

# Town of Barkhamsted

## Weekly News

July 30, 2026

- OPEN PEDDLER PERMITS - NONE
- COMING EVENTS - Saturday, August 1 – Farmer’s Market – Town Garage, 33 New Hartford Road, 9 am – 1 pm
- Stanclift Cove 60th Anniversary Celebration  
Saturday, August 1@ “The Cove”

### From the Desk of Meaghan Cook, First Selectman

Sorry to miss you all last week, but I’m back. First, I want to start with a letter from the Board of Selectman.

#### Election Season

As Summer begins to move towards Fall, we are entering election campaign season, bringing with it local candidates for office who may be going house to house to acquaint voters with their views on various issues of the day. Seeking, and campaigning for, office is a bedrock of our representative government. Our democracy only works when good people are willing to participate for the common good.

Occasionally, meeting the voters comes into conflict with one of our basic freedoms, the right to privacy. Some people would rather not have candidates knocking on their doors. You have the right to privacy on your own land. If you have posted “No Trespassing” signs on your property, they should be respected by a candidate. If you have no such signs, but nevertheless do not wish to engage with a candidate, a simple request should suffice. In the unlikely event that a candidate persists despite your objection, (s)he is trespassing. A call to our Resident Trooper or Troop B in Canaan, may be appropriate.

Some residents have posted “No Soliciting” signs on their land. While the Town has ordinances addressing peddling and soliciting, the activities defined in the ordinances are limited to sales of merchandise. They do not address candidates for office.

Respectfully,

**The Barkhamsted Board of Selectmen**

Meaghan Cook, First Selectman; Ray Pech, Selectman; Mark Mahoney, Selectman

In traffic safety news, the Connecticut DOT is planning to install a high-friction surface treatment on a section of CT Route 219 in 2027. Although the project is still a ways off and we have plenty of more immediate road work to tackle, the Board thought this upcoming safety improvement was worth sharing. The DOT's press release follows in the next few pages.

Recent weather has delayed our chip sealing and pavement projects. We are making every effort to complete these repairs as soon as possible, but, like everyone else, we remain at the mercy of Mother Nature. We appreciate your patience as we work to get these projects back on schedule.

As always, if you have questions or concerns my door is always open!

Meaghan



Stanclift Cove



**MEDIA RELEASE****FOR RELEASE: UPON RECEIPT**

The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) is planning to install high friction surface treatment (HFST) at 15 curves on State-owned and maintained roads in Northwestern Connecticut. The towns and locations are listed below. The treatment will be applied to the roadway pavement within the limits of the curve in order to restore and/or maintain the pavement friction along the curve. These upgrades will be in compliance with national standards and will improve motorists' control of their vehicle during dry and wet driving conditions. The project is being designed and is tentatively scheduled to occur during the 2027 construction season.

It is CTDOT policy to keep the public informed and involved when such projects are undertaken. It is important that the community share its concerns with us to assist in the project's development. Anyone interested in requesting information on this project may do so by contacting the Project Manager, Balazs L. Szoke, P.E., at [TrafficSafety.DOT@ct.gov](mailto:TrafficSafety.DOT@ct.gov). Please make reference to State Project 0174-0490.

**List of Towns and Curve Locations****New Milford**

- Route 109 (Chestnut Land Rd) at Hipp Rd
- Route 109 (Chestnut Land Rd) at Littlefield Rd

**Washington**

- Route 109 (Church Hill Rd) at Poppie Swamp Rd
- Route 109 (Church Hill Rd) at Upper Church Hill Rd

**Suffield**

- Route 168 (Mountain Rd) at Phelps Rd

**Canton**

- Route 179 (Cherry Brook Rd) at West Rd

**Granby**

- Route 20 (West Granby Rd) at Harness Way

**Barkhamsted**

- Route 219 (Reservoir Rd) 0.4 mi South of Route 318 (Saville Dam Rd)

