



City of Bristol
Economic and Community Development Board
INFORMATION TO ACCESS THIS MEETING

<https://bristolct-gov.zoom.us/j/88677210794?pwd=M2xITXB0VIRsSDROR1VlSmtnbmdudz09>

Meeting ID: 886 7721 0794

Passcode: 379107

The regular ECD Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 5, 2024 at 5:00pm in City Council Chambers, City Hall, 111 North Main Street, Bristol, CT.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Public Participation
- III. Approval of Minutes
 - A. Minutes of the November 7, 2024 Regular Meeting
- IV. Consent Agenda
 - A. Communications
 - B. Economic Development/Grants/Marketing Report
- V. New Business
 - A. 894 Middle Street & Sessions Building Update
 - B. 2025-2026 ECD Budget Preview
 - C. Industrial Update
 - D. Brownfields Update
 - E. Downtown Update
 - F. ARPA Update

G. 2025 ECD Board Meeting Calendar

VI. New Business By Commissioners

VII. Old Business by Commissioners

VIII. Committee Reports

A. City Council Member Report

IX. Adjournment

PER ORDER OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Jeff Caggiano
Mayor

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 7, 2024 5:00pm

Council Chambers, City Hall, 111 N. Main Street and on Zoom

ATTENDEES: Mayor Caggiano, Commissioner Schmelder (Zoom), Council Member Dickau, Commissioners Mills, Goldwasser, Hick, and Cowdell

ABSENT: Commissioner Provenzano

STAFF PRESENT: Justin Malley - Executive Director, Dr. Dawn Leger - Grants Administrator, David Sgro – Housing & Project Director (Zoom), and Dawn Nielsen - Marketing & Public Relations Specialist

GUESTS: None

I. Call to Order

Mayor Caggiano called the meeting to order at 5:00pm and lead all present in the Pledge of Allegiance. The mayor updated the Board of the resignation of Commissioner Rasmussen-Tuller effective after the October ECD Board Meeting for personal reasons. Justin Malley shared a message of thanks from the Commissioner for his time on the Board.

II. Public Participation

There was no Public Participation

III. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes of the October 3, 2024 Regular Meeting

Mayor Caggiano called for a motion to approve the Minutes from the October 3, 2024 ECD Board Meeting. Commissioner Mills made the motion which was seconded by Commissioner Hick. There were no changes or comments to the Minutes, all voted 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 motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Goldwasser put the motion forward, and it was seconded by Commissioner Mills. There were no comments or questions presented, all voted in favor and the Consent Agenda was accepted into the record.

The mayor called for a motion to move up agenda item **VIII. Committee Reports A. CDBG Policy Committee** for discussion. The motion was made by Commissioner Hick and seconded by Commissioner Mills. All were in favor and the agenda item was moved up for discussion.

Commissioner Schmelder and Dr. Dawn Leger presented the CDBG Residential Rehabilitation policy changes as discussed and voted forward at the CDBG Policy Committee Special Meeting held ahead of this ECD Board Meeting.

There has been a consistently growing demand for the Residential Rehab program which currently operates as a grant with a 10-year, prorated payback schedule to the city. Currently, if after 10 years the home remains under original ownership from the time the grant was awarded, none of the grant funds are owed to the city.

The Residential Rehabilitation program is federally funded by HUD. The amount awarded to the city has decreased each year, while the demand for the program continues to increase. In an effort to make the program more sustainable, the Committee proposed a change from a grant program to a no-interest loan program. As a loan, the homeowner only repays the city when the property changes hands. It was confirmed that the loan operates as a lien against the property, with the city being paid first, and in full, from the sale.

Additionally, the Policy Committee submitted the following guidelines for the Board's consideration:

- An initial loan award cap of \$15,000.00, with a lifetime cap of \$25,000.00
- A homeowner who received an initial loan may apply again within the following two years

Repaid loan funds would allow the Residential Rehabilitation Program to be self-supporting in addition to using the yearly awarded HUD funds. With the fully repaid loans, more projects can be completed, and narrow the gap between available funding and the high demand.

Mayor Caggiano read the following Proposed Motion regarding the change to the CDBG Residential Rehabilitation Program:

Motion to move the Residential Rehabilitation Grant Program from one of a grant award process to a loan program process in which the full CDBG award is repaid upon transfer of the property, certain refinance, or other significant events, and the program has an individual program cap of \$15,000.00 and a lifetime program cap of \$25,000.00.

Motion to initiate program change for CDBG Housing Rehabilitation projects initiated on or after January 1, 2025.

Commissioner Schmelder made the motion which was seconded by Commissioner Hick. All were in favor and the Motion passed into the record. Commissioner Mills expressed interest in the application response with the changes and encouraged monitoring to make adjustments as needed.

The mayor and Commissioner Schmelder also advised the Board of the change to the Consolidated Plan Goals to move item #4 up to #3 to focus more on economic and community development. Commissioner Schmelder praised the ECD Staff and Board for the previous Consolidated Plan Goals with no exceptions noted by the organizers when the report was filed.

