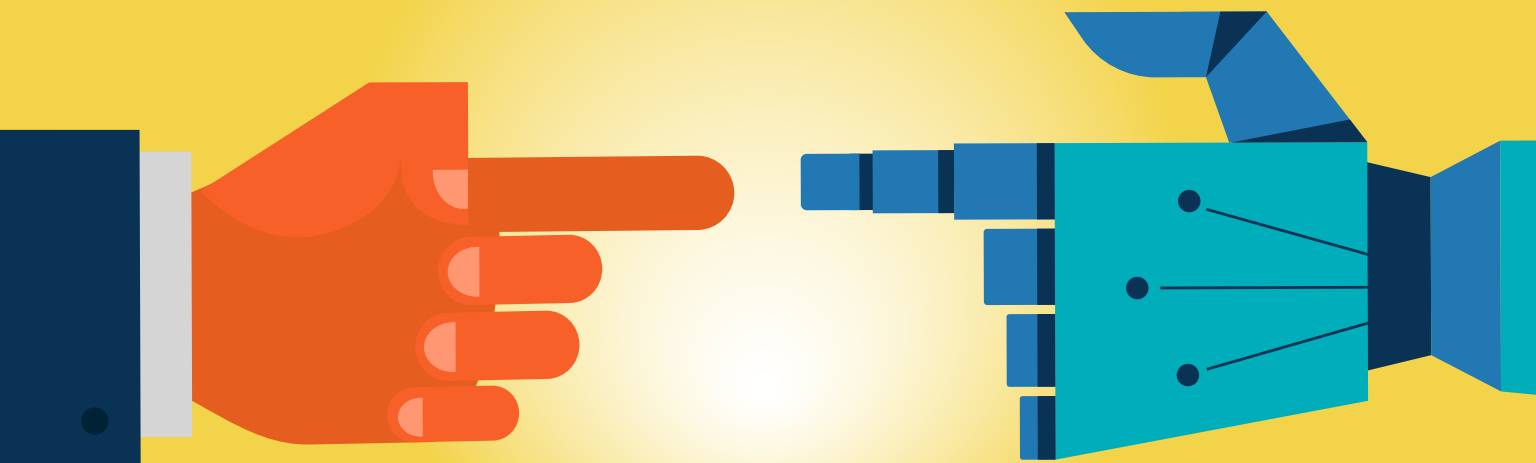


INNOVATIVE IDEAS

FOR MANAGING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS



CONNECTICUT
Town&City

2017-18 CT&C COMPENDIUM ISSUE

State Governments and City Revenues:

The amount given by states to their cities varies greatly from state-to-state

by Roger L. Kemp, MPA, MBA, PhD

Most states collect their Sales Taxes, and rebate a portion of them back to their cities based upon where they were generated from, on a city-by-city basis. When I was in California, the state government rebated 1 cent of the 6-plus cent Sales Tax back to all of its municipal governments throughout the state on an annual basis.

The state that I live in now, the State of Connecticut, keeps 100 percent of the Sales Taxes generated annually by the citizens that live in all of the cities throughout the state.

Ditto for the Hotel/Motel Room Tax. Most states collect this tax and rebate it back to their municipal governments based on where it was generated from, on a city-by-city basis. My state, the State of Connecticut, keeps 100 percent of this tax too, even though it was generated by citizens staying in hotels and motels in cities throughout the state.

This is why cities in the State of Connecticut have a 98 percent reliancy on the Property Tax revenue source to finance their local municipal government's public services.

When the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) did their study a couple of years ago, local governments in the State of Connecticut had the third highest reliancy on the Property Tax revenue source of any state in the nation (only the States of New Hampshire and Maine were higher).

Also, keep in mind that, our state and federal governments are primarily financed from the Income Tax, which is a tax on realized wealth. Local governments, on the other hand, are financed primarily from the Property Tax, which is a tax on unrealized wealth. A citizen does not make any substantial amount of money on their residence/house unless they sell it!

Most citizens in our cities and towns do not like their Property Taxes increasing from year-to-year, and they have to pay them even though they are not making any money/revenue from their house, since they are not renting their house or have received any revenue from selling it. Again, the Property Tax is a tax on unrealized wealth, and is not a fair method of taxation to finance our nation's local governments.

For about half of the states in our nation, the Property Tax revenue source is relied upon by cities for up to three-quarters of the revenues to finance their municipal operations - not 98 percent, as in is in the State of Connecticut, as well as two (2) other states in New England, as were noted above (in the States of New Hampshire and Maine).

Our respective State Legislatures, in the states



throughout our nation, should help the public officials in their local governments to diversify their revenue sources so that they can decrease their reliancy on their primary source of revenue, the property tax, a revenue source that is based on unrealized wealth.

Our federal and state governments are not financed from this revenue source, so why should our nation's municipal governments have to rely on this source of family revenue - a revenue source that is based on unrealized wealth. Our federal and state governments don't do this, so why should our nation's municipal governments?

Let's finance our local municipal governments on taxes based on a realized wealth, like our federal and state governments do (the Income Tax), and not a tax based on an unrealized wealth (the Property Tax).

Local public officials throughout our nation, in all of our nation's states, should lobby their elected federal and state public officials to have them provide more revenue source options to America's local governments. This will help their local elected officials balance their respective budgets using a tax on realized wealth, as opposed to one based on a revenue source that is based on unrealized wealth.

Roger L. Kemp, MPA, MBA, PhD, ICMA-CM, is a Practitioner in Residence, in the MPA Program, at the University of New Haven. He was a city manager of the City of Meriden from 1993 to 2005. He also worked in, as well as served as a city manager in the largest council-manager form of government cities in California (the City of Oakland) and New Jersey (the City of Clifton). Dr. Kemp is a frequent conference speaker and can be reached by tele. at (203) 686-0281, or by e-mail at <rlkbsr@snet.net>.

Table of Contents

Civic Amenities	4
Economic Development	8
Education	14
Environment	19
Governance	23
Public Safety	28
Social Welfare	30
Technology	37

Introduction

August 2018

Dear CCM Member,

We are pleased to present **Innovative Ideas for Managing Local Governments: A Connecticut Town & City Compendium** - our 31st annual compilation to help municipal leaders run local governments more effectively and efficiently. These ideas save taxpayers money while providing municipal services that enhance community life.

The ideas are reprinted from *Connecticut Town & City*, the bi-monthly magazine of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM).

Connecticut Town & City developed these stories from many sources, including visits to Connecticut local governments; suggestions from municipal officials; newspapers and magazines in Connecticut and other states; publications of the National League of Cities; and publications of other state municipal leagues. We would be happy to hear from readers about any ideas we should publish in the future.

This special edition of Connecticut Town & City was sponsored by **Kemp Consulting, LLC**.

For further information on any article, please contact Managing Editor Kevin Maloney at (203) 498-3025 or email at kmaloney@ccm-ct.org.

Good reading!

© Copyright 2018 Connecticut Conference of Municipalities

CIVIC AMENITIES

Big Win - Finally For State Parks

Free parking should bring bigger crowds

Supporters of Connecticut state parks are celebrating the inclusion of the Passport to the Parks program in the bipartisan state budget. As of Jan. 1, 2018, there will be no more parking fees for state residents to use any state parks.

This past year the parking fee was \$13 for one weekend to Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison and \$9 at most other parks, according to Eric Hammerling, executive director of the Connecticut Forest and Park Association (CFPA).

Last year budget cuts forced three of the state's 14 campgrounds to close after the July 4th weekend. Nine other campgrounds were shut down after Labor Day.

Only Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison and Rocky Neck camping areas were open last year between Labor Day and Columbus Day weekend.

The free parking for Connecticut residents is expected to be a big draw for the bigger parks - such as Hammonasset, Rocky Neck in East Lyme, and Silver Sands in Milford.

To pay for the program, and cover the parking fees, the program adds a \$10 charge (or \$5 per year) to Department of Motor Vehicle registration two-year renewals.

The legislation that would have implemented the proposal originally died in committee, but supporters held out hope the idea could come up as part of the final state budget. Supporters have tried, without success, in previous years to pass similar programs.

One of its biggest backers of the program was Rep. Melissa Ziobron, R-East Haddam, who held a press conference earlier in the year with several other legislators and proponents to push the initiative.

Hammerling, in a message to supporters, congratulated park program supporters.



Hammonasset State Beach Park is one of many to have free parking for state residents

“You did it!,” Hammerling said. “Your emails, calls, and personal contacts with legislators made a difference. Thanks to your involvement, the Passport to the Parks is in the bi-partisan 2018-19 budget that was just passed overwhelmingly by the General Assembly.”

Hammerling estimated the program will bring in \$13.9 million in revenues in the fiscal year 2019 budget. He added that it will be “a new, dedicated, non-lapsing Passport to the Parks Fund with better protection against sweeps or diversions.”

In a follow-up interview over the weekend, Hammerling said it’s such a victory because without the program Connecticut state parks are reliant on the general fund for support. He said the only other state in the nation that relies on the general fund for its parks is Rhode Island.

“Chronic budget deficits have led to cuts to the parks almost every

year for the past decade despite the popularity of parks and their documented economic benefits (a UConn study attributed an annual benefit of over \$1 billion and over 9,000 jobs to state parks),” Hammerling said.

He said park advocates knew that budget cuts would lead to more campground and park closures in the future without the steady funding stream provided by the Passport to the Parks program.

“We’re really pleased that the Passport was approved, and we look forward to a more secure financial future for Connecticut’s great state parks,” Hammerling said. Hammerling added that with no cost for parking involved, one other big bonus of the program might be more state residents visiting Connecticut state parks, which could translate to even more tourism dollars.

Library Revamping

Hartford restructures system after extensive study

Hartford Public Library (HPL) Board Chairman Greg Davis announced that Hartford Public Library will be implementing a Strategic Branch Restructuring Plan to create an enhanced and more sustainable service model that will enable the library to deliver more hours and better service system wide.

This restructuring is the outcome of a nine-month strategic planning initiative and includes branch consolidations.

“Our library serves, and must continue to serve, our diverse and changing neighborhoods and communities with services, programs, and collections so that all residents can learn, succeed, and thrive,” said Davis.

“This plan will enable us to achieve those goals.”

While the City has worked to provide level funding for the library, this funding has been unable for many years to support adequate staffing for the branches because of rising operational costs. This has resulted in service cuts over the years including reduced hours and days of service.

And while foundation and corporate support has been generous, substantial revenue growth over the long term will be challenging.

Regarding the decision on which branches were identified for consolidation, Andrea Comer, HPL board member and Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, said, “Each community’s needs were looked at in the context of its ecosystem of current services provided.”

The restructuring will keep open the downtown library, Albany, Park, Dwight, Barbour, Camp Field, and Ropkins branches.

The Goodwin, Mark Twain, and Blue Hills branches will be closing and their staff will be redeployed across the system. There will be no layoffs with this plan.”

The HPL board unanimously supported the plan in a vote on June 29.

TDC, a Boston consulting firm, assisted in researching branch demographics useful in making decisions about the sustainability and services of the library. Library leaders have made 16 presentations about the findings to the staff, public, and constituents in politics, business, nonprofit and other key parties.

“This plan, which starts in September, will provide service enhancement opportunities that will mean more hours, including Saturdays and evenings, at several locations, and additional programming in the branches,” says Bridget Quinn-Carey, HPL’s CEO. “We will also be exploring 24-hour self-service kiosks, expanding locations, and enhancing mobile services.

This plan will enable us to expand services and ensure long-term sustainability for one of Hartford’s most valued institutions.”

The Hartford Public Library is a vital resource for children and adults alike throughout our city, and the library’s Board of Directors has conducted an open and thoughtful strategic review that looks at usage, hours, service levels, and the availability of public transportation,” said Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin.

“While the board has made the tough decision to close branches, they have done so with the goal of expanding hours and improving service throughout the city, in order to maximize accessibility and service for all residents. I want to thank the Board of Directors and Bridget Quinn-Carey for their leadership.”



CIVIC AMENITIES



One of the bikes resting on the New Haven Green

New Haven Launches “Bike Share” Program

New Haven recently officially launched its Elm City’s Bike Share Program

The launch featured 10 bike stations, with a total of 100 available bicycles. Eventually, at least 300 bikes are expected to be available at 30 stations throughout the city under the oversight of New Haven Smart Mobility and its operating partner P3 Global Management.

In May 2017, the Board of Alders unanimously authorized a contract with New Haven Smart Mobility to implement the bike share program. P3 Global Management, Smart Mobility’s managing partner, has a long track record of implementing bike-share programs sponsored by advertising. The company has already played a role in establishing programs in cities similar in size to New Haven, such as West Palm Beach, Florida; Hoboken, New Jersey; and New Rochelle, New York.

Mayor Toni Harp praised the program as a way to alleviate traffic congestion, reduce carbon emission and encourage exercise among citizens. Since the system will pay for itself through advertisements and user fees, Harp said, the city will not have to use government revenue to fund it.

“We’re thrilled that Bike New Haven will soon be available to enhance mobility and connectivity for city residents,” Harp said in the statement. “At no cost to the city or taxpayers, it’s exciting to see progress ... with this new public transportation option.”

After downloading the Bike New Haven app — which tells users the location of bicycle stations, as well as the number of available bikes — residents will be given several pricing options. A one-time ride costs \$1.75, a

day pass costs \$8, a one-month pass costs \$20 and a year pass costs \$90. Although these fixed costs pay for general bicycle usage, the program charges an extra \$2 for each additional 45-minute period over the initial 45-minute ride.

Rates are set to be lower for low-income residents and those over 65 years of age.

The push to increase bike usage in the city dates back to Harp’s transition plan in December 2013, according to New Haven Transportation, Traffic and Parking Director Doug Hausladen. Over the past few years, New Haven has added bike lanes, two-way cycle tracks, and bike signals to encourage the use of bipedal vehicles, Hausladen said.

