

TOWN OF CANAAN
FALLS VILLAGE
CONNECTICUT

Annual Report
Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024



Annual Report for the Town of Canaan Falls Village July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

Falls Village is committed to nurturing a welcoming community that respects the dignity and humanity of all of its neighbors and residents – regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality, age, economic status, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity or differing abilities.

About our Front Cover

(Top) The Center on Main: “Where Community + The Arts Meet.”

(Bottom) The Town Farm Property, Falls Village Fall Festival.

Dedication

This annual report is dedicated to all the volunteers and municipal employees. Their hard work and passion for a strong and healthy community keeps our town of Falls Village “Small, yet Mighty!”



Falls Village Constables

Annual Report compiled and edited by Johanna Mann & Emily Peterson.

This report is as of June 30, 2024. For an updated list of board and commission members, please visit our website at canaanfallsvillage.org.

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Annual Financial Reports for July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

The Independent Auditors Report have separately numbered pages. It begins on page 48 of this report and continues until the last page.

TOWN OFFICES, HOURS AND PHONE NUMBERS

Phone: 860-825-0707

Fax: 860-824-4503

Website: canaanfallsvillage.org

Assessors: 860-824-0707 ext. 14

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 9am to noon. Tuesday 9am to 3pm

Building Inspector: 860-824-0707 ext. 22

Wednesday 9am to noon or by appointment **860-309-7852 cell**

Falls Village/Canaan Historical Society: 860-824-8226

44 Railroad Street, Open Tuesday 9am to noon and by appointment.

Fire Marshall: by appointment 860-364-5758.

First Selectman: 860-824-0707 ext. 23

Monday through Thursday 9am-noon.

Inland Wetland Conservation Commission: by appointment 860-824-0707.

Planning & Zoning Commission: by appointment 860-824-0707 ext. 22.

Probate Court: 100 Pease Street, North Canaan, CT 860-824-7012

Monday through Thursday 9am to 4pm.

Registrars of Voters: 860-824-0707 ext. 18

Wednesday 9am to noon.

Sanitarian: Torrington Area Health District 860-489-0436 ext. 323

Julie Prue – call for appointment.

Social Services/Senior Center: by appointment 860-824-9855.

Tax Collector: 860-824-0707 ext. 13

Monday 9am – 3pm, Wednesday 9am – noon.

Town Clerk: 860-824-0707 ext. 10

Monday through Wednesday 9am-3pm, Thursday 9am-noon.

Town Pool: 860-824-8026

108 Route 63. Summer hours, late June to Labor Day weekend. (Visit canaanfallsvillage.org for up to date information.)

Transfer Station: 860-824-5819

100 Route 63. Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 9am to 3pm.

Treasurer: 860-824-0707 ext. 11

Monday through Wednesday 9am-3pm, Thursday 9am-noon.

Zoning Enforcement Officer: Janell Mullen 860-824-0707 ext.22.

REGULARLY SCHEDULED BOARD AND COMMISSION MEETINGS

Board of Selectmen:	Second Monday of each month. 6pm.
Board of Finance:	Second Monday of each month 7:00pm or immediately following the Board of Selectmen Meeting.
Board of Education:	First Tuesday of each month. 5pm. Held at Lee H. Kellogg School. (December, January, and February are held virtually.)
Planning and Zoning Commission:	Fourth Thursday of each month. 7pm. No August meeting unless necessary.
Recreation Commission:	Second Wednesday of each month. 7pm.
Inlands/Wetlands Conservation:	Third Monday of each month. 7pm.
Housatonic River Commission:	Second Tuesday of each month. 7:30pm. Held at Cornwall Consolidated School
Fire Commission:	Second Wednesday of each month. 5pm. Held at the Emergency Services Center, 188 Route 7 South, Falls Village
Region One School District:	First Monday of each month. 6:30pm. HVRHS library. (July and August meetings held only if necessary)
Historical Society Board:	Third Thursday of each month. 4:30pm. Alternating between the Falls Village Depot and Canaan Union Station.

*Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held at the Town of Canaan Town Hall.
108 Main Street, Falls Village, CT 06031. 860-824-0707
Holidays can alter the schedule from time to time.*

*All meetings scheduled, along with agendas and minutes, can be found on the town's
municipal calendar at canaanfallsvillage.org.*

TOWN OFFICIALS, DEPARTMENTS, TERM EXPIRATIONS

As of June 30, 2024.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

David Barger, (D) First Selectman 2023

Judy Jacobs, (R) Selectman & Christopher Kinsella (D) 2023

TOWN CLERK AND REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS

Johanna Mann, (D) 2023

TOWN TREASURER

Michelle Hansen (R) 2023

Deputy Treasurer, Linda Paviol, (D) 2023

TAX COLLECTOR

Rebecca Juchert-Derungs, (D) 2023

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

Susan Kelsey (R) 2026, Patricia Fife (D)

Deputy Registrars – Tracy Atwood (R) Denise Cohn (D)

BOARD OF FINANCE

David Wilburn (D) 2029, Steve Dean (U) 2025, Carol Staats (R) 2029, Amy Wynn (D) 2027,

Thomas Wilson (D) 2029, John Steines (D) 2029

Alternates: Karl Munson (R) 2025, John Haddon (R) 2027, Ginger Betti (U) 2025

ASSESSORS

Kayla Johnson, Assessor, Theresa Graney (U) Assistant Assessor

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

Tami Reid, Chair (R) 2025, Mary Palmer (D) , Hazel McGuire (R)

FIRE COMMISSION

Hazel McGuire (R) 2023, Lawrence Bulson (U) 2023, David Seney (D) 2025,

Kimberly Mahoney (U) 2025, Timothy Downs (R) 2024

FIRE MARSHALL

Stanley MacMillan

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Fred Laser, Chair (D) 2024, Kimberly Mahoney (U) 2026, Stephen Koshland (U) 2024, Greg Marlowe (R) 2025,

Vincent Inconiglois 2026, Ruth Skovron (U) 2027, Doug Cohn (D) 2028, Matthew Macchi (U) 2028

Alternates: Marc Rosen (D) 2029

Zoning Enforcement Officer & Consultant - Janell Mullen

RECREATION COMMISSION

Edward Moy (D), Chairman 2025, Dan Carr (D) 2024, Melissa Lopes (D) 2024, Lauren Killawee (U) 2026,

Daniel Glass 2026, *Recreation Director: Emily Peterson 2024*

INLANDS WETLAND COMMISSION

Mark Burdick, Chair (D) 2025, Ellery Sinclair, Vice Chair (R) 2026,
Susan Kelsey, Secretary (R) 2026, Brant Burz (U) 2025, Matt Gallagher (D) 2025
Alternate: Marlene VanGulick (D) 2028

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Richard Heinz (D) 2027, Barbara Riley (D) 2027,
Henry Todd (R) 2027, John Holland (D) 2025, Stephen Dean (R) 2025
Alternates: G. Warren Whitaker (D) 2025, Lee Baldwin (U), 2025

HOUSATONIC RIVER COMMISSION

Ellery Sinclair (R) 2025 - *Alternate:* Kent Allyn (D) 2025

CONSTABLES

Janet Hanna, George Elling, John Holland, David Barger, Lou Timolat,
Tim Downs, Dan Shaw. (all terms expire 2023)

BOARD OF EDUCATION - Lee H Kellogg

Patricia Allyn Mechare, Chair, (D) 2025, Theresa Graney (U) 2025,
Adam Sher (D) 2025, Emily Peterson (D) 2027, Maria Bulson (R) 2027

REGION ONE BOARD OF EDUCATION REPRESENTATIVE

Patricia Allyn Mechare (D) 2023

REGION ONE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Patricia Allyn Mechare, Chair, Canaan/Falls Village

REGION ONE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Lisa Carter (2023)
Melony Brandy-Shanley (2024)

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Serving January 4, 2021 through January 6, 2025

Lonnie Carter (D) lonniety@comcast.net
Janet Hanna (D) jrhanha06@gmail.com
Patricia Allyn Mechare (D) curtmechare@comcast.net
Barbara Riley (D) briley058@yahoo.com
Hazel McGuire (R) hazel06031@yahoo.com
Susan Kelsey (R) scottishthistle54@gmail.com
Louise March (D) weezerxr@gmail.com

George Elling (D) jorgeelling@netscape.net
Richard Heinz (D) dickcheinz@att.net
Mary Palmer (D) fallsvillageetc@yahoo.com
Louis Timolat (R) hemlock@snet.net
Dennis Jacobs (R) jdcjacobs04@sbcglobal.net
Kevin Titus (R) kvntitus5@gmail.com



ABOUT OUR TOWN

INCORPORATED

October 1739

POPULATION

1,082

LAND AREA

33.4 sq miles

REGISTERED VOTERS

716 total voters

315 Democrats, 133 Republicans, 265 Unaffiliated, 3 other

FEDERAL LANDS

Appalachian Trail

STATE LANDS

Point of Rocks Rd, Robbins Swamp, Dean's Ravine and Music Mtn.

HISTORIC SITES

South Canaan Meeting House, Beebe Hill School, David M Hunt Library, the Great Falls, Railroad Depot & Railway Museum, Historic Trails.

RECREATION CENTER

A beautiful municipal swimming pool, l-shaped, fountain and recreation area.

The pool is open in the summer mid June through Labor Day weekend and is located at 108 Route 63 in Falls Village.

EDUCATION

Falls Village is home to Lee H Kellogg School (K-8) and the Region One High School – Housatonic Valley Regional High School. Oliver Wolcott Technical School is located in Torrington with bus service to and from Falls Village.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Legislative authority is vested in the Town Meetings. Town affairs are administered by a three person Board of Selectmen. Fiscal affairs are reviewed and recommended by a Board of Finance. We have local ordinances – no charter.

STATE GOVERNMENT

The Town of Canaan is located in the 64th State Assembly District and served by State Representative Maria Horn (D). We are within the 30th Senatorial District and served by State Senator Craig Miner (R).

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

We are within the 5th Congressional District and served by Representative Jahana Hayes (D)

TOWN CLERK

It has been an action packed year as the Town Clerk and Registrar of Vital Statistics for this Small but Mighty Town! I love the diversity of what I do each day. I have enjoyed getting to know many of our residents. I am reminded daily of what a privilege and honor it is to be your Town Clerk.

