. The Danforth House was home to the Danforth family. They were legendary among among Connecticut pewter producers, with 19 makers over 5 generations between 1730 and 1840. Thomas Danforth III has been credited with establishing the concept of America's first chain-store system. Rocky Hill is so much more than the Rocky Hill Ferry and Dinosaur Park. You will want your own copy of Hidden History of Rocky Hill to discover forgotten stories and people that helped make Rocky Hill what you see today. 10/21/21

The Nutcracker at The Bushnell

Ballet Theatre Company (BTC) returns to the stage as it celebrates its 20th Anniversary production of The Nutcracker, on December 11 and 12 at The Bushnell's Maxwell M. & Ruth R. Belding Theater.

World-renowned guest dancer Lauren Lovette, former NYCB Principal Dancer, will star as the Sugar Plum Fairy. Lauren Lovette will join BTC's newly established company artists in residence, guest performers and local student dancers to perform The Nutcracker.

A perfect show for the entire family, audiences can look forward to fresh production designs including a decadent Mother Ginger and three-dimensional projections that immerse the audience into Clara's journey.

Performances will be held on Saturday, December 11 at 1pm and 6pm and Sunday, December 12 at 2pm. Visit bushnell.org to purchase your tickets. Tickets are selling fast, so be sure to secure yours today. If you are unable to join us at the theater, tune into our digital stream of the 2021 performance available for viewing December 20 through January 2nd. Tickets are available at www.dancebtc.org. 12/2/21

Charter Oak Photgraphic Society

The 2021/22 season of the Charter Oak Photographic Society has a new meeting location: First Baptist Church of West Hartford, 90 North Main St., West Hartford, CT 06107. The church is located near the corner of North Main and Fern Streets, West Hartford. **Please park only in lots 2 and 3, unless using the handicap space.** Entering the building: We will meet in the large brick building attached to the back of the Church. Entry is by the traffic circle and straight across from the cemetery. Only meetings on the second Monday of the month will be held in person at this time. Our general meeting and Program on the fourth Monday of the month will continue to be held via Zoom until further notice. For more information, please visit www.charteroakphoto.org or email Sue DeMaio, Publicity Coordinator at bad6829@aol.com 9/23/21

GFWC "No Bake" Bake Sale

GFWC Newington/Wethersfield Woman's Club is holding a "No Bake" Bake Sale from December 1 through December 15. As we cannot do a bake sale fundraiser at this time, we are reaching out to our community to help us "Spread the Spirit of the Season" without the sweets!

A portion of funds raised will be donated to UR Community Cares based in Manchester which also serves Newington residents in need. It is a secure online resource that connects volunteers with community members who are age 70 and older or age 18+ if the person has a physical injury or disability. Please note UCC is up-to-date and compliant with the CDC's CO-VID-19 protocols. To find out more about this organization, please go to: urcommunitycares.org

Other local worthy causes will also benefit with your help!! Please send your check to:

GFWC Newington/Wethersfield Woman's Club, PO Box 310046, Newington, CT 06131-0046

Be sure to mention "No Bake" in the memo line.

Club is a member of GFWC/CT and General Federation of Women's Club. Founded in 1890 is the oldest women's nonprofit volunteer community service organization. There are nearly 70,000 members throughout the United States and internationally. GFWC headquarters are located in Washington,

4504.

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. The Thursday Newington Alateen is now a Zoom format. For information do to https://www.ctalanon.org/meetings/ alateen-meetings-by-town

Call the Classifieds at 860-563-9386

Twin Oil Company "Don't Miss This Price" C.O.D., 150 Gallon Minimum We do service. Call 860-250-6504 ALAN SOUCY HOME IMPROVEMENT: Free estimates

on: Roofing repairs, leaks, entire roofs. Siding. Additions. Windows & doors. Baths & kitchens. Decks. Al, 860-657-6462. BBB Member.

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

TREE REMOVALS: Very reasonable. Experienced. Call 860-563-6581. Visa, Mastercard, American Express.

Rare Reminder News & Events!!!

Email us today to place your ad, communityevents @rarereminder.com D.C.

If you have any questions, please call Donna at 860-986-9707. Any donation is very much appreciated. Our club wishes everyone a joyous holiday season. 11/24/21

K of C Food Collection Drive

The Knights of Columbus, DeSoto Council No.6 of Cromwell will be sponsoring a Food Collection Drive. The Food Collection Drive will take place at the Cromwell Scout Center, located at 1 Herbert Porter Road (located in Watrous Park off of Geer Street) in Cromwell. The Food Drive will start on Saturday, November 20 and run for four consecutive weeks ending on Saturday, Dec. 18. We will be open to receive donations of Non-Perishable food items and Personal Hygiene items on Saturdays (9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.) and Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays (1:00 p.m - 5:00 p.m.). If you would rather 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. To contact our Food Drive Coordinator - David Masse, 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. 11/81/21



Food Pantry

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 371 Wolcott Hill Rd., Wethersfield, food pantry is open every Thursday from 10am-1 pm. 5/6/21

Holiday on Main Street

Central Business Bureau Chairwoman Pamela Steele and Event Chairman Al Santostefano of the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce invites the community to experience the Annual Magic of Middletown presented by Holiday on Main Street! It's the most wonderful time of the year and the Middlesex Chamber and City of Middletown are bringing back the Magic to Middletown again this year! This magical series of events will be held on the weekends from Thanksgiving to Christmas! These safe, interactive, and socially distant events are sure to get the community excited and downtown to feel the holiday spirit.

The Magic of Middletown will begin with a tree lighting on Friday, November 26 on the South Green and will be followed by socially distant events on the following Saturdays: December 4, and December 11. These events will feature popcorn and pretzels, holiday music, a pop-up vendor fair, Small Business Saturday, Reindeer Games and a Tis the Season to Find a Gnome scavenger hunt at different locations throughout downtown. The Chamber will also have a Dashing through Downtown Holiday Parade on Saturday, December 18 which will feature a decorated car parade that will travel around downtown Mid-

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

Save the Night, CT

As traffic fatalities continue to rise, the Connecticut Department of Transportation Office of Highway Safety is announcing a \$10 discount code for Uber, to encourage people who consume alcohol or other impairing substances to use ridehailing instead of putting themselves and others on the road at risk by getting behind the wheel.

The discount code, SAVETHENIGHTCT, will be available beginning November 23, 2021 through January 14, 2022 between the hours of 5 PM and 4 AM.

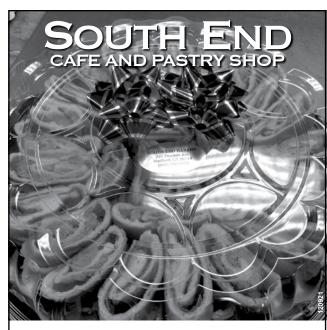
This program was made possible thanks to a grant from the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA), in partnership with Uber. Connecticut is one of only 5 states to receive this grant.

"Traffic fatalities are increasing at an unprecedented rate" said Connecticut Department of Transportation Commissioner Joseph Giulietti. "It is a real crisis. If you, or someone you know, **TREE REMOVAL SERVICES:** Tree Removal, Lot Clearing, Stump Grinding, Firewood. Fully Licensed and Insured. Free Estimates 24/7 Emergency Services 860-922-7738, Schmitt Tree Service and Landscaping.

