City of Bristol
Economic and Community Development Board
INFORMATION TO ACCESS THIS MEETING
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Meeting ID: 886 7721 0794
Passcode: 379107

The ECD Regular Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 11, 2024 at 5pm in Meeting Room 1-3 (Room 111), City Hall, 111 North Main Street, Bristol, CT.

I. Call to Order

II. Public Participation

III. Approval of Minutes

A. ECD Regular Meeting - June 6, 2024 Minutes

IV. Consent Agenda

A. Communications

B. Economic Development/Grants/Marketing Report

V. New Business

A. City & Town Development Act

B. 273 Riverside Avenue Update

C. Brownfields Update

D. Downtown Update

VI. New Business By Commissioners

VII. Old Business by Commissioners

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Industrial Committee Report

B. CDBG Policy Committee Report

C. City Council Member Report

IX. Adjournment

PER ORDER OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Jeff Caggiano
Mayor

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Regular Meeting
Thursday June 6, 2024 5:00pm
Council Chambers, 111 N. Main Street and on Zoom

ATTENDEES:	Mayor Caggiano, Council Member Panioto, Commissioners Goldwasser, Mills, Schmelder (Zoom), Provenzano, and Rasmussen-Tuller (Zoom)
ABSENT:	Commissioners Hick and Verikas
STAFF PRESENT:	Justin Malley - Executive Director, Dr. Dawn Leger - Grants Administrator, Dawn Nielsen - Marketing &Public Relations Specialist, Dave Sgro -Housing & Project Director, and Andrew Armstrong – Assistant City Planner/Dev. Coordinator for Public Works.
GUESTS:	Charlie Talmadge, Principal, Development Planning Solutions, on behalf of By Carrier, Inc.

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: May 2, 2024

Mayor Caggiano called for a vote to accept the Minutes from the May 2, 2024 meeting. A motion to accept the Minutes was made by Commissioner Mills and was seconded by Commissioner Goldwasser. All were in favor and the Minutes were accepted into the record.

IV. Consent Agenda

A. Communications

B. Economic Development/Grants/Marketing Report

Mayor Caggiano called for a vote to accept the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Goldwasser made the motion, and it was seconded by Commissioner Mills. All were in favor and the Consent Agenda was accepted into the record.

V. New Business

A. Façade Program Grant Application – 238 Main Street

Justin Malley introduced Charlie Talmadge to speak about the Carrier Group project at 238 Main Street (also known as the Funck Building). Charlie advised the Board of their plans to remove the stucco and restore the brick to match the remainder of the building to its

Unapproved

original character. He also reported that their site plan is being presented at the Zoning Commission meeting the following Monday, June 10th. Discussion confirmed that the maximum amount of a Façade Grant is $20,000.00 with a 50% match.

Charlie also shared a brief update on the Centre Square project, confirming that applications for the retail spaces are being accepted, while applications for the apartments will be taken closer to when the site is fully completed. Discussion included timeframes for work completion and paving of Main Street.

B. City & Town Development Act

Justin Malley advised that it's time again for the City & Town Development Act to be presented to the City Council and then put before the city residents for a vote. This is required every five years. First the Act would need to be approved by the City Council with a Public Hearing. It would then be provided to the voters on the election ballot in November 2024. This act has been successfully passed each time it's been presented.

Council Member Panioto read the following proposed motion:

Motion to recommend that the City Council approve, following a public hearing, a resolution to adopt the Connecticut City and Town Development Act, and that the following question, or similar, relative to the continuation of the adopted Connecticut City and Town Development Act be placed on the ballot at the election to be held on November 5, 2024:

"Shall the City of Bristol approve the City Council Resolution that adopts the Connecticut City and Town Development Act, which grants additional authority to aid and promote industrial and other forms of economic development?"

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Goldwasser. Discussion continued, including public outreach with an explanation and verbiage updates (if needed) to best advise city residents about this item and that it will be on the ballot. Mayor Caggiano advised that the final wording for all ballot referendums is decided by the City Clerk.

With no further questions, Mayor Caggiano called for a vote on the proposed motion. All were in favor and the Motion was passed into the record.

C. SEBBP Update

Justin Malley advised that the Southeast Bristol Business Park (SEBBP) Guidelines have been updated to reflect the language approved by the Board at a previous meeting. This is in regards to the Allstate truck driving school that is moving to the location. Copies of the updated guidelines are available to the Board at their request.

Justin advised the Board of several parties interested in Lot #3. One of them asked if the price of the lot could be reduced which is a question for the Board. Discussion was brief with consensus among Board Members that between the current market and the demand for

Unapproved

this particular property, the sale price will remain as is at this time. For the record, Lot #3 currently listed at $288,000.00 and Lot #6 is $156,000.00.

Justin asked the Board for guidance on timeframes for applications and presentations before the Board regarding this property. Discussion led to a proposed sixty (60) day period for all applicants going forward. For the current business already working with the ECD staff, it was agreed to extend to them two (2) final weeks.

Commissioner Mills read the following proposed motion:

Motion to maintain the current lot pricing for available lots within the Southeast Bristol Business Park and to give interested parties a maximum of 60 days of due diligence prior to submitting appropriate materials to ECD staff concerning the purchase of available lots.

The motion was seconded by Council Member Panioto. All were in favor and the Motion was passed into the record.

Justin advised the Board that the owner of Lot #8 is delinquent in providing site plan approval in the period of time provided to him. Justin advised Mr. Damaris that either a letter or a visit to the Board is needed to explain the situation. Mr. Damaris is working on this with his attorney.

D. Incentives Update

Justin Malley provided an update on the Revolving Loan Fund which is also covered in this month's Department Report. There have been twenty-six (26) inquiries, several which have been ineligible due to factors not related to credit. The Revolving Loan Fund is for businesses in Bristol and those moving their business into Bristol. Among the inquiries that were deemed ineligible were not-for-profit organizations and businesses outside of Bristol looking for funds for their own communities. Community Investment Corporation (CIC) expects to close on the first loan to Edgewood Wine & Spirits in the coming week. They're a family-owned business and have wanted to own the building they operate in, and this loan will allow them to do that.

E. Downtown Update

Justin Malley discussed the approximately one-acre piece still available at Centre Street. Mayor Caggiano noted that the Hope Street garage will be completed around April 2025. Wheeler opens July 2024 and initial parking will be in the area where the garage will eventually be built.

Mayor Caggiano added that PKL Enterprises wants a 30-apartment building vs. 20 and they will need more parking to accommodate that. The project hopes to be starting middle of 2025. As a reminder, these are the live/work units with work space in the front of the unit and living space in the back. The spaces above those will be apartments.

Unapproved

Mayor Caggiano also advised a new developer has expressed interest in the Mafale's Plaza project. This would be a mixed-use project with twenty (20) apartments above the retail space.

Also noted was Park Plaza where Better Half Brewing had been located. A real estate investment team is making improvements to existing apartments with the potential to include more, and also draw new businesses to the plaza.

Final discussion included two restaurants opening in the former Webster Bank building on Riverside Avenue, Golden Years who cooks their own food for their clients and will provide a take-out option for the community, and development of the former Bristol Press location.

VI. New Business by Commissioners

Commissioner Schmelder suggested that the plantings and landscaping done around the Progress Square area should be shared out to the City's social media channels. There was a brief discussion encouraging the sharing out of various property's seasonal displays as part of beautifying the city.

VII. Old Business by Commissioners

Commissioner Goldwasser asked for an update on the re-opening of the Mellen Street Bridge. Mayor Caggiano advised there are some minor items still needed and then it will be cleared to re-open. Commissioner Mills requested an update on the Dodge Village property. Justin Malley responded with follow up information about the stone piles on the site. The property owner advised Justin he intends to use the stones on the property.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Downtown Committee Report

Commissioner Goldwasser provided an update from June 4, 2024 meeting at which developers made their presentations in response to the Sessions Building RFP. Four companies presented: Spectra Development, Michaels, Beacon and NHP. Representatives from the city's consulting partner, Goman & York, were also in attendance. Commissioner Mills was encouraged by the number of workforce rate apartments discussed.

Justin Malley clarified that workforce rate housing is what's considered affordable for those earning between 60% and 120% of area median income. Mayor Caggiano advised that Goman & York used guidelines and a grading system with regards to the feasibility of the developer to complete it and to determine who would best present to the committee.

Next steps include further recommendations based on the presentations made on June 4th. Goman & York now has the proposed financial proformas per developer and they will use those details to further assess best candidates for additional discussions with the city. Justin Malley advised that there will be some assistance needed by the city such

Unapproved

as tax incentives. Mayor Caggiano advised that all proposals came in at the $29M mark with a mix in the number of apartments and their sizes. A follow up meeting of the Downtown Committee will be scheduled with Goman & York to continue the selection process.

B. CDBG Policy Committee Report

Commissioner Schmelder advised that some applicants were in person and on Zoom for the last CDBG Policy Committee Meeting held May 9, 2024. Dr. Dawn Leger confirmed that the ECD Board needs to vote on the recommendations which are listed in a proposed motion provided to the Board.

Commissioner Provenzano read the following proposed motion. It was agreed to waive a reading of the proposed allocations. Instead, the motion was brought forward as outlined in the complete motion shown below and dated Thursday, June 6th, 2024:

Motion to approve the recommendations of the CDBG Policy Committee for the award of subrecipient grant funding for Program Year 50 as follows, and to forward these recommendations to the City Council and Board of Finance for action:

2024-25 Bristol Proposed CDBG Allocation – Program Year 50

Project/Category	**Amount**
Housing Rehabilitation	
Residential Rehabilitation*	$250,812
Support Staff (for Rehab program & projects)	$125,610
Sub-Total	**$376,422**
Public Service (up to 15% of new funding maximum=	
Boys and Girls Club - Cambridge Park Outreach	$16,000
BristolWorks!	$4,000
Grace Community Food Pantry	$4,281
Human Resources Agency - Case Management	$9,000
Prudence Crandall – Emergency Shelter	$8,500
Salvation Army Bristol Corps	$11,000
Shepard Meadows - Scholarships	$5,000
St. Vincent DePaul Homeless Shelter	$17,000
United Way of West Central CT – Walsh Summer Work	$3,000
YWCA – Sexual Assault Crisis Services	$4,000
Fair Housing	$3,000
Sub-Total	**$84,781**
Public Facilities Projects	$0
Planning & Administration (up to 20% of new funding maximum=	$104,010
GRAND TOTAL	**$565,213**

*$240,000 for Single Family Residential Rehab Program, $10,812 for Multi-Family Program.
THEN add $55,000 from PI and Reprogrammed funds = $305,812 for Housing Rehab

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Goldwasser. Dr. Leger noted that during the Public Comment timeframe, the Annual Action Plan is available for viewing at the City's

Unapproved

website. This is submitted to HUD when all the recommendations are approved. Commissioner Schmelder commented news from St. Vincent DePaul regarding the significant rise in the elderly among the homeless. Dr. Leger emphasized that this is an issue across the state. Contributing factors include increased rents pricing people out of their homes. It was agreed that this topic should be part of the discussion for the five-year CDBG plan.

Discussion ended with no changes to the proposed motion. All were in favor and the motion passed into the record.

C. City Council Member Report

There was nothing to report.

IX. Adjournment

Mayor Caggiano called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Mills made the motion to adjourn which was seconded by Council Member Panioto. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 6:06pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Arsego
Recording Secretary

Unapproved

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It's possible to keep your home Page 12

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The Bristol Press
Serving the Communities of Central Connecticut
VOL. 153 NO. 134
BRISTOLPRESS.COM TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 2024 $2.00

Dylan Braccia
A Terryville Fire Department fire truck responds to the scene of small plane crash in Gentile's Campground Monday morning.

One injured following Terryville plane crash

DYLAN BRACCIA
@THEBRISTOLPRESS

PLYMOUTH — The pilot of a small plane was injured Monday morning when he crashed into Gentile's Campground in Terryvile, Plymouth police said.

Just before 11 a.m., the Plymouth Police Department, Terryville Fire Department, and Plymouth Volunteer Ambulance Corps responded after dispatch received a 911 call.

The plane was only occupied by the pilot, who sustained injuries and was transported to a nearby hospital.

Police said there was a fuel spill following the crash. So they kept people away from the scene until that was cleared.

Police are investigating the scene. Federal aviation authorities had been notified and are due to respond, police said.

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TFC Aaron Pelletier (8/6/89 – 5/30/24)

Funeral set for Wednesday in Hartford

CONNECTICUT STATE POLICE

TFC Aaron Pelletier with his family, Dominique, his wife; and their two sons, Troy and Zachary.

TFC Aaron Matthew Pelletier (Aug. 6, 1989 – May 30, 2024)

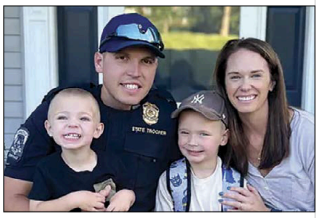
Funeral set for Wednesday in Hartford

Connecticut State Police Trooper First Class Aaron Matthew Pelletier, 34, of Southington passed away tragically on May 30, 2024. He was the beloved husband of Dominique Marie Pelletier.

He was born on Aug. 6, 1989 in New Britain, the son of Michael and Dianne (Fournier) Pelletier of Southington. Aaron graduated Southington High School in 2007 and graduated Central Connecticut State University in 2012.

He joined the ranks of the Connecticut Department of Correction on June 14, 2013. He worked as a correction officer assigned to the Hartford Correctional Center until leaving on June 12, 2015 to become a member of the 125th Training Troop as a State Police trooper trainee. On Dec. 17, 2015, Aaron graduated from the State Police Academy and was assigned to Troop H in Hartford, where he would later be

See FUNERAL ON PAGE 4



Connecticut State Police
TFC Aaron Pelletier with his family, Dominique, his wife; and their two sons, Troy and Zachary.

Summer Bloom

Dylan Braccia
A sign in front of the Fine Fettle cannabis store at 1214 Farmington Ave. in Bristol says all customers need to know about its opening.

Fine Fettle set to open cannabis shop soon

DYLAN BRACCIA
@THEBRISTOLPRESS

BRISTOL — Fine Fettle, a cannabis retail store, is opening June 21 on 1214 Farmington Ave.

Fine Fettle can be found throughout Connecticut, including Newington, Manchester, Willimantic, Old Saybrook, Norwalk, and Stamford. They also have three stores in Massachusetts, and six coming to Georgia.

Chief Operations Officer of Fine Fettle, Benjamin Zachs, said he looks forward to the opening and that Bristol is a really great location.

"It's a densely populated area and a town that's been really great with another dispensary in town," Zachs said.

Trulieve Bristol Dispensary is also located in Bristol right off Farmington Avenue as well. While Trulieve opened over 10 years ago in Bristol and recently relocated last year, Zachs believes that Fine Fettle will be able to compete.

"We think consumer choice is good. We really give a warm personal touch to what we do in Connecticut," Zachs said. "We have a really amazing loyalty program, and we have a really wide menu. We have a great relationship with vendors across the state. We offer really attractive bundling options."

> ***"We think consumer choice is good. We really give a warm personal touch to what we do in Connecticut. We have a really amazing loyalty program, and we have a really wide menu."***
>
> BENJAMIN ZACHS

Zachs said that Fine Fettle is locally owned and operated while also growing their own cannabis. The store is located in the same plaza as Shop Rite and Crazy Bruce's Liquor. Zachs said he was very happy with the parking lot space for the plaza.

Along with pharmacists Richard Carbray and Margie Giuliano, Zachs co-founded Fine Fettle. They offer medical and recreational cannabis. Their stores do not have bouncers or security in front to promote a welcoming environment for all.

Zachs said he plans to have discounts, swag, and food trucks for the opening.

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The Bristol Press

Serving the Communities of Central Connecticut

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Michael Paulhus

Plainville Town Manager Michael Paulhus sits next to a machine that is on display at BristolWORKS! Main Street office.

