

Bethel Police Promote Three



Courtesy photos show Officer Iadarola, Sergeant Cleary and Lieutenant Libertini being sworn in by Town Clerk Lisa Bergh during their recent promotion ceremony.

On Tuesday, February 24, 2026, the Bethel Police Department held a promotional ceremony for three officers: Officer Michael Iadarola has been promoted to Sergeant, Sergeant Adam Cleary has been promoted to Lieutenant and Lieutenant Michael Libertini has been promoted to Deputy Chief.

Two BHS Players Each Score Their 1,000th Point



Congratulations to senior Elliot Hellmann for scoring his 1,000th point on February 25th. Elliot becomes the second player this season to achieve this very impressive milestone, after Victor Oloke who scored his 1,000th point on February 14th. They are the 9th and the 10th player in BHS school history to have their name added to the 1,000 point basketball banner.

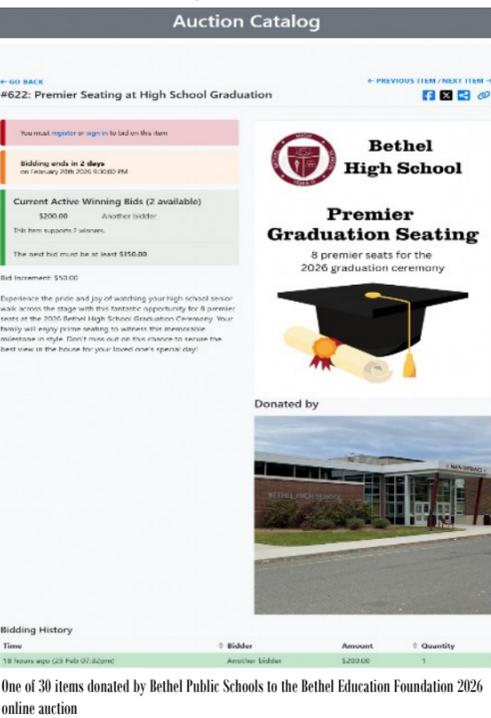
U.S. And Israel Attack Iran

Iran Retaliation Includes Attacking Arab Countries

Early Saturday morning, the United States and Israeli militaries coordinated strikes targeting military and strategic sites within the Islamic Republic of Iran. Citing an "existential threat" posed by Tehran's nuclear and missile programs, Israeli leaders described the assault as a pre-emptive operation aimed at degrading Iran's offensive capabilities, while U.S. officials framed the action as part of "major combat operations" to protect national and regional security.

Parents Complain About Fundraiser Selling VIP Access To School Graduations

Practice May Violate IRS, State And Federal Law And School Policy



One parent posted in support of the ticket auction, saying "Do you know what BEF does with the money? It goes right back in to our schools. To provide grants and opportunities for our students that they otherwise won't have."

The Bethel Education Foundation does indeed make grants and awards to the schools and to teachers. According to their website they provided over \$8,000 in grants and awards last year. However, the awards to teachers may violate state law that prohibits individuals or groups from giving gifts worth more than \$50 (C.T. General Statute 1-84).

What A Difference A Day Makes!

Downtown Businesses And Customers Cheer Snow Cleanup



Photo at left shows DPW crews removing snow from downtown overnight, middle photo shows downtown that morning and photo at right shows downtown the next morning.

For the second time in February, after a significant snowfall, Bethel Department of Public Works teams worked overnight to clear away dangerous mountains of snow lining Greenwood Avenue and blocking safe access to the sidewalk.

New Chamber Comes To Town

The Fairfield County CT Chamber of Commerce has launched a new program with several participation levels, starting at free. The county wide chamber seeks to promote businesses and communities within Fairfield County and to promote the county to neighboring counties and states.

In Brief

- Newly Updated Local Things To Do Lists 100s of Local Events
- Getting ready for Spring with UCONN online course
- Doing Good: You can treat a veteran to a free meal.
- Municipal Calendars: Find out what meetings are coming up this week
- Dining: The region's largest directory of local dining in, take out and catering
- Issues: The Yankee Institute Legislative Update

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Gardening

Get Ready for Spring: UConn Extension's Online Home Gardening Course is Available

UConn Extension is now accepting registrations for its Fundamentals of Home Gardening online course, designed for beginner and intermediate gardeners who want to build strong foundational skills for successful home and community gardening.

The self-paced, multi-module program covers essential topics including vegetable gardening, soil health, composting, pest management, pollinator support, and sustainable gardening practices. Participants gain practical knowledge that can be applied immediately in gardens of all sizes, from backyard plots to containers and raised beds.

"Our goal is to help Connecticut residents grow with confidence," said Jean Madden-Hennessey, a program coordinator with UConn Extension's Master Gardener program. "This course gives people the tools they need to make informed decisions, nurture healthy plants, and support thriving local ecosystems."

Course Features

User-friendly online format accessible at any time

Step-by-step guidance from UConn horticulture experts

Videos, readings, quizzes, and hands-on learning suggestions

Science-based, practical information suited for all learning styles

Who Should Enroll

The Fundamentals of Home Gardening course is ideal for new gardeners, homeowners, community gardeners, educators, and anyone looking to strengthen their horticultural knowledge.

Registration is open now, and the course is available through October. Visit: <https://s.uconn.edu/fundamental> for more information and to enroll.

Arts

Painting Demonstration



On Wednesday March 25, 2026 at 1:30pm, Frank Bruckman will be demonstrating a portrait in oil. This event will be at The Newtown Senior Center, 8 Simpson Street in Newtown, CT. All are welcome and admission is free.

Pets

Meet Marco



Meet Marco, a truly special soul who has so much love to give and is simply waiting for the right person who understands him. Marco is a four-year-old, 60-pound sweetheart with a heart-melting smile and an incredibly soft coat. Found as a stray in rural North Carolina in November 2021, Marco spent 17 long months living in a shelter kennel.

Despite that difficult beginning, he has shown remarkable resilience. Since coming into foster

care in Connecticut in March 2023, Marco has truly blossomed and is now our longest resident, patiently waiting for his forever home.

Marco thrives on connection with his people. He is a world-class cuddler who loves to snuggle up close, sleep in bed, and carefully paw at his blankets until they are just right. Playtime brings out his joyful spirit—he loves zoomies, fetch, and tug-of-war, and his happiness is contagious. Marco is also very intelligent and enjoys enrichment activities like snuffle mats, food puzzles, and lick mats. He walks well on leash and enjoys getting out for adventures.

Marco does well with other dogs and cats of all ages and sizes, making him a great fit for a multi-pet household.

To learn more or to adopt a rescue, contact Happily Furever After Rescue at info@happilyfureverafter.org or (631) 935-3578 or visit their website at www.happilyfureverafter.org

Doing Good

Feed A Veteran

Patrons of For Pete's Sake Delicatessen, located at 73 Stony Hill Road in Bethel, can donate breakfast or lunch to local veterans all year long. As a result, veterans of American armed forces can enjoy breakfast or lunch at no charge as part of the program. Veterans should bring proof of service as they may ask for it. The program runs all year long.