Justin Malley provided a brief background on the 5-Year plan for the benefit of the new Board members. The CDBG Policy Committee, ECD Board and City Council work to decide on where to direct the CDBG funds over those five years and using the 5-Year plan. Dr. Leger advised the Board that the most recent Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for HUD was accepted.

V. New Business

A. 894 Middle Street

Justin Malley advised the Board that the Request for Proposals (RFP) for 894 Middle Street is live, along with a Press Release about the property. The Hartford Courant was on site for a story in response to the Press Release. The RFP is being sent through the city and Goman & York, with a January 7, 2025 deadline. There is a pre-bid meeting in early December.

B. ARPA Update

Dawn Nielsen shared with the Board that remaining ARPA marketing funds will be used to create a video series highlighting how Bristol used ARPA funds differently to make a transformative impact to the city and its residents. One ARPA Task Force member will be grouped with one ARPA recipient and one community member that was impacted by the ARPA funded project. There will be fifteen short videos in a podcast style, released to social media and compiled into one longer video. This project highlights how Bristol used the ARPA funds in the community vs. city projects as was done in many towns in the state. This is also a creative approach to sharing the information out. Support for the video project was expressed by fellow ARPA members, Commissioners Goldwasser and Schmelder.

Commissioner Schmelder excused himself at 5:47pm.

C. Industrial Update

Justin Malley shared a detailed topical map of the Southeast Bristol Business Park (SEBBP) and nearby properties. Horizon Stone received an extension for obtaining Lot #2. The current SEBBP businesses have another month to reply regarding the request to change the guidelines as voted on by the Board in previous months.

Lot #3 is under due diligence with FORCE Automation which is planning two buildings on the site with parking. FORCE works with other manufacturers who need automated production with robots that FORCE designs and manufactures for them.

Lot #6 was last with HEXI Corp. who has since concluded they're not in a position to move forward. Another manufacturer is now under due diligence to provide the ECD with

materials, including a business plan and proof of financing, by the December 2024 ECD Board Meeting. There are other interested businesses if this one doesn't come through.

Further discussion included the interest and possible uses of the SEBBP and neighboring properties. The wetlands area was noted as maintained by the city.

D. Incentives Update

Justin Malley summarized the Community Investment Corporation (CIC) quarterly report regarding the Revolving Loan Program applications, and loans awarded. The city will start to see loan payments coming in which is designed to make this program more self-sustaining.

The Façade Grant Program and Small Business Grant Program are both doing well with interest from area businesses and available funding in the program accounts.

E. Downtown Update

Justin Malley shared a map of Centre Square while reviewing plans and possible ideas for use of the available spaces. The Post Office and Police Station were also discussed. The city is open to ideas for a new Police Station and the Post Office locations. Mayor Caggiano shared some additional information about possible road straightening and park enhancements in the downtown area, with a need for more housing. Additional discussion included police patrols, electronic red light and speed monitoring, parking, events, restaurants, and downtown lighting to assist the additional walking traffic that the new downtown will bring.

F. 2025 ECD Board Meeting Calendar

Mayor Caggiano noted the change in meeting schedule for July 2025 due to the first Thursday of the month falling on July 3rd which could be a long weekend for many. The new meeting date is now Wednesday, July 9, 2025.

The mayor requested a motion to approve the proposed 2025 ECD Board Meeting Calendar. Commissioner Hick made the motion which was seconded by Commissioner Goldwasser. All were in favor and the meeting was accepted into the record.

VI. New Business by Commissioners

There was no New Business by the Commissioners.

VII. Old Business by Commissioners

There was no Old Business by the Commissioners.

VIII. Committee Reports

B. City Council Member Report

There was no City Council Member Report.

IX. Adjournment

Mayor Caggiano called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Mills made the motion which was seconded by Commissioner Hick. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 6:11pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Arsego
Recording Secretary

Unapproved



'G.I.'S PRAYER'

Poem by Bristol soldier, Germany, 1945 Page 3

VOL. 153 NO. 269

BRISTOLPRESS.COM

WEEKEND EDITION, NOVEMBER 9/10, 2024

\$2.50

The Bristol Press

Serving the Communities of Central Connecticut



Jeremy Edmond

Police arrest suspect in string of gas station robberies

BRENDAN CROWLEY
@THEBRISTOLPRESS

SOUTHINGTON — Police said they arrested a man suspected of a string of gas station robberies after he allegedly robbed a third town gas station in a week at gunpoint on Wednesday night.

Jeremy Edmond, 33, of Waterbury, was arrested on charges of first degree robbery, first degree threatening, fourth degree larceny and second degree breach of peace. He is being held on a \$1 million bond, according to the Southington Police Department.

Southington Police responded to a report of an armed robbery at the Go Happy gas station at 2210 Menden Waterbury Trpk. just after 10 p.m. on Wednesday. The caller reported a man had entered the store, showing a black handgun and wearing a face covering, and demanded money.

The caller said the man then walked behind

Crystal Bees is closing down

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

SOUTHINGTON

Crystal Bees, a venue which offered live music, bowling and a bistro, has closed after eight years due to economic struggles.

Crystal Bees, located at 240 Spring St., first opened in 2016 and was well-known as a spot to come and see a variety of local bands. Owners announced

the closure on the business' website and Facebook page on Tuesday.

