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## First Responders Deal With Truck Roll Over And Car Fire



Early Thursday morning Hawleyville Fire, Newtown ambulance and paramedics were dispatched to I-84 westbound for a tractor trailer rollover. Rescue 334 assisted in controlling a fuel spill while tanker 339 assisted in blocking.  
Around 2:30 PM Newtown Hook & Ladder and Hawleyville Fire was dispatched to Mount Pleasant Rd. for a car fire. The fire was quickly brought under control by Engine 111 with Engine 331 assisting.



Courtesy photos

## Solar Company Owner Buys Office Building In Clarke Park For A Reported \$2,500,000



The owner of a Stamford-based solar company has purchased an office building in Bethel for \$2.5 million, according to a listing broker for the deal. The building was listed for sale late last year for \$3.5 million by joint owners Cooperative Educational Services and EdAdvance, according to the listing published online.  
"After a four-year collaboration, the joint owners of the property mutually decided that the market conditions for the education-related services that could be provided in the building's current configuration could not support its ongoing operation in a nonprofit setting," broker Joe Dimyan said.  
The 30,320-square-foot building was constructed in 1997 and sits on 5 acres, and according to town records is appraised at \$2.1 million and assessed at \$1.47 million.

## Signs Of Spring



The weather may see-saw a bit between hot and cold but the surest sign of Spring is the flowers at Bethel's Hollandia Gift & Garden Center at 95 Stony Hill Road, and the Spring Garden Expo from April 11th through April 19th at Hollandia Nurseries at 103 Old Hawleyville Road in Bethel.

## Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off

Residents of: Bethel • Brookfield • Bridgewater Danbury • Kent • New Fairfield • Newtown • New Milford Redding • Ridgefield • Roxbury • Sherman • Weston • Wilton



**Danbury Public Works**  
53 Newtown Rd., Danbury, CT  
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# Dining

## Catering, Takeout & Dine-In For Every Occasion

**Angel's Deli**  
Fast and friendly service, wide selection of breakfast and lunch deli items at reasonable prices. 470 Federal Rd B, Brookfield (203) 546-7232 [www.angelsdeli.com](http://www.angelsdeli.com)

**Backdoor Chicken and Burgers**  
A wonderful new restaurant in Brookfield featuring delicious sandwiches, breakfast, entrees and some of the best coffee anywhere. They have the most friendly and helpful staff and reasonable prices. And if you like BBQ, try the pulled pork, but only if your plan on coming back again and again because it is truly wonderful! 537 Federal Rd, Brookfield (203) 546-7403 [www.backdoor-chicken.com](http://www.backdoor-chicken.com)

**Bagel Crossing**  
Fast and friendly service with a great selection of bagels, toppings and breakfast sandwiches with lunch salads and sandwiches, too. But be warned, the cinnamon rolls are beyond addictive. 6 Library Place, Bethel (203) 790-6656 [www.bagel-crossing.com](http://www.bagel-crossing.com)

**Bagel Delight**  
This is truly a delight as they have one of the absolute best selections of NY style, delicious bagels anywhere outside of "the city", with one of the most kind and friendly owners anywhere. Breakfast and lunch selections are all delicious and the prices are reasonable. Dine-in or take out. 30 Church Hill Rd #1, Newtown (203) 426-6838

**Bethel Pizza House**  
Delicious and reasonably priced, still using George's original recipes, with some of the most friendly, helpful service anywhere, and shhh, the best kept secret in town is that they also offer delivery. 206 Greenwood Ave, Bethel (203) 748-1427 [www.bethelpizzahouse.com](http://www.bethelpizzahouse.com)

**Blue Colony Diner**  
Fast and friendly service in a comfortable diner with a great selection of delicious, reasonably priced food. They offer dine-in, take-out and catering. 66 Church Hill Rd, Newtown (203) 426-0745 [www.bluecolonydiner.com](http://www.bluecolonydiner.com)

**Capri**  
Possibly the best calzone pizza we have every tasted. Pizza, entrees, generous and delicious salads. Take out, dine-in or delivery. 182 Old Hawleyville Rd, Bethel (203) 743-6800 [www.capripizzaofbethel.com](http://www.capripizzaofbethel.com)

**Caraluzzi's**  
Local grocery stores that offer excellent take out and catering. - Bethel: 98 Greenwood Ave, Bethel (203) 748-3547 [www.caraluzzis.com/](http://www.caraluzzis.com/) - Danbury: 102 Mill Plain Rd, Danbury (203) 743-8003 [www.caraluzzis.com/caraluzzis-danbury-market-2](http://www.caraluzzis.com/caraluzzis-danbury-market-2) - Newtown: 5 Queen St, Newtown (203) 270-7500 [www.caraluzzis.com/caraluzzis-newtown-ct](http://www.caraluzzis.com/caraluzzis-newtown-ct) - Wilton/Georgetown:

920 Danbury Rd, Wilton (203) 544-7021 [www.caraluzzis.com/](http://www.caraluzzis.com/)

**Dogtown**  
Hot dogs, burgers and more by a fast and friendly team at force a double-take affordable prices. Where else can you get a delicious lunch for 2 for well under \$15? And seriously, where else would you go especially for awesome hot dogs? Lots of other items on the menu, and one of the most generous arrays of hot dog toppings anywhere. 4 Library Pl, Bethel (203) 616-5054 [www.dogtownct.com](http://www.dogtownct.com)

**Elmer's Diner**  
We love Elmer's. While all the food is delicious, they have one of the best rotating assortments of delicious and affordable specials anywhere. And the service is fast and friendly, too. 22 Padanaram Rd, Danbury (203) 731-2559 [www.elmersdiner.com](http://www.elmersdiner.com)

**Famous Pizza**  
Famous pizza is truly and deservedly famous for their pizza, but also for their salads (try the house dressing!) and delicious entrees. They offer dine in, take out and delivery. Try the thin crust, it is amazing! 7 P T Barnum Square, Bethel (203) 797-1550 [www.famouspizzabethel.com](http://www.famouspizzabethel.com)

**Farmboys Smokin' BBQ**  
If you love BBQ, try Farmboys. The BBQ is delicious and smoked on the premises, but the secret to taking this to the next level is their amazing homemade BBQ sauces. You can thank me

later. 30 South St, Danbury (203) 616-5942 [www.farmboyssmokinbbq.com](http://www.farmboyssmokinbbq.com)

**Food Emporium**  
Brookfield's newest market brings SOHO style, fresh produce, and one of the best prepared foods and deli selections anywhere. They offer take out and catering. Did we mention the mouth watering desserts in the bakery department? 731 Federal Rd, Brookfield (203) 746-9487 [foodemporium.keyfood.com/store/2717](http://foodemporium.keyfood.com/store/2717)

**For Pete's Sake**  
Fast, friendly service, dine-in or take out and they offer catering, too, and a wide selection of delicious sandwiches and entrees. 73 Stony Hill Rd, Bethel (203) 792-2444 [www.forpetessake.com](http://www.forpetessake.com)

**Gino's Pizza Parlor**  
Fast and friendly service, some of the most generous salads anywhere and delicious italian cuisine at affordable prices. And they have some of the most diverse and delicious choices of pizza toppings. 102 Church Hill Rd, Sandy Hook (203) 304-1304 [www.ginosparlor.com](http://www.ginosparlor.com)

**Hunan Noodle Bar**  
Delicious food, wonderful selection, fast and friendly service. 461 Main St., Ridgefield (203) 431-4238 [www.ridgefieldhunan.com](http://www.ridgefieldhunan.com)

**Jacqueline's**  
This is my go to place for breakfast and lunch or just

excellent coffee. They offer dine-in, take-out and catering and some of the best wait staff anywhere. I have a friend who sneaks out and drives 40 minutes round trip every so often just to get their bacon, egg and cheese on an english muffin. Thankfully I live much closer! 138 Greenwood Ave, Bethel (203) 792-5541 [www.catajacquelines.com](http://www.catajacquelines.com)

**Kowloons Chinese Restaurant**  
Fast, friendly service, reasonably priced and a wide selection of delicious choices. The BBQ spare ribs are the closest to New York ribs we have found, and the shrimp with lobster sauce is another personal favorite. 110 Greenwood Ave, Bethel (203) 205-2325 [www.kowloonchinesect.com](http://www.kowloonchinesect.com)

**Newtown General Store**  
A dizzying array of delicious choices for breakfast and lunch. They feature dine-in, take out and catering. 43 Main St., Newtown (203) 426-9901 [www.newtowngeneralstore.com](http://www.newtowngeneralstore.com)

**Pop's Diner**  
Enjoy a classic diner experience with a wide selection of fast and friendly service. 199 Ethan Allen Hwy, Ridgefield (203) 445-4272 [www.popsclassicediner.com](http://www.popsclassicediner.com)

**Portofino's Wine Bar and Restaurant**  
A cozy pub like atmosphere on one side, an elegant dining room on the other, with food by one of the absolute best chefs in Connecticut. They offer dine-in, take out and catering. And the bar

<b>Bethel</b> 114 Greenwood Ave 203-885-2362	<b>Redding</b> 19 Main St 203-587-1050	<b>Wilton</b> 17 Danbury Rd 475-277-4313
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Our catering services are designed to bring the taste of our restaurant to your venue. Whether you're hosting a small family gathering or a large corporate event, our team is dedicated to delivering delicious food and exceptional service. With a focus on quality and customer satisfaction, Backdoor Chicken & Burgers is your go-to choice for BBQ catering.