MeadowTails™

By Sam Twane



Where do cows go one a first date?

The mooooovies.

Municipal Calendars

Bethel

- Stony Hill Fire Department
Monday, March 2, 2026 at 7:30 PM
- Board of Selectman
Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 7:00 PM
- Board of Education
Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 6:00 PM
- Bethel Volunteer Fire Department
Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 7:00 PM
- Aging Commission
Monday, March 9, 2026 at 2:30 PM
- Youth Commission
Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 7:00 PM
- Board of Finance
Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 7:00 PM
- Planning & Zoning
Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 7:00 PM
- Housatonic Area Regional Transit
Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 4:00

Danbury

- City Council Meeting
March 3, 2026, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
- Board of Awards Weekly Meeting
March 4, 2026, 10:00 AM - 10:59 AM
- Civil Service Commission Meeting
March 4, 2026, 10:00 AM - 10:59 PM
- Planning Commission Meeting
March 4, 2026, 7:00 PM
- I-84 Flex Lane Public Information Meeting
March 5, 2026, 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
- Zoning Commission Meeting
March 10, 2026, 7:00 PM
- Board of Awards Weekly Meeting
March 11, 2026, 10:00 AM - 10:59 AM
- I-84 Flex Lane Public Information Meeting
March 11, 2026, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Redding

- March 2 at 7:00 pm
Park and Recreation Commission
- March 3 at 5:00 pm
Georgetown Fire District
- March 3 at 7:00 pm
Georgetown Fire District Annual Budget Meeting
- March 3 at 7:00 pm
Conservation Commission - CANCELLED
- March 3 at 7:00 pm
Redding Board of Education - CANCELLED
- March 4 at 12:00 pm
Brown Bag Lunch with First Selectwoman
- March 5 at 4:00 pm
Redding Safety Committee

Brookfield

- Stop the Compressor - Room 129
March 2, 2026, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
- Board of Selectmen Meeting - Room 133
March 2, 2026, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- Zoning Board of Appeals - Room 135
March 2, 2026, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- Board of Finance Budget Workshop - Room 209
March 3, 2026, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- Brookfield Education Foundation - Room 209
March 4, 2026, 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM
- Commission on Aging - Room 135
March 4, 2026, 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Newtown

- Board of Assessment Appeals
March 2, 2026 - 5:30pm
- Board of Selectmen
March 2, 2026 - 7:30pm
- Public Safety Committee
March 3, 2026 - 5:00pm
- BOE Policy Committee
March 3, 2026 - 5:30pm
- Police Commission
March 3, 2026 - 6:30pm
- Board of Education
March 3, 2026 - 7:00pm
- CHB Library Governance Committee
March 3, 2026 - 7:00pm
- Lake Zoar Authority
March 3, 2026 - 7:00pm

Ridgefield

- March 2, 2026 - Monday
9:30am - 11:30am - Commission on Aging Special Meeting
6:30pm - 8:30pm - Economic & Community Development Commission Meeting
7:00pm - 10:00pm - Board of Selectpersons Budget Meeting
7:00pm - 10:00pm - ZBA Meeting - Cancelled
- March 3, 2026 - Tuesday
5:00pm - 6:30pm - Compassionate Ridgefield Meeting
7:00pm - 10:00pm - Board of Selectpersons Budget Meeting
- March 4, 2026 - Wednesday
8:00am - 10:00am - Ridgefield Commemorates America at 250 Meeting Meeting

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The Cross

This signature piece was designed and made by John in 1992 for the confirmation of his oldest son. It has been sold throughout the world in Yankee magazine, to heads of state and to lay people alike. The design was blessed by Pope Frances on two separate occasions. Each cross is detailed by hand, karat stamped and signed.

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- Save money for their children's education?
- Lower monthly debt payments?
- Stop living paycheck to paycheck?
- Save more money for the future?
- Make wiser, more informed financial decisions.
- Develop a program to build financial independence?

We would like to help your family explore the options and help make these dreams a reality.

Maryann Simmons - District Leader
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Dining

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Angel's Deli
Fast and friendly service, wide selection of breakfast and lunch deli items at reasonable prices. 470 Federal Rd B, Brookfield (203) 546-7232 www.angelsdeli.com

Backdoor Chicken and Burgers
A wonderful new restaurant in Brookfield featuring delicious sandwiches, breakfast, entrees and some of the best coffee anywhere. They have the most friendly and helpful staff and reasonable prices. And if you like BBQ, try the pulled pork, but only if your plan on coming back again and again because it is truly wonderful! 537 Federal Rd, Brookfield (203) 546-7403 www.backdoor-chicken.com

Bagel Crossing
Fast and friendly service with a great selection of bagels, toppings and breakfast sandwiches with lunch salads and sandwiches, too. But be warned, the cinnamon rolls are beyond addictive. 6 Library Place, Bethel (203) 790-6656 www.bagel-crossing.com

Bagel Delight
This is truly a delight as they have one of the absolute best selections of NY style, delicious bagels anywhere outside of "the city", with one of the most kind and friendly owners anywhere. Breakfast and lunch selections are all delicious and the prices are reasonable. Dine-in or take out. 30 Church Hill Rd #1, Newtown (203) 426-6838

Bethel Pizza House

Delicious and reasonably priced, still using George's original recipes, with some of the most friendly, helpful service anywhere, and shhh, the best kept secret in town is that they also offer delivery. 206 Greenwood Ave, Bethel (203) 748-1427 www.bethelpizzahouse.com

Blue Colony Diner
Fast and friendly service in a comfortable diner with a great selection of delicious, reasonably priced food. They offer dine-in, take-out and catering. 66 Church Hill Rd, Newtown (203) 426-0745 www.bluecolonydiner.com

Capri
Possibly the best calzone pizza we have every tasted. Pizza, entrees, generous and delicious salads. Take out, dine-in or delivery. 182 Old Hawleyville Rd, Bethel (203) 743-6800 www.capripizzaofbethel.com

Caraluzzi's
Local grocery stores that offer excellent take out and catering. - Bethel: 98 Greenwood Ave, Bethel (203) 748-3547 www.caraluzzis.com/ - Danbury: 102 Mill Plain Rd, Danbury (203) 743-8003 www.caraluzzis.com/caraluzzis-danbury-market-2 - Newtown: 5 Queen St, Newtown (203) 270-7500 www.caraluzzis.com/caraluzzis-in-newtown-ct - Wilton/Georgetown:

206 Greenwood Ave, Wilton (203) 544-7021 www.caraluzzis.com/

Dogtown
Hot dogs, burgers and more by a fast and friendly team at force a double-take affordable prices. Where else can you get a delicious lunch for 2 for well under \$15? And seriously, where else would you go especially for awesome hot dogs? Lots of other items on the menu, and one of the most generous arrays of hot dog toppings anywhere. 4 Library Pl, Bethel (203) 616-5054 www.dogtownct.com

Elmer's Diner
We love Elmer's. While all the food is delicious, they have one of the best rotating assortments of delicious and affordable specials anywhere. And the service is fast and friendly, too. 22 Padanaram Rd, Danbury (203) 731-2559 www.elmersdiner.com

Famous Pizza
Famous pizza is truly and deservedly famous for their pizza, but also for their salads (try the house dressing!) and delicious entrees. They offer dine in, take out and delivery. Try the thin crust, it is amazing! 7 P T Barnum Square, Bethel (203) 797-1550 www.famouspizzabethel.com

Farmboys Smokin' BBQ
If you love BBQ, try Farmboys. The BBQ is delicious and smoked on the premises, but the secret to taking this to the next level is their amazing homemade BBQ sauces. You can thank me

later. 30 South St, Danbury (203) 616-5942 www.farmboysmokinbbq.com

Food Emporium
Brookfield's newest market brings SOHO style, fresh produce, and one of the best prepared foods and deli selections anywhere. They offer take out and catering. Did we mention the mouth watering desserts in the bakery department? 731 Federal Rd, Brookfield (203) 746-9487 www.foodemporiumkeyfood.com/store/2717

For Pete's Sake
Fast, friendly service, dine-in or take out and they offer catering, too, and a wide selection of delicious sandwiches and entrees. 73 Stony Hill Rd, Bethel (203) 792-2444 www.forpetessakedeli.com

Gino's Pizza Parlor
Fast and friendly service, some of the most generous salads anywhere and delicious italian cuisine at affordable prices. And they have some of the most diverse and delicious choices of pizza toppings. 102 Church Hill Rd, Sandy Hook (203) 304-1304 www.ginosparlorct.com

Hunan Noodle Bar
Delicious food, wonderful selection, fast and friendly service. 461 Main St., Ridgefield (203) 431-4238 www.ridgefieldhunan.com

Jacqueline's
This is my go to place for breakfast and lunch or just

excellent coffee. They offer dine-in, take-out and catering and some of the best wait staff anywhere. I have a friend who sneaks out and drives 40 minutes round trip every so often just to get their bacon, egg and cheese on an english muffin. Thankfully I live much closer! 138 Greenwood Ave, Bethel (203) 792-5541 www.eatatjacquelines.com

Kowloons Chinese Restaurant
Fast, friendly service, reasonably priced and a wide selection of delicious choices. The BBQ spare ribs are the closest to New York ribs we have found, and the shrimp with lobster sauce is another personal favorite. 110 Greenwood Ave, Bethel (203) 205-2325 www.kowloonchinesect.com

Newtown General Store
A dizzying array of delicious choices for breakfast and lunch. They feature dine-in, take out and catering. 43 Main St., Newtown (203) 426-9901 www.newtowngeneralstore.com

Pop's Diner
Enjoy a classic diner experience with a wide selection and fast and friendly service. 199 Ethan Allen Hwy, Ridgefield (203) 445-4272 www.popsclassicdiner.com

Portofino's Wine Bar and Restaurant
A cozy pub like atmosphere on one side, an elegant dining room on the other, with food by one of the absolute best chefs in Connecticut. They offer dine-in, take out and catering. And the bar

is tended by one of the best anywhere. A truly perfect choice for an evening out or take out. 213 Greenwood Ave., Bethel (203) 797-8131 portofinorestaurantandwinebar.com

Prime Burgers
Some of the best burgers anywhere. Lots of other delicious choices, but seriously, my mouth waters just thinking about their burgers. 449 Main St, Ridgefield (203) 431-3000 www.primeburgerct.com

Queen B's
Delicious baked goods, sandwiches, entrees and an awesome coffee bar. Fast and friendly service and did we mention how delicious the baked goods and coffee is? Dine-in, take-out or delivery. 417 Main St, Ridgefield (203) 894-5994 www.queenbcoffee.com

Red Colony Diner
Fast and friendly service in a comfortable diner with a great selection of delicious, reasonably priced food. They offer dine-in, take-out and catering. 121 Federal Rd, Brookfield (203) 546-8280 www.redcolonydiner.com

Rocco's Cafe & Delicatessen
Same great food, new owners and an updated, more welcoming dine-in experience. So here is a true story: After surgery at Danbury hospital, I decided to say thank you to the amazing nursing staff for the wonderful care I received by catering lunch

and dinner for the 2 primary shifts on the 5th floor. Rocco's provided a delicious array of sandwiches and fixin's at a reasonable price, but best of all, when I went in for a follow-up, a year later, the nursing staff were still talking about the great lunch. 208 Greenwood Ave, Bethel (203) 297-6262 www.roccosdeli.com

Shoprite Brookfield
They offer some of the best prepared food, wide selection at affordable prices. The bakery selection is amazing, and they offer catering, too. 143 Federal Rd, Brookfield (203) 775-7078 www.shoprite.com

Spice Indian Cuisine & Bar
Looking for a delicious and authentic Indian dining experience in a comfortable atmosphere with reasonable prices? Then this is your place! 25 Grassy Plain St., Bethel (203) 300-5784 www.spiceindiancuisinect.com

Stony Hill Diner
Fast and friendly service offering dine-in, take-out, delivery and catering. I love good prime rib (who doesn't?) and I recently had a top notch prime rib meal at a shockingly reasonable price. 14 Stony Hill Rd, Bethel (203) 791-2280 www.stonyhilldiner.com

Sycamore Drive-In
Offers dine in, take out and drive-in service (and the black and white shake is legendary!) 282 Greenwood Ave., Bethel (203) 748-2716 www.sycamoredrivein.com

Three Brothers Diner
Fast, friendly service, delicious food and an amazing dessert selection. 242 White St, Danbury (203) 748-6008 www.3brothersdiner.com

Uncle Leo's and Rosny's Gourmet
Three great locations with excellent food, quick and friendly service and reasonable prices. They offer dine in, take out and catering. 114 Greenwood Ave, Bethel (203) 885-2362
19 Main St, Georgetown/Redding (203) 587-1050
17 Danbury Rd, Wilton (203) 644-8085 www.facebook.com/uncleleos

Varano Bakery
Their baked goods, especially the desserts, should only be reserved for those truly on your nice (ok, or maybe naughty) list. We suspect Santa stops there several times his Christmas cookies because they are truly that good. 198 Greenwood Ave, Bethel (203) 744-6640 www.varanobakery.com

Whitlock's
Enter and find a welcoming pub and a friendly dining room with delicious food, friendly service and reasonable prices. They feature dine-in, takeout and catering. 273 Greenwood Ave., Bethel (203) 791-2707 www.whitlocks-bethel.com
Did we miss your favorite? If we have, then please email Brad@CommunityGazette.com