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dletown to showcase our beautiful Main Street and the surrounding areas!

For more information on "Magic of Middletown" please visit www.holidayonmain.com or contact Haley Stafford at haley@ middlesexchamber.com. 11/24/21

Call-in Caregivers Support Group

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

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

Participants do not need to have attended a caregivers support group in the past. Confidential discussion and telephonic assessments can also be had one-on-one with a dementia professional outside of the online group. 7/30/20 needs a sober ride – please, opt for a ride, and use this \$10 Uber discount code to save the night – and potentially save a life." Ride-hailing services have been shown to reduce crash and impaired driving rates by offering an alternative to getting behind the wheel impaired.

"We are pleading with Connecticut drivers to be more vigilant and more responsible than ever," added Giulietti. "We need to do everything we can to stop this trend."

To redeem the \$10 Uber discount, riders will need to enter the code SAVETHENIGHTCT into the Uber app.

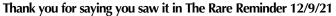
For more information, visit www.facebook.com/CThighway-safety/. 12/9/21

Better Breathers Support Group

On Friday, Dec. 17 at 1pm, the Middletown Better Breathers Club Support Group meeting will be held at the Middletown Senior Center, 61 Durant Terrace, Middletown. The support group, sponsored by Water's Edge Center for Health & Rehabilitation, is open to anyone with chronic lung disease such as COPD, asthma, lung cancer, pulmonary hypertension, and pulmonary fibrosis. Caregivers are welcome to attend. Please call Laura Falt to RSVP at 860.335.7526 or email lfalt@nathealthcare.com. All COVID-19 safety precautions will be followed. 11/18/21

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Community Breakfast

Join us for Sequin-Level Lodge's Monthly Community Fundraising Breakfast from 7-11 AM on the first Sunday of every month. \$10 per adult, \$5 per child under 14 years old. \$25 family maximum cost for 2 parents and their children. Enjoy a full breakfast menu of pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, homemade hash browns, toast, coffee, and juices, plus our monthly breakfast special.

Our Monthly Breakfast is open to the public, so bring your family and friends and have a great breakfast hosted by your local Freemasons. Proceeds from the breakfast go to support the expenses of the Lodge and the programs we do for the Newington community. While you're at the Lodge, feel free to ask a Brother to give you a tour of our Lodge room and to share with you a little about Freemasonry and what has made Sequin-Level Lodge a Newington staple for nearly 75 years.

We hope to see you there! Please note that Sequin-Level Lodge meets or exceeds all of the state of Connecticut and CDC COVID-19 guidelines and requirements for restaurants. 11/4/21

HEATING AND HOT WATER SERVICES: Any brand of furnace or boiler. Tune up, repairs, and installations needed, whether your equipment is oil or gas. Licensed and Insured. Call Art 860-478-5979.

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PATZ DRIVING SCHOOL CELEBRATING 41 YEARS!!!:Online Interactive Zoom classes for Teens \$425. Drug and Alcohol safe driving, 8-hour class online \$100. No Smoking in cars. Call 860-666-8246.

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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

Manes & Motions

Manes & Motions is seeking caring members of the community, age 14 and older to assist with all aspects of our program including...

Sidewalkers – are responsible for assisting with rider safety and providing support to the rider during class. Experience is not required; training provided.

Horse Leaders – groom and tack horses before class, lead the horse in lessons and care for the horse after class. Prior horse experience is required.

Barn & Facility Support – assist with a variety of tasks such as maintaining the barn, cleaning stalls, paddocks, tack or general facility repairs.

You can support your community, gain new skills, and explore career options when you volunteer at Manes & Motions! For information call 860-685-0008; email MMVolunteerCoordinator@hfsc.org or visit www.hfsc.org 9/23/21

Music for Christmas

The 46th annual program of Music for Christmas, presented by the New England Chamber Choir & Chamber Ensemble Richard Wm. Donohue, Conductor. Music of Lassus, Frank, Tchaikovsky, Gregorian chant and carols sung in several languages.

Two Performances:

Sunday, Dec. 5, at 4:00 PM, Saint Colman Church, 145 Hubbard Street in Middlefield. Telephone (860) 349-3058.

Sunday, Dec. 12, at 4:00 PM, Saint Paul Church, 2577 Main Street in Glastonbury. Telephone (860) 633-9419.

Masks are required for admission to the performance.

For 46 years, Richard Wm. Donohue has led the members of the New England Chamber Choir in Music for Christmas. This annual program explores the extraordinary repertoire of music inspired by the traditions of Christmas. Music for Christmas XLVI will feature the New England Chamber Choir and Chamber Ensemble. Admission to the concert is free; donations to benefit the work of the New England Chamber Choir are appreciated.

To learn more about this concert or the New England Chamber Choir in general, visit Newenglandchamberchoir.org. 11/18/21

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 will begin Oct. 4, taking 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

Downtown Holiday Vehicle Parade

Chairwoman Maureen Westbrook and Event Chairman Al Santostefano of the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce invites the community to join a holiday vehicle parade titled, "Dashing Through Downtown".

Decorate your vehicle and join in our parade as we dash through downtown Middletown spreading holiday magic to all! The holiday parade will dash off from Middletown High School at 6:30 p.m.

This event on Saturday, Dec. 18, will be filled with holiday spirit, decorated vehicles and lots of fun! All vehicles will also be entered into a judging contest. The first, second, and third place winner will receive a Downtown Business District Gift Card. Register your car today to participate in this festive holiday event! https://business.middlesexchamber.com/events/ details/2020-holiday-vehicle-parade-registration-20101

A big thanks to the Holiday on Main Street Planning Committee and the City of Middletown for their outstanding commitment and partnership on this event.

This event will benefit Holiday on Main Street, along with the Middletown Youth Programs, including the Hal Kaplan Middletown Mentor Program, Middletown Recreation Programs and the Middletown Summer Youth Employment Program. There is a \$5.00 entry donation fee as well a suggested donation of an unwrapped toy to support the Middletown Police Department Toy Drive. For more information on "Dashing Through Downtown" please visit www.holidayonmain.com or contact Haley Stafford at haley@middlesexchamber.com. 12/9/21



Lunch & Dinner menu

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FOOD: Are you overinvolved with food? Would you like that to be different? Consider attending an OA meeting and find out what is involved. For more information, meeting times and places to call CT OA at 860-840-2475, or look us up at www. ConnecticutOA.org.

CARE GIVER: Can help you with your elderly loved ones at home. 10 Years Experience. Reliable and Responsible. Contact Halina 860-518-5237.

First Church Christmas Concert

Annual Candlelight Christmas Concert - Seasonal music by First Church handbell groups, vocal groups and musicians, as well as Christmas readings. Sunday, Dec. 12, at 4 p.m. at First Church, 190 Court Street, Middletown. Free. Attendees must wear masks at all times while in the church building. For more information, contact 860-346-6657, or firstchurchucc@sbcglobal.net. 11/18/21

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

Pasta Dinner & Bingo

Join us at the Holy Spirit Church Hall for food, games, prizes and fun! All are welcome! Friday, Dec.10, at 6:30 pm. \$5 per person. To reserve your spot, email cpergo@gmail.com. 11/18/21

POA Calendar Fundraiser

Protectors of Animals, Inc. (POA) has put together its second annual calendar featuring 12 months of local animal advocates with POA rescue animals. For 2022, we are inspired by the Mr. Rogers quote, "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping." We are thrilled to be able to highlight an amazing group of helpers from right here in Connecticut. Whether it's feeding feral cat colonies, creating safe places for our pets to gather and be social, helping to find lost pets, championing animal rights, or offering hearts and homes to foster pets in need, we have a network of helpers in that are empathetic, compassionate, and tenacious in their devotion to helping local animals.