Our live music events are designed to bring the community together, providing a space where you can unwind and enjoy quality entertainment. In Brookfield, we're known for our welcoming atmosphere and delicious food, making us the perfect spot for a night out. Don't miss the chance to enjoy our BBQ and burger offerings while listening to live bands, creating a memorable experience for all.

Our mini golf course is designed to complement your dining experience, offering a unique way to unwind after a delicious meal. It's a great spot for family gatherings or a casual day out. At Backdoor Chicken & Burgers, we pride ourselves on providing a welcoming environment where fun and food come together seamlessly. Get FREE mini golf with a small donation to the wounded veterans.

What Our Customers Say

★★★★★ Quick food service, Sandwiches are great. Very friendly and accommodating staff. — Ray V

★★★★★ Super friendly, and amazing food. Will be back a bunch. — Chris T

★★★★★ Some of the best fried chicken I have ever had, the strawberry sauce is phenomenal. — Damon C

★★★★★ This is our second time eating at Backdoor Chicken & Burgers and can't say enough about the owner!!! Everything we tried is absolutely fresh and soooo delicious from the breakfast sandwiches, to chicken wings to the yummy cheeseburger and the most scrumptious french fries. Stop by you won't be disappointed! — Donna S

# For The Record

## Municipal Calendar

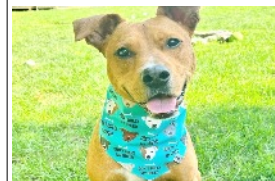
CHB Library Finance Committee March 17, 2026 - 3:00pm
Board of Education Special Meeting March 17, 2026 - 5:30pm
BOE Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee March 17, 2026 - 5:30pm
Community Center Commission March 17, 2026 - 6:30pm
Board of Education March 17, 2026 - 7:00pm
Economic Development Commission March 17, 2026 - 7:00pm
LC Charter Revision Charge Committee March 17, 2026 - 7:30pm
Animal Care & Control Advisory Board March 18, 2026 - 11:15am
Waste Management Committee March 18, 2026 - 6:00pm
LC Education Committee Special Meeting March 18, 2026 - 6:30pm
Borough Zoning Commission March 18, 2026 - 7:00pm
Legislative Council Public Hearing March 18, 2026 - 7:00pm
Bike & Trail Committee March 18, 2026 - 7:00pm
Legislative Council March 18, 2026 - 7:30pm
WestCOG/HVMPO/SWRMPO March 19, 2026 - 12:00pm
Planning & Zoning Commission March 19, 2026 - 7:00pm

## Newtown Police Report

03/12/2026, BUILDING CHECK, 00201 SOUTH MAIN ST, 090 Borges, Steven	01:16, CHECK, RD, 111 Caramadre, Michael	00130 MT PLEASANT RD, 111 Caramadre, Michael	085 Nosal, Larissa
03/12/2026, BUILDING CHECK, 00259 SOUTH MAIN ST, 090 Borges, Steven	01:19, CHECK, RD, 090 Borges, Steven	00051 BERKSHIRE RD, 090 Borges, Steven	085 Nosal, Larissa
03/12/2026, BUILDING CHECK, 00151 SOUTH MAIN ST, 090 Borges, Steven	01:23, CHECK, RD, 090 Borges, Steven	00000 POLE BRIDGE RD, 090 Borges, Steven	085 Nosal, Larissa
03/12/2026, BUILDING CHECK, 00123 SOUTH MAIN ST, 090 Borges, Steven	01:27, CHECK, RD, 111 Caramadre, Michael	00131 MT PLEASANT RD, 111 Caramadre, Michael	085 Nosal, Larissa
03/12/2026, BUILDING CHECK, 00079 SOUTH MAIN ST, 090 Borges, Steven	01:31, CHECK, RD, 090 Borges, Steven	00020 CHURCH HILL RD, 096 Monckton, Richard	085 Nosal, Larissa
03/12/2026, BUILDING CHECK, 00075 SOUTH MAIN ST, 090 Borges, Steven	01:33, CHECK, RD, 090 Borges, Steven	00000 RIVERSIDE RD, 090 Borges, Steven	085 Nosal, Larissa
03/12/2026, BUILDING CHECK, 00011 QUEEN ST, 096 Monckton, Richard	01:34, CHECK, RD, 096 Monckton, Richard	00012 DICKINSON DR, 090 Borges, Steven	085 Nosal, Larissa
03/12/2026, BUILDING CHECK, 00083 MT PLEASANT RD, 111 Caramadre, Michael	01:34, CHECK, RD, 111 Caramadre, Michael	00022 CHURCH HILL RD, 096 Monckton, Richard	085 Nosal, Larissa
03/12/2026, BUILDING CHECK, 00071 SOUTH MAIN ST, 090 Borges, Steven	01:36, CHECK, RD, 090 Borges, Steven	00116 SOUTH MAIN ST, 085 Nosal, Larissa	085 Nosal, Larissa
03/12/2026, BUILDING CHECK, 00006 QUEEN ST, 096 Monckton, Richard	01:43, CHECK, RD, 096 Monckton, Richard	00029 CHURCH HILL RD, 096 Monckton, Richard	085 Nosal, Larissa
03/12/2026, BUILDING CHECK, 00000 TURNBERRY LN, 090 Borges, Steven	01:44, CHECK, RD, 090 Borges, Steven	00228 SOUTH MAIN ST, 085 Nosal, Larissa	085 Nosal, Larissa
03/12/2026, BUILDING CHECK, 00266 SOUTH MAIN ST,	01:46, CHECK, RD, 111 Caramadre, Michael	00266 SOUTH MAIN ST,	085 Nosal, Larissa

