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Hoppy Easter This Sunday!



The EASTER BUNNY is getting ready for the Annual HOPPY EASTER Egg Hunt at historic Lounsbury House on March 21st, 10am sharp. Details are online at <https://lounsburyhouse.org/event/hoppy-days-egg-hunt-3/> Event sponsors include: Four Seasons Racquet Club, J. Mulvaney Plumbing & Heating, Pamby Motors CJDR, and Books on the Common
Courtesy photo

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



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

Signs Of Spring



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

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off

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



Danbury Public Works
53 Newtown Rd., Danbury, CT
Sat., April 11, 2026 9:00am-2:00pm
Visit www.hrra.org for more information.

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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!
8 am to 4 pm Every Day!

417 Main St., Ridgefield
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. 470 Federal Rd B, Brookfield (203) 546-7232 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

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

Bagel Delight

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

Bethel Pizza House

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

Blue Colony Diner

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

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

Caraluzzi's

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

920 Danbury Rd, Wilton (203) 544-7021 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hunan Noodle Bar

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

Jacqueline's

This is my go to place for breakfast and lunch or just

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

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

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

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

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

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.queenbcoffee.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

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

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

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

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

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

Three Brothers Diner

Fast, friendly service, delicious food and an amazing dessert selection. 242 White St, Danbury (203) 748-6008 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

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

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

Did we miss your favorite? If we have, then please email Brad@CommunityGazette.com

Bethel 114 Greenwood Ave 203-885-2362	Redding 19 Main St 203-587-1050	Wilton 17 Danbury Rd 475-277-4313
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Delicious Moments with Every Bite

Catering 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.	Live Music 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.	21 Hole Mini Golf Our mini golf course is designed to complement your dining experience, offering a unique way to unwind after a delicious meal. It's a great spot for family gatherings or a casual day out. At Backdoor Chicken & Burgers, we pride ourselves on providing a welcoming environment where fun and food come together seamlessly. Get FREE mini golf with a small donation to the wounded veterans.	What Our Customers Say ★★★★★ Quick food service, Sandwiches are great. Very friendly and accommodating staff. — Ray V ★★★★★ Super friendly, and amazing food. Will be back a bunch. — Chris T ★★★★★ Some of the best fried chicken I have ever had, the strawberry sauce is phenomenal. — Damon C ★★★★★ This is our second time eating at Backdoor Chicken & Burgers and can't say enough about the owner!!! Everything we tried is absolutely fresh and soooo delicious from the breakfast sandwiches, to chicken wings to the yummy cheeseburger and the most scrumptious french fries. Stop by you won't be disappointed! — Donna S
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For The Record

Municipal Calendar

March 22, 2026 - Sunday

8:30am - 10:00am
IWB Sitewalk

9:00am - 10:30am
PZC Sitewalk

March 23, 2026 - Monday

7:00pm - 9:00pm
LGBTQ+ Game Night

7:00pm - 8:30pm
Board of Finance Public Hearing

March 24, 2026 - Tuesday

7:00pm - 10:00pm
Planning and Zoning Commission

7:00pm - 9:00pm
Board of Finance Budget Meeting

7:00pm - 8:30pm
LGBTQ+ Friends Support Group

7:00pm - 8:00pm
Board of Education Meeting

March 25, 2026 - Wednesday

7:00pm - 9:00pm
Board of Finance Budget Meeting

7:00pm - 8:30pm
Affordable Housing Committee Meeting

March 26, 2026 - Thursday

7:00pm - 10:00pm
Inland Wetlands Board Meeting

7:00pm - 9:00pm
Board of Finance Budget Meeting

7:00pm - 9:00pm
Public Safety Facilities Committee Meeting

7:00pm - 8:30pm
WPCA Meeting

March 27, 2026 - Friday

7:00pm - 9:00pm
Board of Finance Budget Meeting

March 30, 2026 - Monday

7:00pm - 9:00pm
Board of Finance Budget Meeting

7:00pm - 8:00pm
Insurance Risk Management Committee

Town of Ridgefield
Board of Selectpersons Meeting
Minutes
UNAPPROVED
March 4, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.
Town Hall Large Conference Room
400 Main Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut
NOTE: No video recording due to technical difficulty

