

Town of Barkhamsted

Weekly Town Email

April 2, 2026

From the Desk of Meaghan Cook, First Selectman

This week marks a full three months on the job, and it just keeps getting better. Each day brings new questions and challenges, and the team this community has built over the years meets them with thoughtful determination and a focus on results.

We're continuing to work through the financial needs required to keep the Town operating effectively and efficiently. While we can't avoid external pressures, we've collaborated closely with the Board of Finance and The Board of Education to put forward the most realistic plan for the upcoming budget.

I recently attended a Safe Streets and Roads for All workshop, sponsored through a UConn grant. It was well presented and offered plenty of food for thought. I'm hopeful it will be useful as we navigate and implement our own TRIP Grant for the improvements to West River Road.

The Recreation Commission is hosting its annual Egg Hunt this Saturday at the Riverton Fairgrounds, 1:00-3:00, hop on over and join the fun!

I had the opportunity to attend a commission meeting for Stanclift Cove. The group is a balanced mix of longtime cove users from Barkhamsted and New Hartford, and they're currently focused on recruiting staff and certified lifeguards. Their goal is to avoid the staffing challenges they experienced last year with the college-bound employees leaving early.

I'm finding it helpful to attend committee meetings, as they provide a more informed view of where things are going well and where there may be opportunities to offer support.

Meanwhile, the chairs are arriving at the Barkhamsted Senior/Community Center as preparations continue for the 250th Celebration fundraiser. The committee will be sharing photos on social media, along with opportunities to view the chairs in person. Details on how to place silent bids will be announced soon.

Our very own "Sothe-B's" auction team is ready to bring energy and excitement to the event! The live auction will take place on Saturday, April 18 at 1:00 p.m. at the Community Center (109 West River Road, Barkhamsted).

Between the eggs, the chairs, and the fish stories, there's something for everyone. Get out and get involved. What a great community.

Meaghan

Riverton Grange News/Events

The next Barkhamsted Veterans Ceremony will be held on Sunday April 12 at the Historic Riverton Grange Hall. The Ceremony will start at 6:00pm.

This is a FREE family friendly presentation. All are welcome to attend.

We will honor WWII Navy Veteran Anthony Pasquariello.

Navy Commander Pasquariello was a West Hartland native who was a Riverton Grange member and local Businessman. The Riverton Post Color Guard will conduct the Military Honors ceremony with a flag presentation to Commander Pasquariello's Daughter, Rosemarie.

Town News/Events

The Board of Finance will hold it's Annual Budget Hearing on Thursday, April 9th at 7:00 pm at the Barkhamsted Elementary School. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to view proposed Budget Information.

Please be aware that the Bears are becoming more active. Make yourself Bear Aware! See the attached flyer or visit <https://portal.ct.gov/deep/wildlife/living-with-black-bears>

The Building and Zoning office will be closed the week of April 6th. Permit applications are available online or you may pick one up at the Town Hall. The Building Official will be available Tuesday, April 7th.

Senior/Community Center News & Events

LUNCH – Tuesday, April 7 – 12:00 noon – Sheperd's Pie, salad and ice cream with cookies for dessert.

BREAKFAST – Thursday, April 9 – 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, April 6 and Wednesday, April 8 – 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. It is focused on seniors who are beginners, so none of us needs to worry about looking like an amateur.

Friday, April 10 - 11:00-2:00 - Craft Day with Northwestern Regional 7 Students. Snacks and supplies will be provided and you should bring pictures you want to use for collaging. There is a sign-up sheet at the Center. If you are going to participate, please sign up so the students can plan the amount of supplies that they will need to bring.

Tuesday, April 21 - 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, April 30, 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. (after breakfast). For further information, please call or text Lorna Delaney (860) 379-6419. Irene Connole, who is the Director of Helping Hands Chore Service in Winsted, provided a flyer (attached) about this very valuable service for those in need. Helping Hands provides essential non-medical support to help seniors and those with disabilities maintain their independence and quality of life in their own homes. If you want more information, please check their website (<https://helpinghandschoreservice.org/>).

