Tuesday, December 17, 2024

Vol. 07, No. 75 : ©All rights reserved : CommunityGazatte.com : Get The Most From Your Community<sup>TM</sup>

cannot be limited without being lost." — Thomas Jefferson Your **FREE** Daily Local Newspaper









Monday, Dec. 17 Storm Snowfall

Calendar

Richter Park Authority Monthly

Margerie Reservoir Trail Advisory

December 17, 2024, 6:30 PM - 7:30

New Fairfield Senior/Community

Committee (Meeting #11)

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## Multi-Vehicle Accident On Route 7



Official report that on December 16th at 10:35 a.m. Danbury Fire and EMS units were sent with Connecticut State Police Troop A to a multi-vehicle accident on Route 7 Northbound near Danbury Airport. They report that a three car accident occurred, with one vehicle landing on its side and that December 17, 2024, 6:00 PM - 7:00 firefighters had to use the "jaws of life" to remove two occupants from separate cars. Danbury EMS units reportedly brought the injured to the hospital, while Troopers conducted their investigation. Northbound traffic was reduced to one lane, and that was re-opened within the hour. Richter Park

## 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

The nonprofit contracts with state face value. and local governments and leverages

more of their income. (The current federal poverty level is an annual income at debt for Connecticut residents. 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

public investments to negotiate with administration invested approximately hospitals and other providers on the \$100,000 from the state's allocation of der this first round will be delivered to impact their credit rating. elimination of large, bundled portfolios American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Connecticut residents through the U.S.

of qualifying medical debt owed by pafunding, and Undue Medical Debt was tients whose income is at or below four able to negotiate with a secondary martimes (400%) the federal poverty level ket partner (i.e. collections agency) and or who have medical debt that is 5% or a national provider to acquire approximately \$30 million in qualifying medical

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 Under this first round, the Lamont Medical Debt indicating which debt or ing essential medical care for fear that

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 seekdebts have been eliminated. Letters un- any inability to pay could negatively

#### 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT

Center

December 17, Toddler Storytime for children 18-36 months at Danbury Library, Tuesday, 11:00 am

with Hat Tricks hockey players for children 6 and older at Danbury Library, Tuesday, 4:00 pm

December 17, Hat Tricks Storytime

December 17, Caregiver and Me: Animal Art Adventures for children 3-7 years old at Danbury Library, Tuesday, 4:30 pm

December 17, Speedcubing Club for children 10 years and older at Danbury Library, Tuesday, 5:30 pm

December 18, Tales from Around the World with "Zomo" for children 6-8 at Danbury Library

December 18, DIY Snow Globe Craft for TEENS 12 years - adults at Danbury Library

Board of Awards Weekly Meeting December 18, 2024, 10:00 AM 11:00 AM

Purchasing Person/Video/Telephone Conference)

Sergeant Gordon Leslie Sergeant | Civil Service Commission Meeting Trooper First Class and has been as- First Class and has been assigned to (This meeting will be recorded on

#### **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. The rule changes aim to curb the sale of puppies and kittens from pet shops in highly trafficked

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 passen-

THE TOY CHEST

## State Police Promote Five Officers



The Connecticut State Police promoted five Troopers during a ceremo-

The following Troopers were pro-

Professional Standards. He most re- at Troop L, Litchfield. cently served as Executive Officer in Sergeant Christopher Valente Serny today at State Police Headquarters. uate of the 119th State Police Training Colonel Daniel Loughman, Command- Troop, he has been a Trooper for 17

ing Officer of the Connecticut State years. Lt. Col. Gomez previously served most recently serving as Middlefield Police, formally promoted the Troop- as Commanding Officer of the Central District and the Western District, as well as Commanding Officer of the Emergency Services Unit. In addition, Lieutenant Colonel Chad Gomez Lt. Col. Gomez was a Detective in the Lieutenant Colonel Gomez was pro- Statewide Narcotics Unit, a Tactical moted from Major and has been as- Team Member with Emergency Servicsigned to command the Bureau of es, a K-9 Handler and a Patrol Trooper

signed to Troop F- Westbrook after Troop E- Montville.

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.

the Office of Field Operations. A grad-geant Valente was promoted from Leslie was promoted from Trooper December 18, 2024, 10:00 AM

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## **Shopping For The Holidays**

#### Hollandia Nurseries Gift & Garden Center



Visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus while shopping for holiday gifts and decorations at Hollandia Nurseries Gift & Garden Center, 96 Stony Hill Road, Bethel

#### Patricia's Presents



Find customizable presents, accessories and fun items for pets and people and much more at Patricia's Presents at 164 Greenwood Avenue in Bethel.

#### The Toy Chest



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#### Yes Virgi

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.

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

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

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.

Not believe in Santa Claus? You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your Papa to hire men to watch all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove?

Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see.

Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders that are unseen and

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, or even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernatural beauty and

Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else as real and abiding.

No Santa Claus? Thank God he lives and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, maybe 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the hearts of

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 Su-

premes 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

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 (Som-1900 New Ellis Island Immigration station mersby, League of their Own, Independence

Day), born in Hornell, New York

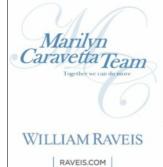
1946 Eugene Levy, Canadian comic actor, and writer (SCTV; American Pie; Schitt's Creek), born in Hamilton, Ontario

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





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- Townhouse
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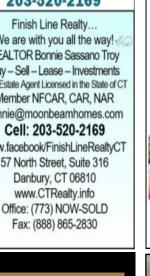
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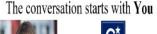
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#### **Things To Do**



Classes start the week of January 13th!

Grades K-2 - Tuesdays Grades 3-5 - Wednesdays Grades 6-8 - Thursdays High School - Thursday Evenings

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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

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

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

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

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#### 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.

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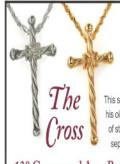
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