"It is with heavy hearts that we announce Crystal Bees will be closing its doors effective today," the announcement read. "Since opening in 2016, we have had the incredible pleasure of serving the greater Southington community as a place for friends, family, and fun. From unforgettable birthday parties to live

music nights and everything in between, each moment we've shared with you has meant the world to us."

While Crystal Bees was able to weather the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic thanks to fans' "support and resilience," the announcement said the "current economic landscape" has "made it increasingly difficult for us

See ECONOMIC ON PAGE 4



Crystal Bees, located at 240 Spring St., Southington.

BAZAAR WONDERLAND



Came Unknown

The Bristol Bazaar at 67 Race St. is decorated for its "Winter Wonderland" until the end of December.

Makers market decks the halls for the season

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

BRISTOL — The Bristol Bazaar has "decked the halls" for the holidays.

Care Verikas, co-owner

of The Bristol Bazaar at 67 Race St., said the indoor makers market has officially kicked off its holiday season. She encouraged shoppers to explore the Bristol

Bazaar's gift shop, which features more than 70 small businesses making hand-made products, to "make your gift-giving extra special."

"We are fully decked

out with our Winter Wonderland Shopping Experience," she said.

The "Winter Wonderland" will run from Nov. 5 through the end of December, with

thousands of twinkling holiday lights, fun photo ops, and a cozy atmosphere that she said is sure to get you in the holiday spirit.

See BAZAAR ON PAGE 4

INSIDE

Abby.....	6
Classified.....	14-15
Comics.....	6
Editorial.....	5
Features.....	6
Horoscopes.....	6
Local News.....	2-4
Obituaries.....	7
Public Notices.....	13
Puzzles.....	16
Sports.....	9-12
Movies.....	8
Weather.....	2

CONTACT THE BRISTOL PRESS

Mailing Address:

The Bristol Press, P.O. Box 228

Windsor, CT 06095

Location:

One Liberty Square,

New Britain 06050

To Subscribe:

860-422-8466 ext 1 or

delivery@thebristolpress.com

To Report News:

860-225-4801 or

bcmr3@newbristollinead.com



0 08805 93119 8



A sign at a church service thanks veterans for their service.

Researchers: Targeted prevention can help curb veteran suicide crisis

JORDAN BATCHELOR,
CHARLES MAX KATZ AND
TAYLOR COX

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

THE CONVERSATION — America's military veterans make up about 6% of the adult population but account for about 20% of all suicides. That means that each day, about 18 veterans will die by suicide.

In the U.S., the overall rate of suicide has largely increased since the start of the millennium, but veterans are

disproportionately represented among this tragic trend.

Each of these losses affects not only the individual but also their families, friends and co-workers.

We are a team of researchers at Arizona State University's Center for Violence Prevention and Community Safety. We manage the Arizona Violent Death Reporting System, a surveillance system sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and part of the

larger national surveillance system. We gather information on suicides through agreements with the Arizona Department of Health Services, medical examiners and law enforcement.

Assessing risk amid uncertainty

Military veterans range from 18 years of age to more than 100, include both men and women, and represent diverse races and ethnicities.

Identifying the true risk of

See NUMBER ON PAGE 4



One Liberty Square,
New Britain 06050

The Bristol Press
(ISSN 0891-6552)
is published each morning
Monday through Saturday
except on federal holidays by
Connecticut News Media Inc.
Copyright 2022, Connecticut
News Media Inc.

CIRCULATION
For circulation issues or
questions, call 7:30 am to
4 pm, Monday-Friday and
8 am to 10 am Saturdays.
860-423-8466 ext 1 for email
our circulation department at
tdelvey@bristolpress.com.
Closed Sundays.

We do not publish a print edition
on federal holidays. We publish
an e-edition in its place.

HOW TO REACH US
860-423-8461

NEWS TIPS
bcarroll@newbristainherald.com

SPORTS
whishop@bristolpress.com

OBITUARIES
Deadline 1 p.m. for next day
obituary.
CentralCTCommunications.com

ADVERTISING
Retail: 860-423-8466 x3214
jank@thebristolpress.com
Classified: 860-423-8466 x3316
classified@bristolpress.com
centralctcommunications.com

REPRINTS
No reproduction or reuse
of material without express
written consent.
Contact us for permission.

POSTAL INFORMATION
The Bristol Press, pending
periodical #2553,
is published 6 days per week
excluding Sundays.
Periodicals postage paid
at Bristol, CT. Post office
address: P.O. Box 229,
Williamstown, CT 06206.
Postmaster: Send address
changes to The Bristol Press,
P.O. Box 229,
Williamstown, CT 06206.

RATES
Single copy:
Monday - Friday \$2.00
Saturdays \$2.50
SUBSCRIPTION:
One Year: \$275

Suspect found with fake gun, cash in car

Continued from Page 1

the counter and took cash out of the register. It was the third similar robbery Southington Police had responded to this week on the turnpike, and police had a description of the suspect's car from the three separate robberies.

Police said they saw a vehicle "matching the description" entering an on-ramp to Interstate 84, and saw a driver matching the description of the sus-

pect in all three robberies. Police and they followed the driver into Waterbury, and arrested him there without incident.

