

Town of Barkhamsted

Weekly Town Email

March 5, 2026



Don't forget to change your clocks!

[From the Desk of Meaghan Cook, First Selectman](#)

This week has been full of the kind of energy that only the anticipation of spring can bring.

I had the pleasure of meeting with the Riverton Fishing Derby Association to firm up plans for this year's derby. One of my favorite traditions is the fish release from Harding Hatchery, scheduled for Friday evening, April 10. Watching the kids line the riverbanks, buckets in hand and smiles from ear to ear, is something special. Their excitement is infectious, and it's a great reminder of how much this tradition means to our community.

I'm also working with the Union Ag. Society of Barkhamsted, Colebrook and Hartland to provide off-street parking and overnight dry camping for the faithful fishermen who make the trip to Riverton each year. The Hitchcock Chair Company has stepped up once again to donate the famous Grand Prize Rocking Chair, a fan favorite. Derby Day is Saturday, April 11, and you'll find me at the firehouse on scale duty. No, I don't clean the fish! Not those scales.

I also met with the volunteers from the Community Garden to review plans for the new and improved raised beds. This year brings a major upgrade, running water, on demand! It's a big improvement that will make a real difference for the gardeners who keep the space thriving. Their efforts also provide fresh produce for our food pantry.

On the project front, there have been slight but encouraging bits of progress with both the EV Charging Station grant and the Trip grant for the West River Road.

Spring can't get here soon enough. It can only mean pothole season is on the horizon. Be well and check on your neighbors. - Meaghan

Barkhamsted Historical Society

Come hear BHS Historian, Paul Hart lecture on "Barkhamsted in the Revolutionary War on March 13th, 2026, at 7 p.m. at the Barkhamsted Senior/Community Center, 109 West River Road, Barkhamsted.

Admission is FREE and refreshments will be served.

Northwestern Regional #7

Good afternoon Barkhamsted Residents:

I am happy to be sending a message that *is not about the weather!* I'm very pleased to share my latest January/February edition of the [Highlander Highlights District Newsletter](#). This newsletter highlights an expansive variety of topics and events that took place during the months of January and February, and also some exciting upcoming events that I hope you will consider attending and supporting. I encourage you to take a few minutes to look through this newsletter, as I think you'll find it to have something of interest to everyone. As always, I welcome any feedback or questions related to this newsletter or just in general.

Warm regards,

Steve LePage, NWR7 Superintendent

Senior/Community Center News & Events

LUNCH – Tuesday, March 10 – 12:00 noon –meat loaf, mashed potatoes, corn and ice cream.



BREAKFAST – Thursday, March 12– 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, March 9 and Wednesday, March 11 – 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.

Monday, March 9 - 9:30 -- Rich Madara will be conducting another one of his very informative sessions to help folks with their computers and smart phones. More about smart phone use and more information on AI (Gemini) will be included. 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.

Tuesday, March 17 - 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, March 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. For further information, please call or text Lorna Delaney (860) 379-6419.

Friday, April 10 - 6:30 - the Traveling Trout will be back for 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.

I am still waiting to hear back from the “Northwestern Regional 7's Principal's Advisory Council Community Outreach and Engagement Subcommittee”. I believe they are still planning to hold a senior center night with them and us at the Barkhamsted Senior/Community Center. She will get back to me with more details on the event and the timing. I am also waiting to hear back from the Barkhamsted School librarian about the plans for the 5th grade class to hold an event with the seniors.

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>. They are open

every other week on Monday and Thursday. This week, they are closed, but will be open on Monday, March 9 from 4-7 PM and on Thursday March 12 from 2-4 PM.

PLEASE REMEMBER: 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

W A R N I N G

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF BARKHAMSTED
MARCH 10, 2026
7:00 P.M.**

All electors and persons qualified to vote in town meetings of the Town of Barkhamsted (the "Town") are hereby notified that the Board of Selectmen of the Town are convening a Special Town Meeting to be held at the Barkhamsted Senior/Community Room, 109 West River Road, Barkhamsted, Connecticut on March 10, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. for the following purposes.

Item 1. To consider, discuss, and vote upon a transfer from the Undesignated Fund to the Board of Education for Fiscal Year 25/26 in an amount not to exceed \$220,000.

Item 2. To consider, discuss, and vote upon a transfer from the Undesignated Fund to the General Government Fund for Fiscal Year 25/26 in an amount not to exceed \$5,100.

Dated at Barkhamsted, Connecticut this 26th day of February 2026.



Meaghan Cook
First Selectman



Mark Mahoney
Selectman



Raymond P. Pech
Selectman



Barkhamsted Community Garden

Looking for a sunny space to garden? Want to learn more about gardening and meet fellow gardeners?

Located at the Pleasant Valley Methodist Church

Raised beds available for \$35/year for town residents

Water, seeds, lots of fun provided!

Contact BarkhamstedCommunityGarden@gmail.com

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- March 4, 25, April 1, 8, 22, 29, May 6, 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 program. If there is no school or an early release-there will be no Pickleball that evening.



Spring Karate

Spring Karate 2026 (For Children and Adults)

Children's Program- Class 1

Thursdays, 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 May7)

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: \$60.00 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, 3/26, 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 May7) 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.

