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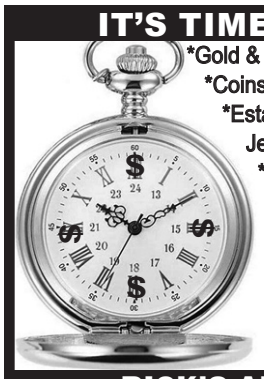

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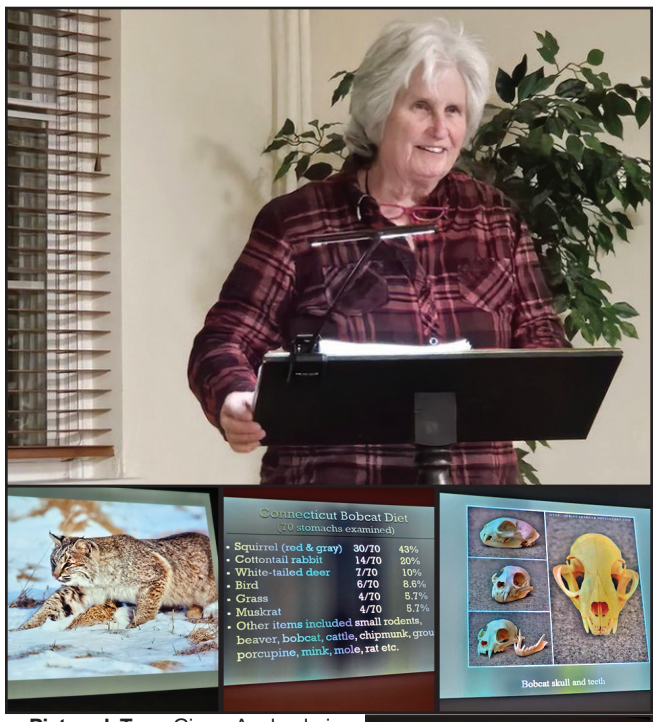
North Haven Garden Clubs March Meeting On Bobcats





Pictured Top: Ginny Apple during her presentation. **Bottom:** Bobcat on the hunt, what bobcats eat, skull and teeth. **Right:** Rodenticides kill more than just mice and rats.

North Haven: The North Haven held its March meeting with a presentation with guest speaker Ginny Apple. Ginny is a native Texan, who was one of the first full time women sportswriters in the country. She left the field mid-career to pursue a path in communications/ public relations. Ginny is a lover of all thing natural and Master Wildlife Conservationist, lives in Barkhamsted in a house surrounded by the People's State Forest. There Ginny observes a large population of Black Bears and supplies field notes and photographs of them to DEEP biologists. She is Chair of the Barkhamsted Conservation Commission and a member of the Barkhamsted Economic Developement Commission and numerous civic and conservation organizations.

Ginny's presentation focused on the history of Bobcats. She discussed their lifecycle and habitat, shared many photos and artifacts and answered members questions. Here are a few interesting facts about Bobcat's that were highlighted in her presentation. Bobcats are true carnivores, they do not eat anything but meat, unlike the coyote who will eat fruit and nuts. They are a natural apex predator, Bobcats are Connecticut's only native wildcat, with a thriving, statewide population estimated between 1,500 and 2,000, increasingly seen in suburban and urban areas. These solitary, elusive predators, protected since 1972, are active during twilight, hunting rodents and rabbits. They rarely pose dangers to humans and help to reduce small rodent population like mice and rats, they also eat rabbits, squirrels, woodchucks, and birds. Bobcat breeding season in Connecticut peaks in late winter, primarily February and March, though mating activity can extend from December into early spring (April/May), and will produce a liter after about a 60-70 day gestation, females give birth to 1-4 kittens in a secluded den, typically in April. They have more than one den and will often move their kits if they feel threatened.

JUST REMEMBER- Rodent poison is passed on through the food chain, al things are connected, so please don't use rodentcides to kill mice or rats, it poisons much more then just them.

Please contact the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), they track sightings.

FUN FACT- Bobcats are very curious and come out at dusk and hunt until dawn, then they sleep all day. They have large eyes and rely on sight and sound not there hearing, will eat 2-3 meals a day and cover 4 to 5 miles a day. They are an ambush predator.

Hostesses for the evening were Karin Pyskaty and Deb Trapani with the table arrangement by Karin Pyskaty.

Don't forget to check out The North Haven Garden Club on Facebook for lots of useful and entertaining information and pictures of all our club does in our great town of North Haven! For membership information please email Italia at italia_a@comcast.net.

North Haven Garden Club is a member of The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut Inc., New England Garden Clubs Inc., and The National Garden Clubs Inc. Article and photos by Cindy Golia

Upcoming Reunions

HILLHOUSE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1966

New Haven: "Keeping Our Memories Alive" Hillhouse Class of 1966! It's almost time to celebrate our 60th reunion - **Sunday, May 17,** from 2pm-5pm at Lost in New Haven, 80 Hamilton Street, New Haven, and Pizza (of course) from Old World Pizza Truck.

Cost is $80 per person. ***Paid reservations must be in by Tues., April 14th.***

If you have any questions or for payment information, email: hillhouse1966@outlook.com or call (203) 800-4337.