My door is always open. If we haven't met, please feel free to come down to the Town Hall and introduce yourself. I truly want to meet all of our residents and get to know each of you. I will forever keep my promise to this town and strive to be the very best Town Clerk I can be. I am here for you.

I am thrilled to announce the appointment of Emily Peterson as my Assistant Town Clerk and Assistant Registrar of Vital Statistics.

Vitals for our town during the fiscal year 2023-2024:

- 7 Births
- 11 couples were Married
- And sadly 18 of our residents passed away.

During the July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024 fiscal year, the Town Clerk's office I recorded 221 documents on the land records. The State of Connecticut receives the majority of the revenue received from the \$60 recording fee, plus \$5.00 each additional page, as follows:

Land records recording fees:			\$ 4,604.00
Cott & other expenses:	\$8,106.93	Net	(\$ 3,502.93)
State PA 05-22 for land protection:			\$ 1,356.00
State GP-005 affordable housing and historic preservation:			\$ 430.00
Town of Canaan conveyance tax:			\$88,777.00
Photocopies and fax fees:			\$ 1,603.00
Lease and other expenses:	\$ 2,130.00		(\$527.00)
Fishing, Game licenses, permits (these can now be purchased online)			\$ 8.00
Dog licenses:			\$ 336.00
Marriage licenses, death certificates and certified copies:			\$ 1,770.00

I welcomed numerous home sales with lots of new and friendly faces brought to town. It is always exciting to have new residents and we welcome the opportunity to get even more people involved.

My main objective this past year has again been to bring all of our records up to date, organized and accessible. I have made great strides in this task and I look forward to bringing even more organization to our records and historical data.

More information continues to become available to the public electronically. Please visit: canaanfallsvillage.org to view minutes and agenda, tax information, pay taxes on-line with a credit card, and find links to places of interest in town.

I very much look forward to serving you as the Town Clerk this coming fiscal year and many years thereafter.

This year I have chosen to dedicate this annual report to our beautiful town. All of the men, woman and children that our town is comprised of, make this town what it is. There are 169 towns in the State of Connecticut; our little village is truly one of a kind.

It takes a village and we certainly have a mighty one, for which I am grateful.

We are Falls Village proud.

Johanna M. Mann, Canaan Town Clerk

Appointed 1/3/2022



TOWN OF CANAAN BOARD OF SELECTMEN

ANNUAL REPORT

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

This report concludes the first year of the term of the present Board of Selectmen. Town administrative and public works activities have proceeded smoothly with some departments transitioning in the technology they utilize on a day to day basis. It is the goal of the Board of Selectmen to bring greater transparency and accountability to our municipal government through the incorporation of this technology.

The Board of Selectmen has, over the past year, been greatly aided by the sense of collaboration, the generosity, the competence and the good humor of all those we have worked with in municipal government. The Board of Selectmen would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for their help and support. We are also grateful to the community we serve, who have been so patient and constructive in their interaction with their local government in general and the Board of Selectmen in particular.

STANDING OPERATING POLICY

The Board of Selectmen's operations, financial planning practices and techniques aim to maintain or construct Town properties and deliver municipal services according to usual and customary practices.

OVERVIEW

The annual financial report will be provided in an audit report by King, King and Associates, P.C., CPAs. This audit report will lay out a high level of detail in describing programs, policies and spending. Careful reading will demonstrate the Town of Canaan's good financial health. Overall, we find the Town of Canaan closing our fiscal year under budget with adequate balances in both our general fund and the dedicated accounts reserved for specific purposes.

OPERATIONS, ISSUES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Falls Village Volunteer Fire Department has celebrated its 100th Anniversary throughout the year with different monthly programs and events that have reached every member of our community. The FVVFD, which was founded November 24, 1924, has always committed itself to "Service to the Community". They, in fact, are emblematic of volunteerism as they are passionate, reliable, energetic and willing to help.

The Infrastructure Committee continues to study all of our town's roadways, bridges and buildings. As a committee, they have focused on those town assets that need updating and/or repair such as the roof at 107 Main St., the Cobble Road culvert and bridge, as well as five other bridges that need repair. A Solar Committee has also been formed to study the feasibility of the Town utilizing solar power in the most cost effective and environmentally friendly way.

Two of the Town's "gems", the David M. Hunt Library and the Falls Village Recreation Committee have "partnered", organizing several events in our community over the past year. The collaboration of the two has had a positive effect in reaching out to all members of our community and has been well received.

The Registrar of Voters is to be lauded for the work that has been performed in bringing our Town into compliance for Early Voting. The Registrar's efforts help to ensure that every citizen has the opportunity to cast their ballot.

The Town continues to work with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the MIRA Dissolution Authority and the Northwest Hills Council of Governments to find a long term solution to the disposal of our Municipal Solid Waste in a local, efficient, cost effective and environmentally sound manner.

Board of Selectmen Annual Report continued,

Municipal Solid Waste in a local, efficient, cost effective and environmentally sound manner.

The intersection of Rt. 7 and Rt. 126 continues to be an issue of safety for the pedestrian and vehicular traffic in our Town. The Board of Selectmen continues to work with the State of Connecticut DOT's Office of State Traffic Administration to find a solution to assist in mitigating the risk and decreasing the number of traffic accidents in the intersection.

The Board of Selectmen was pleased to select Terry and Kay Blass as the recipients of the Annual Community Service Award and to select William "Bill" Beebe as the recipient of the Annual Volunteer of the Year Award.

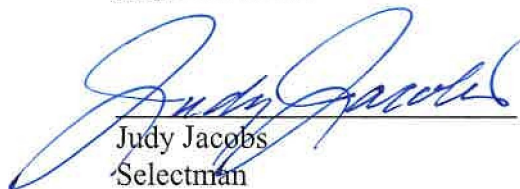
Often it is the unnoticed things that enhance our town. For instance, the Town Hall was repainted, the light poles decorated for the holidays, the caboose being repaired and repainted and the clock at the Town Hall running strong and smoothly - like our Town.


CONCLUSION

On January 30, 2024, the Secretary of State, Stephanie Thomas presented the Municipal Democracy Challenge Cup to the Town of Canaan. This award is given to the municipality (small towns in our case) that had the highest voter turnout in a municipal election. An award such as this demonstrates the character of our Town and has been an important factor in the ability of its citizen office holders to perform their work effectively and enthusiastically.

Respectfully submitted,


David R. Barger
First Selectman


Judy Jacobs
Selectman


Chris Kinsella
Selectman



"Local self government is one of our most precious possessions. It is the greatest contributing factor to the stability, strength, liberty and progress of the nation □ .."

- Calvin Coolidge

BOARD OF FINANCE

The Board of Finance was chaired this year by Dan Silverman until November 2023 when Amy Wynn was elected as the chairperson. Amy maintained the chair through March 2024 when David Wilburn was elected as chair. After the November 2023 municipal elections the Board was comprised of the following regular board members: David Wilburn, Steve Dean, Amy Wynn, Thom Wilson, Carol Staats, John Steines with alternates of Ginger Betti, Karl Munson & John Haddon. Denise Cohn served as recording secretary.

A Public Hearing was held June 1, 2024 to present the Education and Municipal Spending Plans to the Public and receive public comment. After the Public Hearing the Board of Finance voted unanimously to approve the Spending Plans as presented. The Board of Finance approved the Municipal spending at \$2,328,687 and Board of Education spending at \$3,670,854 for educational expenses (Lee H Kellog \$2,253,591; Region One \$1,417,263) for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. At the Board of Finance Special Meeting on June 1, 2024, the Board met and unanimously approved to increase and set the Property Tax mil rate for the Town of Canaan for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 at 22.0.

During the early part of the Fiscal Year, the Board of Finance participated in numerous discussions regarding the proposed solar project, approving the project pending the sale of 35 Railroad Street, then ultimately rescinding the motion to fund the solar project. No further discussion was held.

Audit

King, King & Associates, CPA's conducted the Annual Audit of the finances of the Town of Canaan for the year 2023-2024 and the results were presented at the February 2025 meeting of the Board of Finance. Working with the auditors, Town Treasurer, Michelle Hansen, with Deputy Treasurer, Linda Paviol, reviewed current practices and financial activity. The findings of the audit, presented at the February 10, 2025 Board of Finance meeting, were that the Town is in compliance in all major areas with generally accepted accounting principles and that the Town was determined to have adequate controls to ensure moneys are handled responsibly.

The Auditors issued a Management Letter to the Board of Finance dated January 14, 2025, advising opportunities for strengthening internal controls and operating efficiency. Concerns and *Management's responses are summarized as follows:*

Activity Between the Student Activity Funds and the Board of Education Bank Account

Management response: The BOE chair will be made aware and the Town Treasurer and the BOE Clerk will work to correct the problem.

Old Outstanding Checks in Board of Education Bank Account

Management response: The BOE chair will be made aware and the Town Treasurer and the BOE Clerk will work to correct the problem.

Lack of Separation of Duties within the Building Official's Office

Management response: The BOS will review this recommendation and act upon it. The introduction of online permitting software will be examined and purchased.

Financial Summary

The Town finished the 2023-2024 fiscal year with assets exceeding liabilities by \$5,382,457 (*net position*), an increase of \$212,764 compared to the previous fiscal year. This increase was attributed to higher than anticipated revenues in the form of property tax collections, conveyance taxes and building permit fees, unanticipated grants received as well as cost savings in many expense areas of the town departments and the Board of Education.

The Town activities revenue totaled \$6,188,992 for fiscal year 2023-2024, a decrease of <\$46,006> from the prior fiscal year. The most significant factor contributing to this decrease is the decrease in operating grants and contributions due to the utilization of ARPA funds for Cobble Road and to support multiple nonprofits.

The original General Fund budget provided for the use of \$323,542 of fund balance to finance approved expenditure appropriations not financed by projected revenue. Additional appropriations from the General Fund were made by the Board of Finance during the year for water testing, secretarial services and deputy treasurer training bringing the final adjusted use of the fund balance to \$335,542. Due to better than anticipated revenue and the diligence of employees and department heads, none of the fund balance was utilized. As a result of the positive budgetary variances, an additional \$145,808 was able to be returned to the fund balance.

The General Fund ended with an unassigned balance of \$1,059,366 or 18% of general fund expenditures, which is available in the case of emergency or unplanned expenditures. The town also maintains Capital Reserve Accounts for future needs. At the end of the fiscal year, these Capital Reserve Accounts totaled \$996,479.