\$60.00 per 6 week sessions New-\$5.00 discount for each additional family member that signs up for Karate!

NoteNew 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-

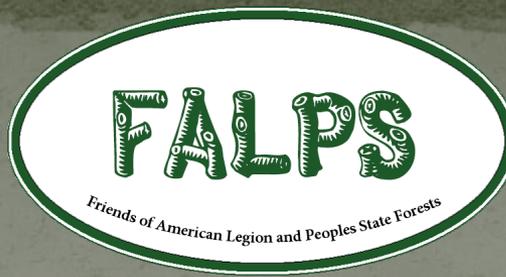
[SummerCampHelpWanted Link](#)

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.

Please remember for all Barkhamsted Recreation Programs is there is No School or a early release due to weather for Regional 7 then the programs are also canceled for that evening.

*Making a
difference...*



*...in our
forests*

Learning to Follow Nature's Pace

Join FALPS and Master Wildlife Conservationist and deer watcher extraordinaire, Ray Hardy, as he presents a few considerations and practices that can help us facilitate a deeper connection with Nature and our other-than-human wild neighbors.

Learn how to practice slowing down and spending time from a biocentric point of view at Nature's pace.

**Squire's Tavern, 100 East River Road, Barkhamsted
1:30 p.m., Sunday, March 15th**



NATURE RANGERS CLUB



Calling All Budding Naturalists!

Hello from the Nature Rangers Club, a program for preschoolers (ages 3 - 4) 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

March 18th @ 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



**SHARED
SERVICES**
Sharing Services for Exceptional Students



NOW SCREENING FOR 2026-2027!

The Shared Services Integrated Preschool Program (SSIPP) serves children ages 3-5, including special education students from Barkhamsted, Colebrook, Hartland, and Norfolk and role model peers from local towns. SSIPP is located at Barkhamsted School and follows the Barkhamsted School calendar.

Parents who are interested in having their child qualify to attend the preschool program as a role model must submit their child's name for a screening.

Screenings are being offered on **March 19th and 20th, 2026**

Multiple slots are available for role model peers!

Cost for role model peers:

\$650 per month for the full day 4 year old program

\$275 per month for the half day 3 year old program

The 3 year old class will meet Tuesday through Friday, 9:00AM - 11:30 AM.

The 4 year old class will meet Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

For additional information or to schedule a screening, please contact Hallee Martinez or Daniela Belanger at Shared Services by phone or email.

860-379-8583 or 860-307-9170

hmartinez@sharedservicesct.com or dbelanger@sharedservicesct.com

Winsted Soldiers' Monument Commission

Special Event

UPCOMING PRESENTATION



Rosie the Riveter

“Rosie the Riveter” became an iconic symbol of working women during World War II. What was it really like for them? We’ll look at propaganda posters, art, music, photos, and hear real-life accounts of Connecticut women who worked for victory in the war.

Date: Saturday, March 7th, 2026

Time: 11 AM

Location: American Museum of Tort Law

654 Main Street

Winsted, CT 06098

Contact: Melissa Bird

RSVP: 860-379-0505

Melissa.bird@tortmuseum.org





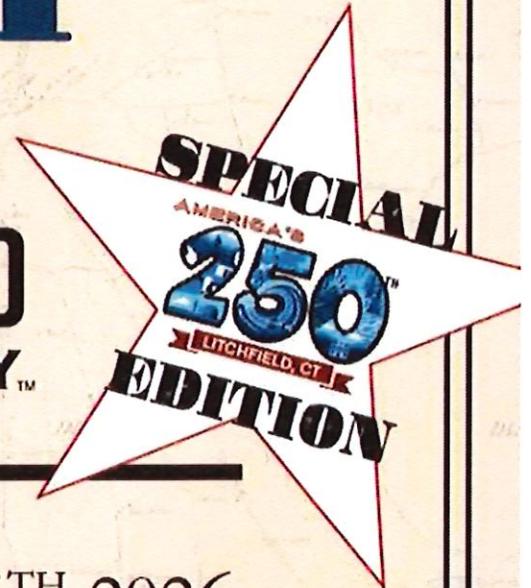
LITCHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MUSEUM | INGRAHAM LIBRARY | TAPPING REEVE HOUSE | LITCHFIELD LAW SCHOOL

More Than Just History

TRIVIA NIGHT

AT THE

**LITCHFIELD
DISTILLERY™**



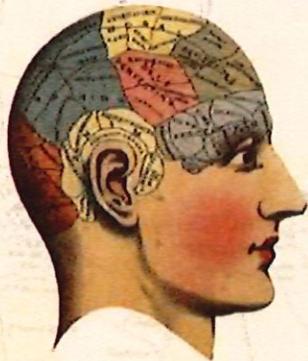
THURSDAY, MARCH 5TH 2026

6:30 - 8:00



\$20 
FOR MEMBERS

\$25 
FOR NON-MEMBERS



TEAMS UP TO 6
DRINKS AND SMALL
BITES PROVIDED



AMERICA 250 FUNDRAISERS

Image 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.



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 edyndiuk@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!