I also received a flyer (attached) from the Western CT Area Agency on Aging intended to help individuals better understand the differences between Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage. The goal is to provide clear, accessible information that can support our community in making informed healthcare decisions. If you have Medicare Advantage questions, please reach out to Cheley Htoo - Choices Support Staff, Western CT Area Agency on Aging, 84 Progress Lane, Waterbury, CT 06705,

Phone: (203) 757-5449 Ext. 141, **Email:** chtoo@wcaaa.org.

Bonnie Boyle will be holding a planter workshop in June. More information will be provided as we get closer to that date, but this will be very helpful to dress up your yard.

If you would like to hold a crafts or other activity or to have an additional 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.

Feel free to reach out to me if you need assistance and I will do whatever I can to help or get help from the Town. And I hope everyone has a very enjoyable Holiday Weekend.

Don Stein



Easter Sunrise Service
April 5th 6:30 a.m.

**Barkhamsted
Center Cemetery**

91 Center Hill Road, Barkhamsted, Ct.
(at the corner of Center Hill Rd.
& Beach Rock Rd.)

Look for the balloon.
Have a blessed Easter!

*Rev. Susan Caufield and Friends
from The First Congregational Church
of Barkhamsted*

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

April 15th @ 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



Do You Know How To Be Bear Smart?

What is being *Bear Smart*? Since we live with bears in our backyards, we need to understand what we can do to help keep them safe and wild and let them know that we respect them and are working hard to co-exist. What can we do to live safely with Black Bears?

Respect the Bears and Help Keep Them Wild!

- 🐾 Respect bears, give them distance
- 🐾 Take down bird feeders in early spring
- 🐾 Store garbage where bears can't get to it (if bears are near, mask it with ammonia)
- 🐾 On trash day, put garbage out in the morning
- 🐾 Clean off your barbecue grill grease and drip pans after cooking out
- 🐾 Don't feed your pets outdoors (bears can smell an empty dish a mile away)
- 🐾 If a bear comes through your yard, stay inside and enjoy it from a distance
- 🐾 If you are outside and a bear appears, quietly back up and go indoors
- 🐾 Never feed a bear, even if you think it looks hungry—Connecticut has plenty of natural foods for bears
- 🐾 Drive slowly on the roads so you don't hit a bear or any other animal
- 🐾 Show us how you can be *Bear Smart!*



Craft Day

BY NWR7 STUDENTS

APRIL 10, 11-2

SNACKS AND SUPPLIES WILL BE
PROVIDED

BRING PICTURES YOU MAY WANT TO
USE FOR COLLAGING



See you there!

Celebrating America's 250TH

Barkhamsted & Area - Events & Programs

For more information contact Erica Dyndiuk at 860 379 8285

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME	CONTACT
April 10	BHS Program- Historic Union Church	Greenwood Glass Studio	7:00 PM	Barkhamsted Historical Society
April 18	Revolutionary War Trivia Contest	Little Red Barn, Winsted	6:00 PM	Barkhamsted Historical Society
April 18	Painted Chair Auction	Senior/Community Ctr	1:00 PM	250th Committee
April 24	Tree Dedication	Bark. Elementary School	TBD	250th Committee
May 8	Return of the Noble Residents	Senior/Community Ctr	7:00 PM	Barkhamsted Historical Society
June 6	Town Wide Picnic and Drone Show	Bark. Elementary School	3:00 PM	250th Committee
June 12	History of the Riverton Ball Field	Senior/Community Ctr	TBD	Barkhamsted Historical Society
June 26	Historic Bus Tour – Saville dam/hollow	Starts at Peoples State Forest	10:00 AM	Barkhamsted Historical Society
July 4	Lion's Club 4th of July Parade	Pleasant Valley	10:30 AM	Lions Club
ONGOING	Red/White/Blue Flower Contest	Townwide	-----	250th Committee
July 4	National Bell Ringing	Nation Wide	2:00 PM	250th Committee
Oct 3	First Oval Office Project	Litchfield	9 – 3	

Thank you to our Sponsors!