## Pets

### Meet Marco



care in Connecticut in March 2023, Marco has truly blossomed and is now our longest resident, patiently waiting for his forever home.

Meet Marco, a truly special soul who has so much love to give and is simply waiting for the right person who understands him. Marco is a four-year-old, 60-pound sweetheart with a heart-melting smile and an incredibly soft coat. Found as a stray in rural North Carolina in November 2021, Marco spent 17 long months living in a shelter kennel.

Marco thrives on connection with his people. He is a world-class cuddler who loves to snuggle up close, sleep in bed, and carefully paw at his blankets until they are just right. Playtime brings out his joyful spirit—he loves zoomies, fetch, and tug-of-war, and his happiness is contagious. Marco is also very intelligent and enjoys enrichment activities like snuffle mats, food puzzles, and lick mats. He walks well on leash and enjoys getting out for adventures.

Despite that difficult beginning, he has shown remarkable making him a great fit for a multi-pet household.

To learn more or to adopt a rescue, contact Happily Forever After Rescue at info@happilyforeverafter.org or (631) 935-3578 or visit their website at www.happilyforeverafter.org

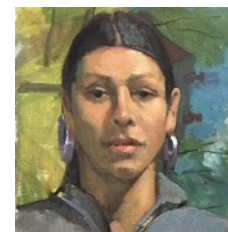
## Doing Good

### Feed A Veteran

Patrons of For Pete's Sake Delicatessen, located at 73 Stony Hill Road in Bethel, can donate breakfast or lunch to local veterans all year long. As a result, veterans of American armed forces can enjoy breakfast or lunch at no charge as part of the program. Veterans should bring proof of service as they may ask for it. The program runs all year long.

## Arts

### Painting Demonstration



On Wednesday March 25, 2026 at 1:30pm, Frank Bruckman will be demonstrating a portrait in oil. This event will be at The Newtown Senior Center, 8 Simpson Street in Newtown, CT. All are welcome and admission is free.

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# Gardening

## Get Ready for Spring: UConn Extension's Online Home Gardening Course Is Available



UConn Extension is now accepting registrations for its Fundamentals of Home Gardening online course, designed for beginner and intermediate gardeners who want to build strong foundational skills for successful home and community gardening.

The self-paced, multi-module program covers essential topics including vegetable gardening, soil health, composting, pest management, pollinator support, and sustainable gardening practices. Participants gain practical knowledge that can be applied immediately in gardens of all sizes, from backyard plots to containers and raised

beds.

“Our goal is to help Connecticut residents grow with confidence,” said Jean Madden-Hennessey, a program coordinator with UConn Extension’s Master Gardener program. “This course gives people the tools they need to make informed decisions, nurture healthy plants, and support thriving local ecosystems.”

**Course Features**  
 User-friendly online format accessible at any time  
 Step-by-step guidance from UConn horticulture experts

Videos, readings, quizzes, and hands-on learning suggestions Science-based, practical information suited for all learning styles

**Who Should Enroll**  
 The Fundamentals of Home Gardening course is ideal for new gardeners, homeowners, community gardeners, educators, and anyone looking to strengthen their horticultural knowledge.