Present: Rudy Marconi, Maureen Kozlark, Geoffrey Morris, Barbara Manners (virtual)

Absent: Sean Connelly

Rudy Marconi called the meeting to order at 6:35pm

1. Public comments — No public comments

2. Vendor Permit, Bridge Street Premium Ice Company LLC - Michael Cunningham

Ed Baer commented that he supports and approves of Bridge Street Premium Ice Company LLC. Michael Cunningham appeared for the renewal of the Bridge Street Ice Cream vendor Permit renewal. Mr. Cunningham reviewed his previous years work. Mr. Morris asked what his business learning experience had been in Ridgefield which Mr. Cunningham reviewed. He will be purchasing a new cart for his business and that business has been good. Excited for the upcoming year. Maureen Kozlark moved to approve Vendor Permit, Bridge Street Premium Ice Company LLC - Michael Cunningham, Sean Connelly seconded, Motion carries 4-0. (Mr. Connelly absent)

3. Appointment/Reappointment Architectural Advisory Committee — appointment (alternate) Elizabeth Ziemann. Mr. Marconi introduced Ms. Ziemann to the B08 and asked for her to give an overview of her experience and why the AAC (Architectural Advisory Committee). Ms. Ziemann reviewed her years of experience as an architect and specifically her familiarity with the Building Code and how it relates to design etc. She has the time available and would like to give back to the community using her experience. Ziemann — Architectural Advisory Committee, Geoffrey Morris seconded. Motion carries 4-0.

4. RHA - update on accomplishments and future (Vincent Liscio)

Attending:

Mr. Vincent Liscio — Chair

Mr. Paul Janerico - Treasurer (soon to retire)

Mr. Ed Baird - Board member

Ms. Maree MacPherson — Board member and Tenant Representative

Mr. Derick Shirm - recently appointed Board member

Mr. Indra Sen - recently appointed Board member and future Treasurer.

Mr. Wade Lockwood — REM Management Company as well as Wesley Robinson. Mr. Liscio gave an introductory overview of the Ridgefield Housing Authority and submitted a review of 2025. He then turned the presentation over to Mr. Janerico who went into a financial detail of the Housing Authority. The Housing Authority is now in excellent financial condition with very few vacancies. (see attached report).

Maureen Kozlark moved to change the order of agenda item #5 Veterans Exemption to # 6. Geoffrey Morris seconded, Motion carries 4-0.

5. Conservation Commission — Pound Street Extension Parking — Mr. Erik Keller Chair of the Conservation Commission, to request authority by the Commission to install a gravel entrance approximately 100 feet into newly donated open space located at the end of Pound Street Ext. Maps were reviewed and a letter has been sent to all neighbors notifying them of this request. Anyone with questions or concerns Should attend the Conservation Commission meeting on March 9 or call (203) 431-271 3 or email conservation@ridgefieldct.gov.

6. Veterans Exemption — Connecticut State statute has been amended to allow a 100% property tax exemption for veterans who are 100% disabled. Mr. Garzi, Assessor provided a breakdown of costs associated with this exemption in Ridgefield. The Town currently has approximately 14 individuals classified 100% disabled and who now receive a house only deduction. The amended statute allows for an additional two (2) acres maximum and will cost an approximate \$99,000. There was no motion. The BOS would like for a full attendance of the Board for this vote which will be scheduled for March 18.

Geoffrey Morris moved to approve Conservation Commission — Pound Street Extension Parking. Maureen Kozlark seconded, Motion carries 3-1 (Barbara voted no)

7. Approval of Meeting minutes

a. February TS, 2026

Maureen Kozlark moved to approve the February 18, 2026 Meeting minutes as amended. Geoffrey Morris seconded, Motion carries 3-0-1 (Barbara Manners abstained).

Maureen Kozlark moved to adjourn meeting at 9:30pm.. Geoffrey Morris seconded, Motion carries 4-0.

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 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.

Marco does well with other dogs

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.

Despite that difficult beginning, he has shown remarkable resilience. Since coming into foster care 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 Skill! 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, 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, Read to Mia, 5:45pm-6:00pm, Brookfield Library	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 Llanuro 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 to them and formidable to tyrants only.

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 large taxes of blood and treasure 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 disown these usurpations, 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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