

# Town of Barkhamsted

## Weekly Town Email

January 15, 2026

### **From the Desk of First Selectman, Meaghan H. Cook**

This week has been full of new opportunities to learn.

We started the lessons with what appears to be a weather-related motor vehicle incident involving an Amazon truck fueled by CNG, compressed natural gas. The tank had come off its mounting, concern of potential leaking lead to swift action on the part of our first responders to request the assistance of DEEP to manage the potential hazard. I am told this is the first incident of its kind. Although it took many hours of clean up and significant detours, a successful outcome was reached. Our gratitude is extended to the multiple town and state agencies for their teamwork in this situation.

A member of the community gardens is working with me to submit a Northwest CT Community Foundation Grant request to replace the aging, wooden garden beds.

Last ditch efforts to reinstate a potentially lost road improvement grant are being pursued in cooperation with Army Core of Engineers.

Our first Board of Selectman meeting for 2026 was well attended, the minutes will be posted to the Town website shortly, if not already.

I sat in on a FVHD Food Insecurity Conference in Avon. Debbie Brydon and I were delighted to join the conference with our food bank volunteers, Barbara Hunter, and Elizabeth Martin, also in attendance, to address the growing needs within the Town and the community at large. We will meet again to discuss and implement ways to remove the stigma related to food assistance programs and keeping our neighbors healthy.



## Tax Office Information

### January 15, 2026

If you purchased a vehicle between the dates of October 2, 2024 and September 30, 2025, you should have received a supplemental tax bill by now. If you think you should have received a bill and have not, call or email the tax office. Payments need to be in the office or postmarked by Monday, February 2, 2026 to avoid interest and penalties.

The second installment of real estate and personal property bills mailed out in June, 2025 are also due and payable by Monday, February 2, 2026. There is no mailing of these tax bills at this time of year – a stub was included with the July stub. Please go online or call if you need a copy.

Last week information was sent out concerning when the post office will be postmarking mail. Please take that into consideration if you are going to mail your tax payment. The tax office is required to take the post office postmark or, in the absence of a postmark, the date of receipt as the date paid. It is best to enter a post office and ask that your envelope be hand cancelled to insure you will not be subject to late penalties if you are paying at the end of the month. Payments made online through your bank DO NOT have a postmark so be sure to schedule your payment to be sent a few days prior to the last day to pay.

Remember to review your check before sending a payment in. Be sure:

- the amount is correct
- the numeric and written portions match and are correct
- the date is correct (2026 now)
- the check is signed.

Also, please be sure the necessary funds are in your account prior to paying the taxes. Many banks process withdrawals first. If we cannot deposit your check and return it, it will be considered late if paid after February 2, 2025.

Tax office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:30 – 4:30. Please call or email us if you have any questions.

Terri Collins, CCMC  
(860) 738-4762  
tcollins@barkhamsted.us

## **Town Hall and Road Crew News**

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

**The DPW** has hired a contractor to cut brush along the steep, rocky terrain on West River Road. This area was last cleared many years ago by hand, and the brush would soon be overhanging the roadway.

This approach is a cost-effective way to maintain areas that our roadside mower cannot safely reach. In addition, we plan to remove dead trees in the same area, as well as in other sections of West River Road.

**Radon Testing Kits** are available at the Town Hall. Please see Debbie or Erica on the upper level.

## **Healing Meals Community Project Information**

Healing Meals Community Project does more than just deliver meals; they build a community of care that sustains and enriches lives at every turn.

Please click the link below to learn more about how this service may help you or someone you know.

<https://www.healingmealsproject.org/healthy-meals-program/>

## **Barkhamsted Youth Baseball/Softball Registration**

Registration is open until March 8th. Please click the link below to register.

<https://barkhamstedbaseball.sportngin.com/register/form/398528975>





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.

### **Senior/Community Center News**

I cannot believe that almost all the snow is gone, but everyone still needs to exercise care in the mornings due to black ice which forms overnight. This does seem like an old-fashioned January thaw, even though as I recall, they normally come at the end of January.

We are back to our normal schedule for lunch and dinner and other events, except for the possibility of foul weather, but we cannot predict that ahead of time. I know many folks are reluctant to come out considering the flu and other bugs that are out there, but I want to reassure you that we do everything in our power to keep folks safe. Please remember that meals can be put in “to go” containers if you do not want to be in a crowd.

Now to the schedule of events and meals:

LUNCH – Tuesday, January 20th – Macaroni & Cheese, vegetables and cupcakes for dessert.

BREAKFAST – Thursday, January 22nd – 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:

Monday and Wednesday – 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 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. There was a focus on Gemini (AI) and how to use it and we are looking for ideas for additional courses. Smart phone use or more information on AI come to mind, but please let me know about anything else electronic or related to computers or phones that you would like to get help

with. Richard Madara, a Barkhamsted resident, has conducted the classes and is interested in continuing to help folks.

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 or the game.



Thursday, February 26, after breakfast - 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.

Friday, January 30, 6:30 – the Traveling Trout will be start up their evening music fests at the Center. Come on down and bring snacks and beverages and enjoy this great local band. We are grateful they are willing to play for us, and they always do a great job.

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.

Have a good week! - Don Stein



# 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](mailto: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.



## **ATTENTION ARTISTS!**

The Barkhamsted 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.

