



Town of Barkhamsted

Weekly Town Email

September 10, 2026

From the Desk of Meaghan Cook, First Selectman

The kids seem to be getting back into a more structured school day routine. My grandkids are beat at the end of a long bus ride home, as I'm sure most of your kids are too!

As the construction project continues on Old New Hartford Road, I have asked the Superintendent of Northwest Regional #7, Steven LePage, to direct any students driving their personal vehicles to try to limit use of that road for the time being. There is a "No left turn" sign at the end of Battistoni Drive that has been in place for many years. We are asking all drivers to respect the sign, especially during construction. There is still no estimated time of completion for this project at this point.

Northwest Connecticut Community foundation is celebrating some huge success in their scholarship awards for 2026 - 2027. Please [CLICK HERE](#) for their press release.

During the Town's last Emergency Preparedness meeting it was brought to my attention that there may be some residents with medical needs that should be on a priority list with Eversource. If you are a resident, or are aware of a resident, without a backup power source please contact Eversource to be added to their priority list.

Community/Senior Center News & Events

Please read below as we have some new events that we think will be fun for everyone. Unfortunately, we won't be having bingo for the next 3 weeks as we will have events after lunch each of those Tuesdays. But first, here are the meals for this week:

LUNCH – Tuesday, September 15 – 12:00 noon – Salisbury steak, mashed potato, vegetables and Birthday Cake.



BREAKFAST – Thursday, September 17 – 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. We also have gluten free bread available.

As always, meals are \$5.00 – additional donations are always welcome.

Here are the upcoming activities:

Monday, September 14, Tai Chi; Wednesday, September 16 – 11:30-12:30 – Tai Chi – Tai Chi is twice a week. The classes are only \$5. Feel free to join us even if you have never tried it, as it is focused on improving balance and flexibility for seniors who are beginners. Remember, all of us are amateurs.

NEW - Tuesday, September 15 - 1:00PM (after lunch) - Dave Lewis, a master gardener who lives in Barkhamsted, will present "Invasive management - controlling and suppressing them". At a later date, he will give a talk on garden design, but invasives seem to have priority right now.

NEW – Friday, September 18 – 6 – 9 PM – Family Game Night. Fun for all ages! Bring your favorite board games or card games and share some fun and laughs with the community. Please contact Amanda at 860 921 3640 or Michelle at 978 866 1787 for questions and/or details.

Tuesday, September 22 - 1:00PM (after lunch) - the Northwest Community Bank will provide a talk on fraud prevention, which, as we all know, applies not just to seniors but to all generations. Please plan on listening to this talk, as it can save any one of us a lot of money and heartache.

Tuesday, September 22 - 6:00PM - Monthly Trivia night will be the 4th Tuesday in September rather than the 3rd Tuesday. 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. Last month, we set a record with about 40 people, so it is clearly a popular, fun activity. We have room to fill one more table, so come on down and give it a try.

Thursday, September 24, after breakfast - The Weeders and Readers club 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) and I will confirm the date with the club leader.

NEW - Friday, October 16 - I have tentatively scheduled a bus trip to the Essex Steam Train and Riverboat, with time afterwards to wander the very picturesque Essex Village, to shop, have ice cream, visit the museum or anything else you can think of. The bus is free and holds 14 people, and the price for the Steam Train and Riverboat, including lunch, is \$49. I have a couple of folks who have already reserved a place, but I will bring a sign-up sheet to the Center on Tuesday, and it will then be first come-first serve. I will also consider taking a few folks in my car, if there is overflow. You should be aware that the train is not handicapped-accessible, as you will need to be able to get up a couple of steep steps. The plan is to leave the Center around 9:15, board the train at 11:00, wander the village from 1:30 until 3, and then head back north, arriving back at the around 4:00 PM. Once we have a firm number, I will reserve tickets for the Train and Riverboat.