The calendars are available for pre-sale on our website (https:// bit.ly/POAcalendar) and are \$14 including delivery. All calendars will be shipped by December 17.

All calendar proceeds will go directly to POA to help increase the quality of life of all cats and dogs in the communities we serve. We hope you'll find inspiration, comfort, and joy in the stories of the 12 helpers featured in this year's calendar, though we know there are countless other individuals and organizations making huge differences in the lives of animals both in Connecticut and worldwide. 12/9/21

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.

Holiday Pop-Up Vendor Fair

Central Business Bureau Chairwoman Pamela Steele and Event Chairman Al Santostefano of the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce invites the community and potential vendors to join a Holiday Pop-Up Vendor Fair.

The Holiday Pop-Up Vendor Fair will be held Saturday, Dec. 11, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Explore extensive selections of unique handcrafted and manufactured products including the best in holiday decorations, handmade crafts, stylish jewelry and clothes, children's toys, and much more!

To become a vendor please visit, www.holidayonmain.com to register. All vendors must pay a \$50 fee and must provide their own table, tent, tent weight, chairs, etc. Applications must be received no later than Monday, December 6 at 4:30 p.m.

The Pop-up Holiday Vendor fair is weather permitting. In the case of light rain or snow, the vendor fair will continue as scheduled. The vendor fair will follow Holiday on Main Street weather condition guidelines, meaning that the event will only be cancelled in the case of heavy rain or snow. 11/24/21

Small Business Assistance Program

The Rocky Hill Small Business Assistance Program is established to provide financial assistance to Rocky Hill businesses and non-profits impacted by the coronavirus pandemic with 25 or less employees. The Program will provide limited, onetime grants of up to \$5000 to eligible Rocky Hill businesses and non-profits adversely impacted by the COVID pandemic.

The Program is funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and administered by the Town of Rocky Hill's Economic Development Office. It is intended to help businesses, non-profits and the Rocky Hill business community become stronger and prosper.

Applications will be accepted through 4:30 PM Dec. 15. Applications submitted prior to or after this date will not be considered.

Applications are available at https://www.rockyhillct.gov/business/bid_notices.php.

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

toastmastersclubs.org 7/1/21

Earn Your GED Online Free

Get the skills you need to get back to work. If you have a computer, you can go to school! Adult Education is offering a free Online GED program to prepare you for the GED exam. We also offer free Online high school completion classes to earn your diploma. Registration is ongoing for area residents. Call 860-343-6044 for more information. 10/21/21

WALL DONE SERVICE: Painting, Tiling, including plumbing and renovation. Call for free estimate Ernest 860-518-4660 or Halina 860-518-5237.

CARPENTER/INTERIOR REMODELING: Home Office Building/ Remodeling. Kitchens, Bathrooms, all phases of interior and exterior remodeling. Small jobs welcome. Masks worn. Call now 860-262-0865.

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BOB'S OFFICE CLEANING: Independently operated, dependable and thorough service. Daily weekly or monthly service available will provide al supplies, please call 860-930-1584.

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COMIC BOOKS WANTED: From 40s - 70s comic book art also. Call Bobby 860-841-5709.



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Applications (and all required documentation) are to be submitted via email to rcarpentino@rockyhillct.gov, with "Small Business Grant Program" in the subject line.

Questions may be directed to: Ray Carpentino, Economic Development Director. 860-258-7717(office), rcarpentino@ rockyhillct.gov 11/11/21

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 <u>www.facebook.com/CromwellArts</u> or contact <u>CromwellArtsAlliance@gmail.com</u>. 11/20/14

Earn Your High School Diploma Online!

Adult Education is accepting registrations for the fall semester. Both in person and Online classes are available. Classes are offered days and evenings and are free of charge to area residents. Call 860-343-6044 for information. **APPLIANCE REPAIR:** All Makes, all Models. Call today to schedule a service call 860-836-7075.

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Have you started a new business but forgot the federal, state and local registrations and filings? Do you need your income taxes prepared? We can help you get registered with all of the proper authorities and assist you with meeting your record keeping requirements for income taxes and bank loans.

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Friends of Dinosaur Park

Are you passionate about Dinosaurs, Nature, Earth Sciences and Education? The Friends of Dinosaur Park and Arboretum, Inc., a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that supports the exhibits and educational programs at Dinosaur State Park, seeks new members for its Volunteer Management Board. Are you able to work well in a team setting, assist in any projects and tasks, and complete assignments in a timely manner? Experience in related areas is preferred but not required. As a Board Member, you will be required to attend a monthly in-person meeting and commit approximately 10 hours per month. To apply, please submit a resume or letter of interest and bio to: boardmembersearch@dinosaurstatepark.org 10/14/21

Rocky Hill Lions Club

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

AOH Christmas Toy/Gift Card Drive

The Ancient Order of Hibernians Hartford Division 2 is sponsoring a Christmas Toy/Gift Card Drive on Saturday, Dec. 11, 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. 11/18/21

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}

CCD Holiday Decorating Contest

CCD volunteers will once again be awarding prizes to the "best decorated" #inthedistrict (riverfront to downtown Main Street, including the streets east of Main Street, up to Valor Green)! Judging will take place between Dec. 6 and 10 and winners will be announced on Dec. 12. Three residences will be awarded a \$50 prize, and one business will be awarded a \$75 prize. 11/18/21

Toastmasters

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

MxCC Enroll-in-a-Day

Discover your potential and enroll at Middlesex Community College for the spring semester. Attend the MxCC Enroll-in-a-Day event on Saturday, December 11, between 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., or any of the open registration events this fall (virtual and inperson options). Visit our website at mxcc.edu/registration for more details. Choose from more than 70 degree and certificate programs to advance your career or start a new one. The spring semester begins January 21. Classes are held in Middletown (100 Training Hill Road), at MxCC@Platt in Meriden (220 Coe Avenue), and online. Questions? Please call Enrollment Services at 860-343-5719. 11/24/21

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The Rare Reminder Where Good News is always welcome

Academy of Irish Music

Registration is open for the Fall 2021 classes at The Connecticut Academy of Irish Music. Group lessons are offered to young people and adults on a variety of instruments. Classes meet on-line on Sundays and begin in September. Course offerings include fiddle, tin whistle, flute, mandolin, banjo, guitar, bodhran, and more. For more information and to register, please visit us at: www.ctirishmusic.com, or contact Director Jeanne Freeman at (860) 810-4852. ^{8/19/21}

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American Legion Auxiliary Carson-Sjovall Unit #105 is seeking new members. We donate to veterans' needs through our programs, such as our annual Poppy Drive. This is a great opportunity to give back to our veterans and their families. For more information, please call Cathy Kelley at 860-635-8693. 8/19/21