We welcomed Michelle Hansen as she took over as the town treasurer upon Linda Paviol's retirement in November of 2023. Linda is currently serving as Deputy Treasurer to ensure continuity. In addition to a new role, Michelle started immediately preparing to transition the town financial records to QuickBooks for the start of the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

The Board of Finance meets the second Monday of each month (unless that falls on a holiday). The list of meetings scheduled for the year is posted in the Town Hall in January. The agenda is posted in the Town Hall and on the town website prior to the meeting. Interested members of the public are encouraged to attend. A public comment period starts and ends each of our monthly meetings and we invite participation.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginger Betti, on behalf of the Board of Finance

Amy Wynn, Steve Dean, Carol Staats, John Steines, Thom Wilson, Ginger Betti

ASSESSOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

	<u>2022 GRAND LIST</u> (Revaluation)	<u>2023 GRAND LIST</u>
REAL ESTATE	205,044,250	206,349,000
PERSONAL PROPERTY	18,306,515	20,419,748
MOTOR VEHICLE	13,832,552	13,180,550
TOTAL	237,183,317	239,890,698
TAX EXEMPT RE	67,237,200	67,676,850

The Assessor's Office hours are Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 9 am to 12 pm or by appointment. Always available at assessor@canaanfallsvillage.org

Respectfully submitted,

Kayla B. Johnson
Connecticut Certified Municipal Assessor I

Theresa Snyder Graney
Assessor's Clerk



TOWN OF CANAAN

Registrars of Voters

July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024

The office of the Registrars of Voters is governed by the Connecticut General Statutes and financially supported by the municipality served. Registrars work under the direction of the Secretary of the State of Connecticut (SOTS). Connecticut state law mandates that each town elect one Democrat and one Republican Registrar; Town of Canaan's Registrars serve four-year terms. Registrars work on a non-partisan basis to serve all of the electors of their Town. As the Town's Election Administration Officials, Registrars are responsible for registering voters, voter education, conducting the annual canvass of voters, maintaining the accuracy of the registry list, updating voter files, preparing a department budget, and training election officials. A voter list is printed and posted in Town Hall during the first week of each month. Registrars are also responsible for annual maintenance of voting tabulators, and reprogramming, tracking and testing of memory cards used to tabulate elections, and ensuring the proper reporting of election results. The Registrars provide Election Day Registration (EDR) services for those who wish to register and vote on election day. The Registrars set up the polling place, and maintain and provide a voting procedure referred to the "Accessible Voting System" (both audio and visual) with a laptop computer and printer for use by voters who need accommodations to cast their ballots. The Registrars help recruit and train poll workers, work with the Town Clerk to make sure that registration deadlines and elections are legally noticed, that ballots are ordered correctly and timely, and assist election Moderators in staffing Town elections.

Many changes with the voting process in the State have occurred within the past year, most notably that of Early Voting. In April, Early Voting occurred for the first time in the State. The Registrars are grateful for the willingness of residents to serve as official poll workers—we cannot conduct elections without them. The Registrars encourage townspeople to become certified to moderate or to work as a pollworker at elections and referendum.

The Registrar's Office welcomed Pat Fife who replaced Denise Cohn as Democratic registrar.

Voter statistics for the Town of Canaan are as follows:

	July 01, 2023	June 30, 2024
Democrat	311	315
Republican	133	133
Unaffiliated	265	265
Other	3	3
Total Registered:	<hr/> 712	<hr/> 716

Susan J. Kelsey, Registrar (R)
Pat Fife, Registrar (D)

TOWN OF CANAAN

BUILDING OFFICIAL'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Building Official's office is located in the Town Hall at 108 Main St. Office hours are Wednesday 9am – 12pm. I may be contacted at 860-824-0707 or my cell phone 860-309-7852. Contact the cell number for all inspections.

When applying for a building permit for a new building or an addition to an existing building, you must go to the Town Hall in Falls Village and get a "Route Sheet". You will need the approval of the town boards and commissions before coming to me for a building permit. When you actually apply for the building permit, you will need plans and specifications for the building project indicating that it will comply with the requirements of the Connecticut State Building Code. I will review the plans and help you with the code requirements. All forms may be printed from the town website.

Building permits are required for almost any work except projects listed under building code R105.2 Work Exempt From Permit. One critical item that require building permits are swimming pools. Whether above ground or in ground, you will need a permit for the pool and enclosure and also for the electrical work. If you are heating the pool, a permit will also be required. If you have any question about whether or not a permit is required, please contact us and we will be glad to help.

The State of Connecticut adopted the 2022 Building Codes on October 1, 2022 along with the amendments.

There is an internet website called Upcodes where you can find State of Connecticut building codes IBC2021 & IRC 2021 plus all fire and utility codes.

During the past fiscal year, 126 permits were issued which were for interior renovations, additions, garages, barns, solar installations, generators and many repairs– inside and out. These permits also include two (2) demolition. There were eight (2) Certificates of Occupancy/Certificate of Approval issued during this period.

Fee income received during this past year was \$46,722.74 with expenses (including wages) totaling \$13294.00

James O. Clarke
Building Official



P&Z Annual Report FY 2023-2024

During the Fiscal Year of 2023-2024, finalization and approval of The Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) update was a top priority of the Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Commission. The ten-year plan sets the stage for the Town's future development and policy initiatives. The POCD is an official document which outlines a vision for the future of Falls Village and identifies strategies to help make that vision a reality. The POCD was adopted with an effective date of February 17, 2024. The P&Z will continue to work on various updates to the Town's Zoning Regulations in response to the implementation plan of the POCD.

The P&Z continued to receive and review a steady stream of applications associated with new single family home construction and residential improvements including decks, sheds, and additions. A total of **twenty-seven (27)** zoning permits were issued administratively.

A notable Special Exception approval was the Application of Thomas and Susan Coolidge for a 4-lot subdivision situated on Beebe Hill, with final (conditional) approval granted on March 28, 2024. (All conditions were satisfied.)

The P&Z welcomed some new Commissioners and renewed the terms of a few current Commissioners.

The P&Z also tackled an important update to its zoning regulations – a comprehensive revision of the Home Business Regulations. This amendment made the permit process simpler for shop and storage contractors, cottage food operations, and minor home businesses. It also allows for a residential property to accommodate more than one home business. All Major Home Businesses (which are subject to a Special Exception) will need to file for renewal every three (3) years. Please contact the ZEO (planningandzoning@ctcanaanfalls.org) if you have any questions or need to properly permit a local home business.

The P&Z has made efforts to interface regularly with other town agencies and boards with an intent interest on fulfilling shared opportunities and requirements.

Respectfully submitted, Fred Laser & Greg Marlowe, Co-Chairs, Janell Mullen, ZEO & Commissioners on behalf of the Town of Canaan Planning & Zoning Commission



Zoning Board of Appeals Annual Report 2023-2024

Prior to the November 2023 Election John Holland Chaired the Zoning Board of Appeals. Members were Steve Dean, Barbara Riley, Richard Heinz and Christopher Kinsella, alternates Warren Whittaker and Lee Baldwin. Mary Palmer served as recording secretary.

This Board received one application for Variance at 64N Route 7 from Steve Dutton to build closer than 50 feet from the rear boundary. Public Hearing for this application was held on November 27 with a new Board seated. The new Board consisted of John Holland, Richard Heinz, Barbara Riley, Steve Dean and Henry Todd. Alternates are David Blass, Jody Bronson and G. Warren Whitaker. Richard Heinz was elected the Chair of the new Board. The Board denied the request for Variance at 64N Route 7.

In December, the ZBA met to receive an application for variance from Keith Bodwell for a 4th dwelling on a single drive in a sub-division being planned for Beebe Hill Road. The Board held Public Hearing on this request in January 30, 2024. The application was denied without prejudice pending Planning and Zoning approval of the sub-division.

No other business came before the ZBA.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Heinz, Chair



Inland Wetlands/Conservation Commission
Annual Report
July 2023 – June 2024

During the past year, the Commission reviewed and approved three applications regarding regulated activities (streambank stabilization, driveway culvert replacement, and invasive plant removal/farmland restoration/building site preparation in vicinity of watercourse). One previously issued permit was granted renewal.

The Commission worked with The Hollenbeck Club on a project to restore/stabilize a section of the Hollenbeck River that was severely eroded during a major storm event; removal of trees obstructing waterflow in the river was also conducted.

One “Notice of Timber Harvest” by Aquarion Water Company on Canaan Mountain was reviewed.

The use of herbicides, particularly in the vicinity of sensitive areas (wetlands and watercourses) by the Housatonic Railroad Company was discussed extensively. Member Sinclair, as part of the Housatonic River Working Group, worked diligently to bring to fruition state legislation (HB 5219) that will regulate railroad herbicide usage and spraying along railroads throughout the State. The efforts of this Working Group are commendable and the Commission wants to especially thank Sinclair for his commitment to this issue. The Commission also provided input to the Town Plan of Conservation and Development regarding the need for this issue to be addressed.

The Commission was asked to provide input for the siting of solar panels at the Town Farm property and attended a site walk with members of various town committee members of the property. IW/CC members in attendance recommended that the proposed siting of the panels be relocated further away from the Hollenbeck River and out of the floodplain.

The Commission continues to address the possibility of creating some form of a community fuelwood program for the town, especially in light of the widespread occurrence of dying/dead ash trees. While there is merit to such a program, there are numerous issues (liability, supervision, funding, etc.) that would need to be addressed prior to its inception.

The subdivision of the Coolidge property on Beebe Hill Road is of concern to the Commission due to the property’s long-standing drainage issues impacting the watershed. The Commission is in communication with abutting landowners and land conservation entities with the hopes of portions of the property being kept out of development. Drainage concerns on Undermountain Road have also been brought to the attention of the Commission and the Commission has attempted to facilitate a solution to the issue.

Mark Burdick (Chairman) Ellery Sinclair, (Vice Chairman), Susan Kelsey (secretary), Brant Burz, Matt Gallagher, Marlene Van Gulick (alternate)



Recreation Commission

The Falls Village Recreation Commission is composed of volunteers and municipal employees devoted to providing recreational, cultural, and leisure activities for residents of all ages and abilities in our town. The Commission believes in developing programs and activities that enhance and enrich the lives of our residents, and building the spirit of community within our town.

