

Hamden's Warming Center at Keefe Community Center, Through March 29

The Town of Hamden, in partnership with Columbus House, Inc., will open an overnight winter warming center for those experiencing homelessness in our community.

Hamden's Warming Center is now open through March 29th, from 7pm-7am, seven (7) nights a week. It will be stationed at the Keefe Community Center Gym, located at 11 Pine Street. Please enter through the George Street parking lot, located at 19 George Street.

The warming center is not a "shelter" as no beds will be provided. It will offer a clean, safe, indoor overnight space to protect those in need from harsh weather conditions for those who would likely otherwise spend their nights outdoors. The warming center will be operated by trained Columbus House staff who will monitor overnight shifts and share community outreach information with our guests. Hamden Police will provide walk-throughs on a nightly basis.

Organizations or agencies interested in providing dinners and breakfasts are encouraged to contact Columbus House by email at sdimario@columbushouse.org or by phone at (203) 401-4400, ext. 138.

Residents wishing to contribute to the warming center may do so by donating items such as non-perishable, pre-wrapped snack food items and beverages. Donations of new socks, new underwear, gloves, hats, umbrellas, and rain ponchos are also welcome.

Donations may be dropped off at the Keefe Community Center between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Donation receipts will be available.

For further information, please contact:

- Keefe Community Center at (203) 562-5129
- The Columbus House Emergency Services Team at (203) 768-7232
- Deputy Chief of Staff, Alexa M. Panayotakis, at (203) 287-7100 or by email at apanayotakis@hamden.com

WANTED: Collector buying old photographs from the 1800's on glass, tin or paper, of people, places or things; (203) 915-7662

FOR SALE: Landscape edging, black plastic, in original package, 20 ft. $8; 25 ft. $10; both $15; (203) 606-0932

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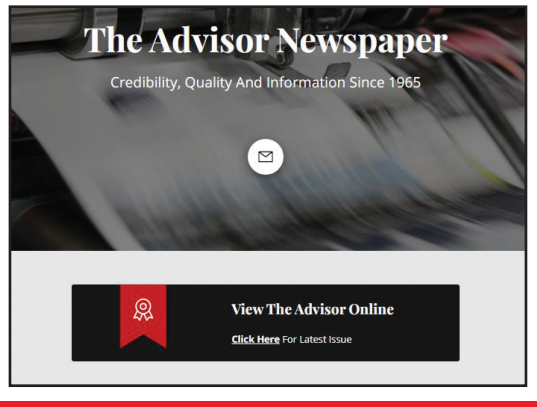

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North Haven Memorial Library March Programs

To register for a program at North Haven Memorial Library (17 Elm St.), visit our website at www.northhavenlibrary.net or call us at (203) 239-5803. ***Registration is required for all programs except for those noted otherwise.***

Toddler Time: Wednesdays, March 18 & 25, 10:30-11am. Ages: 2-3 yrs. Parent/Caregivers and their toddlers will interact with books, learn fingerplays, and sing.

Guided Meditation: Wednesdays, March 18 & 25, 10:30am-11:30am, Community Room and Zoom. Join Johanne Vannelli as she leads us through a mindfulness and meditation session.

Magic - The Gathering - Teen Meetup: Wed., March 18, 3-5pm. Grades: 6th-12th. No Registration Required. Bring your deck(s) to compete and your favorite cards to show and tell. Our extra cards and pre-made decks are kept in the teen area.

Evening Playdoh Party: Wed., March 18, 6-6:30pm. Ages: 2-5 yrs. No Registration Required. We have the playdoh, tools, and idea mats so just bring your artistic talent.

Baby Rhyme Time: Thurs., March 19, 10:30am-11:15am. Ages: 0-3 mos. to 12-24 mos. Registration Recommended. Walk-ins are always welcome. This program brings caregivers and babies together to nurture bonds and increase awareness of the child's development.

