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## Obituary

# Matteo Bernabe

August 8, 2008 - March 17, 2026



the coolest Lego sets, working out when he was able to, drawing, and fishing. He was also into fashion and collecting Pokemon cards.

In addition to his parents, Matteo is survived by his sister Najely Olmos, brother Ivan Bernabe; his uncles Rolando and Oli Bernabe; his aunts Edith Bernabe and Ana Moreno; his brother-in-law Jaime Olmos; nephews Angel and Justin Olmos; cousins Yesenia, Rolando, Denise, Thalia, Kristo, Edgar, and Mikey; as well as Abuela Elena.

### Visitation Hours

The family will receive friends at the Cornell Memorial Home, 247 White Street, Danbury, on Thursday, March 19th between the hours of 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

### Funeral and Burial

A Mass of Christian Burial will take place the following day, March 20th, at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe, located at 29 Golden Hill Road, Danbury with a burial in St. Peter Cemetery to follow directly after the service.

Matteo Javier Bernabe, 17, of Bethel, died March 17th, 2026 surrounded by family after a long battle with cancer. Matteo was born on August 8th, 2008 to Primitivo Bernabe and Asuncion Reyes.  
Matteo's was passionate about soccer, building

## Congratulations



The Danbury Police Department offered congratulations to Danbury Police Recruit Sophia Cotroneo, who graduated from the CT Police Academy in Meriden on March 18.

Officer Cotroneo will now return to Danbury to begin several weeks of field training.

In the courtesy photo from left to right are Captain Joseph LeRose, Officer Cotroneo, Chief Patrick Ridenhour, and Deputy Chief Michael Sturdevant.

## 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](http://www.hrra.org) for more information.

## In Brief

### Bills Head To Full Legislature

Several Connecticut bills moved from committee to full legislative consideration so far this week, including:

H.B. 5468 – Requires home schooling parents to show proof of "equivalent instruction" and undergo check-ins with local school districts and involvement of the Department of Children and Families. The committee voted 26 in favor and 20 opposed, including all Republicans and 4 Democrats. The committee received 3,401 public comments, with 53 in favor and 3,354 opposed. The House and Senate are expected to take up the controversial bill soon.

H.B. 5044 – Grants the Commissioner of Public Health power to determine which vaccines are mandatory for children. The bill also expands the Department of Public Health commissioner's authority to establish vaccination "standards of care" to include adults. The committee voted in favor of the bill along party lines after receiving 5,725 comments with 3,531 opposed and 194 in favor. The House and Senate are expected to take up the controversial bill soon.

### CT Lawmaker DUI Case Dismissed

In a court outcome that has drawn harsh references to State Representative Allie-Brennan's case being moved to a probation program without a trial after having been arrested on charges of multiple shoplifting incidents at the Bethel Target, State Rep. Aundre Bumgardner, D-Groton has had his case dismissed after completing his probation on DUI charges. Mr. Allie-Brennan, D-Bethel, has been under court approved probation and if he completes it within a year will have his record expunged. A driving while distracted citation issued to Mr. Allie-Brennan in August of last year has vanished from public records. He has not replied to requests for explanation or comment.

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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.

### Blue Colony Diner

206 Greenwood Ave, Bethel (203) 748-1427 [www.bethelpizzahouse.com](http://www.bethelpizzahouse.com)  
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)  
**Jaacqueline'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.catajaquelines.com](http://www.catajaquelines.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

is tended by one of the best anywhere. A truly perfect choice for an evening out or take out. 213 Greenwood Ave., Bethel (203) 797-8131 [portofinorestaurantandwinebar.com](http://portofinorestaurantandwinebar.com)

### Prime Burgers

Some of the best burgers anywhere. Lots of other delicious choices, but seriously, my mouth waters just thinking about their burgers. 449 Main St, Ridgefield (203) 431-3000 [www.primeburgerct.com](http://www.primeburgerct.com)

### 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? Dine-in, take-out or delivery. 417 Main St, Ridgefield (203) 894-5994 [www.queenbcoffeecompany.com](http://www.queenbcoffeecompany.com)

### Red 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. 121 Federal Rd, Brookfield (203) 546-8280 [www.redcolonydiner.com](http://www.redcolonydiner.com)

### 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. 208 Greenwood Ave, Bethel (203) 297-6262 [www.roccosdeli.com](http://www.roccosdeli.com)

