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You can join thousands of neighbors by signing up for the free daily email newsletter with local news and events from the Community Gazette.

Welcome To Brookfield!



Brookfield Economic & Community Development reports that the doors are open at 7Beans and the ribbon has been cut. They are located at 782 Federal Road in Brookfield. They are open 7 days a week, 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Weekdays and 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. In a statement they said “Best of luck to the Ullah family on their new endeavor.”

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
Sat., April 11, 2026 9:00am-2:00pm
Visit www.hrra.org for more information.

Brookfield Chick-fil-A's Gustavo Almeida Receives Surprise \$25,000 Scholarship



Courtesy photo shows Brookfield Chick-fil-A owner Devon on left, team member Gustavo Almeida and Chick-fil-A CEO Andrew Cathy celebrating team member Gustavo Almeida's surprise \$25,000 scholarship.

Brookfield Chick-fil-A team member and Brookfield High School senior Gustavo Almeida was one of only 13 recipients nationwide selected for the Remarkable Future Scholarship, receiving \$25,000 toward his education. To make the moment even more unforgettable, Andrew Cathy, CEO of Chick-fil-A, personally surprised Gustavo with the news. Brookfield Chick-fil-A released this statement “We are beyond proud of you, Gustavo. Your hard work, dedication, and heart truly make a difference every day. Thank you to the Cathy family for investing in the future of team members like Gustavo and for the impact you continue to make in communities across the country. This is a life-changing moment, and it couldn't have happened to someone more deserving. We can't wait to keep watching you be remarkable.”

Patricia's Presents Gifts & Accessories

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203-743-0267 • OPEN 8am-5pm Every Day
Hollandia Gift & Garden
95 Stony Hill Road/RT 6, Bethel
203-792-0268 • OPEN 9am-5pm Every Day

BIG NEWS!

Queen B Is Now Open 7 DAYS A WEEK!
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www.queenbcoffeecompany.com

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.

Backdoor Chicken and Burgers

A wonderful new restaurant in Brookfield featuring delicious sandwiches, breakfast, entrees and some of the best coffee anywhere.

Bagel Crossing

Fast and friendly service with a great selection of bagels, toppings and breakfast sandwiches with lunch salads and sandwiches, too.

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".

Bethel Pizza House

Delicious and reasonably priced, still using George's original recipes, with some of the most friendly, helpful service anywhere.

Blue Colony Diner

Fast and friendly service in a comfortable diner with a great selection of delicious, reasonably priced food.

Capri

Possibly the best calzone pizza we have every tasted. Pizza, entrees, generous and delicious salads.

Caraluzzi's

Local grocery stores that offer excellent take out and catering. - Bethel: 98 Greenwood Ave, Bethel (203) 748-3547

920 Danbury Rd, Wilton (203) 544-7021

Dogtown

Hot dogs, burgers and more by a fast and friendly team at force a double-take affordable prices.

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.

Famous Pizza

Famous pizza is truly and deservedly famous for their pizza, but also for their salads (try the house dressing!) and delicious entrees.

30 South St, Danbury (203) 616-5942

Food Emporium

Brookfield's newest market brings SOHO style, fresh produce, and one of the best prepared foods and deli selections anywhere.

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.

Gino's Pizza Parlor

Fast and friendly service, some of the most generous salads anywhere and delicious italian cuisine at affordable prices.

Hunan Noodle Bar

Delicious food, wonderful selection, fast and friendly service. 461 Main St., Ridgefield (203) 431-4238

138 Greenwood Ave, Bethel (203) 792-5541

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.

Newtown General Store

A dizzying array of delicious choices for breakfast and lunch. They feature dine-in, take out and catering.

Pop's Diner

Enjoy a classic diner experience with a wide selection of fast and friendly service.

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.

213 Greenwood Ave., Bethel (203) 797-8131

Prime Burgers

Some of the best burgers anywhere. Lots of other delicious choices, but seriously, my mouth waters just thinking about their burgers.