Police found a black, fake plastic handgun on the driver's side floor, and a "large amount" of loose cash in the car, according to a press release from the department.

Edmond was charged for the robbery of the Go Happy gas station, police said.

Bazaar festivities include gingerbread house contest

Continued from Page 1

"Then warm up with a festive coffee cocktail at Yellow King Bristol," Verikas said.

The Bristol Bazaar's Winter Wonderland will be open for Black Friday, Nov. 29, and Small Business Saturday, Nov. 30, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

"Come shop small, support local artisans and make this holiday season one to remember," Verikas said.

The Bristol Bazaar has also announced its inaugural Gingerbread House Contest, with proceeds supporting Toys for Tots. There are 2 categories for entry - "for fun" is a \$25 entrance fee, and entry as a business is \$50.

"All participating businesses will have

their logo on our website, e-newsletter (sent weekly) and social posts related to the contest," Verikas said.

The Bristol Bazaar will provide the 16" by 14" base, which all participants must use. People will be able to pick up those bases starting on Nov. 19 at The Bristol Bazaar. Participants will provide their own materials to build and decorate their gingerbread house.

Completed houses must be delivered to the store on Sunday, Dec. 8 between 2 and 6 p.m.

"All houses will be on display in our event space for voting from Dec. 10 through Dec. 13, with judging on the 13th at 3 p.m.," Verikas said. "All judges will be announced soon."

'Economic landscape' spells end for Southington venue

Continued from Page 1

to continue as a restaurant and entertainment venue."

"We understand this news may be disappointing, especially for those who had tickets to upcoming shows or booked parties and events with us," the announcement said. "We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Rest assured, all ticket purchases and event deposits will be fully refunded."

Crystal Bees thanked their fans for "being a part of our journey."

"Crystal Bees would not have been the vibrant space it was without you, whether you joined us for bowling nights, battled it out in the

arcade, enjoyed delicious meals at our bistro, or raised a glass at the bar," the announcement said. "We are forever grateful for the memories we created together, and although this chapter is ending, the memories we've shared will always have a special place in our hearts. We are deeply grateful for your support."

Kim DiCosimo-Hair wrote that she was "very sad" to see her favorite music venue close.

"So many great bands have performed there," she said. "(I) met so many people who became good friends. I feel for all the employees. I enjoyed photographing there for many

years. I hope someday you will reopen or someone will take it over. To all the bands scheduled, hope we see you again. Thanks for the good times Bees."

The Wildside Motley Crue Tribute band, who played Halloween at Crystal Bees, posted on their page that they too were saddened by the news.

"The Bees would like to shout out a big thank you to Crystal Bees, Eric Smith, the entire staff, sound and light technicians and fans for all the shows and good times we had at CB," they wrote.

Brian M. Johnson can be reached at 860-269-0822 or bjohnson@bristolpress.com

Number of veterans seeking mental health help increasing

Continued from Page 1

veteran suicide, especially relative to the general population, is a surprisingly difficult task. In past decades, researchers and stakeholders debated about which figures were most accurate, those showing veterans at increased risk or those showing the opposite. Such debates often stemmed from methodological factors.

However, mounting evidence shows that veterans need targeted suicide prevention services, and our data backs this up. While veterans in Arizona made up only 8.4% of the population in 2022, they represented 20.3% of the state's suicides.

While these numbers stem from Arizona, they also reflect the national trends showing greater and growing rates of suicide among veterans.

Why are veterans at greater risk?

One reason is that, compared to nonveterans, a greater proportion of veterans are white, male and older - demographic categories with elevated rates of suicide in the general population. For example, in Arizona, about 97% of veteran suicides between 2015 and 2022 were men, compared with 75% in the comparable nonveteran population.

Other explanations relate to veteran-specific factors. Some argue that military training and combat exposure can reduce a person's fear of pain or death, putting suicidal veterans at greater risk of completing

suicide. Military training also familiarizes a person with the use of firearms, a particularly lethal means of suicide. Statistics show that veterans, including female veterans, die by suicide using firearms more so than the general population. This tendency to use firearms as the method of suicide leads to more fatal suicide attempts.

At the Arizona Violent Death Reporting System, we collect data on circumstances that precede and may have contributed to suicide, which can help identify risk factors. While we've found that veterans often exhibit fewer such factors overall, certain demographic categories do display risk factors.

For example, a higher proportion of veterans ages 18 to 54 had a diagnosed mental health problem - primarily post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD. In addition, more male veterans ages 65 and older had physical health problems that contributed to their suicide compared with similar nonveterans.

Shining a light on the problem

While the overall population of veterans is decreasing, the number of veterans who seek resources from the Veterans Health Administration has increased. Encounters between veterans and the Veterans

Health Administration offer opportunities to screen for suicide risk and offer resources for those in need.

Crisis lines are a potentially effective means of prevention. For example, the Veterans Crisis Line has been shown to reduce a caller's immediate distress and suicidality. Many callers have found the crisis line helpful, with responders providing both effective intervention and compassionate support.