Registration is open now, and the course is available through October. Visit: <https://s.uconn.edu/fundamental> for more information and to enroll.

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## Issues

Reprinted With Permission From The Hartford Portfolio, Yankee Institute's update on what's happening in Connecticut

# Election-Year Labor Bill Rewrites Rules For Employers, Schools And Healthcare Providers

The General Assembly's Labor and Public Employees Committee has unveiled a 68-page omnibus proposal titled "An Act Concerning Workforce Development and Working Conditions in the State." Introduced in an election year, House Bill 5003 consolidates a wide range of labor-related changes affecting public employees, private businesses, municipalities, and schools.

Framed as a package to improve working conditions, the bill reaches into multiple areas of employment law, imposing new mandates, altering existing labor frameworks, and raising potential constitutional and fiscal concerns.

### The Janus Issue

One notable concern involves language in Connecticut's public-sector labor statutes that still references agency fees — payments equivalent to union dues required from nonmembers as a condition of employment. In Janus v. AFSCME (2018), the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that compelling such payments violates the First Amendment.

Rather than removing that language, the bill modifies surrounding payroll deduction provisions, allowing employers and unions to negotiate how dues are collected through collective bargaining agreements, while leaving the requirement that nonmembers pay union-equivalent fees. While unenforceable under federal law, retaining unconstitutional language in state law creates confusion and raises questions about legislative intent. Following Janus, many states updated their statutes to conform with the ruling. Connecticut's failure to do so continues to generate legal ambiguity.

### Mandatory Weather Pay

The bill would also require employers to pay workers their full wages when shifts are canceled due to inclement weather and remote work is not feasible. Employers would be prohibited from requiring employees to use accrued leave to cover those hours.

This effectively mandates pay even when no work is performed and no revenue is generated. For small businesses operating on narrow margins, a weather closure could result in paying full wages without corresponding income. The policy may also create perverse

incentives — making it financially harder for businesses to close during unsafe conditions.

### Expanded Worker Retention Mandates

A worker retention law that currently applies to certain airport food service employees would be expanded statewide. Under the proposal, when service contracts change hands at hospitals, nursing homes, warehouses, shopping centers, apartment complexes, schools, or office buildings, incoming contractors must retain the previous contractor's workers for 90 days and may terminate only for just cause during that period.

The contractor size threshold would drop from ten employees to two, bringing nearly all small service businesses in the state under the rule.

The bill also removes an existing provision allowing successor contractors to decline to rehire employees whose attendance or performance records "would lead a reasonably prudent employer to terminate them."

Under the proposed framework, even employees with documented performance or attendance problems would have to be retained during the transition period.

The result is a significant constraint on business flexibility, particularly for small contractors inheriting employees they did not hire.

### Statewide "Violent Patient" Registry

The bill would require healthcare providers to report incidents of violence against staff into a statewide system operated through Connecticut's Health Information Exchange. Those entries could generate alerts to other providers if the patient seeks care elsewhere.

Because designation would be based on clinical reporting rather than a criminal finding, the threshold for inclusion may vary. Patients experiencing mental-health crises, dementia, substance withdrawal, or acute medical distress could be flagged.

For vulnerable populations — including the elderly, people with cognitive impairments, psychiatric conditions, or developmental

disabilities — the practical consequence may be reduced access to care. Providers receiving alerts may be more reluctant to schedule appointments, accept transfers, or treat patients in non-emergency settings, especially in understaffed facilities already concerned about safety risks.

Although an appeals process is included, the bill does not clearly define timelines or removal standards. A disputed designation could remain active during review, potentially affecting access to care.

While staff safety is an important goal, the proposal raises questions about patient due process and unintended consequences for vulnerable populations.

### Teacher Terminations and Binding Arbitration

The bill would shift teacher termination decisions away from local boards of education and place final authority in the hands of an independent hearing officer whose ruling would be binding.

This change removes elected local officials from the final decision-making process and limits districts' ability to challenge outcomes. Because courts typically defer to arbitration-style rulings, appeals would become more difficult. School districts would also share the cost of the hearing officer, adding financial strain to personnel disputes.

The proposal represents a substantial change in governance structure and local accountability.

### Election-Year Timing

A public hearing is scheduled for March 3. The breadth of the bill — and the number of long-standing union priorities it addresses — makes it one of the most consequential labor proposals of the session.

Regardless of political context, the implications are structural. Businesses, municipalities, healthcare providers, and taxpayers will live under the rules created here long after the legislative session ends.

Sweeping changes to employment law warrant careful review, robust public debate, and transparent consideration. A bill of this scale and consequence deserves nothing less.

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