

Town of Barkhamsted

Weekly Email

February 19, 2026

From the Desk of Meaghan Cook

This week has been jam-packed and productive.

I've reignited conversations with our partners to move forward on two grants already in motion, one for electric vehicle charging stations and another focused on improvements to West River Road. Both projects represent important investments in our town's infrastructure and long-term sustainability, and I'm encouraged by the renewed momentum even if it is at a snail's pace.

On Monday evening, I attended the monthly meeting of the Barkhamsted Historical Society at Squire's Tavern. It's an active and dedicated group committed to preserving our town's historic presence and significant buildings. We had a great conversation about ways we can continue working together to protect and celebrate Barkhamsted's rich history. Paul Hart also rallied additional participants to get creative and submit a chair for the upcoming auction, a wonderful example of community spirit and involvement.

Jim Shanley led a tabletop workshop at Barkhamsted Elementary School to address coordinated response efforts in the event of a potential large-scale incident. Representatives from the school, the Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, Connecticut State Police, Barkhamsted and New Hartford first responders, our Road Crew Foreman, and myself participated. These are the uncomfortable conversations that must be addressed to ensure the best possible outcomes in the face of terrible circumstances. Preparation, communication, and coordination are critical, and I'm grateful for the professionalism and commitment shown by everyone at the table.

Tuesday night brought a well-attended Board of Finance meeting. Did I mention it's budget season? We are deep in the work, reviewing needs, balancing priorities, and focusing on responsible planning for the year ahead. It's a collaborative effort, and we are committed to thoughtful decisions that reflect both fiscal responsibility and the needs of our community.

There is a lot of good work happening across our town. Thank you to everyone who continues to serve, volunteer, participate, and stay engaged as we move Barkhamsted forward together.

Have a good week - Meaghan

Barkhamsted Elementary School

The Elementary School is putting together a pickleball fundraiser on Feb. 22nd at Dill Dinkers for the American Heart Association and Barkhamsted PE. No experience in pickleball is necessary to show up, and instruction for beginners will be available to anyone who wants some! Thank you!! (click the link below for more information)



SERVING UP HEART HEALTH

Barkhamsted School

February 9, 2026

Kid's Heart Challenge ~Supporting Barkhamsted PE

America 250

Don't forget to send in your Registration Form for the Painted Chair Auction! The committee is meeting February 25th to continue discussions on events, programs and fundraising. **SAVE THE DATE** – June 6, 2026 for our town picnic and evening event.

Please see all the attached flyers for news and information about the chair auction, stars and flower garden contest.





AMERICA 250 FUNDRAISERS

Imagine our town lit up with red/white/blue stars to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence

Decorate your home or business with a star(s) to celebrate and raise funds for exciting events to take place in 2026

Call Erica or Debbie at the Town Hall to pre order – 860 379 8285 or see Leslie at the Riverton General Store

The Logo above is being sold as a magnet – Display on your car, fridge, file cabinets, etc. Available for purchase at the Town Hall or Riverton General Store

\$7.00



Join in the Patriotic Flower Garden Contest (entry Fee)

Start planning your spring & summer gardens now! Brighten up Barkhamsted with a Patriotic theme. More information coming soon.



Register for Fun Programs with the Barkhamsted Recreation Department

New Pickleball Late Winter and Spring 2026 Session!



End of Winter/Spring Pickleball

It is time to get off the couch and join us for the very fun and new Pickleball Spring Session. All levels and abilities are welcome. This fun sport combines many elements of tennis, badminton and ping-pong. You will get great exercise and have a blast.

Day-Wednesdays

Location-Barkhamsted Elementary School gym

Time-6:00-9:00 p.m. (this program is for adults (**high school students are also welcome**)

Dates- February 18, 25, March 4, 11, 25, April 1, 8, 22, 29, May 6 and May 13 is a backup bad weather day.

Please pre-register through this link- <https://forms.gle/J3F9eBLuwnhgWoyP6>

Fee: \$20.00 for residents, \$25.00 for non-residents (no pro-rations) Pre-registration is required. Registration deadline is February 18 at Demo night. Please bring your

own paddle and wear sneakers. Please mail your registration to The Barkhamsted Recreation Department- Attention Donna Bastrzycki-Recreation Director 67 Ripley Hill Road, Pleasant Valley, CT 06063 or bring your payment to the Free Demo night on Wed. Feb. 18, 2026



Spring Karate

Spring Karate 2026 (For Children and Adults)

Children's Program- Class 1

Thursdays, 3/5, 3/12, 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, 4/23, 4/30, 5/14, the program will be held in the Barkhamsted Elementary School in the Gym or Library from 6:00-6:45 p.m. (No Class on May 7)

White Belts (Beginners ages 5 to 12)