10 Warning Signs of Dementia and 10 Ways to Love Your Brain: Thurs., March 19, 2:30-3:45pm. Learn how to distinguish normal aging from changes which would indicate the need to seek medical evaluation for dementia, as well as specific behavioral and life style changes. Presenter: Dianne Davis; Outreach Coordinator for the Yale Alzheimer's Disease Research Center.

Creation Station - Beaded Caterpillar on a Leaf: Thurs., March 19, 4-5pm. Ages: 3-10 yrs. With an Adult. No Registration Required. A few simple items will help you make a wiggly, squiggly caterpillar on a leaf that you can enjoy as springtime approaches. While supplies last.

OK, Chef! Thurs., March 19, 6-6:30pm. Ages: 6-9 yrs. Bring your imagination (and taste buds!) and learn to decorate a special seasonal treat!

Creative Writing Club: Thurs., March 19, 6-7pm. Grades: 6th-12th. We'll start each meeting with fun, warm-up exercises then spend time writing individually or in small groups. We encourage idea-sharing, collaboration, and creativity.

Parent Resource Fair 2026: Saturday, March 21, 10:30am-12:30pm. No Registration Required. The annual Parent Resource Fair is for anyone seeking information about local care and health facilities for children. Come learn about preschools, daycares, summer camps, and more (right from the source!) all in one place. At 11:00am, join us for Ed's Comedy Magic Show!

Ed Popielarczyk's Comedy Magic Show: Sat., March 21, 11am-12pm. No Registration is Required. This magic show combines comedy and audience participation! Each magic trick comes with a fun, silly story too! This is one awesome show you don't want to miss!

Parent Playdate: Monday, March 23, 10-11am. Ages: Parents/Caregivers of Children Ages 0-5 yrs. No Registration Required. Enjoy getting to know other parents/caregivers and their little ones, and check out all that the library has to offer.

Calm Connections: Mon., March 23, 11am-12pm. Ages: Parents/Caregivers of Children Ages 0-5 yrs. No Registration Required. We encourage parents in our community who have children on the autism spectrum or with sensory needs to come together every Monday in the Children's Story Room for sensory play. There will also be a quick touch and feel storytime.

Little Sprouts Garden Club: Mon., March 23, 6-7pm. Ages: 6-11 yrs. We'll learn some beginner-friendly tips and blend crafting with planting projects to inspire young green thumbs.

Music Together Demo Session I: Tues., Mach 24, 10:15-11am. Ages: 0-3 mos. to 5 yrs. Making music as a family is so much fun! Come and experience a Music Together class. Sign up for Session I or II.

Music Together Demo Session II: Tuesday, March 24, 11:15am-12pm. Ages: 0-3 mos. to 5 yrs. Making music as a family is so much fun! Come and experience a Music Together class. Sign up for Session I or II.

Online Author Talk - Shoshana Walter with Barbara Kingsolver: Tues., March 24, 2-3pm, Virtual. Join us for a special conversation between award-winning journalist Shoshana Walter and bestselling and award-winning author Barbara Kingsolver as they chat about Walter's book *Rehab: An American Scandal*.

PAWS for a Cause: Meet the Guide Dogs: Tues., March 24, 6-7pm. Ages: 5-9 yrs. Join Kim Birge-Liberman of FIDELCO Guide Dogs for a fun and interactive program at the Library. Children will discover how guide dogs are trained and all that they do to help the visually impaired.

Reverse Coloring: Wednesday, March 25, 2-3:30pm. Reverse coloring is a therapeutic art technique where you draw on pre-painted pages using a black pen. It helps increase focus and replace negative thoughts with positive ones.

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WANTED: Collector wants to buy early historic New Haven County related items, maps, books, engravings, paintings, paper items or actual products; (203) 915-7662 •

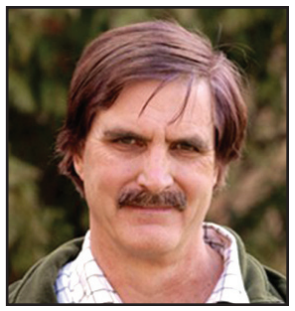
FOR SALE: Sta-Bil gasoline stabilizer, new sealed, qt.-32 oz., 2 or 4 cycle engines, generator, mower, boat $8; (203) 606-0932

FOR SALE: Texaco ceramic mug, circular medallion "Interstate Hiway Prestige Award 1977", 3.5" tall x 4" round $30; (203) 239-8060 •

Container Gardening Indoors and Out

Pictured: Greg Bugbee, Associate Scientist CT Agricultural Experiment Station.