Spread the word to classmates. The more the merrier! Looking forward to seeing you there!

HAMDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY

LIBRARY CARD DESIGN CONTEST

The Hamden Public Library is excited to announce its first-ever library card design contest!

Hamden residents of all ages are invited to submit a design for one of three different cards: Adult, Teen, and Children. Finalists in each category will be selected by library staff, and the winning designs will be voted on by the public. Designs must be original works created by the participant without the use of generative AI.

Full rules and regulations as well as a template and submission form are available on our website: https://hamdenlibrary.org/library-card-design-contest/

All designs must be submitted by April 16th. No late entries will be considered.

For more information, please call (203) 287-2682.

Thursday Women's Twilight League at Sleeping Giant GC

Hamden: Looking for a Women's Golf League to join? We are a 9 hole League focused on enjoying the game of golf, spending time with friends and making new friends.

Participants should have experience playing on a golf course, a knowledge of golf etiquette and the rules of golf.

Tee times are from 4:06 to 5:26pm (extended if warranted). Green fees are paid directly to the Pro Shop each week when you play. For further information and a registration form, email: sgwomensgolf@gmail.com

Prizes are awarded each week for low gross and low net scores in each flight. A handicap will be issued to new members after playing three games of league golf.

The League starts Thursday, April 23 and ends Sept. 10 and held at Sleeping Giant Golf Course. Maximum 60 members. A "Meet and Greet" is scheduled for members on April 9.

Registration Fee is $40 until April 23. Late Registration Fee is $50, Starts Fri., April 24.

• • • •

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: Lane manufactured hope chest, exc. cond., yellow cedar with tags & docs $50; 300 lbs of various steel plate weights and various pro & curling bars $50; (203) 804-8400 •

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Senator Cabrera Welcomes $49,999 For Woodbridge Farm to Enhance Local Agricultural Education

As part of the state Department of Agriculture's latest round of Agricultural Enhancement Grant awards, distributing more than $500,000 around the state to support farm viability, Woodbridge's Massaro Community Farm received a $49,999 grant supporting "Hands In The Soil," an immersive agricultural education for local youth.

According to its website, the Massaro Community Farm's "Hands In The Soil" program sees volunteer groups work directly in its farmlands to help grow vegetables while they learn about the impacts of local farmwork and how they serve the local community.

"This investment means local students and organizations will have more opportunities to learn directly about the hard work that takes place on our farms every day, and the impact that work delivers into our local communities," said **State Senator Jorge Cabrera (D-Hamden)**. "It's a valuable resource that will continue to deliver dividends for our residents and I'm grateful to the Department of Agriculture for their local support."

The Agricultural Enhancement Grant Program strengthens local farm opportunities through supporting projects designed to improve or expand agricultural activity and promote long-term viability.

Express yourself in our

Letters to the Editor



To submit a letter: Letters to the Advisor should include the writer's name, address and phone number. The writer's signature should appear at the end of the letter. Unsigned letters will not be published. Letters will be accepted through Wednesday at 5pm. We will extend the deadline if circumstances allow and providing we have space available. Letters must be no longer than 400 words due to space limitations. The Advisor does not edit letters which are published as they are received. If a letter is questionable, the writer will be contacted for verification. The Advisor reserves the right to not publish letters that may be personally offensive.

Show Your Support for Our Schools at April 13th Budget Public Hearing

To The Editor: March 19, 2026

This week the Board of Finance met to set the annual budget for the upcoming year. They were met by a sea of folks in red, including many of the town's educators, out in force to support the education budget. That budget is quite high this year, but about half of that increase comes from changes to insurance funding at the federal level. The rest largely come from negotiated contractual obligations, including raises for teachers that, with the inflated insurance rates and rising cost of living, are increases that basically feel like a pay cut.

The BoE met earlier this month and laid out clearly and publicly what would be cut if they were forced to reduce their 9.95% increase request to the BoF's suggested 5.3% increase; loss of over 30 positions, no middle school sports, no middle school world language programs/instructors, and no gifted and talented program. All of these things would have significant classroom impact, including larger classroom sizes and more overextended educators. Staff reductions don't mean the work goes away; it just gets shifted.

What's notable about this proposed reduction, which the BoF is still considering, is that what's being eliminated are existing positions and services. Comparatively, on the town side, there are no existing positions or town services being targeted for cuts, though many departments are being asked to scale back their initial requests. To me, the Board of Ed request should remain as is or at least be met with a proportionate, equitable workforce or resource reduction from the town side. Town funding has risen by 48% (roughly $21 million) over a 9-year period while the education side has risen by only 26% (roughly $13 million) in the same period. Despite this, our schools have overperformed in myriad categories, raised home values, made our town an attractive prospect for young families, and provided our children with wonderful experiences and bright futures.

I understand that this is a difficult year and relief for working families seems far from view, with billion dollar a day wars raging and tax equity a mere pipe dream at the state and federal level. But if we are going to ask for sacrifice this year, let's not make overburdened educators absorb a disproportionate share. Be sure to come to the Budget Public Hearing on April 13th and show your support for our schools.

Lucia Rafala, North Haven