City of Bristol
Economic and Community Development Board
INFORMATION TO ACCESS THIS MEETING
https://bristolct-gov.zoom.us/j/88677210794?pwd=M2xlTXBOVlRsSDROR1VlSmtnbmdudz09

Meeting ID: 886 7721 0794
Passcode: 379107

The regular meeting will be held on Thursday, April 4, 2024, at 5:00 PM. in Council Chambers, City Hall, 111 North Main Street, Bristol, CT.

1. Call to Order
2. Public Participation
3. Approval of Minutes
    a. Minutes: March 7, 2024
4. Consent Agenda
    a. Communications
    b. Economic Development/Grants/Marketing Report
5. New Business
    a. 273 Riverside Avenue RFP
    b. Incentives Update
    c. SEBBP Update
    d. Enterprise Zone Request
    e. CDBG Update and Conflict of Interest Procedure
6. New Business By Commissioners

7. Old Business By Commissioners

8. Committee Reports

    a. City Council Member Report

9. Adjournment

PER ORDER OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Jeff Caggiano
Mayor

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Regular Meeting
Thursday, March 7, 2024 5:00pm
City Hall Council Chambers, 111 N. Main Street and on Zoom

ATTENDEES: Mayor Caggiano, Council Member Panioto, Commissioners Mills, Goldwasser, Schmelder (Zoom) and Verikas (Zoom)

ABSENT: Commissioners Hick and Rasmussen-Tuller

STAFF PRESENT: Justin Malley - Executive Director, Dawn Nielsen – Marketing & Public Relations Specialist, Dr. Dawn Leger - Grants Administrator, Andrew Armstrong – Assistant City Planner/Dev. Coordinator for Public Works, and Sharon Arsego - Sr. Admin. Assistant

GUESTS: Bill Baker and Dan Steinberg from Targets Real Estate Equities (Zoom)
Tyler Mansour and Adam Girard from Budr Cultivation (Zoom)
Chris Maiorano from Allstate Commercial Driver Training School

I. Call to Order

Mayor Caggiano called the meeting to order at 5:00pm, and led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Public Participation

There was no Public Participation

III. Minutes: February 1, 2024

Mayor Caggiano entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the February 1, 2024 Board Meeting. The motion was put forward by Commissioner Mills and was seconded by Commissioner Hick. All were in favor and the motion was accepted into the record.

IV. Consent Agenda

A. Communications

B. Economic Development/Grants/Marketing Report

Mayor Caggiano entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda after confirming there were no revisions needed. The motion was put forward by Commissioner Goldwasser and was seconded by Commissioner Mills. All were in favor and the motion was accepted into the record.

V. New Business

A. 1249, 1251, 1255 Farmington Ave.

Justin Malley introduced Bill Baker and Dan Steinberg to the Board. He reviewed the Board's proactive approach to this property but helping to fund a traffic study. A traffic signal is necessary to unlock development at this site. Dan Steinberg shared the site plan for all in attendance and Bill Baker provided a history of the project. Plans for the location include a ProHealth Medical Office, a car wash, a national quick food restaurant. Justin Malley noted that surrounding businesses are pleased to hear about the traffic light at that intersection. Bill Baker and Dan Steinberg said their experience with the City of Bristol exceeded others they've had elsewhere. Appreciation was also expressed to Bristol's Public Works and Land Use offices, and the ARPA committee.

Unapproved

Mayor Caggiano entertained a motion to move Agenda Item VI. B. Industrial Committee Report up as the next item for discussion. The motion was made by Commissioner Mills and was seconded by Commissioner Goldwasser. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

VI. Committee Reports

B. Industrial Committee Report

Justin Malley summarized the recent Industrial Committee Meeting held March 5, 2024 at which Committee Members Mayor Caggiano, Mickey Goldwasser and Care Verikas were present. The Southeast Bristol Business Park (SEBBP) has a set of guidelines regarding the types of businesses that can be established there. Budr Cultivation's is classified as a manufacturer which is an allowed use in the SEBBP.

An Odor Mitigation strategy had been provided by Budr Cultivation to the members at the Industrial Committee Meeting and it was also shared with the ECD Board Members. Commissioner Goldwasser and the Mayor emphasized that Budr Cultivation is highly regulated by the State of Connecticut, and that Budr Cultivation has made a commitment to providing a positive environmental impact on the neighboring community. Commissioner Schmelder showed support for the use and location, and emphasized the need for verification of proposed measures having been taken to ensure due diligence.

Discussion continued including the Industrial Committee's agreement that Budr's Odor Mitigation strategy was comprehensive with a commitment to adjust if needed. The Committee was satisfied with the discussion and information gathered at the March 5, 2024 meeting.

Justin Malley noted that Budr is expected to bring thirty (30) employees to Bristol, and also expand on the existing building.

Mayor Caggiano then asked Commissioner Goldwasser to read the following proposed motion:

To approve the Budr Cultivation LLC business use – defined as Medicinal and Botanical Manufacturing per the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) – for operation of a cannabis grow facility on Lot #2 of the Southeast Bristol Business Park.

Further, the ECD Industrial Committee had approved, and asks the full ECD Board to approve, the Budr Cultivation LLC Odor Mitigation Plan – included as part of this motion as Exhibit A – as part of this business use approval.

Exhibit A: Budr Cultivation Odor Mitigation Plan & Steps

Odors can certainly be an issue with outdoor grows, greenhouses, standalone shelter grows, or portable pod growing units. However, our proposal is to grow in a sealed indoor environment where odors on the outside will be a non-issue.

The building envelope will be sealed with a two-component closed cell foam, which is comprised of medium density polyurethane and a resin. It will prevent any unwanted leaking or seepage of odors from cracks, gaps, or holes in the building's perimeter walls or ceilings. It contains zero ozone transmission and catalysts, is moisture resistant and fire retardant. In addition, air handlers will be fitted with CarbonWed LD Carbon Pleats with closed cell neoprene gaskets combined with MERV 7 HEPA filters. Carbon pleated filters remove a wide

Unapproved

range of odors and common indoor air pollutants. Advanced Carbon pleated filters have improved capability to filter nuisance and particulate type odors versus standard filters. High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters can theoretically remove at least 99.97% of dust, pollen, mold, bacteria, and any airborne particles with a size of 0.3 microns (µm). Isolation of the canopy and production areas from our office, administrative and most importantly, employee and visitor entrance, will also be a factor of the proposed building's success. It will create multiple separate air chambers between odor producing areas and common areas minimizing odor transmission.

The proposed facility is in an Industrial area with plenty of buffer so outdoor odor transmission will not create a nuisance to any neighboring properties or residential areas. In the case that odors are alleged to be a nuisance to our neighbors, remedial actions will promptly be instituted if needed. Having the cooperation and support from our local neighbors is a critical aspect of our business model. In the unlikely event an area of smell transmission is identified, we are prepared to address the issue quickly and easily by implementing the following options as appropriate:

- Portable HEPA filters can be introduced in effected areas such as the Global Industries Commercial Air Scrubber & Negative Air Machine w/ HEPA Filtration 3300CFM.
- Fixed units could also be attached to the ceiling or wall, such as a Clean Leaf Odor Eliminator. The Clean Leaf Odor 1000CFM was specifically engineered for cannabis cultivators to eliminate odor from even the most potent flowers.
- Ozone generators and other odor mitigation systems will be utilized if carbon filtration alone is insufficient.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schmelder.

