

Hamden Lions Induction Ceremony



The Hamden Lions Club welcomes their newest member Judy Thibault. Judy was inducted at the April 8, 2025 meeting sponsored by Lion Lauretta (Laurie) Dowling. Past District Governors Alan Strutz and Melissa Smith conducted the Induction ceremony stating that Judy is "joining a global community of men and women who believe that kindness matters" and that her "service as a Lion will have a lasting impact in your community and on

the people you serve". As a Lion Judy will be working to bring awareness to the 8 global causes that Lions Clubs service. The next Hamden Lion Club event will be Hamden Earth Day on April 26th at the Hamden Green from 10-3. All are welcome to attend and stop by our table to make a craft or play a game and to learn more about Hamden Lions service to the community.

The Common Crow

A large jet black bird with seering dark eyes and an uncanny sounding call.

The following are some notable characteristics of the Crow that at one time had a bounty on their heads because they were considered a nuisance and destroyed crops on farms.

- They have the intelligence of a 7-year-old.
- They can evaluate a problem and take action to solve it.
- They hold a funeral for their dead.

- They can remember faces.
- They mate for life.
- Diet consists of nuts, worms, bugs, grain, mice, frogs, and other birds.
- Their life span is 5-7 years.
- Oldest bird was 17 yrs. old
- They inhabit all continents except Antarctica and South America.

If you want to see a scary movie about crows and birds, you must see "The Birds" produced and directed in 1963 by Alfred Hitchcock.

Ron Johnson, Hamden

FOR SALE: White crib/toddler bed, dark brown base, mattress, 55"Wx31"Dx35"H good cond. \$50; (203) 915-0504

FOR SALE: Medline wheelchair, max weight 300 lbs., blue, exc. cond. \$75 (was \$185 from Apex Pharmacy); (203) 214-5885

FOR SALE: Wire, 12 gauge, solid white, Type TW, 193 ft. \$30; 10 gauge UL1015, 231 ft. stranded \$40; (203) 606-0932

A Message from Mayor Garrett Regarding Recent Property Revaluation and Your Taxes

Hamden - My fellow residents of Hamden

I am communicating to you today about a matter of significant importance to our community: the recent town-wide property revaluation and its impact on your property taxes.

As many of you know, the Town of Hamden recently completed a state-mandated property revaluation. This process, the schedule of which is also determined by state law, is essential for ensuring that property assessments reflect current market values. A substantial increase in our grand list as a result of this revaluation is, in the long term, a positive indicator of our town's economic health and potential.

However, as I delved into the details of this revaluation, a serious and unintended consequence became clear. Due to the significant influx of new residents during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, residential property assessments have increased at a far greater rate than commercial property assessments. On average, residential assessments have risen by a staggering 55%, while commercial assessments have only increased by approximately 30%.

This disparity has created a significant shift in our local tax burden, moving it disproportionately from our commercial sector onto our residential homeowners.

In my proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year, I have recommended a 9 mill reduction in our tax rate. This is the largest decrease in our town's tax rate in decades, and it reflects my commitment to fiscal responsibility. However, despite this significant reduction, the reality is that the average homeowner in Hamden will still see a substantial increase in their property tax bill due to the dramatic rise in residential assessments.

Frankly, as your Mayor, this is unacceptable to me. I know the financial pressures many of our families are facing, and I am deeply concerned about the impact these increased taxes will have on all of our lives.

Upon recognizing this inequitable outcome, I immediately directed my staff to explore all available options to mitigate this burden on our homeowners. There are two additional options to consider aside from directly implementing the grand list. We can phase in the grand list which will help some property owners more than others. We can also delay the implementation of the grand list. My administration is working with the Legislative Council and will cooperate with any of these three choices.

As the Finance Department was calculating the effect of a phase in of the grand list, they realized the wrong mill rate was provided for my proposed Town of Hamden Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Operating Budget. While this was unintentional, the revised mill rate reflects a more favorable outcome than initially reported.

The updated figures indicate an additional 3.22 mill reduction in the mill rate with a total mill rate reduction of 12.22 from last year's budget. This results in a mill rate of 43.39. This does not affect the revenues and expenses in the budget.