He added that he hopes the bike-share program will encourage residents to use larger transit systems if they have a bicycle to take them there more quickly.

“We’re proud to be providing a sustainable transportation option to the public, this program will provide a last mile transportation solution for many people in our community,” Hausladen said.

“We’re excited to see how it entwines with the existing bike infrastructure in New Haven.”

Hausladen said that to be a “21st-century city,” it is important to launch a bike-share program that is dynamic and flexible.

The 10 soft-launch locations include many close to Yale’s central campus, such as at the intersections of Church and Grove streets and Chapel and York streets.

Walking “The Walk” in Norwalk

On February 27, 2018, the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) opened the Walk Bridge Welcome Center.

The Welcome Center, located on the first floor of the Lock Building at 20 Marshall Street in South Norwalk, serves as a central location for the Norwalk community to engage with the Walk Bridge Program: The Walk Railroad Bridge Replacement, CP243 Interlocking, and Danbury Branch Dockyard Projects.

The Welcome Center hosts a variety of public and stakeholder meetings, community events and provides the public the opportunity to visit one-on-one with Program representatives. Visitors find informational displays, fact sheets and brochures about the Program. A children’s corner and an area designated for local artists to showcase their work are planned. The Walk Bridge Welcome Center is open the following days and times:

- Tuesday: 8:00 AM-4:00 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 PM-5:00 PM
- Friday: 8:00 AM-3:00 PM

Once a month, and as needed, the center opens for evening hours. A grand opening event is anticipated for Summer 2018.

The Walk Bridge Replacement Project is anticipated to start construction in 2019. The Project will replace the deteriorating 122-year-old swing-span railroad bridge that crosses the Norwalk River. The bridge is a critical transportation link on the Northeast Corridor and car-

ries Metro-North’s New Haven Line, Amtrak and freight services daily. The replacement of the Walk Bridge will provide safe and reliable rail transportation services and will improve navigational capacity and dependability for waterway users.

The CP243 Interlocking and Danbury Branch Dockyard Projects began construction in Fall 2017. These advanced projects will improve the dependability of operations on the New Haven Line during construction of the new Walk Bridge. During the Walk Bridge construction, the normal four-track service will need to operate on two-tracks to allow work to progress on one half of the bridge at a time.

The CP243 Interlocking Project allows trains to switch tracks, and maintain service, through the area during the two-track service. The Danbury Branch Dockyard Project will electrify the southern portion of the Danbury Line to Jennings Place. The electrification of the line allows for eastbound trains ending at South Norwalk Station to change direction of service for the return westbound trip to Grand Central Terminal, also during the two-track service.

The Walk Bridge Program is committed to ongoing coordination and communication with the City of Norwalk, the business community, commuters and residents throughout construction to address any community concerns.

More detailed information on the Walk Bridge Program is available online at www.walkbridgect.com.



An artist's rendering of the new Walk Bridge in Norwalk

Millions for Transit, Development, Jobs

Eleven towns and cities receive grants from the State

Eleven projects in towns and cities across Connecticut received \$15 million in funding under a competitive grant program that supports transit-oriented development and responsible growth in the state and is targeted at boosting economic activity and creating jobs.

The grants come under the state's Responsible Growth and Transit-Oriented Development Grant Program, which is administered by the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) and relies on a combination of funding from the Responsible Growth Incentive Fund and the Transit-Oriented Development and Pre-development Fund.

"Transportation isn't just about cars, trains and buses – it's about building vibrant communities and continuing to make Connecticut a more attractive place to live, visit, and do business," Governor Dannel Malloy said. "Today's grant awards will build upon the smart, targeted investments we have made in recent years, which have already led to significant growth in transit-oriented development across the state."

"I am pleased to move forward with these important and worthwhile investments," OPM Secretary Ben Barnes said. "Until recent years, Connecticut ignored forward-looking projects to foster growth in our local economies. These grants will strengthen our cities and the state and – more importantly – will do so responsibly."

Earlier this year, OPM released a Request for Applications for the grant program, and the State Bond Commission approved a total of \$15 million to be used – comprised of \$5 million from the Responsible Growth Incentive Fund and \$10 million from the Transit-Oriented Development and Pre-development Fund. Following that, OPM – with input from other state agencies – reviewed, rated, and ranked each of the proposals.

The following projects were approved to receive grants:

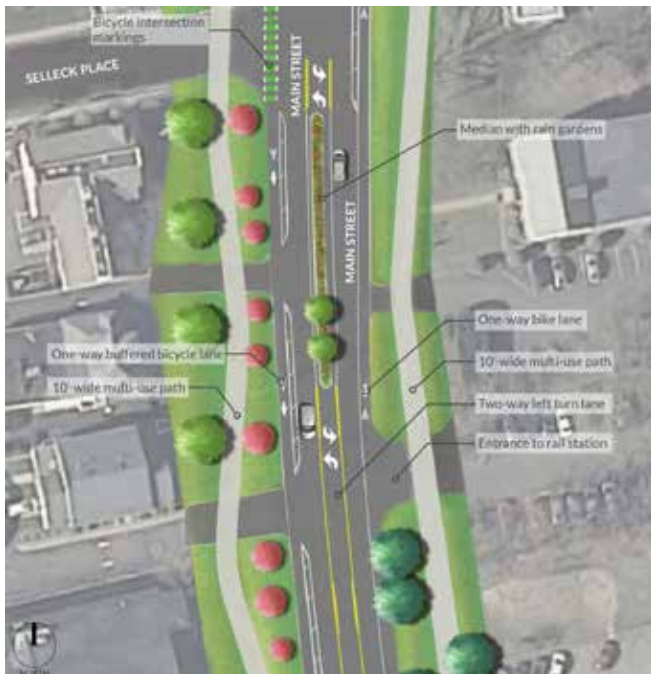
- **Berlin** – Property Acquisition for Transit-Oriented Development: \$536,884 to acquire property at 861 Farmington Avenue and the rail spur property adjacent to the Berlin Steel Site. These acquisitions are intended to assist in environmental cleanup efforts underway by the town and to expand redevelopment opportunities in the vicinity of the train station.
- **Clinton** – Wastewater System Design for Former Unilever Factory: \$55,000 to design an on-site wastewater disposal system for the former Unilever Factory property, a 300,000 square-foot facility on 25 acres directly adjacent to the Clinton Train Station, which serves Shore Line East. This funding will enable the surveying, testing, design, and engineering of a wastewater disposal system intended to facilitate a transit-oriented development-style redevelopment of the property.
- **East Windsor** – Planning for Storm-Water Management and Village Center Redevelopment in Warehouse Point: \$123,800 to develop a storm-water management plan and establish new zoning recommendations and other guidelines to promote the village-style redevelopment in Warehouse Point. The resulting storm-water master plan will inform land use and zoning recommendations intended to promote village-scale improvements based on conventional complete streets and smart growth principles. A portion of this funding is dedicated toward providing public workshops and additional outreach to keep citizens informed throughout the process.
- **Madison** – Bradley Road Pedestrian Improvements: \$200,000 to construct pedestrian infrastructure improvements along Bradley Road extending from the train station to Wall Street, including new sidewalk construction, sidewalk widening, accessible curb ramps, and marked crosswalks. Madison received a 2016 Responsible Growth and Transit-Oriented Development Grant award for improvements to the Tunxis Walkway, and the small section of Bradley Road connecting the walkway to the train station. These two grant awards, combined with other improvements, will create a contiguous sidewalk network in a large portion of Madison Center and the area surrounding the train station.



Warehouse Point, East Windsor

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **New Britain** – Columbus Boulevard Pedestrian Infrastructure Improvements: \$1,999,500 to continue with Phase VII of the city’s planned, multi-phased redevelopment of the business district area adjacent to the downtown CTfastrakstation. This phase will extend pedestrian infrastructure improvements along a portion of Columbus Boulevard and Chestnut Street, including sidewalks, lighting, and way-finding.
- **Norwalk** – East Avenue Transit-Oriented Development Plan: \$125,000 for analysis and development of a Transit-Oriented Development Plan for the area surrounding the East Avenue rail station. The planning study will analyze existing conditions, opportunities and constraints in order to develop a clear framework and vision for the future of the area, and establish guidelines for design and development.
- **Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments** – Regional Bike and Pedestrian Plan: \$239,050 to develop a unified pedestrian and bicycle improvement plan for the region that identifies and incorporates local planning needs, as well as each municipality’s contribution to the broader network. In addition to bike and pedestrians planning, this project will include a focus on integrating these modes with the local transit network. Activities shall include, but are not limited to, existing conditions analysis and data



Main Street is the primary north-south connector in Stratford, and this section provides critical access to the rail station

- collection, public outreach, and the development and publishing of a final report.
- **Stratford** – Complete Street Technical Design: \$450,000 to complete the technical design of complete streets improvements along a portion of Main Street from Barnum Avenue, south to East Broadway. This project is one of several identified as high-priority in the town’s 2017 Complete Streets Plan, and is intended to enhance access and safety for bicyclists and pedestrians. Upon completing the technical designs, the town will be positioned to begin implementing the necessary improvements. Approximately \$250,000 of the total grant award will set-aside to cover costs associated with any environmental contamination discovered within the project boundary.
- **Wallingford** – Downtown Transit-Oriented Development Facilitation Project: \$175,000 to fund the planning and engineering design for pedestrian improvements along North Colony Street and Hall Avenue, including sidewalk, streetscape, and traffic-related changes. The project will evaluate various options and costs for improving pedestrian connectivity between the downtown and the new train station, including the development of conceptual engineering designs, cost estimates, and a final report summarizing preferred alternatives. This study will build on the recommendations of the town’s recently updated Plan of Conservation and Development and recently completed Transit-Oriented Development Plan.
- **Winchester** – Downtown Improvements: \$601,224 to fund planning and construction improvements in downtown Winsted. A portion of this funding will be used to design and construct upgrades to Whiting Street to address chronic flooding, pedestrian connectivity, parking and traffic calming. The remainder of the funding will be used for the study and technical design of pedestrian and traffic improvements in the Bridge Street/Depot Street/Main Street area.
- **Windsor Locks** – Main Street Transit-Oriented Development Implementation, Phase II: \$1,847,400 for the construction of a retaining wall and surface parking lot intended to support the redevelopment of three parcels in the Main Street Commercial District, across from the new train station. This grant will build on the state’s previous investment in transit-oriented development within Windsor Locks, as well as the town’s continuing efforts to position these properties for redevelopment in-line with the town’s new transit-oriented development-inspired Main Street Overlay Zone regulations.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



The former Harbor Yard Baseball Field, to be replaced with an amphitheatre

Entertainment Mecca

Bridgeport's Harbor Yard being reinvented

Bridgeport Mayor Joseph Ganim recently announced that Live Nation, the world's largest and most complete live entertainment company, along with the local owner of SportsCenter of Connecticut, Howard Saffan, have partnered to create "Harbor Yard Amphitheatre, LLC" and have been selected as the developers and operators to bring entertainment to Bridgeport's Harbor Yard with the development of a state-of-the-art Amphitheater.

The ownership of the Amphitheatre will be retained by the city and will be developed at the investment of approximately \$15 million dollars through a public/private partnership.

Mayor Ganim stated, "Bridgeport is excited and ready for this next step in revitalizing our city with positive development and providing music entertainment by bringing in a partner and company like Live Nation.

"We've enjoyed 20 years of successful entertainment with Bluefish Baseball and all that the Bluefish and owner, Frank Bolton, have done for our community. This next chapter of Bridgeport's future is bright with the benefits and experience of a world known entertainment company like Live Nation, and the historic success of Saffan as a venue operator, to bring in concerts and shows that will certainly put Bridgeport in the forefront as a destination place for family and friends" Ganim said

"This is a great boutique Amphitheatre for Bridgeport. We are looking forward to bringing great artists to Bridgeport," said Jim Koplik.

"It is an honor to be awarded the RFP. Harbor Yard Amphitheater will be a "game changer" for the city of Bridgeport. The thought of hosting 25 concerts per summer is incredibly exciting for both the local business community as well as the concert goers from near and far. To have a partner like Live Nation insures the success of our state of the art venue," said Howard Saffan.

Live Nation Entertainment recognizes and appreciates the importance and popularity of venues in the marketplace and their value to the local communities and operates venues that are the cornerstone of successful developments.

Live Nation Entertainment is one of the world's leading artist management companies based on the number of artists represented that range from "up and comers" to veteran superstars like Elton John and Lady Gaga. In 2016, Live Nation promoted almost 26,300 music events that were attended by nearly 71 million fans.

Thomas Gill, Director of OPED, stated, "This is an exciting opportunity to further enhance what is happening in Bridgeport's downtown. Live Nation is a nationally owned company that will be able to bring entertainment to be enjoyed by Bridgeport and surrounding towns throughout Connecticut."

New Day Dawns For Derby

Route 34 project to start

The state Department of Transportation (DOT) is slated to demolish five, state-owned buildings in the downtown area along Main Street, Caroline Street, and Factory Street to pave the way for the long-awaited Route 34 widening project, which saw its start in early 2018.

The project has been on the slate for nearly a decade now, with a Valley Independent article back in 2014 noting that the cost was estimated to be 10-12 million in 2011.

In the meantime, the buildings need to come down, and demolition will be handled by the state DOT. The buildings due to face the wrecking ball include 140-142 Main St.; 134-136 Main St.; 128 Main St.; 130 Main St.; 34-40 Caroline St., and 23 Factory St.

A fifth building at 176-178 Main St. will be used as a field office for the DOT while the reconstruction project is going on, and will be demolished at a later date by the contractor when the job is finished.