Discussion then confirmed that there is no need to change an SEBBP Guideline as Budr Cultivation meets the SEBBP guidelines. Justin Malley emphasized the importance of referencing the Odor Mitigation plan for the process.

Mayor Caggiano called for a vote on the proposed motion. There were no changes, all were in favor and the motion was accepted into the record.

Justin Malley introduced Chris Maiorano Allstate Commercial Driver Training School to the Board. Mr. Maiorano provided a brief history of the business and their plans for use of the SEBBP Lots 10 and 11 which is a move from Meriden to Bristol. Most of the training is contained to the site location with room to grow with classrooms and space to lease. Discussion included the offering of safety protocols, their private student lessons and the positive impact that the rotation of students and staff has on the local economy and shops.

Commissioner Goldwasser read the proposed motions as written below:

To approve the addition of the following to the Southeast Bristol Business Park Design Guidelines and Regulations Section III.B.1.2:

f. Sixth Priority: Vocational Schools Operated for Profit

Unapproved

To remove the following language from the Southeast Bristol Business Park Design Guidelines and Regulations Section III.B.1.3e:

Uses requiring a special use permit are prohibited

The motions were seconded by Council Member Panioto. Justin Malley and Mayor Caggiano clarified the motions are needed to update the SEBBP Guidelines with this as a clearly defined use in there. There were no additional questions. All voted in favor of the proposed motions and the motions were accepted into the record.

A motion to return to the regular agenda was made by Commissioner Goldwasser and seconded by Commissioner Mills. All were in favor and the meeting returned to the next item on the regular agenda.

V. New Business

B. Route 72 Streetscape Update

Ray Rogozinski, Director of Public Works for the City of Bristol provided an update on two separate projects – Riverside Ave. project partnering with the DOT, and the Park Street project which is not in partnership with the DOT. The Riverside Ave project may require work with private property owners depending on some elements that are involved. Construction is scheduled towards the end of 2026. The Park St. project would run up to Rockwell Park. This project is fully funded by CIF grant funds. The goal is for a walkable downtown with scooter availability and a bike path, well-lit area and trees.

C. 273 Riverside Ave. Project Update

Justin Malley advised that the RFP is out now with inquiries and feedback already coming in. Due to the bid being out, he is limited in what details he can provide. Discussion included confirmation that the original developer has officially signed over the project and ownership will remain with the land bank at this time. Mayor Caggiano emphasized that this RFP was prioritized as a new developer signing on would not require the city to take ownership of the property at the specified date.

D. Grant Account Update

Justin Malley provided a grant claw back update of awarded but unused ECD Grant award money. These claw backs are after communication with grant recipients and the end of the grant contract lifespans. Current claw back total is $122,000.

E. CDBG Consolidated Plan Survey

Dr. Dawn Leger provide the Board with the CON Plan Survey Results. She visited twenty city boards and commissions, as well as boards of local non-profit organizations. She provided the history of the CDBG and the five-year comprehensive plan. The survey ran from September to December 2023, and was available is both English and Spanish.

VI. Committee Reports

A. City Council Member Report

There was no report.

Unapproved

C. CDBG Policy Committee Report

Commissioner Schmelder advised the Committee met and made some preliminary allocations. The amount of funds awarded to the city is not yet known and hope in the next thirty days a firm figure will be received from HUD. At that time the Committee would meet again to complete the final allocation awards. Dr. Leger advised that the HUD deadline is August 16, 2024.

VII. Old Business

Commissioner Goldwasser reported on a recent tour of the Wheeler Clinic building construction. They are on target for completion and it is impressive to see. Mayor Caggiano advised there will be 161 employees plus four large training rooms for events that will bring additional people into town.

Council Member Panioto asked about Rooster's Chicken and Waffles. Mayor Caggiano advised that they are moving forward at the Bristol site.

Commissioner Verikas asked about progress on the next steps to include businesses on road closures for city events. Justin Malley advised early word can be put out, and the challenge is how to include them in the early stages of planning.

Mayor Caggiano advised that the Board of Education approved the sale of alcohol at community theater defined events. It will not be stored on site, but come in with the event and also be taken out with it.

Justin Malley provided an update from Louis Silva at Community Investment Group (CIC) for the Revolving Loan Program. There was a question as the business is held in a family trust and requesting a personal guarantor. After discussion, it was suggested that this question go before Corporation Counsel for advisement, and not a decision for the Board to make

VIII. Adjournment

There was no further discussion. The Mayor entertained a motion to adjourn which was made by Commissioner Mills and seconded by Council Member Panioto. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 6:23pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Arsego
Recording Secretary

Unapproved

Hartford Business Journal
Thursday, March 7, 2024

Bristol wants bids for workforce housing in old Sessions industrial building

CONTRIBUTED

The former J.H. Sessions & Sons building in Bristol.

By Hanna Snyder Gambini

The city of Bristol is looking for developers interested in revitalizing the old J.H. Sessions industrial building as a workforce housing centerpiece to its larger downtown improvement project.

City officials are aiming to turn the remediated 3.5-acre property and abandoned mill building at 273 Riverside Ave., into "a vibrant workforce housing apartment community," with roughly 60 mixed-income units.

This housing project is part of a city effort to revitalize the Riverside Avenue corridor, which

runs parallel with the popular Memorial Boulevard Park and is a key gateway to the city's reenergized downtown, officials said in a release.

The 80,000-square-foot J.H. Sessions and Son Building is a brick former industrial building with high ceilings, wooden floors and exposed beams, and would be the centerpiece of the Riverside Revival effort, city officials said.

The Sessions company, a former trunk hardware manufacturer, ceased operations in 1984, and several businesses had been using the building since.

Last year, the city and New Colony took over management of the building, which is now vacant. The state contributed $2 million toward cleanup of the site.