**New Fairfield**

- Route 37 (Sherman-New Fairfield Rd) at Hardscrabble Rd

**Beacon Falls**

- Route 42 (Bethany Rd) at Feldspar Ave

**Seymour**

- S.R. 721 (North St) at North Main St

**North Canaan**

- U.S. Route 7 (South Canaan Rd) at Grace Way

**Danbury**

- U.S. Route 7 (Sugar Hollow Rd) at West Starrs Plain Rd

**Canaan**

- U.S. Route 7 (South Canaan Rd) at Under Mountain Rd

**Sharon**

- Route 4 (Cornwall Bridge Rd) at Butter Rd

## Tax Office Update – July 30, 2026

### **Last day to pay taxes – Monday, August 3, 2026**

#### **Office hours for July payments:**

**Thursday 8:30 – 4:30 and Monday, August 3, 2026 9:00 – 3:00**

The tax office can only take payments in the form of cash or checks. If you pay in person and want a receipt, please bring your whole bill and we can receipt your copy.

Checks, credit/debit cards, Venmo and PayPal are available online, however, there are fees for these services but you can pay up until 11:59pm on Monday.

Payments can be mailed through Monday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> but if you mail a check Saturday or Monday, please have it hand cancelled as the post office may not process it the same day it is mailed. By State Statute, we have to go by the USPS postmark. Also, be sure your check is correctly and completely filled out. If there is an error on your check and we cannot reach you, late penalties will apply. We may not have your contact information.

Payments can be dropped in the black box to the left of the downstairs town hall door up until the close of business on Monday. The box will be emptied when we leave on Monday and payments found in there Tuesday morning will be considered as paid on Tuesday and will be charged late fees.

If you no longer own a vehicle that you are being billed for, we may be able to reduce your bill. If you transferred your plates to a new vehicle, credits are automatic. If you did not transfer your plates, DMV does not notify the town so please contact either the tax office at (860) 738-4762 or the assessor's office at (860) 379-3600 to determine what is needed for an adjustment.

Effective Tuesday, August 4, 2026, the interest penalty is 3% or a minimum of \$2.00 per bill plus an additional \$2.00 DMV fee on motor vehicle bills.

## **Register for the Barkhamsted Recreation Department's**

### **New Summer Programs Today!**



## **Save the Date! Join the Barkhamsted Recreation Department & FRCC River Steward Team – Sunday, August 9, 2026**

Mark your calendars for Sunday, August 9, 2026, and join the Barkhamsted Recreation Department and the FRCC River Steward Team for a day dedicated to caring for and enjoying our local waterways!

Whether you'd like to help clean up the river, spend time on the water, or do both, we'd love to have you join us.

### **Sunday Morning River Trash Cleanup**

**Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

**Meeting Location: Barkhamsted Town Garage on Route 44, Barkhamsted, CT (Meet at 10 a.m.)**

Help us keep our river clean by removing litter along the riverbanks and in the water.

- Garbage bags and gloves will be provided.

- Feel free to bring waders or other gear if you'd like to help collect trash from the river.

## **Paddle with the Stewards**

**Time: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

**Location: Collinsville Canoe & Kayak, Collinsville, CT**

**Spend the afternoon paddling with members of the FRCC River Steward Team while learning more about the Farmington River and the importance of protecting this incredible resource. It is such a great way to cool off and have fun after our Trash Pick up! (Snacks and water provided!!)**

**Please register in advance using the registration link provided below.**

**[Paddle with Barkhamsted Rec and the River Stewards link](#)**

**We hope you'll join us for one or both events as we work together to care for the Farmington River and enjoy a fun day outdoors.**

### **Paddle the Farmington River with Barkhamsted Recreation and The FRCC River Stewards Info (2026 River and Recreation Events) (New)**

Experience the beautiful vistas of the scenic Farmington River during an evening of fun while paddling with Collinsville Canoe and Kayak, FRCC Summer River Stewards and the Barkhamsted Recreation Department for our River and Recreation Family Event. Spend an enjoyable afternoon while getting in some great exercise. You can choose whether you would like to kayak or Paddle Board. Whatever your preference, you're sure to have a great time. The cost is \$25.00 per person, per event night and the price includes a paddleboard, or kayak, paddle and life vest. The cost is \$10 if you have your own supplies. Collinsville Canoe charges \$5 for Parking and boat launch and then \$5.00 for Barkhamsted Recreation. (Payment must be received one week prior to the program) Lots of smiles and laughs are sure to be had

by all. The program is open to adults and families. Children should be ages 6 or over and should be able to swim. Life jackets are required.