Queen B's

Delicious baked goods, sandwiches, entrees and an awesome coffee bar. Fast and friendly service and did we mention how delicious the baked goods and coffee is?

Red Colony Diner

Fast and friendly service in a comfortable diner with a great selection of delicious, reasonably priced food.

Rocco's Cafe & Delicatessen

Same great food, new owners and an updated, more welcoming dine-in experience. So here is a true story: After surgery at Danbury hospital, I decided to say thank you to the amazing nursing staff for the wonderful care I received by catering lunch

and dinner for the 2 primary shifts on the 5th floor. Rocco's provided a delicious array of sandwiches and fixin's at a reasonable price, but best of all, when I went in for a follow-up, a year later, the nursing staff were still talking about the great lunch.

Shoprite Brookfield

They offer some of the best prepared food, wide selection at affordable prices. The bakery selection is amazing, and they offer catering, too.

Spice Indian Cuisine & Bar

Looking for a delicious and authentic Indian dining experience in a comfortable atmosphere with reasonable prices? Then this is your place!

Stony Hill Diner

Fast and friendly service offering dine-in, take-out, delivery and catering. I love good prime rib (who doesn't?) and I recently had a top notch prime rib meal at a shockingly reasonable price.

Sycamore Drive-In

Offers dine in, take out and drive-in service (and the black and white shake is legendary!) 282 Greenwood Ave, Bethel (203) 748-2716

Fast, friendly service, delicious food and an amazing dessert selection.

Three Brothers Diner

242 White St, Danbury (203) 748-6008

Uncle Leo's and Rosny's Gourmet

Three great locations with excellent food, quick and friendly service and reasonable prices. They offer dine in, take out and catering.

Varano Bakery

Their baked goods, especially the desserts, should only be reserved for those truly on your nice (ok, or maybe naughty) list. We suspect Santa stops there several times his Christmas cookies because they are truly that good.

Whitlock's

Enter and find a welcoming pub and a friendly dining room with delicious food, friendly service and reasonable prices. They feature dine-in, takeout and catering. 273 Greenwood Ave., Bethel (203) 791-2707

Advertisement for Uncle Leo's & Rosny's Gourmet. Includes contact info for Bethel, Redding, and Wilton locations, and a logo with a coffee cup.

Advertisement for Kowloon Chinese Restaurant. Features images of drinks (Sakura, Taro, Milk Tea, etc.) and food, with text: 'Bethel's Favorite Place For We Do Catering Gift Certificates'.

Advertisement for Spice Indian Cuisine & Bar. Lists lunch boxes, buffet, and brunch options, along with contact info for 25 Grassy Plain St., Bethel, CT.

Advertisement for Rocco's Cafe & Deli. Features a logo with a sandwich and lists new hours: 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 5 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

Large advertisement for Backdoor Chicken & Burgers. Includes a chicken logo, operating hours (Mon-Sat 8:00 am - 7:00 pm, Sunday 7:00 am - 5:00 pm), address (537 Federal Road, Brookfield), phone (203) 546-7403, and website www.backdoor-chicken.com. Also features a testimonial section titled 'Delicious Moments with Every Bite' with photos of food and customer reviews.

For The Record

Municipal Calendar

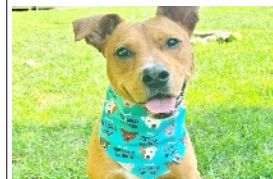
- Board of Finance Budget Deliberations - Room 209
March 20, 2026, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- Arts Commission - Room 209
March 23, 2026, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
- Inland Wetlands Commission - Room 133
March 23, 2026, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- Brookfield Soccer - Room 133
March 24, 2026, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- Parks and Recreation Commission - Room 135
March 25, 2026, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
- Police Building Ad hoc Committee
March 25, 2026, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
- WPCA - 53A Commerce Road
March 25, 2026, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- Blight Panel - Room 209
March 26, 2026, 9:00 - 11:00 AM
- Lions Club - Room 135
March 26, 2026, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- Planning and Zoning Commission
March 26, 2026, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- Revaluation Auditors - Room 129
April 1, 2026, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
- Commission on Aging - Room 135
April 1, 2026, 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM
- New Library Committee - Brookfield Library
April 1, 2026, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
- Conservation Commission
Room 209
April 1, 2026, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- Police Commission - Room 133
April 1, 2026, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- Energy Advisory Board - Room 135
April 2, 2026, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
- Historic District Commission
April 2, 2026, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Brookfield Police Report