Paulhus urges residents to try Bristol agency

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

PLAINVILLE — Town Manager Michael Paulhus is encouraging residents to take advantage of workforce training opportunities with BristolWORKS!, which are also available to Plainville residents.

BristolWORKS!, located at 430 N. Main St., Bristol, is a workforce development training center. It is free for Bristol residents, but also open to residents of surrounding towns. Recently, BristolWORKS! received a grant from the Farmington Bank Community Foundation which Director Kim Ward Holley said can be used to assist with costs to attend classes

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Thirty-five years and counting

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

BRISTOL — Mayor Jeff Caggiano and city economic development leaders visited Sawe's Automotive to celebrate the company's 35 years in business.

Sawe's Automotive has been owned and operated by Darlene and Kevin Sawe since 1989. They were located on Broad Street for 22 years before moving to their current location at 9 East St. 13 years ago.

Darlene Sawe believes that it is their "awesome customer base" that helped Sawes Automotive remain successful for so many years.

"Our customers are our family," she said. "We are now taking care of our original customers' grandkids' cars."

Sawe shared a letter from longtime customers Dan and Barb Kozikowski thanking Sawes Automotive for repairing their truck and helping them save money.

"It is hard to find honest people today," the letter said.

Darlene Sawe said that customers know that they will be treated fairly at Sawes Automotive. In addition to taking care of customers' vehicles, they also help maintain the local ambulances.

Mayor Jeff Caggiano presented the owners with a plaque to congratulate them on their milestone year in business.

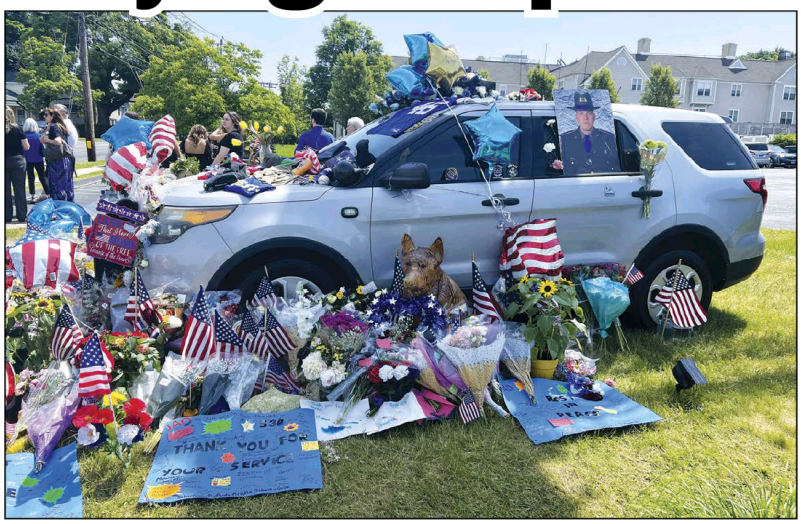
"For the past 35 years,

See LONG-TIME ON PAGE 4

Dawn Nielsen

From left, City Councilor Susan Tyler, Sawe's Automotive owners Kevin Sawe and Darlene Sawe, Mayor Jeff Caggiano, Dawn Nielsen, marketing and public relations specialist with the City of Bristol, and Justin Malley, Bristol economic development director.

Paying Respects



Dylan Braccia

An SUV parked in front of Della Vecchia Funeral Home in Southington is adorned with mementos, pictures and flags in memory of Trooper Aaron Pelletier, who was killed in a hit-and-run crash on I-84 last Thursday. The funeral is today in Hartford.

Community shows up for fallen trooper

DYLAN BRACCIA
@THEBRISTOLPRESS

SOUTHINGTON — On most Saturday nights Tom Lombardi would join Aaron Pelletier and his son, Troy, during their regular T-ball games.

Lombardi, a former town councilman, enjoyed their time together with their families on the baseball diamond in Southington. Troy was scheduled to play a game on June 1 with his father coaching alongside Lombardi.

Instead, that night did not play out like so many others had this season.

That was because State Trooper First Class Aaron Pelletier died while on duty helping a disabled car on I-84 on May 30 as another car swerved into the shoulder and clipped him before continuing on down the highway.

"It's an honor to know him. Everyone who knows him is devastated," Lombardi said.

Instead of the June 1 game, they found a way to pay their respects and let the kids play. Pelletier's

See COMMUNITY ON PAGE 4

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Community mourns Pelletier, prays for his family at local funeral home

Continued from Page 1

son, Troy, ran the bases before the game, and everyone came together to hug him at the end.

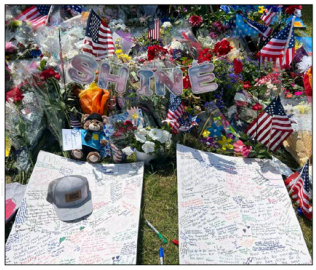
"It's a small gesture to show our sympathies," Lombardi said.

The team practiced together on Tuesdays, and played games on Saturdays, Lombardi said.

"The love for his family is evident," Lombardi said. "He never seemed tired. For him to be out there after, how many hour shifts, and come out to coach for a couple hours, it really shows how much he cared about his boys and his wife."

Lombardi went to Southington High School with Pelletier, but they didn't know each other due to age difference, Lombardi said. They didn't grow close until they started coaching together.

"I looked forward to continue coaching with him for years and watching our sons grow together," Lombardi said. "There's no words to describe how everyone is feeling. Ever since I got the call on Thursday, my body has been numb. His two boys were robbed of a father."



Dylan Braccia

Many people who showed up to Trooper Aaron Pelletier's wake at Della Vecchia Funeral Home left flowers, flags and mementos outside in his memory.

Since the tragic incident, the community of Southington has come together to honor and pay respects to him and his family.

Southington Town Council Chairman Paul Chaplinsky issued a statement the day of the accident.

"On behalf of the entire Southington community, we extend our deepest condolences and heartfelt prayers to the Pelletier family during this incredibly difficult time," Chaplinsky wrote in a release.

Chaplinsky announced that the American, state, and local flags in Southington will be lowered until sunset of the day of interment, in memory of Pelletier. He also asked everyone to participate in a moment of silence. All state employees participated, according to the Southington Town Hall.

"Let us all wrap our collective and supportive arms around the Pelletier family, as they try to make sense with this tragic event," Chaplinsky wrote.

U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal also released a statement about Pelletier.

"Trooper First Class Aaron Pelletier bravely answered the call of duty this afternoon and made the ultimate sacrifice," Blumenthal said on May 30. "His death is a tragic reminder of the dangers all first responders face at work, and a stark reminder to motorists that they must slow down and move over for stopped emergency vehicles. Failures to slow down and move over are common killers on our roadways and this loss should be a lesson that saves the lives of other courageous first responders.

"My prayers are with the Pelletier family and the entire Connecticut State Police as they mourn this loss," Blumenthal added.

A funeral is going to take place Wednesday starting at 11 a.m. at Xfinity Theater, 61 Savitt Way, Hartford. It is open to the public. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Aaron's memory to: Tunnels to Towers Foundation, at 2361 Hyland Boulevard, Staten Island, NY, 10306 or T2T.org.

The suspect in the hit and run -- Alex Oyola-Sanchez of Hartford -- is due to be arraigned in New Britain Superior Court at 10 a.m. Thursday.

He faces manslaughter second degree, driving under the influence, evading responsiblity involving a death, and a litany of motor vehicle infractions, police said.

BristolWORKS! eyed for Plainville

Continued from Page 1

for those who qualify.

"We have programs in manufacturing, healthcare, early childhood education, and information technology," said Ward. "Our manufacturing program is a foundational program. We are also working with local manufacturers to help them with uptraining their employees."

Paulhus shared a video about BristolWORKS! as part of the "Manager's Minute" videos that he regularly uploads on the Town of Plainville, CT, Facebook page.

"If you're interested in a manufacturing career, BristolWORKS! is the ticket for you," he said.

Paulhus said that his visit to BristolWORKS! was "very informative."

"I learned a lot and I'm happy to know that there are many courses available to Plainville residents," he said. "BristolWORKS! is a great match for Plainville, especially with its manufacturing programs. We have a lot of big and small manufacturers in town. We are hopeful that they will be able to be a feeder program to support our businesses."

Ward Holley said that there are also open spaces available for BristolWORKS!' Early Childhood Education program, which starts on July 2.

"There are tons of job openings in that field," she said.

For more information, visit bristolworksct.org, email info@bristolworksct.org or call 860-634-5333.

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Board certified Ophthalmologist
Hartford Hospital

Mary Gina Ratchford, MD
Board certified Ophthalmologist
Hartford Hospital
The Hospital of Central Connecticut

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Hartford HealthCare
Hartford Hospital

Long-time auto service marks milestone anniversary

Continued from Page 1

the Bristol community has relied on Sawe's Automotive Service to make sure their vehicles are taken care of," he said. "From a simple oil change to a more complicated engine replacement – Sawe's has continued to take care of their customers."

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PLAINVILLE POLICE BLOTTER

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VOL. 153 NO. 135

The Bristol Press

Serving the Communities of Central Connecticut

BRISTOLPRESS.COM WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 2024 $2.00

Thirty-five years and counting

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

BRISTOL — Mayor Jeff Caggiano and city economic development leaders visited Sawe's Automotive to celebrate the company's 35 years in business.

Sawe's Automotive has been owned and operated by Darlene and Kevin Sawe since 1989. They were located on Broad Street for 22 years before moving to their current location at 9 East St. 13 years ago.

Darlene Sawe believes that it is their "awesome customer base" that helped Sawes Automotive remain successful for so many years.

"Our customers are our family," she said. "We are now taking care of our original customers' grandkids' cars."

Sawe shared a letter from longtime customers Dan and Barb Kozikowski thanking Sawes Automotive for repairing their truck and helping them save money.

"It is hard to find honest people today," the letter said.

Darlene Sawe said that customers know that they will be treated fairly at Sawes Automotive. In addition to taking care of customers' vehicles, they also help maintain the local ambulances.

Mayor Jeff Caggiano presented the owners with a plaque to congratulate them on their milestone year in business.

"For the past 35 years,

See LONG-TIME ON PAGE 4

Dawn Nielsen

From left, City Councilor Susan Tyler, Sawe's Automotive owners Kevin Sawe and Darlene Sawe, Mayor Jeff Caggiano, Dawn Nielsen, marketing and public relations specialist with the City of Bristol, and Justin Malley, Bristol economic development director.

Michael Paulhus

Plainville Town Manager Michael Paulhus sits next to a machine that is on display at BristolWORKS! Main Street office.

Paulhus urges residents to try Bristol agency

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

PLAINVILLE — Town Manager Michael Paulhus is encouraging residents to take advantage of workforce training opportunities with BristolWORKS!, which are also available to Plainville residents.

BristolWORKS!, located at 430 N. Main St., Bristol, is a workforce development training center. It is free for Bristol residents, but also open to residents of surrounding towns. Recently, BristolWORKS! received a grant from the Farmington Bank Community Foundation which Director Kim Ward Holley said can be used to assist with costs to attend classes

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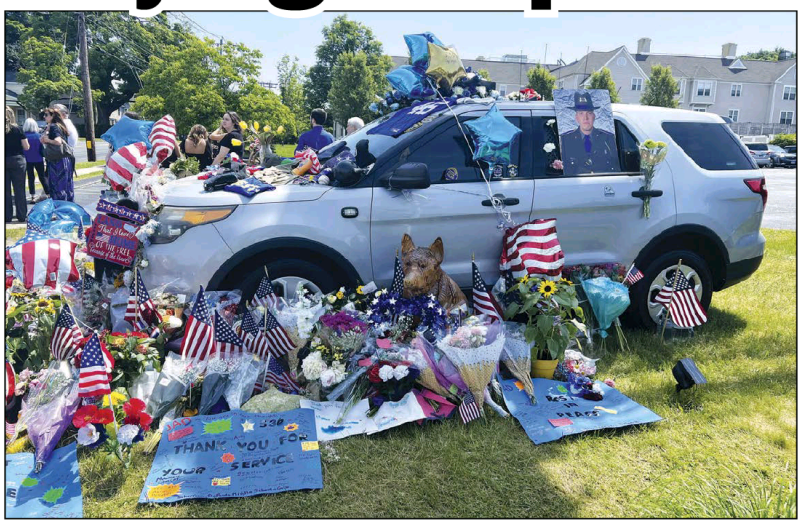
Paying Respects



Dylan Braccia

An SUV parked in front of Della Vecchia Funeral Home in Southington is adorned with mementos, pictures and flags in memory of Trooper Aaron Pelletier, who was killed in a hit-and-run crash on I-84 last Thursday. The funeral is today in Hartford.

Community shows up for fallen trooper

DYLAN BRACCIA
@THEBRISTOLPRESS

SOUTHINGTON — On most Saturday nights Tom Lombardi would join Aaron Pelletier and his son, Troy, during their regular T-ball games.

Lombardi, a former town councilman, enjoyed their time together with their families on the baseball diamond in Southington. Troy was scheduled to play a game on June 1 with his father coaching alongside Lombardi.

Instead, that night did not play out like so many others had this season.

That was because State Trooper First Class Aaron Pelletier died while on duty helping a disabled car on I-84 on May 30 as another car swerved into the shoulder and clipped him before continuing on down the highway.

"It's an honor to know him. Everyone who knows him is devastated," Lombardi said.

Instead of the June 1 game, they found a way to pay their respects and let the kids play. Pelletier's

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The Bristol PRESS BEST OF 2024

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Community mourns Pelletier, prays for his family at local funeral home

Continued from Page 1

son, Troy, ran the bases before the game, and everyone came together to hug him at the end.

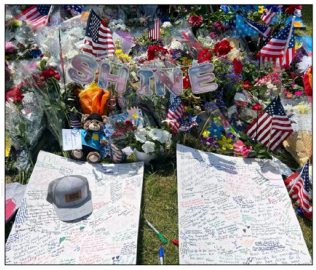
"It's a small gesture to show our sympathies," Lombardi said.

The team practiced together on Tuesdays, and played games on Saturdays, Lombardi said.

"The love for his family is evident," Lombardi said. "He never seemed tired. For him to be out there after, how many hour shifts, and come out to coach for a couple hours, it really shows how much he cared about his boys and his wife."

Lombardi went to Southington High School with Pelletier, but they didn't know each other due to age difference, Lombardi said. They didn't grow close until they started coaching together.

"I looked forward to continue coaching with him for years and watching our sons grow together," Lombardi said. "There's no words to describe how everyone is feeling. Ever since I got the call on Thursday, my body has been numb. His two boys were robbed of a father."



Dylan Braccia

Many people who showed up to Trooper Aaron Pelletier's wake at Della Vecchia Funeral Home left flowers, flags and mementos outside in his memory.

Since the tragic incident, the community of Southington has come together to honor and pay respects to him and his family.

Southington Town Council Chairman Paul Chaplinsky issued a statement the day of the accident.

"On behalf of the entire Southington community, we extend our deepest condolences and heartfelt prayers to the Pelletier family during this incredibly difficult time," Chaplinsky wrote in a release.

Chaplinsky announced that the American, state, and local flags in Southington will be lowered until sunset of the day of interment, in memory of Pelletier. He also asked everyone to participate in a moment of silence. All state employees participated, according to the Southington Town Hall.

"Let us all wrap our collective and supportive arms around the Pelletier family, as they try to make sense with this tragic event," Chaplinsky wrote.

U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal also released a statement about Pelletier.

"Trooper First Class Aaron Pelletier bravely answered the call of duty this afternoon and made the ultimate sacrifice," Blumenthal said on May 30. "His death is a tragic reminder of the dangers all first responders face at work, and a stark reminder to motorists that they must slow down and move over for stopped emergency vehicles. Failures to slow down and move over are common killers on our roadways and this loss should be a lesson that saves the lives of other courageous first responders.

"My prayers are with the Pelletier family and the entire Connecticut State Police as they mourn this loss," Blumenthal added.