The Medicare One-on-One Counseling sessions are scheduled for November 4. They can accommodate up to 7 people that day, and we have 2 people already signed up. If you are interested, there is a sign-up sheet at the Center. This will be first come-first serve. The WCAAA also holds sessions in other towns if that date is not convenient for you or they fill out in our Center.

Don Stein

Blood Drive – September 16th

There are still plenty of openings at the next blood drive at Praise Christian Fellowship, 52 New Hartford Road, Barkhamsted, CT - Wednesday, September 16th from 12 pm - 5pm.

Register at: <http://www.redcrossblood.org>. or 800-RED-CROSS.



Sign Up For Fun Fall Programs With The Barkhamsted Recreation Department



Fall Karate 2026 **(For Children and Adults)**

Children's Program- Class 1

Thursdays, September 24, October 1, 8, 15, 29, November 5, 12, 19 and a back up date of December 3 for inclement weather.) the program will be held in the Barkhamsted Elementary School in the Gym or cafe from 6:00-6:45 p.m.

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)

[Fall Karate Registration Link](#)

Family/Teen and Adult Karate – Class 2

Thursdays, September 24, October 1, 8, 15, 29, November 5, 12, 19 and a back up date of December 3 for inclement weather.) Barkhamsted Elementary School in the Gym or Library from 7:00-7:45 p.m.) 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!

NoteNew students are white belts and receive uniform

Please pre-register through this link- [Fall Karate Registration Link](#)

Halloween Sock Hop!

The Recreation Department's Annual Sock Hop will be held on Friday, October 30 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Join us for this annual family event, with music and fun at the Peoples State Forest Pavilion- \$6.00 fee per person will be collected on-site. All participants must pre-register and children must be accompanied by an adult family member at all times. There will be quality gift card costume contest prizes for adults, children and families! Parents and caregivers, please dress up too! Be ready for some Halloween Fun and dance the night away! We will have lots of fun! Please bring flashlights or headlamps as it will be dark towards the end of the dance going back to cars or when using the port-o-potties. Everyone must pre-register from this link- [Halloween Sock Hop Registration Link](#)

Before Thanksgiving Holiday Hike with Hot Apple Cider, Hot Chocolate and Cookies! (Fun for the whole family)



Join us as we hike up to the beautiful Beaver Brook Marsh Boardwalk trail in Peoples State Forest at 1 p.m. on Saturday, November 21. Get ready for the Thanksgiving holiday by spending time with

friends, exercising and enjoying our beautiful forest surrounded by the beautiful Wild and Scenic Farmington River as we hike to the Beaver Brook Boardwalk Marsh Trail and enjoy a fun afternoon. Please dress appropriately with proper gear. This will be a moderately strenuous hike but well worth it. It will be held rain or shine! Families are welcome. We will also enjoy a "Pot Luck" snack together as we take a break at the beautiful Boardwalk and at the end of the hike. Please bring water and your favorite "pot luck" snack. We will also provide individually packaged desserts and hot chocolate/cider. Please Register by Monday, November 16 from this link- [Thanksgiving Hike link](#) This hike will be led jointly by the Barkhamsted Recreation Department, Farmington River Steward and FALPS. Please meet at the parking area on East River Road at bottom of Greenwoods Road (near the gate) (The road that leads up to the Stone Museum) at 1 p.m. on Saturday, November 21. **(Note-it is hunting season, if you can wear orange or a bright colored jacket it is recommended)** Depending on the group size/level of difficulty we may split up into two groups and have a few different options for length of the hike/walk.) (The full hike will be approximately 3.5-4 miles)



Fall/Winter Pickleball Session 2025/2026

Fall Pickleball Free Demo Night will be held on Wednesday, November 19 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. in the Barkhamsted Elementary School gym. Come down and check out what the fun is all about! Please wear sneakers and bring a Paddle if you have one. Players from the past sessions are encouraged to come and help the new players enjoy the sport that night and also get some play time on the courts before our fall/winter session begins. Participants can also register that night for fall program. The demo night is FREE!