I recognize the distress the increase in assessments has caused and hope that phasing in the grand list will provide some relief. While I wish the mill rate was even lower, I hope this change helps. We will make sure the updated mill rate is reflected in the online budget.

Phasing in the grand list will provide relief to some who experienced an increase much larger than 40% in their assessment. Delaying the implementation of the grand list will provide some relief this year only. Examples of a two-year and four-year phase in are included below:

While this is a significant step and offers some tax relief in the short term, it is not a panacea. The underlying issue of the shifting tax burden from commercial to residential properties is a challenge being faced by communities across our state. I have already engaged in numerous conversations with other municipal

leaders who are grappling with similar situations and we are actively seeking solutions.

Moving forward, we will work collaboratively with our state legislative delegation to explore more equitable ways to apply property taxes and address this statewide trend. I want to assure you that I have heard your concerns loud and clear. I have had many conversations with residents who are understandably worried about the impact of these increased taxes. Please know that I am your neighbor, and I share these concerns.

My proposed budget, even with the recommended mill rate reduction, remains a tight one, with the majority of increases driven by unavoidable contractual obligations. However, I want to assure you that my administration will continue to seek out opportunities for cost savings and efficiencies in town operations.

To ensure a thorough and open dialogue on this critical issue, I will be holding a series of community meetings to be held across Hamden. **The first meeting will be held on Thursday, April 24 at 6:30pm at Thornton Wilder Auditorium in the Miller Library Complex.** These meetings will provide an opportunity for us to discuss the revaluation, its impact on your taxes, the proposed phase-in ordinance, and our ongoing efforts to find both short-term relief and long-term solutions. I encourage each and every one of you to attend these meetings so we can have a productive face-to-face discussion.

We are all in this together, and I am committed to working tirelessly to address this challenge and ensure a fair and sustainable future for all residents of Hamden. Thank you for your understanding and your continued engagement in our community.

For further information, please contact the Mayor's Office at (203) 287-7100 or by email at mayor@hamden.com.

North Haven Library April 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.**

Armchair Traveler - The Palace Theater: Wed., April 23, 6-7:30pm. Travel through the 102 history of Waterbury's Palace Theater from vaudeville days, movie era, famed rock and roll period to the decline and ultimate renovation of the theater.

TAB Officer Meeting: Thurs., April 24, 3-4pm. Grades: 9th-12th. This meeting is for current Teen Advisory Board Officers and club members who would like to help plan next month's TAB meeting.

Creation Station - Suncatcher Windchime: Thurs., April 24, 4-5pm. Ages: 3-10 yrs. with an Adult. **No Registration Required.** While supplies last. Catch some rays and sweet tunes with this suncatcher and windchime craft!

Connecticut Foxes with Wildlife Conservationist Ginny Apple: Thurs., April 24, 6-7pm. These efficient omnivores play important roles in our ecosystem keeping the balance of nature in sync.

Online Author Talk - Gregg Hurwitz: Thurs., April 24, 7-8pm, Virtual. You're invited to a riveting conversation with New York Times bestselling author Gregg Hurwitz as he chats with us about his Orphan X.

Dance Party: Fri., April 25, 10:30-11am. Age Group: 12-24 mos. to 5 yrs. Join us for this loosely structured dance party to burn off some extra energy, sing, dance and play with instruments.

Readers & Writers for Home-schooled Teens: Fri., April 25, 10:30am-12 noon: Teens Ages 13+. We'll share our favorite books and chat about our latest writings.

Must See Movie - Oh, Canada: Fri., April 25, 1:30-3pm. **Registration Required.** Leonard Fife, one of sixty thousand draft evaders and deserters who fled to Canada to avoid serving in Vietnam, shares all his secrets to de-mythologize his mythologized life. Rate: NR, Runtime: 94 mins.

Hoopskirts to Flappers: Sat., April 26, 2-3pm. This program will walk you through our Costume and Textile collection to see how women's clothing transitioned from the iron reign of the hoop skirt to the relative freedom of the flapper dress.