A funeral is going to take place Wednesday starting at 11 a.m. at Xfinity Theater, 61 Savitt Way, Hartford. It is open to the public. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Aaron's memory to: Tunnels to Towers Foundation, at 2361 Hyland Boulevard, Staten Island, NY, 10306 or T2T.org.

The suspect in the hit and run -- Alex Oyola-Sanchez of Hartford -- is due to be arraigned in New Britain Superior Court at 10 a.m. Thursday.

He faces manslaughter second degree, driving under the influence, evading responsiblity involving a death, and a litany of motor vehicle infractions, police said.

BristolWORKS! eyed for Plainville

Continued from Page 1

for those who qualify.

"We have programs in manufacturing, healthcare, early childhood education, and information technology," said Ward. "Our manufacturing program is a foundational program. We are also working with local manufacturers to help them with uptraining their employees."

Paulhus shared a video about BristolWORKS! as part of the "Manager's Minute" videos that he regularly uploads on the Town of Plainville, CT, Facebook page.

"If you're interested in a manufacturing career, BristolWORKS! is the ticket for you," he said.

Paulhus said that his visit to BristolWORKS! was "very informative."

"I learned a lot and I'm happy to know that there are many courses available to Plainville residents," he said. "BristolWORKS! is a great match for Plainville, especially with its manufacturing programs. We have a lot of big and small manufacturers in town. We are hopeful that they will be able to be a feeder program to support our businesses."

Ward Holley said that there are also open spaces available for BristolWORKS!' Early Childhood Education program, which starts on July 2.

"There are tons of job openings in that field," she said.

For more information, visit bristolworksct.org, email info@bristolworksct.org or call 860-634-5333.

Long-time auto service marks milestone anniversary

Continued from Page 1

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The Bristol Press

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Mayor Joe Kilduff

Plymouth seeking state funding to improve downtown

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

PLYMOUTH — The Town Council has authorized Mayor Joe Kilduff to submit an application for state funding of the Downtown Transformational Plan.

Kilduff said the exact amount is to be determined.

"The Council approved a resolution not to exceed $13 million, but it will likely be less than that," Kilduff said.

The Downtown Transformational Plan has been created using public input during surveys and a public hearing this May at Terryville High School. Last Spring, Plymouth was approved for a $250,000 CT Department of Economic and

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Forestville Village has new sign

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

BRISTOL — Forestville Village has a new sign, thanks to the Forestville Village Association.

John Gianoni, president of the Forestville Village Association, said a new sign was created to replace one which was hit by a car a couple years ago. It was made by SignArt. The sign can be seen when people enter Forestville, coming down East Main Street from Route 72.

"It came out really good," Gianoni said. "We installed it about a week ago."

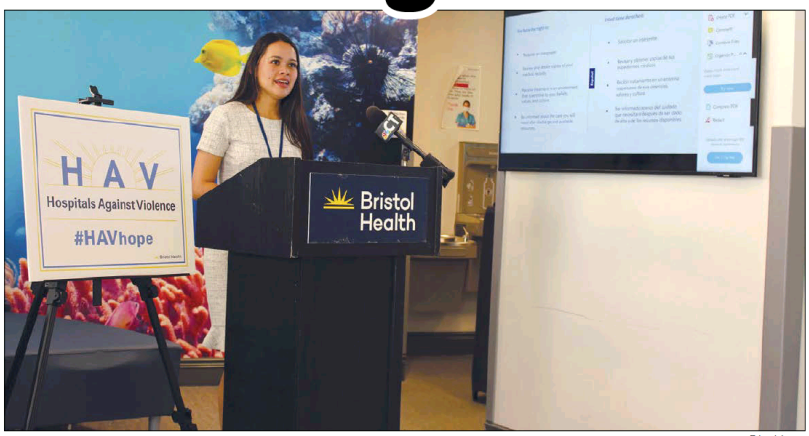
Gianoni said two members of the Forestville Village Association, MaryJane Oullette and Rey Ouellette of Forestville Village Association, paid for the new sign and work around the site.

Gianoni said planning for the project began last year, but was delayed by weather.

John Gianoni

Chuck Coloske, Jerry Richard, MaryJane and Rey Oullette and of Forestville Village Association.

Protecting Workers



Brian Johnson

Jenny Cinquemani, chief nursing officer at Bristol Health, speaking at the 8th annual Hospitals Against Violence event in Bristol Friday.

Bristol staff talk hospital violence

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

BRISTOL — Bristol Health staff spoke out against rising violence against hospital staff at the 8th annual Hospitals Against Violence event.

The event was held in the lobby of the Brault Emergency Center. Speakers included Christine Laprise, vice president of operations at Bristol Health and Jenny Cinquemani, chief nursing officer at Bristol Health.

Laprise said each June the Connecticut Hospital Association designates a day as Hospitals Against Violence Day in which hospital staff "speak about how more can be done to protect healthcare workers against undeserved violence." She said acts of intimidation and physical violence have been on the rise not only for healthcare workers working in hospitals, but also EMTs, hospice nurses and homecare providers.

Laprise thanked the American Hospital Association for their "relentless" efforts to advocate for this issue. She also thanked Kurt Barwis, CEO of Bristol Health, for his own efforts to "demand change" from legislators. She said he was not present at the event because he was at another event "advocating for hospitals."

Additionally, Laprise thanked Sen. Henri Martin, whom she said showed "unwavering support" last year for House Bill 6741, "AN Act Improving The Safety of Health Care Providers and Patients."

Laprise said that she is grateful for the support at the local state level. She also thanked the Bristol Police Department, whom she said have always been supportive

See PROTECTING ON PAGE 4

FILE

Gov. Ned Lamont has created a working group to develop ranked-choice voting legislation in the state.

Lamont creates working group for ranked-choice

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HARTFORD — Connecticut's Democratic governor announced Thursday the formation of a new working group to explore options and come up with a legislative proposal allowing ranked-choice voting in certain elections in the state.

Gov. Ned Lamont, who made a campaign promise to propose ranked-choice voting legislation, said he wants the bipartisan group to develop recommendations by the end of 2024 that would allow municipalities and political parties to use ranked-choice voting in caucuses, conventions, primaries, and certain municipal elections.

Current law in Connecticut does not allow ranked-choice voting, which comes in different forms but essentially allows voters to rank candidates by preference on their ballots rather than voting for

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The Bristol Press
Serving the Communities of Central Connecticut

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BRISTOLPRESS.COM WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2024 $2.00

Home2 Suites accepting guests

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

BRISTOL — The new Home2 Suites by Hilton on Century Dr. is now accepting reservations.

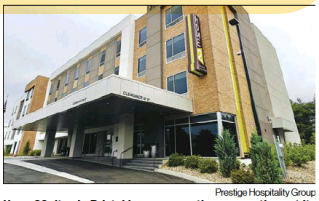
Teresa Dufour, founder of Teresa Dufour Media, LLC, said Home2Suites by Hilton invites guests to "to experience unparalleled comfort, convenience and hospitality in Bristol."

Home2 Suites is located next to the Bristol Event Center at 112 Century Dr. The Home2 Suites by Hilton completes the Bristol Event Center Campus, offering more than 230 guest rooms, 50,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor event space and 13 meeting rooms.

"As a brand renowned for its commitment to providing guests with a home away from home, Home2 Suites by Hilton promises an unforgettable stay for both leisure andbusiness travelers alike," she said. "Our hotel offers a modern and welcoming environment designed to cater to the diverse needs of today's travelers."

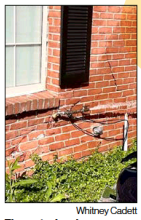
Dufour said the "spacious suites" are "equipped with all the comforts of home," including "fully-equipped kitchens, flexible workspaces and comfortable

See HOME2 ON PAGE 4



Prestige Hospitality Group

Home2Suites in Bristol is now accepting reservations at its location at 112 Century Drive.



Whitney Cadett

The exterior damage

Bristol bank will require renovations after being struck by vehicle

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

BRISTOL — The Bristol Thomaston Savings Bank will require renovations after being struck by a motor vehicle on Monday.

The bank at 120 Farmington Ave. was struck by a Mercedes sedan at 9 a.m. according to the Bristol Police Department. While the vehicle was extensively damaged, there were no injuries reported. Whitney Cadett, VP/Marketing Officer at Thomaston Savings Bank, said that the bank remains open following the accident.

"We promptly had the building inspected by professionals, and it has been confirmed to be structurally sound," she said. "The branch remains

See BRISTOL ON PAGE 4

The 'ESpot' To Be

Brian Johnson

John Deveau, owner of ESpot Gaming, cuts the ribbon with the Central Connecticut Chambers of Commerce, Plainville Town Leaders, friends and family.

New video game event center opens

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

PLAINVILLE — Town and Chamber leaders welcomed a new video game event center, "ESpot Gaming," to Farmington Ave.

The gaming center at 17 Farmington Ave. has been hosting several gaming tournaments and birthday parties since opening at the end of January. He also ran an event earlier this year at the New England Carousel Museum in Bristol.

The 1500 square foot space in Plainville has a capacity for 65 people. It features numerous stations where visitors can pay to play the most popular Nintendo Switch and XBox Series X games as well as retro classics like Doctor Mario. Numerous computers are set up for PC gaming and there are snacks and drinks for sale. The walls are adorned with video game posters and items from popular games, including the Hylian shield from Zelda. and the energy sword from Halo.

Owner John Deveau said that it has been his lifelong dream to create a space with a "fun vibe" for gamers to gather and meet new friends. He began to pursue the idea in 2019 and, despite a delay from the pandemic, made his dream a reality in Plainville. He runs the gaming center with the help of two part-time employees.

"We've gotten a good response from people who've stopped in," said Deveau. "They tell me that they haven't seen anything like it anywhere. I've had a lot of people stop in after going to Sweet Frog to see what we are about.

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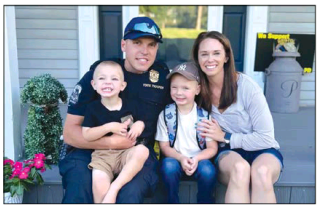

Trooper First Class Aaron Pelletier with his family. Pelletier was fatally struck by a moving vehicle on May 30.

YMCA seeking donations for Pelletier scholarship fund

DYLAN BRACCIA
@THEBRISTOLPRESS

SOUTHINGTON — The YMCA has announced a scholarship fund for the Pelletier family and is looking for donations.

Trooper First Class Aaron Pelletier was fatally struck by a moving vehicle on May 30. The YMCA announced it will cover the family's immediate needs regardless of the donations received.

The family are longtime members of the YMCA and both of the boys in the family are scheduled to attend the YMCA Camp Sloper this summer.

"With permission from the Pelletier family, the YMCA has set up a scholarship fund specific to the Pelletier family's membership and program needs at the Southington Community

See PELLETIER ON PAGE 4

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Bristol bank will need renovations

Continued from Page 1

open and fully operational. However, future renovations will be required to address the damage caused by the collision."

Cadett said that Thomaston Savings Bank appreciates the understanding and support of the community.

"We are relieved to report that all employees and clients within the branch at the time of the incident were unharmed," she said. "Our priority is always the safety and well-being of our clients and staff."

BRISTOL POLICE BLOTTER

June 6

Jose Luis Martinez-Ayala, 27, of 17 Grove St., Bristol, charged with disorderly conduct and assault third degree.

George Salmon, 59, of 1151 East Main St., Apt. 417, Meriden, charged with illegal sexual contact- victim under the age of 13, and sexual assault one- use or threat of force.

Daniel Deleo, 36, of 168 Mt Pleasant St., Meriden, charged with interfering with officer/resisting.

June 7

Jesus Andino, 18, of 200 Blakeslee St., Apt. 225, Bristol, charged with operate/parks unregistered motor vehicle, improper use-marker/license/registration, following too close with an accident, and failure to insure private motor vehicle.

James Joseph Peters, 54, of 13 Vance Dr., Bristol, charged with criminal trespass first degree, and violation of protective order.

Tamieka Johnson, 41, of 89 Rocky Hill Ave., New Britain, charged with criminal mischief third degree, and disorderly conduct.

Michael Ramchandani, 44, of 10 Warmingham Ct., Cheshire, charged with two counts of failure to appear first degree, and failure to appear second degree.

Jodi Deziel, 50, of 66 High St., Apt. 2A, Bristol, charged with illegal operation of a motor vehicle under influence of alcohol/drug, OUI motor vehicle with child under 18 as passenger, unsafe passing- left side, and risk of injury to a child.

June 8

Benjamin R. Dutkiewicz, 36, of 24 Atkins Ave., Bristol, charged with disorderly conduct, assault third degree, and threatening two-physical threat.

Christopher Kozikowski, 35, of 170 Blakeslee St., Bristol, charged with failure to renew registration, failure to obey a stop sign, and failure to insure private motor vehicle.

June 10

Amanda Santiago, 24, of 50 Bingham St., Apt. 16, Bristol, charged with disorderly conduct and assault third degree.

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Take part in free food scrap recycling program

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

BRISTOL — The City of Bristol is inviting residents to participate in a free food scrap recycling pilot program beginning July 1.

The food scrap recycling pilot program is being organized by the Bristol Department of Public Works, sponsored by Reworld (formally Covanta) and collected by Blue Earth Compost, based in Hartford. Food scrap collection bins will be placed at the City Yard, located at 95 Vincent P Kelley Road. The program is free to all Bristol residents.

"Blue Earth will collect the food scraps and haul them to Quantum Biopower, a state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection-approved anaerobic digester in Southington," said Dawn Nielsen, marketing and public relations specialist with the City of Bristol."In 21 days, Quantum can convert the food scraps into compost, and converts the methane byproduct inside the facility into bio-gas that generates electricity."

Nielsen said that Bristol pays to have municipal solid waste incinerated at the Reworld facility. Data from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) states that about 22% of the waste stream is food. The city's ultimate goal, she said, is to reduce the amount of tonnage incinerated by removing food from the trash. She added that other surrounding towns, such as West Hartford, are participating in similar food scrap recycling programs.

"Food scraps can be converted into compost, which improves soil quality, reduces the need for chemical fertilizers, helps to retain water in the soil, and reduces soil erosion," said Raymond Rogozinski, Director of Public Works. "Many food items cannot not be placed in a backyard compost. All food scraps can be composted through the anaerobic digester."

"If it Grows, it Goes" is the Blue Earth motto.

Acceptable items include fruits, vegetables, meat, poultry and bones, fish/shellfish and shells, dairy products, bread, pasta, rice, grains, eggs, eggshells,

chips and snacks, nuts and seeds, left over and spoiled food, coffee grounds, tea bags (no staples), paper towels and napkins used for food production (not for cleaning), cut flowers and pet food (no pet waste).

Two-gallon kitchen compost bins with compostable bags are available at the City of Bristol Public Works Office located at City Hall on the second floor. Those who participate in the program may also use their own container or bags.

ESpot Gaming celebrates

Continued from Page 1

And then, since we are a lot more affordable than a lot of other places, they stick around to play games together."

ESpot Gaming's prices are $7.50 an hour or $20 for three hours to use a PC or $5 an hour plus $2.50 per additional player to use consoles. People can also pay $35 for an all-day pass.

Andrew LaForge, membership development director with the Central Connecticut Chambers of Commerce said he was excited to see a spot like ESpot open.

"It gives people another option to go out and have fun," he said.

Katie D'Agostino, president and CEO of the Central Connecticut Chambers of Commerce said that ESpot is unique for the region.

"Kids and adults love to play video games so this will be a place for them to come, get together and have a good time," she said.

Plainville Town Manager Michael Paulhus said that he is "very pleased" to see a new attraction open in town.

"I thank you for choosing Plainville," he told Deveau. "This is a great new addition to our town."

ESpot gaming is open from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, from noon to 10 p.m. on Saturday and from noon to 9 p.m. on Sunday.

For more information, visit espotgamingcenter.com or call 860-846-0328.

Brian Johnson

ESpot Gaming opens on Farmington Avenue in Plainville.