It is time to get off the couch and join us for the very fun and new Pickleball Fall/Winter 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- November 18th-Free Demo Night from 6:00-9:00 p.m.

November 18, December 2, 9, 16, January 6, 13, 20, 27, Feb. 3, Feb. 10 and back up snow date Feb. 17 (New 10 week session this year!!)

Please pre-register through this link- [Pickleball link](#)

Fee: \$20.00 for residents, \$25.00 for non-residents (no pro-rations) Pre-registration is required. Registration deadline is November 19^h 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. November 19, 2025

To learn more about Pickleball visit-

https://www.pickleballcentral.com/Pickleball_Videos_s/204.htm

Mark Your Calendars!

Barkhamsted Rec. Ski Program 2027



Children in Grades 3-6 will enjoy a fun night of skiing at Ski Sundown with the Barkhamsted Recreation Dept! All registration forms must be completed and paid for by **Friday, October 23** (Please register on time to help ensure a safe and fun program. Important-The program requires one total check by the town to be made out to Sundown. All registrations must be complete by 10/24/2025 in order for everything to be submitted to Ski Sundown on time.

Chaperones and volunteers are essential in order for this program to be possible. We ask again this year parents ski with their children if possible and children must be accompanied by a parent/caregiver/helper while at Sundown. Please email Donna Bastrzycki at barkhamstedrec@barkhamsted.us if you can also help out as a volunteer or chaperone by Wed. November 18

Where: Ski Sundown

Age Group: 3rd - 6th graders

When: Wednesday afternoon for 5 weeks (after school) (January 6, 13, 20, 27, Feb. 3 backup day will be Feb. 10 if needed. We will add on weeks if School is canceled or there is an early release from school.) (If there is no school or an early release then we will not have the Ski program that day and the program will be extended) **Forms will be given to each child in grades 3-6 the week of September 21 with pricing.**

Time: 4:00 till 7:00 (with one hour lessons starting AT 5:00 p.m.)

ANY LATE REGISTRATIONS AFTER October 24 will have to be added on at Ski Sundown and there is an additional \$25.00 late fee paid directly to Ski Sundown and \$5.00 late fee to The Town of Barkhamsted. There are NO guarantees that space will be available after the deadline. Last year they did not accept registrations after the deadline. P Ski Sundown asked us to have a firm deadline with not many add or changes. Please be sure to carefully fill out your child's form with their Ski Level and info. *Helmets are required! Please mark and label your children's skis and equipment. Locks are strongly recommended. (Prices below include bus and snacks on the last night) **All Parents and Children must attend the on-line the Ski Sundown Safety Meeting**

Fee: Lesson and Lift + bus: \$405.00 Lift Only + bus: \$265.00

Pass Holder Lesson + bus: \$250.00 Equipment Rental: \$151.00 (this is in addition to the ski prices- either lesson, lift and bus, Pass holder lesson and bus or Lift only and bus.) Pricing

will be updated after the Ski Club meeting the second week of September and all forms with pricing will be sent to the school.

(Parents/Caregivers drive their children home from Ski Sundown. Parents/Caregivers are encouraged to attend each of the weeks and ski or help watch their children ski outside/ Please consider this is an outdoor focused program before registering. You can register at the Halloween Sock Hop and bring all of your paper work and check there if you wish!)

Please make checks out to the Town of Barkhamsted and fill out the both the Recreation Department Registration form and Ski Sundown Forms completely

Please note for all programs that are held in the Barkhamsted Elementary School, If there is no school or an early release then we will not have the program that day and the program will be extended if possible) The Halloween Dance will be held rain or shine. Once you are registered, you will be on the guest list! Please register before the deadline for all programs to help ensure safety and your spot. Forms can be either mailed or dropped off at the outside mailbox at Barkhamsted Town Hall-67 Ripley Hill Road-Barkhamsted, CT 06063 **Mark Your Calendars- Christmas in Riverton will be December 4-6, 2026**

Press Release

Barkhamsted, Connecticut

September 8, 2026

The First Congregational Church of Barkhamsted (FCCB) is pleased to announce the receipt of a \$72, 800 grant to the historic church from the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation's Douglas and Janet Roberts Fund. The Church received the agreement letter on July 27, 2026. The agreement requires use of the grant for work agreed upon by April 30, 2027.