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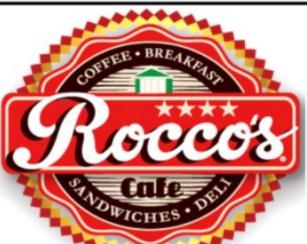
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www.spiceindiancuisinect.com

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<p>Mon - Sat: 8:00 am - 7:00 pm</p> <p>Sunday: 7:00 am - 5:00 pm</p>	<p>Catering</p> <p>Our catering services are designed to bring the taste of our restaurant to your venue. Whether you're hosting a small family gathering or a large corporate event, our team is dedicated to delivering delicious food and exceptional service. With a focus on quality and customer satisfaction, Backdoor Chicken & Burgers is your go-to choice for BBQ catering.</p>	<p>Live Music</p> <p>Our live music events are designed to bring the community together, providing a space where you can unwind and enjoy quality entertainment. In Brookfield, we're known for our welcoming atmosphere and delicious food, making us the perfect spot for a night out. Don't miss the chance to enjoy our BBQ and burger offerings while listening to live bands, creating a memorable experience for all.</p>	<p>21 Hole Mini Golf</p> <p>Our mini golf course is designed to complement your dining experience, offering a unique way to unwind after a delicious meal. It's a great spot for family gatherings or a casual day out. At Backdoor Chicken & Burgers, we pride ourselves on providing a welcoming environment where fun and food come together seamlessly. Get FREE mini golf with a small donation to the wounded veterans.</p>	<p>What Our Customers Say</p>  <p>★★★★★ Quick food service, Sandwiches are great. Very friendly and accommodating staff. — Ray V</p> <p>★★★★★ Super friendly, and amazing food. Will be back a bunch. — Chris T</p> <p>★★★★★ Some the best fried chicken I have ever had, the strawberry sauce is phenomenal. — Damon C</p> <p>★★★★★ This is our second time eating at Backdoor Chicken & Burgers and can't say enough about the owner!!! Everything we tried is absolutely fresh and soooo delicious from the breakfast sandwiches, to chicken wings to the yummy cheeseburger and the most scrumptious french fries. Stop by you won't be disappointed! — Donna S</p>
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At Home



6 Katrina Circle, Bethel, CT
 3 Bedrooms, 4 Baths,
 2,295 SF, .79 Acre
 Price Reduced To \$739,000

Welcome to your dream home in the highly sought after Sleepy Hollow Estates in the Codfish Hill area of Bethel. This sprawling ranch that has been updated with over \$100K in recent enhancements some include a heated saltwater pool, expansive entertaining deck, and beautifully updated landscaping. From the moment you step inside, you'll experience an open, airy floor plan filled with natural light. Enjoy an eat-in custom kitchen with sliders that lead directly to your private resort-style backyard, with large decks and that amazing pool. This home features two elegant fireplaces, central AC, and a beautifully finished lower level offering a large rec room, cedar closet, and office or guest suite. Large rooms, most freshly painted with two full and two half baths. Perfectly positioned on a level .79-acre lot on a quiet street, this home also features a mudroom to the pool and an attached large two-car garage. Located in southern Bethel with easy access to I-84, Metro-North, charming downtown amenities, and Bethel School Park, this property delivers the ideal blend of luxury, location, and lifestyle.

Contact Jim DiLillo at (203) 470-2678 or james.dilillo@randrealty.com



Price Reduced!

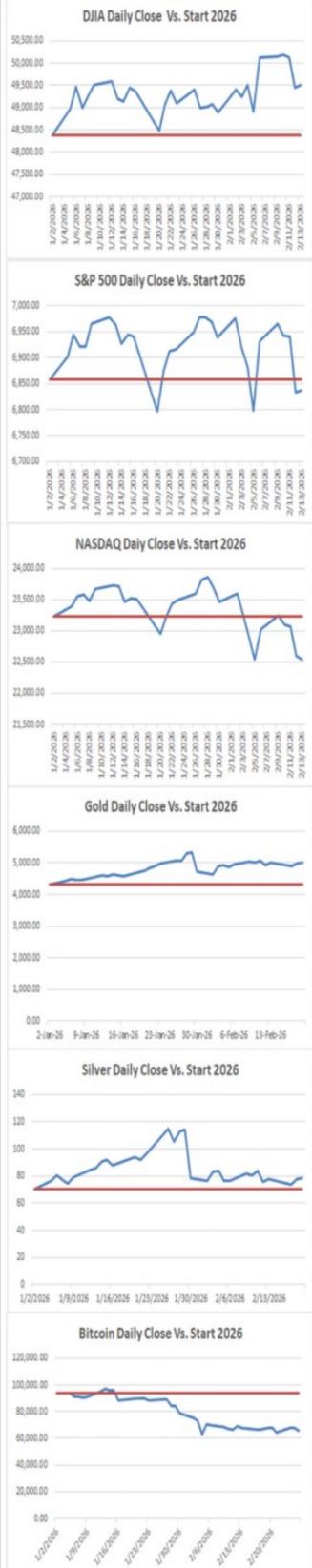
13020 Amberly Ct #306
 Bonita Springs, FL
 3 beds, 2 baths, 1,222 sqft
 Price Reduced To \$245,000

Welcome to the Florida lifestyle you've been dreaming of! Perfectly nestled between Naples and Fort Myers in the highly desirable Worthington Country Club, this first-floor 3-bedroom, 2-bath condo offers the ultimate balance of active living and relaxed luxury. Enjoy morning sunrises and light-filled rooms from your east-facing lanai with panoramic golf course views—a peaceful backdrop for your coffee or evening glass of wine. The corner location enhances privacy and natural light, while modern updates like stainless steel appliances, newer washer/dryer, and turnkey furnishings mean you can start enjoying it right away. Step outside and you'll find an abundance of activities: championship golf, tennis, pickle-ball, bocce, a fitness center, restaurant and a resort-style pool and spa—all within a vibrant, social community. When it's time to unwind, you're just minutes from Bonita's award-winning beaches and multiple pools within the neighborhood. The location couldn't be more convenient—walk or bike ride to Publix, restaurants, and the incoming Midtowne at Bonita with shops, dining, and entertainment (sister of Mercato in Naples) You're also close to I-75, RSW Airport, and everything that makes Southwest Florida one of the most sought-after destinations in the country. With a 2023 Rheem A/C, low-maintenance living, and endless opportunities to stay active or simply soak up the sun, this is more than a condo—it's your gateway to the best of Southwest Florida living.

Contact Ann Lefcakis at (239) 297-2926 or ann@kwelevate.com

Business & Finance

Market Update As Of End Of Trading Feb 19, 2026



Business Spotlight

Patricia's Presents Has Gifts For Both You And That Special Someone



Patricia's Presents has gifts and accessories for your holiday gift giving. They are located at 164 Greenwood Avenue in Bethel.