For Date: 03/05/2026 - Thursday	2571 CANDLEWOOD LAKE RD	Secure, 1015 36051 FEDERAL RD
26-3434 0011 Check Business Building Checked / Secure, 1015 23451 FEDERAL RD	26-3459 1255 Fraud Services Rendered, 1015 7181 POCOVO RD	26-3481 0143 Patrol Check Building Checked / Secure, FEDERAL RD
26-3455 0016 Patrol Check Building Checked / Secure, 1015 5611 BAYVIEW DR	26-3460 1325 Prescription Drop Box Process Services Rendered, 1015 1611 SILVERMINE RD	26-3482 0116 Patrol Check Building Checked / Secure, 1015 1721 WEST WHISOMER RD
26-3436 0016 Patrol Check No Action Taken / Required, 1015 37911 CANDLEWOOD LAKE RD	26-3461 1143 Road Hazard No Action Taken / Required, OLD NEW MILFORD RD + FEDERAL RD	26-3483 0153 Check Business No Action Taken / Required, 1015 5331 CANDLEWOOD LAKE RD
26-3457 0037 Patrol Check No Action Taken / Required, 1015 6701 WHISOMER RD	26-3462 1452 Ambulance - B L S Response Trans / Refused, 1015 4130 OLD BRIDGE RD	26-3484 0257 Check Business Building Checked / Secure, 1015 7531 FEDERAL RD
26-3485 0144 Check Business Building Checked / Secure, 1015 3641 CANDLEWOOD LAKE RD	26-3463 1455 Ambulance - A L S Response Trans / Danbury Hospital, 1015 37751 OLD TURSPIKE	26-3485 0308 Patrol Check No Action Taken / Required, 1015 36901 QUARRY RD
26-3459 0159 Check Business Building Checked / Secure, 1015 15491 FEDERAL RD	26-3464 1526 Road Hazard Services Rendered, NORTH BEECH TREE RD	26-3486 0129 Vehicle Repossession Civil Matter, 1015 31261 OLD BRIDGE RD
26-3440 0219 Assist Person - General Services Rendered, TVCKS RD	26-3465 1622 Follow - I-p Investigation Investigated, 1015 1611 SILVERMINE RD	26-3487 0638 Alarm - Commercial Building Checked / Secure, 1015 11711 CANDLEWOOD LAKE RD
26-3441 0227 Check Business Building Checked / Secure, 1015 30151 FEDERAL RD	26-3466 1738 Patrol Check Services Rendered, 1015 1741 LONG MEADOW HILL RD	26-3488 0739 General Service - Unclassified Services Rendered, ANDOVER CT
26-3442 0319 Welfare Check Services Rendered, WHISOMER RD	26-3467 1806 Assist Motorist - Disabled Services Rendered, FEDERAL RD + OLD NEW MILFORD RD	26-3489 0823 Motor Vehicle Stop Verbal Warning, FEDERAL RD
26-3443 0356 Ambulance - B L S Response Trans / Danbury Hospital, WHISOMER RD	26-3468 1835 Patrol Check Services Rendered, 1015 7901 WHISOMER RD	26-3490 0836 Traffic Enforcement Detail Services Rendered, 1015 37911 CANDLEWOOD LAKE RD
26-3444 0422 Check Business No Action Taken / Required, 1015 18961 OBTUSE HILL	26-3469 1844 M V Crash - P D O Investigated, FEDERAL RD + WHITE TURKEY EXT	26-3491 0837 Court Run Services Rendered, 1041 5871 WHITE ST