Developer Joe Salemme, who purchased the former Lifetouch Studios property at 90 Main St. earlier this year, is thrilled to hear demolition of the vacant buildings is going to happen soon, especially because they're in close proximity to his property.

"The state's scheduled demolition of the adjacent building will create an attractive development area for retail and commercial tenants," Salemme said.

Salemme had said potential plans for the property include a jobs

training facility, a possible hotel, or retail buildings.

With the demolition, the "Downtown Now!" initiative is reaching many milestones, including the city being awarded a \$5 million grant to install a street grid, utility infrastructure, sidewalks, and streetscaping associated with an overall downtown improvement master plan.

Starting in April 2018, the state DOT also began construction on a right-turn lane that aims to accommodate traffic as construction ramps up. This portion of the project is slated to be completed in November of 2018, while the full project will likely take us into 2019 before completion.



MUNICIPAL CONSULTING SERVICE

& Executive Search

Recognizing that hiring the best people requires both a significant investment of time and effort as well as a trusted partner, CCM has added executive recruiting to our Municipal Consulting Service

MCS assists CCM members, their school districts and local public agencies with a full complement of essential services, including:

Grant writing and researching • RFP drafting • Project management
Operational reviews • Change implementation • Organizational studies
Strategic planning • Finance and budgeting • Purchasing
Facilities management • Temporary staffing

Contact Andy Merola: 203 498-3056, or amerola@ccm-ct.org for additional information.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A Bright Future

Fairfield officials map out development goals

It's been more than a decade in the making, so it's easy to see why Fairfield officials are excited about a new economic blueprint for the town's future.

Fairfield Community & Economic Development Director Mark Barnhart announced that the Fairfield Economic Development Commission (EDC) has completed work on "Creating a Strategic Vision for Fairfield."

The report represents the culmination of a year-long planning effort that involved high-level stakeholder interviews, focus group sessions, public workshops as well as a business and resident survey. The report focuses on several key areas including improving the regulatory process, supporting mixed-use development opportunities around transit, strengthening cooperation with the Town's two universities, and developing a marketing and communications plan.

The first such effort in more than a decade, the plan is intended to establish goals and priorities in the Town's economic development programs to support the local business community, to encourage entrepreneurship and new business formation, and to attract businesses to Fairfield.

"Our focus remains on how we can grow the business sector and the commercial grand list as well as create employment opportunities for our residents, but to do so in a responsible way that is sensitive to our community character," states Barnhart.

First Selectman Michael C. Tetreau comments, "I think it's vitally important that we periodically re-examine the work that we are doing in view of the competition and industry-wide best practices. Fairfield continues to be a great place in which to live, work, and have a business, but we are constantly searching for areas in which we can improve. I commend the Commission on their work to date on this important initiative."

"This plan really serves as a blueprint for the town to follow in order to achieve its economic development goals," states Peter Penczer, Chairman of the Fairfield Economic Development Commission. "The EDC will begin work on implementing key recommendations from the study in the coming months," Penczer adds.

The report was prepared with the assistance of the Connecticut Economic Resource Center (CERC), a non-



First Selectman Michael C. Tetreau

profit corporation based in Rocky Hill that provides its clients with strategic business, real estate, research, and marketing services with a focus on economic development and leveraging the state's advantages as a premier business location.

The study was partially underwritten by a grant from the United Illuminating Company and Southern Connecticut Gas.

Like most municipalities, **you want grants, you need grants,** but you're not sure **how to get grants.** *Let us help.*



A free service for CCM Members,
contact Andy Merola,
(203) 498-3056 | amerola@ccm-ct.org.



Get yourself a passport around the state!

Wineries Flourishing

800,000 bottles made in state last year

Much has been written the past few years about the growing craft beer brewing industry in the state of Connecticut. But there's another alcohol-related industry that has also been doing well – wineries.

From Shelton to Brookfield, to Coventry and beyond, the wine industry is flourishing in the state, and the Passport to Connecticut Farm Wineries is continuing to bring merriment to the state into 2018.

“We want to continue to grow the wine industry in the state,” Gov. Dannel P. Malloy said during a visit to Jones Winery in Shelton in 2017, adding that Connecticut has seen more growth in the industry than any other state in New England.

“We made 800,000 bottles of Connecticut farm wine [in 2016],” Malloy said. “This is a great time of year to visit a vineyard, and Connecticut is a great destination for people looking to explore quality, farm wineries.”

“We have more than three dozen vineyards that produce a number of high-quality wines. Our state's Passport to Connecticut Farm Wineries program offers folks a perfect opportunity to explore the diversity that each of our unique farm wineries has to offer.”

To participate, guests can obtain a booklet, which was designed to look like an actual passport, at any of the

state's 40 farm wineries. Each time they visit a new winery during the season, they should bring the passport with them and have it stamped.

Once they have obtained at least 12 stamps, they can enter to win a number of prizes, including a two-week trip to Spain.

A complete listing of Connecticut's wineries and additional information is available at www.passporttoct-farmwine.com.

“This program really highlights the diversity of what each of our unique farm wineries has to offer,” Agricultural Commissioner Steven K. Revczky says. “It's a great way to promote the hard work of our growers and to encourage visitors to make these wineries a destination.”

The passport program has generated about \$2.2 million in 2015 and 2016, according to Jason Bowsza, a spokesman for the Connecticut Department of Agriculture.

Jamie Jones runs the wine operation for the Jones Family Farms in Shelton. “The passport program is really important to our business,” Jones says. “We've probably doubled our wine business in the past six years.”

Teaching Politics

9 Connecticut schools cited for civics lessons

Nine schools or districts are being recognized for a pioneering civics education program that used the 2016 presidential election to teach politics to Connecticut children and young people.

The program Red, White & Blue Schools is a partnership between the State Department of Education and the Office of the Secretary of the State. It rewards outstanding schools that develop programs that foster strong civic engagement among students.

It is available to all K-12 schools in Connecticut and had its inaugural run with the 2016-17 school year and centered on the theme of “The Electoral Process.”

“It is critical that we equip young people with the knowledge and perspective it will take to be informed, active citizens in a global society,” Commissioner of Education Dianna R. Wentzell said. “The Red, White & Blue Schools Initiative encourages schools to think out-

side the box about ways to engage students more actively in community and government. I am so impressed with the work happening in the schools being recognized today and I encourage more schools to participate next year.”

Secretary Merrill said, “It was great to see children find ways to participate in the 2016 election. Democracy is not a spectator sport and there are many more ways to get involved than simply voting. We hope the experience sparks an interest among young people in democratic participation and that it will keep them engaged as active citizens in the future.”

Activities included mock elections, the creation of political ads, linking students with campaigns, hosting debates, creating math projects centered on the Electoral College, among many others.

The schools achieving recognition as Red, White & Blue Schools for the 2016-17 school year are:

- E.O. Smith High School, Storrs
- Lincoln Middle School, Meriden
- Norwich Free Academy
- Tolland High School
- Westhill High School, Stamford
- Windsor High School

Schools receiving special recognition are:

- Outstanding High School Program: Enfield High School
- Outstanding 6-12 Program: Amity (Amity High School, Amity Middle School - Orange; Amity Middle School - Bethany)
- Outstanding K-12 Program: South Windsor Public Schools

The Red, White & Blue Schools program will continue to develop, promote, and recognize extraordinary civics education programs in the state.

The theme of the 2017-18 Red, White & Blue Schools program will be “Engagement at the Local Level.”

Government 101

Manchester lets citizens attend classes on local government

In an effort to provide the public with a hands-on opportunity to learn about the inner workings of local government, the Town of Manchester developed the Manchester Government Academy in the fall of 2002, and has been a rousing success ever since.

Municipal governance often gets overlooked in media with most attention going to the federal government or larger cities like New York. One exception was Parks & Recreation which took a humorous look at fictional Pawnee, Indiana, and through characters like Leslie Knope and Ron Swanson showed how much really goes into local government.

For anyone interested in seeing what local government looks like on the municipal level in the state of Connecticut, the Manchester Government Academy consists of a series of interactive sessions where

participants will get an inside look at the municipal operations covering everything from public safety to the public library.

The Academy features a lively blend of demonstrations, presentations, and tours, all conducted in a casual format at numerous sites throughout the town. Participants can expect to come away with a heightened awareness and knowledge of local government operations as well as a greater understanding of how to get involved in local affairs.

The sessions are free and held mostly on Thursday evenings with a few exceptions; anyone living or working in Manchester are welcome to apply.

Detailed program brochures and registration information is available online at www.townofmanchester.org.

Apprenticeship For Students

Preparing the next generation for the workforce

High schools all over the state graduate tens of thousands of students every year. Some graduates will continue their studies and some will expect to enter the workforce. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the youth labor force, 16- to 24-year-olds, working or actively looking for work — grows sharply between April and July each year. During these months, large numbers of high school and college students search for or take summer jobs, and many graduates enter the labor market to look for or begin permanent employment. In 2017, the youth labor force grew by 2.4 million, or 11.6 percent, to a total of 23.1 million, with an unemployment rate of about 9.6%.

At last count, 10.5% of Connecticut's 16 to 24 year olds were unemployed, with 7.9% of 20-24 willing year olds out of work, and 15.6% of 16 to 19 year olds still looking. In response, the Connecticut Department of Labor partners with industry and education to create pathways to employment. One of these is the Apprenticeship Training program.

Apprenticeship is a paid training program of earning while learning. This on-the-job training, combined with classroom instruction, ensures a well-qualified, job-

ready employee. Apprenticeships generally range from one to four years and at completion, the Connecticut Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship Training provides a portable training credential. A Registered Apprenticeship program can help employers develop a world-class workforce, enhance productivity, profitability and the bottom line

For short-term training, youth career training programs are offered throughout the state at community colleges and community service agencies, and are free to for low-income high school graduates who are unemployed. One such program, Today's Youth, Tomorrows Careers (TTYC), is housed in the GREAT Center at Gateway Community College. The program provides career training that leads prepares young people to work as medical office assistants, bookkeepers and transportation, distribution and logistics technicians.

As many industries expect an increase in retirements over the next few years, it becomes crucial that municipalities focus on preparing the next generation for the workforce.



CCM understands how meaningful professional development can be. Continuing education is not only important for your current position, but also to your career path. Under the advisement and direction from experienced staff at Trinity College, the Certified Connecticut Municipal Official (CCMO) was developed.

To be successful officials need special skills and knowledge, but they also must be competent in a variety of areas. By designing this program to focus on you, your organization and your community, we will help you achieve a standard of excellence.

Contact: Jennifer Cruz, Education and Events Program Administrator

203.498.3073 • jcruz@ccm-ct.org



Brand Spanking New

New Canaan middle school gets makeover

Middle school students in New Canaan immediately reaped the benefits of the \$18 million Saxe Middle School project that was completed in summer of 2017, and can look forward to years of added benefits.

Students now have access to a two-story addition with nine more classrooms, four art rooms, three science, technology, engineering and math rooms, and a STEM lab, as well as a new auditorium.

Prior to the new wing, many rooms at Saxe meant to serve as offices were converted to classrooms to accommodate a growing student population. Many closets were then converted into office space leaving little room for storage. Partitions were also added to alcoves in hallways to create makeshift classrooms.

Now with the addition, teachers have more storage space. The hallways also have “breakout spaces,” alcoves with furniture or seating for small-group work. A courtyard created in the center of the addition serves a similar function, as well as adds natural light to the school.

The Saxe project also included a renovation of the 710-seat auditorium, which has improved lighting and

acoustics, as well as new audio visual equipment for students to learn how to program lighting and sound for school productions. The original seats from when the school was built in 1957 were refurbished; a nod back to the school’s roots.

The auditorium will be used for assemblies, speakers, choral groups, panels, meetings and as a swing space for music classes. For example, the chorus class will use it while renovations are done on the existing music rooms to add practice space and storage for instruments.

Most impressively, the STEM lab will support the growing need for burgeoning fields in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, which is where the acronym comes from. Per the New Canaan Advisor, the lab had been ad hoc improvised in the old shop room, but now students will be able to “explore robotics, creating apps, computer coding, 3-D printing, inventing, and more.”

Saxe, originally built back in 1957 to serve as the town’s high school, was made to accommodate up to 1,100 students. It wasn’t until the 1970s that Saxe transitioned to a middle school, growing to one of the largest in the state. The current population of 1,300 exceeded the space, which was the impetus of the project.

New London Welcomes New Students

Schools opens arms to hurricane victims

The city of New London is among the many towns and cities in Connecticut that have helped families uprooted from their homes by the devastating hurricane in Puerto Rico find new homes.

The district has welcomed 51 students from Puerto Rico as of the beginning of 2018 – and the officials expect that number to increase to 100 over the next few months.

The New London school board already is working with a budget that has weathered several rounds of cut-backs without having to resort to layoffs. The district's answer has been to shift around available resources.

The Board of Education voted last week to allow the district to scrape together \$172,313 from all of its schools and central office budgets and direct the money to pay for new educators in the schools with the most need. Interim Superintendent Stephen Tracy said administrators identified the cuts and made a sacrifice to support the entire district.

New London High School has 17 new students from Puerto Rico. There are five at Harbor and one at Winthrop. Nathan Hale is the only school without a new student from Puerto Rico.

Families tend to follow where others

already have gone. It also helps the comfort level to know that Jennings Principal Jose A. Ortiz is a native of Puerto Rico and speaks the language.

The state Department of Education has been providing guidance to school districts regarding the enrollment and educational rights of displaced students but has no funding to offer.

“We are, however, working closely with the Governor’s office and members of Connecticut’s congressional delegation to advocate for federal funding through the disaster relief package’s Hurricane Education Recovery account and to request that the U.S. Department of Education provide funding on an emergency basis to ensure that districts will be able to obtain the fiscal support needed to cover the costs of serving and educating displaced students,” the statement reads.