Date-Sunday, August 9-Event Night

Time-2:00-4:00 p.m.

Location: Collinsville Canoe and Kayak- 41 Bridge Street, Route 179, Collinsville, CT

Please register at [Paddle with Barkhamsted Rec and the River Stewards link](#)

by Thursday, August 6, so we can have the proper equipment and supervision in place. Mail your check to Barkhamsted Recreation Department, Barkhamsted Town Hall-67 Ripley Hill Road, Barkhamsted, CT 06078 or drop it off in the white mailbox outside town hall in the upper level. You can also bring your payment to the event but once you are registered there are no refunds as we have to give a headcount to Collinsville Canoe and Kayak the head count before the event.

For any questions, please email- Donna Bastrzycki, Barkhamsted Recreation Director, [barkhamstedrec@barkhamsted.us](mailto:barkhamstedrec@barkhamsted.us)

Looking forward to seeing you there!

**Save The Date!**

**Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026:**

**JOIN THE FRCC FARMINGTON  
RIVER STEWARDS FOR TWO  
AWESOME EVENTS!**

**TRASH CLEANUP**

10AM-12PM

**MEET AT BARKHAMSTED TOWN  
GARAGE ON RT. 44,  
BARKHAMSTED, CT**

**GARBAGE BAGS & GLOVES WILL BE PROVIDED**

*help us keep our river clean!*



**FEEL FREE TO  
BRING WADERS OR  
OTHER GEAR IF  
YOU'D LIKE TO PICK  
UP TRASH IN THE  
RIVER!**



*learning & fun on the water!*

**PADDLE WITH THE  
STEWARDS**

**WITH COLLINSVILLE CANOE & KAYAK**

2PM-4PM

**MEET AT COLLINSVILLE CANOE &  
KAYAK, COLLINSVILLE, CT**

**PLEASE REGISTER AT THE LINK BELOW**



## URGENT NEED

Thank you for what you do to support the mission of the American Red Cross. We are reaching out to you today with a request for help. For just the second time in our history, **the Red Cross has issued a national blood crisis.** Blood donations have fallen to a four-year summer low, worsening this summer's emergency shortage.

**All blood types are needed, but the situation is especially dire for type O blood as the Red Cross is now limiting distribution of these blood products to hospitals.** The type O positive blood supply has fallen below a one-day supply. Blood and platelet donors are needed immediately to ensure hospitals have the blood they need for patients whose lives depend on transfusions.

Here in Connecticut, around one-third of blood donation appointments are filled over the next month, meaning thousands of appointment slots remain available to support patients in need.

### **You can help the Red Cross overcome this shortage:**

- Schedule your blood or platelet donation today using the [Blood Donor App](#), by visiting [org](#) or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).
- **Use the messages below** to encourage constituents, community members and your social networks to make an appointment to donate blood or platelets in the coming days and weeks. Please also share through digital newsletters, bulletins, signage, and other communication channels where appropriate.
- Consider hosting a Red Cross blood drive. If you know of someone who is willing to sponsor a blood drive, please ask them to submit their information at [org/HostADrive](#).

Thank you for your support,

The Red Cross has declared a national blood crisis as donations fell to a 4-year summer low. Hospital needs are exceeding donations, risking patient care. All blood types are needed, but the situation is especially dire for type O. Don't wait — donate now: <https://rcblood.org/donate>

# Our Hometown Lions Club July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade

Photos courtesy of John Sweeton