North Haven: Container gardening is a great way to enjoy plants when space is limited. You can grow flowers and vegetables even on your patio or balcony or have beautiful houseplants in your home. Growing plants in pots requires different strategies than growing plants in the ground. The planting medium must provide the important elements needed by the particular plants to be grown.



Greg Bugbee, Associate Scientist in the Department of Environmental Sciences at the CT Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES), will provide a program about container gardening, indoors and out, on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at the meeting of the Daytime Gardeners of North Haven. The program will begin at 11:00 AM at the North Haven Recreation Center, 7 Linsley Avenue. Topics to be discussed include choosing the right potting soil and pots, selecting the proper plants, fertilizing and watering, starting plants from seeds and cuttings.

Bugbee oversees soil testing for CAES and has expertise in turfgrass, soil fertility, and composting. He holds state supervisory licenses in the care of trees, turf and ornamentals, and aquatic weed control. He works with the public to solve soil and water related problems. Bring your questions and join us to learn more about how to use containers for gardening!

A donation of $5.00 from guests is appreciated. Please call 203-239-1557 to register.

New members are always welcome. Please contact: proto.mary@yahoo.com for membership information and visit us on Face Book!

Submitted by Sally Brockett, President

Statement From:

State Representative Dave Yaccarino

Ranking Member, Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee



This week, the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee held a hearing on Governor Lamont's nominee to lead the Department of Children and Families (DCF), Susan Hamilton of West Hartford. During the hearing, I asked what targeted changes the agency plans to implement to prevent the serious incidents we have unfortunately seen in recent years. As I said during the hearing, "There's got to be something specific, like targeted. Why are these incidents happening?" Families across Connecticut deserve answers and confidence that our child welfare system is protecting the most vulnerable.

Recent tragedies have raised serious concerns about oversight within the department, including the death of 11-year-old Jaquelyn "Mimi" Torres-García in New Britain, where DCF had previous involvement with the family, and the Waterbury captivity case, in which a man was allegedly confined for decades after being removed from the public school system to be homeschooled. In both situations, abuse reportedly went undetected despite prior contact with DCF. While the nominee brings experience to the position, someone must ultimately be held accountable when these failures occur.

Moving forward, the department must prioritize stronger oversight, greater transparency, and real accountability to ensure tragedies like these are not repeated.

Annual Document Shredding Fundraiser - April 11

North Haven: As President of the North Haven Land Trust, I am writing to ask for your participation and support of our annual document shredding fundraiser, scheduled for Saturday, April 11, at the North Haven Pool parking lot, 45 Elm Street.

This shredding event is the primary fundraiser held each year by the North Haven Land Trust, a 54-year-old nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving open space in our communities. The Land Trust currently protects approximately 130 acres of undisturbed land in Hamden and North Haven for public access and environmental preservation.

Protected open space provides valuable natural habitats for wildlife, opportunities for passive recreation, and quiet places for residents to walk and enjoy the outdoors. Our mission is to preserve these spaces not only for today's residents but also for future generations.

Funds raised through this event allow us to:

- Pursue new open space acquisition opportunities when they become available
- Maintain and steward existing properties
- Cover insurance and essential property oversight

Shredding will be done securely on-site. The cost remains affordable at **$10 per shopping bag or copy paper box,** with larger quantities priced separately at the event.

Our volunteers will be on-site from **9am-12 noon,** and we look forward to helping you safely dispose of sensitive documents while supporting local land conservation efforts.

For more information, please visit our website at NorthHavenLandTrust.com or contact us at NorthHavenLandTrust@gmail.com.

Thank you for your continued support of open space preservation in our communities.

Sincerely,
Rick Garner, North Haven Land Trust