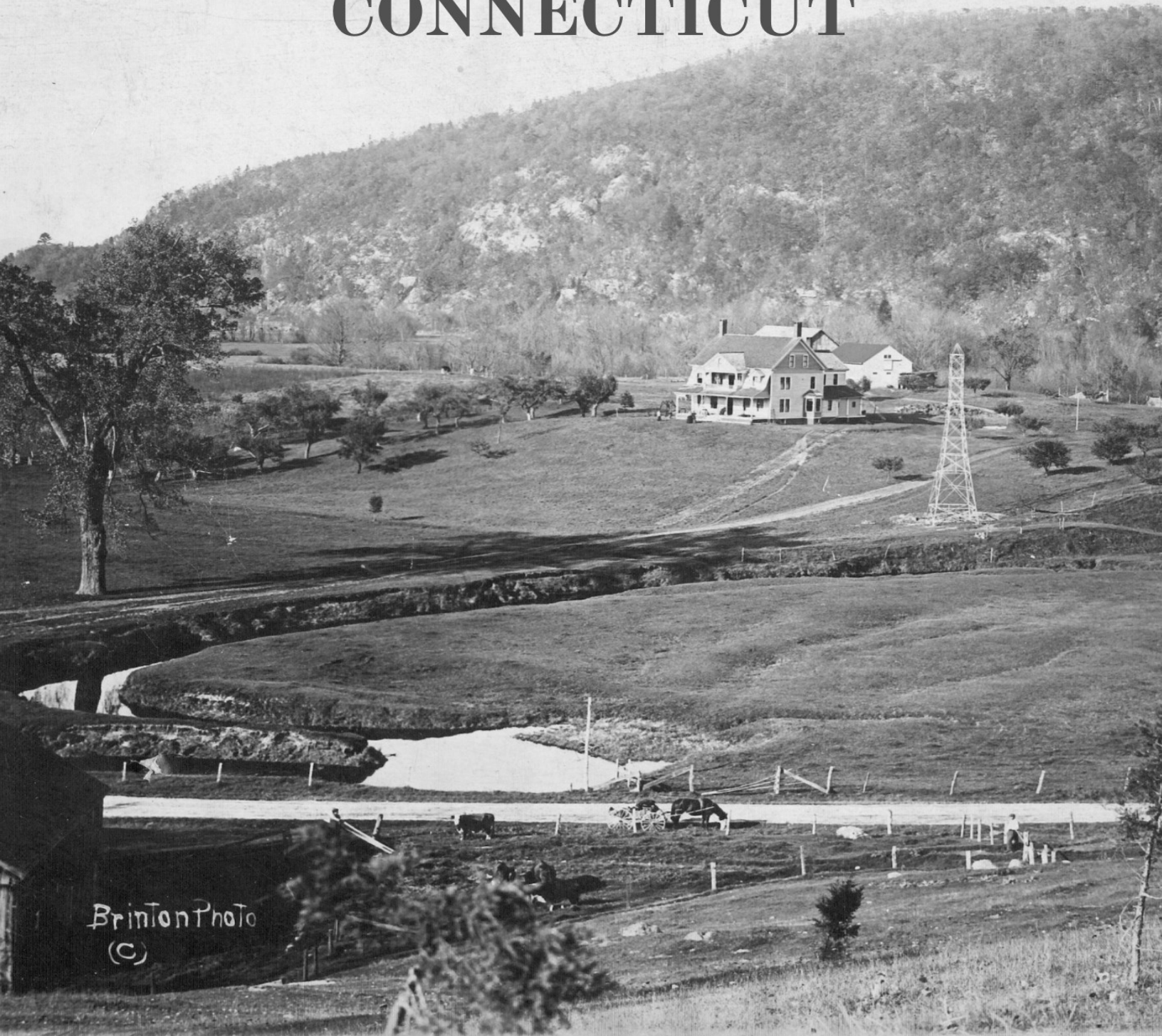


TOWN OF CANAAN FALLS VILLAGE CONNECTICUT



Annual Report
Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025



Depot, 1930's

ANNUAL REPORT

Town of Canaan
July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025

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.

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

*This report is as of June 30, 2025.
For an updated version of boards and commission members,
please visit canaanfallsvillage.org.*

DEDICATION

This Annual Report is dedicated to the members, past and present, of the Town of Canaan Historical Society—whose unwavering commitment to preserving our community’s rich heritage ensures that the stories, landmarks, and legacy of our town are not only remembered, but celebrated. Through your dedication, the past continues to inspire the present and guide the future generations of Falls Village.

About the Front Cover

The cover features a historic view of the Town Farm property in Falls Village, now the site of the town’s recreation center and pool.



New Haven Caboose, a landmark located in down-town Falls Village

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Informational

Town Directory & Hours	6,7
Regularly Scheduled Board and Commission Meetings	5
Elected Town Officials, Appointed Officers, Commissions and Committees	8-10
About our Town	4

Annual Reports

Assessor	19
Board of Finance.....	11,12
Board of Selectmen	16,17
Chore Service.....	45
David M. Hunt Library.....	32-36
Falls Village Canaan Historical Society.....	37
Falls Village Daycare.....	54
Falls Village Volunteer Fire Department.....	48,49
Housatonic Valley Regional High School, Principal.....	28,29
Housatonic Youth Services Bureau.....	53
Inland Wetlands Conservation Commission.....	23
Lee H. Kellogg School, Principal.....	31
Litchfield Hills Probate Court.....	50
Northwest Hills Council of Governments.....	38-41
Planning and Zoning Commission.....	21
Project Sage.....	46,47
Recreation Commission.....	24,25
Registrars.....	20
Social Services.....	13
Torrington Area Health District.....	51,52
Town Cemetery Sexton.....	18
Town Clerk.....	14,15
Visiting Nurse and Hospice of Litchfield County, inc.....	44
Zoning Board of Appeals.....	22

Financial Reports

Auditors Report July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.....	55-123
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ABOUT OUR TOWN

INCORPORATED

October 1739

POPULATION

1,078

LAND AREA

33.4 square miles

REGISTERED VOTERS

736 Total Voters

314 Democrats, 132 Republicans, 288 Unaffiliated,
2 Other.

FEDERAL LANDS

Appalachian Trail.

STATE LANDS

Point of Rocks Road, Robbins Swamp, Dean's Ravine, and Music Mountain.

HISTORIC SITES

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

RECREATION CENTER

The Falls Village municipal swimming pool is the focal point of the property,
located at the top of the hill with the mountain views of the property.
The property also includes a playscape, fire pit, and a picnic area with three grills.

EDUCATION

Falls Village is home to Lee. H Kellogg School (grades K-8)
and the Region One High School - Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Legislative authority is vested in the Town Meetings.
Town affairs are administered by the three person Board of Selectmen.
Fiscal affairs are reviewed and recommended by the Board of Finance.
There are 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).
Falls Village is 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)



Great Falls, 1916

REGULARLY SCHEDULED BOARD AND COMMISSION MEETINGS

Visit canaanfallsvillage.org to access the town's municipal calendar, where all meetings, agendas, and minutes are posted.

Board of Selectmen.....	Second Monday of each month, 6:00 PM
Board of Finance.....	Second Monday of each month, 7:00 PM or immediately following the Board of Selectmen meeting.
Kellogg Board Education.....	First Tuesday of each month, 5:00 PM. Held at Lee. H Kellogg School. (December, January and February are held virtually.)
Planning and Zoning Commission.....	Fourth Thursday of each month, 7:00 PM. <i>No August meeting unless necessary.</i>
Recreation Commission.....	Second Wednesday of each month, 6:30 PM.
Inland/Wetlands Conservation.....	Third Monday of each month, 7:00 PM.
Housatonic River Commission.....	Second Tuesday of each month, 7:00 PM. Held at Cornwall Consolidated School.
Fire Commission.....	Second Wednesday of each month, 5:00 PM. Held at the Emergency Services Center, 188 Route 7 South, Falls Village.
Region One Board of Education.....	First Monday of each month, 6:30 PM. HVRHS Library. <i>July and August meetings are held only if necessary.</i>
Historic District Study Committee.....	Third Monday of each month, 4:00PM at the Depot.
Northwest Hills Council of Governments..	Second Thursday of each month, 10:00AM. 355 Goshen Road, Litchfield or remote.

Please note that unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held at the Town of Canaan Town Hall, 108 Main Street, Falls Village.

TOWN DIRECTORY & HOURS

PHONE: 860-825-0707

FAX: 860-824-4503

CANAANFALLSVILLAGE.ORG

Assessors: 860-824-0707 ext. 14

kjohnson@canaanfallsvillage.org

Mon, Wed, Thurs, 9am to noon. Tues 9am to 3pm

Kayla Johnson, Assessor

Theresa Graney, Assistant Assessor

Animal Control: (860) 480-7568

Lindsey Burr, Animal Control Officer

Building Department: 860-824-0707 ext. 22

building@canaanfallsvillage.org

James Clark, Building Official

Wed 9am to noon, or by appointment.

Cemetery Sextons: _____

cemeterysexton@canaanfallsvillage.org

Town Cemetery Sexton: Tracey Wilson, by appointment.

Grassy Hill Cemetery Sexton: Dick Heinz, by appointment.

Highway Department: 860-824-7239

Historical Society: 860-824-8226

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

Fire Marshal: 860-364-5758

Stan MacMillan, by appointment.

First Selectman: 860-824-0707 ext. 23

firstselectman@canaanfallsvillage.org

David R. Barger

Mon-Wed, 8:30-1, Thurs 8:30-noon

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

registrar@canaanfallsvillage.org

Susan Kelsey(R), Patricia Fife(D), Wed 9am to noon.

Sanitarian: 860-489-0436 ext. 323

Torrington Area Health District Julie Prue, by appointment.

TOWN DIRECTORY & HOURS

PHONE: 860-825-0707

FAX: 860-824-4503

CANAANFALLSVILLAGE.ORG

Social Services **860-824-9855**

socialservices@canaanfallsvillage.org

Theresa Graney, Social Services Director/Municipal Agent

Office located at Senior Center: 107 Main Street

Tues & Thurs. 8:30 am-3pm, Wed. 12:20-3pm

Tax Collector: **860-824-0707 ext. 13**

taxcollector@canaanfallsvillage.org

Rebecca Juchert-Derungs

Mon 9am – noon, Thurs 8am – 11am

Town Clerk: **860-824-0707 ext. 10**

townclerk@canaanfallsvillage.org

Johanna Mann, CCTC Town Clerk/Registrar of Vital Statistics

Emily Peterson, Assistant Town Clerk/Registrar of Vital Statistics

Recreation Center & Pool: **860-824-8026**

recreation@canaanfallsvillage.org

108 Route 63. (June to Labor Day weekend.)

Transfer Station: **860-824-5819**

transferstation@canaanfallsvillage.org

Peter Roussis, Primary Attendant

100 Route 63. Tues, Fri & Sat, 9am to 3pm.

Treasurer: **860-824-0707 ext. 11**

treasurer@canaanfallsvillage.org

Michelle Hansen, Treasurer

Mon-Wed 9am-3pm, Thursday 9am-noon.

Planning & Zoning: **860-824-0707 ext.22**

planningandzoning@canaanfallsvillage.org

Janell Mullen, Town Planning Consultant & Zoning Enforcement Officer, by appointment.



Stone Man on Canaan Mountain

ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS, APPOINTED OFFICERS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ASSESSORS

(Appointed.)

Kayla Johnson, Assessor
Theresa Graney, Assistant Assessor

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

(Elected, 2-year term.)