Home2 Suites now open

Continued from Page 1

sleeping areas."

"Guests can enjoy the ultimate in relaxation and productivity," she said.

Lynn Dell, general manager of Home2 Suites, also expressed her excitement at the opening of Home2 Suites.

"We are delighted to open our doors and welcome guests to experience the Home2 Suites by Hilton," Dell said. "From our stylish accommodations to our convenient amenities and exceptional service, we pride ourselves on making sure that every guest feels truly at home."

Dufour said whether guests are visiting for a weekend getaway, an extended stay, or a business trip, Home2 Suites by Hilton "offers an array of amenities to enhance their stay." These include complimentary breakfast, a fitness center, a saltwater pool and an "extensive patio to enjoy." She added there are "an array of dining options" at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel.

James Frenis, CEO of Prestige Hospitality Group, who will manage the property, invited everyone to "discover what Home2 Suites has to offer."

"Our dedicated team is poised to surpass expectations, crafting unforgettable moments for our guests," he said.

Pelletier scholarship fund

Continued from Page 1

YMCA," YMCA CEO Mark Pooler said.

The goal is to raise over $12,000 to directly support all of the family's membership, child care, day camp and other program needs through the end of 2024 or longer.

The YMCA has already received grants from Main Street Community Foundation, Leading Ladies Immediate Response Fund and Werner Family Fund.

"We thank them for their contribution and for getting the Pelletier Family YMCA Scholarship Fund started with such great generosity. Any support for this fund from our YMCA members and friends would be greatly appreciated by the Pelletier family and the Y," Pooler said.

BRISTOL
City tax bill will be mailed this month Page 2

TERRYVILLE
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The Bristol Press
Serving the Communities of Central Connecticut
VOL. 153 NO. 142
BRISTOLPRESS.COM THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2024 $2.00

Bristol schools receive 4 'robots'

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

BRISTOL — MOVIA Robotics, Inc. has donated four Robot Assisted Instruction (RAI) systems to the Bristol public schools in memory of community members lost in 2022.

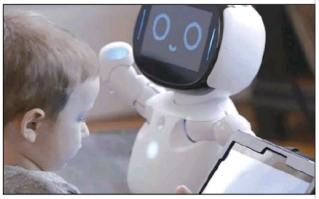
The donation was made in memory of 7-year-old Nicholas Parenti, who lost his life to a fast-moving brain tumor in Aug. 2022, as well as Lt. Dustin DeMonte and Sgt. Alex Hamzy, the two Bristol police officers who were killed in an ambush shooting that same year.

"We hope that these RAI systems can help children in the Bristol community and be another positive legacy of these beloved individuals," said Timothy Gifford, founder of MOVIA. "This is a small gesture, but it is one that we can uniquely provide."

Gifford said as a small business in Bristol, MOVIA shared in these losses to the community.

"First among them is the tragic loss of young Nicholas Parenti," Gifford said. "This was a personal loss at Movia, as Rob Parenti, who worked with us for several years, brought his whole family on board to help us

See MOVIA ON PAGE 4



MOVIA Robotics donated four systems to Bristol schools.

Sabrina Trocchi

Wheeler hosting 'Celebrate Bristol' photo contest

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

BRISTOL — Wheeler Health has announced a "Celebrate Bristol" photo contest, which is accepting submissions now through July 26.

Participants are invited to submit up to three photos by July 26 through Wheeler's website at wheelerhealth.org/photocontest. Images will be accepted from digital, cell phone or traditional film cameras. From these, 12 images will be selected by a panel of local community leaders. Winning submissions will appear in a 2025 Bristol-focused calendar produced by Wheeler, distributed free while supplies last.

"What makes Bristol

See CELEBRATE ON PAGE 4

'Carve Your Own Paths'

Dylan Braccia

Terryville High School Salutatorian Gia Tirino gives her speech to those in attendance at Terryville's graduation ceremony Tuesday night.

Terryville HS celebrates graduation

DYLAN BRACCIA
@THEBRISTOLPRESS

TERRYVILLE — The Class of 2024 from Terryville High School crossed the stage on their school's field to receive their diplomas Tuesday night.

Graduates came into school during the COVID-19 pandemic. Terryville Principal Michael Hults acknowledged this during his speech to students.

"We began our journey with the Class of 2024 returning from the pandemic, wearing masks and spending parts of the year engaging virtually. Thankfully we have moved past that time and truly have enjoyed the remaining years together," Hults said. "The Class of 2024 has been incredible and they leave with me knowing the future is brighter than ever before."

Salutatorian Gia Tirino gave a speech at the ceremony. She spoke about the difficulties transitioning into high school.

"As we navigated through the next four years, we started to realize that nobody truly pays attention to our flaws, or our mistakes. Rather, they focus on what makes us unique. Over time, we started to allow ourselves to be seen as who we are, and not as who we wanted to be perceived as," Tirino said.

Tirino said she recognized the change in herself. In doing so, she said she began to experience life authentically. She then turned to give a message to her class.

"Never hide your personality from the world. Never change yourself to fit in. And most importantly, never let the opinions

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The Louis Toffolon Elementary School Choir, which consists of 64 fourth and fifth graders, performed the Star Spangled Banner at Dunkin' Park before the Hartford Yard Goats game on Saturday.

Lamont vetoes bill that could lead to $3 million for striking workers

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HARTFORD — Democratic Gov. Ned Lamont on Tuesday vetoed a vaguely written bill to create a $3 million fund that could have financially helped striking workers in Connecticut.

Calling it commendable to provide assistance to low-wage workers, as the bill was described on the final night of the 2024 legislative session, Lamont said he was concerned about how the legislation lacked clarity, financial accountability and oversight.

"Without a clear mechanism for monitoring the transfer and utilization of the funds there is risk of inefficiency, mismanagement and lack of transparency in their intended allocation," he wrote in his veto message.

Lamont's veto brought swift criticism from organized labor.

"Governor Lamont's decision to veto this legislation is a tremendous disappointment to the women and men of the Connecticut Teamsters," said Rocco Calo, principal officer of Teamsters Local 1150.

He recalled how the Teamsters spent six weeks on the picket line in 2006 and how employers often use the threat of financial instability as a strategy at the bargaining table.

"Passage of this law would not lead to more strikes; it would simply help to provide fairness and balance when negotiations are at (the) most important part of the negotiations," he said in a statement. The two states with laws allowing striking workers to apply for unemployment benefits — New York and New Jersey — have not had more strikes since their laws were enacted, Calo said.

Terryville graduation

Continued from Page 1

of others stop you from embracing your authentic self because this truly is the key to success," Tirino said.

Valedictorian Milani Giovacchino began her speech talking about a video she found before the school year began. The video described a boy who struggled in school, but promised his mother he'd take the SAT. When he got the results, he received a 1480, an extremely high score. He began to try harder in school and set his sights on college. He graduated in a masters program and became a successful magazine entrepreneur.

That story ends years later with a letter saying there was a mistake on his grading of the SAT. He instead got a 740. In a reflection, he said his life changed when he started acting like a 1480, not when he got the 1480. Giovacchino connects this story to her own life.

"This story resonated deeply with me because I see myself as a parallel to that young high school student," Giovacchino said.

She describes her struggles starting in kindergarten when she struggled to complete tasks in a timely manner. After some testing, it was discovered that she had a learning disability that causes a delay in language processing.

"The reason I share this with you today is because I am proud of climbing what seemed to be an insurmountable mountain. I am proud of swimming against a raging tide. I am proud of finding a way around an impenetrable wall," Giovacchino said. "You see, I stand before you today because I've always believed I was a 1480. My journey is a testament to the power of mindset and a strong work ethic in overcoming any obstacle. It is a reminder that with determination and perseverance, we can achieve anything we set our minds to."

Giovacchino then spoke to her class, and told them to believe in themselves no matter the obstacles.

"As we leave this graduation ceremony today, we all have the opportunity to start anew. Carve your own paths and make great things happen," Giovacchino said.

MOVIA makes donation

Continued from Page 1

in our mission to support special ability learners through Robot-Assisted Instruction. Margo Parenti and their two boys, Alex and Nick, were often in the office helping out. Nick's light and happy energy are still felt in our headquarters on Federal Hill. We miss Nick so much."

Gifford said the ambush shooting of Bristol's "finest first responders" was "unfathomable" and "led to the death of the two exceptional officers."

"Although we did not have the privilege to know Lt. Dustin DeMonte and Sgt. Alex Hamzy personally, we honor their presence in the community and feel the loss to the Bristol Police Department and those who knew and loved them," said Gifford.

Amy Martino, director of Special Services of the Bristol Public Schools, expressed her gratitude to Gifford and MOVIA Robotics, Inc.

"We are grateful for Movia's generous donation and their mission to support students who require special services here in Bristol in a new, fun, and engaging way," Martino said.

According to moviarobotics.com, Robot-Assisted Instruction "helps children with autism and other special needs learn and grow by connecting with them in a way that's nonjudgmental and simpler than direct human interaction. From education to therapeutic intervention, RAI is breaking down barriers to communication."

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'Celebrate Bristol' contest

Continued from Page 1

special? Its parks and rivers? Its quaint brick buildings? Its collection of whimsical museums or rich manufacturing history? What better way to celebrate the beauty, diversity, and richness of this city than to engage the community in capturing and sharing photos for this project," said Sabrina Trocchi, president and chief executive officer. "We look forward to the many perspectives of city residents and visitors."

Trocchi said the contest coincides with Wheeler's move to a new facility, a "convenient, accessible" community health center and administrative headquarters at One Hope Street in downtown Bristol. The new location is expected to open later this summer.

For questions, call Joanne Janes, associate director of marketing communications, at 860-793-4403 or email jjanes@wheelerclinic.org.

PLAINVILLE POLICE BLOTTER

Colby A. Codraro, 30, of 778 West St., was charged June 3 with interfering with an officer/resisting arrest, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of a controlled substance.

Daniel J. Deleo, 36, of 59 Pierce St., was charged June 6 with larceny of a motor vehicle, first degree criminal trover, third degree burglary, second degree criminal mischief, second degree criminal trespass, criminal possession of a gun, first degree reckless endangerment, first degree unlawful restraint, third degree assault, second degree threatening and second degree breach of peace.

Julie Rich, 45, of 36 Murray Road, was charged June 9 with interfering with an officer/resisting arrest.

Thomas R. O'Brien, 35, of 438 East St., was charged June 8 with second degree failure to appear.

Jenneane L. Chambers, 40, of 1327 Stafford Ave., was charged June 12 with first degree failure to appear.

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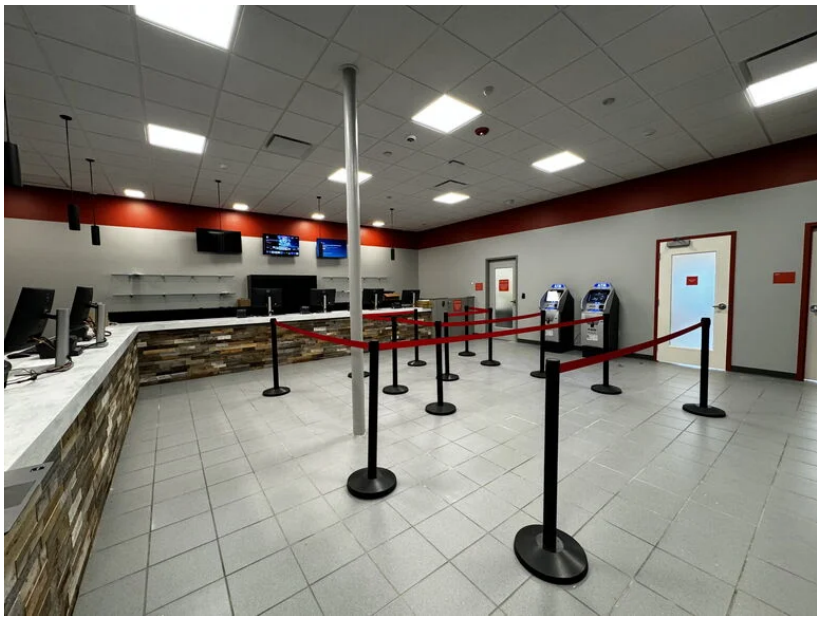
Fine Fettle opens Bristol dispensary next week



CONTRIBUTED

The inside of Fine Fettle's Bristol cannabis dispensary.

By Skyler Frazer

Fine Fettle's seventh dispensary in Connecticut is set to open in Bristol next week, the company announced.

Fine Fettle's Bristol store, which will serve both recreational customers and medical marijuana patients as a hybrid dispensary, opens at 1214 Farmington Ave., on Friday, June 21. It's the company's seventh dispensary in Connecticut overall and fourth equity joint venture partnership.

Fine Fettle COO Ben Zachs told the Hartford Business Journal that the store will open with 18 employees, many of which are industry veterans, or have worked at other Fine Fettle locations previously.

Company officials said local vendors and marijuana businesses will be at the opening day event, including Bristol-based cannabis edibles company SoundView, which recently launched in the state and has products on dispensary shelves. Zachs said all proceeds from

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the sale of SoundView products on opening day will be donated to the Boys and Girls Club of Bristol.

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For those that don't want to go in-person, delivery service from the new Bristol dispensary will begin opening day and extend across Avon, Bristol, Farmington, Plainville, Southington and Waterbury.

Fine Fettle joins The Healing Corner, a hybrid dispensary owned by multistate cannabis operator Trulieve, as Bristol's second retail marijuana storefront, which is the limit town officials put on the industry when drafting up regulations.

"It's actually our first store where we're coming in with an established competitor already there," Zachs said, comparing the opening to the company's other recent launches in Old Saybrook, Manchester and Norwalk. "The competitive juices are sort of flowing again."

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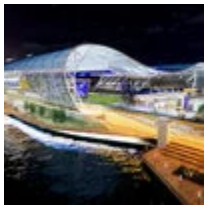

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Council to vote on police chief

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

BRISTOL — The City Council is expected to remove the "interim" tag from Mark Morello's title and vote to make him the city's permanent police chief at their meeting Tuesday.

Per the Bristol City Charter, there is always a required "testing period" before a police chief can be appointed. Up to five candidates can go through an internal search process before the Bristol Police Commission brings their choice before the City Council. Mayor Jeff Caggiano, who is also a member of the Board of Police Commissioners, said that Morello was the only candidate who came through this internal process.

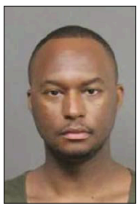
If approved at Tuesday's meeting, Morello will be sworn-in on Wednesday. Morello was previously named interim police chief in April, following the retirement of his predecessor, Chief Brian Gould.

"Mark Morello was the pick of our previous Police Chief, Brian Gould," said Caggiano. "He has been through the FBI training program and has served our community well for moma-

See MORELLO ON PAGE 4

FILE

Interim Police Chief Mark Morello



Connecticut State Police

Dejon Robinson

City man arrested for I-95 road rage incident

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

BRISTOL — State Police arrested a Bristol man Thursday for allegedly pointing a gun at another vehicle during a road rage incident in Old Saybrook.

According to a statement from the Connecticut State Police, personnel from Troop F-Westbrook were dispatched for the incident which involved the display of a firearm on I-95 southbound in Old Saybrook at approximately 6:20 p.m. on June 20.

"The victims reported repeated brake-checking and abrupt lane changes from the accused's vehicle," the statement read. "The operator of the victim vehicle reported that the accused's vehi-

See MAN ON PAGE 4

In Fine Fettle

Fine Fettle

Benjamin Zachs and other Fine Fettle employees, along with Mayor Jeff Caggiano and members of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce cut the ribbon to open Bristol's Fine Fettle location.

Cannabis dispensary opens in Bristol plaza

DYLAN BRACCIA
@THEBRISTOLPRESS

BRISTOL — The cannabis manufacturer and dispensary Fine Fettle officially added the seventh shop to its business in the state when it held a grand opening June 21. Mayor Jeff Caggiano and members of the Chamber of Commerce were in attendance to help celebrate.