And while the New London school district has been able to stave off any cuts to personnel in order to accommodate the new students, the influx raises other concerns. School board Vice President Manuel Rivera brought up two of them at the school board meeting: Is the influx impacting class size, and is the district in jeopardy of running afoul of state compliance requirements?

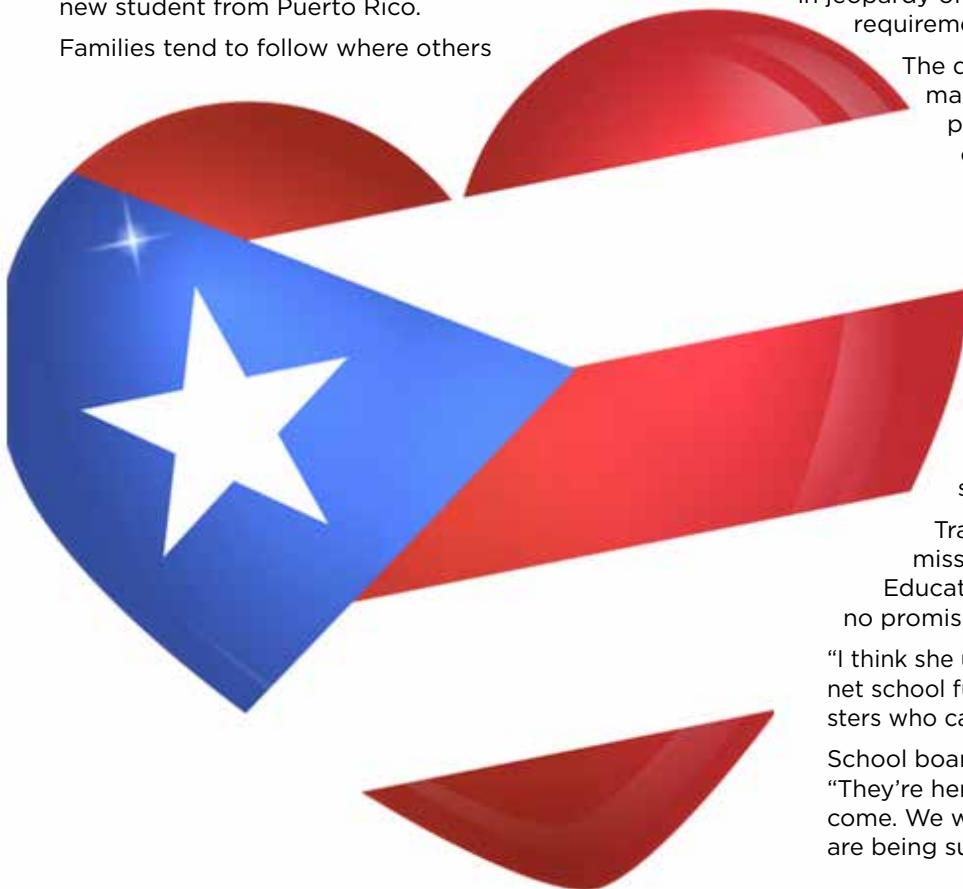
The district’s magnet schools each must maintain 25 percent of their student population from outside the district or risk losing a portion of its state magnet funding. The answers at this point are unknown.

The 51 new students from Puerto Rico are just a portion of the 209 students in New London who have enrolled since the school year began. Rivera, who is the former school superintendent, said the budget, before it was cut back, was built to accommodate just 170 new students.

Tracy said he had spoken to the commissioner of the state Department of Education, who was sympathetic but made no promises.

“I think she understood we should not lose magnet school funding because we’re taking in youngsters who came to us in this way,” Tracy said.

School board President Mirna Martinez said, “They’re here, they’re our kids and they are welcome. We want to know from the state that they are being supportive, not counting against us.”



NARCAN® Nasal Spray

Use: NARCAN® (naloxone hydrochloride) Nasal Spray is an opioid antagonist indicated for the emergency treatment of known or suspected opioid overdose, as manifested by respiratory and/or central nervous system depression. NARCAN® Nasal Spray is intended for immediate administration as emergency therapy in settings where opioids may be present. NARCAN® Nasal Spray is not a substitute for emergency medical care. For more information on Narcan call 844-4NARCAN or visit narcannasalspray.com

Contracted Products

NDC #	Description	Manufacture	UOM / Package	Qty / UOM	Contract Price
69547-0353-02	NARCAN® Nasal Spray	Adapt Pharma	4mg Nasal Spray	2	\$75 per pack

Program & Pricing Eligibility: The \$75.00 Public Interest Contract Price is being made available by Adapt Pharma in an effort to provide affordable access to Narcan for entities that serve the public interest with limited funding. Public Interest Pricing is available to U.S. Communities participating agencies that have signed participation documents for Premier's Medical Surgical and Pharmaceutical Group Purchasing Program and by purchasing Narcan directly from Adapt Pharma. Purchasing direct from Adapt is subject to terms and conditions including but not limited to credit evaluation, product returns limitations and no recourse to 3rd party public or private insurance. **No freight charge when purchasing a minimum of 48 units.**

Narcan is just one product in a comprehensive program to reduce the costs of medical products used by participating agencies. If you cannot meet the minimum order requirements, Narcan will be available through certain Premier authorized pharmacy distributors, at a higher price point. Premier customer service representatives can put you in touch with the appropriate representative.

Accessing the Agreement: The following steps are required to gain access to the Adapt Pharma agreement.

- Participating agency must be registered with [U.S. Communities Cooperative Purchasing Program](#).
- Participating agency must also be a member of Premier's group purchasing program for Medical Surgical and Pharmaceutical products. For more information, click [here](#).
 - To join, access the Premier website on the U.S. Communities website or go directly to the Premier [registration site](#).
 - Once the electronic registration is completed you must download, complete, sign, and submit a Facility Authorization & Vendor Fee Agreement ("[Exhibit A](#)") to premierreach@premierinc.com to become a member.
- To purchase directly from Adapt Pharma exclusive distribution partner, Smith Medical Partners, the following is required:
 - Set up an account by calling 855-798-6483. Provide the following information to the representative:
 - Name of Buying Entity
 - Email Address and Phone Number
 - State Medical/Pharmacy License
 - Logistics Information:
 - Orders ship the same day
 - Packages are sent via UPS (no freight charge with a minimum purchase of 48 units)
 - Order cut-off time is 5 p.m. Central Time Zone.
- Setting up pricing and establishing accounts with all entities should take less than 14 days.



For Further Questions: Call 877.981.3312 or email uscommunities@premierinc.com

Rock Down To Electric Avenue

Fairfield a leader in EV market

Fairfield's role as a leader in the electric vehicle (EV) market was delivered in a presentation at United Nations headquarters in New York City on December 1, 2017 by Fairfield's own EV experts, Scott Thompson, Chairman of Fairfield's Clean Energy Task Force (CETF), and Jim Motavalli, a CETF member and nationally known writer who specializes in the greening of the auto industry.

Thompson and Motavalli spoke at a forum on EVs sponsored by NGO Sustainability with the missions of Costa Rica and Germany to the UN. NGO Sustainability is a non-profit organization that consults with the United Nations on sustainable development and renewable energy topics.

Consumers are strongly responding to the proven benefits of EVs, including the exhilarating driving experience, time and money savings, and zero carbon emissions, Thompson told the forum. By the year 2022, EVs will cost the same as their internal-combustion counterparts, without any incentives, which should spark a strong liftoff in sales.

EV buyers already have many purchase options, with more than 30 EV models currently available in the U.S., Thompson said. "With federal tax credits and state rebates enhancing the ongoing cost efficiency of EVs, there is no question that for most consumers an EV purchase will be a very attractive proposition financially – as well as a chance to tangibly support a more healthful environment," he said.

"Tomorrow's cars will be electric, connected and, above all, extremely safe – and change is happening fast," said Motavalli, citing a RethinkX report predicting that although 40% of cars in 2030 will still have internal-combustion engines, they will by that time represent just



An entire industry is pivoting to alternative fuel sources with a majority of cars being hybrid or electric within two decades

5% of the consumer miles driven.

"Tomorrow's self-driving cars will also likely be electric, he said, because of synergies with charging and compatibility with onboard computers. Companies will move from managing drivers to managing fleets of electric vehicles. And it's critical that autonomous vehicles be shared, rather than continuing our 100-year practice of private ownership. If self-driving cars are shared and on the road most of the time – instead of intermittently as with individually-owned cars today – the overall fuel savings will be very dramatic," Motavalli said. Focused on "localizing" the global EV opportunity, Fairfield's Clean Energy Task Force (CETF) is actively supporting both current and future EV ownership by residents.

The CETF has spearheaded the town-wide installation of the high-

est density of EV charging stations in southwestern Connecticut, with more installations planned. The CETF also has facilitated leasing of EVs by Fairfield's municipal government, and organizes Fairfield's annual "EV Showcase," an event designed for residents to view the newest EV models and learn about the current state of the technology. First Selectman Mike Tetreau said, "I commend the dedicated and forward thinking members of the CETF for the incredible strides they continue to make for our Town. I especially wish to thank Scott Thompson and Jim Motavalli for representing Fairfield at the UN and sharing their expertise with the world on our strong commitment to a more environmentally sustainable community that others can use as a model."

Modern Farming

Four Connecticut farms to improve energy systems

Farms in East Canaan, Guilford, Franklin, and Hebron will develop renewable energy systems and improve their energy efficiency under new federal grants awarded recently.

U.S. Senators Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) and Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) and U.S. Representatives Rosa DeLauro (CT-3), Joe Courtney (CT-2), and Elizabeth Esty (CT-5) applauded the U.S. Department of Agriculture for awarding \$368,000 in Rural Development grants to help Laurelbrook Farm in East Canaan, Bishop's Orchards in Guilford, The Plant Group in Franklin, and Mapleleaf Farm in Hebron develop renewable energy systems and improve their energy efficiency.

"These four Connecticut farms will now be able to invest in clean energy projects that will cut their costs and make their farms more

energy efficient," said the members of Connecticut's federal delegation. "We're working hard in Washington to make it easier for Connecticut farmers to grow their businesses and create jobs, and they deserve all the federal help we can get them. We're excited to see these grants put into action."

Laurelbrook Farm in East Canaan received \$37,919 to install 300 high efficiency LED lighting to all farm buildings. The project will realize over \$21,000 per year in cost savings and reduce the electrical needs of the farm by over 146,400 kwh annually, which is enough to power seven homes.

Bishop's Orchards in Guilford received \$224,238 to purchase a 357kW ground mounted renewable energy system. The project will realize over \$75,000 per year in cost savings and offset the farm's en-

ergy needs by 70 percent. The system will generate almost 471,000 kwh annually, which is enough to power 43 homes.

The Plant Group in Franklin received \$85,843 to purchase and install a 140kW roof mounted solar renewable energy system. The project will realize \$15,880 per year in cost savings and offset the business' energy needs by 126 percent. The system will generate over 169,400 kwh, which is enough to power seven homes.

Mapleleaf Farm in Hebron received \$20,000 to purchase and install a 71.4kW roof mounted renewable energy system. The project will realize \$15,000 per year in cost savings and offset the farm's energy needs by 100 percent. The system will generate 90,100 kwh annually, which is enough to power eight homes.



Mapleleaf Farm in Hebron



The emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*)

Timber!

Harvesting at Housatonic State Forest

The DEEP Forestry Division is nearing completion of a timber harvest at Housatonic State Forest in Sharon. The work is being performed by Maple Ridge Lawn LLC out of Litchfield, and was planned in preparation for the impending arrival of emerald ash borer (EAB) in town.

The harvest, which began near the end of 2016 and has not been in operation during wet ground conditions, is complete as of spring 2018.

EAB is an Asian insect accidentally introduced near Detroit, Michigan and discovered in 2002. It has since spread to nearly half the country and is considered the most destructive forest pest in America.

The invasive insect has no effective natural control and threatens the continued existence of all ash species in North America. EAB was first discovered in Connecticut in 2012 in Prospect and Naugatuck. While not known in Sharon yet, it has been discovered just several towns away and is well-established in Litchfield County.

To help mitigate the loss of ash, Forestry officials decided to plan a pre-salvage in three forested areas, totaling 78 acres, where ash is prominent in the Sharon Mountain Block of Housatonic State Forest.

The goal is providing for public safety while not simply

targeting ash trees, but planning sound science-driven practices to produce a healthier and more diverse forest, including control of invasive plants, removal of non-native trees, and thinning out other trees of all species with health or long-term integrity issues. DEEP hopes to convert the areas to “uneven-aged” management in the long run, to increase forest and wildlife habitat diversity.

As part of this operation, roadside trees are also being cut along 6-1/2 miles of Sharon Mountain Road and Clay Beds Road within the state forest to reduce current and future public hazards, as well as to remove trees encroaching too closely to the road bed and drainage structures, making maintenance and passage more difficult.

The DEEP Forestry Division implements between 700 and 1,000 acres of timber harvests across Connecticut annually from its 170,000 acres of state forests.

Broad objectives are to produce healthier and more diverse forests that can sustainably provide products and habitat for wildlife that are of most local and global concern, while reducing the chances for catastrophic losses from storms and pests that would adversely impact forests of all the same types or ages.

Air Line Trail Underway

Portland linear park project celebrated

The town of Portland opened the Portland Air Line Trail – a 2.3 section of a linear park trail for recreational use that connects to the Connecticut Air Line State Park Trail that runs from East Hampton to Putnam, Connecticut. Ultimately, the town hopes to take the trail to the Arrigoni Bridge and Middletown.

The section of the trail to be constructed runs 2.3 miles from Depot Hill Road to the YMCA Camp Ingersoll property with a trailhead parking area located on the former Keegan property off Middle Haddam Road.

This first phase of The Portland Air Line Trail is on land used by the Air Line railroad that ran between New York and Boston between 1873 and 1955.