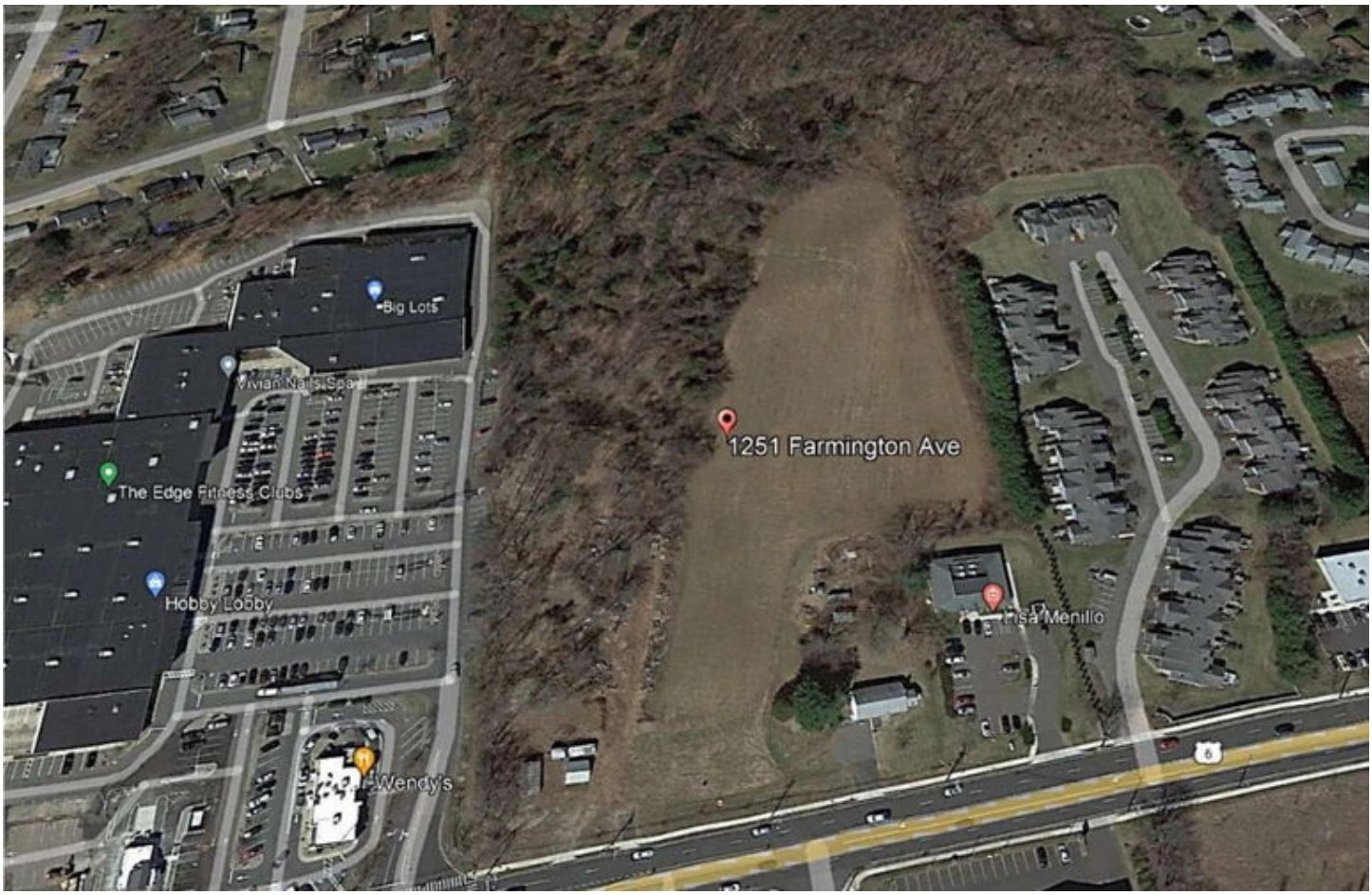
A state-funded streetscape reconstruction will enhance Riverside Avenue development and business activity along the corridor.

The endeavor is a partnership with the city of Bristol, New Colony Development Corp. landbank and the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development.

The city will accept bids through April 16. More information can be found at bristolct.gov/bids.

Hartford Business Journal
Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Developer buys Bristol site for mixed-use medical, commercial project



CONTRIBUTED

1251 Farmington Ave., Bristol

By Hanna Snyder Gambini

A Westport-based developer has purchased two Bristol lots for a planned mixed-use medical office and commercial site.

Targeted Endurance Bristol LLC, of Westport and Ponte Vedra, Florida, bought 1251 and 1265 Farmington Ave., for $3.28 million from the estates of Douglas and Jeanette Mahannah in a deal recorded March 1, according to city land records.

Plans for the nearly 9-acre mostly vacant parcel, which were approved in March 2023 by the

city Zoning Commission, call for a 30,000-square-foot medical office building, 5,500-square-foot fast-food restaurant with drive-thru, 3,500-square-foot car wash, and 160 parking spaces, along with sidewalks and a one-entrance driveway at the intersection of Farmington Avenue (Route 6) and Sheila Court.

The site sits near other mixed-use commercial properties including a retail center, small medical office, condominiums and fast-food restaurants.

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The deal was brokered by Joel Witkiewicz, of Advance Realty CT LLC.

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Two CT hospitals get new interim leader

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FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR BRISTOL

TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
HIGH 54	LOW 39	55 / 40	54 / 33	46 / 29	44 / 28
Few Showers	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Few Showers	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy

ALMANAC

Temperature
Bristol Wednesday

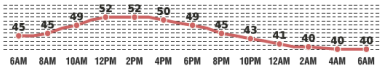
High	63
Low	35
Normal high	46
Normal low	28
Last year high	48
Last year low	26

Precipitation

Yesterday	0.00"
Month to date	4.57"
Normal month to date	1.36"
Year to date	12.36"
Normal year to date	7.16"

As reported from Hartford-Brainard Airport

24-HOUR TEMPERATURE FORECAST



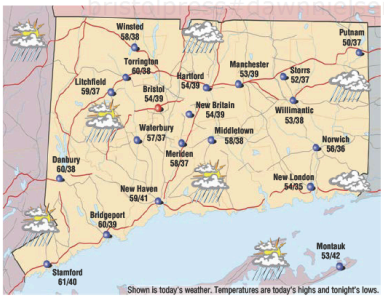
SUN AND MOON

	Rise	Set
Sun today	7:02 a.m.	6:59 p.m.
Sun Saturday	7:00 a.m.	7:00 p.m.
Moon today	9:51 a.m.	12:42 a.m.
Moon Saturday	10:35 a.m.	1:54 a.m.

MOON PHASES

First	Full	Last	New
3/17	3/25	4/1	4/8

REGIONAL WEATHER



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

CONDITIONS TODAY

UV Index for Today	
8 a.m.	0
10 a.m.	1
Noon	1
2 p.m.	1
4 p.m.	1
6 p.m.	1

0-2: Minimal
3-4: Low
5-6: Moderate
7-9: High
10+: Very High

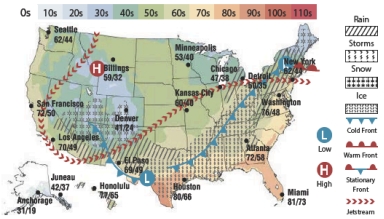
The higher the UV index, the higher the need for eye and skin protection.

TIDES

Saybrook Point	Today	Tuesday
High	3:05 am 3.7 ft.	4:05 am 3.4 ft.
Low	9:38 am -0.2 ft.	10:39 am 0.0 ft.
High	3:32 pm 2.7 ft.	4:32 pm 2.5 ft.
Low	9:41 pm 0.3 ft.	10:45 pm 0.5 ft.

New Haven	Today	Tuesday
High	3:41 am 6.7 ft.	4:37 am 6.3 ft.
Low	10:08 am -0.2 ft.	11:07 am 0.2 ft.
High	4:15 pm 5.8 ft.	5:14 pm 5.5 ft.
Low	10:21 pm 0.3 ft.	11:21 pm 0.7 ft.