As firearms are a particularly lethal means of suicide, a great deal of research funding has gone toward understanding their role in suicide. Both general and veteran-specific suicide prevention efforts highlight the importance of handling guns safely and storing them securely.

If you know a military veteran, keep an eye out for warning signs of mental distress, which may display in a person's words, feelings or behavior.

For example, they may display intense anxiety, agitation or desperation, or express a sense of hopelessness. Veterans diagnosed with depressive syndrome, PTSD or both may be at greater risk.

For a person who is considering suicide, even the slightest hope can mean the difference between life and death.

If you or someone you know is experiencing signs of crisis, the free and confidential 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is available to call, text or chat.

If you are a veteran and would like to speak with responders trained to understand your unique circumstances, call 988 and then press 1.

Sharing Holiday Kindness with Local Families

Would you like to support a family in need?
Sponsor a holiday meal package for

*Thanksgiving
and
Christmas*

Join Bristol Press and New Britain Herald by sponsoring a Holiday Meal Package. Your sponsorship will be noted with a 3.51" x 2" ad on our sponsor thank you page in Bristol Press and New Britain Herald on 11/27 and 12/19.

The cost for area businesses to participate is \$250,
billed as \$125 each in November and December

The Bristol Press
Serving the Community of Bristol

NEW BRITAIN HERALD
Serving the Community of Bristol

To participate call Ben 860-384-9835, Janet 860-329-5536

Are you a Press or Herald Reader that would like to participate?
We will run your name as a sponsor. Make check payable to
The Bristol Press or New Britain Herald, P.O. Box 229, Williamstown, CT
Readers may donate \$10, \$25, \$50 or other amount

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

CENTRAL COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION CLINIC HEALTH SCREENINGS

By Central's Nursing Department

FREE SERVICES:

- Vision Screening
- Hearing Screening
- Blood Pressure
- Glucose Screening
- Cholesterol Screening
- Tuberculin Self-Exam
- Foot Sores & Assessments
- Breast Self-Exam
- Height/Weight
- Color Blind Screening

FREE FOOD AND GIVEAWAYS!

WHERE:
Basement of Nicolaus Copernicus Hall
Access from Paul Manafort Dr.
CT Transit Bus Stop #144

WHEN:
Wednesdays
9AM-12PM

860-423-8466

CLINIC@CCHC.EDU

#CENTRALCOMMUNITYCLINIC

CENTRAL COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION CLINIC



BRISTOL PRESS

MARIA'S PLACE

860-423-8466



Hartford Courant

Monday, November 11, 2024

Bristol shopping huge commercial site after \$3M, 10-year environmental cleanup



Bristol Mayor Jeff Caggiano, right, looks over a 15-acre property along Middle Street on Wednesday with Economic Development Director Justin Malley and Public Works Director Raymond Rogozinski. Don Stacom/Hartford Courant

BY DON STACOM HARTFORD COURANT

For sale: Nearly 15 acres of open, developable land along a high-volume traffic corridor near ESPN and Lake Compounce.

With an eye toward future tax revenue and new jobs, Bristol this week began seeking companies that want to buy and develop the land along Route 229. But because of the property's unusual advantages, the city is resolute about ensuring that one or more high-value businesses set up operations there.

In any heavily built-up city, a single parcel of that size is rare — and Mayor Jeff Caggiano believes that gives Bristol a chance at landing a top-flight developer. It might be one or more manufacturers, a warehouse, a large-scale entertainment venue or retail, or a mix, he said.

“For me, this is about jobs and the ability to continue to be sure we have good employment in the area,” Mayor Jeff Caggiano said Wednesday, hours after Bristol announced the city-owned parcel is available.

“We don't have a lot of open space to offer something like this. I can think of one 5-acre site that's privately held, the city doesn't have it to offer. Our business park is pretty much full,” Caggiano said. “So this is going to offer a great opportunity. It's huge. And the location is unbelievable.”

Getting the contaminated land cleaned and ready for redevelopment was a nearly decade-long process that cost \$3 million and spanned the administrations of three mayors and two governors. After all of that, the city has no interest in simply dealing it to the first qualified buyer.

Instead, Bristol is inviting prospective developers to tour the site on Dec. 3 and then submit detailed proposals by Jan. 7. The city's economic development commission expects to choose one later in the winter based largely on which one would be feasible and do the most for Bristol's economic base, add jobs, meet high design standards and otherwise benefit the city.

“This is already zoned industrial, so commercial/industrial works for us. And from the location itself being so close to I-84 and Route 72, ESPN across the street, Lake Compounce and the (DoubleTree) hotel so close — it just fits that mold,” said Justin Malley, the city's economic development director.

The \$3 million environmental cleanup brought the land to a standard suitable for business, but not housing.

“Residential use for the property is not appropriate,” according to the city's notice to developers. “However the city encourages proposals for commercial development from logistics/warehouse, manufacturing, recreation/tourism, retail and more.”

The tract at 894 Middle St. was farmland until Laviero Metals acquired it in 1953 and ran a scrap metal reclamation operation for more than 20 years. Laviero's

work had contaminated the soils with PCBs and lead by the time the operation shut down in 1977. The company attempted some remediation in the 1980s, but vacated the property altogether in 1990, according to city records.

