

Town of Barkhamsted

Weekly Email

January 8, 2026

From the Selectman's Office

I have spent the past few months getting more familiar with Town Committees, Boards, Regional and State Organizations. Nick helped to make the transition easier by keeping information flowing and recommended where focus might be needed. I am making an effort to attend board meetings for a better stream of communication. There have been a number of residents stopping in with much appreciated well wishes.

As I settle in, suggestions have been presented to potentially set routine office hours. At this point, my door will be open for residents to stop by from 9 am - 4:30 pm, Monday - Thursday, with the exception of a significant number of meetings that may be preplanned or spontaneous. I have been staying in the office later when evening meetings arise. I am keeping Friday hours, by appointment. I would suggest calling ahead or emailing me at MCOOK@Barkhamsted.us, to avoid wasted trips.

A common topic I am hearing is the desire for some community members to become more involved or to volunteer, but are not sure how or where they might fit in best. We want to hear from you, share your interests and skill sets. I am confident there will be a spot for you to make a difference.

It has been a busy week and I am excited to be a part of it all. Thank you for your continued support to better our community.

Meaghan Cook
Barkhamsted First Selectman

Road Closure

The Town of Colebrook will be conducting some tree work on Riverton Rd in Colebrook on Monday January 12.

The Road will be closed at the intersection of RT 20 in Riverton from 8 am to 3 pm.

Town Hall Information

For meeting schedules, please click the link below:

<https://www.barkhamsted.us/municipal-calendar>

Town Hall offices will be closed on Monday, January 19th in observance of
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Important Notice to Connecticut Municipal Taxpayers: USPS Postmark Rule Change

Effective December 24, 2025, the United States Postal Service (USPS) implemented a change in how postmarks are applied to mailed items. Under the new USPS rule, the postmark date appearing on an envelope may no longer represent the date the item was received by the USPS. Instead, the postmark generally reflects the date when the mailpiece is first processed by USPS automated sorting equipment, which may occur at a regional processing facility one or more days after mailing.

Why This Matters for Connecticut Tax Payments and Filings

This change may affect Connecticut taxpayers who rely on the postmark date to establish timely payment of real property taxes, motor vehicle taxes, personal property taxes, sewer use charges, other municipal assessments, and even your state and federal tax filings. A payment or filing mailed on or before a due date could receive a postmark dated after the due date, resulting in the payment or filing being considered late.

Connecticut municipalities are statutorily required to determine the timeliness of mailed tax payments based on the USPS postmark date. Late tax payments are subject to statutory interest calculated from the due date, additional charges or fees where applicable, and potential collection or lien actions as provided by law. Late Personal Property Declarations are subject to a 25% Personal Property assessment penalty and late Income & Expense filings are subject to a 10% Real Estate assessment penalty.

How Taxpayers Can Ensure Timely Credit

To avoid interest and penalties, Connecticut taxpayers are advised to plan ahead and obtain proof of mailing for time-sensitive payments or filings. *Note, the rule explicitly warns that customer-applied pre-printed labels (e.g., from Self Service Kiosks, Click-N-Ship, or postage meters) only show when postage was printed, not when the USPS accepted the item.*

- You are strongly encouraged to request a hand-canceled postmark at a USPS retail counter (even with Certified Mail) or use Registered Mail. When paying for postage at a USPS retail counter, the Postage Validation Imprint (PVI) label applied by the USPS also indicates the date of acceptance.
- Use of outdoor collection boxes on or near the due date is discouraged for municipal tax payments and any assessment filings that specify postmarks are accepted for meeting due dates.

For questions regarding tax due dates, acceptable payment methods, or interest calculations, please contact your local Tax Collector's Office.



If you have a child or know of someone with a child living in Barkhamsted who is eligible for the 2026/2027 school year, please call the school at (860)379-2729. Children must be 5 years old by September 1, 2026.

Box of Hope

The Box of Hope, located outside, near the lower level of the Town Hall, has many non-perishable items, including canned goods and pasta. There are also some personal items available. Free and available to everyone.



The Riverton American Legion Post 159 and the Riverton Grange would like to share this information with the Town of Barkhamsted.

We conduct the Barkhamsted Veterans recognition ceremony.

At our next ceremony we will honor the military service of John Ives Jr. and his son Jessie Ives. Both men are buried behind the Riverton Fire house in the Old Union church cemetery.

In addition to being Revolutionary soldiers both men were important figures in our local history, during this ceremony we will present their biographical backgrounds.

The ceremony will be presented at the Riverton Grange Hall on Sunday February 1, 2026, 6:00pm. The Grange Hall is handicap accessible.

The Veterans Ceremony is a FREE public event that is family friendly.

ATTENTION ARTISTS!

The America 250 Committee is excited to host a Painted Chair Auction in April 2026 — a creative community fundraiser benefiting upcoming America 250 programs and events.

How to Participate

- Find an old but sturdy chair.
- Paint or decorate it in any theme you like — patriotic, whimsical, artistic, humorous... the possibilities are endless!
- Submit your finished chair by mid-March 2026 for display prior to the auction.

Prizes

A special award will be given for the **“Most Favorite Chair”**, as selected by attendees.

Why Participate?

All proceeds from the auction will go directly toward supporting America 250 community celebrations, programs, and events.

For more information or to sign up, please contact Erica Dyndiuk at 860 379 8285 or Debbie Brydon at 860 379 1314.



NATURE RANGERS CLUB



Calling All Budding Naturalists!

Hello from the Nature Rangers Club, a program for preschoolers where little ones are introduced to the world of nature. Each month we feature a species of local flora and/or fauna found here in our beautiful Northwestern Hills. Blending art & science, sessions include ecological tidbits reinforced with an associated storybook reading, arts & crafts and more.