NATIONAL WEATHER



NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi	Lo	Wx	Saturday Hi	Lo	Wx
Albuquerque	51	34	sh	53	37	sh
Anchorage	31	19	mc	36	23	sn
Atlanta	72	58	sh	73	51	pc
Boston	45	39	fg	53	41	mc
Charlotte	77	58	sh	75	50	pc
Chicago	47	38	pc	57	34	pc
Cincinnati	64	39	sh	61	41	s
Cleveland	46	36	sh	56	39	pc
Dallas	68	53	t	67	55	sh
Denver	41	24	ss	46	29	pc
Detroit	50	35	mc	56	37	mc
Honolulu	77	65	pc	78	64	pc
Houston	80	66	t	75	64	t
Indianapolis	55	35	sh	60	37	s
Kansas City	60	40	pc	67	38	s
Las Vegas	60	48	sh	63	49	mc
Los Angeles	70	49	pc	69	50	pc
Miami	80	74	pc	83	73	mc
Minneapolis	53	40	pc	47	26	mc
Nashville	70	46	sh	67	47	pc
New Orleans	80	65	sh	77	64	sh
Orlando	87	66	pc	88	67	pc
Philadelphia	72	45	ra	62	46	s
Phoenix	67	49	sh	70	50	s
Portland, ME	43	37	ra	47	39	mc
St. Louis	58	40	mc	67	41	s
Salt Lake City	57	36	pc	58	37	s
San Diego	66	50	s	67	51	pc
San Francisco	72	50	s	67	51	s
Seattle	62	44	pc	70	50	s
Washington, DC	76	48	ra	64	47	s

Weather (Wx): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, mc-mostly cloudy, cl-cloudy, r-rain, rs-rain & snow, sh-showers, sn-snow, ss-snow showers, fl-flurries, t/thunderstorms

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi	Lo	Wx	Saturday Hi	Lo	Wx
Amherst, MA	49	38	sh	56	40	mc
Catskill, NY	57	40	sh	58	42	mc
Hamden	58	38	sh	56	42	mc
Hyannis, MA	48	37	fg	46	38	mc
Newport, RI	49	39	fg	50	40	mc
New York City	62	44	sh	58	47	pc
Pittsfield, MA	51	34	sh	52	39	mc
Providence, RI	49	39	fg	54	40	mc
Poughkeepsie, NY	59	41	sh	60	42	mc
Southbury	59	38	sh	57	42	pc
Springfield, MA	52	38	sh	56	40	mc
Wallingford	57	38	sh	56	42	mc
Warwick, RI	49	38	sh	52	40	mc
West Point, NY	61	40	sh	59	45	pc

WORLD CITIES

City	Today Hi	Lo	Wx	Saturday Hi	Lo	Wx
Beijing	69	51	s	68	49	cl
Cairo	75	58	s	77	57	cl
Hong Kong	68	66	cl	70	67	ra
London	55	52	ra	55	45	ra
Mexico City	81	62	mc	82	63	s
Moscow	34	19	mc	34	33	cl
Paris	60	53	ra	59	50	ra
Rio de Janeiro	90	74	s	92	77	s
Rome	62	48	mc	60	50	ra
Sydney	71	64	ra	72	66	ra
Tokyo	60	47	s	63	52	s
Toronto	48	43	ra	49	36	mc

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Longtime manufacturer stays in Bristol with plans to expand, hire

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

BRISTOL — In an effort to connect the newly formed New England Spring with local resources during its expansion, Mayor Jeff Caggiano paid a visit to the company's facilities recently.

The company, located at 95 Valley St., was founded as Colonial Spring in 1946. It wants to hire additional employees during its expansion following its merger with Hardware Products of Massachusetts to form the new company.

As part of this merger, they are expanding their facility by 10,000 square feet to 55,000 square feet. Dawn Nielsen, marketing and public relations specialist for the City of Bristol, added the local Economic and Community Development Department provided a grant to assist with the build-out.

President Jamie Vale Da Serra has been president of the company for about four months and said that he is excited to carry on the legacy of a prominent Bristol company. He is looking to expand his workforce from to 45 employees from 36.

"The mayor said that he knows the Principal at the Bristol Technical Education Center and the three of us will be getting together soon to see what opportunities are available for the class that is graduating in May," said Da Serra.

Dawn Nielsen

Mayor Jeff Caggiano visits New England Spring and tours it with President Jamie Vale Da Serra.

Da Serra said he has job positions available for expeditors, customer service, floor technicians and quality control.

On the Mayor's Office Bristol CT Facebook page, Caggiano said he is "thrilled" that the newly merged company decided to remain in Bristol.

"New England Spring makes an essential component of the stethoscope," Caggiano said.

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BRISTOL POLICE BLOTTER

February 27

Dean Lapointe, 50, 53 Mark St., Bristol, Possible Intent to Sell and Dispense Narcotic

Kaitlyn Rose Shoplick, 25, Possible Intent to Sell and Dispense Narcotic

Andres Cruz, 20, 54 Bartholomew St., Bristol, Criminal Mischief 3rd Deg, Interfering with an Officer and Resisting Arrest, Disorderly Conduct

February 28

Jose Diaz, 35, 200 Blakeslee St., Bristol, Possession of Controlled Substance, Burglary 3rd Deg, Criminal Mischief, 2nd Deg, Larceny 3rd Deg

March 4

Marcel Turner, 24, 4 Cianci Ave., Plainville, Threatening 2nd Deg

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Friday, March 15, the 75th day of 2024. There are 291 days left in the year.

Today's highlight in history:

On March 15, 44 B.C., Roman dictator Julius Caesar was assassinated by a group of nobles that included Brutus and Cassius.

On this date:

In 1493, Italian explorer Christopher Columbus arrived back in the Spanish harbor of Palos de la Frontera, two months after concluding his first voyage to the Western Hemisphere.

In 1820, Maine became the 23rd state.

In 1917, Czar Nicholas II abdicated in favor of his brother, Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich, who declined the crown, marking the end of imperial rule in Russia.

In 1919, members of the American Expeditionary Force from World War I convened in Paris for a three-day meeting to found the American Legion.

In 1944, during World War II, Allied bombers again raided German-held Monte Cassino.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson, addressing a joint session of Congress, called for new legislation to guarantee every American's right to vote; the result was passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

In 1972, "The Godfather," Francis Ford Coppola's epic gangster movie based on the Mario Puzo novel and starring Marlon Brando and Al Pacino, premiered in New York.

In 1977, the situation comedy "Three's Company," starring John Ritter, Joyce DeWitt and Suzanne Somers, premiered on ABC-TV.

In 2005, former WorldCom chief Bernard Ebbers was convicted in New York of engineering the largest corporate fraud in U.S. history. (He was later sentenced to 25 years in prison.)

In 2011, the Syrian civil war had its beginnings with Arab Spring protests across the region that turned into an armed insurgency and eventually became a full-blown conflict.

In 2012, convicted former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich (blah-GOY'-uh-vich) walked into a federal prison in Colorado, where the 55-year-old Democrat began serving a 14-year sentence for corruption. (He was released in February 2020 after President Donald Trump commuted his sentence.)

In 2018, a pedestrian bridge that was under construction collapsed onto a busy Miami highway, crushing vehicles beneath massive slabs of concrete and steel; six people died and 10 were injured.

In 2020, the Federal Reserve took massive emergency action to help the economy withstand the coronavirus by slashing its benchmark interest rate to near zero and saying it would buy $700 billion in treasury and mortgage bonds. After initially trying to keep schools open, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said the nation's largest public school system would close in hopes of curbing the virus.