The Connecticut portion of the railroad east of Portland ceased operations in 1968, the tracks were abandoned, and the land between East Hampton and Massachusetts was purchased by the state for recreational use.

Since then, it has been gradually developed into the current Air Line State Park Trail. Due to a lack of interest at the time, the land in Portland was sold to private property owners, including CL&P, now Eversource Energy. In 2013, John Hall and John Shafer, members of the Jonah Center, initiated an effort to develop the trail in Portland.

This led to the formation of a town steering commit-

tee initially led by John Shafer and later led by Rosario Rizzo and Louis Pear. Working with town leaders, including First Selectwoman, Susan Bransfield, and former town planner, Deana Rhodes, the committee was able to successfully negotiate a lease agreement with Eversource Energy to use a 2.3-mile portion of their land for trail use.

They subsequently developed a site plan, purchased additional property, and received grant funding from CT DEEP. After 3 years of preparations, construction of Phase 1 of the Portland section of the Air Line Trail is ready to commence and connect to the new East Hampton section.

The town had a ground breaking ceremony in 2017 that included representatives from various organizations that have supported or been involved in the development of the trail. These include: Jamie Lintner from Eversource Energy, who provided a lease for the land; Rob Klee, State Parks Director for CT DEEP, who provided grant funding for construction; Christie Carpino, CT State Representative, who provided legislative support; Portland First Selectwoman, Susan Bransfield, who directed the town's involvement for the Board of Selectmen; and Rosario (Riz) Rizzo and Louis Pear, co-chairs of the Portland Air Line Trail Steering Committee that oversaw development of the trail.



The Portland Air Line Trail is now open for hikers of all levels

Getting Ansonia Most For A Buck

Ansonia Superintendent of Public Works saves taxpayers money

He's only been on the job for two years but Ansonia Superintendent of Public Works Mike D'Alessio has already saved the city tons of money through his innovative thinking. Example of after example of D'Alessio's forward thinking initiatives has, by those who he reports to account, saved Ansonia taxpayers nearly \$100,000.

For instance, instead of having an outside company haul residents' curbside leaves each fall out of town for disposal, D'Alessio lets the leaves decompose, and over time turns them into rich loam that's spread throughout the city's landscape.

And all those Christmas trees no longer take up space in costly containers as they are trucked out of town after the Christmas holiday season is over. That's because D'Alessio dug out an old tub grinding machine, sitting idle on the Public Works' grounds on North Division for 10 years.

D'Alessio and his crew fixed the machine, which now grinds those Christmas trees, tree branches, brush and debris and transforms it into mulch D'Alessio must no longer purchase.

And that's not all.

Another example of D'Alessio's money-saving skills came instead of junking three old Public Works vehicles, he auctioned them off for parts. The sale brought in \$14,000, enabling D'Alessio to purchase a roadside machine to cut overhanging tree branches and brush that were causing sight-line issues along city roads. Money for that machine was not in the budget.

"I feel better knowing I'm not wasting money," D'Alessio says modestly. "I work hard and it has been paying off."

It's been noticed: Mayor David Casseti has been thrilled by D'Alessio's performance.

"Mike has been an asset to the City of Ansonia," Casseti said. "He is a former business owner like myself. That means that we want city departments to operate efficiently and effectively and that is what he is doing for Public Works."

D'Alessio, who manages a \$4 million budget and a crew of 22, keeps coming up with new ways to save money.

Previously during the busy winter plowing season, the public works previously were washed using metered water the city pays for.

No longer. D'Alessio discovered a better way. Waste-



D'Alessio receives a plaque for good Public Works

water that has been treated and pumped into the nearby Naugatuck River at the Water Pollution Control Authority, which shares the site with Public Works, is now used to wash the trucks – at no cost.

"Washing our trucks with WPCA water instead of using metered water saves us at least \$3,000 to \$4,000 a year," D'Alessio said.

D'Alessio took over as head of Public Works in December 2015. He managed two rubbish removal companies, a pizzeria, deli, three Dunkin Donuts and a painting business. D'Alessio applies his business know-how to his daily routine, whether it's something simple as switching paper vendors to find a lower price or making sure employees switch off lights every time they leave a room.

D'Alessio had a good teacher. His father, Michael D'Alessio, Sr., was head of public works for Ansonia for a decade-and-a-half. His uncle, Bill LaRovera, also held the same job back in the 1960s.

Battling Drugs

Oxford appoints committee to fight crisis

America is in the middle of a crisis involving both legal and illegal opioids that has not discriminated against the biggest cities or smallest towns, the richest or poorest among us. The Town of Oxford, like the rest of the country, has been hit hard by the opioid and heroin deaths. But they've chosen to do something about it.

At a Board of Selectmen meeting, the selectmen appointed an Opiate Crisis Steering Committee in 2017 to "address the opioid crisis here in Oxford and the state of Connecticut and make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen." Since that time, the committee rebranded and is now branded as the Oxford Addictive Substances Information Services, or Oasis.

First Selectmen George Temple said the opioid crisis was "a real problem" in town, stating young people in their 20s were being lost to opioid addiction and overdoses. In recent years seven young people had died from overdoses in town, stating "Oxford has one of the highest rates" of overdoses for a town its size in the state.

Statewide, officials who monitor statistics say that Connecticut is tracking to have more than 1,000 deaths from drug overdoses in 2017. There were more than 900 deaths in 2016. Oxford's seven deaths was one of the highest per capita overdose rates in the state.

Temple said he does not know if government can do anything to stem the problem but he wanted to try. Simply by providing information and training about the warning signs of addiction or how to administer Narcan could be the first step to saving a life.

Their ultimate goal is to make sure the community



A vigil in Oxford

recognizes the resources available to them in times of need. This includes links on the town's library website: www.oxfordlib.org/opioid-crisis-resources/, a facebook page, and periodic forums like the one held on April 24 of 2018. The Oxford CT Oasis facebook page will have the most current information.

The committee appointed includes law enforcement, healthcare professionals, D.A.R.E. officers, and the First Selectman. Those appointed, besides Temple, were: Rev. John Donnelly, Laura Denslow, John Kerwin, Officer Thomas Gugliotti, Susan Schiavi, Jo-Ann Persson, Officer David Ives, and Sgt. Dan Semosky.

Connecticut had 1,040 deaths from drug overdoses in 2017.

There were more than 900 deaths in 2016.

New Revenue Source

Suffield to charge non-residents to use town beach

Babb's Beach has been a favorite recreation spot in West Suffield since the late 19th century including as the former location of Babb's Beach Amusement Park, but beginning in July, out-of-town visitors will have to pay to enjoy the property.

Effective July 2017, the town of Suffield, which has owned the 7-acre property at 435 Babbs Road since 1977, will charge an entrance fee for Babb's Beach for non-residents only. Gate attendants will collect \$20 per car for up to six people, with each additional person charged at \$5 apiece.

Located on the eastern shore of the Middle Pond of Congamond Lakes, the beach consists of 375 feet of shoreline. The lake separates Connecticut and Massachusetts, with

Southwick on just the other side.

The property, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, used to host dances at an on-site music hall, that was converted into a roller skating rink. It was in use until 1997 by the original family of owners.

"The Town of Suffield has instituted this new policy for non-residents because there has been added maintenance costs for Babb's because some visitors have not taken care of the park," First Selectman Melissa Mack said. Alcohol, littering, and dogs are all strictly prohibited from the park, and violators will be evicted from the premises.

"The Town has invested considerable resources and time to make Babb's a beautiful place to visit.

This past 4th of July weekend, the park was left littered with garbage. The Highway Department spent a substantial amount of time in the clean-up effort. The 'carry in, carry out' policy is due to the fact that trash cans initially established at the park were thrown into the lake and had to be fished out; the 'catch' included used diapers," Mack said.

"To date, two-thirds of the visitors to the park have been recorded as non-residents," Mack added. "Suffield residents pay for the upkeep of Babb's through their taxes. Because of the added work, we are now requesting non-residents to help defray costs via an entrance fee. We encourage all visitors to enjoy the park and take pride in its appearance."

Working Together

Hamden, water authority collaborate on guide rail project

Towns and regional agencies can work together to achieve mutual goals and save money.

That's what's currently going on in Hamden where the town has entered into an agreement with the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority that will allow for the provision and construction of guide rails along portions of Waite Street and Mather Street.

These guide rails are being constructed to help address issues with vehicular accidents in the area of Lake Whitney. As part of the agreement, the Regional Water Authority (RWA) has agreed to take on a portion of the project costs associated with the purchase and installation of the guide rails.

Commenting on the upcoming guide rail installation, Mayor Curt Leng said, "I thank the Regional Water Authority for their cooperation and leadership on this essential public safety project.

"For far too long, the areas along Lake Whitney on portions of Waite Street and Mather Street have needed important protective traffic improvements. These safeguards will protect Hamden's motorists,

while also protecting Lake Whitney, an important natural resource which supplies drinking water to the local area. I encourage all Hamden motorists to stay mindful, and to drive safely and carefully," says Leng.

"We are pleased to pool resources with the town of Hamden as they work to install safety guide rails along portions of Waite and Mather streets that border Lake Whitney," says Larry L. Bingaman, President and CEO of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority. "The new guide rails are an important safety measure that will help protect the town's residents and roads, as well as our public water supply."

Stephen Mongillo, Hamden's RWA representative, commented, "The installation of guide rails along Mather and Waite streets is a very positive step toward protecting both motorists and our public water supply. Because of multiple considerations, it took some time and a collaborative effort between the RWA and town officials to plan for this upgrade. As Hamden's representative to the RWA, I'm pleased that this additional protection will now be provided to residents and a valuable resource within our town."

Do You Know Your Tax Breaks?

Tax breaks for elderly, disabled in Prospect

Prospect is one of the many Connecticut towns that has special tax credit programs for elderly and the disabled, which help them manage other bills such as health care and housing costs.

The filing period for local tax credits for Elderly and Totally Disabled Homeowners for the 2017 Grand List was From February 1, 2018 through May 15, 2018 in Prospect.

Applicants were required to meet age and income limits and also own and occupy the home. He or she must have been 65 years of age by December 31, 2017 or be totally and permanently disabled before reaching the age of 65. All income must be documented. To qualify, the maximum income could not exceed \$52,950 for a single applicant, or \$64,500 for married applicants.

Applicants must show proof of all income received for the 2017 calendar year by supplying a copy of their Federal Income Tax Return. If you do not need to file a return, bring all year end statements and the 2017 Social Security Benefit Statement (Form SSA-1099).

Totally disabled applicants must submit current written proof of their disability and income. Proof of disability can include Social Security, Federal, State or Local government retirement or disability plan, Railroad Retirement Act, or government-related teacher's retirement plan.

The maximum credit under the Town program was \$400. The figure is based upon percentage of ownership and years as a resident of Prospect. An applicant that meets all requirements and has resided in

Prospect for 1-5 years was eligible for \$200; if an applicant meets the requirements and has lived in Prospect for 6 or more years, they would be eligible for the \$400.

This is in addition to the larger standard deduction that those over 65 receive from the IRS, among other benefits such as the higher filing threshold and the possibility that Social Security income may not be included as taxable. All tax returns should be vetted by a professional tax preparer to make sure you are getting the correct refund.

Breaks like this are common across the state, and residents who are 65 and over or are disabled should contact their towns tax assessor's office or visit their town's website to find out if their town or city is offering a tax break in the future.

Grants Program Helps Homeowners

Torrington seeks housing funds

Mayor Elinor Carbone has announced that the City of Torrington was awarded a \$400,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) under the housing rehabilitation category for town-wide housing rehabilitation.

The Community Development Block Grant Program, according to the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) website, is one of the "longest continuously run programs" by that department, saying that it is a "flexible program that provides communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs."

As part of the award, Torrington sought low and moderate income property owners interested in participating in the program. The grant serves approximately twelve households that were chosen on a first come, first serve basis.

The purpose of the grant is to provide funds for low and moderate income homeowners to make needed repairs to their homes. To be eligible, an applicant must meet three requirements: (1) homeowners must have an annual income that does not exceed \$46,000 for a single household or \$65,700 for a household of four; (2) Have 10% equity in the home; and, (3) be up to date on municipal taxes.

One of the benefits of this grant is that the money goes out as 0% interest loans. It is not due and payable until the house changes title. For homeowners who cannot obtain funds through bank loans, this program is a wonderful option that requires no out of pocket costs. The grant also allows the Town to establish a revolving loan fund in perpetuity to provide assistance to additional residents who need home repairs.

Some possible uses that have been identified include replacing failed furnaces, roofs, windows, and septic system repairs. These funds can provide for ADA modifications to homes as well, such as entrance ramps and bathroom modifications.

To be eligible for this grant, the town had to demonstrate that there is a demand and need for this program, and that residents would welcome this assistance and take advantage of the program to rehabilitate their homes. HUD says this "emphasizes participation by persons of low or moderate income, particularly residents of predominantly low- and moderate-income neighborhoods, slum or blighted areas, and areas in which the grantee proposes to use CDBG funds."

Presentation on Point

Woodbridge budget second to none

In 2017, the Town of Woodbridge once again has earned the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award and the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the national nonprofit Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA).

The budget presentation award is based on how well the Town's budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide and a communications device. In a letter to the Town about the budget award, the GFOA states, "This award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting and represents a significant achievement by your organization."

"Each budget document submitted to the program is evaluated separately by three reviewers. Each reviewer rates a given budget document as being either not proficient, proficient, or outstanding in regard to 27 specific criteria, grouped into four basic categories."