Members during the 2022-2023 year included: Emily Peterson (Director), Ted Moy (Chairman), Melissa Lopes (Secretary), Dan Carr, Daniel Glass, Lauren Killawee, Rachel Mills, and Thomas Wilson (resigned August 8th, 2023).

The town pool, which is considered our greatest recreational attraction, opened on June 24th, 2023. The triumphal pool season was under the direction of Waterfront Supervisor, Nikki Blass. Water fitness classes and swim lessons were offered and hours of operation were 11am -7pm daily until Labor Day.

Creative Kids Club returned for two consecutive weeks in July. The summer program was held at the Falls Village Congregational Church, with daily scheduled walking trips around town. Children enjoyed a variety of engaging activities including collaborations with the D.M. Hunt Library, Canaan Falls Village Historical Society and the Falls Village Volunteer Fire Department.

In partnership with the D.M. Hunt Library, the commission held a Fall Festival inside the Center on Main on October 29th, 2023. Despite the rainy day, the event was tremendously successful. Local organizations and vendors provided items for sale, crafts, face painting, pumpkin painting and more for families to enjoy.

The Falls Village Recreation Commission invited families, local businesses and organizations to Main Street for the Annual Halloween Party and the return of Trunk-or-Treat on October 31st, 2023. Trunk-or-Treat again proved to be very successful with many residents distributing treats from decorated trunks. Families were also encouraged to visit inside the Center on Main where pizza and hot apple cider was served by commission members to fill bellies before heading off to the hayride and trick-or-treating around the village.

As winter set in, Santa made his appearance by fire truck at the Town's Annual Tree Lighting and Holiday Celebration. The event was held on December 2nd, 2023, bringing many residents together to spread holiday cheer with carols that were sung around the decorated tree on the town's green. Families were then invited to join inside the Center on Main for cookies and hot cocoa with Santa afterwards.

The Ski Club returned, with another generous grant from the Salisbury Winter Sports Association. The ski club had another fantastic season departing from the Lee H. Kellogg School on Fridays in January 2024, under the direction of Dan Carr.

The annual Easter Egg Hunt, held on March 23rd, 2024, had an excellent turn out from resident families at the Town Farm property. The Easter Bunny made an appearance, and thanks to the help of the Falls Village Seniors and Theresa Graney, treat-filled eggs were spread out for children to find and collect. Three golden eggs were hidden on the property, which contained a special prize for those that found them. The Lee H. Kellogg School 8th grade class provided hot coffee for the brisk morning, and baked goods for the residents to enjoy. After the hunt was complete, the Commission encouraged people to join a walking tour of the entire property, with hopes to gain interest in the property and gather ideas for future developments and expansion.

In May, the Recreation Commission helped organize the Memorial Day parade, which unfortunately was canceled due to inclement weather. However, the Memorial Day Ceremony was held inside the Senior Center, which was well attended and our generous Falls Village resident volunteers provided a variety of

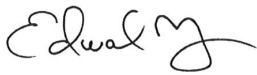
baked goods and coffee for those that attended.

Expanding use of the Town Farm Property continues to be one of the Commission's priorities. Future projects include walking trails, a pavilion, athletic fields and much more. Further development of the property will depend on help and support from our Falls Village community.

We are seeking individuals to fill open positions on the Commission. If you are interested in sharing your expertise, we encourage you to attend a Commission meeting which is held on the second Wednesday of each month at the Town Hall to learn more about the Commission and how to get involved.

The Commission would like to extend a special thank you to the Falls Village Volunteer Fire Department, Board of Selectmen, and the Department of Public Works for all their assistance, and for helping to keep the recreational activities in our town safe.

Respectfully submitted,



Ted Moy, Chairman



Emily Peterson, Recreation Director



Falls Village Volunteer Fire Department Annual Report

July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

This past year we spent preparing and celebrating our 100th Anniversary. A tremendous milestone for any volunteer organization, but even more so for an organization that requires the number of man hours annually that a fire department and ambulance do. We kicked off our 2024 year with an open house, followed by education by a National Speaker. Our biggest event was our gala which was magical under the tent on the oval of HVRHS.

One of our biggest projects that we took on this year was purchasing and building our new brush truck. We were able to do this without asking the town for additional financial resources because of a very generous donor. We retired our 1965 brush truck.

Once again we had an increase in our call volume this past year. The department responded to 209 calls. 136 of those calls were EMS, 73 were for car accidents, downed power lines, cellar pump outs, public assists, and we had two fire calls. We replaced all of our extrication tools this past year. The previous set was purchased in the 2001 making them 20 years old. Again, we were able to upgrade these tools due to a very generous donation.

This past year our membership increased by four. We sent four members to fire school. We are very happy to have new members and training is provided to them during our Thursday night details or they can sign up to take any number of classes offered at our fire school, at neighboring departments or within our own fire house.

As always, we are looking for new members to join our department. There are many ways that a person can serve the department and all training will be provided to you.

Lastly, do not forget to have your 911 signs visible from the road in case of an emergency. We want to be able to find you quickly. If you need a 911 sign you can call the fire house number, 860-824-5298, to leave a message, and Hazel McGuire will get back to you.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Hansen, Fire Chief



2024 Service Awards

Falls Village Fire Department Line Officers

Chief: Matthew Hansen
Assistant Chief: Timothy Downs
Captain: Raymond Flint
First Lieutenant: Thom Wilson
Second Lieutenant: Ben Menniges

Falls Village Ambulance Officers

Captain: Michelle Hansen
First Lieutenant: Andrea Downs
Second Lieutenant: Thomas Sherwood

Fire Police Officers:

Captain: John Matthews
First Lieutenant: Peter Pixley

Ladies Auxiliary

President: Linda Paviol
Vice President: Michelle Hansen
Secretary: Alyssa King
Treasurer: Gail Clark

Board of Directors:

President: Andrea L. Downs
Vice President: Timothy Paviol
Secretary: Michelle Hansen
Treasurer: Linda Paviol
Bill Beebe
Raymond Flint
Alan Lovejoy
Hazel McGuire
David Seney
Matthew Hansen: Chief
Michelle Hansen: EMS Captain

Fire Department

5 Years
Richard Stone
Libby Menniges
Calpurnia Davis
Colter Rule

10 Years
Emily Downs

15 Years
Michelle Hansen

20 Years
Doug Palmer
Patricia Mechare
LaBecca Machia

25 Years
Dennis Jacobs

30 Years
Kent Allyn

55 Years
James Wood

60 Years
David Dodge



David M. Hunt Library
Annual Report to the Town of Canaan
July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

The year was exceptionally productive at Hunt Library and focussed primarily on increasing library usage, services, and programming for all age groups in our community. A major accomplishment of the past year has been building our staff under Executive Director Meg Sher's leadership to better serve Falls Villagers of all ages. In October, Brittany Spear-Baron was hired as Assistant Librarian and Youth Services Coordinator which has allowed us to significantly deepen our relationship with Kellogg School, providing new services to school aged children in Falls Village. We jointly began offering two new programs: a once a month half day program coinciding with school development days, and an after school program—six week sessions that meet once a week throughout the school year. In addition to enriching children's lives, these offerings help combat the lack of after school care for Kellogg students in Falls Village and bring more children into the library. We also received several grants to support additional children's programs for which we otherwise did not have funding. Among those grants, Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation (NCCF) awarded support for the Letters Are Characters early literacy program, which we offered in collaboration with Kellogg School's kindergarten class. NCCF also granted us funds to purchase chrome books for coding classes for kids; we ran a six week coding class as part of the Kellogg after school program in the Spring.

In addition to our on-going adult programs (Coffee & Conversation, Stitching in the Stacks, Banned Book Club, etc.), we also substantially increased and diversified library programs for adults. Just a few examples: Falls Village native Lydia Downs shared her work highlighting Indigenous voices and stories at Mystic Seaport and local resident Jenny Law presented on her walk on the West Highland Way. Partnering with local organizations such as the VNA and McCall Behavior Health Network allowed us to offer a series of Bend and Stretch classes and a suicide prevention and Narcan administration training for the community. We also hosted more book-centered programming for adults, including a presentation by C.W. Goodyear, author of "President Garfield from Radical to Unifier" and an incredibly well attended event with local HVRHS teacher Peter Vermilyea about his new book "Litchfield County and the Civil War".

In partnership with Libraries without Borders, and with help of volunteers, we also completed three major projects. We refreshed all of our interior spaces, revamping our children's reading room to better serve children of all ages, updating the main reading room and staff workspace, and transforming the second floor to include individual work spaces, meeting space, a cozy reading nook and the book sale. We launched "Village Voices: A Storytelling Pathway" which highlights the stories of Falls Villagers through partnerships with local organizations such as the Historical Society, Equity Commission, FV Daycare and Kellogg School. Our third large (and ongoing) project is a full culling of library collections—deaccessioning books that are out of date, haven't circulated in years or are no longer relevant—creating space for new, current material as well as increased space for displays. Our partnership with LwB allowed us to tackle large projects that we could not have managed on our own given limited staff capacity, and made an incredibly positive impact on Hunt Library this year.



The Friends of the Library continue to be the backbone of Hunt Library fundraising and library fundraising events continue to help strengthen the social fabric of our town. In 2024, we celebrate 40 years of Friends selecting, pricing and selling books for the monthly book sale. February's Midwinter in the Village brought food, readings and music to the Hunt and was well attended by Falls Villagers. The Giant Tag Sale held at the Center on Main in July during the Falls Village Car Show weekend has become an annual event that's welcomed by Falls Villagers and hundreds of Car Show attendees. Hunt ArtWall, now in its thirteenth year, continues to be a great fundraiser and this year held nine exhibits, including one featuring art by the students of Lee H. Kellogg School. A highlight of the year was the "From the Great Falls to the Hilltops" exhibit held in collaboration with the Falls Village Historical Society. More than three years in the planning, this exhibit featured beautifully mounted photographs of Falls Villagers from the 1890s, all of which were printed from antique photo negatives. Two related talks were held and a 40 page catalogue was printed documenting our town history.