David Barger, First Selectman (D) 2023-2025, Judy Jacobs, Selectman (R) 2023-2025,
Christopher Kinsella, Selectman (D) 2023-2025

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

(Elected, 4-year term.)

Susan Kelsey (R) 2022-2026, Patricia Fife (D) 2022-2026
Deputies: Tracy Atwood (R), Denise Cohn (D)

TAX COLLECTOR

(Appointed, 4-year term.)

Rebecca Juchert-Derungs (D) 2025-2029

TOWN CLERK AND REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS

(Appointed, 4-year term.)

Johanna Mann 2022-2026, *Emily Peterson (D) Assistant*

TOWN TREASURER

(Appointed, 4-year term.)

Michelle Hansen (R) 2023-2027, *Deputy, Linda Paviol (D)*

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

(Elected, 4-year term.)

Hazel McGuire (R) 2025-2029, Mary Palmer (D) 2023-2027, Tami Reid (U) 2025-2029

HOUSATONIC RIVER COMMISSION

(Appointed, 3-year term.)

Ellery Sinclair (R) 2023-2025

Alternates: Kent Allyn (U) 2023-2025, Matt Gallagher (U) 2023-2025

BOARD OF FINANCE

(Elected, 6-year term, 4-year term for alternates.)

Stephen Dean (U) 2019-2025, Amy Wynn (D) 2021-2027, Thomas Wilson (D) 2023-2029, Carol Staats (R) 2023-2029,
John Steines (D) 2019-2025, Ginger Betti (U) 2024-2025, Roxanne Whitaker (D) 2023-2025
Alternates: John Haddon (R) 2023-2027, Karl Munson (R) 2021-2025

BOARD OF EDUCATION - LEE H KELLOGG

(Elected, 4-year term.)

Patricia Mechare (D) 2021-2025, Theresa Graney (U) 2021-2025, Adam Sher (D) 2021-2025,
Emily Peterson (D) 2023-2027, Maria Bulson (R) 2023-2027

ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS, APPOINTED OFFICERS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

As of June 30, 2025.

BRIDGE AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

David Barger (D), Judy Jacobs (R), Christopher Kinsella (D), Stephen Dean (U), Timothy Downs (R),
David Blass (R), Lee Baldwin (U)

INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION

(Appointed, 5-year term.)

Susan Kelsey (R) 2022-2026, Ellery Sinclair (R) 2021-2026, Mark Burdick (D) 2022-2026,
Brant Burz (U) 2021-2025, Matt Gallagher (D) 2023-2025,
Alternate: Marlene VanGulick 2023-2028

CONSTABLES

(Elected, 2-year term.)

Janet Hanna (D) 2023-2025, Terry Blass (D) 2023-2025, Daniel Shaw (D) 2023-2025, James March (R) 2023-2025,
Louis Timolat (R) 2023-2025, Timothy Downs (R) 2023-2025, Matthew Hansen (R) 2023-2025

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Judy Jacobs, Scott Jack, Midge Cortesi, Cheryl Aeschliman

FIRE COMMISSION

(Appointed, 3-year term.)

Hazel McGuire (R) 2027, Lawrence Bulson (U) 2027, David Seney (D) 2026, Kimberly Mahoney (U) 2026,
Timothy Downs (R) 2027

RECREATION COMMISSION

(Appointed, 3-year term.)

Dan Carr (D) 2024-2027, Melissa Lopes (D) 2024-2027, Ted Moy 2022-2025, Lauren Killawee 2023-2026,
Matthew Gallagher 2023-2026, Christopher Wadsworth 2023-2026

REGION ONE BOARD OF EDUCATION REPRESENTATIVE

(Elected, 2-year term.)

Patricia Mechare (D) 2023-2025

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

(Appointed, 5-year term.)

Greg Marlowe (R) 2025-2030, Vincent Inconiglios (D) 2021-2026, Stephen Koshland (U) 2025-2029,
Kimberly Mahoney (U) 2024-2026, Douglas Cohn (D) 2024-2028, Eileen Kinsella (D) 2025-2029, Ruth Skovron (U) 2022-2027
Alternates: Tim Metzger (D) 2025-2029, Matthew Macchi (U) 2022-2027

SOLAR COMMITTEE

Christopher Kinsella, Greg Marlowe, Melissa Lopes, Amy Wynn, Mark Burdick, Corinna Fleming,
Sergei Fedorjaczenko, Peter Jensen



General Store on Railroad Street which burned down in 1943

ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS, APPOINTED OFFICERS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

As of June 30, 2025.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Richard Heinz (D) 2023-2027, Barbara Riley (D) 2023-2027, Henry Todd (R) 2023-2027,
John Holland (D) 2021-2025, Stephen Dean (U) 2021-2025
Alternates: Warren Whitaker (D) 2025, Lee Baldwin (U), 2025

35 RAILROAD STREET SALE COMMITTEE

Greg Marlowe, Fred Lazer, Vincent Inconiglios, David Barger, Ruth Skovern, Henry Todd

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE*

(Term: January 6, 2025 - Jan 2, 2029.)

Eric Carlson (R), Louis Timolat (R), Dennis Jacobs (R), Hazel McGuire (R), Barbara Deinhardt (D), Richard Heinz (D),
Louise March (D), Janet Hanna (D), Mary Palmer (D), Patricia Mechare (D)



Demolishing Bergenty's Store

**Inquiries or requests to contact the Justices of the Peace should be directed
to the Town Clerk's Office.*

*The current Justices of the Peace are serving a term from
January 6, 2025, through January 2, 2029.*

BOARD OF FINANCE

The Board of Finance was chaired this year by David Wilburn until his resignation in August 2024. At that time Ginger Betti was appointed as a member of the board and subsequently elected as the chairperson. For this fiscal year, the Board was comprised of the following regular board members: Ginger Betti, Steve Dean, Amy Wynn, Thom Wilson, Carol Staats, John Steines with alternates of Karl Munson, John Haddon and Roxann Whitaker (appointed Dec 2024). Denise Cohn served as recording secretary.

A Public Hearing was held May 21, 2025, to present the Education and Municipal Spending Plans to the Public and receive public comment. The Board of Finance approved the Municipal spending at \$2,422,826 and Board of Education spending at \$3,933,950 for educational expenses (Lee H Kellog \$2,390,265; Region One \$1,543,685) for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 at a special meeting on May 22, 2025.

A Town Meeting was held June 6, 2025, and the Municipal and Education Spending plans were approved by the taxpayers. At the subsequent, Board of Finance Special Meeting, the Board met and unanimously approved to increase and set the Property Tax mil rate for the Town of Canaan for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 at 22.44.

In February of the fiscal year, the Board of Finance recommended that STEAP grant allocations be presented to Town Meeting to facilitate the progression of the grant application process. Additionally, the Board of Finance worked in collaboration with various Boards and Commissions to develop a comprehensive understanding of their respective spending plans. These discussions provided valuable insight into the overall municipal financial strategy.

Audit

King, King & Associates, CPA's completed the Annual Audit of the Town of Canaan's finances for 2024-2025, with results presented at the Board of Finance meeting in April 2026. The auditors worked closely with Town Treasurer Michelle Hansen and Deputy Treasurer Linda Paviol to review current practices and financial activity. According to the findings shared at the April 13, 2026, Board of Finance meeting, the Town complies with all major generally accepted accounting principles and maintains effective controls to ensure funds are managed responsibly.

The Auditors issued a Management Letter to the Board of Finance dated March 18, 2026, advising opportunities for strengthening internal controls and operating efficiency. Concerns and *Management's responses are summarized as follows:*

Reconciliation of Activity Between the Town and Board of Education

Management response: The Town has developed a procedure to reconcile both the town General Ledger to the Board of Education General Ledger on a monthly basis.

Bank Reconciliations

Management response: The problem has been address and all bank statements are currently being reconciled through the General Ledger software.

Board of Education Nonlapsing Fund Bank Account

Management response: This account now appears on the Town Balance Sheet, and the Board of Education Non-lapsing Fund is submitted to the Treasurer and reconciled by the Treasurer.

BOARD OF FINANCE CONTINUED

General Ledger Account Maintenance

Management response: Our better understanding and utilization of our software has aided us in addressing this problem.

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

Management response: We are in the process of addressing this problem as we will be transitioning to a new Building Official by the end of next fiscal year.

Financial Summary

The Town finished the 2024-2025 fiscal year with assets exceeding liabilities by \$5,501,521 (*net position*), an increase of \$119,064 over 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 \$6,535,404 for fiscal year 2024-2025, an increase of \$346,412 over prior fiscal year. The most significant factor contributing to this increase is the increase in tax revenues, allocated TRB and education pass-through grants.

The original General Fund budget provided for the use of \$149,049 of fund balance to finance approved expenditure appropriations not financed by projected revenue. Additional appropriations were made by the Board of Finance during the year for legal, treasurer, social services & recreation, Fire Commission and Ambulance Reserve bringing the final adjusted use of the fund balance to \$193,276. Due to better than anticipated revenue and controlled spending in various departments none was utilized. As a result of the positive budgetary variances, an additional \$48,010 was able to be returned to the fund balance.

The General Fund ended with an unassigned balance of \$857,415 or 14% 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 \$1,229,169.

We recognize Town Treasurer Michelle Hansen for her effective implementation of the new accounting software, QuickBooks, and her commitment to ongoing professional development. With support from Deputy Treasurer Lind Paviol, Ms. Hansen successfully managed her first year utilizing the system and also introduced Direct Deposit for Town employees.

The Board of Finance convenes on the second Monday of each month, except when this date coincides with a public holiday. An annual schedule of meetings is posted in the Town Hall each January. Meeting agendas are available prior to each session both at the Town Hall and on the official town website. Members of the public are welcome to attend. Each monthly meeting begins and concludes with a designated period for public comment, and participation is encouraged.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginger Betti, on behalf of the Board of Finance

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

Annual Report (Social Services/Senior Center)
(July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025)

Social Services

Social Services has remained busy during this past year and continues to offer comprehensive services for individuals and families of all ages. During the past year, social services received grants from; the Northwest Community CT Foundation; Berkshire Taconic Foundation (Neighbor to Neighbor & Blue Horizon Grants); and The Jane Lloyd Fund to help families in need. The Social Service agent evaluates the needs of Falls Village residents and provides information about community/state resources that are available, and makes referrals as needed. Home visits are arranged when needed. The specific services offered and provided by the Social Worker include: assisting families applying for the CT State Energy Assistance program; SNAP benefits; Medicare/Medicaid; CT Health Insurance; Prescription Assistance Programs as well as other various state/federal programs. Services are provided in a supportive & professional confidential environment. Falls Village Social Services maintains a small food Pantry that is generously supplied by Falls Village Congregational Church, Lee Kellogg School and private donors. Falls Village Social Services continues to help families with Thanksgiving Day meals donated by the Falls Village Congregational Church and private donors. Falls Village Social Services continues to coordinate the "Holiday Gift Program", which help many families in need enjoy the holiday through donations from Falls Village Congregational Church, Lee H. Kellogg School teachers/staff, Troop B, Sand Road Animal Hospital, St. Mary's Catholic Church, Off The Trail Cafe and local Falls Village private citizens. This program helped 21 children enjoy the holiday in a special way. Without these supports, we would not be able to help assist our local families in need. Many Thanks to all who support this program (Pine Grove residents and local Falls Village Residents). The "back to school" program which includes backpacks/school supplies and clothes/sneakers continues for Falls Village children in need. In August 14 backpacks were fully supplied for students this year. A big "Thank You" to the ongoing kindness and generosity demonstrated by local organizations (Falls Village Congregation Church, Northwest Community Foundation) and private citizens in our town who have donated to our town's fuel fund. Your generosity is keeping your neighbors warm.

