

Town of Barkhamsted

Weekly Town Email

April 9, 2026



Photo credit to NASA

Four astronauts aboard NASA's Artemis II test flight around the Moon made history at 1:56 p.m. EDT on Monday, April 6, when they reached 248,655 miles from Earth—surpassing the farthest distance ever traveled by humans, a record previously set by Apollo 13 in 1970. The crew members are scheduled to splash down off the coast of San Diego at approximately 8:07 p.m. on Friday, April 10. Safe Travels!

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

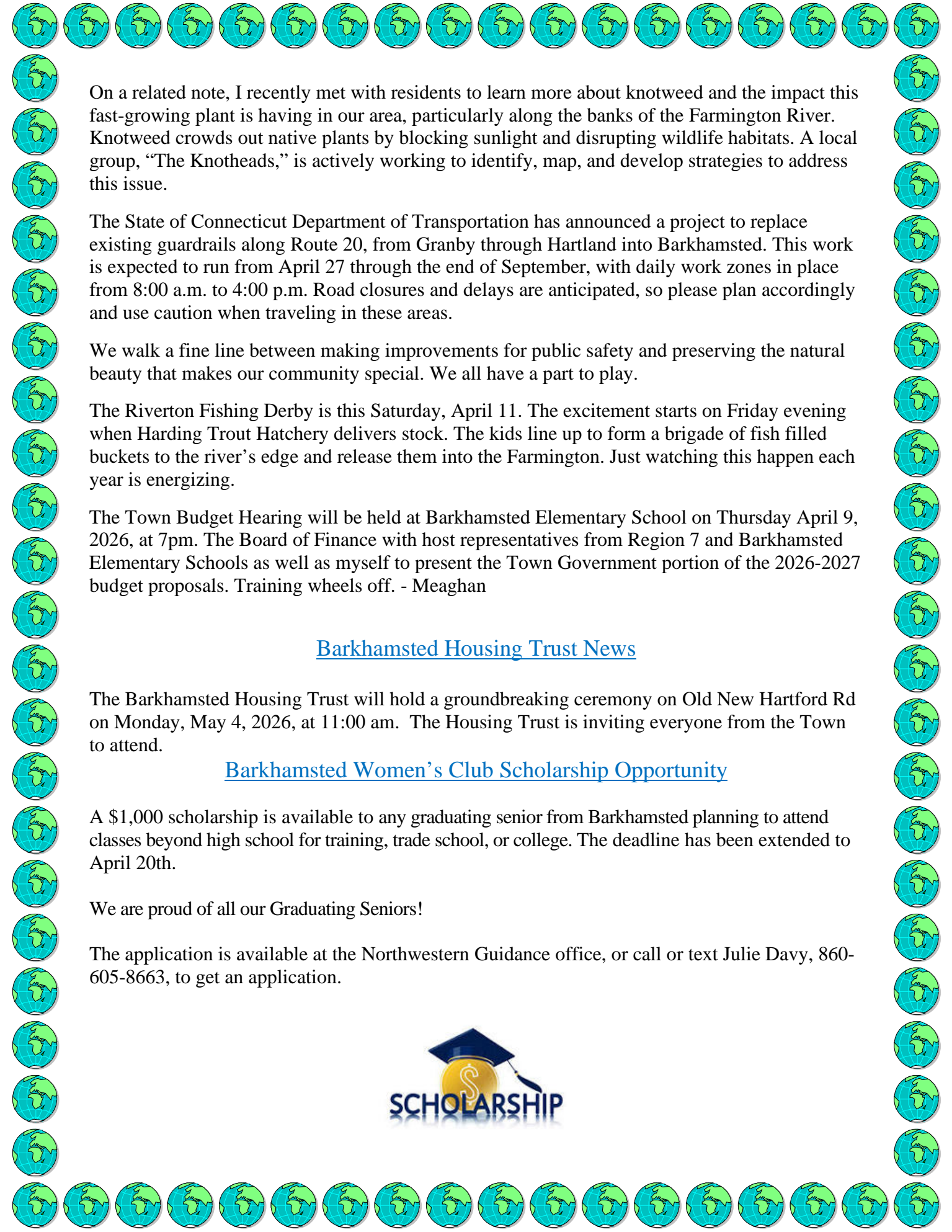
My team had some scheduled time off on Monday, which left me managing the upstairs offices at Town Hall on my own, training wheels officially off. I'm happy to report, I only dropped one phone call. Overall, it was a relatively quiet day, aside from occasionally talking to myself... out loud.

There are currently volunteer opportunities available on several committees and commissions, including Economic Development. The Senior/Community center is also seeking volunteers who may have some cooking skills to assist with Breakfast on Thursday mornings. If you're interested in getting more involved in the community, this is a great way to do so.