This grant will be used for extensive work to improve our basement Fellowship Hall area. Due to high humidity in that room, the money is to be used for mold remediation, replacement of sheetrock, installation of a professionally designed dehumidification system, and replacing old floor covering and lighting. In addition, the grant will also cover adding air conditioning to the sanctuary.

This work will impact the members of the church and the local community by creating a usable space open to area events. It will also make worship in the summer months possible for those with health issues who would otherwise be advised to remain at home.

The Rev. Susan Caufield said, in response to the church receiving the grant, "The Northwest CT Community Foundation's Roberts Fund continues to be a blessing to the Barkhamsted Community. It helps us to adapt and improve a valuable historical gather place, First Congregational Church of Barkhamsted, to better serve many, into the future. We remain grateful for Janet and Doug Roberts' legacy in their beloved town."

For more information, visit: barkhamstedfirstchurch.org

Established through estate planning, the Douglas and Janet Robert Fund supports the Barkhamsted Historical Society, nonprofit programs, scholarships, and capital projects that directly benefit the residents of Barkhamsted, Connecticut.



FAMILY GAME NIGHT!



SCRABBLE

MONOPOLY

UNO

CONNECT 4

Bring your favorite **board games**
or **card games** to share!



**FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 18**



6:00 PM – 8:00 PM



**BARKHAMSTED
SENIOR/COMMUNITY CENTER**

Enjoy an
evening of
laughter,
friendly
competition,
and community
fun for
all ages! ♥

Questions?

Amanda
at 860-921-3630

or

Michelle
at 978-866-1787



★ Everyone is welcome! Bring your family and your favorite game! ★

★ Please note: This is a family event so
all adults must stay with their children. ★

NATURE RANGERS CLUB



Calling All Budding Naturalists!

Hello from the Nature Rangers Club, a program for preschoolers 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

September 16th @ 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 by Sept. 11th at dcnaturerangers@gmail.com
Children must be accompanied by parent/guardian at all times

*Making a
difference...*



*...in our
forests*

Annual Meeting and Forest Updates

Come join **FALPS** at its Annual Meeting, hear of this past year's accomplishments, the upcoming 100th Anniversary Celebration of American Legion State Forest, future projects and how you can volunteer.

Free and open to all,
refreshments to be served.

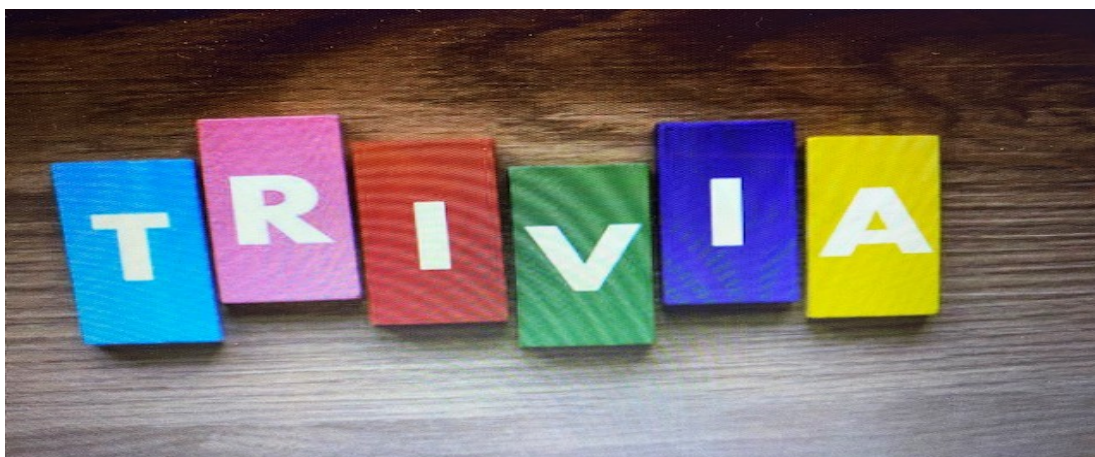


Sunday, September 20th, 1 p.m.