Senior Center

Seniors from Falls Village and North Canaan continue to meet on Thursdays for socialization, lunch and many activities. Our seniors continue to partner with Kellogg School. It has now become a tradition for the 8th grade class from Kellogg School to visit the senior center regularly once a month to socialize with the seniors. This collaboration is a wonderful experience and opportunity for both the students and the seniors. New friendships are formed each school year. Our local seniors look forward to these visits and enjoy their time together. The seniors continue to be involved in many different activities which include: arts & crafts; Wii bowling; bingo; cards & games and guest speakers. We continue to offer a full day of on-site assistance for "Medicare open enrollment" in November sponsored by Western CT Area Aging Agency. Some of our favorite off-site activities enjoyed are: plays at the Sharon TriArts; shopping trips; Fascia's Chocolates and going to the movies. We are hoping to incorporate more off-site trips this coming year. We are always looking for new seniors to join our group. On a very sad note, we lost two very beloved seniors this past year; Bertha Moody (a lifelong resident of Falls Village) and Richard Stone. Both Bertha and Richard are deeply missed!

The ongoing kindness and generosity demonstrated by local organizations and citizens in our town is heartwarming to witness. Falls Village is a wonderful community supporting one another.

Respectfully Submitted,
Theresa Snyder Graney
Social Services Coordinator/Municipal Agent

Town of Canaan Town Clerk

This past year has been truly rewarding in my role as Town Clerk and Registrar of Vital Statistics for our Small but Mighty Town. Each day brings meaningful interactions, new challenges, and the opportunity to serve our residents with care. I am continually reminded of what an honor it is to hold this position.

My door is always open. If we have not yet met, I warmly encourage you to stop by Town Hall and introduce yourself. It is important to me to know our residents, to listen, and to be accessible. I remain committed to fulfilling my promise to serve this community to the very best of my ability.

I'm very pleased to share that after completing my State Clerk Exam in June, I am now **officially a Connecticut Certified Town Clerk (CCTC)**! This certification represents many hours of study, dedication, and commitment to serving our community with the highest standards of accuracy, transparency, and professionalism.

I look forward to continuing my education and participating in ongoing training to stay current, informed, and prepared for the ever-changing responsibilities of the Town Clerk's Office. Thank you to everyone who has supported me along the way—I am proud to continue serving our town.

Fiscal Year 2024-2025 from July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Vital statistics were as follows:

- **6 births**
- **6 marriages**
- **10 deaths**

During this same period, the Town Clerk's Office recorded **181 land record documents**. Revenue from the \$60 recording fee (plus \$5 for each additional page) is allocated primarily to the State of Connecticut, with the remaining portion supporting town functions. The distribution is as follows:

• Land records recording fees:	\$3,982.00	
• Cott & other expenses:	\$13,438.33	Net:(\$9,456.33)
• State PA 05-22 for land protection:	\$1,256.00	
• State GP-005 affordable housing & historic preservation:	\$288.00	
• Town of Canaan conveyance tax:	\$31,708.75	
• Photocopies and fax fees:	\$1,800.31	
• Lease and other expenses:	\$1,464.58	\$335.73
• Fishing and game licenses/permits:	\$17.00	
• Dog licenses:	\$320.00	
• Marriage licenses, death certificates, and certified copies:	\$1,432.00	

TOWN CLERK CONTINUED

We were delighted to welcome many new homeowners this year. It is always encouraging to see new faces join our community, and we look forward to helping each resident feel informed, involved, and connected.

A major focus of my work this year has been continuing to organize, update, and improve access to our records. Significant progress has been made, and I look forward to further enhancing our systems and preserving our historical documents.

To support transparency and accessibility, more information is now available to the public online. Please visit canaanfallsvillage.org to find meeting minutes and agendas, tax information, access online tax payments, and explore additional town resources.

This year, I'm excited to dedicate the Annual Report to the **Canaan Historical Society**. They pour so much heart into preserving the incredible architectural history that makes Falls Village such a special place to live. Out of all 169 towns in Connecticut, ours has a spirit all its own—and thanks to the Society's hard work, that story is kept alive and well.

It takes a village, and we are fortunate to have a strong and vibrant one.
We are Falls Village proud.

Johanna M. Mann, CCTC
Town Clerk, Town of Canaan
Appointed January 3, 2022



**TOWN OF CANAAN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
ANNUAL REPORT**

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

This report concludes the second year of the term of the present Board of Selectmen. Town administrative and public works activities have proceeded smoothly as some departments continue to transition in the technology they utilize on a day to day basis. The goal of the Board of Selectmen is to continue to bring 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 who have worked within municipal government. The Board of Selectmen would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for their continued 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 Board of Selectmen has placed a great amount of emphasis on studying the aging infrastructure of our Town. With the invaluable dedication and expertise of the Infrastructure Committee, the Town is moving in a direction to address these issues in a manner to benefit our residents present and future.

Our efforts to become a more *Bicycle and Pedestrian Friendly Community* has led us to apply for and receive two grants from the *State of Connecticut Department of Transportation Active Transportation Microgrant*. In cooperation with the Lee H. Kellogg School and our



The Catholic and Congregational Churches, Falls Village, Conn.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN CONTINUED

Recreation Commission, the funds have been utilized to purchase bicycles, bicycle helmets, bicycle maintenance and training materials as well as conducting a *Bike Safety Program*.

The Board of Selectmen was pleased to select Dick and Donna Heinz as the recipients of the *Annual Community Service Award* and to select Gail Allyn as the recipient of the *Annual Volunteer of the Year Award*.

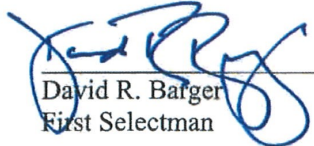
The Falls Village Grant Team has assisted non profits in our Town apply for financial grants. Their work greatly assisted in the Town securing of a STEAP Grant for critical infrastructure.

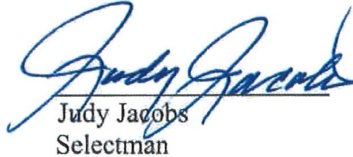
As we have said before, often it is the unnoticed things that enhance our town. For instance, the Sand Hill Cemetery has had the pillars at its entrance repaired. This is in no small part due to the work done by our Town Cemetery Sexton, Tracey Wilson who applied for a state grant regarding *Neglected Cemeteries*. Also, we are pleased to welcome the *Off the Trail Cafe* owned and operated by Liz and Howie Ives.

CONCLUSION

Volunteerism is the practice of freely and willingly giving your time, energy and skills for the benefit of others. In a *tight knit community*, volunteerism is a vital source that strengthens social bonds, enhances resilience and many times serves as a *lifeline* for vital services. On behalf of the Town of Canaan, the Board of Selectmen thanks all of our volunteers.

Respectfully submitted,


David R. Barger
First Selectman


Judy Jacobs
Selectman


Chris Kinsella
Selectman

"The strength of free peoples resides in the local community. Local institutions are to liberty what primary schools are to science, they put it within the people's reach, they teach people to appreciate its peaceful enjoyment and accustom them to make use of it. Without local institutions a nation may give itself a free government, but it has not got the spirit of liberty.

- Alexis de Tocqueville

**Town of Canaan
Cemetery Sexton Annual Report**

The Town of Canaan owns six cemeteries which include:

Haskins (Undermountain) Cemetery- 194 Undermountain Road
Sand Hill Cemetery- 107 Route 63
Lower City Cemetery- 467 Undermountain Road
Barrack (Music) Mountain Cemetery- 213 Music Mountain Road
Root (Steep Road) Cemetery- 24 Steep Road
Holabird, Munson, Kellogg Cemetery- 100 Cobble Road

Much of the year was spent updating and digitizing plot and burial information for each cemetery. A printed version can be found with the cemetery maps in the vault at Town Hall. This information will continue to be updated regularly. Cemetery maps have also been digitized. To help guide people seeking information, a Town Cemetery Sextons page was added to the website.

Cemetery Rules and Regulations have been created and are designed to preserve the aesthetics and peace of the grounds. They also ensure proper maintenance, and protect visitors and monuments. Rules and Regulations are distributed along with a Certificate of Ownership when plots are purchased.

In the spring, the Town of Canaan was selected to receive the 2025 Neglected Cemetery Account Grant to restore four field stone gate posts at Sand Hill Cemetery. In observance of Memorial Day, a small group of dedicated volunteers continued the long tradition of placing American flags on the graves of Veterans.

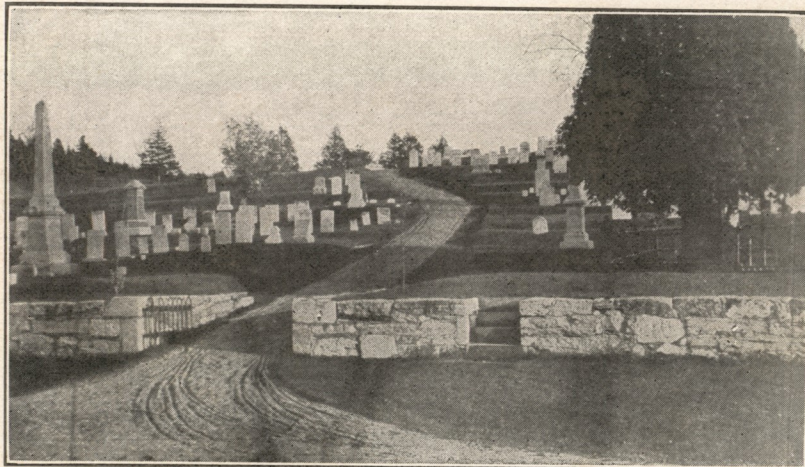
Cemetery activity included:

2 Burials- Lower City Cemetery
2 Plots sold (\$600 each)- (1) Lower City Cemetery, (1) Barrack Mountain Cemetery

Contact the Sexton for information on purchasing a plot, burials, disinterments or with any other questions.

cemeterysexton@canaanfallsvillage.org
860-671-0064

Tracey Wilson
Town of Canaan Cemetery Sexton



Grassy Hill Cemetery, Falls Village, Conn.

Aug. 10, 1908.

ASSESSOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

	<u>2023 GRAND LIST</u>	<u>2024 GRAND LIST</u>
REAL ESTATE	206,349,000	208,601,100
PERSONAL PROPERTY	20,419,748	22,087,729
MOTOR VEHICLE	13,180,550	12,454,853
TOTAL	239,890,698	243,084,682
TAX EXEMPT RE	67,676,850	67,637,350

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
Kayla B. Johnson
Connecticut Certified Municipal Assessor I

Theresa Snyder Graney
Assessor's Clerk



Battle Hill M. E. Church. Erected 1793.
Falls Village, Conn.

First Methodist Church in Connecticut.

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS ANNUAL REPORT July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

The past year has seen many changes to the electoral process within the State of Connecticut, each change having a significant impact on the Town of Canaan. Most notably is the inception of Early Voting, which occurs for two weeks before a Presidential or General/Municipal Election and for seven days before a primary. This statutory mandate results in a myriad of additional tasks and responsibilities assigned to the registrar’s office, as well as a significant financial increase to the cost of conducting elections. Two weeks (including weekends) of early voting necessitates the staffing of eighty-four half-day shifts (of either four or six hours). In addition, the State has entered into a contract with a different tabulator company (ES&S) that will annually cost the Town significantly more to program and operate during each election. This change in tabulators will also result in an increase expense to conduct referendums. In addition, over the past year the State has been in the process of rolling out a new election management program that will streamline both the voter registration process and election result reporting. The registrars and election workers continue to learn and familiarize themselves with the usage of the new tabulators and the election management program.