As always, our 2023-2024 annual operating budget of \$169,705 continues to be funded by the largess of the individuals and businesses who make financial contributions to us (\$58,000), fundraisers (\$45,291), distributions from our endowment fund (\$24,000), and the Town grant (\$52,225). Our endowment has grown to about \$530,000 and we fund 14% of our operating costs with annual endowment withdrawals within Federal guidelines. We have met or exceeded all budgeted revenue lines and we have kept our expenses well within budgeted limits. Our free cash at year-end was about \$42,000, much of which is earmarked for our significant capital expenses maintaining our aging 1880's building. The library successfully made its case to the Selectmen and the Board of Finance, based on solid, sound arguments, for an increase in our Annual Town Grant. Our Town grant of \$52,225 in 2023-2024 will be raised to \$64,725 for the fiscal year 2024-2025, an increase of 24%. We are grateful for continued support from the Town of Canaan and its taxpayers—our primary patrons.

Our mission is that the D.M. Hunt Library is a welcoming, accessible place where everyone in our community can be inspired, empowered, and engaged. While honoring our past, we prepare for the future by providing a doorway to a wide array of knowledge, experience, and ideas. Please visit!

Respectfully Submitted,

Roxann Steinberg Whitaker
President, Board of Directors

August 2024



**David M. Hunt Library and School Association
Board of Directors August 2023 - July 2024**

The Board of Directors of the Association shall elect from the Directors at each annual meeting of the Association four Officers: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Terms are as follows: President, one two-year term, no consecutive terms. Vice President, one two-year term, no consecutive terms. Vice President becomes President when the President leaves office. Treasurer, four-year terms, one consecutive term allowed. Secretary, four year terms, one consecutive term allowed. Directors, four year terms, continuous consecutive terms allowed.

Board Term Expires

President, Roxann Steinberg Whitaker	2027
Vice President, Rusty Tunnard	2026
Treasurer, Henry Todd *	2026
Secretary, Toni Siegel	2027

Barbara Deinhardt *	2026
Nina Embiricos	2026
John Holland *	2025
Rebecca Juchert-Derungs	2028
Frankie Lucostic	2025
Bosco Schell	2026
Dan Shaw	2026
Kyle Wilkinson	2026
Leone Young	2027

Woods Sinclair, Director Emeritus
Friends of the Library President, Zoë Fedorjaczenko

*Board of Selectmen's Nominees

Library Staff 2023-2024

Meg Sher, Executive Director
Brittany Spear-Baron, Assistant Director and Youth Services Coordinator
Lynn Webster, Circulation Assistant
Paula Rogers, Library Assistant

David M. Hunt Library
63 Main Street, Falls Village, CT 06031
860-824-7424
email: dmhuntlibrary@gmail.com
website: huntlibrary.org





Falls Village-Canaan Historical Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 206
Falls Village, CT 06031

860-824-8226 fvchs8226@gmail.com

ANNUAL REPORT

On behalf of the Falls Village-Canaan Historical Society, I am pleased to present the Historical Society's annual report for the July 2023 to June 2024 time period.

Our mission is to preserve, protect and promote the rich history of the Town of Canaan (Falls Village), North Canaan and the immediate surrounding areas, such as Amesville. We own two historic buildings, the South Canaan Meetinghouse and the Falls Village Depot. We own the New Haven caboose, a landmark in the downtown of Falls Village, which was recently painted. We also maintain the Town-owned Beebe Hill Schoolhouse, and own the contents of that historic structure. Our main museum is in the Depot on Railroad Street, along with research material and our offices. The South Canaan Meetinghouse is the location of our popular 1st Tuesday at 7 Summer Talks and the Peddlers Flea Market and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Along with caring for our historic sites and collections, the lectures and flea market, we have also hosted historic walking tours in the Falls Village Historic District and Cemetery Tours with the D.M. Hunt Library. We worked with the Hunt Library on the Hallaway exhibit, which showcased the remarkable glass slides belonging to Mabel Hallaway of Undermountain Road. We also were the recipients of 22,000 railroad slides belonging to a much loved local engineer Peter McLachlan. Volunteers continued to scan and catalog these slides and they are considered to be among the best collections of railroad slides in the Northeast.

Funding for our historic buildings and other projects come from membership, contributions, fundraising, grants (including \$4,500 from the Town of Canaan), and rentals from two apartments above the Depot. It is a challenge keeping up with care of two very old buildings and their contents, but we are committed to doing so and appreciate the support of the community with our endeavors.

Our board members are: Judy Jacobs, President; Larry Bulson & Ruth Adotte, Vice Presidents; Dick Heinz, Treasurer; Kay Blass, recording secretary & assistant curator; Cheryl Aeschliman, corresponding secretary & curator of the South Canaan Meetinghouse; Midge Cortesi, curator & archivist; Bill Beebe, director & curator of the Beebe Hill Schoolhouse; Frank Hadsell, Pat Graf, Bunny McGuire, Dave Jacobs, Barbara Riley, Mary Lu Sinclair, Tracey Wilson, Kathy Ducillo, Jill Godburn, Directors.

Respectfully submitted,

President





246 Warren Turnpike Road
Falls Village, CT 06031
Central Office (860) 824-0855
www.region1schools.org

To: Falls Village Community

From: Melony Brady-Shanley, Superintendent

Date: November 2024

Subject: Falls Village Annual Report

Executive Summary

The 2023-2024 academic year was marked by progress and innovation, with a strong emphasis on enhancing literacy for our students. With an enrollment of 68 students, we implemented evidence-based curricula and assessments to strengthen our reading programs. Our students' performance continues to shine, as reflected in the School Accountability Next Generation Accountability Index. Additionally, our school community came together to celebrate memorable events, fostering a culture of engagement and joy for all.

Curriculum Focus: Literacy Excellence

In the 2024-2025 school year, we adopted the Benchmark Advance curriculum for grades K-3, aligning with the Science of Reading principles. This program emphasizes systematic, explicit instruction in phonics, vocabulary, and comprehension, providing our students with the skills they need for long-term success in reading and learning.

To measure and support progress, we introduced AimsWeb, a new reading assessment tool. This system enables us to monitor student performance, identify needs, and tailor interventions to ensure every student is on track for success.

Accountability and Performance

According to the School Accountability Next Generation Accountability Index, Lee H. Kellogg School has demonstrated three consecutive years of improvement. This consistent upward trajectory has led to surpassing the state average and closing in on the state target, with only a few points remaining. This achievement reflects the dedication of our staff and the hard work of our students in pursuing academic excellence.

Enrollment Overview

Our school serves a total of 68 students, creating a close-knit community where personalized attention is at the heart of our educational approach.

Special Events

We celebrated our school community with vibrant, inclusive events that brought students, families, and staff together such as: Walk, Bike, or Ride to School Day, encouraging active and healthy habits. Our Fall Costume Parade - A festive celebration of creativity and community spirit, enjoyed by students and families alike.

Looking Ahead

As we plan for the future, we aim to:

1. Deepen our commitment to literacy by expanding professional development for staff in the Science of Reading.
2. Continue monitoring progress with AimsWeb to ensure data-driven decisions.
3. Build on our success with the Accountability Index to meet and exceed state targets.
4. Enrich student experiences through more community events and extracurricular opportunities.

Acknowledgments

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our dedicated staff, supportive families, and the broader community for their ongoing partnership in creating a nurturing and enriching educational environment.



Ian Strever
Principal

Steven Schibi
Assistant Principal



246 Warren Turnpike Road
Falls Village, Connecticut 06031
Telephone (860) 824-5123
Fax (860) 824-5419

The 2023-2024 school year has been one of significant progress and growth for our school community. We have seen remarkable collaboration between departments, enhancements to student support services, and planned improvements to our school's physical infrastructure. By integrating the work of STEM and Humanities teachers, we have broken down silos to create a more unified approach to teaching and learning. Additionally, the introduction of a School-Based Health Center and major renovations scheduled for this summer demonstrate our commitment to both the academic and physical well-being of our students.

One of our most notable achievements this year has been the increased collaboration between STEM and Humanities teachers. STEM educators focused on improving discourse and student-centered questioning through their partnership with Clark Consulting. This initiative is set to evolve further with department heads working to refine feedback practices, shifting from teacher-led questioning to a model that encourages deeper student inquiry.

Humanities teachers have also played a pivotal role by drafting and calibrating a revised schoolwide writing rubric. This rubric, designed with input from eighth-grade teachers, aims to create a shared vision of high expectations for student writing. These efforts have been driven by Department Heads, who have mapped out professional learning sessions for next year in alignment with our school and district strategic plans.

In November, we held a professional development session led by Bena Kallick, focusing on Peer Observation aligned with the Habits of Mind (HOM) and our school's climate and culture goals. Teachers practiced the Habit of "Listening with Understanding and Empathy," preparing them to apply these skills in both their interactions with colleagues and students.

Next year, we will extend this work with a series of ten sessions led by Kallick, involving approximately ten teachers. This initiative aims to develop a peer feedback model aligned with our new Teacher Evaluation Plan (TEP), setting the stage for professional growth and collaboration across the building.

Throughout the year, our collaboration with Carolyn Corrado has helped teachers address challenging Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) issues. Teachers engaged in three case studies requiring empathetic listening, creative problem-solving, and flexible thinking—key components of the Habits of Mind. This work has strengthened our commitment to creating an inclusive and equitable learning environment, equipping teachers with the skills to navigate complex issues thoughtfully.

A major milestone this year was the introduction of our School-Based Health Center, a vital addition that supports the health and well-being of our students. The center, staffed by Housatonic graduate Rebecca Malone, offers comprehensive services, including medical care, mental health counseling, and other supportive resources directly on campus. This new facility

has been instrumental in ensuring that our students have immediate access to the care they need, thereby supporting their overall well-being and academic success.

The Health Center staff collaborates closely with our school nurse, Jackie Nichols, as well as school counselors and administration to provide holistic support, ensuring that health issues do not impede students' ability to thrive in school.

As we look forward to the 2024-2025 school year, we are also excited to announce significant renovations that will take place over the summer. These improvements are designed to enhance the functionality and comfort of our school's physical environment:

1. **Auditorium Renovations:** The auditorium will undergo extensive upgrades, including new seating, improved acoustics, and enhanced lighting systems. These updates will create a more engaging and comfortable space for performances, assemblies, and other events.
2. **Cafeteria Upgrades:** The cafeteria will be redesigned to improve traffic flow, seating arrangements, and overall aesthetics. These changes will create a more inviting and efficient space for students to enjoy their meals and socialize.
3. **HVAC System Overhaul:** We are installing a new HVAC system in the larger spaces in the school to improve air quality and ensure a comfortable learning environment year-round. This upgrade is particularly important as we continue to prioritize the health and well-being of our students and staff.
4. **Generator Installation:** New generators will be installed to provide reliable backup power in case of outages, ensuring that the school can continue to operate smoothly and safely during emergencies.

