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HuskyTHON 'Day of Strength' event will be held next week

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HuskyTHON will be holding their 24-hour "Day of Strength" fundraising push on Feb. 25 from 9 a.m. to midnight at the Student Union.

HuskyTHON is an effort led by students at the University of Connecticut to help fundraise for the non-for-profit Connecticut Children's, which is on a mission to improve healthcare access for kids, according to the press release.

Day of Strength is the largest single fundraising push of the year for HuskyTHON, according to a press release from the organization. The event is meant to start off the fundraising for HuskyTHON's 2026 "Above All Else" campaign by challenging participants to raise $148 each.

"Each participant is challenged to raise $148 in honor of the 148,893 unique patients seen by Connecticut Children's in 2025," the press release read. "These individual goals are designed to help UConn students raise $XXX,XXX in just 24 hours."

Paige O'Keeffe, an eighth-semester elementary education major and the vice president of communications for HuskyTHON, said the fundraising goal of the event will be announced on Feb. 21 on the organization's Instagram page.

From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. students will be able to win merchandise, play games and have the chance to sign up to be a part of HuskyTHON's dance marathon and other fundraising events, O'Keeffe said.

At 7 p.m., Day of Strength After-Dark will begin and run until midnight. Activities such as dance marathon fundraising challenges and a DJ battle will take place, and students will be provided with complimentary food and drink and resources to learn more about the children the organization raises funds for will be available, according to the press release.



HuskyTHON raising money for charity during their annual event. It received a record-breaking number of donations during last year's day of Strength.

PHOTO BY MATT FARAGO, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The 24-hour fundraising total from the day will be announced at the end of the night, according to the press release.

In 2025, the organization received a record-breaking number of donations on Day of Strength, raising $451,516.94, according to their Instagram profile.

"That milestone solidified HuskyTHON as the second-largest Miracle Network Dance Marathon program in the country based on funds raised," according to the press release.

"We're hoping that we're just kind of gonna go above and beyond what we hit last year," O'Keeffe said.

"The funds raised during Day of Strength contribute to HuskyTHON's overall fundraising total, which will be announced at HuskyTHON, the organization's 18-hour Dance

Marathon, on March 7th," according to a press release.

"Viewers can support the effort by texting UCONN to 34-984 to donate, following @huskython on social media, or visiting huskython.org," according to the press release.

On the morning of the event, a Day of Strength video will be released on HuskyTHON's YouTube channel, according to the press release.

Molly Normandin, an eighth-semester allied health sciences major and the vice president of membership, said a lot of HuskyTHON members will be at the event during the day, including dance representatives, captains and HuskyTHON rising leaders.

Normandin said there are currently 4,300 participants for the 18-hour dance marathon.

More information about HuskyTHON can be found on the organization's website.

STUDENTS DISPLACED FOLLOWING FLOOD IN BUSBY SUITES

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University of Connecticut students living in Busby Suites were woken up at around 5 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 9 after a sudden pipe burst caused a flood in a third-floor lounge, according to an email from university spokesperson Stephanie Reitz.

About 50 students were required to temporarily relocate following the burst, according to Reitz. Students were housed primarily in the Oaks on the Square, Connecticut Hall, Shippee and free apartments in other complexes, Reitz said.

The damaged pipe, a fire sprinkler pipe, froze and later burst in a third-floor study lounge near the building's exterior, Reitz said. UConn Facilities Operations has been working with trade shops and outside companies to lessen the water damage, repair or replace any damaged portions of the building and return the dorms back to normal conditions, Reitz said.

"The hall director and assistant director have been communicating with impacted students throughout the process, walking down the hallways and knocking on doors individually to speak with students," Reitz said. "They have also followed up by email to ensure they have been in touch with everyone in case some were out when they visited the hallways."

For students living in Busby, the sudden fire alarm so early in the morning was a shock. Resident Bradyn McNally, a civil engineering student in his fourth semester, quickly realized the problem.