Critical to the successful running of any election is the participation of election workers. The registrars are grateful for the dedicated and competent individuals that reside in our town who come forward to help with conducting an election. Our townspeople should be very proud of these people. Anyone wishing to participate in this exercise of democracy is encouraged to contact the office of the registrars of voters.

Pat Fife, the new Democrat registrar, is in the process of becoming a State certified registrar of voters. Our office is represented at the spring and fall conferences of the Registrars of Voters Association of Connecticut at which registrars learn of new legislation regarding elections as well as participate in a variety of classes and lectures on topics pertinent to the responsibilities of a registrar.

Voter statistics for the Town of Canaan are as follows:

	July 1, 2024	June 30, 2025
Democrat	315	314
Republican	133	132
Unaffiliated	265	288
Other	3	2
 Total Registered:	 <u>716</u>	 <u>736</u>

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

P&Z Annual Report FY 2024-2025

During the Fiscal Year of 2024-2025, a top priority of the Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Commission was to begin implementation of the newly updated Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD). The POCD identifies actionable strategies and policy initiatives for the next ten years (2025 – 2035). The P&Z has formed a subcommittee to communicate this important work to other town boards and agencies.

The P&Z continued to make amendments to the Town’s Zoning Regulations in response to the recommendations of the POCD. All text amendments require public hearings and allow time for public input.

The P&Z worked on a meaningful text amendment involving outdoor illumination. They updated their outdoor lighting standards to align with the Dark Sky Principles of the International Dark Sky Association. The adopted principles reduce artificial light at night to preserve the rural night sky, curtail any negative effects on migrating birds and nocturnal moths, bats, and pollinators, and minimizes obtrusive and unnecessary lighting and glare.

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-four zoning permits were issued administratively.

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.

Main Street, looking East, Falls Village, Conn.



National Iron Bank

Zoning Board of Appeals Annual Report 2024-2025

Members were John Holland, Richard Heinz, Barbara Riley, Steve Dean and Henry Todd. Alternates are David Blass, Jody Bronson and G. Warren Whitaker. Mary Palmer served as recording secretary.

In December, 2023 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 on January 30, 2024. The Board met after the hearing and 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



Ye Districk Schule, Falls Village, Conn.

Beebe Hill Schoolhouse

Inland Wetlands/Conservation Commission
Annual Report
July 2024 – June 2025

The Inland Wetlands/Conservation Commission, in its dual role, serves to protect the Town's wetlands, watercourses and floodplains and to ensure the wise use and preservation of its natural resources.

During the past year, the Commission reviewed and approved three applications (septic system installation, house addition, streambank stabilization/pond dredging). A notification of a timber harvest was also received and reviewed.

The Commission is working with the Board of Selectmen and the Highway Department on plans to 1) replace the bridge over the Hollenbeck River on Cobble 2) repair the bridge/culvert over Wangum Brook and 3) upgrade a portion of Cobble Road prone to flooding.

The Commission, under the leadership of Ellery Sinclair, organized the planting of a Jefferson elm tree on Arbor Day at Kellogg School. Students, having raised monies to assist in the Commission's purchase of the tree, participated in the celebration. Members of the HVRHS vocational agricultural program assisted with the tree planting and participated in the ceremony. As part of the celebration, William Beebe's many years of service to the school was acknowledged and a plaque in his honor was set at the base of the tree.

The Commission continues to budget for the treatment of the remaining feature elm on Brewster Road; the other two Main Street elm trees previously receiving treatment were removed due to significant weather damage and death due to possible root severance.

Subsequent to the approval of the Coolidge Subdivision on Beebe Hill, the Commission actively advocated the preservation of this hillside parcel that historically has been associated with severe erosion and siltation. Abutting property owners, real estate agents and farmland preservation organizations were contacted to garner support for its protection, to no avail. The creation of a land trust in our town is worthy of consideration.

As the designated 'Forest Advisory Committee', the Commission has initiated efforts to address the assessment, maintenance and removal of the Town's street trees along town roads. The infestation of the emerald ash borer has led to the demise of many of the town's ash trees, making it apparent that there needs to be a strategic plan to address the management of the Town's street trees. It is the Commission's goal to work with the Board of Selectmen and the Highway Department to formulate a plan that addresses all aspects of street tree management, including the funding for said management.

The Commission is grateful for the diligence of the Housatonic River Working Group in bringing legislation to fruition regarding herbicide application along the railroad. A management plan for 2025 was distributed to towns prior to spraying in 2025. The Commission continues to be concerned about roadside herbicide use in our town, particularly in more sensitive areas in proximity to wetlands and watercourses.

The Commission is interested in bringing new members on board as several positions will be available in the near future. Please contact the Commission if you are interested in serving.

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



The Falls Village Recreation Commission is pleased to present its Annual Report for the fiscal year July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. This year has been a vibrant and successful period of community engagement, fun, and collaboration. From beloved annual traditions to new partnerships, we offered events that brought residents of all ages together. Our goal remains creating accessible, inclusive, and joyful recreational opportunities that strengthen community ties and enhance the quality of life in Falls Village. Commission Members included: Emily Peterson (Director, Interim Chair 12/24-06/25), Nicole Blass (Pool Supervisor), Ted Moy (Chairman 07/24-11/24), Dan Carr, Melissa Lopes (Secretary), Daniel Glass (resigned), Lauren Killawee, and Rachel Mills (resigned).

Year in Review: Highlights & Events

The 2024–2025 fiscal year was filled with dynamic programming that reflected our town’s spirit of creativity and community. Here are some of the year’s highlights:

Summer 2024

- **Summer Concert Series** (in partnership with the D.M. Hunt Library): A community favorite, this series featured live performances and attracted strong attendance.
- **Creative Kids Club**: A youth summer program offering fun, hands-on creative projects and outdoor play under the direction of Kristi Spear.
- **“Dive-In” Movie Night**: An adult-only screening of *Jaws* at the town pool—equal parts thrilling and hilarious!

Fall 2024

- **Clothing and Toy Swap Day**: A sustainable and community-centered event in partnership with the DM Hunt Library, promoting reuse and sharing among families.
- **Falls Village Fall Festival**: Celebrating the season with live music, food, games, a community pie-baking contest, and local vendors.
- **Annual Halloween Party & Trunk or Treat**: Costumes, pizza, and decorated cars on Main Street created a safe and spirited Halloween tradition.

Winter 2024

- **Falls Village Holiday Extravaganza**: Featuring community holiday music at the Center on Main with festive fun.
- **Annual Tree Lighting on the Green**: A heartwarming evening with lights, carols, and a visit from Santa.

RECREATION COMMISSION CONTINUED

Spring 2025

- **Earth Day Celebration:** Environmental awareness activities and community clean-up in partnership with the DM Hunt Library.
- **Easter Egg Hunt at Kellogg School Fields:** Hundreds of eggs filled by the Falls Village Seniors, and dozens of smiling kids made this a joyful start to spring.
- **Memorial Day Parade & Community Gathering:** Honoring those who served with a traditional town parade followed by a gathering for all residents.

We're proud to have partnered with several local organizations to bring our programs to life. A very special thank you to the DM Hunt Library for helping us reach the community. We're excited to continue collaborating with them to bring even more meaningful programs to life!

Our deepest thanks to the volunteers, town departments, partner organizations, and every community member who contributed to the success of this year's programs. Your support makes these events possible and meaningful.

Respectfully submitted,



Melissa Lopes, Chairman



Emily Peterson, Recreation Director



Old Town Farm

Housatonic River Commission

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

Annual Report 2024-2025

The Housatonic River Commission (HRC) held 12 regularly scheduled monthly meetings over the past year. Meetings took place at 7 PM on the second Tuesday of each month. Meetings were held at our shared office with the Cornwall Conservation Trust on Railroad St in West Cornwall. The Commission continued work with non-voting representatives from the Housatonic Valley Association (HVA), CT DEEP, the National Park Service (NPS), FirstLight, and the Northwest Hills Council of Governments as we work to implement and utilize funding stemming from our recognition as a Scenic River in the NPS Wild and Scenic River program. The voting members are 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. The annual dues requested from each town are \$400. These annual dues from the towns help fill critical gaps, supporting important work and capacity-building efforts in areas where federal funding cannot be used. To streamline our meetings, HRC Project Manager Madeline Scherff coordinates monthly virtual subcommittee meetings in which specific issues (including River Use & Access, Communication & Outreach, and Resource Protection) are explored in depth the week prior to our monthly meetings.

This year marked the launch of our updated website as well as our Wild & Scenic-funded Community Grants Program, designed to support local stewards, landowners, and organizations throughout the Wild and Scenic Corridor in implementing land and water conservation projects. In addition, the HRC developed conceptual plans for river access sites and continued our work to advance a coordinated river use and access planning effort across all seven towns. We also began developing an outreach and grant program aimed at increasing the capacity of private landowners to undertake land management and resource protection projects on their properties, further strengthening stewardship throughout the designated towns.

Our monthly meetings provide space for updates from each of our supporting partners on their work addressing issues, including HVA's successful River Information and Outreach (RIO) program, monitoring popular river access points. HRC's mission includes maintaining public access, and the proposed Ruggles Landing is being partnered with the

HOUSATONIC RIVER COMMISSION CONTINUED

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 invasive plant species along the waterway, monitoring the work of the Housatonic Railroad, including their track repair, herbicide use, and derailment risk. The River Commission provided comments and suggestions on many proposed projects as development along the River continues. All towns are reminded to notify the HRC of any proposed projects within the River Corridor.

We welcome all citizens to attend our meetings and participate 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.



M. E. Church, Falls Village, Conn.

Methodist Church

Now the home to the Center on Main

Ian Strever
Principal

Steven Schibi
Assistant Principal



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

7/8/25

Housatonic Valley Regional High School (HVRHS) continues to provide a dynamic and inclusive educational experience for the students of Region 1. The 2024–2025 academic year was marked by academic innovation, meaningful student engagement, expanded health and wellness supports, and growing community connections. Throughout the year, faculty and staff pursued new ways to foster student learning, support well-being, and build a school culture grounded in equity and excellence.

One area of ongoing focus was deepening academic discourse, especially in science and mathematics classrooms. Teachers continued to refine strategies that encourage students to ask meaningful questions, engage in collaborative problem-solving, and participate in thoughtful discussions. Our work with the Clark Consultant Group helped to refine our teachers' questions to elicit more elaborate responses from students, and we are working toward cultivating these skills in students, too.

At the same time, the humanities teachers took significant steps toward strengthening students' writing skills. They piloted a new writing rubric to promote consistent expectations and clearer feedback across courses. This initiative was not limited to English and social studies, as faculty collaborated across disciplines to integrate writing instruction more broadly throughout the curriculum, reinforcing communication skills as a shared responsibility and an expectation of all students.

To support these instructional improvements, HVRHS also prioritized professional growth among its educators. Two new faculty-led teams—the Thought Partner Study Group and the Professional Learning Committee—were created to increase collaboration and ensure teacher voice in shaping the school's professional learning plans. These groups will be instrumental in sharing innovative practices across the building and strengthening our collective efficacy.