SPECIAL INSIDE
Springtime Home & Garden

BRISTOL
Patriot's Day ceremony April 15 Page 3

VOL. 153 NO. 67

The Bristol Press

Serving the Communities of Central Connecticut

BRISTOLPRESS.COM FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2024 $2.00

Bysiewicz honors Pi Day with pies

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

PLAINVILLE — Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz paid a visit to Nonnie's Italian Bakery in Plainville on Thursday for "Pi Day."

Pi Day, held on March 14, is a reference to Pi the math concept, which is found when you divide the circumference of a circle by the diameter. The result is always roughly 3.14, no matter how small or large the circle is.

But, Bysiewicz uses the day as an opportunity to visit and highlight a different area business. This year, she stopped into Nonnie's Italian Bakery at 104 E. Main St.

Nonnie's is owned by Nella Lastrina and her son-in-law Sal Rafala. The business began in 2022 when Lastrina entered one of her pistachio pies into a contest at ESPN and won.

"It was very exciting," said Lastrina. "After that, I started tobring my pies out to the town Farmer's Market."

She then decided to open her own bakery that same year. The business moved to Plainville at the end of 2022.

"We've had a wonderful reception from the people in Plainville," she said. "It is such a tight-knit community. People always tell me that they are so glad we are here. They are very supportive."

In addition to a variety of pies, cookies, cheesecakes, cannolis and other sweet treats made in-house,

See PI DAY ON PAGE 4

Brian M. Johnson

Lt. Gov Susan Bysiewicz at Nonnie's Bakery.

Plymouth Mayor Joe Kilduff

Plymouth proposed budget up 2.6% for next year

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

PLYMOUTH — Mayor Joe Kilduff's proposed 2024-2025 budget calls for a 2.56% increase over the current spending plan.

The 2024-2025 budget totals $45,963,184, an increase of $1,145,368 or 2.56% over the current budget of $44,817,816.

If approved, the mill rate would be set at 38.57, which would be an increase of 0.87 mills over last year's mill rate of 37.70.

The town government side of the budget totals $18,584,045, which is a $442,557, or 2.44%, increase over the 2023-2024 budget of $18,106,045.

The overall 2024-2025 budget also includes $741,282 in capital project expenses, an increase

See PROPOSED ON PAGE 4

Spring in Their Step

Dawn Nielsen

From left, Andrew LaForge - Membership Development Director, Central Connecticut Chambers of Commerce; Dawn Nielsen - City of Bristol Marketing & Public Relations Specialist; Jeanne Radcliff - CEO, Radcliff Wire; Jeff Caggiano, Bristol mayor; Charlie Radcliff – President, Radcliff Wire; Justin Malley - City of Bristol Economic & Community Development Executive Director; Susan Tyler - City Councilor.

INSIDE
Dear Abby 11
Classified 9-10
Comics 11
Editorial 5
Features 11
Horoscopes 11
Local News 2-4
Today in History 2
Obituaries 6
Puzzles 12
Sports 7-9
Home & Garden 12
Television 8
Weather 2

Radcliff Wire marks 65 years in city

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

BRISTOL — Charlie Radcliff recalls how his father started the family business 65 years ago to create a special crescent-shaped wire that no one else had ever made. During a tour last Friday of the company's Bristol facility he served as a guide of its history to city and chamber leaders.

"My father, Don Radcliff, started Radcliff Wire in 1959 to help spring manufacturers obtain special-shaped wire that wasn't available anywhere else," said Radcliff, president of the company.

It still offers wire that's difficult to find elsewhere, Radcliff said, citing the half-oval and crescent shaped mandrel wires the company currently manufactures for the medical industry, worldwide.

Bristol Mayor Jeff Caggiano, City Councilor Susan Tyler, City of Bristol Economic & Community Development Executive Director Justin Malley and City of Bristol Marketing & Public Relations Specialist Dawn Nielsen attended the event. They were joined by Central Connecticut Chambers of Commerce Membership Development Director Andrew LaForge.

Charlie Radcliff and his sister, Jeanne Radcliff, CEO of Radcliff Wire, shared an overview of the

See RADCLIFF ON PAGE 4

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DOT: Make St. Patty's Day a safe one on the road

CTDOT

As St. Patrick's Day approaches, the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT), the U.S. Department of Transportation, and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) issued a reminder to residents to celebrate responsibly and never drive impaired.

St. Patrick's Day is one of the biggest drinking occasions of the year, which signifies an increased risk of impaired drivers on the roads, posing a significant danger to both drivers and passengers, according to the CTDOT.

Between 6 p.m. on March 16 and 5:59 a.m. on March 18, a period encompassing the St. Patrick's Day holiday, 272 people were killed in drunk driving crashes from 2017 to 2021. In the 2021 St. Patrick's Day holiday period, 47 people were killed across the coun-

See DOT ON PAGE 4

The Bristol Press
Serving the Communities of Central Connecticut

One Liberty Square,
New Britain 06050

The Bristol Press
(ISSN 0891-5563)
is published each morning Monday through Friday and in a weekend edition except Christmas Day by Connecticut News Media Inc.
Copyright 2022, Connecticut News Media Inc.
CIRCULATION
For Circulation issues or questions, call 7:30 am to 4 pm. Monday-Friday and 8 am to 10 am Saturdays. 860-423-8466 ext 1 or email our circulation department at delivery@thechronicle.com
Closed Sundays.
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POSTAL INFORMATION
The Bristol Press, pending periodical #PP13, is published 6 days per week excluding Sunday. Periodicals postage paid at Bristol, CT. Post office address: P.O. Box 229 Willimantic, CT 06226. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Bristol Press, P.O. Box 229 Willimantic, CT 06226.

RATES
Single copy:
Monday - Friday $2.00
Saturdays $2.50
SUBSCRIPTION:
One Year: $375

Pi Day becomes a 'pie day' in Plainville

Continued from Page 1

Nonnie's Italian Bakery added deli meats and sandwiches two weeks ago.

"So far people really like the Italian combo," said Rafala.

The most popular pies, Rafala said, include blueberry, cream and apple crumble.

Bysiewicz said that she had heard a lot of good things about Nonnie's.

"I'm excited to see what you have here," she said.

Bysiewicz picked up a spinach and potato pie for herself and a chocolate and peanut butter pie for her husband.

"He has such a sweet tooth," she said.

She was also given a box of cannolis to share with her staff.

Nonnie's Italian Bakery, which has two employees, is looking to hire a cake decorator and a person to work an afternoon shift.

Nonnie's Italian Bakery is open Tuesday through Friday 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

DOT: Be careful on road

Continued from Page 1

try in drunk driving crashes, according to CTDOT.

In Connecticut in 2021, the last year of verifiable data, 112 people were killed in alcohol-impaired crashes, which represented almost 40 percent of all fatalities in the state.

"We ask everyone to celebrate responsibly this weekend," said Connecticut Department of Transportation Commissioner Garrett Eucalitto.

"We ask everyone to celebrate responsibly."

this weekend. That responsibility begins even before you go out to celebrate by deciding who will be your sober designated driver or whether you'll be using a ride-sharing service, taxi, or public transportation."