The Barkhamsted Farmers Market is gearing up for the season. Vender applications are available and we have a Facebook page set up. Creatively called, Barkhamsted Farmers Market.

The Conservation Commission is also planning a workshop in May—please keep an eye out for more details from Ginny Apple.

With warmer weather arriving, bears are becoming active again. I've already seen a few overturned trash barrels. Please remember to secure your trash and put it out only at appropriate times for pickup. Along those same lines, consider reducing bird feeding, bringing feeders in overnight, or limiting the amount of seed left out. The snow is gone, and it's time to let nature do its work.



On a related note, I recently met with residents to learn more about knotweed and the impact this fast-growing plant is having in our area, particularly along the banks of the Farmington River. Knotweed crowds out native plants by blocking sunlight and disrupting wildlife habitats. A local group, “The Knoheads,” is actively working to identify, map, and develop strategies to address this issue.

The State of Connecticut Department of Transportation has announced a project to replace existing guardrails along Route 20, from Granby through Hartland into Barkhamsted. This work is expected to run from April 27 through the end of September, with daily work zones in place from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Road closures and delays are anticipated, so please plan accordingly and use caution when traveling in these areas.

We walk a fine line between making improvements for public safety and preserving the natural beauty that makes our community special. We all have a part to play.

The Riverton Fishing Derby is this Saturday, April 11. The excitement starts on Friday evening when Harding Trout Hatchery delivers stock. The kids line up to form a brigade of fish filled buckets to the river’s edge and release them into the Farmington. Just watching this happen each year is energizing.

The Town Budget Hearing will be held at Barkhamsted Elementary School on Thursday April 9, 2026, at 7pm. The Board of Finance will host representatives from Region 7 and Barkhamsted Elementary Schools as well as myself to present the Town Government portion of the 2026-2027 budget proposals. Training wheels off. - Meaghan

[Barkhamsted Housing Trust News](#)

The Barkhamsted Housing Trust will hold a groundbreaking ceremony on Old New Hartford Rd on Monday, May 4, 2026, at 11:00 am. The Housing Trust is inviting everyone from the Town to attend.

[Barkhamsted Women’s Club Scholarship Opportunity](#)

A \$1,000 scholarship is available to any graduating senior from Barkhamsted planning to attend classes beyond high school for training, trade school, or college. The deadline has been extended to April 20th.

We are proud of all our Graduating Seniors!

The application is available at the Northwestern Guidance office, or call or text Julie Davy, 860-605-8663, to get an application.





Senior/Community Center News

LUNCH – Tuesday, April 14 – 12:00 noon – Hot dog, baked beans and dessert is TBD

BREAKFAST – Thursday, April 16 – 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.

If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering to help in the kitchen please contact me.

Here are the upcoming activities:

Monday, April 13 (and, 20th and 27th) – Lorna Delaney is bringing her Spring yoga class to the Center for 4 weeks, starting Monday, April 6 at 9:30 AM. The cost of the class will be \$5. Lorna let me know that the Weeders and Readers will be planting red, white and blue flowers at the Center this year to celebrate America's 250th anniversary.