We began to see the impact of this work in strong student performance across key academic measures. SAT and PSAT scores remained above the state average in both Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and Mathematics assessments, with the average total score approaching 1000. Additionally, 80% of students who took Advanced Placement (AP) exams scored a 3 or higher on at least one exam, indicating college-level mastery in rigorous subject areas.

Beyond the classroom, students expanded their learning horizons through global experiences. The International Travel Club led enriching trips to Italy and Germany during the

HVRHS CONTINUED

spring vacation, and students are eagerly preparing for a service-learning trip to Thailand this summer. These experiences not only deepen cultural awareness but also strengthen global citizenship and student leadership. We thank our generous benefactors throughout the Region 1 community for their support of this incredible learning opportunity for students.

Supporting students academically also means nurturing a school climate where all students feel seen and supported. This year, HVRHS continued to implement a Bias Education and Reporting Team to help mediate student conflicts and provide educational responses to incidents involving bias or exclusion. The school continued its partnership with consultant Carolyn Corrado, whose work has helped guide students and staff in building a more inclusive and empathetic environment through workshops and training.

Student health and wellness remained a key priority as well. Enrollment continued to grow in the school-based health center, which offers essential services to students during the school day. Jackie Nichols, our school nurse, began her first full year in August and has quickly built strong connections with students and staff. Her presence has helped elevate the role of health and wellness as an essential component of a well-rounded education.

Finally, improvements to the school's physical environment enhanced both student life and community engagement. Renovations to the auditorium and cafeteria, completed during the summer of 2024, created updated, welcoming spaces that have been actively used throughout the year. These facilities hosted student assemblies, dance recitals, theatrical productions, guest lectures, and other events, reaffirming the school's role as a cultural center for the entire Region 1 community.

HVRHS remains deeply grateful for the continued support of the families and citizens of Region 1. Together, these efforts reflect a shared commitment to academic excellence, student well-being, and a strong, inclusive community that prepares every student to thrive.



Fulton Village Comm.

Inn/ Tavern on Railroad Street

Town of Canaan Building Official Report

The Building Official's office is located in Town Hall at 108 Main Street. Office hours are held on Wednesdays from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The Building Official may also be contacted by phone or email. To schedule an inspection, residents should contact the phone number listed in the Town Directory page or on the Town's website.

When applying for a building permit for a new building or an addition to an existing structure, applicants must first visit Town Hall to obtain a Route Sheet- approval from the appropriate Town boards and commissions must be secured prior to submitting a building permit application.

Once approvals are obtained, applicants may submit a building permit application, which is available at the town hall or can be found on the Town's website. Applications must include project plans and specifications that comply with the current Connecticut State Building Code.

Residents who have questions about whether a permit or Route Sheet is required are encouraged to contact Town Hall for assistance.

During the fiscal year of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, the Building Official's office collected \$42,570.90 in permit fees, with total expenses of \$10,444.81, including wages.



*Cabin with Constanti and Angela Colombi and children
Mary, Rose & Louise, 1897*

Lee H. Kellogg School Annual Report 2024-2025

The 2024-2025 school year began in true Kellogg fashion as we gathered around the flag pole to welcome our staff and student body of 70 Falcons, including a new class of 10 Kindergarteners! Staff and students shared welcomes, acknowledgments and set intentions for the new school year. We closed the ceremony by singing the Kellogg song.

Student social emotional learning remains a priority for Lee H. Kellogg School. With respect to academics, Lee H. Kellogg is a firm believer that all students can grow and thrive in a responsive school setting that values social and emotional learning, high quality instruction and timely feedback. LHK began the year rolling out 10 months of SEL initiatives that would live under the overarching goal of “Kindness”.

LHK students continued to grow and learn in all disciplines. However, there were some notable shifts in curriculum, instruction and assessment that included adopting instructional practices for our kindergarten-fourth grade students that are aligned with the new CT State Department of Education (CSDE) Science of Reading legislation. Middle School students continue to use a Humanities curriculum to cultivate critical thinking, communication and cultural understanding. Teachers are also supporting instructional strategies in the grade 5-12 mathematics classrooms to incorporate more peer-to-peer interaction and higher order thinking with respect to critical thinking and problem-solving.

We continue to support outdoor education at Kellogg and have maintained our partnership with Ed Thorney to give our students the opportunity to enhance their physical and mental well-being with hands-on, adaptable education experiences in nature. Students also had field trip opportunities that include attendance at live performances and museum visits, trips to local farms and community sites. There were opportunities to meet with local authors to listen to their stories, write alongside them, and learn about their craft.

Community engagement has been a priority for Kellogg School. We continued to partner with the DM Hunt Library, the Senior Center, Emergency Services and our First Selectman, Mr. Barger. Together we were awarded a bicycle grant and had the opportunity to have our Kindergarteners name the town snow plows.

Athletics and extracurricular activities were part of our day to day schedule. Our 7th and 8th graders participated in three seasons of middle school sports while 6-8th graders had the opportunity to participate in Regional Clubs like Art Garage, Robotics, Cooking and Volleyball. Student participation has increased from the previous year and the opportunities to immerse with other students across the Region 1 schools have supported a smooth transition to high school for our 8th graders.

Our campus and school building continue to be well maintained. We continue to paint, maintain or update interior and exterior portions of our building with roof section replacements classroom updates to support trends in learning including the most up to date technology.

2024-2025 was a great year of learning and growing for all students. We are grateful for our community partnership and support as we work together to help our Falcons soar

Respectfully submitted,
Stacey Calo
Principal



Newly constructed Lee H. Kellogg School

David M. Hunt Library

Annual Report 2024–2025

This past year has been one of growth, collaboration, and creativity at the David M. Hunt Library. With expanded children’s programming for all ages, robust community partnerships, and strong support from our patrons, donors, and board, the library continues to serve as a hub for learning, connection, and culture in Falls Village.

Youth & Family Programming

- **Summer Reading 2024–25:** Over 20 programs for children of all ages, including weekly outreach at the Falls Village Pool with *Pool, Pages & Popsicles*.
 - **Creative Kidz Club Collaboration:** Partnered with the Falls Village Recreation Commission to provide programming for summer campers.
 - **School Year Outreach:** Weekly or biweekly visits to all K–4 classrooms and weekly visits to the Falls Village Day Care.
 - **Homeschooling Families:** Thanks to a grant from the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation (NWCCF), we offered *Letters Are Characters* to ten homeschooling families, kicking off with a well-attended September event.
 - **After-School Enrichment:** Continued partnerships with Kellogg School to provide after-school programs such as Coding Club, Garden Club, and Cooking Club, plus monthly half-day programs.
-

Community Partnerships & Events

- **Summer Concerts on the Lawn:** With FV Rec Commission, hosted Vance Cannon and Friends (July) and a Community Open Mic (August).
- **Falls Village Fall Festival:** Welcomed over 100 attendees at the Town Farm property for the second year, in collaboration with many town organizations.
- **Holiday Extravaganza:** A new December tradition before the Town Tree Lighting, featuring Villagers performing music, poetry, and readings.
- **Equity & History Programs:** Co-hosted *Local History Trivia* with the FV/Canaan Historical Society, and continued a Banned Book Club with the FV Equity Commission.
- **Homebound Delivery Service:** Launched in September with Friends of the Library, delivering books and materials to patrons unable to visit in person.
- **New HVRHS Book Club:** Monthly collaboration with high school librarian Jessie Bate began in October.



Falls Village Railroad Station

DAVID M. HUNT LIBRARY CONTINUED

Author Talks & Special Programming

- Zarafia Adiba: Afghan violist and author of *Playing for Freedom*.
 - Michelle Horton: Author of *Dear Sister*, in partnership with Project Sage for Domestic Abuse Awareness Month.
 - Peter Vermilyea: Lecture on Local Black Civil War Soldiers for African American History Month.
 - **Eric Carle Celebration Week:** Themed programming culminating in a screening of digitized vintage cartoons, supported by an NCCF grant.
 - **ArtWall Expansion:** Exhibits included Jon Kopita's handwriting works, *Emerging Artists: Cigar Boxes* from Kellogg School, *Playing with Art*, and the ever-popular 12x12 Show. Each exhibiting artist now offers an art talk or workshop.
-

Facilities & Improvements

- **Library Redesign:** *Libraries Without Borders* initiative brought new furniture to the main reading room, creating a more welcoming atmosphere.
 - **Building & Grounds:** Completed basement moisture abatement project; completed final plantings in the native/pollinator garden.
 - **Upcoming Needs:** Replacement of the 30-year-old boiler and oil tanks is planned for the coming year.
-

Board Activities

In addition to fulfilling its primary responsibilities of governance and strategic planning, the Board launched new initiatives to broaden the library's base of financial support:

- Increased communication with existing and potential donors.
- Hosted "thank you" gatherings at board members' and major donors' homes.
- Explored meaningful ways to recognize donor loyalty in newsletters and collateral materials
- Relunched the *1891 Society* legacy giving program, encouraging patrons to include the library in their estate plans.

These efforts reflect the Board's commitment to ensuring the Hunt Library's long-term sustainability.

DAVID M. HUNT LIBRARY CONTINUED

Financial Summary (as of June 30, 2025)

- **Operating Budget (24–25):** \$178,856
 - **Income Sources:**
 - Endowment draw: \$25,000
 - Town grant: \$64,725 (24% increase over prior year; additional \$1,000 increase approved for 25–26)
 - Individual & business donations: \$71,181.02
 - Fundraising events: \$43,402.30
 - **Endowment Balance:** \$578,540.16
 - **Free Cash at Year-End:** ~\$43,000 (reserved largely for boiler replacement)
-

Looking Ahead

As we move into 2025–26, the David M. Hunt Library remains committed to delivering enriching programs for all ages, deepening community partnerships, and stewarding our building and collections with care. With the continued support of our town, donors, and dedicated volunteers, we are excited to build on this year's successes and create even more opportunities for connection, creativity, and lifelong learning.

Respectfully submitted,

Rusty Tunnard, Board President

David M. Hunt Library Staff 2024-2025

Meg Sher, Executive Director

Brittany Spear- Baron Assistant Director/Youth Services Coordinator

Jessy Haggard, Circulation Assistant

Paula Rogers, Library Assistant



David M. Hunt School Students, 1945

DAVID M. HUNT LIBRARY CONTINUED

Board Members and Officers' Terms

Board of Directors 2025 - 2026

The Board of Directors of the Association shall elect from the Directors at each Annual Meeting (usually held in mid-July or early August) 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. The 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 and Officer terms expire concurrent with the date of election or re-election of members and officers at the Annual Meeting each year.

Board Member	First Appointed	Board Term Expires	Officer term Expires
Rusty Tunnard - President	2022	2026	2027
Vance Cannon - Vice President	2023	2027	2027
Henry Todd* - Treasurer	2014	2026	** 2026
Toni Siegel - Secretary	2019	2029	*** 2029
Barbara Deinhardt *	2010	2026	
Dan Shaw	2022	2026	
John Holland*	2021	2029	
Leone Young	2011	2027	
Rebecca Juchert-Derungs	2012	2028	
Roxann S. Whitaker	2019	2027	

*Board of Selectmen's Nominees

**Serving second (consecutive) four-year term as Treasurer; not eligible for re-election to office

***Serving second term 2025-2029 as Secretary.

Former Board Members

	Resigned	Term Expires
Bosco Schell	9/16/24	2026
Kyle Wilkinson	11/10/24	2026
Nina Embiricos	1/6/25	2026

DAVID M. HUNT LIBRARY CONTINUED

VOLUNTEERS 2024/2025

The following list of volunteers includes Board members, Friends, local businesses, and neighbors who have shared responsibility for various tasks and services. Our volunteers assist the library in many ways including selling books at the library, organizing and working at fundraising events and programs, soliciting advertisements and donations, baking delectable desserts and nibbles for the Art Wall, helping to produce the summer newsletter and annual appeal, making posters, signage, building shelves, maintenance of the library building and grounds. Please let us know if any names have been omitted or spelled incorrectly so corrections may be made.

