

Hamden Lions Club **CRITICAL ALERT:** BLOOD DONORS NEEDED NOW!



Hamden: Heroes come in all shapes and sizes. They do not wear capes or special suits, and their badge of honor is the bandage that shows they gave the gift of life. The Hamden Lions Club invites you to become a hero and answer the call of patients in need by donating blood. The need for blood does not take a vacation. Please take the time on Monday May 18 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at Congregation Mishkan Israel, 785 Ridge Road in Hamden to give the gift that means something.

Donating blood is one of the simplest things a person can do to help save a patient's life. For the hour it takes to give blood, there could be a whole community of people thankful for another birthday given to their loved one. Your single donation will impact the lives of three people, and all you will feel is good.

Donors can schedule appointments by calling 1-800-REDCROSS (1-800-733-2767); going to redcrossblood.org; downloading the Blood Donor App; or contacting the Hamden Lions Club at lionalannhct@gmail.com

The Red Cross RapidPass offers donors a way to complete their pre-reading and donation questions online from the comfort and privacy of their home or office, reducing the time you spend at blood drives by as much as 15 minutes. Using RapidPass is simple: Visit redcrossblood.org/RapidPass

Wallingford Garden Club's Meeting About Bees



Pictured Top: Dr Caleb Bryan and VP/Program Chair Linda Burr. **Bottom:** Slide of Bee Life Cycle, and Maria Mercurio with dessert table centerpiece.

Wallingford: The WGC held a recent meeting at the First Congregational Church with Dr. Caleb Bryan presenting a program on 'Bees.'

Dr Bryan is an Agricultural Post Doctorate Research Scientist at the Conn. Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) in New Haven.

The Bee program was based on his research of bumblebees and their behavior. The Bee Life Cycle consists of spring to find a home, in summer to find food such as dandelions, fall to find a mate and winter to find a nest either underground in loose leaves or holes in logs or above ground close to early spring flowers. Bees are not aggressive. Dr Bryan had an extensive Question & Answer session after his program.

The March dessert table had a centerpiece created by Maria Mercurio using oxalis, ivy and crocus in a basket container. Dessert hostesses were: Annamarie Bodisch, Sue Broughton, Gloria Horbaty, Linda Burr, Gail McCormack and Karin Pyskaty.

Wallingford Garden Club is a member of the Federated Garden Clubs of CT, Inc; New England Garden Clubs, Inc and National Garden Club.

Photos by Betty Wilson

Sen. Cabrera Votes to Preserve Connecticut's Current Vaccine Standards

Amid frequent changes to federal vaccine policies, state Senator Jorge Cabrera (**D-Hamden**) and the Connecticut State Senate has passed legislation preserving a standard of care for immunizations and protecting state public health from the Trump administration's federal rollbacks on essential, common-sense health guidelines.

House Bill 5044, "An Act Establishing Connecticut Vaccine Standards," establishes a standard of care for immunizations in Connecticut. Its changes are simple: although vaccine access is often tied to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), Connecticut's vaccine standard will now also incorporate recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and the American Academy of Family Physicians.

This will effectively allow Connecticut to retain its current vaccination standards regardless of what the Trump administration attempts to dictate.

HB 5044 creates a Vaccines for Adults program, which will provide free vaccines to uninsured and underinsured adults ages 19+ through free clinics, municipal health departments, and other eligible providers, allowing Connecticut increased supply chain flexibility.

HB 5044 allows the Public Health Commissioner to develop respiratory virus vaccine requirements in nursing homes, which already allow non-medical exemptions. Schools, higher education, childcare centers and family care homes, among other agencies, will retain current requirements.

HB 5044 clarifies what the General Assembly intended in 2021 when it voted to remove the non-medical exemption from state vaccination policy, thereby ensuring there are no such exemptions in schools, childcare and college. With about 495,000 schoolchildren currently attending Connecticut schools, HB 5044 preserves Connecticut's vaccine status quo and keeps children safe from preventable illnesses. Connecticut currently has a best-in-the-nation vaccination rate of 98.2%. Just .02% of Connecticut students have non-medical exemptions compared to 3.4% nationally.

HB 5044 also requires individual and group health insurance policies to cover immunizations on the standard of care and allows pharmacists to administer any vaccine on Connecticut's own immunization schedule, preserving and expanding access to vaccinations regardless of federal action.

With this Senate passage, the bill now heads to Governor Lamont's desk for his final signature into law.

Volunteers Needed for Nursing Home

Hamden: Whitney Rehabilitation Center at 2798 Whitney Ave., is seeking volunteers for our recreation department.

Interested individuals can inquire at (203) 287-7718 and ask for our Director of Recreation, Donna Mignosa.



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Question & Answer - Dr. Richard Durocher

Q: The skin on my feet always appears to be very dry and scaly. What should I do?

A: When the skin is very dry it can produce unsightly scaling with moderate to severe discomfort. The pain can be severe when the skin cracks and develops open wounds. Some medical conditions could lead to dryness of the skin, or another condition called athlete's feet.

Even though dryness can develop in young people, it is more common in the older population. Some people believe that this is part of aging and that they have to endure this. This is not true. Self-care, including moisturizing will not help when the scaling is due to a medical condition.

Contact Dr. Durocher for a further evaluation and preventative measures that can be taken to avoid this problem.



Dr. Richard W. Durocher,
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