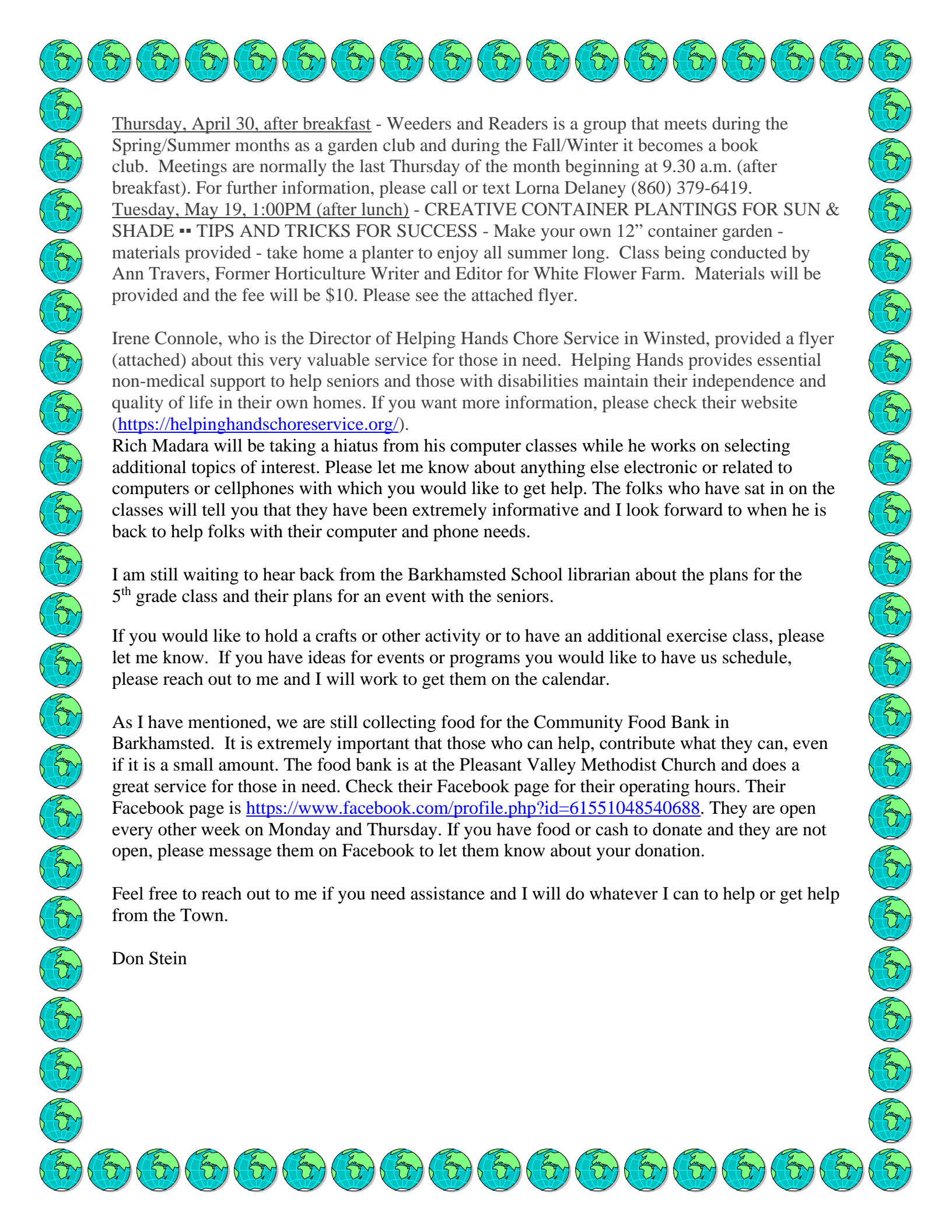
Monday, April 13 and Wednesday, April 15 – 11:30-12:30 – Tai Chi – The classes are \$5 and are held Monday and Wednesday each week. Feel free to join us even if you have never tried it. I can vouch for the fact that it really helps your flexibility and balance, and, in my case, it really seems to help my back and leg pain. And it is focused on seniors who are beginners, so none of us needs to worry about looking like an amateur.

Friday, April 10 - 11:00-2:00 – PLEASE NOTE: Craft Day with Northwestern Regional 7 Students does not currently have any sign-ups. We will have to cancel this event if we do not have folks who wish to attend. Snacks and supplies will be provided and you should bring pictures you want to use for collaging. A flyer is on the table at the Center and there is also a sign-up sheet. If you are going to participate, please sign up so the students can plan the number of supplies that they will need to bring.

~~Friday, April 10 – 6:30~~ – PLEASE NOTE: the Traveling Trout has canceled this monthly jam sessions. I will advertise the next session once they let me know. They are still practicing to hone their skills and will bring in some other groups to liven up their evenings, which are already extremely enjoyable

Saturday, April 18, 1:00PM – **NEW:** the chair auction will be held on April 18th for the fundraiser for the 250th celebration. The chairs are at the Center, lining two of the walls. It makes things a little more crowded, but please walk around and take a look at the great artistic efforts made by our residents. The committee will be sharing photos on social media, along with opportunities to view the chairs in person. To see the chairs, please click this link: [chair auction](#)

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.

Tuesday, May 19, 1:00PM (after lunch) - CREATIVE CONTAINER PLANTINGS FOR SUN & SHADE ■■ TIPS AND TRICKS FOR SUCCESS - Make your own 12” container garden - materials provided - take home a planter to enjoy all summer long. Class being conducted by Ann Travers, Former Horticulture Writer and Editor for White Flower Farm. Materials will be provided and the fee will be \$10. Please see the attached flyer.

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/>).

Rich Madara will be taking a hiatus from his computer classes while he works on selecting additional topics of interest. Please let me know about anything else electronic or related to computers or cellphones with which you would like to get help. The folks who have sat in on the classes will tell you that they have been extremely informative and I look forward to when he is back to help folks with their computer and phone needs.

I am still waiting to hear back from the Barkhamsted School librarian about the plans for the 5th grade class and their plans for an event with the seniors.

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.

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. If you have food or cash to donate and they are not open, please message them on Facebook to let them know about your donation.

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.

Don Stein

CREATIVE CONTAINER PLANTINGS

FOR SUN & SHADE •• TIPS AND TRICKS FOR SUCCESS

Make your own 12" container garden •• materials provided

Take home a planter to enjoy all summer long

Barkhamsted Senior Center

Tuesday May 19 1 p.m.