26-3445 0438 Check Business Building Checked / Secure, 1015 37581 FEDERAL RD	26-3470 1857 Ambulance - B L S Response Trans / New Milford Hospital, 1015 13301 OLD BRIDGE RD	26-3492 0856 Ambulance - A L S Response Trans / Danbury Hospital, 1015 10351 OLD NEW MILFORD RD
26-3446 0518 Alarm - Commercial False Alarm, 1015 11711 CANDLEWOOD LAKE RD	26-3471 1912 Ambulance - A L S Response 2nd Trans / Danbury Hospital, HOMESTEAD LN	26-3492 0857 Motor Vehicle Stop Infraction - Motor Vehicle, CANDLEWOOD LAKE RD + ROCKY RD
26-3447 0711 Transport Person Services Rendered, 1041 HAVESTOWN AVE	26-3472 1917 Patrol Check No Action Taken / Required, 1015 6151 SAND CUT RD	26-3494 0916 S R O School Services Services Rendered, 1015 1721 WEST WHISOMER RD
26-3450 0822 S R O Student Services Resolved - No Report, 1015 1721 WEST WHISOMER RD	26-3473 1934 Patrol Check No Action Taken / Required, 1015 6111 FEDERAL RD	26-3495 0914 Ambulance - A L S Response Trans / Danbury Hospital, 1015 37181 FEDERAL RD
26-3451 0842 Ambulance - B L S Response Trans / Refused, LONG MEADOW HILL RD	26-3474 2006 Domestic Violence (Complaint Arrests) Made, 1015 18721 NABBY RD	26-3496 1001 Motor Vehicle Stop Verbal Warning, 1015 5331 CANDLEWOOD LAKE RD
26-3452 0909 Court Run Services Rendered, 1041 5871 WHITE ST	26-3475 2038 Ambulance - A L S Response Trans / Danbury Hospital, 1015 29451 DEAN RD	26-3497 1015 Motor Vehicle Stop Verbal Warning, 1015 6511 FEDERAL RD
26-3453 0911 Alarm - Commercial False Alarm, 1015 21631 TOWER RD	26-3476 2224 Check Business No Action Taken / Required, 1015 4511 FEDERAL RD	26-3499 1034 Abandoned Motor Vehicle Services Rendered, 1015 3351 FEDERAL RD
26-3454 1001 S R O Student Services Services Rendered, 1015 37911 CANDLEWOOD LAKE RD	26-3477 2330 Patrol Check Building Checked / Secure, 1015 37911 CANDLEWOOD LAKE RD	26-3498 1035 Motor Vehicle Stop Verbal Warning, POCOVO RIDGE RD + POWDER HORN HILL RD
26-3455 1041 Threatening Investigated, MERWIN BROOK RD	For Date: 03/06/2026 - Friday	26-3501 1056 Ambulance - A L S Response Trans / Danbury Hospital, FEDERAL RD
26-3456 1120 Ambulance - B L S Response Infounded, OLD NEW MILFORD RD	26-3478 0004 Check Business Building Checked / Secure, 1015 2381 CANDLEWOOD LAKE RD	26-3502 1103 Alarm - Fire False Alarm (No Bill), FEDERAL RD
26-3457 1202 General Service - Unclassified Services Rendered, 1015 1611 SILVERMINE RD	26-3479 0051 Check Business Building Checked / Secure, 1015 7321 FEDERAL RD	26-3503 1127 Motor Vehicle Stop Infraction - Motor Vehicle, 1015 1751 FEDERAL RD
26-3458 1217 M V Crash - P D O Investigated, 1015	26-3480 0103 Check Business Building Checked /	26-3504 1142 Motor Vehicle Stop Infraction - Motor