### 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. 143 Federal Rd, Brookfield (203) 775-7078 [www.shoprite.com](http://www.shoprite.com)

### 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! 25 Grassy Plain St., Bethel (203) 300-5784 [www.spiceindiancuisinect.com](http://www.spiceindiancuisinect.com)

### 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. 14 Stony Hill Rd, Bethel (203) 791-2280 [www.stonyhilldiner.com](http://www.stonyhilldiner.com)

### 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 [www.sycamoredrivein.com](http://www.sycamoredrivein.com)

### Three Brothers Diner

Fast, friendly service, delicious food and an amazing dessert selection. 242 White St, Danbury (203) 748-6008 [www.3brothersdiner.com](http://www.3brothersdiner.com)

### 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. 114 Greenwood Ave, Bethel (203) 885-2362  
19 Main St, Georgetown/Redding (203) 587-1050  
17 Danbury Rd, Wilton (203) 644-8085 [www.facebook.com/uncleleos](http://www.facebook.com/uncleleos)

### 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. 198 Greenwood Ave, Bethel (203) 744-6640 [www.varanobakery.com](http://www.varanobakery.com)

### 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 [www.whitlocks-bethel.com](http://www.whitlocks-bethel.com)  
Did we miss your favorite? If we have, then please email Brad@CommunityGazette.com

<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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## Delicious Moments with Every Bite

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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.

★★★★★ 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

- Zoning Commission Meeting  
March 24, 2026, 7:00 PM
- Board of Awards Weekly Meeting  
March 25, 2026, 10:00 AM - 10:59 AM
- Environmental Impact Commission  
March 25, 2026, 7:00 PM
- Zoning Board of Appeals  
March 26, 2026, 7:00 PM
- Board of Awards Weekly Meeting  
April 1, 2026, 10:00 AM - 10:59 AM
- Civil Service Commission Meeting  
April 1, 2026, 10:00 AM - 10:59 PM
- Planning Commission Meeting  
April 1, 2026, 7:00 PM
- City Council Meeting  
April 7, 2026, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
- Board of Awards Weekly Meeting  
April 8, 2026, 10:00 AM - 10:59 AM
- Environmental Impact Commission  
April 8, 2026, 7:00 PM
- Zoning Board of Appeals  
April 9, 2026, 7:00 PM
- Household Hazardous Waste Regional Event  
April 11, 2026, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
- Zoning Commission Meeting  
April 14, 2026, 7:00 PM
- Board of Awards Weekly Meeting  
April 15, 2026, 10:00 AM - 10:59 AM
- Civil Service Commission Meeting  
April 15, 2026, 10:00 AM - 10:59 PM
- Planning Commission Meeting  
April 15, 2026, 7:00 PM
- Tarrywile Park Authority Monthly Meeting  
April 21, 2026, 4:30 PM
- Board of Awards Weekly Meeting  
April 22, 2026, 10:00 AM - 10:59 AM

## Danbury Police Report

**Aosta-acosta,Luis** Oswaldo, 25 Franklin St Apt no 10, Danbury, CT 06810, White, MALE 46 years old as of 3/12/2026, 53a-151 BREACH OF PEACE 2ND DEG CNTS: (1), 53a-61 ASSAULT 3RD DEG CNTS: (1).

**Alf,Ala Ali** Abdulla, 14 Saddle Ridge Rd, Voorhees, NJ 08043, Unknown, MALE 22 years old as of 3/12/2026, 2600014324, 21a-277(c) OPERATION OF DRUG FACTORY CNTS: (1), 21a-278(a)(1) POSS INTNT IKG OR MORE CANNIS CNTS: (1), 21a-278(b)(1) IL SELL ANFCTR CANNIS >15 CNTS: (2)

**Anderson,Brian** Scott, 11 Michard Rd, Danbury, CT 06810, White, MALE 44 years old as of 3/11/2026, 2600015377, 53a-223 VIOLETION OF PROTECTIVE ORDER CNTS: (1)

**Arias-Cuevas,Vladimir** Steven, 56 FRANKLIN ST, DANBURY, CT 06810, White, MALE 36 years old as of 3/10/2026, 2600015190, 14-227a ILL OPI MY UNDER INFL ALCO/DRUG CNTS: (1), 14-236 FLR TO DRIVE IN PROPER LANE CNTS: (1), 14-36(a) OPERATE MY WITHOUT LICENSE CNTS: (1)