These renovations are part of our ongoing commitment to providing a safe, modern, and supportive learning environment for all members of our school community.

This year has been marked by significant advancements in both our academic programs and the physical infrastructure of our school. From the integration of professional learning across departments to the introduction of a School-Based Health Center and planned summer renovations, we are building a foundation for continued success and growth.



Lee H. Kellogg School Town Report 2023-2024

A New School Year

The 2023-24 school year began in traditional Kellogg style around the flagpole, where we welcomed back 83 students, including a delightful group of 10 kindergarteners. Our talented staff also expanded, with new members Patricia Bunk joining as our art teacher, Samantha Flunory as Special Education teacher, and Laura Moran as paraeducator. Together, we embarked on a year focused on providing rigorous academics alongside experiential learning, all in alignment with the Region One Portrait of a Graduate. In true Kellogg fashion, outdoor education remains integral to our curriculum, ensuring students stay connected to both nature and community.

Fall Adventures and Community Engagement

Our Falcons took full advantage of the fall season, embarking on field trips filled with outdoor learning, from hikes and canoe trips to rock climbing. Our 6th and 7th graders spent a week at Nature's Classroom in Camp Cody, New Hampshire, where they joined Kent Center School students for an immersive experience in nature. November was especially active, as the LHK Kindness Club decorated lockers with kind messages and created a backdrop for our Veterans Day Celebration. Students also explored the community with regular visits to the Hunt Library, class trips to the Senior Center, and an inclusive Veterans Day event attended by local residents.

Winter Celebrations of Art and Music

In January, our Falcons shone brightly at the Winter Concert, where every grade level performed a mix of vocal and instrumental pieces, supported by our chorus and band. The Winter Extravaganza Art Wall was displayed at the DM Hunt Library, where families gathered to celebrate our young artists' works in a vibrant reception.

Springtime Learning and Kindness Initiatives

February kicked off with World Read Aloud Day and the 100th Day of School on February 7th. Our Student Council's Carnation Sale brought joy on Valentine's Day as students exchanged flowers and notes of kindness. Random Acts of Kindness Week soon followed, with the Kindness Club sharing daily prompts to encourage a caring atmosphere throughout the school.

In March, our third and fourth graders enjoyed the Puppets and Poetry program, a six-week workshop led by Susan Aziz. Students chose poems, created puppets and sets, and crafted performances to showcase at our BOE meeting, bringing their work to life in engaging ways.

On April 8th, the entire LHK community gathered to view a Solar Eclipse. STEAM classes focused on solar and lunar phenomena, with middle school students creating an educational bulletin board, and younger students building Lunar Landers. We celebrated with an all-school dismissal to witness the eclipse, and families joined us for an after-school viewing, complete with eclipse glasses for safe viewing.

Building Community and Celebrating Achievements

May marked Mental Health Awareness Month, during which students and staff took part in activities that highlighted self-care and joy. We also participated in the annual Bike, Walk & Roll to School event, joined by First Selectman Dave Barger and the Connecticut Department of Transportation. This event strengthened community bonds and reinforced our focus on healthy, outdoor habits. Our eighth graders enjoyed a trip to Washington, D.C., with Region 1 peers, immersing themselves in our nation's history and culture.

Our year concluded with a celebration for our 12 eighth graders, including a dessert dinner at the Falls Village Congregational Church and a graduation ceremony attended by the LHK and Falls Village communities. We sent off the Class of 2024 with heartfelt congratulations and best wishes as they embark on high school adventures.

It is truly great to be a Falcon!

Together,

Stacey Calo, Principal





FY23-24 ANNUAL REPORT

The Northwest Hills Council of Governments (NHCOC) consists of the Mayors and First Selectmen from twenty-one (21) member towns in the Northwest Corner. It is one of the nine Councils of Governments that have been established in Connecticut.

The NHCOC membership generally meets monthly to discuss issues of municipal concern, oversee COG planning projects, and explore new opportunities for regional cooperation. This past Fiscal Year the board met eleven (11) times and meeting recordings can be viewed at NHCOC's YouTube Channel at: www.youtube.com/@northwesthillscouncilofgov9418/videos Meeting agendas, minutes and additional information on NHCOC initiatives and activities can also be found on our website: www.northwesthillscog.org

BOARD LEADERSHIP

NHCOC Officers serving during the majority of FY 2023-2024 were as follows:

- **Chairman** - Dan Jerram (New Hartford)
- **Vice Chairman** - Michael Criss (Harwinton)
- **Secretary** - Patrick Roy (Roxbury)
- **Treasurer** - Tom Weik (Morris)

The NHCOC board membership approved a FY23-24 budget that incorporated increases in funding in several areas that have a direct benefit to the towns. These areas included an increase in the state Regional Service Grant (RSG) and an increase in the state Department of Transportation (CTDOT) planning funds for the region. With these funding increases, staffing was increased, and funding was set aside for consultants to perform project and planning related work that will directly benefit the region on short- and long-term basis.

In addition, two new areas of service were created that are unique to our region and the state's Council of Governments: 1) *Northwest Hills Community Health Network of CT*. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) awarded the NHCOC \$1.2M in Rural Health Network Development funding to implement an adolescent mental health network over the next four years. This funding supports three clinical partners and a Rural Health Network Project Director. NHCOC is the only COG in the state with a fulltime position dedicated to rural health, and 2) *Regional Opioid Response Fund*. NHCOC convened nine towns in the region to pool their National Opioid Settlement Funds to pursue evidence-based opioid harm-reduction and prevention initiatives tailored to the needs of small, rural communities. To date, the RORF has expended approximately \$60,000, providing Leave Behind Kits to ambulance crews in participating towns,



purchasing 12-months of harm-reduction supplies for the Litchfield County Opiate Task Force, and partially funded the first LGBTQ Harm Reduction position in the region. NHCOC is currently the only COG in the state to pool National Opioid Settlement Funds.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

NHCOC, as a federally recognized Economic Development District (EDD), initiated a collaborative review process which culminated in a new Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the region. Major strategies outlined in the current CEDS include addressing the housing needs of the region, encourage business growth and expansion, support workforce development that aligns talent with needs of the regional businesses, increase tourism and strengthen the creative economy.

Additionally, three-year funding from the US Economic Development Administration (EDA) was increased to \$70,000 (from \$60,000) for the upcoming FY 25 and will provide for the continued update to our five-year CEDS and continued implementation of the goals and objectives contained within.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

NHCOC issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) at the end of FY23-24 to conduct a Transit Analysis Study which will be funded by the Federal Transit Administration, CTDOT and agency match in the next fiscal year. The focus of this study will be to aid in the development of a coordinated transit network that will serve the residents of the NHCOC region and provide a thorough analysis in addressing current and future transit demands.

Under the CT Department of Transportation's statewide Active Transportation Microgrant Program, three municipalities (Canaan, Torrington, and Warren) within the Northwest Hills region were awarded \$5,000 grants for the purpose of providing resources that would promote safe walking and biking in Connecticut.

Additional transit operating funds have been made available for elderly and disabled transportation within the NHCOC region through NHCOC's approved Congressional Direct Spending grant. This \$92,000 grant will provide funding for the Northwest CT Transit District, GEER, and Sullivan Center.

Approximately \$1M is allocated through the CTDOT each year for priority local road improvement projects (LOTICP). Five municipalities within the region qualify under this program. Projects currently in various stages of approval/development are located in Burlington, Litchfield, Torrington, and Winchester.



federal Wild and Scenic status for a portion of the Housatonic River while continuing to partner with the 7-town membership of the HRC.

NHCOG also continuously promotes the on-line Interactive Regional Trail Map, developed by NHCOG, in cooperation with the Housatonic Valley Association to promote access and usability of the public hiking trails in the region.

The agency supports local conservation and preservation grant application and funding efforts through letters of support on an ongoing basis throughout the year upon request.

The state of Municipal Solid Waste in the region and its sustainable future was a key issue this fiscal year and ongoing into the next, particularly with the dissolution of the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA) on the horizon in 2025.

NHCOG also continued its support of the SustainableCT Summer Fellowship where college-level students perform valuable sustainability-related work for our member communities each year.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert A Phillips, AICP
Executive Director





Housatonic Youth Service Bureau
Annual Report FY 2024

On behalf of the Housatonic Youth Service Bureau, I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the town of Falls Village for its unwavering support of our mission. Your commitment to our work in promoting mental health, supporting families, and empowering youth through counseling, prevention, and positive youth development programs has been instrumental in helping us make a lasting impact on our community.

Thanks to Falls Village's generosity and partnership, we have been able to expand our services to reach more youth and families in need. From offering vital counseling resources to hosting educational workshops, your support ensures that we can continue to provide a safe space and trusted guidance for those who seek our help.

The benefits of proactively supporting youth and families are significant...

No-Cost Counseling (9 Falls Village Students)

- *Focus:* Provides a safe, confidential space for youth and families to discuss personal challenges, mental health issues, and relational conflicts.
- *Benefits:* Enhances communication skills, builds emotional resilience, and fosters stronger family bonds. Counseling services often lead to improved mental health, reduced family conflicts, and better school performance for youth.

Drug Prevention and Education

- *Focus:* Educates youth and families on the risks of substance use and equips them with skills to make healthy choices.
- *Benefits:* Reduces the likelihood of youth engaging in risky behaviors and helps parents recognize early signs of substance use. This proactive approach supports healthier life choices and builds a solid foundation for lifelong wellness.

Positive Youth Development Programs

- *Focus:* Promotes self-esteem, leadership, and life skills for youth to help them thrive in school and community life.
- *Benefits:* Empowers young people to build a sense of purpose and belonging, reduces delinquency, and encourages active community participation. These programs nurture skills that prepare youth for future careers and responsible citizenship.

As we look ahead to the future, we remain committed to working together to build a healthier, more resilient community. The town of Falls Village's belief in our mission gives us the encouragement and resources to grow our programs and increase our reach to those who need it most. Thank you once again for your invaluable support. We are truly grateful for Falls Village's partnership in this journey, and we look forward to many more years of collaboration and shared success.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kelly Parker', is positioned above the printed name.