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.

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 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.

Despite that difficult beginning, he has shown remarkable resilience. Since coming into foster

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

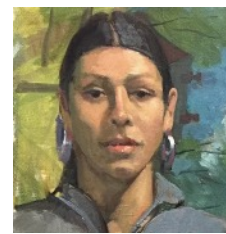
Doing Good

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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Things To Do

Tax Help

The C.H. Booth Library is pleased to announce FREE income tax assistance, provided through a partnership between the AARP Foundation and the IRS. This service will be available on Thursdays until April 9, 2026. Don't miss this opportunity to receive expert help with your taxes.

Fri, 03-20-26, Mystery Book Club, 12:30 PM, Danbury Library	Library	Danbury Library	Knitting, 6:00 - 7:00 PM, Bethel Library
Fri, 03-20-26, Preschool Storytime, 1:00 - 1:30 PM, Bethel Library	Mon, 03-23-26, Spanish Conversation Group, 2:00 PM, Danbury Library	Tue, 03-24-26, Printmaking Butterfly and Flowers Workshop, 5:00 PM, Danbury Library	Tue, 03-24-26, Grateful Gathering In-Person, 6:00 PM - 7:15 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown
Fri, 03-20-26, KinderCrew (ages 4-5), 1:00pm-2:00pm, Brookfield Library	Mon, 03-23-26, Club de lectura en español, 4:00 PM, Danbury Library	Tue, 03-24-26, Suffragetto! A Board Game About Voting Rights, 5:00 PM, Danbury Library	Tue, 03-24-26, Kid Craft, 6:30 - 7:30 PM, Bethel Library
Fri, 03-20-26, Intro to Cricut Arts & Crafts: Personalized Drinkware (Session 3) In-Person, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Mon, 03-23-26, Code Like Ada Lovelace: First Steps in Programming, 5:00 PM, Danbury Library	Tue, 03-24-26, Speedcubing Club, 5:30 PM, Danbury Library	Wed, 03-25-26, Python Programming For Middle Schoolers, 4:00 PM, Danbury Library
Fri, 03-20-26, Shake, Rattle & Read Storytime (ages 6-24 mos) - Session One, 10:00am-10:45am, Brookfield Library	Mon, 03-23-26, Baby & Me, 1:00 - 1:30 PM, Bethel Library	Tue, 03-24-26, Career Coach Workshop: Microsoft PowerPoint, 1:00pm-3:00pm, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-25-26, The New Romantics- Romance Book Club, 6:00 PM, Danbury Library
Fri, 03-20-26, Storytime, 10:30 - 11:00 AM, Bethel Library	Mon, 03-23-26, Historically Speaking Book Club - Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker by Jennifer Chiaverini, 1:00pm-2:00pm, Brookfield Library	Tue, 03-24-26, Weekly Drop-In Knitting Circle (In-Person), 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding	Wed, 03-25-26, Drop-in Art with Miss Nora In-Person, 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown
Fri, 03-20-26, Music Dynamics with Brad Peterson In-Person, 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Mon, 03-23-26, Storytime Adventures (Ages 3-4), 10:00am-10:45am, Brookfield Library	Tue, 03-24-26, Mother Goose on the Loose In-Person, 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Wed, 03-25-26, Mother Goose on the Loose In-Person, 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM, CH Booth Library, Newtown
Fri, 03-20-26, Shake, Rattle & Read Storytime (ages 6-24 mos) - Session Two, 11:00am-11:45am, Brookfield Library	Mon, 03-23-26, All-Age Family Storytime, 10:30am-11:00am, Ridgefield Library	Tue, 03-24-26, Career Coach Workshop: Microsoft PowerPoint, 10:00am-12:00pm, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-25-26, Hybrid: A.M. Book Group, 10:00am-11:30am, Ridgefield Library
Fri, 03-20-26, Learn How To Stay Sharper And Improve Memory At Any Age, 2:00 - 3:00 PM, Bethel Library	Mon, 03-23-26, Music Monday with Principal at the Newtown Community Center In-Person, 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Tue, 03-24-26, Storytime, 10:30 - 11:00 AM, Bethel Library	Wed, 03-25-26, Ridgefield Garden Club: Growing Gardens That Matter, 10:00am-12:00pm, Ridgefield Library
Fri, 03-20-26, Teen Volunteering, 2:30 - 4:30 PM, Bethel Library	Mon, 03-23-26, Time for Tues, 11:00am-11:45am, Brookfield Library	Tue, 03-24-26, Mother Goose for ages 12-24 months, 10:30am-11:00am, Ridgefield Library	Wed, 03-25-26, AARP Foundation Tax Aide, 10:15 AM - 2:45 PM, Bethel Library
Fri, 03-20-26, Diamond Art Group, 2:30pm-4:30pm, Brookfield Library	Mon, 03-23-26, Pirate Party! with Bus from RES to MTL (Grades K-4), 3:15 pm - 4:00 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding	Tue, 03-24-26, Knitting and Crocheting, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM, Bethel Library	Wed, 03-25-26, Storytime, 10:30 - 11:00 AM, Bethel Library