ADAMAH farm, Cheryl Aeschliman, Gail & Kent Allyn, Marsha Altermus, Ginny Apple, Dave Barger, Bill Beebe Ann & Greg Bidou, Joe Brien, Kay & Terry Blass, Devin, Nick & Hoyt Boyden, Ruby Cameron, Vance Cannon, Lonnie Carter, Heather Chapman, Jessie Davidson, Barbara Deinhardt & Dan Silverman, Maria Ehrlich & Kenny Rogers, Nina Embiricos, Falls Village Fire Department, Falls Village Highway Dept., Falls Village Inn, Falls Village Package Store, Zoe & Sergei Fedorjaczenko, Ruth Giumarro, Joe Giumarro, Sofia Giumarro, Jandi Hanna, Michelle Hansen, Donna & Dick Heinz, Herrington's, David, Laurie & John Hodgson, John & Natalie Holland, Sara Jack, Denny, Judy & David Jacobs, Carol & Brent Jenkins, Peter Jensen, Erica Joncyk, Rebecca Jucheret – Derungs & Michael Derungs, James King & Dathalinn O'Dea, Sandy Klempner, Garth Kobal & Ray Rigdon, LaBonne's Epicurean Market, Sara & Rika Laser, Jenny Law & Alan Lovejoy, Frankie Lucostic, Greg Marlowe, John Mathews, Lara Mittaud & Patrick Hafner, Deb Munson, Laura & Karl Munson, David Noonan, Oblong Books, Andrew Oulette, Linda Paviol, Sara Reynolds, Shamu, Ibby, Yonah, Lev & Jaimie Sadeh, Tom Scott, Bosco Schell & Page Dickey, Rachel Scobie, Eli, Noah & Adam Sher, Dan Shaw, Toni Siegel, Mary Lu & Woods Sinclair, Janna & Tzuf Siller, Brittany Spear-Baron, Mary Sullivan, Tanner Spear, Patrick Sullivan, Matt Schwaikert & Matt's Landscaping, Carol Taylor, Lou & Carol Timolat, Henry & Pam Todd, Elizabeth Tyburski, Eric Veden, Kim Watkins, Roxann & Warren Whitaker, Leone Young and all those who donated funds, items and services and all the businesses who placed advertisements in our brochures.



The David M. Hunt Library, Falls Village, Conn.





Falls Village-Canaan Historical Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 206, Falls Village, CT 06031
860-824-8226 fvchs8226@gmail.com

ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025

The Falls Village-Canaan Historical Society had a busy and productive year. We were honored to be the recipients of Peter Reilly's entire personal collection of the court cases for the murder of his mother in Falls Village in 1973. We are honored that Peter felt the Historical Society was the appropriate place for these historical documents and we will be very busy in the months ahead going through the collection and documenting the contents. The Wellner Fund from North Canaan awarded us a \$4,000 grant to properly store, care and display the collection.

Bill Beebe and Denny Jacobs completed the restoration of the historic New Haven caboose that graces the downtown of Falls Village. It came out beautiful! Bill often opens the caboose up for visitors and everyone enjoys the displays and his tours.

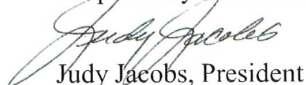
We had wonderful presentations for our 1st Tuesday at 7 Summer Talk series again at the South Canaan Meetinghouse with great speakers and large number of attendees. We also had another successful Peddlers Flea Market fundraiser during September at the South Canaan Meetinghouse. Cheryl Aeschliman is the curator of the Meetinghouse.

The Beebe Hill Schoolhouse building is owned by the Town of Canaan (Falls Village), with the Historical Society owning the contents. Bill Beebe is the curator and along with other volunteers he open the Schoolhouse for visitors in the summer on Saturdays or by appointment.

Our museum and office is located at the historic railroad depot at 44 Railroad Street and our curator Midge Cortesi meets many people there for viewing the displays and conducting research and genealogy. Volunteers are working on computerizing our collection. We also have rented a climate controlled storage facility to keep some of our collection that is not out on display or used much in research. This unit, along with a new dehumidifying system in the Depot (also funded with a grant), has enabled us to care for our collection more responsibly and professionally. The Depot museum is open every Tuesday morning from 9-noon, the first Saturday of the month and by appointment.

In the recent Town Plan, residents indicated they wanted to retain the historic character of the Town. Our village center is listed on the National Register of Historic Places but in light of the resident's desire to maintain our Town character, the Board of Selectmen created a Village Historic District Study Committee that will determine if a local historic commission is needed. The committee consists of Historical Society board members, some Village residents, and a contractor. It works closely with the Town Planning and Zoning officer and soon will be presenting its findings publicly. We look forward to working with property owners to help them with any questions they may have, and offer house studies, research, guidance and suggestions to help the homeowner maintain their home's historic curbside appearance.

Respectfully submitted,


Judy Jacobs, President



MAIN STREET, Falls Village, Conn.

Upper Main Street



FY24-25 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 at regularly scheduled meetings and multiple times under special meetings to address issues of immediate concern. 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 members holding board officer appointments during FY 2024-2025 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 FY24-25 budget that again incorporated recent increases in funding in several areas in the last FY that have a direct benefit to the towns. These increases in the state Regional Service Grant (RSG) and the state Department of Transportation (CTDOT) planning funds for the region provided support for project and planning related work that continue to directly benefit the region on a short- and long-term basis.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

NHCOC, as a federally recognized Economic Development District (EDD), focused on implementation of its new Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the region. The major achievements this year are as follows:

- *Capitalize on State and Federal Brownfield assessment and remediation programs to encourage adaptive reuse projects:* NHCOC received 3 CT Municipal Brownfield Assessment Only Grants and 1 CT Brownfield Areawide Revitalization Grant.

NHCOG CONTINUED

- *Partner with the National Center for Economic Gardening to implement their entrepreneurial approach to economic development:* Completed 1 business engagement with National Center for Economic Gardening.
- *Provide guidance and technical assistance for downtown and village Center improvements:* Partnered with CT Main Street Center to develop a Regional Main Street Management approach. This year 17 downtown readiness assessments were completed and multiple workshops educating elected officials on the value of a managed Main Street and assisting 5 Communities in creating a vision statement.
- *Create a 3–5-year strategy for the promotion of Discover Litchfield Hills, exploring all options, i.e. TV, radio, social media (paid & organic), billboard and print material & explore the possibility of a brand ‘refresh’ which is widely recommended to be done every 3-5 years:* NHCOG retained Miranda Creative to assist with these tasks. This year a SWOT analysis of the current brand has been completed, and a community survey seeking input on the brand is developed.
- *Further development and promote the Naugatuck River Greenway, Western New England Greenway, Sue Grossman Greenway, Appalachian Trail, Blue Blazed Trails and local Trails:* NHCOG is administering a CT Recreational Trails Grant for the routing and design of the Naugatuck River Greenway from Bouge Road in Harwinton to Route 118 in Litchfield. and NHCOG staff is part of the Sue Grossman Committee in Winsted which is focused on final routing and design of the Sue Grossman’s final phases, from the DMV to Downtown.
- *Support Cost-effective ways to address Municipal Solid Waste and local recycling initiatives:* With the closure of MIRA, NHCOG worked to ensure the Torrington Transfer Station remained a public facility, assisted in the development of the Northwest Resource Recovery Authority (NRRA), and continued to work with local legislators and the NRRA to acquire and operate the Facility.
- Lastly, NHCOG applied for a new three-year funding package of EDA Partnership Planning program from the US Economic Development Administration (EDA) for a total budget of \$350,000, of which \$210,000 is federal funds and \$140,000 is local match. These funds will provide for the continued implementation of the goals and objectives contained within the CEDS.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

The Northwest Hills Council of Governments (NHCOG) completed its Transit Analysis Study, which originated from the Request for Proposals (RFP) issued at the end of FY23–24. The study was funded by the Federal Transit Administration, CTDOT, along with agency match funds in FY25. Its focus was to support the development of a coordinated transit network to serve residents of the NHCOG region. The final report provides a thorough analysis of current and future transit demands and offers recommendations that will help guide improvements to regional transit services.

Through the CT Department of Transportation’s Statewide Active Transportation Microgrant Program, four municipalities in the Northwest Hills region—Canaan, Torrington, Warren, and Harwinton—were each awarded \$5,000 grants to promote safe walking and biking in Connecticut.

NHCOG CONTINUED

Under the CTDOT Statewide Transportation Rural Improvement Program (TRIP), four municipalities—Litchfield, Goshen, Burlington, and Barkhamsted—were awarded up to \$1,500,000 each for roadway and/or bridge improvements.

Approximately \$1 million is allocated annually by CTDOT through the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP) for priority local road projects. Five municipalities in the region currently qualify under this program, with projects in various stages of approval and development in Burlington, Litchfield, Torrington, and Winchester.

Finally, NHCOG has applied for a \$350,000 grant through the USDOT Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) 2025 Implementation Grant. If awarded, this funding would support the creation of a comprehensive Safety Action Plan for the entire NHCOG region.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY

NHCOG serves as the administrator and fiscal agent for almost \$400,000 in Homeland Security Grant funding received each year for the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) Region 5. Several projects and equipment acquisitions support this program within multiple Emergency Support Function groups in Region-5 (all of NHCOG and portions of NVCOG and WestCOG) running along the western part of the state.

SHARED MUNICIPAL SERVICES

In FY24-25, NHCOG continued coordination of numerous programs such as 1) a Neighbor-to-Neighbor program in cooperation with the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, 2) the Northwest Hills Public Works Equipment Cooperative sharing various roadway assets, and 3) the region's cooperative purchasing program for products and services relating to public works.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

FY24-25 marked the second year of the federal Health Resources and Services Administration's Rural Health Network Development grant awarded to NHCOG to increase access to adolescent mental health services in the NHCOG region. In FY24-25, the Northwest Hills Community Health Network of CT expanded the network to include Torrington Youth Services Bureau (TYSB) and Outside Perspectives Inc (OP). This partnership expansion provides funding from the HRSA grant to OP to provide a group of 12 to 15 adolescents (identified via TYSB) with 10 weeks of outdoor programming that employs strength-based approaches and positive childhood experiences to teach participants resiliency and coping skills. Developing and growing these skills continues to be an important factor when addressing adolescent mental health as we saw a nearly 15% increase from FY22-23 to FY24-25 in the number of 211 crisis calls originating in the region, an 18% increase in the number of adolescents presenting with 4 or more Adverse Childhood Experiences, and a 13% increase in referrals for services to address social determinants of health, such as food insecurity, housing instability, and barriers to receiving care.

NHCOG continues to be the only COG in the state to implement and host a pooled fund of National Opioid Settlement funds. In FY24-25, The Regional Opioid Response Fund collected \$55,243.19 from nine participating towns and expended \$32,188.41 on opioid use remediation initiatives

NHCOG CONTINUED

tailored to our rural communities. The largest expense was a \$25,000 donation to Greenwood's Counseling and Referrals via the Northwest CT Community Foundation's Northwest Corner Gives event, which matched the donation dollar-for-dollar and enabled Greenwood's to continue its outreach and harm-reduction efforts throughout the region. About \$7,000 was spent on harm-reduction supplies and about \$200 was spent on refreshments for hosting screenings in Falls Village, Washington and Barkhamsted of Uprooting Addiction, an educational film about opioid use and recovery that was filmed in the region.