Fine Fettle's was also at the opening.

"It was great. The opening was smooth," said company Chief Operating Officer Benjamin Zachs, who was also at the Shop Rite Plaza, at 1214 Farmington Ave. location.

There was about 30 people outside of the store for the ribbon cutting. Zachs said there was another 20 people that had already placed online orders as they opened.

Also at the opening were local vendors, including Curaleaf, Wana, and Soundview, along with a

See CANNABIS ON PAGE 4

FILE

TJ Zagurski

Special election for seat on ballot

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

PLYMOUTH — The Town Council has decided to hold the special election to fill its council vacancy in November.

"After some discussion, it was determined by the Town Council to hold the special election this November rather than hold a separate election at another time," said Mayor Joe Kilduff.

Kilduff said that he believes that the council's decision was the correct one for several reasons.

"A presidential election will typically have around a 70% voter turnout, where we would only expect a few hundred voters to turn out for a separate election for one council seat," said Kilduff. "A separate election would require staffing for five days of early voting, something that wasn't budgeted for. Holding this election in November will allow for 14 days of early voting without adding any additional costs."

Kilduff said that the town has confirmed they will be able to have 14 days of early voting for the town council position if the special election is placed on the November ballot with

See ZAGURSKI ON PAGE 4

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Morello vote tonight

Continued from Page 1

ny years. I am excited to see him taking on this position."

Morello graduated from the 285th session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia, last year.

Morello said that it has been "an absolute honor" to protect and serve the city of Bristol for 24 years.

"I found that the past couple of months serving as interim police chief were very helpful in preparing me for the full time role," he said. "It will be amazing to be entrusted with the police chief position."

When he was appointed as interim police chief, Morello said that his goals would include maintaining the current staffing level, growing it if possible, and continuing Gould's work on trying to secure funding for a new building.

Additionally, Morello said that he will pursue the national CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies) accreditation for the Bristol Police Department.

"The Bristol Police Department already has the highest level of state accreditation," he said. "I am hopeful that we can achieve the highest national accreditation as well this year."

Morello's parents immigrated to the U.S. from Sicily. He grew up in Middletown and graduated from Xavier High School. His educational background includes a B.A. in Public Policy & Government with a minor in criminal justice from Eastern Connecticut State University and a master's degree in public safety with the University of Virginia.

Before serving as interim police chief, Morello was deputy chief of administration, deputy chief of patrol operations, lieutenant of internal affairs and community relations and lieutenant of

Man showing gun busted

Continued from Page 1

cle then pulled alongside them on the left side, at which point they observed the operator pointing a firearm towards them through the open passenger side window. The victims obtained identifying information of the accused operator, to include vehicle description, license plate, the driver's descriptors and a description of the firearm he brandished."

The state police reported that the passengers within the victim vehicle attempted to obtain photographs, and the accused operator subsequently accelerated out of view. Both vehicles had exited I-95 to Route 9 north at that point in time.

"Given the descriptors provided, troopers were stationed further north on Route 9 and located the accused's vehicle shortly thereafter," state police said. "Troopers stopped the accused on Route 9 in Middletown, where the accused was identified."

Dejon Robinson, born Nov. 19, 1993 was charged with three counts of risk of injury to a minor, four counts of second degree breach of peace, four counts of first degree threatening with a firearm and four counts of first degree reckless endangerment.

A firearm matching the description provided by the victims was also recovered from Robinson's vehicle, which was registered to him. Robinson had passengers in his own vehicle, which included juveniles.

Robinson was arrested without incident and transported to Troop F for processing. He was later released from custody on a $10,000 bond and is scheduled to appear at Middletown Superior Court on July 2.

AP

Activists wait as the Supreme Court announces decisions, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Friday, June 21.

Supreme Court rejects challenge to CT vax law

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Monday rejected a challenge to a 2021 Connecticut law that eliminated the state's longstanding religious exemption from childhood immunization requirements for schools, colleges and day care facilities.

The justices did not comment in leaving in place a federal appeals court ruling that upheld the contentious law. A lower court judge had earlier dismissed the lawsuit challenging the law, which drew protests at the state Capitol.

Connecticut law requires students to receive certain immunizations before enrolling in school, allowing some medical exemptions. Prior to 2021, students also could seek religious exemptions. Lawmakers ended the religious exemption over concerns that an uptick in exemption requests was coupled with a decline in vaccination rates in some schools.

The change allowed current students in K-12 who already had a religious exemption to keep it.

"This is the end of the road to a challenge to Connecticut's life-saving and fully lawful vaccine requirements," Democratic Attorney General William Tong said in a statement.

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Cannabis shop now open

Continued from Page 1

local DJ, and other cannabis manufacturers and growers. Zachs said a big focus now is giving back to the community, including donating to the Bristol Boys and Girls Club.

"It's good to give back to the Boys and Girls Club," Zachs said. "We are also currently doing a signed UConn basketball giveaway."

Zachs plans on having Fine Fettle represent Bristol as much as it can going forward, including having tables at future events and parades.

Fine Fettle is a hybrid dispensary new to Bristol. It can be found outside the state as well in Massachusetts with three locations, and coming soon to Georgia. They are also working on bringing more to Connecticut.

"We are really excited to bring local competition to Bristol," Zachs said. "We are going to run some cool and interesting deals coming up."

Zagurski to be on Nov. ballot

Continued from Page 1

the Office of the Secretary of State.

The town council previously voted on May 22 to approve Kilduff's recommendation of Republican TJ Zagurski to fill the vacancy. Zagurski has put in 22 years of service with the Terryville Fire Department and is currently captain of the Plymouth Co. He has also volunteered at numerous community events including the Terryville Fair.

"It felt very exciting to be voted in," he said. "I'm looking forward to working with the council to move Plymouth forward. I'm also eager to see what the downtown vitalization plan has to bring."

The vacancy was created when Nate Brown stepped down from the council.

One dead, another hurt in crash

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

BRISTOL — One pedestrian is dead and another seriously injured after they were struck by a vehicle early Monday morning, police said.

Lt. Patrick Krajewski of the Bristol Police Department said that the serious crash took place at 4:14 a.m. in the area of Pine and Emmett streets.

"Upon arrival, officers from the patrol division administered life-saving measures until EMS arrived on scene to take over care," he said. "Both pedestrians were transported to area hospitals where one pedestrian succumbed to their injuries."

Krajewski said that the pedestrians' are not being identified at this time, pending next of kin notifications.

The Bristol Serious Traffic Accident Reconstruction Team responded to the scene to further investigate this crash. During this investigation, Route 72 and Emmett Street remained closed. The roadways were reopened around noon.

"The initial investigation showed that an eastbound vehicle was traveling on Pine Street and struck the two pedestrians, who appear to have been within the crosswalk area," Krajewski said. "The driver was able to stop their vehicle and remained on scene, cooperating with responding police."

Bristol police did identify the driver of the vehicle as Carlee Patterson, 25, of Bristol. The driver was not injured as a result of the crash.

Any witnesses of this crash are encouraged to call 860 584-3031.

Bristol railroad crossing construction scheduled for three days in mid-July

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

BRISTOL — The Connecticut Department of Transportation will replace the railroad crossings on Farmington and Maple avenues sometime in mid-July.

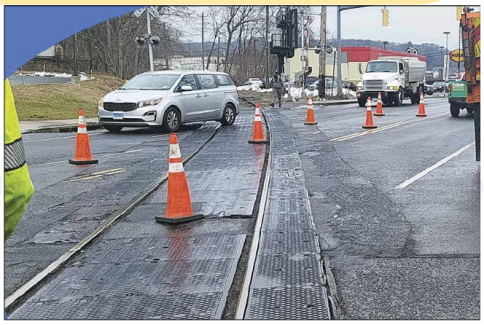
The date of the project has not officially been announced yet, but Mayor Jeff Caggiano said Monday that he was informed it will likely be a two- to three-day project, starting on a weekend.

"The railroad crossing has been a problem on and off for some time," said Caggiano. "It will be a disruption, as this is a major intersection, but this work has been a long time coming. Hopefully they are able to get it done over the weekend."

According to a statement from the Department of Transportation, the existing railroad crossing near the intersection of Burlington Avenue will be completely replaced with new materials to "enhance safety, provide a smooth passage for motorists, as well as ensure long-term viability of freight rail service in the region."

"This is an important project that ensures the rail crossing is safe for freight operators and the public," said Benjamin Limmer, state DOT Bureau Chief of Public Transportation. "We appreciate the public's patience during construction this summer and ask them to follow the posted detour routes to ensure safe travel."

The DOT said that the work to replace the railroad crossing will require a vehicle detour for approximately three days during construction. Bicyclists and pedestrians will still be able to cross through a designated area and will not be detoured. Posted state highway detours will utilize Routes 229, 72, and 69 to bypass the construction site. Motorists and commercial vehicle operators will be required to utilize posted detour routes to avoid local streets and low underpasses.



Connecticut Department of Transportation

Brochure announcing upcoming roadwork at railroad crossings in Bristol.

Plainville seeking input via 'brand' survey

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

PLAINVILLE — The "Discover Plainville Committee" has launched a survey seeking input on how to "brand" the town.

Plainville Town Manager Michael Paulhus posted a "manager's minute" video on the Town of Plainville Facebook page encouraging people to participate in the "short, five-minute" survey, which launched Monday.

The Discover Plainville Steering Committee is composed of town staff, elected leaders, business owners, and residents. According to the town website, it "is on a mission to capture the essence of our town and create a logo and tagline that reflects our vibrant community."

Plainville Town Manager Michael Paulhus

Paulhus said that the survey is being done as part of an effort to "brand the Plainville community." It has 18 questions that include demographic information as well as questions such as what color, symbol or tagline best represents the town. The survey also asks residents about their favorite activities in town and their favorite part of the town's history.

"Please help me with this question: what is Plainville's reputation?"" Paulhus said in the video. "Simply put, our reputation is our brand."

Paper copies of the survey can be picked up at the Municipal Center at 1 Central Square, the Senior Center at 200 East St., or Plainville Public Library at 56 E. Main St. It is also available online at plainvillect.com.

Completed paper copies of the survey can be submitted in person in the designated drop box at the Municipal Center, Senior Center, or Library. They can also be mailed to the Town Manager's Office, Attn: Discover Plainville Committee at One Central Square, Plainville, CT 06062.

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Hartford Business Journal
Monday, July 1, 2024

Bottle recycling center moving into Bristol industrial space

CONTRIBUTED

95 Wooster Court

By Hanna Snyder Gambini

A bottle recycling center has leased industrial space in Bristol, featuring the state's first "sustainability stations."

The tenant, RecyclX LLC and principal Shahil Kantesaria will operate a bottle recycling production center at 95 Wooster Court.

The long-term lease for the 21,000-square-foot space begins July 1. Deal terms were not disclosed.

RecyclX, in partnership with Maine-based Clynk, will be the first processing facility to

implement “sustainability stations,” where bags of returnable cans and bottles are dropped off, according to Renee Stevens of Hamden-based Press|Cuozzo Commercial Services, who represented the tenant.

Redemption fees are processed through a technology-based return system.

The landlord, Wooster Court Realty Associates, was represented by Dave Murdock of Sentry Commercial.

The building had previously been home to a tire and trucking service center. It features heavy power, drive-in doors and multiple truck bays, and nearby access to Route 72.

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SCOTUS ruling may help out Trump Page 6

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Chance of St. Paul All-State choice Page 7

The Bristol Press
Serving the Communities of Central Connecticut

VOL. 153 NO. 158

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Eagle statue to 'land' home

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

BRISTOL — The eagle has landed, so to speak. A statue topping the Civil War Monument at West Cemetery featuring an American eagle has been restored and will be installed Wednesday.

Mike Saman, chair of the City Cemetery Commission, said that the sandstone statue's damaged wing has been completely restored. It will sit proudly atop the 1865 Civil War monument once again.

"It is being put back up between 8:30 and 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday if people want to come and get an up-close look at it," he said. "You probably won't have that opportunity again."

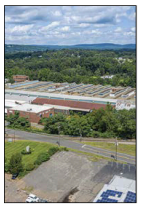
Saman announced last August that the Cemetery Commission had received $3,300 in state funding to restore the statue.

"We decided that we wanted to repair the eagle like it is and put it back up, not replace it, not replace it with a new granite statue" said Saman.

The Cemetery Commission had been wanting to repair the eagle for the last seven years or

See THE EAGLE ON PAGE 4

FILE
The eagle atop the Civil War Monument at West Cemetery last year, prior to restoration.



FILE
The former Theis Precision building on Broad Street in Bristol.

Meeting set for cleanup of former Theis building

DYLAN BRACCIA
@THEBRISTOLPRESS

BRISTOL — There will be a public informational meeting July 10 at City Hall on a proposed cleanup of the former 300,000-square-foot Theis Precision Steel building on July 10.

The meeting can be attended in person or virtually at 6:30 p.m.. If attending in person, it will be in room 1-2. The city will provide a Zoom link to anyone wishing to watch the meeting virtually.

The project will look to clean up the federal Brownfields site's soil. This will include the removal of concrete on the sight,

See CLEANUP ON PAGE 4

TAKING ON WATER

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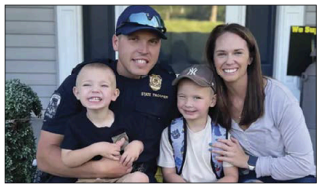
According to Eversource, there were more than 16,000 outages statewide at the height of the storm, which brought heavy rains around 2:30 p.m. Flash flood warnings were issued for Fairfield, Hartford, Litchfield and New Haven counties and many local roads saw flooding. But, by 7 p.m., the severe weather had largely subsided.

As of 9:45 a.m. on Monday, Eversource reported that only 807 customers were still affected, representing 0.06% of total customers. Berlin still had 215 people without power and there were "fewer than three" outages in Plainville

See T-STORMS ON PAGE 4



Connecticut State Police FILE
The late State Trooper Aaron Pelletier and his family.

Donations to Pelletier family exceed expectations

DYLAN BRACCIA
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SOUTHINGTON — The Southington-Cheshire YMCAs have announced that they have exceeded their goal of supporting the family of the late state Trooper First Class Aaron Pelletier family with their Pelletier Family Scholarship Fund.

Per the Pelletier's request, the YMCA will no longer accept donations. The goal was set at $12,000 on June 6, and less than a month later, that goal has been reached.

This doesn't mean that

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Cleanup of site meeting is set

Continued from Page 1

and soil excavation. The Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments will look to use an environmental use restriction to manage the impacted soils that will remain there.

The NVCOG had received more than $3.7 million in state Brownfields grant funding for remediation of the former Theis Steel building on Broad Street last year, now owned by Stillman Development.

The funding comes from $23.8 million in state funding announced by Gov. Ned Lamont last year, which will be used to remediate 380 acres of land across 22 properties in 15 towns and cities in Connecticut. The Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG) has received a $3,784,943 grant to abate and remediate four existing buildings on the 23.20-acre lot located at 300 Broad St.

Theis Precision Steel USA Inc. was sold to a division of Stillman Development International in 2022.

For more information on the project, the public is allowed to review the environmental documents at the Office of the Mayor at Bristol Town Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays excluding holidays.

Plans are also available to the public online at bit.ly/3XLrWML

T-storms lead to flooding

Continued from Page 1

and "fewer than two" in Southington. Bristol, New Britain, Newington and Plymouth reported zero outages by Monday morning.

Harley Graime, Bristol's emergency management director, said that Bristol saw "slight flooding issues due to the torrential rain."

"It didn't last long before the flooding subsided," he said. "We didn't need to rescue any cars from flooded roads. We did have some intersections that were taped off by the fire department due to the flooding. But, when I went out and looked, it seemed like our catch basins had taken care of most of it."

Graime said that there were some trees and power lines down on Mix Street. However, these lines were restored by early Monday morning and the trees were cleared.