Fri, 03-20-26, Teen Video Games, 3:00 - 4:30 PM, Bethel Library	Mon, 03-23-26, LEGO League, 4:30 - 5:15 PM, Bethel Library	Tue, 03-24-26, Unscripted: An Improv Group, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding	Wed, 03-25-26, 30 Minute Flex & Balance with Sean via Zoom Online, 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM, CH Booth Library, Newtown
Fri, 03-20-26, Family Trivia Game Night, 6:00pm-8:00pm, Brookfield Library	Mon, 03-23-26, Kids Coding Club, 4:30pm-5:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Tue, 03-24-26, With Special Guest Barbara Kingsolver: America's Failed Response to the Opioid Crisis (Virtual), 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding	Wed, 03-25-26, Preschool Storytime, 10:30am-11:15am, Ridgefield Library
Sat, 03-21-26, Cricut Program-Decorate a Game Day Snack Bowl, 11:00 AM, Danbury Library	Mon, 03-23-26, Library Board of Directors Meeting, 6:00 - 8:00 PM, Bethel Library	Tue, 03-24-26, Virtual Author Talk: America's Failed Response to the Opioid Crisis with Author Shoshana Walter In-Person Online, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Wed, 03-25-26, Creating a Presentation with Canva, 11:00am-12:00pm, Ridgefield Library
Sat, 03-21-26, Author Storytime with Julie Leung, 1:00pm-2:00pm, Ridgefield Library	Mon, 03-23-26, Scrabble Club, 6:00pm-7:00pm, Ridgefield Library	Tue, 03-24-26, Virtual Author Talk: America's Failed Response to the Opioid Crisis with Author Shoshana Walter In-Person Online, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Wed, 03-25-26, Mah Jongg, 12:00pm-2:00pm, Brookfield Library
Sat, 03-21-26, Meet Your CT Legislators, 10:00am-11:30am, Ridgefield Library	Mon, 03-23-26, Adult Chess Club (In-Person), 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding	Tue, 03-24-26, Read to Mia, 5:00pm-5:15pm, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-25-26, Memory Cafe, 2:00pm-3:00pm, Ridgefield Library
Sat, 03-21-26, Storytime, 10:30 - 11:00 AM, Bethel Library	Mon, 03-23-26, MTL Writers Workshop (In-Person), 6:30 pm - 7:45 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding	Tue, 03-24-26, Read to Mia, 5:15pm-5:30pm, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-25-26, Mindfulness Meditation for Adults, 3:30 - 4:30 PM, Bethel Library
Sat, 03-21-26, Learn to Skil! 11:30am-12:30pm, Brookfield Library	Mon, 03-23-26, Evening Historically Speaking Book Club - Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker by Jennifer Chiaverini, 6:30pm-7:30pm, Brookfield Library	Tue, 03-24-26, Read to Mia, 5:30pm-5:45pm, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-25-26, Open Hours in the Makerspace In-Person, 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown
Sat, 03-21-26, Drop-In Craft, 12:00 - 4:30 PM, Bethel Library	Mon, 03-23-26, Online: Next Chapter Book Club, 6:30pm-7:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Tue, 03-24-26, Language Exchange at the Library In-Person, 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Wed, 03-25-26, Mystery Book Group, 4:00pm-5:00pm, Brookfield Library
Sat, 03-21-26, Teen Volunteering, 2:00 - 4:00 PM, Bethel Library	Tue, 03-24-26, Multicultural Bilingual Storytime, 11:00 AM, Danbury Library	Tue, 03-24-26, Read to Mia, 5:30pm-5:45pm, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-25-26, Slime Science, 4:30pm-5:30pm, Ridgefield Library
Sat, 03-21-26, Storytime with the Aldrich, 10:30am-11:30am, Ridgefield Library	Tue, 03-24-26, America's Failed Response to the Opioid Crisis with Author Shoshana Walter, 2:00 PM, Danbury Library	Tue, 03-24-26, Read to Mia, 5:45pm-6:00pm, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-25-26, Lo-fi Lounge, 5:30 - 6:30 PM, Bethel Library
Sat, 03-21-26, Open Hours in the Makerspace In-Person, 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Tue, 03-24-26, Homework Help/Skill Builders, 3:30 PM, Danbury Library	Tue, 03-24-26, Read to Mia, 5:45pm-6:00pm, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-25-26, Teen Volunteering, 5:30 - 7:30 PM, Bethel Library
Sun, 03-22-26, Unravell'd: Crocheting and Knitting Group, 1:00pm-3:00pm, Brookfield	Tue, 03-24-26, Introduction to Tower Gardening, 4:00 PM,	Tue, 03-24-26, Community	Wed, 03-25-26, Movies at the Library, 6:00 - 8:00 PM, Bethel Library