Amy Kahn Russell Jewelry is at Philadelphia Flower Show



Amy has packed up sunshine, petals, and a whole lot of handmade sparkle for the Philly Flower Show! Inspired by the colors, textures, and joy of spring blooms, these one-of-a-kind pieces capture the beauty of flowers you can wear long after the show ends. Find Amy Kahn Russell at Booth 201 + 203 / Marketplace! Saturday, Feb. 28th to Tuesday, Mar. 7th 10:00am - 6:00pm and Sunday, Mar. 8th 10:00am - 6:00pm at the Philly Convention Center. Can't get to Philadelphia? Visit her shop, Giftz, Gemz & Jewelz, in Ridgefield at 452 Main Street.

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 When your house is on the market, here are my tips for getting your home showing-ready in 10 minutes or less: Take out the trash. Even if you don't think it smells bad, your buyer might.

Want an agent who'll really listen to what you want in a home? Need an agent who knows how to effectively market your home so it sells? Give me a call!

Kimberly Sjoblom
 484-268-6673
 kimberly.sjoblom@cbrealty.com
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Elizabeth Nell
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 Ridgefield Connecticut

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68 Stony Hill Road

Things To Do

Read To Sydney!



Children 5+ are invited to take turns to read to Sydney, a trained therapy dog. Reading to Sydney provides a judgment free space for many children to increase their reading skills, self confidence, and encourages a love for reading! Sydney's handler, Hayley, also happens to be a pediatric occupational therapist and loves to volunteer her time with Sydney at the library. So bring a favorite book, take a peek at Sydney's book, or pick one out at the library before the event.

March 4th and 18th, 2026 at 4 p.m. at the Danbury Library.

Tax Help



The C.H. Booth Library is pleased to announce FREE income tax assistance, provided through a partnership between the AARP Foundation and the IRS. This service will be available on Thursdays until April 9, 2026. Don't miss this opportunity to receive expert help with your taxes.