LAND USE/CONSERVATION/PRESERVATION/SUSTAINABILITY

NHCOG serves as the Statutory referral agency for municipalities within and adjacent to the NHCOG regional boundary and reviewed fifty-one (51) zoning, subdivision and Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) referrals during the Fiscal Year. The agency also advised local municipalities on land use matters on an ad hoc basis as issues arose throughout the year.

NHCOG continues to host a quarterly "5th Thursday" forum on most occasions for area Planning, Zoning, and Conservation Commission members, and staff, to meet and discuss items of mutual interest, hear guest speakers, and provide input on regional plans. These also have been utilized to meet the statutory requirements of Land Use Officials annual training program.

NHCOG has also assumed the role of Administrator and Fiscal Agent for National Park Service (NPS) annual funding (\$135,000) which continues to be allocated for the Housatonic River Commission (HRC) working the Wild and Scenic designation of a stretch of the Housatonic River. NHCOG also continues to partner with the 7-town membership of the HRC in a support role when requested.


NHCOG also continues to host an Interactive Regional Trail Map, developed by NHCOG and 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 applications and funding efforts on an ongoing basis throughout the year upon request.

The state of Municipal Solid Waste in the region and its sustainable future continues to be a key issue, particularly with the dissolution of the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA) on the last day in June of the past Fiscal Year.

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

Regional School District #1 - Annual Report

The 2024–2025 school year marked a year of meaningful progress and pride for Regional School District #1. Across our seven schools, we have continued to strengthen learning environments, improve academic outcomes, and prioritize the well-being of our students and staff. This year reflects the collective commitment of our educators, administrators, families, and community partners to providing exceptional educational opportunities for every child.

Completion of the High School Renovation Project

One of the most significant accomplishments this year was the completion of the Housatonic Valley Regional High School renovation project. This comprehensive work included major upgrades to the HVAC system, cafeteria, auditorium, and cupola, along with several additional infrastructure and improvement projects. These renovations have transformed the high school’s common spaces into welcoming, modern environments that align with current standards for safety, comfort, and functionality. Beyond aesthetics, these improvements support teaching and learning by creating spaces where students feel proud, engaged, and ready to learn, while also ensuring long-term sustainability for the building.

Academic Growth and Achievement

Academically, this year represents a historic milestone for the Region. All seven schools demonstrated improvement under the Connecticut Next Generation Accountability System. This marks the first time since the system’s inception in 2015 that every school in Regional School District #1 has shown measurable growth. This achievement reflects the focused work of our educators on high-quality instruction, curriculum alignment, data-informed decision-making, and targeted student supports.

We are especially proud of the growth demonstrated by our two focus schools, Housatonic Valley Regional High School and Sharon Center School. Both schools exceeded their expected growth targets, underscoring the effectiveness of the intentional strategies implemented to support student learning and close achievement gaps.

REGION 1 SCHOOL DISTRICT CONTINUED

In addition, we are pleased to announce that Cornwall Consolidated School and Sharon Center School reached Distinction status. Cornwall Consolidated School earned a Distinction for Academic Achievement in English Language Arts, while Sharon Center School earned a Distinction for Growth in English Language Arts for all students and high-needs populations. These recognitions are a testament to the dedication of staff and the resilience and hard work of our students.

Focus on Social and Emotional Well-Being

Over the past year, Regional School District #1 has placed a strong emphasis on the social and emotional well-being of students. We recognize that academic success is deeply connected to students' feeling safe, supported, and valued in their school communities. As part of this commitment, School Climate Surveys were administered across all schools to gather feedback from students, families, and staff.

The results of these surveys are encouraging. They indicate that students feel safe in their schools, report having trusted adults they can turn to, and express appreciation for their educators. Families and students alike report feeling valued and supported, reinforcing that our schools are nurturing environments where relationships matter and student voice is respected.

Looking Ahead

Taken together, this year's accomplishments reflect a district moving forward with purpose and clarity. From improved facilities and strong academic outcomes to a renewed focus on school climate and student well-being, Regional School District #1 continues to build schools that serve as vital anchors in their communities.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to continuous improvement and to ensuring the highest quality educational experiences for our students, staff, and families. Our local schools are an invaluable asset to the towns we serve, and we are proud to continue this important work together.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melony Brady-Shanley, Superintendent of Regional School District #1

FALLS VILLAGE TOWN REPORT 2024-2025

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, Nutrition Counseling, Pediatrics, Wound Care, Chronic Disease Management and non-medical Home Assistance Programs.

VNHLC employs 130 people, 90% of whom reside locally in Northwest Connecticut.

VNHLC cared for 2,356 patients and provided 50,132 patient visits in 2024-2025.

VNHLC is proud of its long-standing history with the Town of Falls Village. 34 persons from Falls Village received home health services from VNHLC during the past year.

Eighty-seven (87%) percent of all our patients were age 65 or older and 22% 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 dieticians.

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 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 1,500 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



FY2024-25 Annual Report – Town of Canaan/Falls Village

"I can no longer drive due to my eyesight. I still work one day a week and was afraid I would have to give up the job that I love. Chore was able to help!"
-Falls Village resident

Chore Service provides essential non-medical support to help older adults and those with disabilities maintain their independence and quality of life in their own homes.

Thanks to support from the Town of Canaan/Falls Village, matched with grant dollars and individual contributions, our caregivers provided 186 hours of in-home non-medical chore and transportation services to 6 Canaan/Falls Village residents from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025. One of the caregivers was also a Canaan/Falls Village resident who earned \$10,698 in part-time income from Chore that was put back into the local economy.

In helping sustain the life, health, and dignity of these 6 Canaan/Falls Village clients, Chore Service's caregivers assisted them with housecleaning, laundry, grocery shopping, meal prep, and yard work, all while offering friendship and camaraderie. We also provided transportation to appointments and the grocery store.

Now in our 33rd year, Chore continues to work even harder to provide more services to more people in need. We expanded our in-home offerings to include handyman repairs, technology support, and additional transportation services, now covering errands and community events. Recently, we hired a home visit coordinator to conduct annual in-person visits with each client, ensuring all their service needs are met and informing them about other community resources.

Part of our evolution includes meeting state requirements through more comprehensive background checks on all current and prospective caregivers, requiring them to wear name badges while working, and protecting clients and the agency through formal written client service agreements. Elder abuse, sexual harassment identification and prevention, and mandated reporter training are standard for our caregivers and meet all Department of Consumer Protection and state-mandated requirements. Special certifications are not required, as we do not provide medical services, although we do transport clients to their medical appointments.

We do not charge clients for any services but offer a suggested sliding scale where they have the option to contribute. Clients are never denied services regardless of their inability to pay.

We appreciate the support of the Town of Canaan/Falls Village and its residents. If you're 60 or older or have a disability and could benefit from our services, please call (860) 435-9177 or visit www.choreservice.org to learn more.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane MacLaren
Executive Director

PROJECT
SAGE
to end relationship violence

**Project SAGE
Proposal to the Town of Canaan/Falls Village
January 21, 2025**

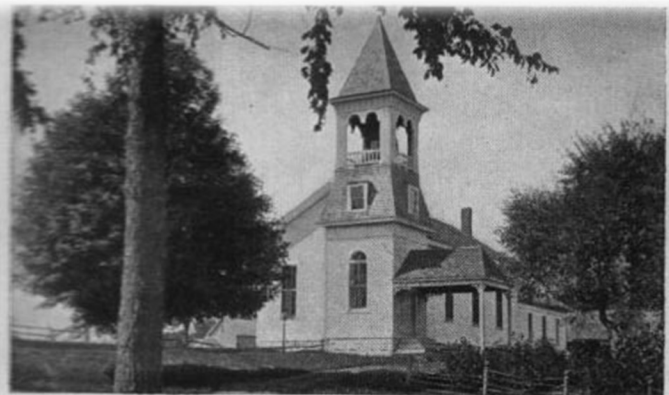
For 45 years, Project SAGE has been dedicated to ending relationship violence in the northwest corner of Connecticut by providing Support, Advocacy, Guidance, and Education (SAGE) programming.

Having significantly expanded our staff in the last decade, successfully transitioned to our new Porter Street office in Lakeville, and undergone a complete rebranding, we continually strive for innovation and growth, pushing the boundaries of what is possible. This transformative journey would not be possible without the invaluable support of our Board of Directors, community stakeholders, and the communities we serve.

The Town of Canaan/Falls Village has steadfastly supported Project SAGE for 21 years. **We request that the Town of Canaan/Falls Village consider a grant of \$3500 to assist us in meeting our clients' increasing and complex needs and to continue our community outreach efforts.**

Key Accomplishments in the Past Year

- **Hotline/Crisis Response:** Provided support for 1910 individuals and families through our 24-hour hotline.
- **Direct Services:** Served approximately 800 adult and youth clients.
- **Agency Referrals:** Connected clients with essential community resources.
- **Emergency Shelter:** Provided temporary shelter for 1400 nights to 28 clients.
- **Counseling and Support:** Offered ongoing counseling and support services.
- **Housing Specialist Advocate:** Coordinated the HUD-funded Rapid Rehousing Program (RRH) to assist clients in finding and maintaining stable housing.
- **Criminal and Civil Court Advocacy:** Provided support for 613 victims of family violence.
- **Prevention Education Workshops:** Conducted 46 workshops/training sessions for adults with over 400 attendees. Delivered 317 prevention workshops for children and teens in local schools and daycare programs, meeting Connecticut education standards for all grades 6-12 in Region 1 schools.
- **Community Outreach:** Participated in 16 tabling events and distributed materials to 87 Main Street Partner businesses.



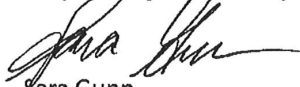
Congregational Church

PROJECT SAGE CONTINUED

- **Removing Barriers:** Addressed obstacles that limit client choices and expanded access to a wider range of community services.
- **Improving Stability:** Helped clients enhance the stability of their lives by reducing isolation and achieving financial security.
- **Promoting Independence:** Supported clients in making informed decisions about their safety plans.
- **Enhanced Capacity:** Provided valuable experience to interns from local high schools and college students, while increasing Project SAGE's ability to respond to community needs.
- **Improved Client Outcomes:** Enabled clients to access a wider range of community resources, leading to increased financial stability, reduced isolation, and more sustainable living options.
- **Comprehensive Curriculum:** Developed a three-year progressive curriculum for all middle school students in Region 1, focusing on themes such as Boundaries and Healthy Relationships in the Digital Environment, in collaboration with the central Region 1 administrator, principals, and school counselors.
- **Early Years Program:** Provided education on emotion regulation, bystander intervention, and other essential topics to children in preschool through grade two in six local daycare facilities, facilitated by certified volunteers.
- **Leadership:** Welcomed Kristen van Ginhoven as the new Executive Director in the Spring of 2024.
- **Governance:** Maintained a committed Board of 17 members.
- **Staffing:** Expanded our dedicated team to 12 staff members.

Project SAGE is committed to providing free and confidential services to our community in our mission to end relationship violence. The increased growth in our services means that our budget continues to grow. We are celebrating the 25th anniversary of our signature fundraiser, Trade Secrets, and the 45th anniversary of the founding of Project Sage, Inc. We are grateful for the outstanding support from the Town of Canaan/Falls Village and appreciate your consideration in supporting us again this year.