Please come join us!

DATE & TIME

January 14th @ 10:30 am

LOCATION

Hartland Public Library
61 Center Street
West Hartland, CT 06091

*Sponsored by North Woods Land Conservancy
Graciously hosted by the Hartland Public Library*

Registration required at dcnaturerangers@gmail.com
Children must be accompanied by parent/guardian at all times



Bunco Comes to Barkhamsted!

Sponsored by Barkhamsted Women's Club

Date: Friday, February 6

Place: Community Room @ Town Garage, Route 44 Time:

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

Raffle tickets will be sold at the door

First game at 6:30 p.m.

Cost: \$20.00 per person

Must pre-order tickets - limited seating

Purchase tickets by Monday, February 2

Light appetizers & dessert

BYOB

Order tickets <https://square.link/u/ya0BW0hU>

Or

SCAN (QR code below) or EMAIL today!

CTBWC1971@gmail.com

Barkhamsted Women's Club is excited to present a fun evening...Bunco Comes to Barkhamsted! Bunco, a popular dice game, is easy to learn and play and offers participants an opportunity to enjoy friendly competition while mingling with neighbors and friends.

Refreshments, prizes & plenty of laughter! Raffles! Come support the Barkhamsted Women's Club. The fundraiser supports the town scholarships, Community Food Bank, Books for Kindergarteners, Teacher Appreciation Breakfast and many other community groups & activities.



Senior/Community Center News

Welcome to the New Year. Of course, everyone, especially me, will be writing 2025 on checks and other documents for a while. And I apologize if I created confusion last week with my typo regarding the dates, the Center's hours, and the menu. Hopefully, I am back on track and will try to proofread better. Unfortunately, proofreading has never been my strong point.

We are back to our normal schedule except for the possibility of foul weather, but we cannot predict that ahead of time.

Now to the schedule of events and meals:

LUNCH – Tuesday, January 13 – Menu is TBD

BREAKFAST – Thursday, January 15 – Cooked to order, as usual -- your choice of eggs any way you prefer, bacon, sausage links or patties, ham, pancakes, French toast, waffles, home fries, hash, fresh fruit, juices and more.



As always, meals are \$5.00 – additional donations are always welcome. Gluten-free options are also available, so please let us know if those dishes are something you would like or need. We also try to accommodate other dietary restrictions for those who cannot eat certain foods.

Here are the upcoming activities:

Mondays and Wednesdays – 11:30-12:30 – Tai Chi – The classes are \$5 and are held Monday and Wednesday each week. Feel free to join us even if you have never tried it. I can vouch for the fact that it really helps your flexibility and balance, and in my case, it really seems to help my back and leg pain. And it is focused on seniors who are beginners, so none of us need to worry about not looking like a pro.

Monday, January TBD – Rich Madara's three courses were a huge hit with those who attended, and everyone felt that they learned a lot especially about their tablets and computers and there was a focus on Gemini (AI) and how to use it. We are looking for ideas for additional courses (smart phone use?), so please let me know about anything electronic with which you would like to get help. Richard Madara, a Barkhamsted resident, has conducted the classes and is anxious to continue. He is an award-winning instructor, leader, and coach with over 15 years of experience in the technology field. He began his career in telecommunications tech support before moving into sales leadership. He now works for a Fortune 200 IT organization as a leader in Learning and Development and technical training supporting coworkers all over the globe. We are very fortunate that he has volunteered his time to help our folks. Everyone who attended his classes thought they were valuable and enjoyable.

Tuesday, January 20 - 6:00PM - we will have our monthly Trivia night. These continue to be great successes thanks to Bob and Linda Pulford. Everyone is welcome whether you are part of a team or come by yourself. We always have room for individuals to join a table even if you are new to the group.

Thursday, January TBD - Weeders and Readers is a group that meets during the Spring/Summer months as a garden club and during the Fall/Winter it becomes a book club. Meetings are normally the last Thursday of the month beginning at 9.30 a.m. They will not be meeting in January, but their meetings will resume in February. For further information, please call/text Lorna Delaney (860) 379-6419. This group was also responsible for the beautiful Christmas tree you have seen on the patio outside the Center.

If you would like to hold a crafts or other activity or conduct an exercise class, please let me know. If you have ideas for events or programs you would like to have us schedule, please reach out to me and I will work to get them on the calendar.

Debbie Washington, who created the Barkhamsted, CT Senior Group, Facebook page has volunteered for it to be the home page for the Senior and Community Center. I post everything on that page, so if you don't want to go to the Barkhamsted town page or Barkhamsted Town Chatter, bookmark that group.

As I have mentioned, we are still collecting food for the Community Food Bank in Barkhamsted. It is extremely important that those who can help, contribute what they can, even if it is a small amount. The food bank is at the Pleasant Valley Methodist Church and does a great service for those in need. Check their Facebook page for their operating hours. Their Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61551048540688>

IF SCHOOL IS DELAYED, HAS AN EARLY DISMISSAL OR IS CANCELLED, OR IF WE THINK THAT CONDITIONS ARE TOO DANGEROUS, THE SENIOR CENTER WILL BE CLOSED. ANY PROGRAMS OR MEALS SCHEDULED WILL BE CANCELLED OR POSTPONED. PLEASE LOOK ON THE TOWN FACEBOOK PAGE OR THE BARKHAMSTED, CT SENIOR PAGE FOR NOTIFICATIONS, OR WATCH YOUR FAVORITE LOCAL TV STATION TO SEE WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH THE LOCAL SCHOOLS.

I hope everyone has a good week and has been able to relax after the busy holidays.

Don Stein