Sun, 03-01-26, Poetry Workshop with Ira Joe Fisher, Group A, 1:30pm-3:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Library, Redding	Fingerless Gloves!, 6:00 PM, Danbury Library	Redding	Buildings and Grounds Committee In-Person, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	The Jacob Jolliff Band, 2:00pm-3:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Danbury Library	7:30 PM, Bethel Library
Sun, 03-01-26, The Allen and Helen Hermes Arts Series presents: Yale's Whim 'n Rhythm (In-Person), 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding	Tue, 03-03-26, Mother Goose on the Loose In-Person, 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Wed, 03-04-26, Junior Live Virtual Cooking: Broccoli Fettuccini "Alfredo", 6:00 PM, Danbury Library	Wed, 03-04-26, 250 Years of American Music: Part I—Charles Ives (Virtual), 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding	Mon, 03-09-26, Spanish Conversation Group, 2:00 PM, Danbury Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Spanish Conversation Group, 2:00 PM, Danbury Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Speedcubing Club, 5:30 PM, Danbury Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Critics' Circle Book Group, 6:30pm-8:00pm, Ridgefield Library
Mon, 03-02-26, Baby & Me, 1:00 - 1:30 PM, Bethel Library	Tue, 03-03-26, Storytime Adventures (Ages 3-4), 10:00am-10:45am, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-04-26, Live Virtual Cooking: Corned Beef and Potato Empanadas, 7:30 PM, Danbury Library	Wed, 03-04-26, Online: Poems from CT's Four Corners, 7:00pm-8:15pm, Ridgefield Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Club de lectura en español, 4:00 PM, Danbury Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Club de lectura en español, 4:00 PM, Danbury Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Reading Together Book Club, 6:00 PM, Danbury Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Derek Piotr Fieldwork: Diverse Representations of Folk Songs, 6:30pm-8:00pm, Ridgefield Library
Mon, 03-02-26, Historically Speaking Book Club - The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride, 1:00pm-2:00pm, Brookfield Library	Tue, 03-03-26, Creative Collective Discussion Group (Virtual), 10:30 am - 12:00 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding	Wed, 03-04-26, Chair Yoga with Liz Wendel, 1:00pm-2:00pm, Ridgefield Library	Thu, 03-05-26, Intermediate English Classes (Afternoon), 12:00 PM, Danbury Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Hummingbird Feeder Program, 5:30 PM, Danbury Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Hummingbird Feeder Program, 5:30 PM, Danbury Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Spy School: Secrets of the American Revolution, 6:00 PM, Danbury Library	Tue, 03-10-26, C.H. Booth Library Trustees In-Person, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown
Mon, 03-02-26, Take & Make: Beaded Bracelet, 10:00am-8:00pm, Ridgefield Library	Tue, 03-03-26, Read to Mia, 5:00pm-5:15pm, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-04-26, Drop-in Art with Miss Nora In-Person, 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Thu, 03-05-26, Zero English Classes (Afternoon), 1:30 PM, Danbury Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Live Virtual Program: Enter the Fold: Designing Codes, Origami, and Molecules, 6:00 PM, Danbury Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Live Virtual Program: Enter the Fold: Designing Codes, Origami, and Molecules, 6:00 PM, Danbury Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Tai Chi for Beginners, 6:00 PM, Danbury Library	Tue, 03-11-26, Appreciating Our Natural Environment Series - Taking Great Landscape Photographs (In-Person), 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding
Mon, 03-02-26, Storytime Adventures (Ages 3-4), 10:00am-10:45am, Brookfield Library	Tue, 03-03-26, Online: iPhone Security Essentials - Protecting Your Privacy, 3:00pm-4:15pm, Ridgefield Library	Wed, 03-04-26, Mother Goose on the Loose In-Person, 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Thu, 03-05-26, Snap Circuits Drop In Night, 5:30 PM, Danbury Library	Mon, 03-09-26, AARP Foundation Tax Aide, 10:15 AM - 2:45 PM, Bethel Library	Mon, 03-09-26, AARP Foundation Tax Aide, 10:15 AM - 2:45 PM, Bethel Library	Tue, 03-10-26, HYBRID: Senior Voices: Food for Thought: Nutrition for Memory & Brain Health, 1:00pm-2:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Wed, 03-11-26, Hybrid Program: English Learners Book Club, 11:00 AM, Danbury Library
Mon, 03-02-26, Music Monday with Principal at the Newtown Community Center In-Person, 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Tue, 03-03-26, Read to Mia, 5:15pm-5:30pm, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-04-26, Intro to AI: Job Seeker Strategies for the Digital Age In-Person, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Thu, 03-05-26, Economics Explorers, 6:00 PM, Danbury Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Storytime, 10:30 - 11:00 AM, Bethel Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Storytime, 10:30 - 11:00 AM, Bethel Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Watercolor Workshop Series: Building Skills Through Technique, 6:00 PM, Danbury Library	Tue, 03-11-26, Python Programming For Middle Schoolers, 4:00 PM, Danbury Library
Mon, 03-02-26, Time for Twos, 11:00am-11:45am, Brookfield Library	Tue, 03-03-26, Mahjong Open Play: Evening Edition In-Person, 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Wed, 03-04-26, Intro to AI: Job Seeker Strategies for the Digital Age In-Person, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Thu, 03-05-26, Intermediate English Classes (Evening), 6:00 PM, Danbury Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Storytime, 10:30 - 11:00 AM, Bethel Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Storytime, 10:30 - 11:00 AM, Bethel Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Mother Goose on the Loose In-Person, 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Wed, 03-11-26, Zero English Classes (Evening), 4:30 PM, Danbury Library
Mon, 03-02-26, New Game Testing & Taking the bus from RES! (7, 8, 9-year-olds ONLY), 3:15 pm - 4:00 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding	Tue, 03-03-26, Read to Mia, 5:30pm-5:45pm, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-04-26, Mother Goose II In-Person, 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Thu, 03-05-26, Meditation Sessions with Brahmakumaris Meditation Center, 6:00 PM, Danbury Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Time for Twos, 11:00am-11:45am, Brookfield Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Time for Twos, 11:00am-11:45am, Brookfield Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Storytime Adventures (Ages 3-4), 10:00am-10:45am, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-11-26, Basic English Classes (Evening), 6:00 PM, Danbury Library
Mon, 03-02-26, Teen Volunteering, 4:00 - 6:00 PM, Bethel Library	Tue, 03-03-26, Read to Mia, 5:45pm-6:00pm, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-04-26, AARP Foundation Tax Aide, 10:15 AM - 2:45 PM, Bethel Library	Thu, 03-05-26, Free Income Tax Help In-Person, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Creative Collective Discussion Group (Virtual), 10:30 am - 12:00 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding	Wed, 03-11-26, Community Mom Group: Fill my Cup, 6:00 PM, Danbury Library
Mon, 03-02-26, Library Board of Directors Meeting, 6:00 - 8:00 PM, Bethel Library	Tue, 03-03-26, Game Night for Adults, 6:00 - 7:30 PM, Bethel Library	Wed, 03-04-26, MTL Cookbook Club: "Marcus Off Duty: The Recipes I Cook at Home" (In-Person), 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding	Thu, 03-05-26, Free Income Tax Help In-Person, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Mon, 03-09-26, Kindergarten Story Time & Taking the bus from RES! (for Kindergarteners), 3:10 pm - 4:00 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding	Mon, 03-09-26, Kindergarten Story Time & Taking the bus from RES! (for Kindergarteners), 3:10 pm - 4:00 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding	Tue, 03-10-26, Creative Collective Discussion Group (Virtual), 10:30 am - 12:00 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding	Wed, 03-11-26, Junior Live Virtual Cooking: Japchae Stir-Fry, 6:00 PM, Danbury Library
Mon, 03-02-26, Cooking the Books: A Cookbook Club In-Person, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Tue, 03-03-26, Nonfictioneers Book Group, 6:00pm-7:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Wed, 03-04-26, Let's Learn Canva, 11:00am-12:00pm, Ridgefield Library	Thu, 03-05-26, Free Income Tax Help In-Person, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Mon, 03-09-26, Teen Volunteering, 2:30 - 4:30 PM, Bethel Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Teen Volunteering, 2:30 - 4:30 PM, Bethel Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Mother Goose for ages 12-24 months, 10:30am-11:00am, Ridgefield Library	Wed, 03-11-26, Live Virtual Cooking: Jewish Holiday Cooking: Passover Edition - Matzo Ball Soup, 7:30 PM, Danbury Library
Mon, 03-02-26, Adult Chess Club (In-Person), 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding	Tue, 03-03-26, Friends of the Library Monthly Meeting, 6:30pm-7:30pm, Brookfield Library	Wed, 03-04-26, MTL Cookbook Club: "Marcus Off Duty: The Recipes I Cook at Home" (In-Person), 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding	Thu, 03-05-26, American Mahjong Open Play In-Person, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Mon, 03-09-26, Teen Volunteering, 2:30 - 4:30 PM, Bethel Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Teen Volunteering, 2:30 - 4:30 PM, Bethel Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Mother Goose for ages 12-24 months, 10:30am-11:00am, Ridgefield Library	Wed, 03-11-26, Nature Book Club - 'H is for Hawk' (Off-Site), 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding
Mon, 03-02-26, Online: Next Chapter Book Club, 6:30pm-7:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Tue, 03-03-26, C.H. Booth Library Board of Trustees: Governance Committee (CANCELED) In-Person, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Wed, 03-04-26, Mindfulness Meditation for Adults, 3:30 - 4:30 PM, Bethel Library	Thu, 03-05-26, Free Income Tax Help In-Person, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Redding Reads Scripts (In-Person), 11:00 am - 12:00 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding	Wed, 03-11-26, Drop-in Art with Miss Nora In-Person, 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown
Mon, 03-02-26, Great Decisions: Foreign Policy Discussion Group (In-Person), 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding	Tue, 03-03-26, The Story of Ferragamo From Humble Beginnings to a Fashion Legacy with Toni McKeen via Zoom Online, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Wed, 03-04-26, Mindfulness Meditation for Adults, 3:30 - 4:30 PM, Bethel Library	Thu, 03-05-26, Free Income Tax Help In-Person, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Redding Reads Scripts (In-Person), 11:00 am - 12:00 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding	Wed, 03-11-26, Mother Goose on the Loose In-Person, 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM, CH Booth Library, Newtown
Tue, 03-03-26, Multicultural Bilingual Storytime, 11:00 AM, Danbury Library	Tue, 03-03-26, Hello, My Name is Sharkbait: A 2,000-Mile Adventure on the Appalachian Trail, 7:00pm-8:00pm, Ridgefield Library	Wed, 03-04-26, Open Hours in the Makerspace In-Person, 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Thu, 03-05-26, Free Income Tax Help In-Person, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Redding Reads Scripts (In-Person), 11:00 am - 12:00 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding	Wed, 03-11-26, Nature Book Club - 'H is for Hawk' (Off-Site), 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding
Tue, 03-03-26, Basic English Classes (Afternoon), 12:00 PM, Danbury Library	Wed, 03-04-26, Hybrid Program: English Learners Book Club, 11:00 AM, Danbury Library	Thu, 03-05-26, Free Income Tax Help In-Person, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Thu, 03-05-26, Free Income Tax Help In-Person, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Redding Reads Scripts (In-Person), 11:00 am - 12:00 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding	Wed, 03-11-26, Nature Book Club - 'H is for Hawk' (Off-Site), 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding
Tue, 03-03-26, Zero English Classes (Afternoon), 1:30 PM, Danbury Library	Wed, 03-04-26, Teen Creative Writing Club, 4:00pm-5:00pm, Ridgefield Library	Thu, 03-05-26, Free Income Tax Help In-Person, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Thu, 03-05-26, Free Income Tax Help In-Person, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Redding Reads Scripts (In-Person), 11:00 am - 12:00 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding	Wed, 03-11-26, Nature Book Club - 'H is for Hawk' (Off-Site), 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding
Tue, 03-03-26, Homework Help/Skill Builders, 3:30 PM, Danbury Library	Wed, 03-04-26, Humor, Heart, and Reflective Rural Stories with Michael Perry, 2:00 PM, Danbury Library	Thu, 03-05-26, Free Income Tax Help In-Person, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Thu, 03-05-26, Free Income Tax Help In-Person, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Redding Reads Scripts (In-Person), 11:00 am - 12:00 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding	Wed, 03-11-26, Nature Book Club - 'H is for Hawk' (Off-Site), 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding
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Tue, 03-03-26, Jade Rabbit Lantern Workshop, 6:00 PM, Danbury Library	Wed, 03-04-26, Humor, Heart, and Reflective Rural Stories with Michael Perry, 2:00 PM, Danbury Library	Thu, 03-05-26, Free Income Tax Help In-Person, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Thu, 03-05-26, Free Income Tax Help In-Person, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Redding Reads Scripts (In-Person), 11:00 am - 12:00 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding	Wed, 03-11-26, Nature Book Club - 'H is for Hawk' (Off-Site), 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding
Tue, 03-03-26, Tai Chi for Beginners, 6:00 PM, Danbury Library	Wed, 03-04-26, Python Programming For Middle Schoolers, 4:00 PM, Danbury Library	Thu, 03-05-26, Free Income Tax Help In-Person, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Thu, 03-05-26, Free Income Tax Help In-Person, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Redding Reads Scripts (In-Person), 11:00 am - 12:00 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding	Wed, 03-11-26, Nature Book Club - 'H is for Hawk' (Off-Site), 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding
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Tue, 03-03-26, Nonfiction Book Club: The Great Bridge by David McCullough In-Person, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Wed, 03-04-26, Read to Sydney!, 4:00 PM, Danbury Library	Thu, 03-05-26, Free Income Tax Help In-Person, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Thu, 03-05-26, Free Income Tax Help In-Person, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Redding Reads Scripts (In-Person), 11:00 am - 12:00 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding	Wed, 03-11-26, Nature Book Club - 'H is for Hawk' (Off-Site), 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding
Tue, 03-03-26, Weekly Drop-In Knitting Circle (In-Person), 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding	Wed, 03-04-26, Beam Me Up Book Club, 6:00pm-7:00pm, Brookfield Library	Thu, 03-05-26, Free Income Tax Help In-Person, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Thu, 03-05-26, Free Income Tax Help In-Person, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Redding Reads Scripts (In-Person), 11:00 am - 12:00 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding	Wed, 03-11-26, Nature Book Club - 'H is for Hawk' (Off-Site), 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding
	Wed, 03-04-26, New Library Committee, 6:00pm-8:00pm, Brookfield Library	Thu, 03-05-26, Free Income Tax Help In-Person, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Thu, 03-05-26, Free Income Tax Help In-Person, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM, CH Booth Library, Newtown	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Mon, 03-09-26, Social Stitchers Meetup, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Ridgefield Library	Tue, 03-10-26, Redding Reads Scripts (In-Person), 11:00 am - 12:00 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding	Wed, 03-11-26, Nature Book Club - 'H is for Hawk' (Off-Site), 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm, The Mark Twain Library, Redding
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Issues

