

At Home Page 3



DINING Page 4



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Trees, Wreaths, Ornaments, Plants & More

Holiday Shopping Page 2



FINANCIAL REPORT

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------|---------|-------|
| Dow 30 | 43,717.48 | -110.58 | -0.3% |
| NASDAQ | 20,173.89 | 247.17 | 1.2% |
| S&P 500 | 6,074.08 | 22.99 | 0.4% |
| Crude Oil | 70.65 | -0.41 | -0.6% |
| Gold | 2,652.00 | -18 | -0.7% |

As of market close 12/16/2024

Stony Hill Volunteer Fire Elects New Officers



Stony Hill held their yearly elections for line officers, engineers, and civil officers.

The results for the year of 2025 are presented below.

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Chief - Doug Evanuska | Captain - Jonathan Hart | Engine 3 - Michael Frank | Secretary - Robyn Leonard |
| Assistant Chief - Matt Gunter | EMS Captain - Richard Johnson | Truck 4 - Tony Rubino | Board of Directors - Chuck Cywin, Jay Streaman, Nick DeVita |
| Chief Engineer - David Bunting | Lieutenant - J.C. | Utility 5 - Vanessa Duarte | Fire Police Lieutenant - Eugene Reelick |
| | Lieutenant - E.L. | Ambulance 3 - Ignascio Reyes | In a statement, they said "Congratulations to our new officers and engineers, and good luck!" |
| | Lieutenant - Bob Germinaro | President - Robert Leonard | |
| | EMS Lieutenant - Chelsea Connors | Vice President - Chelsea Connors | |
| | Engine 1 - Dan Spinella | Treasurer - Karla Checo | |
| | Rescue 2 - Jeff Blanch | Assistant Treasurer - Jonathan Hart | |

Nearly 23,000 Connecticut Residents Will Have \$30 Million in Medical Debt Erased

Letters Will Be Mailed Beginning December 23 Notifying Individuals and Families That Their Medical Debt Has Been Erased

Connecticut officials recently announced that nearly 23,000 Connecticut residents who have medical debt will be notified in the coming days that some or all of that debt has been eliminated under the first round of a major initiative his administration launched through a partnership with the national nonprofit organization Undue Medical Debt.


The nonprofit contracts with state and local governments and leverages public investments to negotiate with hospitals and other providers on the elimination of large, bundled portfolios of qualifying medical debt owed by patients whose income is at or below four times (400%) the federal poverty level or who have medical debt that is 5% or more of their income. (The current federal poverty level is an annual income at or below \$31,200 for a family of four.) Because these medical debts are acquired in bulk and belong to those least able to pay, they cost a fraction of their face value.

Under this first round, the Lamont administration invested approximately \$100,000 from the state's allocation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, and Undue Medical Debt was able to negotiate with a secondary market partner (i.e. collections agency) and a national provider to acquire approximately \$30 million in qualifying medical debt for Connecticut residents.

There is no application process for this medical debt relief and it cannot be requested. Instead, residents whose debt has been identified for relief will receive a branded letter from Undue Medical Debt indicating which debt or debts have been eliminated. Letters under this first round will be delivered to Connecticut residents through the U.S. mail beginning December 23, 2024.

In addition to this initiative, Governor Lamont recently signed legislation enacting a law that prohibits health care providers and hospitals in Connecticut from reporting a person's medical debt to credit rating agencies for use in credit reports. That new law – which went into effect on July 1, 2024 – was enacted to protect patients who may have otherwise been apprehensive about seeking essential medical care for fear that any inability to pay could negatively impact their credit rating.

State Police Promote Five Officers



Lt. Colonel Gomez

The Connecticut State Police promoted five Troopers during a ceremony today at State Police Headquarters. Colonel Daniel Loughman, Commanding Officer of the Connecticut State Police, formally promoted the Troopers.

The following Troopers were promoted:

Lieutenant Colonel Chad Gomez

Lieutenant Colonel Gomez was promoted from Major and has been assigned to command the Bureau of Professional Standards. He most recently served as Executive Officer in the Office of Field Operations. A graduate of the 119th State Police Training Troop, he has been a Trooper for 17 years.

Lt. Col. Gomez previously served as Commanding Officer of the Central District and the Western District, as well as Commanding Officer of the Emergency Services Unit. In addition, Lt. Col. Gomez was a Detective in the Statewide Narcotics Unit, a Tactical Team Member with Emergency Services, a K-9 Handler and a Patrol Trooper at Troop L, Litchfield.