Calm Connections: Mon., April 28, 11am-12 noon. Ages: Parents/Caregivers of Children Ages 0-5 yrs. **No Registration Required.** We encourage parents who have children on the autism spectrum or with sensory needs to come together every Monday in the Children's Story Room.

Tai Chi with Debbie: Mon., April 28, 11am-12 noon. You will be taught the Sun style. If you cannot attend all 4 sessions, please do not register. Reminder: Upon registration, you are automatically registered for each session in this 5-week series.

Lincoln's Air Force: Mon., April 28, 3pm-4:30pm. President Lincoln will be the first head of state to receive an electronic message from an aircraft, in the air, to a receiving station on the ground. Mark Albertson is the historical research editor for the Army Aviation magazine, and author of several books, magazine articles and newspaper commentaries.

Guided Meditation: Tues., April 29, 2-3pm. Join Johanne

Think Spring!

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SHOWROOM HOURS: Mon.-Tues. 9am-6pm; Wed.-Thurs. 9-7pm; Fri. 9-5pm; Sat. 9-4pm; Closed Sun.

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Big Summer Plans

For Class Of 2022 Alumna

North Haven: Class of 2022 alumna Ava Vingiano is currently pursuing her bachelor's degree in registered nursing from Clemson University and recently shared that she secured a summer position in her field.

This summer program is a nine-week internship in the ICU, where she will work 24 hours per week alongside experienced RNs.

"I believe only about 10 students were selected last summer, so it's highly competitive," she explained.

As part of the internship, Ava will develop her clinical skills, focus on patient-centered care, and collaborate with multidisciplinary healthcare teams amid a fast-paced environment.

Back at Clemson, Ava is involved in the Kappa Delta Sorority, where she was the assistant director of social media and marketing last year. The Sorority does philanthropic work with The Girls Scouts of America and Prevent Child Abuse America organizations. She also serves as the social media director for Clemson Dancers and was recently elected president for the 2025-2026 term.

Ava explained that, "with over 250 members, Clemson Dancers is a completely student-run and funded organization that provides a welcoming space for dancers of all skill levels to take classes and stay involved in the dance community."



Ava Vingiano

Vannelli as she leads us through a mindfulness and meditation session.

The Founding of Sleeping Giant State Park: Tues., April 29, 6-7pm. In 2024, This is a dynamic story of early 20th-century conflicting priorities and hard-reached resolutions. This talk will follow twenty-five years of fascinating twists and turns that culminated with the beautiful park we love today.

Edward Smith Library
3 Old Post Rd., Northford

UPCOMING APRIL EVENTS

To register for events at the library, visit the Events Calendar at our website: <https://northbranford.librarycalendar.com/> or call (203) 484-0469.

Little Makers: Tues., April 22, 10:30-11am. A simple craft activity that we do together. In April we will be learning about Earth Day and create an Earth Day craft. Recommended ages 2-6.

Library Teen Advisory Board: Thurs., April 24, 2:30-4:30pm. Students in grades 7-12 can join the North Branford Public Libraries Teen Advisory Board (T.A.B.). Give back to your community and

have a say in what your library offers teens. Earn community service hours for each meeting you attend.

Connecticut Wineries: Thurs., April 24, 6:30-8pm. Learn about Connecticut's 40-plus wineries with Michelle Griffiths. She'll discuss the fantastic, award-winning wineries here in our state and share dining options.

Movie Matinee, "Conclave": Fri., April 25, 1-3:30pm. This month's movie is "Conclave," a 2024 conspiracy thriller. Starring Ralph Fiennes, Stanley Tucci and John Lithgow. Light refreshments served.

Tots & Tunes: Fri., April 25, 10:30-11am. A half hour of songs, stories, and movement. Recommended for ages 18-months and up, with a parent or care-giver. Siblings welcome. Drop-in program; registration not required.

Monday Night Mah-Jongg: April 28, 6-8pm. Those interested in playing Mah-Jongg are invited. Participants should bring their Mah Jongg sets.

Bring Back the Fireflies: Tues., April 29, 7-8pm. Learn about native fireflies and the simple things you can do in your own yard that will increase their survival. Presented by Nancy Tipping of the Xerces Society, a nonprofit to protect invertebrates and their habits.