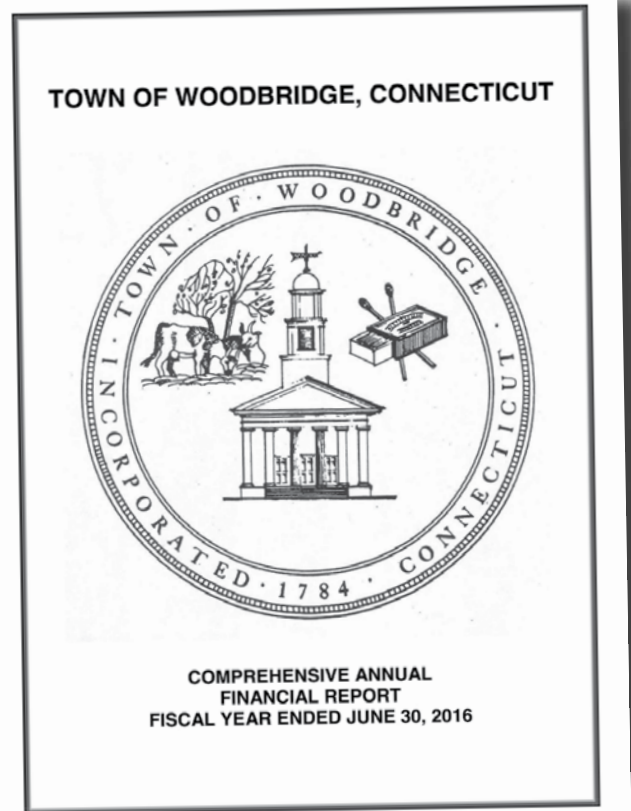
"To receive the award, a budget document must be rated either proficient or outstanding by at least two of the three reviewers for all four basic categories, as well as for 14 of the 27 specific criteria identified as mandatory."

The Town's audit was judged by an impartial panel to determine if it met the program's high standards, including a "spirit of full disclosure" to communicate the Town's financial story. These awards "reflect the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting," the GFOA states.

In order to be eligible for the award, the GFOA writes on their website: The program is open to submissions from any type of government (general-purpose or special-purpose) at either the state or local level that makes available to the general public an operating budget document in either an electronic (web site, CD) or hardcopy format, regardless of the length of the budget period (annual/biennial/triennial). Participants may submit either their proposed budget or their approved budget. Submissions must be received within 90 days of the date when the budget was proposed/adopted.

The certificates of recognition were presented to the Town's Director of Finance Tony Genovese. Board of Finance Chairman Matthew Giglietti added, "This budget award is particularly important because well-presented budget documents help residents understand how their Town is being managed and what happens with their tax dollars."

Other CT winners include Avon, Bridgeport, Bristol, Cheshire, Danbury, Mansfield, Norwalk, Norwich, Plainville, South Windsor, and the Capitol Region Council of Governments.



This award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting and represents a significant achievement by [an] organization.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Safest Place to Craigslist

Bridgeport police offer “Safe Zone” for Internet purchases

The City of Bridgeport is joining the growing list of Connecticut communities to offer its police station as a “Safe Zone” for residents making purchases on the Internet.

Bridgeport Police Chief AJ Perez and Sgt. Joseph Szor from the Robbery and Burglary Division of the Detective Bureau are cautioning residents when making Internet purchase exchanges.

“These criminals will offer something that is too good to be true and they will mislead victims to meet in an unfamiliar, dark place. Unknown to the victim, there will be someone else lying in wait,” said Chief Perez. “We are offering the front of our headquarters as a safe, convenient alternative. It is well lit, has cameras, and there is always an officer present.”

The Robbery and Burglary Squad of the Detective Bureau have seen a rise in crimes against individuals using Craigslist and other similar websites. Criminals are using these sites to lure would-be buyers or

sellers of merchandise into locations where they then rob victims who are legally attempting to transact business.

The usual pattern is a potential buyer or seller will answer an ad pertaining to merchandise. The potential buyer or seller is then told to meet at a designated address for the transaction. The buyer (if the criminal) will show up and asked to see the item (this can be anything from an iPhone to a dirt bike). Once the item is in their possession the other party is brutally assaulted, while the criminal leaves with the stolen goods. If the criminal is the seller, he /she will confirm the buyer is holding the money and brutally assault the buyer to obtain the cash.

In an effort to stop this pattern against innocent parties, the Bridgeport Police Department is designating a space in front of Police Department Headquarters at 300 Congress Street, Bridgeport as a SAFE ZONE for persons wanting to legally and safely purchase or sell items.



Bridgeport Police Headquarters will soon have a sign in front of the building, distinguishing it as a “Meet Up Spot” for Internet exchanges.

Please be advised, although the businesses mentioned above are legal and legitimate, there are those who will use it illegally for their own gain.

Like most municipalities, **you want grants, you need grants,** but you're not sure **how to get grants. *Let us help.***



For additional information, contact Andy Merola, (203) 498-3056 | amerola@ccm-ct.org.

A Winning Idea

Hartford's ShotSpotter plan recognized

The City of Hartford was one of 35 Champion Cities selected as a finalist in the 2018 U.S. Mayors Challenge, a nationwide competition by Bloomberg Philanthropies that encourages city leaders to pursue bold, inventive ideas that confront the toughest problems cities face.

Hartford's proposal, Alleviating Child Trauma in Our Neighborhoods (ACTION), uses the City's ShotSpotter technology to ensure that educators, early childhood professionals, and youth support organizations are able to recognize and respond in real time when a child has been exposed to the trauma of gun violence.

"In too many communities around the country, young people who are exposed to the trauma of gun violence in their neighborhoods never get the support, treatment, or even the acknowledgement that they need," said Mayor Luke Bronin. "Our proposal was designed to help provide timely support and assistance to kids exposed to gun violence in our own community. I'm proud of our team's innovative proposal, and I'm thankful to Bloomberg Philanthropies for selecting Hartford as a Champion City. Our team is looking forward to developing the proposal further, in partnership with all of our stakeholders, including Hartford Public Schools, the Hartford Police Department, and the Village for Families and Children."

Research shows that more than 76% of youth who are exposed to gun violence nationally are never referred to care, and traumatic stress from that exposure can result in persistent emotional and cognitive damage.

The City's proposal was selected from a pool of more than 320 applications. Hartford now advances to the six-month "Test, Learn, and Adapt" phase of the competition. Cities will refine their ideas during this process with up to \$100,000, as well as personalized support from innovation experts, to test and begin building support for their urban innovations and submit a new application in August 2018. In October, four cities will receive \$1 million awards and one will receive a grand prize of \$5 million to bring their ideas to life.

"We received hundreds of bold and creative ideas from cities around the country in response to the 2018 Mayors Challenge, and these 35 really stood out for their potential to improve people's lives. The next six months are a great opportunity for the cities to test their ideas and make them even more innovative and effective," said Michael R. Bloomberg, founder of Bloomberg Philanthropies and three-term Mayor of New York City.

The 35 Champion Cities performed the best against four key criteria: vision, potential for impact,

implementation plan, and potential to spread to other cities. A selection committee Co-Chaired by Former Ambassador Caroline Kennedy and Former Xerox Chairman & CEO Ursula Burns and comprising distinguished policy experts, artists, academics, business executives and social innovation leaders assessed the applications.

"Gun violence and mental health go hand in hand," said City Council President Glendowyn L.H. Thames. "The Bloomberg Philanthropies' 2018 Mayor's Challenge grant provides the City of Hartford with an opportunity to develop creative approaches to better identify and deploy resources in order to support residents who are experiencing trauma from gun violence. I am thankful for grant making organizations like Bloomberg Philanthropies who help build capacity within communities and support problem solving to their unique challenges."

"Meeting the needs of the whole child is a focus area at Hartford Public Schools," said Dr. Leslie Torres-Rodriguez, Superintendent of Hartford Public Schools. "This generous grant from Bloomberg Philanthropies will support our efforts to address social, emotional, and trauma-based needs as we continue to remove learning barriers. Many thanks to Bloomberg Philanthropies and the City of Hartford for partnering with us in the public school district to further develop this important work".

"Hartford police officers see the damage gun violence does in our City almost every day," said Hartford Police Chief David Rosado. "We are glad to be part of this City-wide effort to develop a plan to address the often-unseen trauma innocent children experience long after shootings. Our Capital City Command Center is primarily used to prevent or respond to crime, and I'm proud of our team for finding a way to leverage ShotSpotter technology to help identify young people who need the support that our partners at Hartford Public Schools and so many community groups provide."

The 2018 Mayors Challenge returns to the U.S. as the first investment in the American Cities Initiative, a \$200 million suite of new and expanded programs that will empower cities to generate innovation and advance policy that moves the nation forward. The Challenge builds on the success of previous Bloomberg-sponsored Challenges in the U.S. (2013), Europe (2014), and Latin America and the Caribbean (2016). For more information, visit mayorschallenge.bloomberg.org and @BloombergCities on Twitter and Instagram.

Last Greenway Link

Cheshire work will complete 23-mile project

State and town officials recently held a ceremonial groundbreaking in Cheshire for the last link in a continuous 23-mile section of the East Coast Greenway (ECG) between New Haven and Southington.

The new section, part of the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail from Cornwell Avenue to West Main Street, includes 12-foot-wide pavement and will include a precast concrete boardwalk style structure to cross over wetlands, as well as pedestrian bridges to cross Willow Brook at two locations.

Fencing and landscaping will also be provided along the trail as needed. Other amenities will include a restroom, bike lockers, park benches, and picnic tables to provide rest areas for trail users. There will also be a 10 space parking lot off Railroad Avenue.

The \$4.48 million project is being constructed by Richards Corporation of Terryville, and is expected to be completed in the fall of 2018.

“It is exciting to get the final link done,” says Department of Transportation Commissioner James P. Redeker. “We are committed to completing the East Coast Greenway through Connecticut and this beautiful trail in Cheshire is an excellent illustration of that commitment. Projects like these enhance the quality of life in our state and help ensure a strong transportation and economic future.”

“The Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) is pleased to add this final section in Cheshire to Connecticut’s growing and appealing trail system. It marks the end of decades of negotiations and the continuation of our successful partnerships with both the Town of Cheshire and the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT),” says DEEP Commissioner Robert Klee. “Importantly,



this section will greatly enhance our trail users’ experience, taking them off roads and through a safe, unique natural environment that we hope will inspire stewardship.”

“We are extremely excited at the near completion of this trail link and especially grateful to Commissioner Redeker and his great staff at the CTDOT for making this a reality, says Cheshire Town Manager Michael Milone. “Without their intervention, this trail section, which was expected to be extended in 1995, might never have materialized due to the confluence of major obstacles that we encountered.”

Bruce Donald, Tri-State Trails Coordinator for the East Coast Greenway Alliance, states, “We are once more proud to announce the closing of another gap in the 200-

mile spine trail in Connecticut. This last piece in Cheshire is historic as one of the more difficult in the state, and as such represents years of planning, the tenacity of the Town of Cheshire, tireless volunteer advocacy, and a huge commitment from CTDOT.”

The East Coast Greenway winds some 198 miles through Connecticut, of which 55 percent, more than 100 miles, has been completed. The state is in the middle of a five-year Statewide Trail Program to fill in the gaps along the Greenway. The entire ECG runs 3,000 miles from Key West, Florida to Calais, Maine. More on the ECG can be found at www.greenway.org. The Farmington Canal Heritage Trail runs 84 miles, from New Haven to Northampton, Massachusetts.

Battling A Drug Crisis

More towns, cities accepting old medications

What started out a few years back with a handful of police departments in the state collecting prescription drugs has grown tremendously as officials from all over Connecticut work together to battle the growing drug abuse epidemic.

Half of the police stations in the state now participate in Drop Box Drug Disposal programs, where residents can discard their unwanted or unused medicines in special locked boxes any time the police department is open.

Residents do not need to complete forms or answer questions about the items they drop off. (Needles or liquid medications are not accepted.)

State Representative Sean Scanlon, from Guilford, who has been one of the leading spokespeople in the efforts to fight heroin and opioid

abuse among young people in the state, says the growing town-by-town participation in drug take-back programs is a huge help.

“As Connecticut grapples with an opioid epidemic that will take more lives this year than car accidents and gun violence combined, we can all contribute to combating this crisis by properly disposing of our unused prescription drugs at safe disposal boxes located in most police stations across the state,” Scanlon says.

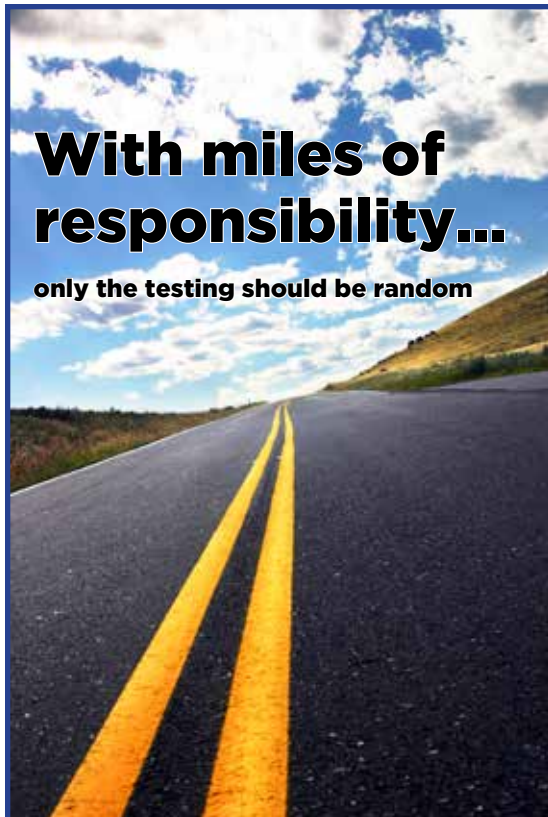
“Four in five new heroin users begin by abusing prescription drugs, according to the Centers for Disease Control, and taking the simple step to clean out your medicine cabinet can without a doubt help save lives.”