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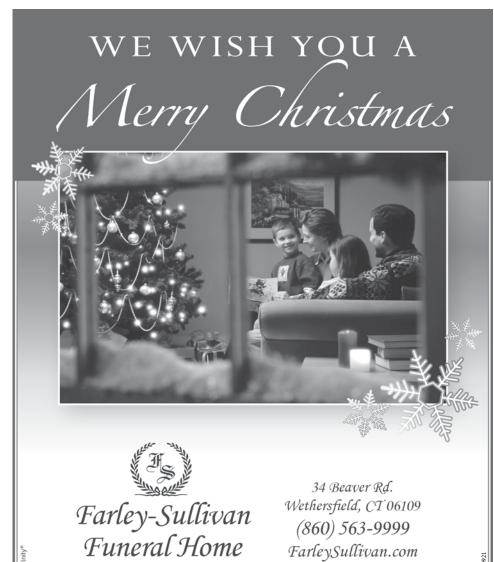
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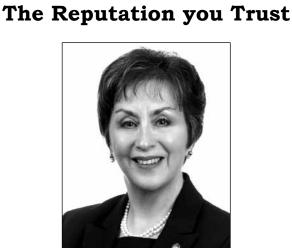
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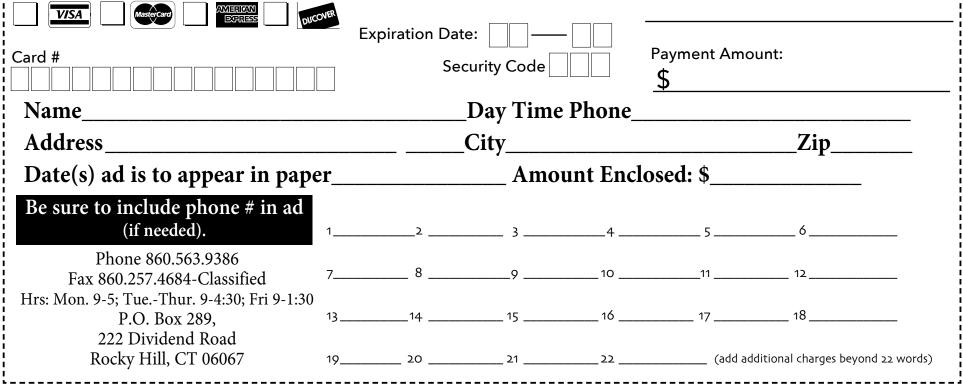
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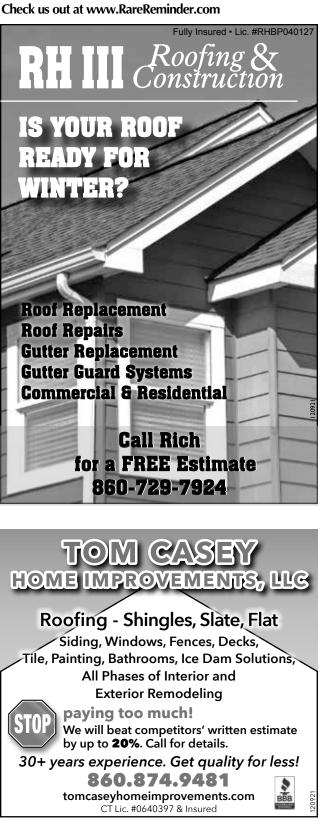
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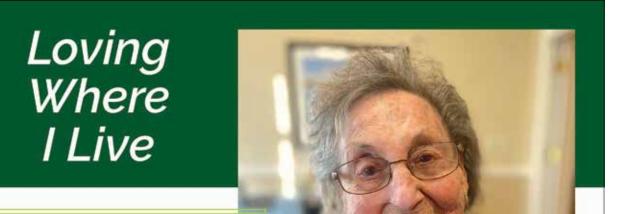


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PROPERTY TRANSFERS

Cromwell

CIOIIWell		
11/08/2021	10 Arbor Meadow Dr	
Carrier Group Inc		¢577.004
To Yu, Xin;' Li, Kate		\$577,094
11/09/2021 Jenzack Partners LLC	8 Black Birch Dr	
To Makara, John J		\$785,000
11/12/2021	15-R Christian Hill Rd	,
Cromwell Town Of		
To M360 Berlin Land Hldg LLC		\$60,000
11/08/2021	78 Timber Hill Rd	
Alicea, Christopher; Alicea, Sara To Campbell, Lisann	ah A	\$396,500
11/12/2021	78-R Timber Hill Rd	\$370,300
Bironi, Gilbert; Bironi, Gilbert P		
To Haroian, Timothy D; Haroian		\$484,900
11/18/2021	220 Barbara Rd	
Santi, Roger; Petit-Homme, Ma	ria	¢040.000
To Gaboury, Jeffrey		\$210,000
Middletown		
11/17/2021	642 Bartholomew Rd #4	A
Trilacon Auumn Mdws LLC		¢005 000
To Dugan, Brian		\$295,900
11/19/2021 Franklin, Diane C; Franklin, Will	872 Bear Hill Rd	
To Macodonald, Sarah; Tulloch,		\$350,000

45 Blacksmith Dr

330 Camp St

11/16/2021 82 Carriage Crossing Ln Parent, Sean To Rivera, Auremy \$145,000 11/16/2021 1180 Chamberlain Hill Rd Giuliano, Justin S; Giuliaano, Consance A To Paangaro, Eric \$400,000 11/15/2021 24 Clover St Smith, Douglas

11/16/2021	202 Old Mill Rd	
Horstmann, Jessica; Bartlett, Re	becca	
To Keast, Jennifer C; Keast, Pet	er J	\$410,000
11/16/2021	6 Orange Rd	
Kalinowski, Joel M		
To Casey, Mary E; Casey, Thom	ias J	\$195,700
11/19/2021	23 Plumb Rd	
Wrzos, Richard A		
To Smith, Kendra; Smith, Daryl		\$350,000

1/18/2021	95 Durwin St	
Cotter, William F; Arboscello, N To Arboscello, Melissa; Caccom		\$240,000
1/15/2021	58 Edgewood Dr	
Dempsey-White, Anita To Deschamplain, Daniel		\$285,000
1/15/2021	100 Fisher Rd	
lumphreys, Benjamin T To Humphreys, Michael		\$160,000
1/16/2021	53 Harvard Ct	
łamel, Jeremy To Smith, Melanie; Smith, Sean		\$415,000
1/16/2021 JSA HUD	96 Margarite Rd	
o Sherman-Baumann, Megan I	L	\$158,000
1/15/2021	186 Markham St	
Clouser, Toby A To Byas, Shamarr		\$225,000
1/15/2021	565 Newfield St #5	
Sermain, Pamela J To Harris, Zakiya		\$180,000
1/15/2021	179 Newtown St	
Ausumeci, Joanne; Musumeci, To Daron, Richard F	David	\$260,000