Little Dragons-(ages 5 & 6)-Basic Karate skills, Basic Kata, target drills and exercise, simple self defense

Mighty Tigers (ages 7 & 8)-Stronger Karate basics and Kata, Stretching, exercise, target drills and self defense

Karate Rangers (ages 9-12)-Karate Basics, including kicking, kata, self-defense, exercise to level, target drills

Fee: \$80.00 for the eight-week session (New-\$5.00 discount for each additional family member that signs up) *****Note***New students are white belts and receive uniform**

Fee includes: Belt and/or Stripe, Belt or Stripe Test and Certificate (Note: Promotion to higher belt levels will require multiple sessions)

Family/Teen and Adult Karate – Class 2

Thursdays, 3/5, 3/12, 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, 4/23, 4/30, 5/14, program will be held in the Barkhamsted Elementary School in the Gym or Library from 7:00-7:45 p.m. (No Class on May 7) in the Gym or Library 7:00-7:45 p.m.

White Belts (Beginners ages 13 and up)-7:00 to 7:45 p.m.

Teen/Adults-(Ages 13 and up)-Kenpo Karate Forms and Self Defense Techniques, Basic kicking drills.

This is a great opportunity to learn karate with family members or solo.

\$80.00 per 8 week sessions **New-\$5.00 discount for each additional family member that signs up for Karate!**

*****Note***New students are white belts and receive uniform**

Please pre-register through this link- **spring Karate 2026 link**

Egg Hunt and Visit with the Easter Bunny and Photos



When: Saturday, April 4 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Where: (The Riverton Fair Grounds) Riverton, CT

The Easter Bunny will be visiting the Shops in Riverton first (2 School Street, Riverton, CT) so be sure to go over and say hi before heading over the Riverton Fair Grounds. The egg hunt will begin at approximately 1:30 p.m. (Please don't be late!!) We have prize categories for all ages and this year; we will have an egg hunt for adults. (Some eggs will have coupons and prizes from local Riverton and Barkhamsted vendors!!) What to Bring: Please be sure to bring an Easter Basket or bag for you and your child to join in on the Easter Egg Hunt, a smile! The children will be divided into two separate age groups for a toy and candy filled Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Recreation Commission. Then parents and caregivers will have their chance to go on their own egg hunt too!! The Event will be held rain, snow or shine!!! (If you are a local vendor/business owner and would like to participate or contribute to the prizes, please contact Donna Bastrzycki, Barkhamsted Recreation Director barkhamstedrec@barkhamsted.us

Register today at: [Easter egg hunt 2026](#)



Barkhamsted Recreation Summer Camp

Save the Date!

July 20-24, 2026

Recreation Summer Camp-Save the Date! (July 20-24, 2026)

Get ready for loads of fun at the annual week long Barkhamsted Recreation Camp. There are new special events, crafts and water fun planned for each day. We hope your child will be a part of the 2026 camp! Barkhamsted Recreation Summer camp will be held July 20-24, 2026. The registration for Camp will be held **April 3-June 1 or when program is full. Be sure to register early. Spots are limited.**

Register at: [summer camp 2026 registration link](#)

Summer Help Wanted!

Applications are being accepted for Counselors, Junior Counselors and staff for Summer Camp. Please complete the application from this link-

[SummerCampHelpWanted Link](#)

Deadline is-Monday, April 6 or when positions are full (completed applications must be received by this date.)

Please mail or drop off summer payments to Barkhamsted Parks and Recreation Department -67 Ripley Hill Road Pleasant Valley, CT 06063 and also in the white drop box in front of town hall. **Karate, Pound and Pickleball** payments can be brought on the first night of the program. Please sign up before the deadlines to reserve your spot for programs and ensure your spot and “like” the town of Barkhamsted on Facebook to stay up to date with current events and programs.

Community/Senior Center News & Events

I reached out to the contact for the “Northwestern Regional 7's Principal's Advisory Council Community Outreach and Engagement Subcommittee” and told her that we would like to plan a senior center night with them at the Barkhamsted Senior/Community Center. She will get back to me with more details on the event and the timing.

Schedule of events and meals:

LUNCH – Tuesday, February 24 – 12:00 noon – To Be Determined

BREAKFAST – Thursday, February 26 – 7:30 – 9:00 – 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 cocktail, orange juice 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, February 23 and Wednesday, February 25 – 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 looking like an amateur. Classes will take place both Monday and Wednesday this coming week.

Monday, February 23 – 9:30 – Rich Madara will be conducting sessions to help folks with their computers and smart phones. More about smart phone use and more information on AI (Gemini) will be included in subsequent sessions. You can also ask specific questions of Rich, who is an IT expert, as these sessions are very informal. Please let me know about anything else electronic or related to computers or phones with which you would like to get help.