America's 250th Celebration

Upcoming Local Events Celebrating The 250th Anniversary Of The Signing Of The Declaration Of Independence



AMERICAN MILITARY STRENGTH
Celebrating the Legacy of Our Armed Forces

Join fellow patriots as we celebrate 250 years of courage, sacrifice, and service from the men and women of the United States Military.

Date: March 28, 2026
 Time: 10:00am-1:00pm
 Location: The Grove, Access from 577 Llanura Square, Bethel CT 06801

For two and a half centuries, America's military has defended freedom, sovereignty, and the Constitution. From the founding of our nation to today, generations of brave Americans have stood ready to protect our country.

This event will feature:

- Ceremony
- Drinks and Snacks
- Patriotic music and community gathering
- Just a bunch of happy guys getting together to celebrate the United States and all its accomplishments

Let us come together to honor those who served and those who continue to defend our nation.

Freedom Isn't Free - Thank Our Troops

Hosted by: The Patriotic Nine



SAVE THE DATE FOR **The Remembrance Ball**

6PM SATURDAY APRIL 25TH, 2026
LOUNSBURY HOUSE 316 MAIN STREET, RIDGEFIELD CT

Black Tie Gala

Honoring the sacrifices made by all during the Battle of Ridgefield

The Remembrance Ball Fundraiser Support

Practices: Supporting Cannon Ridge Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, Creditable Endorsement in Education, Patriotism, and Historical Preservation

IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.
The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. --That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. --Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to assent to Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inalienable and inextinguishable to the people.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavored to prevent the population of these States, for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migration hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our Legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us;

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent;

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury;

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences;

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighboring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary Government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to enclose an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies;

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Government;

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to augment the wretched crews of the British Navy, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the execrators of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Swords.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions we have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

We have therefore been warranted in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their Legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have begged them by the ties of our common kindred, to observe these wrongs, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of concinnity. We must therefore, recognize in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.



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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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At Home



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