Kelly Parker
HYSB Executive Director

PO Box 356 | Falls Village, CT 06031 | P: (860) 824-4720
www.hysb.org | info@hysbct.org



Falls Village Day Care Center

35 Page Road
Falls Village, Connecticut 06031
Phone: 860-824-0882 / Fax 860-824-8195
email: fvdccdiretor@gmail.com

The Center has continued to flourish because of our amazingly dedicated staff. Led by the Center's Director, Ashley Allyn, they have provided kind and loving care to those youngsters who attend, in addition to providing outstanding programs for which our Center has become known. We abide by the many mandates of the State of Connecticut with additional time and education for our providers.

The Center cares for infants, toddlers and preschoolers. A before and after school program is provided as needed. Each age group has a curriculum specifically designed for their needs. All programs have been filled and there is often a waiting list.

While we have a core of dedicated staff, it hasn't always been easy when our numbers grow and we need additional people to meet the State mandated student/teacher ratio. Staff must meet certain criteria/education which the State demands for those who are employed at day care centers.

We are currently working with local citizens and others (as has always been the case) who are willing to volunteer time for some of our needs. This fall one of the projects is to prune trees and shrubs and clean-up excess growth around the Center.

The Director and the Board are always on the look-out for grants to supplement our budget. These grants range from providing equipment, to professional education, to opportunities for field trips for the youngsters who attend and more.

The Town of Canaan has continued to be of great support, as it has been for well over the forty plus years of the Center's existence. We are proud to provide this service to local citizens and those who work locally at a reasonable price.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Allyn Mechare

Patricia Allyn Mechare
Chairman of the Board of Directors

Falls Village Day Care Center Inc. * 35 Page Road * Falls Village, CT 06031-0261
An Equal Opportunity Provider * Federal Tax ID #06-1450256 * A United Way Agency

Housatonic River Commission

“to coordinate on a regional basis the local management and protection of the Housatonic River Valley in northwestern Connecticut”

Annual Report 2023-2024

The Housatonic River Commission (HRC) held 11 regularly scheduled monthly meetings in the past year. Meetings took place at 7:00 on the second Tuesday of each month. Meetings were held at the Cornwall Consolidated School and, in the latter half of the year, HRC's new office at 7 Railroad St, West Cornwall. Virtual options to join the meetings were available via Google Meet. With recent Partnership National Wild and Scenic River Designation, the Commission continued work with non-voting representatives from HVA, the CT DEEP, the National Park Service (NPS), FirstLight, and Northwest Hills Council of Governments. The voting members continued to be our town commissioners and alternates from Canaan, Cornwall, Kent, New Milford, North Canaan, Salisbury, and Sharon.

The HRC continues to have a primary responsibility for monitoring and advising these seven towns on issues that involve the Housatonic River and working to maintain a healthy and scenic river corridor as according to Wild and Scenic Outstandingly Remarkable (Resource) Values. The annual dues requested from each town are \$400 per year. Much of the time at our meetings this year focused on continuing to build the framework around our participation in the Wild and Scenic River Partnership Program and funding from NPS, including developing fiscal work plans and an updated stewardship management plan to support River projects and management. These efforts are structured to maintain local control for these projects within the framework of HRC.

Our monthly meetings continued to provide space for updates from each of our subcommittee chairs and supporting partners on their work addressing issues, including HVA's successful River Information and Outreach (RIO) program, fishing management (CT DEEP), and river access. HRC's mission includes maintaining public access, and the proposed Ruggles Landing is being partnered with the state and town of North Canaan to allow for safe river usage. In addition, HRC continues to monitor the PCB cleanup and remediation proposals for the rest of the Housatonic River.

As always, land use issues within the Housatonic River Corridor remain a significant concern. We continue to support efforts to address topics of natural resources management in our newly designated subcommittees, including resource protection, river use and access, and communications and outreach. Recent and upcoming work in these committees includes and is certainly not limited to, invasive plant management, visitor use management, development and inventory of Housatonic River access sites, stream-crossing management, and buildout of outreach strategy. Monitoring the work of the Housatonic Railroad, including their track repair, herbicide use, and derailment risk also continues. The River Commission provided comments and suggestions on many proposed projects as development along the River continues to increase significantly. All towns are reminded to please be sure that the HRC is notified of any proposed project within the River Corridor.

We welcome all citizens to come to our meetings and get involved in discussions about the River. We are also grateful for the support we have received from the member towns, local zoning officials, and the Northwest Hills Council of Governments.

FALLS VILLAGE TOWN REPORT 2023-2024

VISITING NURSE & HOSPICE OF LITCHFIELD COUNTY, INC.

Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Litchfield County was formed by the mergers of Salisbury Visiting Nurse Association (est. 1904), VNA Northwest (Bantam, est. 1928) Foothills Visiting Nurse & Home Care (Winsted, est. 1922) and the Farmington Valley VNA (Simsbury, est. 1908). The combined agencies will be caring for the residents of Litchfield County and the Farmington Valley.

VNHLC is a State licensed, Medicare certified, non-profit VNA providing care 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. VNHLC provides services in the areas of Skilled Nursing, Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapies, Medical Social Work, Hospice, Dietary, Pediatrics, Wound Care, Chronic Disease Management and non-medical Home Assistance Programs.

VNHLC employs 150 people, 90% of whom reside locally in Northwest Connecticut.

VNHLC cared for 2,398 patients and provided 52,464 patient visits in 2023-2024.

VNHLC is proud of its long-standing history with the Town of Falls Village. 31 persons from Falls Village received home health services from VNHLC during the past year.

Eighty-six (86%) percent of all our patients were age 65 or older and 23% lived alone.

VNHLC also offers, with funding assistance from the town, the following services free of charge to residents of Falls Village:

- Flu Clinics
- Matter of Balance Classes – classes focus on how to maintain balance, continue moving and exercise at any age.
- Blood Pressure Clinics
- Health Promotion Visits - VNHLC receives an annual allocation from the town to help defray the costs of providing free Health Promotion visits and Public Health Programs. Health Promotion is a program in which certain elderly at-risk patients, who normally live alone and no longer qualify for insurance benefits, are routinely monitored free of charge by one of our staff nurses, therapists, social workers, or dietitians.

Structured Bereavement Groups are held twice a year. The groups are free and open to anyone in the community who has lost a family member or friend. The bereavement coordinator is also always available to meet privately with people. Just before the holiday season, an event, The Tree of Lights, is held to honor and remember VNHLC patients who have passed within the past 18 months to which family members and caregivers are invited.

This past year VNHLC was able to conduct public and many private flu clinics and administered more than 1,000 flu vaccines to mostly high-risk individuals. All ages, 18 and older, were welcome to attend.

Since VNHLC is a non-profit health agency, the Board of Directors serve on a voluntary basis and represent all the towns in which full services are provided.

Referrals for services are accepted from anyone and services are provided regardless of ability to pay, as long as contributions, grants and other appropriations are sufficient to cover these costs.

Michael Caselas, Executive Director



TORRINGTON AREA HEALTH DISTRICT
ANNUAL REPORT: JULY 1, 2023 – JUNE 30, 2024

The TAHD served over 133,000 people in twenty boroughs, cities, and towns covering 611 square miles.

The TAHD **Community Health Program** partnered with DPH and FoodCORE to investigate: **5** giardiasis, **45** campylobacteriosis, and **30** salmonellosis cases. TAHD guided schools, daycares, and community members on a variety of health issues and administered **448** flu vaccines to residents. TAHD consulted with **14** residents regarding potential rabies exposures submitting **6 specimens** to the DPH Laboratory for rabies testing. Ticks brought in by **88** residents were sent to the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station for Lyme disease testing.

The TAHD is an active member of **Fit Together**, a Northwest Connecticut Healthy Eating and Active Living Initiative. Fit Together's mission is to build the healthiest kids, families, and communities through sustainable strategies that promote healthy eating and active living, primarily through the 5210 program and other initiatives. This year's accomplishments were hosting a Family Bicycle Rally at the Sue Grossman Greenway Trail and providing \$7,500 in mini grants to various community partners. These grants support projects that align with Fit Together's mission and strategies.

The TAHD continued its active participation in the **Litchfield County Opiate Task Force (LCOTF)** and served on the executive committee. TAHD staff initiated a data committee to gather and analyze data supporting substance misuse prevention efforts. Training sessions for local pharmacies and medical offices on opioid misuse prevention resumed under the Academic Detailing on Opioid Safety initiative. Additionally, TAHD participated in the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP), aiming to reduce morbidity and mortality associated with substance use disorder (SUD) and opioid use disorder (OUD) in high-risk rural communities. Through these programs, TAHD seeks to strengthen and expand prevention, treatment, and recovery services, ensuring rural residents can access appropriate treatment and make progress toward recovery.

TAHD has continued its contract with the United Way of Connecticut (UWC) to enhance cross-sector efforts across the state and implement a comprehensive public health approach to **suicide prevention**. The focus is on reducing suicide morbidity and mortality among three key vulnerable populations: middle-aged adults, particularly those in high-risk occupations or with serious mental illness or substance use disorder; young adults, and adolescents. This year, special attention was given to the LGBTQIA+ community through various initiatives. A LGBTQIA+ Suicide Awareness and Prevention page was launched on the TAHD website, and targeted content on this topic was shared on the organization's Facebook page. Additionally, a printed brochure was created for distribution within the community, targeting locations such as Torrington Middle and High Schools, pediatrician offices, and Suicide Prevention Community-Based Organizations. A Youth LGBTQIA+ Sticker with a QR code linking to the TAHD website was also designed. TAHD offers QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) training to community members with the aim of reducing suicidal behaviors and saving lives. QPR Gatekeeper Trainers provide this training, offering an innovative, practical, and proven approach to suicide prevention.

TAHD partnered with the Agency on Aging and the Winsted Senior Center to conduct a six-week **Chronic Disease Self-Management** program for seniors. This program educates participants on living with and managing their conditions through weekly sessions on healthy eating, exercising, medication use, and coping with difficult emotions. This year, twelve participants completed the program and reported it significantly improved their quality of life by providing practical tools and techniques. The program aims to empower individuals with chronic conditions by enhancing their confidence, reducing symptom severity, and promoting overall well-being through group discussions, hands-on activities, and personalized feedback.