The city ultimately acquired the land through a tax foreclosure, and more than a decade ago started the long process of getting it ready to be back on the tax rolls. Then-Mayor Ken Cockayne sought to coordinate an environmental cleanup; the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments, the federal Environmental Protection Agency and the city put up \$66,000 for initial study money.

Between 2014 and 2016, then-Gov. Dannel Malloy's administration awarded more than \$1.4 million through the department of economic and community development. The city ended up putting in more than \$1.5 million.

Work began in 2019 under then-Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, and city leaders credit Gov. Ned Lamont with carrying through on the state's commitment.

While crews were digging up contaminated soil and wetlands sediment, they discovered area of buried debris with lead, according to a detailed report written by Malley and Public Works Director Raymond Rogozinski.

More than 2,900 tons of PCB-contaminated soil were dug up and hauled off site under supervision of the EPA and the state's department of energy and environmental protection. The city had soil samples analyzed afterward, and has been doing groundwater monitoring ever since.

"We've been through several administrations and every one, including Mayor Jeff's, has supported us," Malley said. "We knew back at the start that it was a brownfield, but we also knew NVCOG and the state do a great job of offering grants to assess brownfields and ultimately clean them."

Hartford Courant

VOLUME CLXXXVIII NUMBER 316

COURANT.COM

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2024

Jobs in play as Trump weighs national defense

What we know about the billion-dollar deal

By Edmund H. Mahony
Hartford Courant

With alliance-averse former President Donald J. Trump returning to office, naval and shipbuilding interests from Connecticut to western Australia are watching the new administration for signs of support for the

historic AUKUS security agreement. Billions of dollars — some of which could reach southeastern Connecticut — are tied to the future of the trilateral agreement signed early in the Biden administration by Australia, the United Kingdom and the U.S. AUKUS was created as a joint commitment to contain an increasingly aggressive China — a priority of the first Trump administration — and to keep commerce flowing freely on

Turn to Trump, Page 2



"The question is Trump," said U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney, a leading AUKUS supporter and the 2nd District Democrat whose district includes both Electric Boat and the U.S. Naval Submarine Base three miles up the Thames River in Groton. DANA JENSEN/THE DAY



Lessons in friendship and understanding

In messages about friendship, understanding and qualities that make everyone unique, Orchard Hill Elementary School fifth grade students lay painted rocks down for "What Makes A Good Friend Rock Garden" at the school in South Windsor. The funds for the project were provided from a grant awarded by the Connecticut Down Syndrome Association and a donation from Jamie Gilbert, owner of Harlen's Landscape Supply Garden Center, and the Hanson family. Clockwise from top: Orchard Hill Elementary School 5th-grade student Madison Hanson, lays the first rock. Painted rocks with messages are left by students. Students lay painted rocks down.

AARON FLAUM/HARTFORD COURANT PHOTOS

Bristol shopping huge commercial site after \$3M, 10-year environmental cleanup

By Don Stacom
Hartford Courant

For sale: Nearly 15 acres of open, developable land along a high-volume traffic corridor near ESPN and Lake Compounce.

With an eye toward future tax revenue and new jobs, Bristol this week began seeking companies that want to buy and develop the land along Route 220. But because of the property's unusual advantages, the city is resolute about ensuring that one or more high-value businesses set up operations there.

In any heavily built-up city, a single parcel of that size is rare — and Mayor Jeff Caggiano believes that gives Bristol a chance at landing a top-flight developer. It might be one or more manufacturers, a warehouse, a large-scale entertainment venue or retail, or a mix, he said.

"For me, this is about jobs and the ability to continue to be sure we have good employment in the area," Mayor Jeff Caggiano said.

Turn to Land, Page 2



Bristol Mayor Jeff Caggiano, right, looks over a 15-acre property along Middle Street on Wednesday with Economic Development Director Justin Malley and Public Works Director Raymond Rogozinski. DON STACOM/HARTFORD COURANT

Religious leaders weigh in on Trump win

By Stephen Underwood
Hartford Courant

Donald Trump's historical victory to reclaim the White House on Tuesday sent a political earthquake across much of the country, including for faith organizations.

In Connecticut, Jewish, Christian and Muslim faith leaders had a wide range of reactions to Trump's U.S. presidential win, discussing a number of the issues they think are most pressing from abortion rights to preserving democracy to the war in Gaza.

Among a myriad of hot-button issues, the conflict in the Middle East dominated the discussions. The war, which began when the militant group Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, has decimated Gaza and spilled into neighboring Lebanon. The war has killed an estimated 41,595 Palestinians, and many are children, according to the Palestinian Health Authority.

"The Muslim community felt like the Democrats were taking us for granted, but they weren't listening to our concerns," said Dr. Reza Mansoor, president of the Islamic Association of Greater Hartford. "There

Turn to Reactions, Page 3

ELECTION 2024

Trump on Day 1: Is his list possible?

He'll have broad authority but not dictator powers

By Colleen Long and Dan Merica
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump has said he wouldn't be a dictator — "except for Day 1." According to his own statements, he's got a lot to do on that first day in the White House.