Anonymous
 Barkhamsted and Riverton Lions Clubs
 Turning Point Realty
 Boulder Ridge Day Camp
 Pleasant Valley Fire Department
 Barkhamsted Historical Society
 Republican Town Committee
 Democratic Town Committee

If you or your business would like to be a sponsor of events and programs please contact
 Erica Dyndiuk or Debbie Brydon at 860 379 8285

The following pages are programs and events taking place in and around Barkhamsted

Painted Chair Auction

★ Get Your Auction Paddles Ready! ★



Bid on one-of-a-kind painted & crafted chairs by local
(non-professional) artists.

★ 20+ Unique Chairs on Display!

★ Starting Bids at Just \$25!

★ Chair Display ★

Senior / Community Center

April 1 – April 18

Auction Event

April 18 at
1:00 PM

Enjoy Light Refreshments!



★ Supporting America's 250th Anniversary ★

★ All Proceeds Benefit Town Programs & Events! ★



Red Daisy



Ladybug



Yellow Brick Road



Thank you



Saville Dam



Native Herbs



Paint



Signing of the Declaration



Daisy black and white



Yellow Chair w daisies



Honor the Hollow

Children Rock America

Geese in flight quilted

More to Come....Stay Tuned!

Chair Viewing Schedule Pre Event

April 4	9 AM - 11 AM
April 7	8 AM - 2 PM and 5 PM - 6:30 PM
April 9	7 AM - 10 AM and 5 PM - 6:30 PM
April 11	9 AM - 11 AM
April 14	8 AM - 2 PM and 5 PM - 6:30 PM
April 16	7 AM - 10 AM and 5 PM - 6:30 PM

April 18th at 1:00 PM is final viewing prior to Auction at 1:30 PM

Cemetery Clean Up

Join us for a
Day of Service

*Commemorating the 250th anniversary of the
founding of the United States of America!*



*Bring rakes, shovels, gloves!
We will provide the rest!*



*Saturday, April 18, 2026, 10AM - 1PM
Center Cemetery, Park Place West, Winsted
Sponsored by the Winchester Historic Commission and
Soldiers' Monument Commission*

What Do YOU Know???



Revolutionary War Trivia Night at the Little Red Barn Brewery!

The Barkhamsted Historical Society and Winchester Historic Commission invite you to find out! Questions for many, prizes for some, a good time for all! Everyone (even that irritating know-it-all who bores you still at parties) is welcome. Have a drink and a laugh while you test your knowledge of our country's history!



Little Red Barn Brewery
32 Lake Street, Winsted CT 06098
Saturday, April 18, 2026, 6 - 8 P.M.



For more information, contact: Hamish.lutris@ctstate.edu

Litchfield County HOMEFRONT in the Revolutionary War & signing of Peter Vermilyea's new book, Litchfield County in the Revolutionary War



Co-sponsored by Brooks-Green Woods Chapter, DAR &
Harwinton Historical Society

Presented by: Peter Vermilyea

Sunday, April 19 @ 2:00 PM

Harwinton Town Hall- Bentley Drive

Fighting the American Revolution was an enormous and complicated undertaking.

Litchfield County towns needed to:

- *raise troops to meet their quotas for the war
- * furnish supplies for the army
- * combat the epidemics that swept communities in the wake of the armies and meet additional needs

Doing so unleashed revolutionary forces in the county that would lead to major societal changes after the war.

We are thrilled to welcome back popular presenter **Pete Vermilyea!** Pete is a local historian, and teacher at Housatonic Valley Regional High School and the University of Connecticut. Peter is passionate about doing history and instilling that desire in all, fueling others own intellectual moxie. He is on the board of the Litchfield Historical Society and is the author of several books including Hidden History of Litchfield County and Litchfield County and the Civil War. Peter writes and speaks about the lasting significance of our county's history.

***The program is free and open to the public.**

AMERICAN MURAL PROJECT



The Battle of Monmouth, June 1778. Source: The U.S. National Archives

AMERICA250 | HISTORY TALK

Women of the American Revolution

Sunday, April 26 | 1–3pm

Historian Hamish Lutris presents a fascinating illustrated talk on some of the women who played significant and often-hidden roles in the American Revolution. *Admission is FREE.*

*Sponsored by Brooks-Green Woods Chapter,
Daughters of the American Revolution.*



AMERICAN MURAL PROJECT
90 Whiting Street, Winsted CT
Learn more and register:
americanmuralproject.org