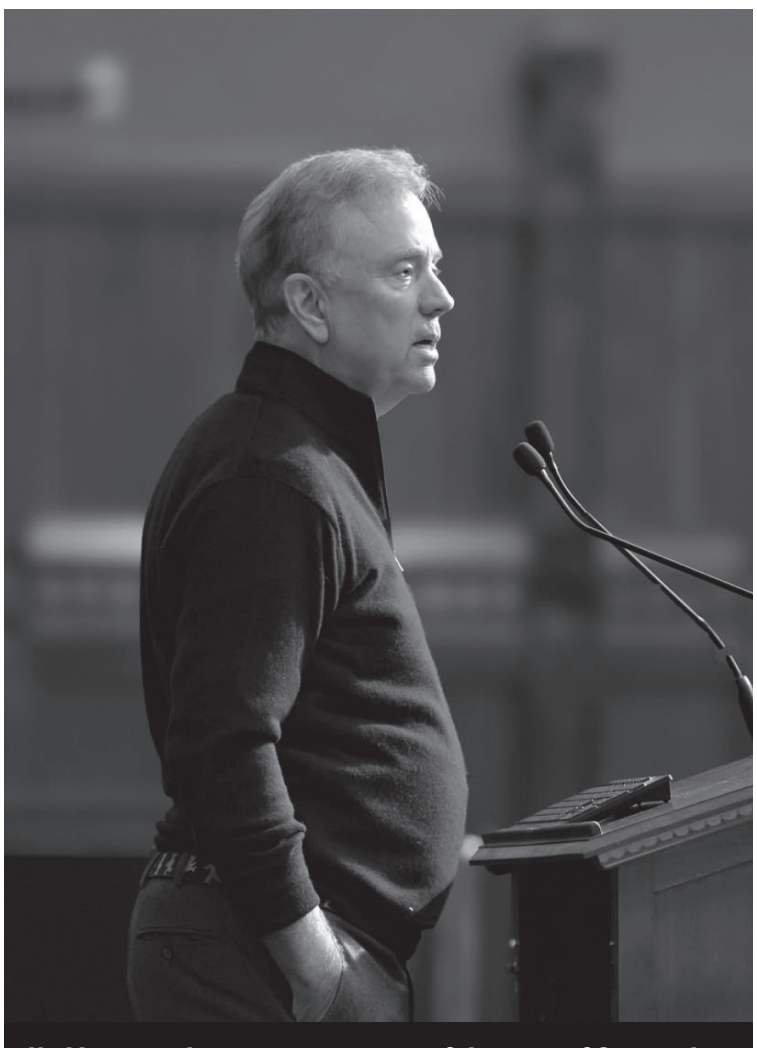
"We knew it wasn't a drill because the drill was earlier in the week," McNally said. "So, we all kind of procedurally head out towards the exit. There's no water in the hall at that point, so we just assume that it's something random. But as we're going down the stairwell, we can see water dripping, and once we're out, we see even more dripping."

McNally said he and the other students living in the building stayed outside for about half an hour until the fire department allowed them back inside. By the time McNally reached his floor, a massive puddle had formed.

"We can see this giant puddle of water that's very slowly, like, inching down the hall," McNally said. "Water was dripping from the floor above. So, then we go back to our rooms. We're told that just to be safe, we should put towels in front of the door to stop any water from coming in. And from that point we were just confused on what to do."

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Lamont proposes $500 million tax rebate for Connecticut residents



Ned Lamont, the current governor of the state of Connecticut. Before becoming a politician, Lamont worked at the Black River Tribune, a small weekly newspaper in Vermont.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @GOVNEDLAMONT ON INSTAGRAM

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Gov. Ned Lamont is proposing a bill to send tax rebate checks to roughly 2.2 million Connecticut residents this fall, totaling $500 million in relief, according to the CT Mirror.

The plan, unveiled as part of the governor's budget address earlier this month, would return money to working families and middle-class households across the state.

"Unlike many other states, which are facing federal cuts or a deficit of their own, Connecticut is stepping up to protect our most vulnerable, and we are trying to make life a little less expensive for working families and the middle class, who are getting slammed by higher costs," Lamont said in his budget address to lawmakers, as reported by the CT Mirror.

According to the governor's a fact sheet regarding the proposed bill, Senate Bill 84, the amount a household would receive depends on how they filed their 2024 state income tax return.

Single filers who earned up to $200,000 would receive $200. Joint filers who earned up to $400,000 would get $400. Head of household filers who earned up to $320,000 would receive $320. Part-time residents would not be eligible.

There would be no application required. According to the fact sheet, the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services would automatically identify eligible residents using existing 2024 tax records; checks would be mailed no later than Oct. 31, 2026.

Lamont wants to draw $500 million from Connecticut's projected $1.9 billion budget surplus for the current fiscal year. The money would come from sales tax revenue, which the state expects to generate around $5.3 billion in 2026. The CT Mirror notes that $500 million is a significant sum, enough to fund two full years of special education grants to school districts statewide.

The rebate was not without its critics at the State Capitol. According to CT Mirror's coverage of Lamont's Feb. 4 budget address, House Minority Leader Vincent Candelora called the proposal "hollowing and gimmicky," arguing that Connecticut families need ongoing relief rather than a one-time payment.

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