		· ·
11/15/2021 Right Choice Prop LLC To Cecunjanin, Fikret	80 Prospect St	\$103,000
11/16/2021 Fuller, Paul L; Fuller, Cheryl J To Coccomo 2 LLC	1408 Randolph Rd	\$355,000
11/17/2021 Sawicki, Szymon To Bridges, Lauren E	28 Rolling Grn	\$300,000
11/19/2021 JAM Pass LLC To Flat 6 Reaaly LLC	27 Spring St	\$1,100,000
11/19/2021 JAM Pass LLC To Flat 6 Reaaly LLC	76-78 Spring St	\$1,100,000
11/15/2021 Miller, Kathleen M; Miller, Darr To Nofeereit 1 LP	98 Trolley Crossing Ln yl K	\$74,000
11/17/2021 Glennie Jat Est; Rogalski, Caitli To Goin, Mandy	11 W Meadow Ln #1 in A	\$170,000
11/17/2021 Rigano, Carmelo	15 Walnut St	\$280.400
To Kim, Bunsrors: Hena, Srevlir	1	J200,400

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11/15/2021

11/16/2021

To Aamenta, Nicholas J

Logiudice, Giovanni R; Logiudice, Jennifer L

To Bradshaw, Dean; Bradshaw, Tyana F

Pozzetti, Anthony C; Tewksbury, Renata

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City dwellers looking to buy rather than rent an apartment may come across real estate listings categorized as "co-ops." While co-ops can exist anywhere, Realtor.com notes that they are most common in big cities, comprising as much as 75 percent of the housing inventory in the borough of Manhattan in New York City. Co-op is short for "cooperative," and people who buy into a co-op are not technically buying property but shares in an entity that owns the property where investors will ultimately live. The bigger the apartment in the building, the more shares the buyer will own. Residents of a co-op typically elect fellow residents to serve on the co-op board. That board is tasked with making a host of important decisions, including choosing who will and will not be allowed to join the cooperative. Co-op boards may require that applicants meet certain financial requirements. Unlike buying a single-family home, duplex, townhouse, or condominium, people interested in buying into a co-op may have put down no less than 20 percent the value of the apartment where they hope to live. Co-op dwellers will also be expected to pay monthly maintenance fees that go toward insurance, taxes and other building expenses.



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PROPERTY TRANSFERS

11/15/2021 Ameritage Const Corp	101 Webster Ln #2	-53
To Lawrence, Patricia A		\$425,960
11/16/2021 Ameritage Const Corp	106 Webster Ln	
To Tarantino, Katherine A;	Tarantino, James	\$384,250
11/19/2021 Ameritage Const Corp	108 Webster Ln #2	-28
To Seligmann, Deborah S;	Seligmann, Daniel A	\$452,085

Rocky Hill		
11/15/2021	102 Bailey Rd	
Lafave Jeff C Est; Lafave, Mor	nique	
To Mcsergi, David; Dollars, Ke	elly	\$365,000
11/16/2021	73 Brookwood Dr #D	
Drumm, Jonathan		
To Chanda, Ramesh; Chanda,	Aparna	\$132,000
11/15/2021	54 Little Oak Ln	
Bilodeau Ttheresa E Est: Biloc	leau. Thomas	

11/16/2021	96 Mapleside Dr	
Rejeski, David To Molusis, Brian		\$280,000
11/18/2021	27 Mcmullen Ave	
Sanchez-Adorno, Ana		* - - -
To Joseph, Joby; Joseph, Regi		\$171,000
11/19/2021	7 Minnie Ln	
Silvestri, Pelino A; Silvestri, Deb	oorah A	
To Nolan, Maren M; Nolan, Dav	vid S	\$506,000
11/15/2021	7 Old Common Rd	

120921

Newington

i to migeon		
11/15/2021 Mcgarry, Stephanie D To Chaves, Nicole	12 Apple Hl #12	\$255,000
11/15/2021 Le, Danny T; Le, Tyna H To Thi-Le, Minh H; Tran, Linh	82 Carriage Hill Dr	\$370,000
11/12/2021 Hickey, Shawn C To Vita, Valerie M	311 Hampton Ct	\$176,400
11/16/2021 Freya Braun IRT; Tracy, Hilde To Kolaaxzenko, Suzanne	37 Millbrook Ct gard B	\$135,000
11/17/2021 Vieira, Francisco; Vieira, Dori To Premto, Robert; Premto, J		\$125,000
11/16/2021 Sampson, Ralph E; Sampson, To Gurung, Buddhi M	216 Reservoir Rd , Darcey Q	\$274,000
11/12/2021 Donati, Kyle L To Mccormick, Patricia	43 Rosemary Ln	\$165,900
11/11/2021 Zawerton, Donna B To Polanco, Ingrid	118 Stoddard Ave	\$120,000
11/17/2021 Robins, Carolyn To Alramahi, Husam	124 Webster Ct	\$139,000
TO Alfamani, Husam		\$137,000

To Welburn, Christopher; Welb		\$182,000
11/16/2021 June Geldof T; Geldof, June G	85 Old Tannery Ln	
To Kodavalluri, Vani; Inampudi,	Venkata S	\$445,000
11/16/2021 Joseph, Sudeep; Chathaparamı To Majid, Saira; Wasi, Majid	43 Rachel Dr oil, Gina E	\$462,000
11/15/2021 Klatt, Nicholas; Garrahy, Thoma To Boiteux, Fedia	20 Valley Brook Rd as M	\$269,900
11/15/2021 Danne, Abhijeet; Kulkarni, Supr		¢270 E00
To Kotipalli, Sasirekha; Nallamil	II, veera S	\$378,500
Wethersfield		
11/16/2021	45 Byrd Rd	
Rio, Amy To Bartoulucci, Angelina		\$325,000
11/18/2021	24 Elm St	
Casanelli, Angelo M; Casanelli, To Poinelli, Irene	Michael R	\$275,000
11/16/2021 Parkinson LT; Brown, Ann P	162 Forest Dr	
To Denote, Cynthia G; Denote,	Michael	\$239,900
11/15/2021 Winiarskyj Yaroslawa Est; Winia To Moody, Ashley K; Moody, J		\$305,000
11/17/2021 Ruetz, James M	36 Linden St	
To Woolery, Troy S		\$335,000

Purciello, Rita To Rocha, Maria C; Gonzalez, N		\$350,000
		\$330,000
11/18/2021 Ellison, Tammy D; Ellison, Darn To Gonzalez, Dariel	49 Robbins Dr ell	\$232,000
11/19/2021 Peterson, Linda L To Brickley, Michael H	96 Waters View Dr	\$276,000
11/19/2021	373 Wells Rd	ΨZ/0,000
Leblanc, David; Leblanc, Pamel To Gaviria, Diego F; Cuccia, Kri	a A	\$350,000
11/15/2021 Eligio Joseph S Est; Caron, Car To Werner-Gonzales, Lynda J	717 Wells Rd men M	\$307,500
11/16/2021	132 Westwood Dr	
Jardineiro Marie H Est; Jardinei	ro, Sandra	
To Haag, Sheldon		\$210,000
11/18/2021 Inkel, Karen M	200 Willow St	
To Callahan, Karli M; Callahan,	Matthew C	\$455,000
11/18/2021	53 Wolcott Hill Rd #A13	
Sun, Juming To Meksi, Keti		\$78,000



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Adopt A Petor two



Rex is ready! He came in at only three weeks old and was bottle fed until he started eating at five weeks old. Rex has a big, confident personality. He is very loving and affectionate and is already a lap cat. His permanent, loving home should understand

the quirkiness that often comes with bottle fed kittens. They tend not to have boundaries and consider themselves equals. If you do not have any other cats, Rexy has two siblings that will be ready in a week. Please fill out an application on our website at www.hucatrescue.org. Thank you!