His list includes starting up the mass deportation of migrants, reshaping the federal government by firing potentially thousands of federal employees he believes are secretly working against him, and pardoning people arrested for their role in the riot at the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

Turn to Election, Page 3

Constitutional rights

Court case to examine man's arrest. Connecticut, Page 1

Laying awake?

A UConn doctor weighs in on sleep habits and good health, and what to do to improve your chances of getting the recommended hours, or seeking help if you can't. Connecticut, Page 1

Opinion..... Sports, 6
Obits..... Connecticut, 5
Lottery..... News, 2
Classified..... Connecticut, 5
Puzzles..... Living, 3, 5
Comics..... Connecticut, 4-5

Hartford Courant
media group

\$4.00 Copyright 2021
The Hartford Courant Co.



FROM PAGE ONE

Teen found dead, wrapped in comforter in Hartford

Younger teenager charged with murder

By Sean Krolfski
Hartford Courant

A Hartford teen was found dead and wrapped in a comforter in the 100 block

of Pope Park Highway in the city on Saturday morning, and suspects in the case are in custody, according to the Hartford Police Department. Edgar Martinez, 19, of Magnolia Street, was found at just after 7 a.m. on Saturday. The Chief Medical

Examiner's Office concluded that Martinez's body had apparent gunshot wounds, and the body was placed on Pope Park Highway 24 hours prior, police said. Hartford police said the apparent shooting took place at an incident on the 100 block of Magnolia Street

on Friday. Officers and detectives investigated at the apartment on Saturday morning and found evidence of a crime scene and learned of suspects, police said. At just after 7:30 p.m. Saturday, the Hartford Police Vice and Narcotics Division,

Community Patrol Division and Southwest Community Service Officers stopped a vehicle that was traveling on Park Terrace, and suspects were taken into custody, police said. A 17-year-old is charged with murder and tampering with evidence, police said.

The juvenile, who was not identified because of his age, is in custody, police said. Sender Soto-Melendez, 21, of Hartford, is charged with tampering with evidence and second-degree hindering prosecution. His bond was set at \$500,000, police said.



Rep. Joe Courtney in February 2020 in Mystic at a legislative update organized by General Dynamics Electric Boat. MICHAEL MACANDREW/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

Trump

from Page 1

important Indo-Pacific sea lanes. To do so, AUKUS set in motion an unprecedented transfer of defense technology between the three countries. Significantly, it permits the sale of the U.S. to Australia of as many as five of the new, \$4.5 billion Virginia-class attack submarines, which are built in Groton by the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics and packed with the country's most advanced and closely guarded military technology. The transfer would enable Australia to carry a greater part of the far eastern security burden for the allies while developing its own naval design and construction programs.

There is bipartisan support for AUKUS in Congress. Opposition comes from those who believe that, in view of the furious pace at which China is expanding its Navy, the U.S. needs to concentrate on rebuilding its own before selling boats to Australia.

Language in AUKUS gives whoever is president at the time of submarine transfers the power to kill them in the interest of U.S. national security. Trump has so far been silent on AUKUS, but Elbridge Colby, mentioned frequently as a possible Trump administration national security advisor, created a stir last summer with remarks suggesting that the U.S. Navy should be

the country's priority and the jury is still out on AUKUS. "The question is Trump," said U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney, a leading AUKUS supporter and the Second District Democrat whose district includes both Electric Boat and the U.S. Naval Submarine Base three miles up the Thames River in Groton.

"I'm not sure he has ever uttered the word AUKUS. But alliances are always a little bit suspect with him. He doesn't like NATO and people are worried about that in him," Courtney said. In the three years since Australia, where the economy can be subject to Washington's strongest grippance, persuaded the U.S. and England of the value of the AUKUS concept, the agreement has produced results on both sides of the world.

Electric Boat is hiring at record levels — more than 5,000 a year over the last two years — as it and its suppliers struggle to produce enormously complex submarines at a pace that satisfies both U.S. security requirements and its AUKUS commitment. Australian sailors are studying in the U.S. Navy's sub school in Groton and training on active duty U.S. submarines. Courtney said an Australian was at the helm when the USS Hawaii, a new Virginia-class ship, sailed into Perth in August. Australia has committed \$3 billion to build up U.S. companies in the industrial base that supports submarine production. It is spending billions more on Australian naval bases and

shipyards that will support both Australian and U.S. submarines. Housing is being built for U.S. sailors at HMAS Stirling on the Indian Ocean near Perth, which would be the Royal Australian Navy's principal base for U.S. and Australian Virginia-class submarines patrolling the Indo-Pacific.

Courtney, just elected to his ninth term, has taken a leading role in shaping U.S. naval shipbuilding policy as a senior member of the U.S. House Armed Services Committee and ranking member of its Seapower subcommittee. More recently he has been one of Washington's strongest advocates for AUKUS and its strategic implications for Chinese containment.

He spent much of election night doing interviews with reporters in Australia, which is in a part of the world where there is deep concern over both Chinese belligerence and the incoming administration's attitude toward AUKUS. Among other things, China — Australia's largest trading partner — showed it can stagger the Australian economy when it blocked its exports because Australia supported an investigation of the origins of the coronavirus. Australian polling showed that in China plunged from 52 to 16

percent as a result. Since then, the Chinese navy has taken steps with Taiwan and the Philippines say threaten their sovereignty.