Ann Travers

Former Horticulture Writer

and Editor for White Flower Farm



•• Aesthetics •• Potting Mix •• Plant Selection •• Sunlight requirements •• Planting ••
Watering •• After care Q & A

\$10 Donation per person Limit 12 Participants

Sign up at Senior Center or call/test Bonnie Boyle 860-707-5033

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

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



It's All About Bread!



Free Buns!



Poetry in Motion



Honor the DTC



Animals of Barkhamsted



60 Years of Stanclift Cove!

If you are unable to attend the auction, we will take silent bids via email to edyndiuk@barkhamsted.us or dbyrdon@barkhamsted.us
Place your highest acceptable bid via email and we will note it at the auction. If you are outbid at the auction you will be unable to make a higher bid. If you are the highest bid, we will contact you for payment.

Chair Viewing Schedule Pre Event

- 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



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*!



**THE
NEW
HARTFORD
CENTER**

CHALK WALK

MAY 31, 2026

THE SUNDAY AFTER MEMORIAL DAY

JOIN US FOR FOOD, ART
AND LOTS OF FAMILY FUN!

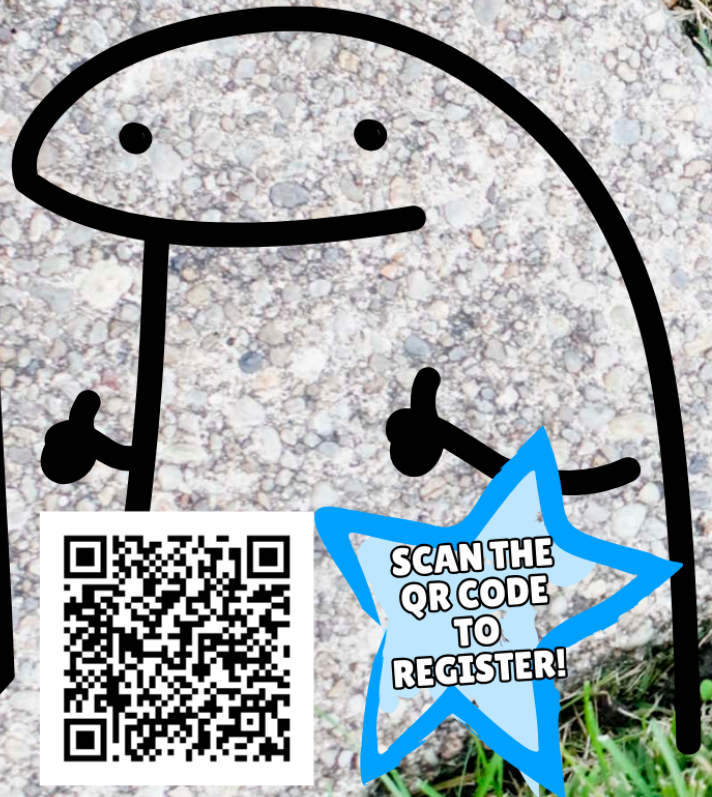
\$300 1ST PLACE ARTIST
SQUARE

\$150 2ND PLACE ARTIST
SQUARE

\$50 3RD PLACE ARTIST
SQUARE

NEW! CHILDREN'S
THIS YEAR GROUP
AGES 12 AND UNDER

PRIZES AWARDED TO THE
TOP 3 ARTISTS



**COME ON DOWN FOR LOADS
OF FAMILY FUN!**



CHALK WALK

**THE SUNDAY AFTER
MEMORIAL DAY**

RAIN DATE: FOLLOWING SUNDAY

10AM-2PM

LIVE MUSIC **FOOD**
PRIZES **VENDORS**
ACTIVITIES **CRAFTS**
FUN **RAFFLE**

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

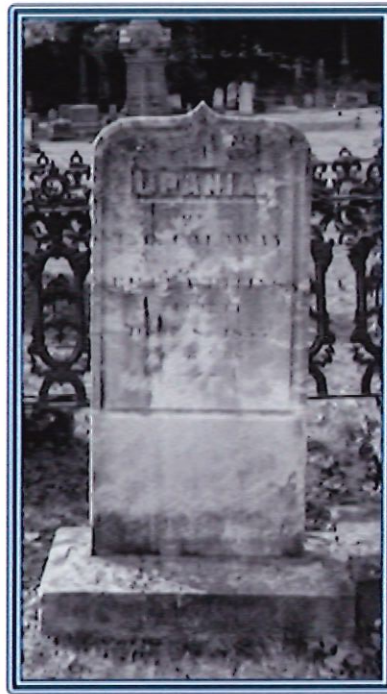
If you or your business would like to be a sponsor of events and programs please contact Erica Dyndiuk or Debbie Brydon at 860 379 8285

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

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