Thursday, February 26 - 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. For further information, please call or text Lorna Delaney (860) 379-6419.

Friday, February 27, 6:30 - the Traveling Trout will be starting up their monthly jam sessions for 2026. Everyone is welcome to join, admission is free (although donations are welcome), and the music is lively. If you want to sing along, you are more than welcome. Please join us for a really great evening out.

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.

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Northwestern Regional 7 Presents *The Addams Family*
A Delightfully Dark Musical Comedy with Heart

WINSTED, CT, Feb. 17 — Northwestern Regional 7 proudly presents *The Addams Family*, a spooky, funny, and heartfelt musical comedy based on Charles Addams' cartoons and the iconic TV classic. Performances will take place **Friday, March 27, at 7:00 p.m., Saturday, March 28, at 7:00 p.m., and a matinee show on Sunday, March 29, at 2:00 p.m.** in the NWR7 Auditorium.

The musical follows Wednesday Addams, who has fallen in love with a “normal” young man. When his family comes to dinner, two worlds collide, secrets are revealed, and both families are forced to reconsider what it truly means to love and belong.

The production features a talented student cast representing the towns of Barkhamsted, Colebrook, New Hartford and Norfolk. Principal actors include:

- **Gomez Addams** – Gustavo Zurita (Senior, Barkhamsted)
- **Morticia Addams** – Ivy Wallace (Senior, New Hartford)
- **Wednesday Addams** – Kaileigh Grant (Senior, Barkhamsted)
- **Lucas Beineke** – Domonic Salz (Senior, Norfolk)
- **Uncle Fester** – Maribelle Roach (Junior, Barkhamsted)
- **Alice Beineke** – Violet Swanson (Sophomore, New Hartford)
- **Mal Beineke** – Levi Swanson (Senior, New Hartford)
- **Grandma Addams** – Krystal Janak (Junior, Colebrook)
- **Pugsley Addams** – Lorelai DeCerbo (Freshman, Norfolk)
- **Lurch** – Juan Pablo Urbina Labarrere (Senior, New Hartford)

Just as essential to the production are the student crew members, whose work in set construction, lighting, sound, costumes, and stage management brings the Addams’ eerie world to life. Together with the cast, nearly 50 students participate in the production, led by directors Ann DeCerbo and John DeShazo, with support from choreographer Kristin Mudge, musical director Dylan Pedersen, and costumer Sue Zygmont.

“You won’t be able to help singing along to this delightfully macabre musical,” said Director Ann DeCerbo. “Beneath its spooky exterior, *The Addams Family* celebrates love, individuality, and accepting people for who they are. Our students bring it to life beautifully!”

Event Details:

The Addams Family

Dates: March 27 & 28 at 7:00 p.m.; March 29 at 2:00 p.m.

Location: Northwestern Regional 7 High School, 100 Battistoni Drive, Winsted, CT 06098

Tickets available at the door or online at www.ticketleap.events/tickets/nwrtheater/addams#/

Registration Entry Form – Painted Chair Auction



Name: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Theme of Chair: _____

Business or Website if applicable: _____

Entry is FREE. All funds raised by the auction will be to benefit the Barkhamsted America 250 Events and programs taking place in 2026 to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence.

If you are a business donating a chair or an artist advertising your skills, please attach a business card to this entry form so that we may display it along with the chair.

Entry forms must be received no later than March 16, 2026. Painted chairs must be delivered for display to the Barkhamsted Community/Senior Center, 109 West River Road, Barkhamsted between March 30 and April 1. They will be on display from April 1 through April 18th when the silent auction takes place. Entry forms may be emailed to edyniuk@barkhamsted.us or mailed to Town of Barkhamsted, Attn: Erica, 67 Ripley Hill Road, Barkhamsted, CT 06063.

The artist of the chair with the highest bid will win a prize in the form of a Gift Card

Barkhamsted Residence is not necessary. Open to Everyone!

Winsted Soldiers' Monument Commission
Presents
Winter Lecture Series

Three Monthly Saturdays in 2026

From 10:30AM to 12 Noon

Beardsley Library, 40 Munro Place, Winsted

*"We Hold These Truths..." The Philosophy Behind the Constitution
Outlining the profound thinkers and ideas that went into
American constitutional government*

January 24, 2026 - Professor Hamish Lutris

The Great Tariffville Train Wreck of 1878

The Story of Engineer George Hatch and other Winsted Victims

*February 21, 2026 - Benjamin Cruson,
local Historian and Librarian*

The Radium Girls

The Tragic Story of Women in the Clock and Watch Industries

*March 21, 2026 - Colleen Nicastro, Director of Interpretation
The American Clock and Watch Museum*

*All lectures begin promptly at 10:30AM; refreshments will be provided.
Sponsored by the Winsted Soldiers' Monument Commission*