Brian Avery

Brian Avery, commander of American Legion Post 209, draws the winners of their Fourth of July Barbecue Bash Raffle at South Side Meat Market.

Raffle winners selected by Legion Post 209

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

BRISTOL — American Legion Post 209 has announced the winners of their annual Fourth of July Barbecue Bash Raffle

The names of seven winners were recently drawn at South Side Meat Market.The winners are encouraged to come to the market at 145 West St. with their tickets and their ID to claim their prizes.

"Congratulations to the seven winners of the South Side Meat Market Fourth of July Barbecue Bash Raffle," said Avery. "All winners must pick up their prizes within 30 days. Please give them your ID and phone number that was written on the ticket."

The following are this year's winners and their prizes:

1. Eric Nielsen - A $300 gift card to South Side Meat Market
2. Jessica Haire - A $150 gift card to South Side Meat Market
3. Phyllis Maybrew - A $100 gift card to South Side Meat Market
4. Barbara Boucher - A $50 gift card to South Side Meat Market
5. Eric Rosengren - A $50 gift card to South Side Meat Market
6. Kay Smith- A $50 gift card to South Side Meat Market
7. George Chase- A $50 gift card to South Side Meat Market.

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The eagle returning to its roost on statue

Continued from Page 1

so, since the wear of this piece of the monument was identified.

"There is one wide crack in the left wing," Saman said last year. "Looking closely, there are two other cracks. I believe that the wide crack is now three times the size it was when I first noticed it. Pieces have fallen to the ground."

Saman said that the statue now looks as good as new.

The Civil War Monument at West Cemetery was built in 1865 and is one of the oldest in the state.

The eagle will sit 55 feet from the ground atop it.

Pelletier donations max out

Continued from Page 1

all donations are closed. The Connecticut State Police Troop H still have their GoFundMe up for the family.

The goal for that is $700,000, and they have received $678,441 as of July 1.

The YMCA's fund was to support the family's membership costs and program needs at the YMCA.

The GoFundMe gives all funds straight to the family.

Donations to the GoFundMe can be done at bit.ly/45LNZEY

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FILE
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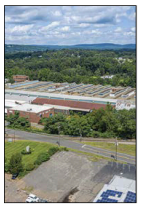

FILE
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Meeting set for cleanup of former Theis building

DYLAN BRACCIA
@THEBRISTOLPRESS

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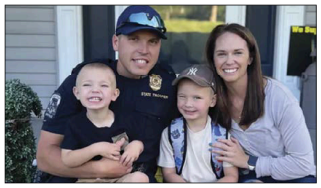

Connecticut State Police FILE
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Per the Pelletier's request, the YMCA will no longer accept donations. The goal was set at $12,000 on June 6, and less than a month later, that goal has been reached.

This doesn't mean that

See PELLETIER ON PAGE 4

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Cleanup of site meeting is set

Continued from Page 1

and soil excavation. The Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments will look to use an environmental use restriction to manage the impacted soils that will remain there.

The NVCOG had received more than $3.7 million in state Brownfields grant funding for remediation of the former Theis Steel building on Broad Street last year, now owned by Stillman Development.

The funding comes from $23.8 million in state funding announced by Gov. Ned Lamont last year, which will be used to remediate 380 acres of land across 22 properties in 15 towns and cities in Connecticut. The Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG) has received a $3,784,943 grant to abate and remediate four existing buildings on the 23.20-acre lot located at 300 Broad St.

Theis Precision Steel USA Inc. was sold to a division of Stillman Development International in 2022.

For more information on the project, the public is allowed to review the environmental documents at the Office of the Mayor at Bristol Town Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays excluding holidays.

Plans are also available to the public online at bit.ly/3XLrWML

Brian Avery

Brian Avery, commander of American Legion Post 209, draws the winners of their Fourth of July Barbecue Bash Raffle at South Side Meat Market.

T-storms lead to flooding

Continued from Page 1

and "fewer than two" in Southington. Bristol, New Britain, Newington and Plymouth reported zero outages by Monday morning.

Harley Graime, Bristol's emergency management director, said that Bristol saw "slight flooding issues due to the torrential rain."

"It didn't last long before the flooding subsided," he said. "We didn't need to rescue any cars from flooded roads. We did have some intersections that were taped off by the fire department due to the flooding. But, when I went out and looked, it seemed like our catch basins had taken care of most of it."

Graime said that there were some trees and power lines down on Mix Street. However, these lines were restored by early Monday morning and the trees were cleared.

Raffle winners selected by Legion Post 209

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

BRISTOL — American Legion Post 209 has announced the winners of their annual Fourth of July Barbecue Bash Raffle

The names of seven winners were recently drawn at South Side Meat Market.The winners are encouraged to come to the market at 145 West St. with their tickets and their ID to claim their prizes.

"Congratulations to the seven winners of the South Side Meat Market Fourth of July Barbecue Bash Raffle," said Avery. "All winners must pick up their prizes within 30 days. Please give them your ID and phone number that was written on the ticket."

The following are this year's winners and their prizes:

1. Eric Nielsen - A $300 gift card to South Side Meat Market
2. Jessica Haire - A $150 gift card to South Side Meat Market
3. Phyllis Maybrew - A $100 gift card to South Side Meat Market
4. Barbara Boucher - A $50 gift card to South Side Meat Market
5. Eric Rosengren - A $50 gift card to South Side Meat Market
6. Kay Smith- A $50 gift card to South Side Meat Market
7. George Chase- A $50 gift card to South Side Meat Market.

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The eagle returning to its roost on statue

Continued from Page 1

so, since the wear of this piece of the monument was identified.

"There is one wide crack in the left wing," Saman said last year. "Looking closely, there are two other cracks. I believe that the wide crack is now three times the size it was when I first noticed it. Pieces have fallen to the ground."

Saman said that the statue now looks as good as new.

The Civil War Monument at West Cemetery was built in 1865 and is one of the oldest in the state.

The eagle will sit 55 feet from the ground atop it.

Pelletier donations max out

Continued from Page 1

all donations are closed. The Connecticut State Police Troop H still have their GoFundMe up for the family.

The goal for that is $700,000, and they have received $678,441 as of July 1.

The YMCA's fund was to support the family's membership costs and program needs at the YMCA.

The GoFundMe gives all funds straight to the family.

Donations to the GoFundMe can be done at bit.ly/45LNZEY

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Myranda Lombardi, BS, HIS
Continued from Page 1
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E-EDITION ONLY
Thursday, July 4th will be an **e-edition only** paper, due to the observance of Independence Day.

SPORTS
Lax All-Conf. players are named Page 7

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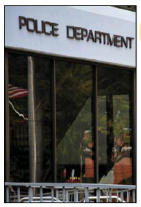

FILE
The Bristol Police Department.

Youth nabbed for reckless driving, stealing a Jeep

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

BRISTOL — Bristol Police report that a juvenile male was arrested for driving recklessly with a stolen Jeep.

Bristol Police posted Monday on the Bristol Connecticut Police Department Facebook page that officers were patrolling the area of Riverside Avenue near Blakeslee Street when a stolen black Jeep Grand Cherokee was operating recklessly through the city. The juvenile was arrested for theft of an auto and reckless driving, police said.

"From driving on sidewalks to driving through construction zones the operation of the vehicle was putting numerous lives at risk,"

See JUVENILE ON PAGE 4

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Senior day care center moving

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

BRISTOL — Golden Years Adult Day Center is moving to Main Street from Plainville most likely this fall.

Mayor Jeff Caggiano and Economic Development Director Justin Malley recently met with Owner Miledy Marmol and Managing Director Ketzy Lopez at the site of their new building, which is under construction at 120 Main St.

Lopez said the goal is to have the new center open by September. Golden Years currently serves 150 clients at their Plainville and is aiming to grow. The new building will be larger than their current space, and has the option of expanding to a second floor if needed.

"We decided to move to Bristol because there are a lot of people to serve in the area and a lot of them don't want to travel to Plainville or New Britain," she said.

Golden Years Adult Day Center has been in operation for 12 years. They originally opened in New Britain before moving to 7 N. Washington St., Plainville six years ago.

See CENTER ON PAGE 4

Dawn Nielsen
From left, Justin Malley, Freddy (Miledy's nephew who assists with the day-to-day operations of Golden Years Day Center), Miledy Marmol, Ketzy Lopez and Mayor Jeff Caggiano. The center is moving to Bristol in September.

SAFETY FIRST

Dylan Braccia
Gov. Ned Lamont speaks in front of coworkers and family members of Andrew DiDomenico at a Wallingford rest area to push for road safety among drivers.

Lamont, family remember fallen workers

DYLAN BRACCIA
@THEBRISTOLPRESS

Following the death of a Connecticut Department of Transportation employee on June 28, Gov. Ned Lamont held a press conference Tuesday to advocate road safety on a rest stop in Wallingford of I-91 south.

The employee, Andrew DiDomenico, was struck by a motor vehicle while preforming routine maintenance to a greenway that is adjacent to an on/off-ramp connecting to I-91 in Wallingford. Police said 55-year-old Denise Lucibello while under the influence, veered into the grass and hit and killed DiDomenico.

Many of DiDomenico's family members and coworkers stood at the press conference next to a memorial for fallen workers.

Lamont said there are too many of these accidents.

"They are avoidable. I just want you to think

See ROAD SAFETY ON PAGE 4

FILE
Congressman John Larson speaking at a past Crocodile Club event.

Crocodile Club returning to Lake Compounce Aug. 2

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

BRISTOL — The"Crocodile Club" luncheon is making a return Aug. 2 at Lake Compounce after a two-year hiatus, hosted by the Bristol Lions Club, and featuring special guest Brian Shactman of WTIC News Talk 1080.

The event will be held in the Lake Compounce Starlight Theatre ballroom starting at 11 a.m., with an introduction from Bristol Mayor Jeff Caggiano, and concluding at 2 p.m. Keeping with traditions dating back to 1875, attendees will enjoy roasted lamb, beer, wine, and a cigar. All proceeds from

See ROAST ON PAGE 4

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Juvenile faces car theft charge

Continued from Page 1

the post read.

The Bristol Police Department wrote that officers were able to deploy the stop sticks located in every cruiser.

"The stolen Jeep came to a stop a short time later and an arrest was made of a juvenile male," the post read.

The juvenile's identity was not released due to their age.

By Tuesday morning, the post had received more than 500 likes, 20 shares and more than 100 comments with many residents praising the officers for their efforts.

"Thank you to the fine men and women of the Bristol Police Force," wrote Carrie Neill.

Sheryl Rankin Elliott thanked the officers for "all the great work you do."

Other residents expressed frustration with the number of car thefts in the state.

"Don't just give them a slap on the wrist," wrote Kathy Lang Swirski.

Brian Avery said that the officers did a good job. He also said he was curious about how many times this juvenile has been arrested for the same type of crime before, and, if so, what the consequences were.

Center for seniors coming

Continued from Page 1

Lopez said that one of the things that clients enjoy most about coming to Golden Years Adult Day Center is that their programs are tailored to what they want. These include both day trips and activities at the center itself.

"We take clients out on shopping trips to Walmart and out for activities such as picking strawberries or bowling," she said. "We try to get out once a week."

Lopez said that those who are interested in seeing what Golden Years Adult Day Center is all about can take advantage of one "free day" to experience it themselves.

For more information, call 860-348-0001, visit goldendayct.com or email info@goldenyear-sct.com

All Bob's Stores closing

FILE

The Bob's Stores locations at 835 Queen St. in Southington and 172 Kitts Lane in Newington are among the 21 remaining stores that will officially close as the company's owners liquidate their assets as part of bankruptcy proceedings. The company made the announcement on Monday.

Road safety a concern for governor, officials

Continued from Page 1

about the impact of what dangerous driving means," Lamont said.

Lamont asks that everyone take part in helping solve this problem.

"Everything we are doing to keep you safe, the other 90% is up to you," the governor said. "I need folks to look out for each other. I need you to say to somebody that's driving a car that shouldn't be driving a car, pull over. I need you to say if somebody is busy texting and not paying attention, stop it," Lamont said. "We are doing we can as a state to take a lead on this, the rest is on you."

Lamont explained what they are doing to help combat these issues.

"We are doing this in terms of more police stops. We are doing this in terms of wrong way flashers, to keep wrong way accidents behind us. We are doing this in terms of speed cameras along construction sites; we'll see how fast you are going into that site, we know what you are doing on the way out, we take a picture of your license plate, and you will be held accountable," Lamont said.

Transportation Commissioner Garrett Eucalitto, who also spoke, said that everyone at the CTDOT is saddened and outraged at the loss. He said they preach safety.

"This is exactly the worst case scenario we are trying to prevent," Eucalitto said. "In the transportation community, we talk about vision zero, and our quest to get to zero fatalities on our roadways."

He then said that this isn't just a transportation problem.

"When a worker is killed by an impaired driver at 9 in the morning while picking up litter tossed out of car windows, we have a much deeper crisis on our hands," Eucalitto said. "So far this year, more than 165 people have been killed on Connecticut roadways, nearly as many as this time in 2022. 2022 was one of our worse and deadliest years in decades."

DiDomenico's aunt, Melissa Lombardi, spoke on behalf of his family. She shared her thoughts about DiDomenico's life, and said she was pleased to learn that safety cameras in work zones will be permanent in the coming years.

"Our hope is for something positive to come out of this tragedy, so that no other family has to endure the pain and suffering that our family is feeling this week, and forever," Lombardi said.

Connecticut State Police Capt. Benjamin Borelli mentioned the legal implications as well as safety for all.

"The move over law enacted in Connecticut and across the U.S., is not just a legal obligation, but a critical safety measure for everyone on the road," Borelli said. "The law requires drivers to move over and slow down for first responders, road crews, tow truck operators, and disabled motorists. The law was designed to ensure the safety of those as speeding traffic goes by."

"Our hope is for something positive to come out of this tragedy, so that no other family has to endure the pain and suffering that our family is feeling this week, and forever."

MELISSA LOMBARDI

Borelli notes that this is the third death in Connecticut in the last five weeks due to this. One of the latest was to Trooper First Class Aaron Pelletier, who was stuck by a vehicle while conducting a stop on the highway.

With July 4th weekend coming up, Borelli asks everyone to be safe and have a plan.

"We ask that if you're impaired on alcohol and/or drugs, that you have a designated driver, use ride share, or use DOT's public transportation system," Borelli said.

Roast returning after 2 years

Continued from Page 1

the luncheon will benefit the charitable work of the Bristol Lions Club.

"After a two-year hiatus, we are pleased to welcome everyone back to Lake Compounce," said Everett Lyons, president of the Bristol Lions Club. "The Crocodile Club luncheon has been a tradition in the Bristol and Southington communities for more than a century. Each year we see members of the political community return to interact with their colleagues – no matter their political party – in a display of togetherness that is welcomed especially now."

The Crocodile Club luncheon was created in 1875 by Lake Compounce founder Gad Norton. Since its inception, the Crocodile Club has brought together local leaders and politicians from both sides of the aisle to celebrate the parties, thank them and display a lighter side of an often-contentious business.

"Upholding tradition continues to be an important part of our park's legacy," said Lake Compounce General Manager Doug Hemphill.

"The Crocodile Club luncheon is one of our most time-honored traditions. We are happy to welcome local leaders and their guests back to America's First Amusement Park."

To purchase tickets to this year's Crocodile Club luncheon, visit eventbrite.com and search for "Crocodile Club 2024" in the search box at the top of the page.