**Carcioppola-quindimay,Wilmer** Giovanni, 12 ORCHARD ST Apt no 2, DANBURY, CT 06810, White, MALE 33 years old as of 3/10/2026, 2600015614, 53a-151 BREACH OF PEACE 2ND DEG CNTS: (1), 53a-61 ASSAULT 3RD DEG CNTS: (1)

**Gastro,Sebastian**, 157 Franklin St EXT, Danbury, CT 06811, White, MALE 22 years old as of 3/10/2026, 2600015320, 14-126a) OPERATE/PARKS UNREGISTERD MY CNTS: (1), 14-147(c) IMPROPER USE-MARKER LIC/RSTR CNTS: (1), 14-18(a) FAIL TO DISPLAY PLATES/INSERTS CNTS: (1), 14-213b ILL OPI MY NO MINIMUM INSURANCE CNTS: (1), 14-36(a) OPERATE MY WITHOUT LICENSE CNTS: (1), 14-99(g) TINTED W/O GLASS REQUIREMENTS CNTS: (1), 53a-167a INTERFERE WITH OFFICER/RESISTING CNTS: (1)

**Cruz,Jeffrey**, 62 Forest CT, Torrington, CT 06790, White, MALE 35 years old as of 3/10/2026, 2600015361, 14-215 ILL OPI MY UNDER SUSPENSION CNTS: (2)

**Bancy,Termyne** Dondre, 226 Fountain St Apt 506, New Haven, CT 06515, Black, MALE 31 years old as of 3/10/2026, 2600015357, 14-126a) OPERATE/PARKS UNREGISTERD MY CNTS: (1), 14-213b ILL OPI MY NO MINIMUM INSURANCE CNTS: (1), 14-215(a) ILL OPI MY UNDER SUSPENSION CNTS: (1), 14-99(g) ILL OPI MY W/O TINT INSPECTION CNTS: (1)

**De Matos-Neiva,Adson** Cambi, 96 Hospital AVE Apt no 2, Danbury, CT 06810, White, MALE 35 years old as of 3/10/2026, 53a-151 CNTS: (1), 53a-150, CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT/ CRIMINAL IMPERSONATION, 53a-151 CNTS: (1), 53a-159, CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT/ FORGERY 2ND DEG

**Bellatorre,Haley** Lav, 51 Erie Ave, Narrowsburg, NY 12761, White, FEMALE 24 years old as of 3/07/2026, 2600014690, 53a-151 BREACH OF PEACE 2ND DEG CNTS: (1)

**EIKIN,MATTHEW** E, 73 Bear Mountain Rd, Danbury, CT 06811, White, MALE 56 years old as of 3/10/2026, 2600012451, 53a-152 DISORDERLY CONDUCT CNTS: (1)

**Estrada,Karen**, 92 Hospital AVE, Danbury, CT 06810, White, FEMALE 43 years old as of 3/06/2026, 2600014604, 30-38a(1) PERMIT MINOR TO POSSESS ALCOHOL CNTS: (1), 53a-151 BREACH OF PEACE 2ND DEG CNTS: (1)

**Foks,Andrzej** W, 392 Camp road, Grahamsville, NY 12740, White, MALE 66 years old as of 3/10/2026, 53a-125a LARCENY 5TH DEG CNTS: (1), 53a-151 CNTS: (1), 53a-125a, CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT/ LARCENY 5TH DEG, 53a-125a LARCENY 5TH DEG CNTS: (1), 53a-151 CNTS: (1), 53a-125a, CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT/ LARCENY 5TH DEG, 53a-125a LARCENY 5TH DEG CNTS: (1), 53a-151 CNTS: (1), 53a-125a, CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT/ LARCENY 5TH DEG

**Hall,Dominic**, 3 Hill ST, Seymour, CT 06483, White, MALE 20 years old as of 3/10/2026, 2600015600, 14-126a) OPERATE/PARKS UNREGISTERD MY CNTS: (1), 14-147(c) IMPROPER USE-MARKER LIC/RSTR CNTS: (1), 14-147a THEFT OF PLATES/INSERTS CNTS: (1), 14-213b ILL OPI MY NO MINIMUM INSURANCE CNTS: (1), 14-36(a)(2) + OP MY W/O PROPER INSTR/ATOR CNTS: (1)