Sergeant Christopher Valente

Sergeant Valente was promoted from Trooper First Class and has been assigned to Troop F- Westbrook after most recently serving as Middlefield Resident Trooper.

Sergeant Kristina Vivino

Sergeant Vivino was promoted from Trooper First Class and has been assigned to Troop C- Tolland.

Sergeant Alexander Milne

Sergeant Milne was promoted from Trooper First Class and has been assigned to Troop L-Litchfield.

Sergeant Gordon Leslie

Sergeant Leslie was promoted from Trooper First Class and has been assigned to Troop E- Montville.

SNOW FALL ACCUMULATES
Monday, Dec. 17 Storm Snowfall



Calendar

Zoning Board of Appeals
Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Planning & Zoning Public Hearing
Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Housing Authority
Wednesday, December 18, 2024 at 2:00 PM

Economic Development
Wednesday, December 18, 2024 at 4:00 PM

Police Commission
Wednesday, December 18, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Parks & Recreation Commission
Wednesday, December 18, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Fire Commission
Wednesday, December 18, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Sustainable Bethel Commission - CANCELLED
Wednesday, December 18, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Board of Education
Thursday, December 19, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Bethel Fire Department Officers
Thursday, December 19, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Western Connecticut Council of Governments
Thursday, January 2, 2025 at 2:00

News Briefs

STAMFORD ZONING BOARD CHANGES RULES ON SALE OF DOGS AND CATS

The Stamford Zoning Board earlier this month made changes to various zoning regulations, including one that aims to curb the sale of puppies and kittens from pet shops in highly trafficked areas.

Land Use Bureau Chief Ralph Blessing presented proposed changes to the board on Dec. 2.

"Basically what we're proposing to do is to create two categories of pet stores," Blessing explained. "One would be 'pet store, supplies and accessories only,' in which you would not be permitted to sell cats and dogs. The other ones would be 'pet stores, full service.' Those would only be allowed by special permit in the C-I, M-L, and M-G zones."

STATE SENATOR DEMANDS ANSWERS ABOUT MYSTERIOUS DRONES

At a news conference on Monday at the Fairfield train station, where drones were seen last week, State Senator Tony Hwang (Fairfield, Bethel, Easton and Newtown) called on federal and state authorities to be more transparent about where the drones are coming from, and who is flying them. "I'm extremely concerned that we are not getting information," Hwang said, adding that he is sending a letter to the Department of Homeland Security, "asking that federal authorities give facts, explanations and not just reassurances without any answers."

"We seem to be getting reassurances that it's safe, that they're benign, but not real facts as to who, and what these drones are," Hwang said.

1 KILLED, POLICE OFFICER INJURED

One person was killed and a West Haven police officer was seriously injured early Monday in a two-vehicle crash on Derby Avenue in West Haven. Officials report that the crash occurred at approximately 2:20 a.m., when the driver of a Hyundai Elantra lost control of the vehicle in icy conditions and slammed into a police car that was parked at a Citgo gas station on Derby Avenue. According to police, the driver of the Hyundai was seriously injured in the crash and the person who was killed was a passenger in that vehicle.

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Bradley Koltz, Editor & Publisher

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Yes Virginia...

In 1897 The New York Sun published this reply to a letter from 8 year old Virginia O'Hanlon asking if there really is a Santa Claus. Their answer was and remains timeless and in many ways applies now more than ever. We republish it in the hope that the wisdom from 1897 resonates in 2024.

Dear Editor,

I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say that there is no Santa Claus. Papa says "If you see it in the Sun, it is so." Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon

115 W. 95th St.

Virginia,

Your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds.

All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to our life its highest beauty and joy.

Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

premises as opening act

1964 "Goldfinger", 3rd James Bond film, starring Sean Connery and Honor Blackman premieres in London

1944 US Army announces end of excluding Japanese-Americans from West Coast, detainees released

1935 1st flight of the Douglas DC-3

1924 1st US diesel electric locomotive enters service, Bronx, NY

1903 The Wright brothers make the first sustained motorized aircraft flight at 10:35 AM, piloted by Orville Wright at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina

1900 New Ellis Island Immigration station completed costing \$1.5 million

1791 NYC traffic regulation creates 1st 1-way street

1777 George Washington's army returns to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania

1777 France recognizes independence of British colonies in America

1538 Pope Paul II excommunicates King Henry VIII of England

Today's Birthdays

1966 Christopher A. Wray, American lawyer, F.B.I. Director, born in New York City

1953 Bill Pullman, American actor (Somersby, League of their Own, Independence Day), born in Hornell, New York

1946 Eugene Levy, Canadian comic actor, and writer (SCTV; American Pie; Schitt's Creek), born in Hamilton, Ontario

1936 Catholic Pope (2013-) 1st Jesuit pope, 1st from the Americas and 1st non-European pope since Syrian Gregory III in 741, born in Buenos Aires, Argentina

1935 Cal Ripken Sr, American baseball manager, born in Aberdeen, Maryland

1929 William Safire, American political columnist (NY Times) and speech writer (Nixon), born in New York City

1894 Arthur Fiedler, American conductor (Boston Pops), born in Boston, Massachusetts

Written by Francis P. Church in 1897

Published September 21, 1897

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

DECEMBER 17, 2024

352ND DAY OF THE YEAR

1989 "The Simpsons" created by Matt Groening, premieres on Fox TV as a full animated series with the episode, "Simpsons Roasting on an Open Fire"

1975 Lynette Fromme sentenced to life for attempt on US President Ford's life

1965 Largest newspaper-Sunday NY Times at 946 pages sells for 50 cents

1965 1st concert event at Houston Astrodome: Judy Garland headlines, with The Supremes as opening act

1964 "Goldfinger", 3rd James Bond film, starring Sean Connery and Honor Blackman premieres in London

1944 US Army announces end of excluding Japanese-Americans from West Coast, detainees released

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1924 1st US diesel electric locomotive enters service, Bronx, NY

1903 The Wright brothers make the first sustained motorized aircraft flight at 10:35 AM, piloted by Orville Wright at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina

1900 New Ellis Island Immigration station

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|--|--|---|

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Things To Do



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Classes start the week of January 13th!

Grades K-2 - Tuesdays
Grades 3-5 - Wednesdays
Grades 6-8 - Thursdays
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To see more of Nicky’s reviews, visit <https://is.gd/A1UH4p>

Adopt A Rescue

MEET SNOOPY



Meet Snoopy, a nine-month-old, 35 lb. Great Pyrenees mix puppy with the softest white coat, floppy ears, heart nose, and gentle brown eyes. He was found roaming the streets in Texas before being brought in by a good samaritan. He’s been waiting for quite a while to find the right home...

We don't know what Snoopy's life looked like before coming to us but we believe it was one filled with neglect and abuse as he is very shy and fearful when meeting new people. While timid, he does warm up to doggies much quicker than he does to humans. Snoopy currently lives with multiple dogs of all sizes and ages in his foster home and enjoys their company.

Once he feels comfortable with you, he is a very sweet boy who enjoys cuddling and getting lots of pets and belly rubs. Snoopy will even give you kisses when he’s ready to - you just have to go at his pace and be aware of his body language so an experienced dog owner is crucial. Once he’s settled, he loves to play with his toys independently or with his foster siblings.

Snoopy is more fearful of men and seems to be more comfortable with women. He'd be best suited in a family with teens and up. His ideal home would be a quiet one with another dog as they help to build his confidence and make Snoopy more comfortable. He MUST go to a home with a fenced yard (no exceptions, no electric).

He will require someone who's going to commit to training and confidence building. He is very food motivated (treats are the key to his heart) and a fast learner. Snoopy is house trained and crate trained. He’s in need of an adopter who will be patient as it will take him some time to trust you.

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Patrons of For Pete’s Sake Delicatessen, located at 73 Stony Hill Road in Bethel, can donate breakfast or lunch to local veterans all year long. As a result, veterans of American armed forces can enjoy breakfast or lunch at no charge as part of the program. Veterans should bring proof of service as they may ask for it.

The program runs all year long. Staff image shows flyer describing the program.

Help Wanted

The Dapper Den

The Dapper Den at 431 Main Street in Ridgefield is looking for Barbers and Apprentices. No experience is needed as they are willing to train the right candidate. Contact Jared at 203-438-2710.

Wells Fargo

Wells Fargo located at 597 Elm Street in Stamford is seeking a Part Time Teller. Learn more or apply online at <http://linksit.xyz/zL56vP.htm>

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Duluth Trading located at 3 Sugar Hollow Road in Danbury is seeking a Holiday Retail Associate. Visit <http://linksit.xyz/XB63pS.htm> to learn more or apply online.

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