CTDOT urged people who plan to partake in St. Patrick's Day festivities to prioritize safety by refraining from driving if they have been drinking. Instead, individuals are encouraged to make responsible transportation arrangements to ensure a safe journey home.

Proposed budget increases

Continued from Page 1

of $179,803 or 32.02% over last year's capital projects budget of $561,479.

The Board of Education spending plan totals $26,673,298, which is an increase of $523,006, or 2%, over last year's education budget of $26,150,292. This is a reduction from Superintendent of Schools Brian Falcone's initially proposed 2024-2025 budget, which had called for $27,026,933 in education spending. That would have been an increase of $876,641 or 3.35%.

Funding for the school budget comes from $9,802,121 in state grants and $16,348,171 in taxpayer funds.

Salaries and benefits make up more than 3% of the proposed budget.

Radcliff family marks 65 years

Continued from Page 1

company and its history as they provided the tour.

The group toured the factory's annealing, drawing, shaping and rolling departments and saw a vast array of shapes and alloys used in the wires the company produces, prompting Caggiano to ask, "Where does all the wire go?"

"When I was a kid working here, I never knew, which is why I decided to actively learn," said Radcliff. "Today, I still know less than 70% of the applications, because the wire is everywhere."

Some of the more notable applications are in the industrial and aerospace industries. Industrial uses include wire that's used to create Heli-Coils® and cable strain reliefs on robotic welding machines. Radcliff also produces special shaped wire used in the manufacture of small gas engines.

In aerospace, Radcliff's special shaped wire locks rivets onto the skin of an aircraft. Also, special flat wire is formed to make clips that are used to attach fuel lines, and diamond shaped wires are used for Heli-Coil® replacement threads in engine assemblies.

The company also provides wire to the automotive and electronics industries, but it was the spring industry that gave the company most of its early business.

"There's a reason we're here," Radcliff said.

Radcliff explained that his father established the company in the heart of Connecticut's spring industry to be close to his customers. The development of that industry, Jeanne Radcliff explained, was primarily driven by 19th century clockmakers.

In 1850 Connecticut clockmakers produced 511,000 clocks, with Bristol producing more than any other city in the state, making it the leading clock producer in the country. The presence of many small spring manufacturers in Central Connecticut today is the result of that phenomenon.

Radcliff Wire still provides wire for springs used in clocks and watches, but now their customers include manufacturers of smart phones and tablets.

Radcliff Wire employs 29 people, half of whom have been with the company for 20 years or longer.

"We're a family-owned business," Radcliff explained, "and our employees become part of our family. They feel this, and they tend to stick around."

Radcliff expects Radcliff Wire, like its employees, to be operating in Bristol well into the future. "I'm hoping for another 65 years for Radcliff Wire," Caggiano said.

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Martin: 'Thanks, chief'

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

BRISTOL — Sen. Henri Martin thanks retiring Bristol Police Chief Brian Gould for his service to the city.

Martin, who represents Bristol as well as Harwinton, Plainville, Plymouth and Thomaston, issued a statement in response to the news of Gould's retirement when his contract expires in April.

Gould served with the Bristol police department for 30 years.

He was appointed as police chief in 2016.

"As a community, we say 'thank you' to Chief Gould," said Martin. "Thank you for your nearly three decades of service in protection of the people of Bristol. Thank you for your tireless leadership of our outstanding police department.

"Thank you for devoting your time to boosting recruitment and providing more resources for the police department.

"Chief Gould has helped make Bristol a special place to live, work and raise a family."

One-year-old boy dies from dog

EAST HARTFORD, (AP) — A 1-year-old boy has been fatally bitten by a dog in Connecticut. Police responded just after 3 p.m. Wednesday to a home in East Hartford where the child had been bitten several times by a dog. The death is under investigation. Police say two dogs were removed from the home.

BUSINESS
Some tips for filing your 2023 taxes Page 12

NATION
Could tugboats have save the day? Page 6

The Bristol Press
Serving the Communities of Central Connecticut
VOL. 153 NO. 81
BRISTOLPRESS.COM MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2024 $2.00

Jimmy's on River taking shape

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
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BRISTOL — Jimmy Driscoll met with Mayor Jeff Caggiano, city economic development leaders and City Councilor Sue Tyler Thursday to discuss the renovations of his restaurant Jimmy's on the River.

They were there to see how the restaurateur was utilizing the $60,000 economic development grant he received in 2022 after the restaurant was struck by a motorist.

Driscoll, a Bristol native, opened Jimmy's on the River at the restaurant at 249 Terryville Road in 2008, becoming the latest in a long line of restaurants to occupy the space. But, Jimmy's on the River has stood the test of time, becoming what Economic Development Director Justin Malley referred to as a Bristol "institution."

"We're excited to help Jimmy and his wife Janet," said Malley. "Jimmy's on

See JIMMY'S ON PAGE 4

Brian M. Johnson
Jimmy Driscoll, owner of Jimmy's on the River, with Bristol Mayor Jeff Caggiano

AP
Cars and trucks line up to enter the U.S. from Mexico at a border crossing in El Paso, Texas, March 29, 2019.

Poll: Many Americans worried about legal immigrants committing crimes

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Americans are more worried about legal immigrants committing crimes in the U.S. than they were a few years ago, a change driven largely by increased concern among Republicans, while Democrats continue to see a broad range of benefits from immigration, a new poll shows.

The poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found that many U.S. adults believe that immigrants contribute to the country's growth.

Meanwhile, the share of Americans who say that there's a major risk that legal immigrants will commit crimes in the U.S. has increased, going from 19% in 2017 to 32% in the new poll.

Republicans were more likely than Democrats to say that immigration is an important issue.

'Skunk'd: So sad'

The Johnson family, formerly of Bristol, transformed a family dice game into a Kickstarter venture called "Skunk'd." From left, back row, are the Johnsons: Ken, Robb, James and Dusty; front row, from left, Vicki, Wes, Mandy, Simon, Liz holding their pet dog Mookie.

Johnson family turns game into business

GARY LARKIN
@THEBRISTOLPRESS

As the Johnson family gathered around the table at its Cape Cod cabin during vacation, they often would take out board games to play. But there was one particular game that didn't call for a board that intrigued them the most.

And it eventually would get the late Evie Johnson to utter "You skunked; so sad, too bad!"

It was something they called "family dice."

Evie, the mother of the former Bristol political candidate Ken Johnson, introduced the game along with her husband, the late Warren Johnson.

Their son Ken, his wife Liz, and their children Dusty, Vicki and Mandy would take off to the retreat from their Bristol home.

Ken, who once ran for city council and mayor of Bristol on two separate occasions, recently retired from his second career as a real estate broker after working 22 years for Northeast Utilities. He and his family have spent the better part of the last decade living in Kissimmee, Florida, where he opened up a real estate brokerage.

"Both my wife and I are retired right now," Ken said. "We had a real estate brokerage in Bristol and moved to Kissimmee, Fla. about 14 years ago.

He and Liz felt they needed something else to do with their lives since they both have retired. And so, with the insistence of Dusty, they decided to form a company centered on the dice game they now call "Skunk'd."

"We formed a game company so we had an LLC to operate under," Ken said. "This is our first game. It's evolved from a game my parents and Dusty's grandparents taught us back in the 1980s."