Respectfully submitted,



Sara Gunn,
Director of Development
Project Sage, Inc.



*Hotel Salonic and TB sanatorium (destroyed in fire)
Now the home to the water towers on Beebe Hill Road*

Falls Village Volunteer Fire Department Annual Report

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

This past year we spent focused on volunteer engagement as well as education and training. We enjoyed a surge of new members and turned our focus on education and training. We had five members take either an EMT or EMR class offered by our neighbors in Cornwall. We also sent nine members to a National Conference where they could access varied training in fire and EMS topics.

Our biggest project this year was specking out a new ambulance. The Committee met with three ambulance companies after communicating with six different companies. Our current ambulance is a 2014 and is starting to show it's age. We will be able to keep our current power stretcher, Lucas Device, stairchair and AED so we saw a significant cost savings with this.

Once again, we had an increase in our call volume this past year. The department responded to 217 calls. 142 of those calls were EMS, 75 were for car accidents, downed power lines, cellar pump outs, public assists, and we had one structure fire. This past year we found ourselves in the unique situation of having an extensive and stubborn brush fire that required our services for five days. We did have the help of DEEP, neighboring mutual aid and Forest Fire Warden.

Thursday nights continue to be bustling around the fire house. This is when we do our in-house trainings, maintenance on our vehicles, and restock for the next calls. Each Thursday of the month has a specific task that needs to be performed and then we fill in doing anything extra that may have come up that week.

In November of 2024 we turned 100 years old. We help our final event of the year by having a large birthday party to commemorate the event. It was held at the Colonial Theater in North Canaan and was well attended.

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



Original Firehouse on Railroad Street

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

2024 Service Awards

Fire Department

5 Years

Frank Halden
Thom Wilson

10 Years

Abigail Wilson
Peter Pixley

15 Years

Lydia Downs

30 Years

John Matthews

60 Years

William Wood

Ladies Auxiliary

40 Years

Susan Gawel

55 Years

Hazel McGuire



Firemen's Parade

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

Re: Annual Report for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2025

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.

The Court welcomed Jordan Bergs as a clerk this 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. Carlee Lemieux and Jordan Bergs 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



Train Wreck in Falls Village

TORRINGTON AREA HEALTH DISTRICT
ANNUAL REPORT: JULY 1, 2024 – JUNE 30, 2025

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

The Torrington Area Health District (TAHD) **Community Health Program** partnered with DPH and FoodCORE to investigate: 9 giardiasis, 40 campylobacteriosis, and 13 salmonellosis cases. TAHD guided schools, daycares, and community members on a variety of health issues and administered 291 flu vaccines to residents. TAHD consulted with 14 residents regarding potential rabies exposures submitting 9 specimens to the DPH Laboratory for rabies testing. Ticks brought in by 117 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 healthier kids, families, and communities through sustainable strategies that promote healthy eating and active living, primarily through the 5210 program and related initiatives. This year, Fit Together focused on updating its action plan to include improved communication with the community via social media, policy advocacy, and environmental changes such as the Sue Grossman Greenway equipment upgrade and healthy eating mini-grant projects.

The Torrington Area Health District (TAHD) continued its active participation in the **Litchfield County Opiate Task Force (LCOTF)**, serving on its executive committee. TAHD staff also initiated a data committee focused on collecting and analyzing information to support 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. TAHD also participated in the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP), aimed at reducing morbidity and mortality associated with substance use disorder (SUD) and opioid use disorder (OUD) in high-risk rural communities. Through these programs, TAHD strengthened and expanded prevention, treatment, and recovery services to help rural residents access appropriate care and make progress toward recovery. Although some of these programs concluded in August, TAHD applied for new grant opportunities and remains committed to harm reduction as an active member of the LCOTF Harm Reduction Subcommittee.

TAHD continued its contract with the United Way of Connecticut (UWC) to enhance cross-sector efforts and implement a comprehensive public health approach to **suicide prevention**. Efforts focused 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, TAHD prioritized identifying and addressing suicide hotspots along railroad areas in Litchfield County. Suicide prevention signs were ordered for installation along two separate railway lines as part of a targeted intervention. TAHD also strengthened its involvement with the Western CT Coalition to support regional collaboration in suicide prevention. QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) training continued to be offered to community members by certified Gatekeeper Trainers, providing a practical, evidence-based approach to reducing suicidal behaviors.

This year, TAHD was awarded the **Preventive Health Strategies at Work in CT Communities** grant through the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) to support the delivery of evidence-based prevention programs. The funding enabled TAHD to continue facilitating initiatives such as **Chronic Disease Self-Management, Diabetes Self-Management, Chronic Pain Self-Management**, and the CDC-recognized **Prevent T2** program for type 2 diabetes prevention.

With this support, TAHD partnered with the Agency on Aging to conduct two six-week workshops: Chronic Disease Self-Management at the Litchfield Community Center and Chronic Pain Self-Management at the Winsted Senior Center. These interactive sessions were designed for individuals with one or more chronic physical or mental health conditions, such as arthritis, diabetes, heart disease, or depression, and provided practical tools to improve daily life. Participants learned self-care strategies including exercise, healthy eating, symptom management, weight loss, and communication with healthcare providers. Those who completed the programs reported significant improvements in quality of life, demonstrating the effectiveness of these community-based prevention efforts.

The TAHD **Immunization Action Program (IAP)** collaborated with local healthcare providers and hospitals to ensure adherence to Connecticut's childhood immunization requirements. The program partnered with 12 medical organizations and 40

TORRINGTON AREA HEALTH DISTRICT CONTINUED

community-based organizations across the district, focusing on education, outreach, and promoting vaccine confidence. TAHD provided healthcare providers with educational materials for staff and patients and hosted training sessions and events. For community partners, TAHD set up informational displays in libraries, hospitals, museums, food banks, and KidsPlay Children's Museum, and participated in outreach at events such as back-to-school nights and health fairs. Public messaging was amplified through posters in high-visibility locations including post offices, coffee shops, libraries, and town halls. Social media was also used to extend the reach of vaccination campaigns. This year, TAHD received an award for achieving 100% outreach success across all program areas, recognizing the team's strong commitment to immunization education and community engagement.

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 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ 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. Through these combined efforts, a total of **14** epidemiological investigations were completed and **14** abatement orders were issued.

TAHD **Environmental Health Program** resulted in the following inspections/licenses/permits: **1159** food inspections, **1016** temporary food permits, **129** new septic systems, **208** repaired septic systems, **140** private well permits, **79** private pool permits, **206** beauty salons & barber shops inspections, **632** house addition permits, **296** soil tests, **29** subdivision lots, **32** public pools were inspected, and **29** daycare centers inspected. Records show that approximately **407** samples were submitted to the state lab for testing drinking water, beach and pool water, lead in water, soil and dust, and stool samples for pathogens. Sanitarians investigated **350** complaints of various public health concerns; **35** legal orders/voluntary compliances were issued for enforcement purposes.

Emergency Preparedness Annual Summary

The TAHD Emergency Preparedness Program remained focused on training, education, and community engagement throughout the year. In April 2025, TAHD conducted a Point of Dispensing (POD) Drill at John Trumbull Primary School to test readiness for large-scale medical countermeasure distribution. We also met Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) deliverables by organizing a tabletop exercise focused on pandemic influenza response. To further enhance public health and emergency preparedness capabilities, TAHD coordinated two in-person training courses through the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX). The first, Disaster Preparedness for Bombing Incidents (DPBI), equipped attendees with knowledge to effectively plan for and respond to explosive threats. The second course, Medical Countermeasures: Point of Dispensing (POD), Planning and Response, focuses on operational planning and execution of mass prophylaxis campaigns. These trainings are open to MRC volunteers, TAHD staff, public health partners, emergency personnel, and town officials.

The emergency preparedness team also participated in professional development opportunities, including the NACCHO Preparedness Summit and the Emergency Management Symposium. Additionally, TAHD attended an MRC Leadership training in Rhode Island with the Training, Innovation and Leadership Institute. TAHD also continues to be the lead fiduciary role for Connecticut Region 5 for the 2024–2029 project period, strengthening the district's position in regional preparedness coordination.

The TAHD **Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)** continued to grow and engage with the community through education and outreach. Trainings offered during the year included First Aid, Hands-Only CPR, Narcan administration, and Stop the Bleed. MRC volunteers participated in local fairs and events, distributing preparedness materials and promoting household readiness. The emergency preparedness team also attended the 2025 National MRC Summit, further supporting TAHD's capacity to enhance and sustain a responsive MRC program. Efforts to secure grant funding remain ongoing to support training, volunteer engagement, and community preparedness throughout the district.

Robert Rubbo, MPH, Director of Health



Housatonic Youth Service Bureau *Annual Report FY 2025*

The Housatonic Youth Service Bureau (HYSB) is proud to partner with the town of Falls Village in supporting the mental health and well-being of our youth and families. Your investment in our mission ensures that professional counseling, prevention initiatives, and positive youth development programs are available at no cost to those who need them most.

FY25 Impact in Falls Village

- **Counseling Services** – Provided confidential support to Falls Village youth and families, fostering resilience, stronger relationships, and improved academic outcomes.
- **Prevention & Education** – Delivered programs that addressed substance use risks and equipped youth and parents with strategies for making healthy, informed choices.
- **Youth Development** – Engaged young people in activities that built confidence, leadership, and community connection, preparing them for future success.

Why It Matters

When young people and families have access to support, the entire community benefits.


- Students are better able to focus and succeed in school.
- Families report stronger communication, healthier relationships, and reduced conflict.
- Youth gain skills in decision-making, leadership, and resilience that last a lifetime.
- The community experiences lower risk of substance use, reduced delinquency, and greater civic engagement.

Together, these outcomes create a ripple effect - strengthening not only individual families, but also the long-term vitality of Falls Village as a whole.

Looking Forward

With Falls Village's continued support, HYSB will expand access to counseling and prevention resources, ensuring that every young person has the tools to thrive. Together, we are building a stronger future for our community.

♥ **Thank you, Falls Village, for your ongoing partnership and belief in this work.**


Kelly Parker
HYSB Executive Director



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First and foremost the Falls Village Day Care Center would not be a fixture in Falls Village without the continual support of our local government and community. For over forty years the Center has been providing kind and loving care along with outstanding programs for which our Center has become known. The staff routinely maintains continuing education units and seeks other learning opportunities.

When there was first a need, space was found at Lee H. Kellogg school to house the program. When we outgrew that space the Board of Selectmen appointed a committee to renovate the building at 35 Page Road. Over the years the board of directors and the town has been firm in its commitment to provide care to these all-important age groups and make sure the building meets its needs.

This year, the Center added another playground so that each group had an age-appropriate area in which to play. The other playgrounds had modest updates of equipment and safe ground covering was maintained. The interior of the building is mostly kept freshly painted and maintained by the director and a generous group of staff members. Other volunteers do specific outdoor work to enhance the general area.

We add youngsters to our solid numbers in the summer, offering them a safe, interesting and enjoyable experience. They are provided field trips all year round, and in the summer visits to the town pool are routine.

Over the years the director, Ashley Allyn, has worked diligently to add solid educational programs for all age groups and it shows. As a result of that diligence, a variety of grants have routinely been received. They have gone a long way to enhance our program making us one of the noted centers in our area.

We couldn't be more pleased with the dedication of all involved with this amazing gem.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TOWN OF CANAAN, CT

Annual Financial Statements

For the Year Ended June 30, 2025



Town of Canaan **1739** **Falls Village**

"Liberty and Property"