Kristen Granatek of the Governor’s Prevention Partnership added that there are now more than 70 drop

box locations in Connecticut. “Drop boxes and take-back days are an effective strategy for disposing of medications,” says Granatek. There has been a great deal of outreach and promotion of the boxes, Take Back Days, and other safe methods of disposing of medications. My guess is that this promotion, combined with the increased attention to the opioid crisis, is behind this,” Granatek adds.

In 2012, the program collected a total of 3,639 pounds of unused medicines. That number ballooned to 37,541 pounds in 2017, which shows that people are willing to use a program like this as it becomes available.

There are now 88 locations where drugs can be dropped off across the state, and a map can be found on the CT.gov website by searching for “Local Drug Collection Boxes.”



With miles of responsibility...

only the testing should be random

CCM'S DRUG & ALCOHOL CONSORTIUM

Complete, Cost Effective, and Convenient!

The Drug & Alcohol Testing Consortium, a program of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, offers many benefits to your municipality.

Comprehensive Coverage

This program covers all testing associated with DOT regulations, plus the services of a medical review officer, substance abuse professional, training, record keeping, and more.

Predictable Cost

Just one annual fee of \$100 per covered driver or worker is the only cost for compliance. With no additional costs, our program makes budgeting easier.

**For more information contact Beth Scanlon,
(203)946-3782 | bscanlon@ccm-ct.org.**

SOCIAL WELFARE

Older - And - Safer

Greenwich planning to care for aging population

Greenwich is in the middle of a five-year program with a goal of becoming the first town in Connecticut to create a safe environment for an increasingly aging population.

The town's Commission on Aging is in the second year of a five-year project to create an Age-Friendly Greenwich by evaluating existing programs and services to make sure they are at their most effective.

"We know that by the year 2050, half of our residents will be over the age of 60," said Loria Contadino, director of Greenwich's Commission on Aging. "That is going to have a profound impact on our community in terms of retirement, housing, finances, health care, leisure, and more. This is a call to action."

The evaluation will have to look at civic participation and employment, communication and information, community support and health

services, housing, outdoor spaces and buildings, respect and social inclusion, social participation and transportation.

The plan is to focus not only on the private and public programs that aid seniors but to look at how well seniors are integrated into town life as a whole.

"A community that's 'age friendly' is a community that is supportive of all residents throughout the life force," Contadino said. "It's a community that people not only want to raise their children in but want to stay in and they want to retire in. They might need some support at the end of their life and it's a community that is able to provide that."

The goal, she said, was to do more than simply list current and needed services.

Suggestions could include extending red lights by three seconds to give people more time in cross-

walks or eliminating tree roots in sidewalks that can cause stumbles.

"When we look at housing, we're not just going to say, 'It would be nice to have more senior housing,'" Contadino said. "We're not going to say that's the only answer. We're going to talk about expansion of At Home in Greenwich and the support it provides that will allow people to age in place at their own homes. That's something we will want to look at. What enhances the livability factor in the town of Greenwich?"

The Commission is planning currently to create advisory committees and develop a baseline needs assessment; gathering information will be the focus of the first two years.

Implementation of plans will take up years three and four and the fifth year will be on making sure methods for continual improvement are in place, Contadino said.

Building A Community

New home for Newtown seniors

The Town of Newtown broke ground for the Newtown Community Center and Senior Center. The Center is being built on the Fairfield Hills Campus on Simpson Street across from the Municipal Center.

The community center project represents more than two years of planning to create space that will serve as a vibrant and multi-generational hub for Newtown's residents.

After the December 14th Sandy Hook tragedy, GE generously donated \$10 million towards construction as well as an additional \$5 million towards operational costs (to be spread across 5 years at \$1 million/year).

The Town is contributing \$5 million towards the construction. In addition, during the April 25th 2017 budget referendum, Newtown residents approved another \$3 million to build a Senior Center. The Senior Center is being added as an additional wing to the Community Center.

As a result of months of research and resident input, the new 45,860 square foot building will include separate community center and senior center areas.

The community center's facilities, totaling approximately 35,210 square feet, will meet the needs of many, if not most, residents and will include a dedicated arts & craft room, 6 multi-purpose activity rooms to accommodate activities ranging from music to group gatherings, along with a full-size kitchen, an approximately 5,000 square foot banquet room, a 6-lane 25-yard pool, a zero-entry activity pool, and outdoor connections to the surrounding area of the Fairfield Hills' campus.

The separate senior center, representing 9,450 square feet, allows the seniors to move out of their current space in Sandy Hook. This new facility will cater to the programs and activities of the Newtown's seniors, providing space for these programs to be enhanced and expanded to meet the growing needs.

The Community Center will be run through a new Community Center director, Matt Ariniello, with assistance from the Parks and Recreation department. Oversight for the Community Center will be at the direction of a new Community Center Commission.

Helping Hartford's Youth

2nd year of program kicks off

The City of Hartford, the Hartford Youth Service Corps (YSC), and its community partners kicked off the second year of the YSC, which was held at a playground on Bellevue Street. It is currently being constructed by YSC members, one of more than 400 community-based service learning projects YSC members have participated in during the program's first year.

Overall, more than 200 Corps members have participated in more than 85,000 hours of paid service projects in the Hartford community. Our Piece of the Pie (OPP) is the City's implementing partner and organizes YSC programming.

"Creating the Hartford Youth Service Corps was a personal priority for me from day one, and through the Youth Service Corps we've been able to give more than two hundred young people the chance to earn a paycheck, contribute to their community, and put themselves on a path to education or employment, no matter what mistakes they've made in the past," said Mayor Luke Bronin. "

We've been able to fund this program entirely with private contributions, and I'm so grateful to the funders who stepped up last year and again this year to make the Youth Service Corps possible. We should all be proud of the hundreds of young men and women who've made the choice and the commitment to work with the Youth Service Corps, to improve their city, and to set their personal aspirations higher."

The YSC creates a part-time, year-round employment opportunity for young people ages 16 - 24. It is designed to give structure, coaching, and paid work experience to young people who face significant challenges including involvement with the criminal justice system, chronic absenteeism or failure to obtain a high school diploma, involvement in gangs, homelessness, and foster care.

During the first year of the YSC, members have done a variety of projects including shoveling snow for seniors and disabled residents, cleaning up many of Hartford's parks, working with young students in after-school programs, and supporting a variety of non-profits in their work.

Last year, \$2.2 million was raised and this year \$2.5 million was raised for the YSC.

Funders include: Barbara Dalio and the Dalio Foundation, the Travelers Foundation, the Newman's Own Foundation, United Technologies Corporation, The Hartford, the Aetna Foundation, and Key Bank.

Young people have
worked hard to
make a difference
for their community

"OPP is excited to officially kick off the Youth Service Corps' second year, which is backed by the vision and support of Mayor Bronin and our many generous partners," said Hector Rivera, Chief Operating Officer at Our Piece of the Pie. "We'll continue to engage more than 200 of Hartford's most in-need youth, helping them develop a good work ethic and aiming them towards long-term success, all while building up their ownership and pride in our community."

"We are thrilled by the Hartford Youth Service Corps' accomplishments realized through teamwork," said Barbara Dalio of the Dalio Foundation. "Young people have worked hard to make a difference for their community while gaining valuable experience and skills in pursuit of their goals. They are inspirational examples for us all. We are proud to support them."

"The Hartford Youth Service Corps is a unique program, providing opportunities not only for those involved but also for the city, and we're proud to be part of it," said Erin Haberman, Senior Program Officer of the Travelers Foundation. "The initiative is contributing to the vitality of our neighborhoods and helping participants build necessary skills for full-time employment."

"Supporting the Hartford Youth Service Corps is a natural extension of the Newman's Own Foundation's commitment to empower people and communities, as we continue Paul Newman's legacy of giving and creating opportunities," said Bob Forrester, President and CEO of Newman's Own Foundation. "The Hartford Youth Service Corps is a very special way to engage city youth in employment, while at the same time providing experiences and support for their continued development as productive and contributing members of society. We're pleased to see the success of the program so far, and we're hopeful that it will be a model for other cities nationally."

"We are excited by the positive influence Hartford's Youth Services Corps has had in empowering young adults through service opportunities that benefit our neighborhoods," said Diane Cantello, vice president of corporate sustainability at The Hartford. "The Hartford is committed to building safe, strong, and successful communities, and having members of the Hartford Youth Services Corps prevail is important to that mission."

Good Neighbors

Medical marijuana facilities doing strong business with little ruckus

One business that has been doing quite well in many towns in the state of Connecticut is the medical marijuana business, and they have been successful with very little fanfare.

Connecticut was an early adopter of medical marijuana, legalizing the plant for medical use in 2012 after it had been decriminalized in 2011.

The number of medical marijuana patients in the state since that time has grown to 25,000 as of 2018 according to the latest figures from the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection. Currently, there are two medical marijuana dispensaries in Milford, and one each in Bristol, Waterbury, Branford, South Windsor, Hartford, Bethel, and Uncasville.

The dispensaries all have to meet strict state and local guidelines before opening their doors to the public. None, according to officials in towns that house them, have been a problem.

In Branford, the Planning and Zoning Commission recently unanimously granted approval for Bluepoint Wellness to move to a bigger location at a former bank building on West Main Street.

Branford Town Planner Harry Smith told zoners

there have been no problems or complaints about the medical marijuana business since it opened for business two years ago.

Branford First Selectman Jamie Cosgrove has repeatedly said that Bluepoint has been a good business for the town.

“The state guidelines are very stringent as far as security is concerned,” Cosgrove says. “These places are highly, highly regulated. Frankly, I heard some concerns about this when the place first came to Branford. But I haven’t heard a single word since it’s been open.”

There are 22 debilitating conditions for adults and six for patients under the age of 18 that the State Board of Physicians has certified for medical marijuana use.

“We’re incredibly proud of the Connecticut medical marijuana program’s thoughtful expansion,” Acting Consumer Protection Commissioner Michelle H. Seagull says.

“Our program is the first pharmaceutical model in the country, and always had made great health care the number one priority. This program supports more than 18,000 patients in Connecticut with severe debilitating conditions and allows them to lead healthier lives,” Seagull adds.



Nick Tamborrino opened one of Connecticut’s first medical marijuana dispensaries, Bluepoint Wellness, in Branford

Helping Kids

New Haven Reads continues to flourish

A 16-year-old organization founded with the simple goal of helping urban children become better readers is thriving, as New Haven Reads recently opened its fourth location earlier this year.

Hundreds of volunteer tutors help more than 500 children improve their reading at four locations, including the newest branch at 85 Willow Street. It accommodates 150 students.

New Haven Reads Executive Director Kirsten Levinsohn says the opening of the new site “allows us to serve the kids who have been on our waiting list for some time.” Levinsohn who, in addition to being in charge of the program, is a reading tutor herself, says the need “has never been greater.”

New Haven Reads was founded in 2001 by Chris Alexander, the late wife of Bruce Alexander, Yale’s Vice President for New Haven and State Affairs. It was created as a community book bank and has grown so that every week it hands out hundreds of books. The program is funded by a combination of donations and grants, including \$80,000 from the state of Connecticut for the Willow Street branch.

New Haven reading scores show that only 29 percent of students in grades 3 through 11 are reading at grade level or above. All of the students at New Haven Reads are struggling readers and the vast majority come from low-income families. The demographic breakdown of the program’s students is: 61 percent African American; 29 percent Latino; 4 percent White; 3 percent Asian and 3 percent other.

Students come from across Greater New Haven with approximately three-quarters coming from the city of New Haven. Trained community volunteers, who range from high school and college students to senior citizens, are matched with students who need help with reading in grades 1 through 12. The tutoring pairs work together for at least one hour a week on the child’s literacy need.

More than nine out of ten students in grades 1 through 3 reported improvement in their reading grades after being tutored, New Haven Reads officials say.

One of the volunteer tutors is John Horkel, a retired nature center director, who has been reading to New Haven Reads kids for four years.

“It’s my little way of giving back,” Horkel says. “Even though we live in this technology-driven society, if you can’t read, you are sort of stuck. Maybe, in a small way, I can make a difference.”

Levinsohn, who was a school teacher in New Jersey before she moved to Connecticut, said she first started



More than nine out of ten students in grades 1 through 3 reported improvement in their reading grades after being tutored, New Haven Reads officials say.

volunteering at New Haven Reads in 2010 and she “fell in love” with the program and its mission.

Levinsohn says what strikes her about New Haven is that “the very same city that is the home of one of the finest universities in the world, Yale, also is where we have children who are growing up facing such difficult educational challenges. Really, it is appalling.” She says she, her staff and the hundreds of tutors work with the children “not just to make them better readers, but to make them better people.”

Often that work, Levinsohn continued, means being the liaison between the child who is being tutored and the school he or she is attending, as an advocate for the child and/or the parent.

“Having the opportunity to have this tremendous impact on a child’s life is just so fulfilling,” Levinsohn says.

The program’s other locations are at 45 Bristol Street, 101 Ashmun Street, and 4 Science Park.

SOCIAL WELFARE

Wethersfield Remembers Its Seniors

Town offers many programs for elderly

The town of Wethersfield has a number of programs to help and assist the town's older population.

Those programs include:

ELDERLY OUTREACH and CASE MANAGEMENT

A program for those with financial need who require assessment, referral, or coordination of services to remain in their homes. This includes many options, among them: obtaining home health services, loans of medical equipment, coordination among service providers, and referral for other services (e.g., chore services). The goal of this program is to allow seniors with some needs to remain as independent as possible for as long as possible in their own homes.