Reprinted With Permission From The Hartford Portfolio, Yankee Institute's update on what's happening in Connecticut

Election-Year Labor Bill Rewrites Rules For Employers, Schools And Healthcare Providers

The General Assembly's Labor and Public Employees Committee has unveiled a 68-page omnibus proposal titled "An Act Concerning Workforce Development and Working Conditions in the State." Introduced in an election year, House Bill 5003 consolidates a wide range of labor-related changes affecting public employees, private businesses, municipalities, and schools.

Framed as a package to improve working conditions, the bill reaches into multiple areas of employment law, imposing new mandates, altering existing labor frameworks, and raising potential constitutional and fiscal concerns.

The Janus Issue

One notable concern involves language in Connecticut's public-sector labor statutes that still references agency fees — payments equivalent to union dues required from nonmembers as a condition of employment. In Janus v. AFSCME (2018), the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that compelling such payments violates the First Amendment.

Rather than removing that language, the bill modifies surrounding payroll deduction provisions, allowing employers and unions to negotiate how dues are collected through collective bargaining agreements, while leaving the requirement that nonmembers pay union-equivalent fees. While unenforceable under federal law, retaining unconstitutional language in state law creates confusion and raises questions about legislative intent. Following Janus, many states updated their statutes to conform with the ruling. Connecticut's failure to do so continues to generate legal ambiguity.

Mandatory Weather Pay

The bill would also require employers to pay workers their full wages when shifts are canceled due to inclement weather and remote work is not feasible. Employers would be prohibited from requiring employees to use accrued leave to cover those hours.

This effectively mandates pay even when no work is performed and no revenue is generated. For small businesses operating on narrow margins, a weather closure could result in paying full wages without corresponding income. The policy may also create perverse

incentives — making it financially harder for businesses to close during unsafe conditions.

Expanded Worker Retention Mandates

A worker retention law that currently applies to certain airport food service employees would be expanded statewide. Under the proposal, when service contracts change hands at hospitals, nursing homes, warehouses, shopping centers, apartment complexes, schools, or office buildings, incoming contractors must retain the previous contractor's workers for 90 days and may terminate only for just cause during that period.

The contractor size threshold would drop from ten employees to two, bringing nearly all small service businesses in the state under the rule.

The bill also removes an existing provision allowing successor contractors to decline to rehire employees whose attendance or performance records "would lead a reasonably prudent employer to terminate them."

Under the proposed framework, even employees with documented performance or attendance problems would have to be retained during the transition period.

The result is a significant constraint on business flexibility, particularly for small contractors inheriting employees they did not hire.

Statewide "Violent Patient" Registry

The bill would require healthcare providers to report incidents of violence against staff into a statewide system operated through Connecticut's Health Information Exchange. Those entries could generate alerts to other providers if the patient seeks care elsewhere.

Because designation would be based on clinical reporting rather than a criminal finding, the threshold for inclusion may vary. Patients experiencing mental-health crises, dementia, substance withdrawal, or acute medical distress could be flagged.

For vulnerable populations — including the elderly, people with cognitive impairments, psychiatric conditions, or developmental

disabilities — the practical consequence may be reduced access to care. Providers receiving alerts may be more reluctant to schedule appointments, accept transfers, or treat patients in non-emergency settings, especially in understaffed facilities already concerned about safety risks.