"Animals are reliable, many full of love, true in their affections, predictable in their actions, grateful and loyal. Difficult standards for people to live up to." -Alfred A. Montapert





Meet Captain Crunch!

Ahoy! Meet Captain Crunch! This 3 year old is looking to aboard a ship of his very own! Captain is seeking a cat savvy, adult only home with someone that can understand his feisty, fun side! Captain needs a compassionate companion that will have plenty of time for play! He is also FIV+, however cats with FIV can still live long, normal healthy lives. To learn more about this captivating cat, please contact Our Companions at

860.242.9999 Ext. 302

PH: 860-344-9043 • Email: Info@CatTalesCT.org Watch our TV commercial: https://youtube/Y1MECIS4mlc

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 MAVERICK. Maverick is a handsome gray tabby. He is about one and half years old. Maverick is very sweet and gentle. He just lacks confidence which makes him shy.







Color: Black Age: 3 years old

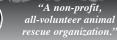
Elsa came to Cat Tales from a basement in Portland, along with her three 8 week old kittens,

223

none of them having had much contact with humans. All her kittens have progressed and been adopted and now it's Elsa's turn. She has come a very long way from her first few weeks with her Foster parents, going from being a "frozen" kitty to one who just can't get enough attention. She gets along with the other cats but is ready for her forever

home. She has so much love to give, please consider coming to meet her! No Dogs | No Children CAT TAL On the Web: www.CatTalesCt.org/cats/Elsa-2





ET OF THE WEEK



Robert is a young, 2-3 year-old Dachshund/Miniature Pinscher mix who was found roaming in a local CT town and was never claimed. He can be a bit shy at first but is super sweet and friendly once he's comfortable. He enjoys prancing around town, but in typical Dachschund/Min Pin fashion, he may bark at people

and other dogs as they pass, yet he is all snuggles with his friends. The ideal home would be in a quiet, $\frac{1}{2}$ adult-only setting where he can be the only pet.

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







Trenner (top) is a dilute tortie. She is, for the most part, friendly but as a typical tortie/calico type, she can be moody. No small children. She is residing at Petsmart, very anxiouss to get out. Please check her out on adoptapet.com or petfinder.com or better yet go say hello in person! Online adoption form at www.fobac.org

Otis is a 4 month old, shy, male, black and white tuxedo. He had a rough start but the Vet nursed him back to good health. He loves to be held and fussed over but is shy with new people. Please consider if you are a patient and kind person. He just needs a little TLC and he will be your best

Please fill out online adoption form if interested at www.fobac.org

He will blossom in a nurturing, loving home. Maverick's dad is having a health crisis right and can no longer care for him. Maverick is good with other cats. Please fill out an application on our website at www.hucatrescue.org. Thank you!





Ms. Kitty is a stunning, Main Coon/Tiffany cat mix. She is a 11 year old senior and in good health. She has a little hyperthyroid which many cats do at this age and she takes her medication easily with a pill pocket. Ms. Kitty loves people, especially men. She is very affectionate and Soloving. Please fill out an

application on our website at www.hucatrescue.org. Thank you!

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Check us out at www.RareReminder.com



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Leo is a very friendly, sweet little fellow. He was rescued along with his siblings with no mother to be found. If interested call AFOC at 860-693-0303 for more info.

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

Ty and his siblings were rescued from a city dump at just three weeks old. They almost eight weeks old and can start looking for their forever homes. There are three brothers, Rex, Ty and Ozzie, and one gorgeous tortie sister, Cleopetra. If you do not have any other pets, at this age, they must go as a pair. Pampering is a most for these little treasures of gold found among the rubble of trash. Please fill out an application on our website at www.hucatrescue.org. Call 860-479-5173 or email hucatrescue@gmail.com.

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

ADOPT ABBY. Abby is a lovely, one year old kitty. She was a wonderful mom to four beautiful kittens. Abby's personality is starting to shine. She loves attention and is very social. She walks through her foster home like she owns it. She would love to be an only kitty and have your undivided attention. Please fill out an application on our website at www.hucatrescue.org. Call 860-479-5173 or email hucatrescue@gmail.com.

Make Vet Visits Easier for all Involved

People often get anxious about visiting doctor, the and the same can be said for pets. According to the online animal resource Тор Dog Tips, a lot of dogs and cats have seri-



ous anxiety about going to the vet.

Veterinarian visits typically happen once per year, and the earlier your pet can become more comfortable and acclimated to the process, the better it will behave during each subsequent visit. The following are some steps pet owners can take to make vet visits go smoothly.

• Handle your pet frequently. Teach your pet to accept touching of the paws, ears, mouth, tail, legs, and stomach. Regular sessions petting and touching your pet may make him or her more comfortable when the vet has to do so.

• Consider waiting outside. Research from Companion Animal Psychology says 30 percent of dogs are highly stressed while sitting in the waiting room of the vet's office. It can be hectic in the waiting room, with lots

of new smells, people coming in and out and animals with all sorts of energy. If waiting rooms put your pet on edge, wait outside.

REHOMING A PET is never an easy decision but in those

rare circumstances where it is necessary to rehome a pet,

do so responsibly and humanely. Adoptapet.com now

has a Rehome feature to help families who have made

the decision to rehome a pet. Shelters and rescue groups focus on those pets in urgent need of help and those that

have been abandoned. Rather than placing your pet in

overcrowded shelters, Rehome is a better option. For those

families that might need help getting through a little rough

patch, we recommend the retention site at https://rehome.

• Associate the carrier with comfort. If you pull out the crate only when the pet will be going to the vet, the animal will soon associate it with negative experiences. Instead, use the crate frequently and rely on treats so that the dog or cat sees it as a safe and fun space to spend its time. Take frequent car rides to different destinations so pets don't associate car rides with vet visits.

• Find the right veterinarian. Interview several vets to find an office and staff who love interacting with your pet and can make him or her comfortable.

• Stay relaxed yourself. Pets can sense their owner's energy. If you are worked up and anxious, then your animal may feed off of those feelings. By remaining calm, you can help keep your pet calm.

• Do a fun or practice visit. Acclimate the pet to the vet's office with a trial run. This way he or she can interact with the vet and learn the smells and sounds under less stressful conditions. This is a great way for the pet to have a positive initial experience with its new vet.

Vet visits are vital to pets' long-term health. Setting the stage for positive experiences early on can make visits go smoothly throughout the pet's life.



Email us a photo of your pet or pets, with his and/or her name AND <u>your name</u> (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 SE THE WEEK



PET PAGE

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

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





Automotive Forum

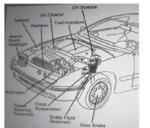
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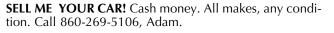


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2005 NISSAN ALTIMA: 99k miles. New brakes and tires. Well maintained, with service records. \$5,900. Call Bill 860-521-1785 or 860-505-5451.