Dusty, who has taken the reins as the creator of the game, gives the credit to his grandparents.

See SKUNK'D ON PAGE 4

Brian M. Johnson
Girl Scout Troop 66030 joins Rep. Francis Rexford Cooley as they make a donation to the Plainville Community Food Pantry.

Girl Scout troop helps feed hungry with food donation

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

PLAINVILLE — Girl Scout Troop 66030 donated 152 pounds of food to the Plainville Community Food Pantry Friday with help from state Rep. Francis Rexford Cooley.

The troop, which was formed last October, includes six Girl Scouts from Bristol and Plainville in kindergarten and first grade and troop leaders Kendra Pheasant and Kelly Daly. Troop members joined Cooley in making the donation at the food pantry at 54 S. Canal St.

The food was collected at the Troop's first fundraiser, which had them selling Girl Scout cookies at Gnazzo's, on March 23. They also col-

See GIRLS SCOUT ON PAGE 4

INSIDE
Dear Abby 11
Classified 9-10
Comics 11
Editorial 5
Features 11
Horoscopes 11
Local News 2-4
Nation 6
Obituaries 6
Puzzles 12
Sports 7-10
Business 12
Television 8
Weather 2

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The Bristol Press
Serving the Communities of Central Connecticut

One Liberty Square,
New Britain 06050

The Bristol Press
(ISSN 0891-5563)
is published each morning Monday through Friday and in a weekend edition except Christmas Day by Connecticut News Media Inc.
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CIRCULATION
For Circulation issues or questions, call 7:30 am to 4 pm. Monday-Friday and 8 am to 10 am Saturdays. 860-423-8466 ext 1 or email our circulation department at delivery@thechronicle.com
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POSTAL INFORMATION
The Bristol Press, pending periodical #PP13, is published 6 days per week excluding Sunday.
Periodicals postage paid at Bristol, CT. Post office address: P.O. Box 229 Willimantic, CT 06226.
Postmaster: Send address changes to The Bristol Press, P.O. Box 229 Willimantic, CT 06226.

RATES
Single copy:
Monday - Friday $2.00
Saturdays $2.50
SUBSCRIPTION:
One Year: $375

Skunk'd game driving Johnson family

Continued from Page 1

"The idea for Skunk'd originated from a game our grandparents introduced us to," Dusty said. "My Gramma Evie would exclaim 'you skunked. So sad, too bad!' whenever anyone failed to score. That was something that always stuck in my head."

Ken recalls how the dice game was added to the family's game collection one year in the 1980s. "They went on a trip to California one year," he said. "When they came back, they said 'Hey, we got a new game for you. It's a matter of speculation or legend of where the game came from or what it really is. We don't know."

The Johnsons were able to start their game's rollout through the online crowdfunding platforms Kickstarter and BackerKit.

"Our campaign on kickstarter wrapped up," Dusty said. "We are going to transition to a pre-order style website. Obviously, we have to start manufacturing sooner to deliver to our kickstarter promise state."

"Our funding goal was $7,000," Dusty said. "We ended last night (March 17) with over $11,400 total. About 128 people are backers. We had no idea or expectations when we started out."

While they used Kickstarter to attract investors, they are now utilizing BackerKit to create a pre-order site.

Rules of the game

Originally the game only called for six dice, a scoring pad and a table to play on. Over the years it grew to include cards that included enhanced rules. "It takes about 10-25 minutes for a three-to-four player game," Dusty said. "With the (enhanced) rules, there is a way to score a whole lot faster."

The basic rules are as follows: before play each player rolls six dice. The player with the highest roll goes first and sets the game rules by choosing from the cards and placing their chosen "Slightly Silly" and "Devoid of Reason" rule cards from the SKUNK'D deck face up on the table.

To start playing, each player, in turn, rolls six dice. Each player must first collect at least 500 points "in your den" (the playing surface) to put your score "on the board." After this, any number of points in your den can be put on the board. On each roll you must put at least one scoring die in your den. You may then either a) end your turn and put your score on the board, or b) continue rolling.

If you fail to roll at least one scoring die, on your first roll or any roll, you have SKUNK'D and you lose any points in your den for that turn; pass the dice to the player on your left.

The Johnson family
Warren and Evie Johnson

A player wins when they reach or exceed 10,000 points, then overtime SKUNK'D begins. Play continues to the left. A player who surpasses the leader's score becomes the new leader. Players failing to surpass the leader are out.

As for Evie and Warren Johnson, the dice game is a testament to the fun they exuded with their family.

They were well known in greater Bristol as educators who made an impression on many residents.

"She (Evie) spent most of her career at Northeast Elementary," Ken said. "Her first job was at Stafford. That's when she was Evie Ebb. She finished at Southside. She was the most well-known of all of us.

"My dad was an industrial arts teacher. He taught at Conard and Hall high schools in West Hartford. My dad became the administrator of the Work Experience program in West Hartford. He taught trades and living skills and was a master carpenter."

One memory Liz has of Evie was her attire for St. Patrick's Day.

"Yesterday (St. Patrick's Day) was my mother-in-law's birthday," Liz said. "She would have been 90. She would dress to the nines. She would wear green everything. Skirt, socks, the whole thing. She wasn't Irish either."

Jimmy's renovations coming together

Continued from Page 1

the River is what a small, family-owned business is all about. It's a well-known spot for Bristol residents."

City Councilor Susan Tyler said that she sometimes stops in for breakfast and introduced her brother to the spot.

"I also showed it to a real estate agent that I know, who now brings his family here," she said.

Mayor Jeff Caggiano said that his election campaign used to meet at Jimmy's on the River for breakfast. He said he enjoys their bacon, egg and cheese on a roll from Harvest Bakery.

"It's a good location and it will be great to have a restaurant with a patio for people to enjoy in the summer," he said. "It will be a great way to connect the West End with downtown."

Driscoll said that he always liked cooking food when he was young. Then, he worked for a time in retail management before opening his restaurant.

"Customers like our service, our hospitality, our great food and our cleanliness," said Driscoll. "We use only fresh fruit and vegetables - it's all fresh. When I go out, I want everything to be fresh and served the right way. So that's what I do for my customers. We love our customers."

Some of the popular breakfast items at Jimmy's on the River include French Toast, jumbo pancakes, Eggs Benedict, steak and eggs and omelets. They also offer lunch items such as burgers, hot dogs and clam strips.

Driscoll employs about 13 people at the restaurant and said he is looking to hire more.

"We're always looking for good people, especially when the renovations are complete," he said.

After one of the restaurant walls was struck by a motorist in 2022, Driscoll has used the grant he received from the city to make interior and exterior renovations. That work includes a new facade and a patio as well as a secondary door on the previously damaged wall.

Driscoll is hopeful that the renovations, which began in November, will be completed by May.

The Bristol Press READERS' POLL BEST OF 2023
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Girl Scouts donate 150 pounds

Continued from Page 1

lected food for the Plainville Community Food Pantry and received $100 in cash donations, which they turned into a Gnazzo's Gift Card for the food pantry.

Susie Woerz, executive director of the Plainville Community Food Pantry, expressed her gratitude to the Girl Scout Troop. She said that donations tended to be slower this time of year and that many are struggling to afford groceries.