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Economic Development/Marketing/Grants/CDBG Report

July 2024

Downtown/West End Updates

- Centre Square:
  - Staff continue to work with the owners of Parcel 10 on its construction timeline and parking plan.
  - Wheeler Health anticipates the completion of construction in July 2024 with a planned community open house to follow.
  - Carrier anticipates leasing the first units in Centre Square Village "Phase I" in September 2024 with construction of "Phase II" to begin in late 2024.
  - Hope Street Parking Garage construction continues but has slowed due to an expected supply chain challenge for materials. Construction is expected to be complete in early 2025.
  - Streetscape construction for North Main Street (in front of Centre Square Village) is ongoing.
  - The final parcel available for development must temporarily be used for parking during the Hope Street Garage construction.
- Golden Years is preparing to open on Main Street in September 2024. The building at 118 Main Street will serve as headquarters for Golden Years' home healthcare operation, adult daycare, and a small café that will provide food for the agency's programs as well as take-away options for retail.
- Staff are working with the owners of new restaurants preparing to open at the former Webster Bank branch at 150 Main Street as well as at the former Better Half Brewing space on North Main Street.
- An update on the J.H. Sessions project will be provided at the July 11th ECD Board meeting.
- The 2024 Bristol Farmers Market launched to large crowds in June!
- ECD staff are working with the owners of several downtown commercial buildings/plazas on the potential of new tenants as well as apartment conversions or new apartment construction. Staff will update the board as the projects proceed.
- Design for the West End/Downtown bike trail is expected to begin in late summer 2024.
- Design for the Route 72 Streetscape is ongoing. To review, the first construction work will take place on Park Street in 2025.

Development Outside Downtown

- Industrial Update:
  - The Industrial Committee will meet to review a request from a manufacturer to purchase Lot #3. This will be reported at the full ECD board on July 11th.
  - Another manufacturer is expected to offer a proposal for Lot #6 at the Industrial/ECD Board meeting in August.
  - After years of on-and-off discussions, a small manufacturer from a nearby community is set to purchase 492 Birch Street. More to come.

- Route 6:
    - GF Fitness is expected to open to the public in July/August.
    - A Wing Stop location is planned for a retail space adjacent to Hobby Lobby.
    - Fine Fettle cannabis dispensary opened for business in late June.
    - Construction on the Prohealth/car wash/fast casual restaurant project on Route 6 is well underway.
    - ECD staff are working with the owner of an Indian Grocery Store that will occupy the former "Eblens" space.
- Jimmy's on the River is nearing completion of its amazing renovation
- Staff continue to work with CTtransit to maximize bus service in Bristol while potentially opening up development opportunities on CTDOT-owned properties.
- RecycleX is a bottle and can redemption facility preparing to open on Wooster Court. RecycleX is partnering with Clynk, a company that will provide several bottle/can redemption locations in the area. Customers use a special bag to drop off at the redemption locations connected to user accounts. More information to come.

Business Incentives

Small Business Micro Grants

- Urban Collab Studios: Assisting with a renovation including lighting and soundproofing for a new podcasting studio.
- Hubbard's Florist (new owner): ECD is assisting with a Small Business Grant application to help with water issues in the basement.
- 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.

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.

Downtown/West End/Forestville Façade Program

- ECD staff will discuss a project to revamp the façade for a future restaurant at 150 Main Street.
- Positano Plumbing has completed its façade project.
- Ron's Auto Madness on Park Street may work on a façade project.

Forgivable Revolving Loan

- A report will be provided at the July 11 ECD board meeting

Marketing

Marketing and Public Relations Initiatives:

1) **Bristol Business Anniversaries/Site Visits:**
   - Ray's CARSTAR: 75th Anniversary on July 11th
   - New Caribbean restaurant – coming soon to downtown Bristol – Justin, Mayor, and Dawn Nielsen visited the owner to speak to him about his business plan for this new restaurant to be located in the former Better Half Brewing space on North Main Street.
   - Mayor Caggiano, Justin, and Dawn Nielsen attended the presentation of four robots to the Bristol Public Schools on June 10th. MOVIA donated the robots to the BPS in memory of Nicholas Parenti, a BPS student who passed away, and the two Bristol Police Officers who lost their lives in the line of duty: Sgt. Alex Hamzy, and Lt. Dustin DeMonte.

   2) New Business Openings:
   - A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on June 21st to celebrate the opening of Fine Fettle's Bristol location in the Shop Rite Plaza.
   - A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on July 10th to celebrate the opening of both the Bristol Event Center and the Home2 Suites hotel expansion at the DoubleTree

   Upcoming for July:
   - Wheeler Health will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony on Tuesday, July 30th to celebrate the opening of the new facility at One Hope Street.

Other Marketing Initiatives:

1) A new Business brochure is being developed to highlight business incentives, local resources, and other ways in which the Economic & Community Development department can assist new and existing businesses to thrive and succeed here in Bristol. This new brochure will mimic the recent update of the Visitor's Guide and the newly-updated Bristol All Heart website and will be used as a hand out when Justin and/or the Mayor visit existing or new businesses to make them aware of what the City can do to assist them.
2) A new video to promote Bristol will be discussed in July to come up with ideas on a theme and how to produce this video so that it can be used on social media and posted to both the Bristol All Heart and the City's website. The goal of the new video is to encourage Bristol residents and prospective residents and businesses to take advantage of all the amenities Bristol has to offer.

Grants Administration

Grant Awards:

Lots of activity in the grants area this month, with several grants coming in, including $25,000 to renovate the Emergency Operations Center at the Bristol Police Complex, and an extension of the ARPA Auto Theft & Violence Grant program for one more year. Grant applications are being prepared for a large Cybersecurity grant funded by the State of Connecticut, and a Brownfields Assessment grant for the 43 East Main Street site in Forestville for EPA funds that are available through NVCOG. We're still waiting to hear about the 2023 Assistance to Firefighters Grant from FEMA, as well as a pending application with DEEP for an extensive update to Rockwell Park as part of their Recreation and Legacy Parks program.

CDBG Program Highlights

- CDBG Year 50 – We have completed the Public Comment Period and received City Council Approval of the Year 50 plan at their July meeting, so the plan for Year 50 should be submitted in the coming week.
- 5-Year Consolidated Plan – Once the CAPER is underway, I will share with the Board some of the reports that demonstrate how funds have been utilized in the past year, and extrapolate that to the 5-year period just completed for purposes of discussion. We have the results of our first community survey as well, and I may craft a short questionnaire to circulate among the agencies that have received funds in the past 4 years to solicit their perspectives on CDBG. In late summer, I would like to schedule a Policy Committee meeting where we will start discussing the goals for the next plan. I would like to ask all Commissioners to consider participating in that discussion so that it can be more robust. Maybe we can have pizza and really dig into the topic! More to come…

Question used in 2019:

"Shall the City of Bristol approve the City Council Resolution that adopts the Connecticut City and Town Development Act, which grants additional authority to aid and promote industrial and other forms of economic development?"

Examples of Alternatives for Review:

- Shall the City of Bristol approve the City Council resolution to continue assisting economic development projects using powers authorized by the Connecticut City and Town Development Act?
- Shall the City of Bristol continue to assist businesses, promote job growth, and provide support for economic development projects using powers authorized by the Bristol City Council's adoption of the Connecticut City and Town Development Act?
- Shall the City of Bristol approve the City Council resolution to continue utilizing powers under the Connecticut City and Town Development Act to coordinate economic development projects, including assisting businesses, promoting job creation, supporting the development of vacant and/or blighted properties, and similar efforts?

Ballot Question: City and Town Development Act

Program Background

To help combat high unemployment, blight, and other negative economic conditions in Connecticut, the State developed the City and Town Development Act (Act) in 1975. The Act grants certain powers to a municipality upon adoption. Once approved, communities may perform several processes to stimulate economic development, including acquiring development property, selling development property, making loans/grants to developers and businesses, offering tax abatements, and more.

In Bristol, benefits under the Act have been used to assist manufacturers, to assist construction projects in the downtown "Enterprise Zone," to encourage the development of vacant, blighted, or under-utilized properties, and to assist expanding businesses.

City records indicate that Bristol Voters have overwhelming approved the Act for decades through a ballot question every five (5) years.

Requested Action

To approve the City and Town Development Act to allow the City to continue to assist economic development projects.

DATE: July 2, 2024

TO: Mayor Jeffrey Caggiano
City Council Members

FROM: Dawn Leger, Grants Administrator

RE: 43 East Main Street

Background

The City of Bristol recently conducted a Phase I Environmental Assessment of a City-owned brownfield located at 43 East Main Street. The parcel is located on a busy corridor near Rt. 72, but due to its location within a floodplain, construction of a Municipal Parking Lot to serve many area businesses may be the most viable option for development. The property was previously the location of an industrial building that was demolished in 2015. Early findings have shown the presence of multiple contaminants, warranting the need to continue with additional environmental analysis.

Project Description

Funding from NVCOG is available to complete Phase II and III Assessments of the site. The Phase II Assessment is a critical next step in the process of creating a viable remediation and reuse plan (Phase III). Once the extent of the contamination is determined, the City will develop a remediation plan for the parcel.

City Match

There is no City match requirement.

Requested Action

To authorize the Mayor or Acting Mayor to authorize an application for an Assessment grant from the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG) for up to $75,000, to perform a Phase II Assessment and Remediation Plan (Phase III) for the city-owned parcel at 43 East Main Street.

NATION
SCOTUS ruling may help out Trump Page 6

SPORTS
Chance of St. Paul All-State choice Page 7

The Bristol Press
Serving the Communities of Central Connecticut

VOL. 153 NO. 158

BRISTOLPRESS.COM TUESDAY, JULY 2, 2024 $2.00

Eagle statue to 'land' home

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

BRISTOL — The eagle has landed, so to speak. A statue topping the Civil War Monument at West Cemetery featuring an American eagle has been restored and will be installed Wednesday.

Mike Saman, chair of the City Cemetery Commission, said that the sandstone statue's damaged wing has been completely restored. It will sit proudly atop the 1865 Civil War monument once again.

"It is being put back up between 8:30 and 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday if people want to come and get an up-close look at it," he said. "You probably won't have that opportunity again."

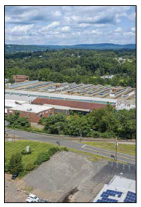
Saman announced last August that the Cemetery Commission had received $3,300 in state funding to restore the statue.

"We decided that we wanted to repair the eagle like it is and put it back up, not replace it, not replace it with a new granite statue" said Saman.

The Cemetery Commission had been wanting to repair the eagle for the last seven years or

See THE EAGLE ON PAGE 4

FILE
The eagle atop the Civil War Monument at West Cemetery last year, prior to restoration.



FILE
The former Theis Precision building on Broad Street in Bristol.

Meeting set for cleanup of former Theis building

DYLAN BRACCIA
@THEBRISTOLPRESS

BRISTOL — There will be a public informational meeting July 10 at City Hall on a proposed cleanup of the former 300,000-square-foot Theis Precision Steel building on July 10.

The meeting can be attended in person or virtually at 6:30 p.m.. If attending in person, it will be in room 1-2. The city will provide a Zoom link to anyone wishing to watch the meeting virtually.

The project will look to clean up the federal Brownfields site's soil. This will include the removal of concrete on the sight,

See CLEANUP ON PAGE 4

TAKING ON WATER

Dan Baril
Flooding on Church and Upson streets in Bristol was caused by torrential rains and thunderstorms on Sunday. While there were some power outages, most power was restored by Monday morning.

Sunday storms flood street in the area

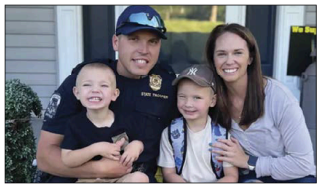
BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

BRISTOL — The heavy rains and thunderstorms Sunday caused flooding and outages in parts of Bristol, but as of Monday local damage was cleared. It was the second time in a week such storms hit the area.

According to Eversource, there were more than 16,000 outages statewide at the height of the storm, which brought heavy rains around 2:30 p.m. Flash flood warnings were issued for Fairfield, Hartford, Litchfield and New Haven counties and many local roads saw flooding. But, by 7 p.m., the severe weather had largely subsided.

As of 9:45 a.m. on Monday, Eversource reported that only 807 customers were still affected, representing 0.06% of total customers. Berlin still had 215 people without power and there were "fewer than three" outages in Plainville

See T-STORMS ON PAGE 4



Connecticut State Police FILE
The late State Trooper Aaron Pelletier and his family.

Donations to Pelletier family exceed expectations

DYLAN BRACCIA
@THEBRISTOLPRESS

SOUTHINGTON — The Southington-Cheshire YMCAs have announced that they have exceeded their goal of supporting the family of the late state Trooper First Class Aaron Pelletier family with their Pelletier Family Scholarship Fund.

Per the Pelletier's request, the YMCA will no longer accept donations. The goal was set at $12,000 on June 6, and less than a month later, that goal has been reached.

This doesn't mean that

See PELLETIER ON PAGE 4

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Cleanup of site meeting is set

Continued from Page 1

and soil excavation. The Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments will look to use an environmental use restriction to manage the impacted soils that will remain there.

The NVCOG had received more than $3.7 million in state Brownfields grant funding for remediation of the former Theis Steel building on Broad Street last year, now owned by Stillman Development.

The funding comes from $23.8 million in state funding announced by Gov. Ned Lamont last year, which will be used to remediate 380 acres of land across 22 properties in 15 towns and cities in Connecticut. The Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG) has received a $3,784,943 grant to abate and remediate four existing buildings on the 23.20-acre lot located at 300 Broad St.

Theis Precision Steel USA Inc. was sold to a division of Stillman Development International in 2022.

For more information on the project, the public is allowed to review the environmental documents at the Office of the Mayor at Bristol Town Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays excluding holidays.

Plans are also available to the public online at bit.ly/3XLrWML

T-storms lead to flooding

Continued from Page 1

and "fewer than two" in Southington. Bristol, New Britain, Newington and Plymouth reported zero outages by Monday morning.

Harley Graime, Bristol's emergency management director, said that Bristol saw "slight flooding issues due to the torrential rain."

"It didn't last long before the flooding subsided," he said. "We didn't need to rescue any cars from flooded roads. We did have some intersections that were taped off by the fire department due to the flooding. But, when I went out and looked, it seemed like our catch basins had taken care of most of it."

Graime said that there were some trees and power lines down on Mix Street. However, these lines were restored by early Monday morning and the trees were cleared.

Brian Avery

Brian Avery, commander of American Legion Post 209, draws the winners of their Fourth of July Barbecue Bash Raffle at South Side Meat Market.

Raffle winners selected by Legion Post 209

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

BRISTOL — American Legion Post 209 has announced the winners of their annual Fourth of July Barbecue Bash Raffle

The names of seven winners were recently drawn at South Side Meat Market.The winners are encouraged to come to the market at 145 West St. with their tickets and their ID to claim their prizes.

"Congratulations to the seven winners of the South Side Meat Market Fourth of July Barbecue Bash Raffle," said Avery. "All winners must pick up their prizes within 30 days. Please give them your ID and phone number that was written on the ticket."

The following are this year's winners and their prizes:

1. Eric Nielsen - A $300 gift card to South Side Meat Market
2. Jessica Haire - A $150 gift card to South Side Meat Market
3. Phyllis Maybrew - A $100 gift card to South Side Meat Market
4. Barbara Boucher - A $50 gift card to South Side Meat Market
5. Eric Rosengren - A $50 gift card to South Side Meat Market
6. Kay Smith- A $50 gift card to South Side Meat Market
7. George Chase- A $50 gift card to South Side Meat Market.

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The eagle returning to its roost on statue

Continued from Page 1

so, since the wear of this piece of the monument was identified.

"There is one wide crack in the left wing," Saman said last year. "Looking closely, there are two other cracks. I believe that the wide crack is now three times the size it was when I first noticed it. Pieces have fallen to the ground."

Saman said that the statue now looks as good as new.

The Civil War Monument at West Cemetery was built in 1865 and is one of the oldest in the state.

The eagle will sit 55 feet from the ground atop it.

Pelletier donations max out

Continued from Page 1

all donations are closed. The Connecticut State Police Troop H still have their GoFundMe up for the family.

The goal for that is $700,000, and they have received $678,441 as of July 1.

The YMCA's fund was to support the family's membership costs and program needs at the YMCA.