The danger of drowsy driving

When it comes to accidents behind the wheel, people may be quick to blame inebriated drivers. Although drunk, drugged and distracted driving is an epidemic, there is another concern on the nation's roadways — drowsy driving.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that drowsy driving is responsible for tens of thousands of injuries and hundreds of deaths every year. These numbers continue to grow and may not even be accurate. The National Institute of Medicine believes a more accurate assessment of annual drowsy driving-related fatalities is closer to 6,000 per year. The Canadian Automobile Association says 20 percent of accidents in Canada are attributed to drowsy driving.

The National Sleep Foundation says roughly half of adult drivers in the United States admit to consistently getting behind the wheel while feeling drowsy, and about 20 percent admit to falling asleep behind the wheel at some point over the last year. Just like drugs and alcohol or distractions like eating or texting

while driving, drowsy driving impairs reaction time behind the



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wheel. Drivers' ability to recognize hazards, avoid such hazards and sustain their attention is adversely affected the more tired they are. In fact, the National Safety Council says driving after going more than 20 hours without sleep is equivalent to driving with a blood-alcohol concentration of 0.08 percent.

According to a study by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, the risk of crash depends on the amount of hours of sleep. Whereas getting six to seven hours of sleep equates to 1.3 times the crash risk, getting less than four hours of sleep increases that risk to 11.5 times. Officers with the New Brunswick Royal Canadian Mounted Police say drowsy driving can be just as deadly as driving impaired.

In addition to getting more rest, experts advise reading medication labels to determine if side effects include drowsiness. People who are often tired or are having sleeping difficulties also should schedule appointments with their doctors to address this issue. Anyone who feels tired behind the wheel, has drifted out of his lane, missed road signs or turns, or has difficulty maintaining speed should pull over where it is safe and take a break.

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Our Classified Advertising Staff is able to assist you in placing and pricing your classified advertising, the typed ads that run throughout the paper. You can place your classified ad by phone (limited to 25 words) or by mailing the attached form with your payment. Deadline for all classifieds is Mondays by 5pm.

Automotive Classifieds:

up to 22 words:

\$16.00(use form provided) 30¢ each additional word

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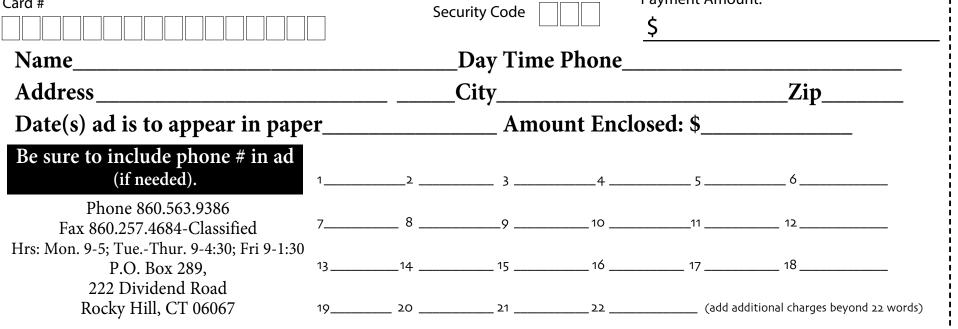
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HEAD TEACHER: To work with 1-2 yr. old children immediate opening. Experienced in a daycare center. Call Maria 860 667-7191 Ext 201.

Did you know?

one automotive manufacturer has taken a cue from NASA and offers drivers what they believe to be the ultimate in passenger comfort - zero gravity seats. These seats, available on various Nissan vehicles, are designed to maximize comfort while reducing fatigue. In space there is no gravity force, so people can assume a relaxed posture that is comfortable and minimizes stress on the body. The zero gravity seats mimic that by trying to create a neutral posture position. These specially designed seats offer continuous support for the hips, pelvis, chest, and back. The cushions also flex in response to unique pressure points on the body. People who frequently take long car rides or find their body feels tired after sitting in the car for long stretches of time may benefit from zero gravity car seat technology. These seats became a new feature in 2015 on various Nissan models. Other vehicle manufacturers also may have seats that offer similar support systems



Are YOU at Risk?

Do You Know Your Numbers? Your total cholesterol should

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HeartStroke Briefs

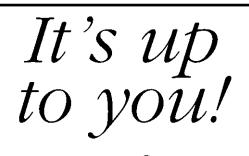
For more information, call 1-800-AHA-USA1 or visit www.americanheart.org

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

SHEET METAL INSTALLATION MECHANIC: Full-time with good benefits. Call 860-828-3762.

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

SEEKING: A full time maintenance employee for a condo complex with some maintenance experience preferred, but will train. Pay will be based on experience. Anyone interested please call 860-613-2244.



Save Lives.

HELP WANTED Shower & Bath Installation Manager

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Please send resume to greg@rarereminder.com

PART TIME RETAIL: Popular Apparel and Footwear store seeking Part-time Cashier for our Work apparel store. Day & Evening shifts. Weekend availability is a plus. We offer Competitive Pay & an employee discount program. Schedules can be adapted for students and Parents with school age children. Please apply in person M-F, 10am - 5pm at Mickey Finn's, Work Apparel Store, 848 Berlin Turnpike. Please ask for Scott.





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PART TIME RETAIL: Popular apparel and footwear retailer now hiring for all departments. Applicants should be pre-pared to multitask in a busy retail environment. Weekend availability is required. Flexible schedules for students. Please apply in person M-F between 11am & 5pm at Mickey Finn's, 874 Berlin Turnpike, Berlin.



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Red Cross



by Josh Howard

Cromwell/Portland football advanced to the Class S state championship game for the first time since 2011 following wins over Notre Dame-Fairfield in the quarterfinals on Nov. 30 and Ansonia in the semifinals on Dec. 5.

In the quarterfinals victory, the Panthers led from start to finish before holding off the visiting Lancers 29-20 on a bitter cold night at Pierson Park. "We always have 100% effort," said ju-

"We always have 100% effort," said junior Ben Fagan, who scored a touchdown offensively and forced two turnovers defensively, "We just never stopped, we never let off the gas pedal. "

Following a field goal from Allen Cohen late in the first quarter, C/P upped their lead to 10-0 on a 32-yard touchdown run from Teddy Williams with 11:05 to play in the first half.

Fagan then hauled in a touchdown from quarterback Cole Brisson with 4:21 left in the third, giving the Panthers a 19-7 advantage before Notre Dame made one last push to save their season.

Lancer quarterback Jailon Denny connected with Bailey Coleman for a second scoring strike and then Denny threw a throwback screen to Tayshawn Dixon, who sprinted 44 yard to the end zone, narrowing the home team's lead to 22-20 with 9:47 to play in regulation.

Then Williams, who played through cramps in both calves in the second half, pulled one more rabbit out of his hat.

Williams caught a screen pass at his own 10-yard line and split two defenders before galloping 75 yards to the Notre Dame 15-yard line, setting up a decisive touchdown run from Alex Hair.

"I saw great blocking up in front of me and made a couple of cuts and just tried to take off," Williams said of his crucial catch and run.

On the following possession, Fagan recovered a Denny fumble, ending any threat



Panthers quarterback #11 Cole Brisson along with right tackle #64 Matthew Binezewski and right guard #54 Ray Boudreau during the team's 29-20 win over Notre Dame-Fairfield in the Class S quarterfinals.

of a comeback. Fagan also had a first-quarter interception, his seventh this fall.