**HANSEN,HARRY**, 7 Milltown Rd, New Fairfield, CT 06832, White, MALE 65 years old as of 3/07/2026, 2600014191, 14-227a ILL OPI MY UNDER INFL ALCO/DRUG CNTS: (1), 14-215 FLR GRANT RIGHT OF WAY INTERST CNTS: (1)

**Harrison,Nathan**, 6291 Avalon Viley DR, Danbury, CT 06810, Black, MALE 47 years old as of 3/08/2026, 2600015097, 53a-151 BREACH OF PEACE 2ND DEG CNTS: (1)

**Harrison,Nathan**, 6291 Avalon Viley DR, Danbury, CT 06810, Black, MALE 47 years old as of 3/08/2026, 2600015124, 53a-167a INTERFERE WITH OFFICER/RESISTING CNTS: (1), 53a-151 BREACH OF PEACE 2ND DEG CNTS: (1), 53a-223a VIOLATE COND OF RELEASE 2ND DEG CNTS: (1)

**Hanspurg,Braeden** James, 21 Heartstone DR, Brookfield, CT 06804, White, MALE 19 years old as of 3/06/2026, 2600014158, 14-227a(1)(3) EYDIE RESP-INJURY PROP DAMAGE CNTS: (1), 14-232a(1) IMP PASSING-TASAFE DISTANCE CNTS: (1)

**Bears,Stephen** M, 8 Lime Kiln RD, Dover Plains, NY 12522, White, MALE 66 years old as of 3/10/2026, 2600015666, 21a-267(a) USE OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA CNTS: (1), 21a-279a(1) POS CONTROL SUBSTANCE IST OFFENS CNTS: (1)

**Huilira-Pancar,Jorge**, 11 Cottage ST, Danbury, CT 06810, White, MALE 31 years old as of 3/07/2026, 2600014659, 14-227a ILL OPI MY UNDER INFL ALCO/DRUG CNTS: (1), 14-236 FLR TO DRIVE IN PROPER LANE CNTS: (1), 14-36(a) OPERATE MY WITHOUT LICENSE CNTS: (1)

**Hulse,Alexander** Fredrick, 9 Beaverbrook RD, Danbury, CT 06810, White, MALE 31 years old as of 3/06/2026, 2200026163, 53a-173 FAILURE TO APPEAR 2ND DEG CNTS: (1)

**Hulse,Alexander** Fredrick, 9 Beaverbrook RR, Danbury, CT 06810, White, MALE 31 years old as of 3/06/2026, 2200015367, 53a-173 FAILURE TO APPEAR 2ND DEG CNTS: (1)

**Hulse,Alexander** Fredrick, 9 Beaverbrook RD, Danbury, CT 06810, White, MALE 31 years old as of 3/06/2026, 2200073215, 53a-172 FAILURE TO APPEAR 1ST DEG CNTS: (1)

**Hulse,Alexander** Fredrick, 9 Beaverbrook RD, Danbury, CT 06810, White, MALE 31 years old as of 3/06/2026, 2200033100, 53a-173 FAILURE TO APPEAR 2ND DEG CNTS: (1)

**Hulse,Alexander** Fredrick, 9 Beaverbrook RR, Danbury, CT 06810, White, MALE 31 years old as of 3/06/2026, 2600014519, 53a-172 FAILURE TO APPEAR 1ST DEG CNTS: (1)

**Knight,John** Dempst, 1 Wondy WAY, Danbury, CT 06811, Black, MALE 56 years old as of 3/10/2026, 2600015685, 14-227a ILL

# Pets

## Meet Marco



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.

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

Marco does well with other dogs and cats of all ages and sizes, making him a great fit for a multi-pet household.

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

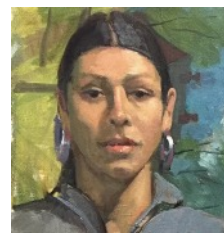
## Doing Good

### 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, MTL Writers Workshop (In-Person), 6:30 pm - 7:45 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding	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, Read to Mia, 5:45pm-6:00pm, Brookfield Library	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, Language Exchange at the Library In-Person, 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	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, 5:30pm-5:45pm, 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 Llanano 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:

- Cornhole
- Drinks and Snacks
- Patriotic music and community gathering
- Just a bunch of happy people 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 Ancestors 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 protecting them, by a weak Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States;

For taking away our Trade with all parts of the world;

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

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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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