The GoFundMe gives all funds straight to the family.

Donations to the GoFundMe can be done at bit.ly/45LNZEY

Bristol
HEARING AIDS, LLC
860-506-3720
Myranda Lombardi, BS, HIS
Continued from Page 1
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LEGEND

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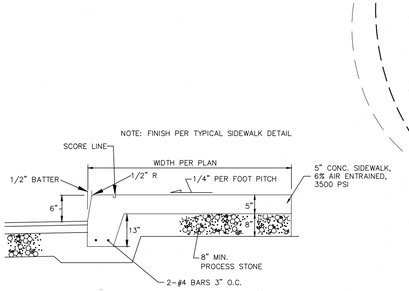
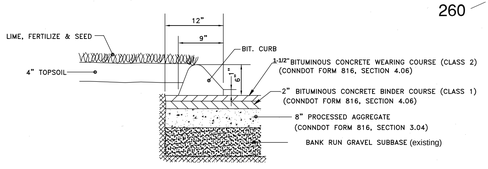
- Catch Basin
- Anti-Track Pad
- Silt Fence
- Bollard



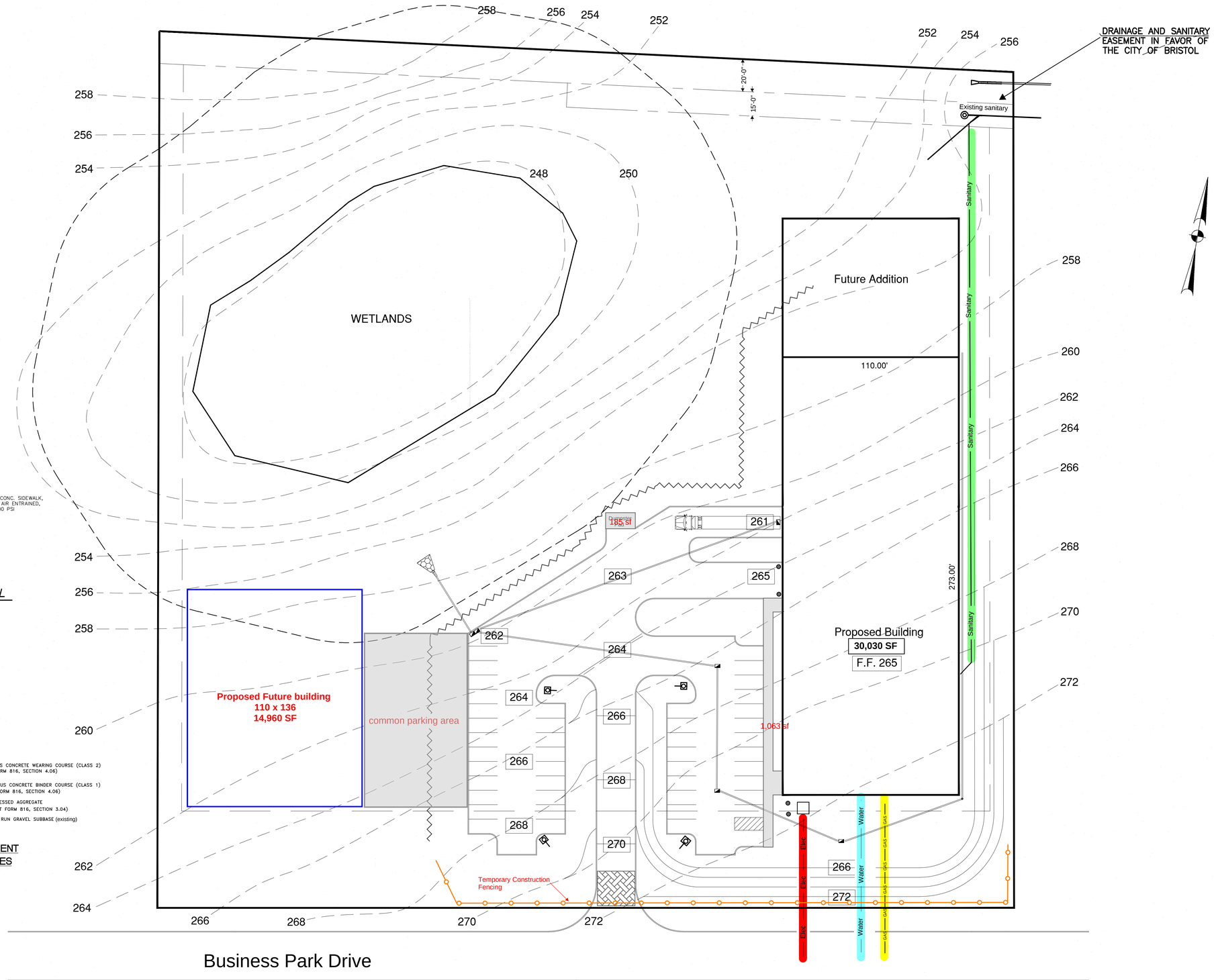
INTEGRAL SIDEWALK & CURB DETAIL

NOT TO SCALE



BITUMINOUS CONCRETE PAVEMENT DRIVEWAYS AND ACCESS LANES (HEAVY DUTY)

N.T.S.



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573 Main Street
Cromwell, CT 06416

REVISIONS			
NO.	BY	DATE	DESCRIPTIO

Project:

FORCE Automation INC.

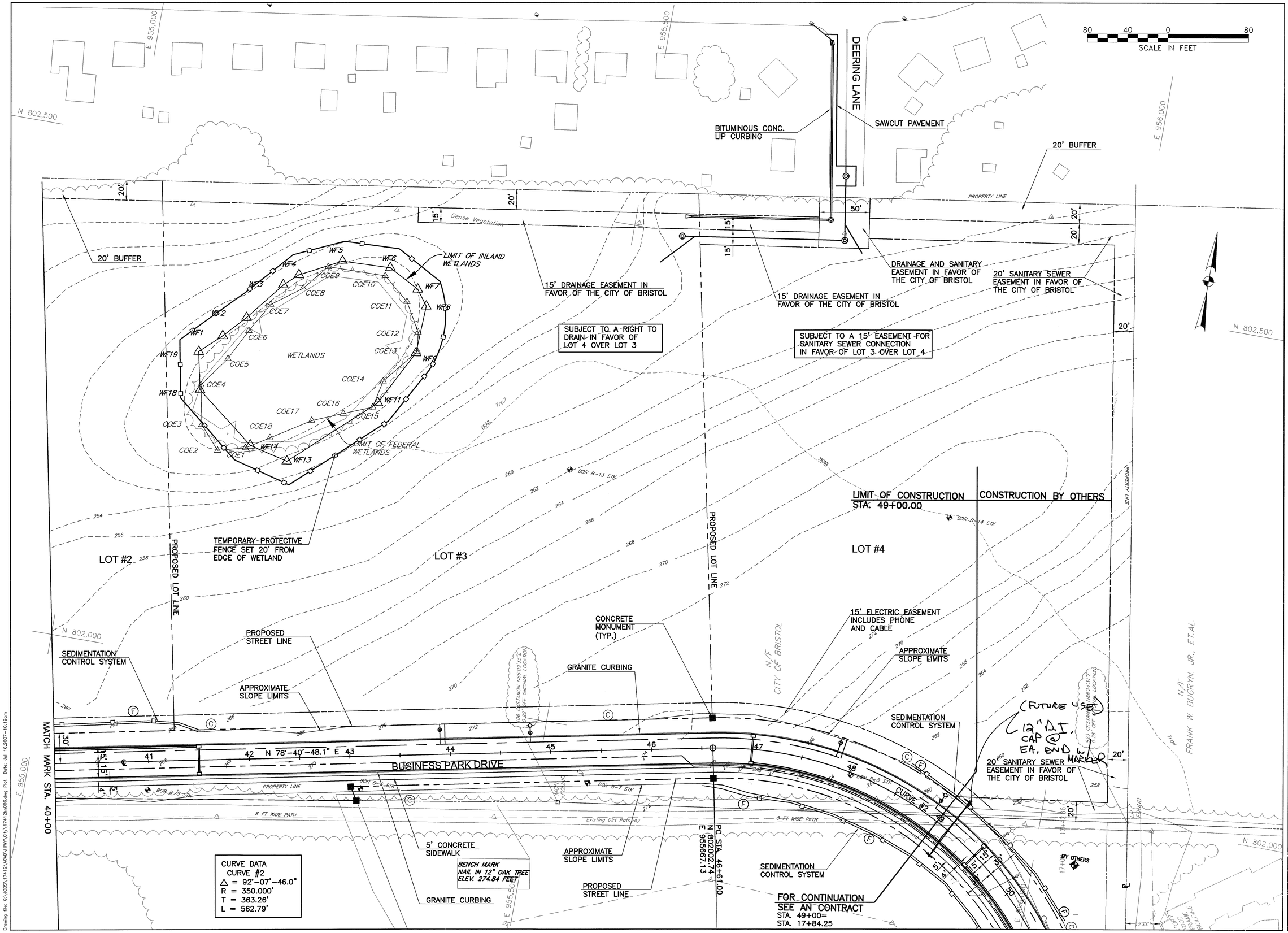
Lot 3 Bristol, CT

SHEET TITLE

Conceptual Site Plan

DESIGNED BY:	SCALE: 1" = 30"
DRAWN BY:	DATE: 1/5/2024
CHECKED BY:	PROJECT NUMBER:
CAD FILE:	

SEAL	SHEET NUMBER



MARK	DATE	DESCRIPTION

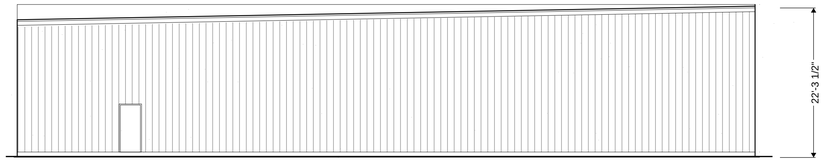
Maguire Group Inc.
Architects/Engineers/Planners
One Court Street
New Britain, Connecticut 06051

CITY OF BRISTOL, CONNECTICUT
SOUTHEAST BRISTOL BUSINESS PARK

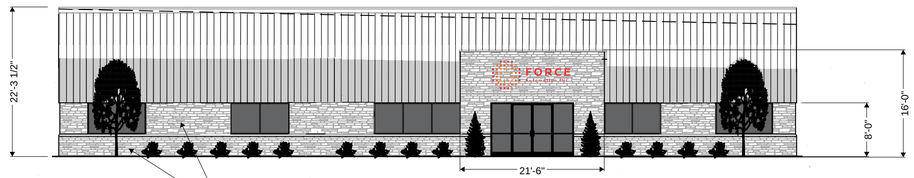
ROADWAY PLAN

PROJECT NO.: 17412
DESIGNED BY: G.C.C.
DRAWN BY: A.M.F./L.J.W.
CHK'D BY:
DATE: JANUARY 9, 2006
SCALE: AS NOTED
SHEET NO.: 20
SHEET 20 OF 37

Drawing file: G:\JOBS\17412\ACAD\HWY\City\17412hn006.dwg Plot Date: Jul 16,2007-10:19am



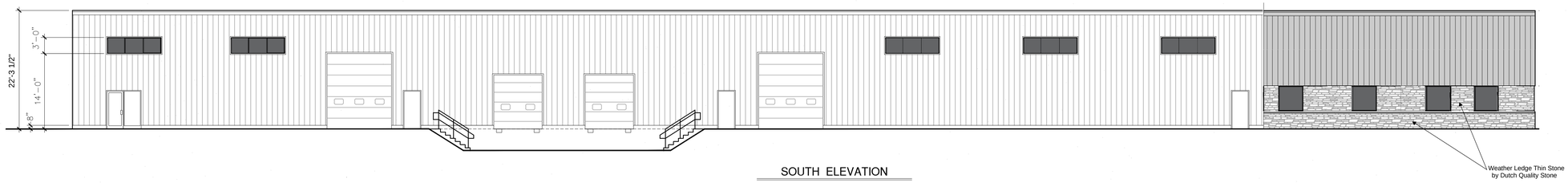
WEST ELEVATION



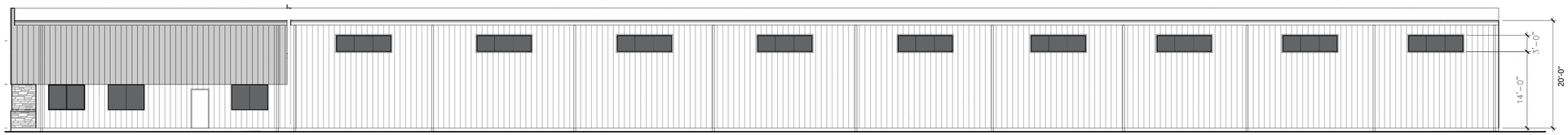
Weather Ledge Thin Stone
by Dutch Quality Stone

Provide 2" EPS EIFS ALTERNATE
between windows only typical on the
East and South elevations

EAST ELEVATION



SOUTH ELEVATION



NORTH ELEVATION

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573 Main Street
Cromwell, CT 06416

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NO.	BY	DATE	DESCRIPTIO

Project:

FORCE Automation INC.

~~758 Four Rod Road~~
~~Berlin, CT 06037~~

SHEET TITLE

Prelim. Elevations

DESIGNED BY:	SCALE:
DRAWN BY:	DATE:
CHECKED BY:	PROJECT NUMBER:
CAD FILE:	

SEAL	SHEET NUMBER

2.4 On lots in Section B of the park, only "primary" uses shall be considered, including warehousing/distribution facilities, which shall be prohibited.

2.5 On lots in Section C of the park, only "primary" uses shall be considered, including warehousing/distribution facilities, but excluding "mini-warehouses."

2.6 Because job creation is a major objective of this Redevelopment Plan, no more than fifteen percent (15 %) of the saleable lot acreage in the Park may be used for warehousing/distribution facilities.

2.7 No more than a total of twenty-six (26) acres of saleable lot acreage in the Park shall be used for corporate offices and "supportive" uses.

2.8 It is the intention of the City of Bristol to locate a helipad on Lot 8 at some future date; in addition, the Economic and Community Development may allow a helipad as an accessory use to a "primary" use if located on the same lot as the "primary" use.

2.9 Lots 14-23 inclusive – those located within the block bounded by Century, Horizon and Enterprise Drives and Crystal Pond Place shall be sold off only in clusters, each of which shall contain at least three contiguous lots.

2.10 If needed at some future date, one of the following lots may be re-assigned by the Economic and Community Development from Section B to Section A: Lot 4, Lot 31, Lot 38, or Lots 37 and 38 (combined).

2.11 The 23.2-acre portion of the site designated on the Land Disposition Map as "Reserved for Possible Future Development" is presently vacant; due to existing site constraints (e.g., wetlands) and the relatively high cost of development associated therewith, this reserved land is not intended to be developed at this time. Should the City decide to develop this land in the future, the Redevelopment Plan will be appropriately amended in accordance with the Connecticut General Statutes to reflect this change.

2.12 If needed at some future date one or more of the following lots may be re-assigned by the Economic and Community Development from section B to section C: lots 31 and 32 and 33 (combined).

3. Building & Site Design Standards

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3. Building & Site Design Standards

Exhibit A – HUD Income Guidelines FY 2024 (Income Limits Summary)

Hartford County Area

MEDIAN INCOME (AMI)

FY 2024 Income Limit Category	1 PERSON	2 PERSON	3 PERSON	4 PERSON	5 PERSON	6 PERSON	7 PERSON	8 PERSON
EXTREMELY LOW (0-30% AMI)	$25,600	$29,250	$32,900	$36,550	$39,500	$42,400	$45,350	$48,250
VERY LOW (31-50% AMI)	$42,650	$48,750	$54,850	$60,900	$65,800	$70,650	$75,550	$80,400
LOW (51-80% AMI)	$68,250	$78,000	$87,750	$97,450	$105,250	$113,050	$120,850	$128,650