

Senator Cabrera Statement on Office of Child Advocate Recommendations For Summer Camp Safety

Nearly a year after responding to sexual assault charges at a Bethay, CT summer camp and introducing bill language that would have required municipal summer camps to be licensed by the state and have employees undergo criminal back checks, State Senator Jorge Cabrera (D-Hamden) has issued the following statement regarding an Office of Child Advocate report that recommends various changes to Connecticut's municipal summer camp operations.

The OCA report can be found at: Bethany Summer Camp report.

"The OCA recommendation that all summer camp employees -- including those working for town summer camps -- be mandated child neglect reporters and receive mandated reporter training, that's just basic common sense. And the OCA

recommendation that all employees receive 'comprehensive' background checks, I assume that means criminal background checks. That's something we asked for in last year's bill, which didn't pass.

"Overall, the OCA report addresses some of the concerns in our bill last year. They get to the essence of what we were trying to do, and they really highlight the huge gap between what the State of Connecticut expects from most private camps, and what they expect from town-run camps.

"I know the Children's Committee has introduced a bill this session to look at the issue of summer camps, and I'll work to ensure that these OCA recommendations are included in the final bill. It's the least we can do for our kids."



Spring Glen Garden Club Brings Goodies to Hamden's Fire Fighters



Pictured (L-R): Linda from Hamden's Women's Club and Jeanne and Carol from The Spring Glen Garden Club.

In January The Spring Glen Garden Club in conjunction with the Hamden's Women's Club brought goodies to Hamden's Fire Fighters.

The Garden Club ongoing projects includes the gardens and planters in Spring Glen, Poppy's Garden on the Farmington Canal Trail and the Historical Herb Garden at The Jonathan Dickerman House, watering the plants at the Government

Center and the Miller Library.

Other projects of the Club were a Rhododendron Garden at the entry to Lockwood Cottage and the Red Oak tree (*Quercus rubra*) affectionately known as "Annie Oakley" planted in the Eli Whitney Park.

The Club has been a fixture in the Hamden community since 1925, a chartered member of The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc., and National Garden Clubs, Inc., since 1929. Please stop by our historical display in hall outside the Miller Library in front of Thorton Wilder Auditorium.

Sen. Cabrera Welcomes \$28,000 in State Farm Grants

State Senator Jorge Cabrera (D-Hamden) and the state Department of Agriculture has announced Farm Transition Grants for 43 farms across Connecticut totaling over half a million dollars, including more than \$28,000 for four farms in Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Bethany, and Woodbridge.

"Connecticut has a good track record of protecting and strengthening our farms, and these grants will go a long way toward making these agricultural operations even more successful," said Sen. Cabrera.

Today's grants include:

- A \$12,250 Infrastructure Investment Grant for Clover Nook Farm of Bethany to purchase a no-till grain drill to increase forage quality, capacity, and increase beef production.

- A \$6,170 Infrastructure Investment Grant for Sperry Falls Farm in Woodbridge to install of deer fencing to protect Christmas tree, apple, and blueberry crops, while also increasing total land in production.

- A \$5,000 New Farmer Micro Grant for Bodhi Tree Gardens of Ansonia for installing a greenhouse and improving an existing farmstand for increased production while also updating the farm website to enhance marketing.

- A \$4,975 New Farmer Micro Grant for Molleur's Maple Sugarhouse in Beacon Falls to purchase maple equipment to increase production, efficiency, and produce additional maple products.

"Connecticut farms are innovative and entrepreneurial -- the growing interest in the Farm Transition Grant demonstrates that -- and I'm particularly thrilled to see new and beginning farmer applicant numbers expand," said Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt "The awarded projects highlight the diversity of Connecticut's farms -- from mushrooms and maple to cut flowers and dairy, along with poultry, livestock, fruits, vegetables, and aquaculture. These investments provide newer farm operations

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A Deadly Sport

One of the ultimate challenges to some people is to climb Mt. Everest. Situated in Tibet and part of the Himalayan mountain range, many people have attempted to climb to the summit and unfortunately, three have died trying. Some other facts are as follows:

- Total cost to climb Mt. Everest can exceed \$100,000.
- Many dangers, including avalanches, wind, altitude sickness and temperatures reaching -40°.
- Some climbers do reach the peak of Everest, but do not survive on the way down.
- In 2014, a total of 16 Sherpas died on Mt. Everest from an avalanche.
- Presently, there are 200 bodies frozen in time on the mountain.
- It would cost about \$35,000 to retrieve a person and bring them home.
- Many climbers are unprepared for such a trip and many others decided not to listen to the Sherpas when it came to safety.
- If a person intends to climb Mt. Everest with an attitude or arrogance, the mountain will teach them a lesson.
- Personally speaking, I intend to take up a sport that I know I will come back from.

Ron Johnson, Hamden

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Probus Grants Supporting Special Education Teachers

Hamden: Probus - continues working to assist the Special Education teachers and their students. Probus has given out twenty-nine grants to these hard-working dedicated educators over the past three years. Our current application for these grants is flowing in for review.

Your business can be a special sponsor and be acknowledged and advertised at a ceremony dinner in August, as you present your sponsored grant to an educator.

Please think about becoming a special sponsor for this program- the requests are for a \$500 or \$250 grant.

Your family, friends, relatives and others could join to offer a grant in the name of the family or group at the \$500 or \$250 level.

This grant money allows the teacher to use the funds for special manipulatives, books, activities and worktables that might otherwise not be funded in the school budget.

Probus has been supporting the IDD community since 1921 and with your participation we can do more. (maybe a tax-deductible event for you as we are a 501c3 nonprofit)

Mail checks -- Greater New Haven Probus, c/o 29 Deerfield Drive, Hamden, CT 06518 or write me for more info at Gnhavenprobus@gmail.com (<used to reply to you only).

Suburban Garden Club Presentation on Container Gardening



Cheshire: Members and guests of the Suburban Garden Club of Cheshire enjoyed a lively presentation on Container Gardening by Gregory Bugbee, pictured here with Club President Susan Dillman, at the February meeting. The next meeting open to the public is Moon Gardening: How the Moon Phases Affects Our Gardens on May 20 at 7:30 pm at the Cheshire Senior Center.