Squire's Tavern

100 East River Road

Peoples State Forest



TRIVIA NIGHT !

Tuesday, September 22nd at 6:00 PM

Barkhamsted Senior and Community Center

\$2 per person

Teams of 2 to 8 people

All ages ... bring your friends

Free coffee and desserts

All welcome for a fun night of General Knowledge
Trivia. Some easy, some hard, but all FUN!

1pm ♦ Barkhamsted Community Room ♦ October 3, 2026 ♦ Free

33 New Hartford Road (Rt.44), Barkhamsted, CT



THE PHOTO ANGEL

*Reuniting Lost Photos
with the Families Who Cherish Them Most*

The Photo Angel® Project reunites long-lost photographs with their relatives and inspires others to preserve, share, and cherish their family history.

THE STORY

It all began with a pile of labeled photos of people we weren't related to.

*Were they friends? Classmates?
War buddies? Neighbors?*

Determined to find out, I turned to genealogy websites and immediately began connecting with relatives of the photographed. Now I'm hooked!

I love visiting antique stores and flea markets to find labeled photos so I can return them to their family members. One woman affectionately dubbed me, "The Photo Angel."

Now, I'm on a mission to *inspire others* to dig out their dusty attic boxes and help reunite forgotten photos with the families who treasure them.

THE MISSION

To rescue, research, and reunite lost photographs—and inspire others to preserve and reconnect with their own family history.



Photos returned to families in
ALL 50 U.S. STATES



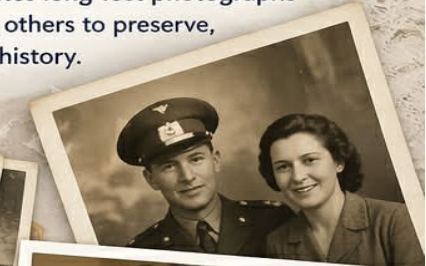
Tens of thousands of followers and supporters nationwide



Countless emotional reunions and stories preserved



Every photo has a story.
Someone is still waiting to hear it.

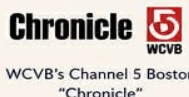


Every reunion is a reminder that kindness and persistence can change someone's day forever.



FEATURED IN

The Photo Angel® Project has been featured in:



"Who Do You Think You Are?" Magazine

and many other news media outlets!

ENGAGING PRESENTATIONS FOR



Historical Societies



Genealogical Societies



Libraries & Museums



Community & Civic Groups

♥ AUDIENCES WILL LEARN:

- ✓ How to identify and research old photographs
- ✓ Tools and techniques used in genealogy research
- ✓ Real-life stories of emotional reunions
- ✓ How anyone can become a "Photo Angel" in their own community



Together, we can make sure no photo is ever truly lost.

LET'S CONNECT

Bring The Photo Angel® Project to your community—virtually or in person!

✉ thephotoangelproject@gmail.com

🌐 www.thephotoangel.com

📱 @thephotoangelproject

BE A PHOTO ANGEL.

*Reunite. Preserve.
Inspire.*

Sponsored by: The Daughters of American Revolution Brooks-Green Woods Chapter,
The Barkhamsted Historical Society, The New Hartford Historical Society



PUBLIC FLU CLINICS

LITCHFIELD COUNTY

VNHLC is offering flu vaccines to people aged 18 and older.