Although an appeals process is included, the bill does not clearly define timelines or removal standards. A disputed designation could remain active during review, potentially affecting access to care.

While staff safety is an important goal, the proposal raises questions about patient due process and unintended consequences for vulnerable populations.

Teacher Terminations and Binding Arbitration

The bill would shift teacher termination decisions away from local boards of education and place final authority in the hands of an independent hearing officer whose ruling would be binding.

This change removes elected local officials from the final decision-making process and limits districts' ability to challenge outcomes. Because courts typically defer to arbitration-style rulings, appeals would become more difficult. School districts would also share the cost of the hearing officer, adding financial strain to personnel disputes.

The proposal represents a substantial change in governance structure and local accountability.

Election-Year Timing

A public hearing is scheduled for March 3. The breadth of the bill — and the number of long-standing union priorities it addresses — makes it one of the most consequential labor proposals of the session.

Regardless of political context, the implications are structural. Businesses, municipalities, healthcare providers, and taxpayers will live under the rules created here long after the legislative session ends.

Sweeping changes to employment law warrant careful review, robust public debate, and transparent consideration. A bill of this scale and consequence deserves nothing less.

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First Selectman's Update



February 27, 2026

Dear Bethel,
Budget Update

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) and the Board of Finance (BOF) have received the budget presentations from our leaders of town departments and from the Board of Education. The current budget recommendation is for a 6.33% increase over last year, which represents a 5.11% increase in the town budget and a 7.14% increase in the school budget. The BOS will deliberate on the budget next Tuesday, March 3rd at 3 pm at Town Hall in Meeting Room A and prepare a recommendation to be presented to the BOF on March 10th. To follow the budget process and updates to the budget, visit <https://bethel-ct.gov/depts-finance> and select

the "Budget" link. Be sure to mark your calendars for the BOF Public Hearing on March 24th and the Annual Town Meeting on April 7th!

Potholes

Potholes are always a problem this time of year, so please slow down and use caution. Our highway crews repair potholes, but when conditions are cold or wet, the material doesn't bond as well to the surrounding pavement as when conditions are dry and warm. This means that a pothole may need to be repaired multiple times. If you hit a pothole and experience damage to your vehicle, you may submit a damage claim with the Town Clerk within 90 days. Your written notice must be specific and include, a description of the damage, the cause of the damage, cost of the damage, the exact time and date of the occurrence, and the precise location. Claims are investigated through the town's insurer. Investigators review the circumstances (is the pothole the sole cause of the damage, not speed or distracted

driving), the type and location of the pothole, determine if the town had been previously notified of the issue, and if crews had been given a reasonable amount of time to repair the pothole. Also, some potholes are as a result of utility repair road cuts and might be the responsibility of the utility company or their contractor. Bottom line, slow down!

I-84 Flex Lane

Last year the CT DOT completed a study of the I-84 corridor through our area. CT DOT is proposing to install a "Flex Lane" along I-84 in Danbury between Interchanges 3 and 7 that allow vehicles to use the median shoulder as a travel lane westbound during the weekday morning peak period and the eastbound during the weekday afternoon peak period. This project should help reduce backups on I-84 westbound and traffic on Stony Hill Rd. There are two Public Information Meetings on the I-84 Flex Lane project in March. The first meeting is an in-person meeting on Thursday, March 5th at 5:30

pm at St. Joseph Church Hall, 376 Main Street, Danbury. The second meeting is a virtual meeting on Tuesday, March 10th at 12 pm. For more information, visit www.i84danbury.com/upcoming-events-meetings/. More information on the Flex Lane project, visit www.i84danbury.com/flexlane/.

Hands-Only CPR Challenge

From a very impressed Health Director: Last we heard was Bethel was a contender for winning the "Hands-Only CPR Challenge," in honor of American Heart month! In addition to bragging rights, we win by having more residents ready to save a life. All it takes is watching a short, Hands-Only CPR video. Click [HERE](#) to watch the video and submit the two-question survey. Final results announced in March. Good Luck!

Bethel Mural Project

The Bethel Mural Project continues! The join your Bethel friends and neighbors for a "Community Tile Making" at the Kind Works Studio in

Stony Hill Wednesday, March 4th from 12 pm to 6 pm, and/or Saturday, March 7th from 10 am to 2 pm. Opportunities to paint the tiles will begin later in March. The finished tiles will be used for a custom Kind Works mural on the side of Town Hall! Learn more at <https://www.kind-works.org/events>.

There is a fundraising goal of \$6,000 that will be matched by the Sustainable CT Community Match Fund, so click [HERE](#) to learn about the fundraising campaign and how to contribute.

Restaurant Week

Don't forget Bethel Restaurant Week 2026 continues through this Sunday, March 1st. Restaurant Week is a great time to support your favorite eateries and try new ones, especially at a time when our restaurants can really use our support. Share your foodie pics on social media and tag [#bethelrestaurantweek2026](#) and be automatically entered in a Restaurant Week Raffle for a chance to win a \$25 restaurant gift card — the more you dine

and post, the more chances you have to win! For participants and menus: <https://bethelchamberofcommerce.com/events/2026/restaurant-week-copy>.

PBL Mini Golf

Mark your calendars for the Bethel Public Library Board of Directors at their "Beer, Wine and Mini Golf 'fore' the Library" fundraiser on Friday, March 27th from 6 pm to 9 pm. Adults ages 21 and over will enjoy beer, wine, and food from local restaurants and businesses while playing a round of mini golf. On Saturday, March 28th all ages are invited to play 18 holes. Tickets are now on sale. Check out www.bethellibrary.org/mini-golf/ for all the details, sponsors, and tickets!

Shoutouts

A huge shoutout to Julia Andrade for a perfect 10.0 on floor exercise at the Xcel Silver Division of the All American Challenge at Mohegan Sun arena! At 10 years old, Julia captivated the judges with a flawless routine! Thank you

coaches Ashley and Mihael-Catalin from Kratos Gymnastics in Bethel for helping young gymnasts to realize their dreams!

Good Luck BBDI IceCats in the SWC First Round on March 4th at 5:30 pm at the Danbury Ice Arena!

Congrats Elliot Hellmann with boys basketball, our Athlete of the Week! Elliot became a 1000pt scorer in the Wildcats opening round SWC win over New Milford!

Congrats to the Lady Wildcats with a win over Masuk this week in the SWC Quarterfinals. Good luck against Joel Barlow tomorrow!

Congrats to the Bethel DECA students who competed at the State Career Development Conference this week! A shoutout to Elijah Wright for 4th in Marketing Communications and to Aidan Badia and Yuvi Soni for placing 5th in Entrepreneurship Team Decision Making.

Have a great weekend!
Dan

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