"They did a great job for us," said Woerz.

Cooley, who added 16 pounds of food to the 136 collected by the Girl Scout troop, said it was great to see their commitment to the community.

"The Girl Scouts are a great organization that really gets the youth involved in civic-minded activities," he said.

Cooley told one of the youngsters that she did a "really awesome job." When Woerz was asked if they sold a lot of cookies, she smiled proudly and said "yeah."

Woerz explained to the Girl Scouts that the Plainville Community Food Pantry helps those who can't afford clothing and food by providing these necessities.

For more information on the Plainville Community Food Pantry, call 860-747-1919.

Items needed by local food pantry

The following are the most needed items at the Plainville food pantry:

- Soups - chicken, cream of mushroom, beef vegetable
- Ramen noodle soups — beef and chicken
- Past sides pouches/rice sides pouches
- Au gratin/scalloped potatoes/instant mashed potato pouches
- Coffee/tea
- Sugar/flour
- Pasta sauce
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Canned macaroni — ravioli and spaghetti
- Juice boxes
- Turkey gravy
- Cranberry sauce
- Hamburger Helper
- Canned chicken
- Cake mix/brownie mix and frosting
- Canned fruit/applesauce
- Cookies and crackers
- Cereal/instant oatmeal/syrup/pancake mix
- Canned carrots, beets, mixed vegetables and canned potatoes
- Baked beans/pork and beans
- Ketchup/relish/mustard/mayonnaise
- Dish soap/laundry detergent/shampoo
- Toilet paper/paper towels.

Economic Development/Marketing/Grants/CDBG Report

April 2024

Downtown/West End Updates

- Centre Square:
    - The City is working with PKL Ventures on shared parking options for its project on Centre Square Parcel 10. The project presently includes 30 units, with approximately 30 spaces available on-site.
    - Wheeler Health anticipates the completion of construction in June 2024 with a planned community open house to follow.
    - Carrier continues progress on the first phase of Centre Square Village and anticipates leasing the first units in September 2024
    - Ground work has commenced on the Hope Street Parking Structure, with construction expected to be complete in late summer.
    - Streetscape design work for North Main Street (in front of Centre Square Village) and eventually Main Street (in front of Parcel 10 project) is ongoing.
    - The final parcel available for development must temporarily be used for parking during the Hope Street Garage construction.
- New Cambridge Brewing is open for business, generally introducing a new brew each week for the first month or so. All offerings are brewed in-house by NCB, with new offerings from additional brewers in the coming months.
- A brief update on 273 Riverside Avenue will be provided at the April 4 ECD meeting.
- Design for the West End/Downtown bike trail is expected to begin in summer 2024.
- Design for the Route 72 Streetscape is ongoing. Staff hope to provide a brief update at the March 7 ECD board meeting.

Development Outside Downtown

- Industrial Update: ECD staff will provide a brief update on the Southeast Bristol Business Park at the April 4 ECD meeting.
- Route 6:
    - A groundbreaking for the large project next to the “Bristol Farms” plaza is scheduled for mid-April. (see Marketing update below)
    - The new Citgo gas station at the intersection of King St./Route 6 is under construction, and anticipates that the new gas station on Farmington Ave. heading toward Plymouth/Terryville should resume construction shortly.
    - Cannabis manufacturing: Bud’s Goods, a cannabis packaging company opening on Cross St., received City Council approval and is preparing to open asap. The facility will employ approximately 30 full-time individuals.

Business Incentives

Small Business Micro Grants

- Urban Collab Studios: Assisting with a renovation including lighting and soundproofing for a new podcasting studio.
- Pine Street Package Store: ECD is assisting with a Small Business Grant application to help with the cost of new signage infrastructure and fence.
- Bella Mia Salon: Assisting with a Small Business Grant for upgrades to a new store including new flooring and plumbing.
- Dunphy's Ice Cream: Looking to assist with upgrades to a new store including new flooring and plumbing.

State of CT Urban Jobs Tax Abatement for Manufacturers

- G&M Woodworking: This small manufacturing business is new to Bristol, with a new lease at 210 Redstone Hill Road. G&M is applying for tax assistance via the State-sponsored "Urban Jobs" tax abatement program.

Enterprise Zone

- ECD Board will hear a request for an adjustment to the previous EZ approval for the self storage project on Main St./Prospect St.

Downtown/West End/Forestville Façade Program

- Positano Plumbing is expected to begin its façade project soon, with several other building owners/tenants considering the program.

Forgivable Revolving Loan

- Community Investment Fund is working with several parties who have begun the application process. These includes a range of businesses, including several salons, a brewery, downtown restaurants, a training facility, and more. While several businesses are interested, it is up to the business to submit all required documentation.

Marketing

Marketing and Public Relations Initiatives:

1) Bristol Business Visits and Updates:
   - A ribbon cutting was held on March 1st to celebrate the opening of a new business, **Beauty By Julia** at 413 North Main Street.
   - Mayor, Justin, and Dawn visited the **Wheeler** construction project and were given a tour of the new building scheduled to open later this year.
   - Mayor, Justin, and Dawn met the new President of the newly merged **New England Spring** (formerly Colonial Spring) and toured the building renovation and expansion at 95 Valley Street.
   - **BristolWORKS!** hosted an event on March 20th to celebrate SBDC Day to recognize small businesses who have benefited from the Small Business Development Center's counseling, training, and advising services for start-up businesses. **The Bristol Bazaar**

and **Creative Art Jam Co.** were featured.
- On March 28th Mayor, Justin, and Dawn along with ECD Commissioners, City Councilors, and State officials attended a press conference where **Shady Oaks Assisted Living** was honored with the Small Business Administration's Family-Owned Business award for 2024.

2) Business Anniversaries: A presentation to **Radcliff Wire** acknowledging their 65th anniversary as a Bristol small business took place on March 8th.
3) The Bristol America 250 Committee to assist with the planning and marketing of Bristol to commemorate America's 250 birthday in 2026 held another meeting at the Bristol Historical Society on March 28th where a theme and branding ideas were discussed to begin working on a guide for educators and community groups to assist them in incorporating America's 250th birthday as it pertains to Bristol into their curriculum and events in 2026.
4) **Upcoming Events:**
- Mahannah Property/Prohealth at 1251 and 1265 Farmington Avenue will hold a groundbreaking ceremony on Friday, April 18th at 11 am.
- A tour of the new Wallace Barnes Accessible Trail will take place for the ARPA Task Force on Thursday, April 17th at 1:30 pm and a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and trail tours for the community will be on Sunday, May 5th.

Grants Administration

Grants Activity:

Bristol Fire Department:

- Training under the **AFG 2022** grant will commence in the coming months. The city received $375,498 for the FY 2022 AFG grant.
- The Grants Administrator submitted a **2023 Assistance for Firefighters Grant** application for a total of $378,944.40 ($344,494.91 from FEMA and a city match of $34,449.49).
- Determination has not been made yet about submission of an application for a **Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER)** grant. Deadline for this grant is April 12, 2024.

CDBG Program Highlights

- CDBG Year 50
  Still awaiting notification of the amount of Bristol's allocation at this time.
- Conflict of Interest Statement to be read into the record at the April 2024 meeting.