 DAY DATE	 LOCATION	 TIME
Thursday October 1	Colebrook Senior Center 2 School House Rd, Colebrook, CT	9 - 11 am
Thursday October 1	Litchfield Community Center 421 Bantam Rd, Litchfield, CT	1:30 - 3:30 pm
Tuesday October 6	Lakeville Town Grove 42 Ethan Allen St, Lakeville, CT	10 am - 12 pm
Tuesday October 6	VNHLC - Salisbury Branch 30A Salmon Kill Rd, Salisbury	2 - 4 pm
Thursday October 8	Falls Village Senior Center 107 Main Street, Falls Village, CT	10:30 am - 12:30 pm
Friday October 9	Winsted Senior Center 80 Holabird Ave, Winsted, CT	11 am - 1 pm
Tuesday October 13	Barkhamsted Town Garage 33 New Hartford Rd, Barkhamsted, CT	12 - 2 pm
Wednesday October 14	Sharon Pharmacy 8 Gay St, Sharon, CT	10 am - 12 pm
Wednesday October 28	Warren Town Hall 50 Cemetery Rd, Warren, CT	10 am - 12 pm

INSURANCES ACCEPTED:

Aetna, Anthem Blue Cross, Harvard Pilgrim HC,
Medicare Part B, ConnectCare, United Health Care
Advantage (over age 65)

SELF-PAY:

Cash or Check
Regular dose for ages 18 & older: \$50
High dose for adults over 65 - \$100



Date: Saturday, October 24th

Time: 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Pleasant Valley Methodist Church
93 River Rd, Barkhamsted CT

Tickets: At the door, \$20 donation
per person. Children under the age
of 15 years old are Free!

Refreshments will be provided.

Questions? Lorna Delaney
860 379 6419

Home Ground

Now you see it, before you didn't!



A common sight around Barkhamsted, these huge gray monoliths appear seemingly overnight. As if conjured up by magic, we often only notice them fully formed and right under (over) our noses especially when the leaves fall from tree branches. They represent a truly incredible feat of social engineering, but the most typical reaction is not appreciation, but fear.

Understanding the life cycle of bald-faced hornets reveals strategies for dealing with these nests and shows that there is less to be afraid of than first imagined. They are important in the environment, and help to control populations of other insects, many of them harmful. These predators hunt mosquitoes, flies, caterpillars, spiders, and a variety of other insects, bringing their prey back to the colony to feed developing young. They are an important part of the food web which helps keep insect populations in balance. Bald faced hornets also feed on nectar and visit flowers, where they help pollinate as they move from plant to plant.

Life Cycle

Bald faced hornets, wasps and yellow jackets live for one, single season. The common European honeybee is a heavily managed, domesticated, agricultural species. They produce honey, since their life cycle lasts over winter months.

The insects inside a bald-faced hornet nest, except for the queen which survives to abandon the nest, die with the onset of cold weather. The nests are never reused. The only survivor, the queen, exits the nest around the time of the first frost and hibernates for the winter starting a different colony in the spring.



How to Cope

Being effective predators, these insects are very territorial and will voraciously protect their young. The caution needed for approaching a nest should be viewed in the same way as approaching a black bear or a bobcat den. A hornet can sting more than once due to having barbed stingers, and when attacking can release a pheromone which calls other hornets into the attack. However, remember that cold weather means the end of the nest- and the hornets. As things cool down, the hornets become less active and move around less frequently. The cold weather is the signal that it is time for nest removal.

I have successfully removed these nests by waiting for cold weather, or the cooler nights of fall. Whenever possible, waiting for more favorable conditions, avoiding their proximity or just ignoring them is the safest strategy. However, if the nest is located near your home entrance or in a place where there will be human activity, you may need to call a pest management service to have it removed. For the brave at heart, stealthily approaching the nest at night with wasp and hornet spray, and spraying directly into the nest opening is a successful strategy. I recommend that you do not stand around to see the results. Run inside as fast as you can.