The **TAHD Immunization Action Program (IAP)** works with local healthcare providers and hospitals to ensure compliance with Connecticut's childhood immunization laws. The program collaborates with 12 medical organizations and 40 community-based organizations within the district, emphasizing education, awareness, and promotion of immunization. TAHD provides medical providers with educational materials for both staff and patients to boost vaccine confidence and organizes educational events. For community partners, TAHD sets up displays in libraries, museums, and food banks, and actively participates in events such as back-to-school nights and health fairs. Posters are distributed in public places like post offices, coffee shops, libraries, and town halls to further spread the message. Additionally, TAHD uses social media to enhance vaccination efforts.

The Torrington Area Health District (TAHD) **Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program** has been diligently working across multiple fronts to address lead poisoning in our community. Our program provided case management for over 60 children with blood lead levels ≥ 3.5 $\mu\text{g/dL}$ and offered educational information to more than 100 families. TAHD continues its partnership with the Connecticut Children's Healthy Homes Program to ensure lead-safe housing throughout the district. Additionally, in collaboration with the City of Torrington, we launched a pilot lead abatement grant program funded by the American Rescue Plan Act. Through these combined efforts, a total of 20 epidemiological investigations were completed and 17 abatement orders were issued.

TAHD Environmental Health Program resulted in the following inspections/licenses/permits: **723** food inspections, **958** temporary food permits, **118** new septic systems, **240** repaired septic systems, **144** private well permits, **81** private pool permits, **191** beauty salons & barber shops inspections, **551** house addition permits, **279** soil tests, **35** subdivision lots, **56** public pools were inspected, and **18** daycare centers inspected. Records show that approximately **855** samples were submitted to the state lab for testing of drinking water, beach and pool water, lead in water, soil and dust, and stool samples for pathogens. Sanitarians investigated **227** complaints of various public health concerns; **22** legal orders/voluntary compliances were issued for enforcement purposes.

The **TAHD Emergency Preparedness Program** continues to collaborate with local, regional, and state community partners to prepare for unprecedented events. Our activities include, but are not limited to, outbreak investigation, surveillance, consultation and communication with health partners, public safety officials, town officials, and school officials. In April 2024, TAHD conducted a Point of Dispensing (POD) Drill at John Trumble Primary School. We also met DPH deliverables by holding a tabletop exercise focused on pandemic influenza. Additionally, the emergency preparedness team attended local and national conferences and trainings, including the NACCHO Preparedness Summit and the Emergency Management Symposium. We successfully secured the lead role as the CT Region 5 Fiduciary for the upcoming project period from 2024 to 2029.

The **TAHD Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)** continues to recruit volunteers with a focus on local community health and well-being. The program emphasizes education and outreach on topics including, but not limited to, first aid, CPR/AED, QPR Gatekeeper training, Stop the Bleed training, human trafficking awareness, building emergency kits, and general emergency preparedness at home. The program also actively participates in local fairs and community outreach events. The primary objective of the TAHD MRC is to raise awareness and develop a comprehensive training curriculum that aims to better equip the public to protect themselves and their family members in a safe, timely, and effective manner. The emergency preparedness team attended the National MRC Summit to enhance and improve the TAHD MRC unit. The team continues to apply for grants and other funding to support ongoing programs and training for the community.

Robert Rubbo, MPH, Director of Health





Chore Service, Inc.

www.choreservice.org

Since 1992, Chore Service has provided in-home, non-medical assistance to older adults and persons with disabilities within the community so they may remain safely and independently in their homes. Chore employs local caregivers who provide essential services such as companionship, house cleaning, laundry, light meal prep, minor handyperson tasks, technology assistance, transportation, and yard work. Services are partially funded by a grant from the Western Connecticut Area Agency on Aging, which subsidizes clients aged sixty and over regardless of income. Client contributions supplement the grant along with donations from towns, places of worship, charitable foundations, and donors so that the program can remain affordable for everyone. When necessary, Chore makes referrals to the Visiting Nurse Association, physicians, social workers, etc., to ensure client well-being.

On February 1st, 2024, Chore Service and Litchfield Hills Chore Service (LHCS) consolidated operations under Chore Service. Both organizations share the same vision, mission, and services - keeping the most at risk in our community safely and independently at home, regardless of their ability to pay for the services needed. The goal of the consolidation was to maximize resources to provide services for the people of Litchfield County. Chore now proudly serves residents in 13 towns: Cornwall, Falls Village, Goshen, Kent, Litchfield, Morris, Norfolk, North Canaan, Roxbury, Salisbury, Sharon, Warren, and Washington. Community and private foundations in our area have supported the consolidation, provided funding to cover transition costs, and offered continued support after the consolidation. In addition, the first selectmen from the six new municipalities promised their support. Chore expanded its board with representatives from the towns LHCS served. The expanded Chore Service Board continues to focus on building community support in all towns. This consolidation positions Chore to thrive and reach more people in the future – our mission’s essence.

From July 2023 through June 2024, Chore provided nine Falls Village residents with 247 hours of assistance with chores such as cleaning, errands, and yard work so that they could continue to live in their homes. Two caregivers who live in Falls Village earned over \$10,500, which helps support our local economy.

We are most grateful for the generous support of all our donors, including the Town of Falls Village. This invaluable support helps our neighbors remain at home with dignity and will have a lasting impact on our mission and the lives of those we serve.

Chore Service remains steadfast in its commitment to helping the most vulnerable in our community. If you need assistance or know someone who might benefit from our services, please call (860) 435-9177 or visit our website at www.choreservice.org. Also, if you are seeking employment or volunteer opportunities and want to make a difference in someone’s life, please give us a call.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane MacLaren
Executive Director
jane@choreservice.org



LITCHFIELD HILLS DISTRICT PROBATE COURT
74 West Street, Post Office Box 505
Litchfield, CT 06759-0505
Telephone: 860-567-8065
Facsimile: 860-567-2538

Via Electronic Mail Only: townclerk@canaanfallsvillage.org

September 12, 2024

Town Clerk of Canaan (Falls Village)
PO Box 385
Sharon, CT 06069

Re: Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024

The Litchfield Hills Probate Court handles a wide range of important and sensitive issues, including not only overseeing decedent's estates and trusts, but also issues affecting children, the elderly, persons with intellectual disabilities, and individuals with psychiatric disabilities.

The Court is primary concerned with Trusts and Estates, Conservatorships, Children's Matters, Intellectual Disabilities, and Mental Health Commitments, but also handles a wide variety of other matters.

During its most recent fiscal year, the Court has seen a modest increase in the number of new cases filed. The court's workload remains consistent with that of the previous fiscal year.

Beth McGuire continues to serve as the Chief Clerk of the Court. She and Megan Foley work in the Court's North Canaan office. Dawn Pratt and Carlee Lemieux work in the Court's Litchfield office. All of the staff members at the Court are knowledgeable, dedicated, and look forward to assisting anyone who comes to the Court.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan M. Richards
Judge of Probate



PROJECT SAGE ANNUAL REPORT
July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024
Town of Canaan

Project SAGE is a community-focused organization dedicated to supporting, advocating, guiding and educating all victims of interpersonal and relationship violence regardless of gender or circumstance. We remain dedicated to creating social change to end interpersonal relationship violence. We envision a world where everyone can be themselves and everyone can have healthy relationships.

Thank you to the town of Canaan for your grant of \$1500 which has been critical in helping Project SAGE continue strengthening our programs and support services.

Last year alone your town grant helped make possible:

- Emergency shelter for 28 clients, collectively over 1400 nights of shelter
- Direct Services to approximately 800 adult and youth clients
- Support and advocacy for 613 victims of family violence in Criminal and Civil Court
- Responses to 1,910 hotline crisis requests
- Prevention education workshops that meet CT education standards in all grade 6-12 classrooms in Region 1 schools
- 46 workshops/trainings for adults, with attendance of over 400 people
- 317 prevention workshops for children and teens in local schools and daycare programs
- Awareness-raising materials distributed to the community via 87 Main Street Partner businesses and 16 tabling events throughout our service area.

Our programs, from our client services to our community engagement to our prevention education, are all directly focused on ending domestic violence in its many forms and supporting the communities of the Northwest Corner in building safer and healthier relationships. Clients are received by our Advocates in our inviting space in Lakeville. During our two years at this new location, our staff has continued to provide the bedrock services of hotline / crisis response, safety planning for individuals and families, referrals to our many partner agencies, shelter as needed, and ongoing counseling and support. Additional state-wide funding has allowed Project SAGE to expand client options by hiring a full-time Housing Specialist Advocate to coordinate the HUD-funded Rapid-ReHousing Program (RRH) and a full-time Family and Child Advocate. Interns from local high schools and social work programs, as well as students returning home from college have been able to gain experience relevant to their educational and career goals while also increasing Project SAGE's capacity to respond to community needs. All of these program developments have been focused on eliminating the barriers that restrict client choices. By enabling access to a range of community resources, Project SAGE can support clients in increasing their financial stability, decreasing isolation, and identifying sustainable living options. Clients are then positioned to make more independent choices about their safety and relationships.



Meeting the Connecticut state standards outlined in the Healthy and Balanced Living Curriculum Framework for health classes and following best practices for middle and high school learning, our prevention education curriculum provides a seamless progression of lessons from grade 6 through grade 12. The curriculum was jointly developed by the central Region 1 administrators, principals and school counselors from all six K-8 schools in collaboration with Project SAGE staff, and provides a three-year progressive curriculum for all middle school students in Region 1 with themes such as Boundaries and Healthy Relationships in the Digital Environment. Additionally, our Early Years Program, focused on teaching children in preschool through grade 2 about emotion regulation, bystander intervention and more, continues to run in six local daycares thanks to the assistance of our certified volunteers.

Over the past two years, Project SAGE has been experiencing a significant period of growth and transformation, including, in Spring, 2024, hiring a new Executive Director, Kristen van Ginhoven.

The new Executive Director joined an organization with a strong foundation on which to continue solidifying our local impact. With a committed Board of 17 members and staff of 12, Project SAGE looks forward to celebrating the 25th anniversary of our signature fundraiser, Trade Secrets, in May 2024 and to strengthening our organization and solidifying our infrastructure to ensure we can continue to live our mission, serve our community and thrive into the future.

We are immensely grateful to the Town of Canaan for encouraging the work of Project SAGE and supporting our mission to end relationship violence.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen van Ginhoven
Executive Director, Project SAGE
kristenvg@project-sage.org
(860) 364-1900 x 100







Town of Canaan

1739

Falls Village

"Liberty and Property"