"Ben Fagan is a guy that knows where he is supposed to be and knows what he needs to do," Panthers head coach Randell Bennett said. "He's always coaching guys up to make them better and he might be the quarterback on the defense."

Fagan said the win was a collective effort. "All the guys stepped up. The d-line and linebackers were penetrating. It was a team effort tonight."

Emeka Yearwood caused a third turnover early in the fourth when he jarred the ball loose from Denny, which was recovered by Jack Williams.

Cromwell also won the special teams battle. Cohen made all three of his field goals (35 yards, 17 yards, and 33 yards).

Bennett joked, "We don't have goal

posts on our practice field so I don't know how he's able to be accurate on his kicks, but we needed all three of those tonight."

In the semifinals, the Panthers completely dominated the visiting Chargers from Ansonia on a picturesque sunny afternoon at Pierson Park.

Brisson tossed a career-high six touchdown passes, five going to Williams, who hauled in a mindboggling 328 receiving yards.

"We saw they were playing a lot of man defense on film and we knew as a team we could beat man," said Brisson. "Our receivers were awesome today. They got open and I just had to get them the ball."

Brisson and Williams hooked up for three scores in the first half as the Panthers took a commanding 26-0 lead into the break. Brisson continued to slice and dice the Chargers secondary in the second half, finishing with a 502 passing yards, also a career-high.

"Anytime we saw man-to-man this year, we've had really good days," said Bennett, "[Ansonia] stayed in that man all year long and we knew that would be the game plan. Our guys just had to make plays."

Interior lineman Ethan Philbrick powered a defensive that limited a Chargers of fense that was averaging 30 points per game entering the semifinals.

"We had full confidence. We knew we had to play with more aggression than them We needed that swagger that we had against Coginchaug and Morgan," Philbrick said "We played like we wanted to win and we did."

The playoff triumphs set up a Class S championship game against Bloomfield The title tilt will feature teams with identical records (12-0), who have each thoroughly dominant all season. The Panthers have outscored their first dozen opponents by 377 points while the Warhawks from Bloomfield have outscored their dozen opponents by 408 points.

Bennett knows it will be a challenge going up against a Bloomfield team who will be playing in the Class S championship game for the third straight season. This year's Warhawks feature a dynamic offensive backfield led by the duo of Dallas Rose and Cornellius Patrick.

"I'm confident in our coaches to come up with a game plan to stop the things they want to do and we'll see what we can do on offense on the other side. We'll be ready," stated Bennett.

Brisson added, "We just have to prepare like we did this week and we have to bring energy. I think we can beat anybody in the state no matter who it is."

The championship game is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 11 at Trumbull High School. Kickoff is 11 a.m.

Ten years ago, the Panthers fell to Holy Cross in the 2011 title game. They are looking to capture their first football state championship since they beat Ansonia, 14-12, in 2008.

Philbrick believes the team has the talent and the desire to bring a trophy back from Trumbull.

"It's two undefeated teams in the state championship. It's all about who wants it more," said the 6'5" defensive tackle, "And I think we want it more."

Questions or comments? Email joshhowardsports@gmail.com or follow on Twitter @ RareReminderJH

High School Winter Sports Guidelines Released

by Josh Howard

On Nov. 29, the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) released updated guidelines for the winter high school sports season.

The CIAC collaborated closely with the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) and the Connecticut State Medical Society Sports Medicine Committee (CSMS) to develop a revised set of guidelines, which includes permitting vaccinated student-athletes to participate in all competition without a mask.

In a joint statement, between the CIAC,

and interstate competition, and culminate in CIAC State Championships.

Basketball, ice hockey, indoor track, and cheerleading/dance will not require masks for fully vaccinated participants when competing, but masks must be worn in all other settings (practice, sidelines, bench, locker rooms, etc.). Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated participants must wear a mask at all times.

For wrestling, swimming/diving, and gymnastics, masks should not be worn during competition, but must be worn in all other settings, regardless of vaccination status.



by Josh Howard

Noah Terzo, a senior at Wethersfield High School, will continue his baseball journey at Keene State College in New Hampshire next fall.

"I am excited to announce that I've made the commitment to continue my athletic and academic careers at Keene State College playing for the Keene State Owls. I'd like to thank all of my coaches, teammates, and most importantly my mom who has been the most supportive baseball mom I could ever hope for.



chapter," Terzo stated.

Terzo is a two-year member of the Eagles baseball program and also earned varsity letters while at Newington High School. He began his career in the Newington Little League system and has been a member of the Connecticut Capitals the past two years.

Terzo said the best part about playing baseball at WHS is how close the team is, adding, "We're family who have each other's backs every second on and off that field. Those are my brothers."

He'll be back on the hill this spring as part of the Eagles talented rotation. He says wants to stay consistent and would like to see the Eagles, "make it to states and make a good run, and Wethersfield senior Noah Terzo with WHS baseball coach Mark Bagdasarian on his left and mom, Valerie Smith, to his right. Terzo has committed to play baseball at Keene State College.

hopefully bring home the championship."

Off the field, Terzo was part of WHS Choralaires and outside of WHS he works as a little league umpire during the spring.

At Keene, he plans to pitch and play outfield for an Owls team led by head coach Justin Blood, who is entering his first season with the program after serving as the head coach at the University of Hartford for the past decade.

Terzo said that Blood, along with the scenic and amazing campus, were the major factors in choosing Keene, saying "To get the chance to play for him in a re-building program was a great opportunity in itself."

great opportunity in itself." In New Hampshire, he plans on majoring in kinesiology as he embraces the challenges of collegiate baseball.

"The most exciting thing about playing at the next level is the competition," stated Terzo. "It takes a lot of work and talent to play college baseball. So many of the other teams will be filled with some really good, tough competition and that's something I love about sports, the competitive side." CT DPH, and the CSMS, the organizations stated, "Vaccination of all eligible athletes, coaches, and officials is currently the most important mitigation strategy we have available for preventing COVID-19 and flu outbreaks on youth sports teams, and in the surrounding communities that support them."

Additionally, one of the major perks for getting vaccinated is that individuals who are vaccinated and symptom-free do not need to quarantine if exposed to a CO-VID-19 case.

Vaccinated individuals with symptoms must quarantine for 14 days or a minimum of 10 days with a negative test on the eighth day.

Unvaccinated athletes, with or without symptoms, must quarantine for 14 days or a minimum of 10 days with a negative test on the eighth day.

The new guidelines will go into effect on Dec. 23 when schools are released for winter break.

As of now, all winter sports will play a full schedule, including multi-team events

During the 2020-2021 winter sports season, all student-athletes were required to wear masks in-and-out of competition. Each sport had an abbreviated schedule with limited postseason play and state tournaments were not held. Wrestling was considered a high-risk/close contact sport and was limited to practice/conditioning only.

The CIAC added that, until the winter break, schools should use the existing fall guidelines in place, which includes masking indoors. After Dec. 23, schools can implement the new masking guidelines at their discretion.

Schools can also continue to determine the spectator/fan attendance policy on a case-by-case basis.

Currently, all winter sports have begun try-outs/practicing and games are slated to begin on Dec. 13.

As they have done since modified guidelines were introduced, the CIAC emphasized that "the current plan is fluid and in a perpetual state of evaluation."

For more information or to read the CICA's full guidelines, visit ciacsports.com

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