TRANSPORTATION (DIAL-A-RIDE)

Provided through a contract with Curtin Transportation, this program is available to those 60 and older and those with disabilities under 60 who need transportation within the greater Wethersfield area. Priority is given for medical appointments. Any senior is eligible regardless of financial status, and there is a yearly registration cost of \$78. Dial-A-Ride ID cards are sent to all registered riders.

RENTERS REBATE

This program provides rent subsidies for seniors and disabled citizens who qualify. For more information on

this program, visit http://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/igp/patsullivan/renter_q&a_2018.pdf

HEALTH INSURANCE OPTIONS (C.H.O.I.C.E.S.)

CHOICES is a program for Health insurance assistance, Outreach, Information and referral, Counseling and Eligibility Screening. "One stop" information and preliminary screening are provided for state and federal benefit and support programs which may assist Connecticut Seniors.

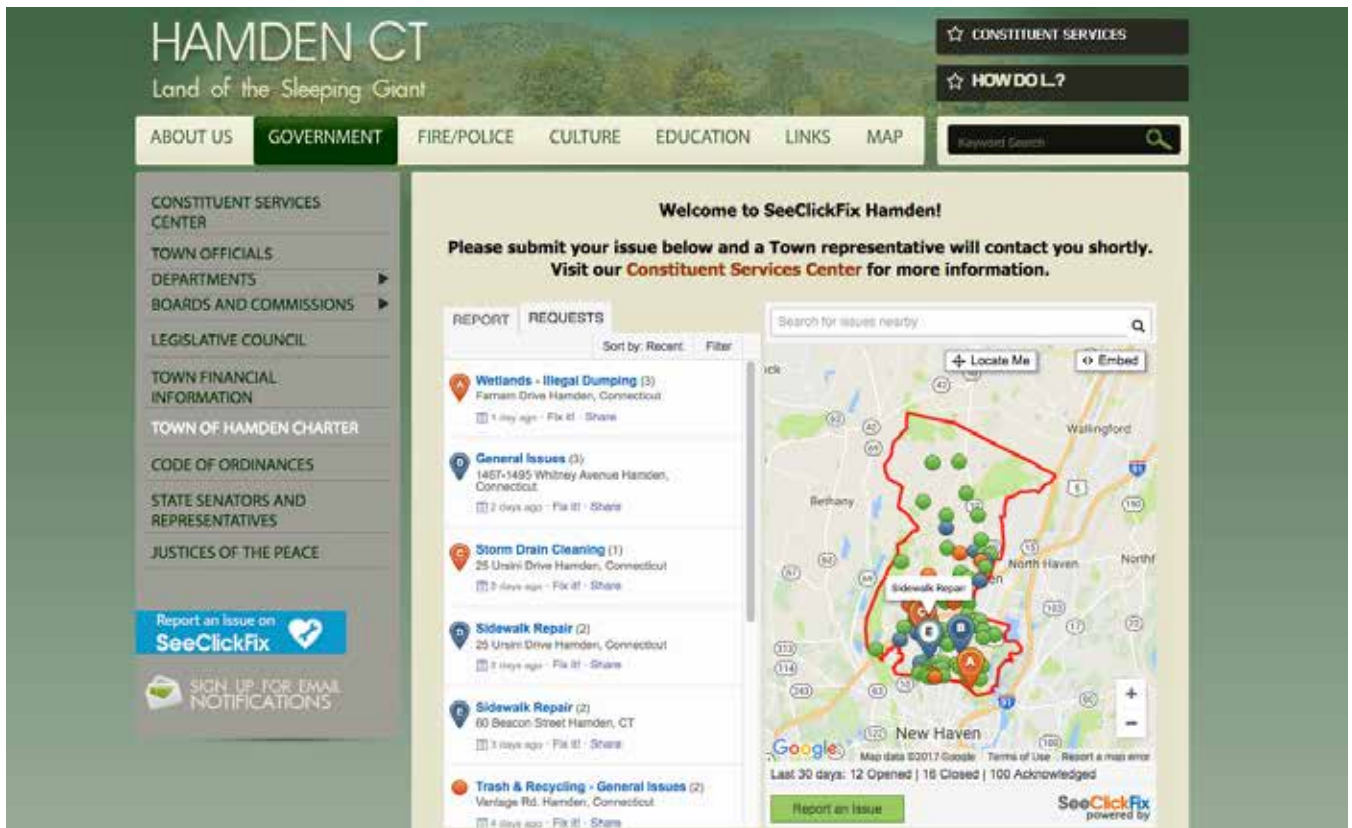
FRIENDLY SHOPPER AND FRIENDLY VISITOR

The department coordinates and supervises the Friendly Shopper and Friendly Visitor programs which serve homebound seniors. Friendly Shoppers will do grocery shopping for those who need assistance and Friendly Visitors provide social contacts and a friendly face to visit on a regular basis.

TAX PREPARATION ASSISTANCE

This program, run by the AARP, provides tax preparation assistance to low and moderate income residents who need help filling out the federal and state income tax forms. The program runs from February to April each year. Appointments for assistance are booked through the Department of Social and Youth Services and the assistance is provided by a trained volunteer at the Community Center.





See-Click-Fix!

Hamden joins growing number using mobile app

The town of Hamden has joined the growing number of communities across the nation and the world to utilize “SeeClickFix,” a mobile and web-based application which allows residents to report issues and concerns to town personnel directly from their mobile device or personal computers.

SeeClickFix is a New Haven-based company that is “committed to building stronger communities through transparency, collaboration, and efficiency,” which responded to a series of communication issues that the town was having.

Per their website: New Haven needed a way to efficiently engage with its citizens. The City was receiving a variety of phone calls and walk-ins, with citizens reporting everything from potholes and graffiti to high grass and light outages. [...] Management wanted a more efficient way to engage with these citizens and route requests to the right destinations.

And thus SeeClickFix was born.

Public Works Director Craig Cesare said: “SeeClickFix will allow our residents and staff to communicate more closely than ever before. The built-in feedback system will let residents know that the town is taking their concerns seriously, and that our staff members are working

hard to positively resolve issues across Hamden.”

Residents can use SeeClickFix by visiting www.hamden.com/SeeClickFix to submit issues directly from personal computers or can download the application to their mobile device from the Apple Store or Google Play.

SeeClickFix users can then select “Hamden” as their location within the app, which will display an interactive virtual map of the town and all of the outstanding issues or concerns that have been reported by residents.

Upon reporting an issue, the user will receive an email confirming their submission and users will then receive further email notifications from the town when their submission has been resolved, or if further action must be taken.

The SeeClickFix website says that Rob Smutts, a former city administrator, called the app “the universal front end for the city of New Haven.”

Mayor Curt Leng said: “I’ve made it a point to work hard on improving the transparency, accessibility, and responsiveness of Hamden’s local government. The launch of SeeClickFix is a major step in this endeavor.”

TECHNOLOGY

Power Up!

Bethel, Danbury, Brookfield getting power upgrade

Eversource is working on installing a new 3.4 mile 115-kilovolt (kV) overhead electric transmission line crossing through portions of the towns of Bethel, Danbury and Brookfield.

The project, called the Southwest Connecticut Reliability Project, is designed to enhance Eversource's ability to reliably serve the electric demand in the southwest Connecticut area, both today and in the future.

In November 2016, Eversource received approval from the Connecticut Siting Council to construct the Project. The new line will be located entirely within Eversource's existing transmission line right of way (power line corridor) from Plumtree Substation (near Walnut Hill Road in Bethel) to an area near Park Ridge Road in Brookfield.

The project also includes related

modifications to the Plumtree Substation in Bethel and the Stony Hill Substation in Brookfield. Construction is planned to begin in November 2017 and be completed by the end of 2018, with restoration of disturbed areas expected in spring 2019.

The work is not expected to interrupt electric service in any of the affected towns.

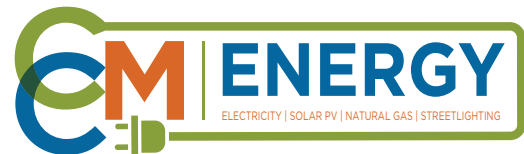
Per reporting from the Bethel Patch website, there was some concern from Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker who "said he is concerned about the trees that might have to be cut." This was echoed by residents who attended a public hearing.

A company representative was unable to say if or how many trees would be cut in service of this power line, with the website stating that "beginning with municipal briefings and community outreach

efforts related to the siting stage of the project, [Eversource has] made a concerted effort to engage town officials, residents, businesses, and other stakeholders to inform, answer questions, and listen to concerns about the project."

Since that time, the first selectmen in both Bethel and Brookfield reported they had not received any further complaints.

In Bethel, the project will be constructed along approximately 2.2 miles of right of way, crossing the following streets: Shelter Rock Road, Old Sherman Turnpike, Payne Road, Hearthstone Drive, Chimney Drive, Sky Edge Lane, Stony Hill Road (US - 6), Berkshire Boulevard and Park Lawn Drive. Hours of construction will typically be 7 a.m. - 7 p.m., Monday - Saturday through the end of 2018 with full service starting in Spring 2019.



CCM Energy is a multi-service program that helps CCM-member municipalities, their school systems, including all regional school districts, and local public agencies save money on annual energy-related costs.

CCM Energy:

- Reduces the cost of electricity and natural gas through strategic competitive energy purchasing
- Competitively procures long-term Power Purchase Agreements for Solar PV and Virtual Net Metering
- Assists municipalities with the purchase, maintenance, and upgrade of streetlights to LED technology
- Provides owner's representation service for: Energy Saving Performance Contracting Projects Municipal Microgrid Projects

Contact Andy Merola: 203 498-3056, or amerola@ccm-ct.org for additional information.

Fighting Litter

Stratford launches social media campaign to clean up town

In an effort to curb litter and blight in Stratford, the town's Beautification Committee launched a unique campaign in July 2017, #StratfordStopLittering, an anti-littering scavenger hunt throughout the town.

Participants were given a list of items on the Town of Stratford Beautification Committee's Facebook page @StratfordCTBeautificationCommittee to look for. The object of the scavenger hunt is to be the first to find all the hidden lawn-style signs, take photos of each one, and then post them on Instagram, Facebook, or Twitter using the hashtag, #StratfordStopLittering.

Participants were awarded prizes for the first three correct entries at the annual Beautification Committee Awards ceremony in September. The Stratford Beautification Committee's goal with this summer scavenger hunt was to get people thinking twice before littering.

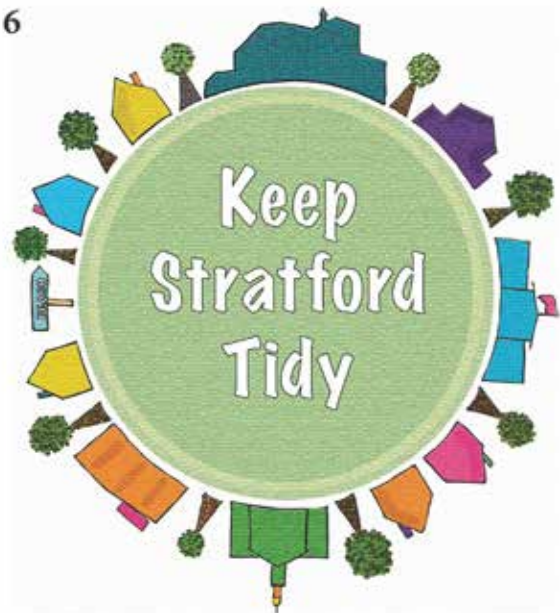
By engaging students with cool artwork and relevant messages, the hope is to reach more individuals online and via social media to take part in this community effort. The signs were created by students in a Stratford High School graphic design class under the direction of Sarah Mahoney-Voccola, with the guidelines to be used as Public Service Announcements (PSA).

Signs had to be eye-catching, relevant and impactful with their message. Students researched various PSA ad campaigns for inspiration before starting on their own designs. The posters featured stark images of commonly tossed items like cigarette butts, soda cans, and plastic grocery bags with cheeky taglines: "mind your butt," watch your cans," and "we bag your pardon" for the above mentioned items.

This same class also contributed the logo and poster design for the "Stratford Light the Way" lighthouse art exhibit that is now on display along with many other Stratford High School related projects. Participating students include: Justin Gendron, Brooke Haschak, Caitlin Hoey, Tiffany Mendenhall, Emily Mucherino, Vanessa Rivera, Lucia Solis, and David Tran.

The Stratford Beautification Committee holds the Stratford Beautification Awards every year, with 2018 being their 20th anniversary. For more information about the campaign and other works by the committee, visit the Stratford Beautification Committee webpage on Facebook.

6



Stratford is using emerging technologies to get people into recycling

Mind your Butt.



Throw away your trash.

#stratfordstoplittering



Kemp Consulting, LLC

Advancing Excellence in Local Governments



Roger L. Kemp MPA, MBA, PhD

Credentialed City Manager • Career Adjunct Professor

~ National Speaker ~

Dr. Kemp provides national professional speaking services on current government topics. Some of these topics include state-of-the-art practices in the following dynamic and evolving fields:

- America's Infrastructure
- Budgets and Politics
- Cities and The Arts
- Economic Development
- Financial Management
- Forms of Local Government
- Immigrant Services
- Main Street Renewal
- Model Government Charters
- Municipal Enterprise Funds
- Police-Community Relations
- Privatization
- Succession Planning
- Strategic Planning
- Town-Gown Relations
- Working with Unions

Roger Kemp's background and professional skills are highlighted on his website. Dr. Kemp was a city manager in politically, economically, socially, and ethnically diverse communities, on both coasts of the United States.

He has written and edited nearly 50 books on these subjects, and can speak on them with knowledge of the national best practices in each of these fields. Call or e-mail Dr. Kemp for more information. His contact information is shown below.

Dr. Roger Kemp, 421 Brownstone Ridge, Meriden, CT 06451

Phone: (203) 686-0281 • Email: rlkbsr@snet.net

www.rogerkemp.org