Courtney is co-chair and a founding member of the Congressional Friends of Australia caucus. Last month, he was named an honorary officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia, an award recognizing "extraordinary service" to Australia by non-citizens. U.S. House Armed Services Committee

One of the arguments he said supports AUKUS is that, under the agreement, Australia is willing to spend billions on U.S. submarines and domestic military capacity in order to carry out naval missions in the Indo-Pacific that the U.S. would otherwise be doing alone.

"From a strategic standpoint it is really important to keep AUKUS in place," he said. "There is a lot of momentum behind it in DC, a lot of Republican support. That makes me feel cautiously optimistic. It is in my opinion, the most potent counterbalance to China. China hates AUKUS."

Other far eastern countries are pressing to join AUKUS and Courtney said Chinese displeasure was on display a year ago during

remarks by U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin at the International Institute for Strategic Studies annual far east defense conference in Singapore.

"China had a delegation there," Courtney said. "The folks from South Korea were asking Austin during the plenary session, 'When can we join AUKUS?' and the Chinese delegation was just fuming."

During an appearance with Courtney earlier this year, Australia's deputy U.S. ambassador said he believes the "threshold motivation" behind moves such as China's efforts to close ports of the South China Sea to shipping is to "expel" the U.S. from the waters inside what is known as the first island chain, an archipelago of nations running through Japan, portions of the Philippines, Taiwan and Indonesia.

"I think in this it is important to emphasize that in the U.S. and Australia, we very much see ourselves as the status quo powers in this context," Ambassador Paul Myler said then. "We are the ones that are trying to protect the environment which has created so much prosperity, including for China, over the last 70 years."

"I think China has made it quite clear that it is inter-

ested in shifting that status quo. And so then you get down to a context of what we want the region to look like. And for Australia it is very much a region where countries have agency, where they are not subject to coercion, where big countries don't dominate smaller countries, where sovereignty is protected and where the economic prosperity that we've generated is available for all."

The future of AUKUS could turn on how quickly the U.S. can restore the Pentagon believes is needed to build submarines fast enough to meet U.S. security needs. Restoring that capacity, after it was left to collapse at the close of the Cold War, has been a decades-long process.

The decades of flat defense spending shrunk the U.S. fleet by half and then, when that generation depleted the ranks of welders, shipfitters and riggers who build ships, as well as the companies that supply them.

The Navy now says it needs 66 Virginia-class submarines. Electric Boat has built more than 20 at the same time it is building a dozen of the bigger and more expensive Columbia-class ballistic missile submarines.

Land

from Page 1

Wednesday, hours after Bristol announced the city-owned parcel is available. "We don't have a lot of open space to offer something like this. I can think of one 5-acre site that's privately held, the city doesn't have it to offer. Our business park is pretty much full," Caggiano said. "So this is going to offer a great opportunity. It's huge. And the location is unbelievable."

Getting the contaminated land cleaned and ready for redevelopment was a nearly decade-long process that cost \$3 million and spanned the administrations of three mayors and two governors. After all of that, the city has no interest in simply dealing it to the first qualified buyer.

Instead, Bristol is inviting prospective developers

to tour the site on Dec. 3 and then submit detailed proposals by Jan. 7. The city's economic development commission expects to choose one later in the winter based largely on which one would be feasible and do the most for Bristol's economic base, add jobs, meet high design standards and otherwise benefit the city.

"This is already zoned industrial, so commercial/industrial works for us. And from the location itself being so close to I-84 and Route 72, ESPN across the street, Lake Compounce and the (DoubleTree) hotel so close — it just fits that mold," said Justin Malley, the city's economic development director.

The \$3 million environmental cleanup brought the land to a standard suitable for business, but not housing. "Residential use for the property is not appropriate,"

according to the city's notice to developers. "However the city encourages proposals for commercial development from logistics/warehouse, manufacturing, recreation/tourism, retail and more."

The tract at 894 Middle St. was farmland until Laviro Metals acquired it in 1953 and ran a scrap metal reclamation operation for more than 20 years. Laviro's work had contaminated the soils with PCBs and lead by the time the operation shut down in 1977. The company attempted some remediation in the 1980s, but vacated the property altogether in 1990, according to city records.

The city ultimately acquired the land through a tax foreclosure, and more than a decade ago started the long process of getting it ready to be back on the tax rolls. Then-Mayor Ken

Cockayne sought to coordinate an environmental cleanup, the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments, the Federal Environmental Protection Agency and the city put up \$46,000 for initial study money.

Between 2014 and 2016, then-Gov. Dannel Malloy's administration awarded more than \$1.4 million through the department of economic and community development. The city ended up putting in more than \$1.5 million.

Work began in 2019 under then-Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, and city leaders credit Gov. Ned Lamont with carrying through on the state's commitment.

While crews were digging up contaminated soil and wetlands sediment, they discovered a buried debris with lead, according to a detailed report written by Malley and Public Works



Bristol is on the lookout for a top-flight developer. COURANT FILE

Director Raymond Rogozinski.

More than 2,900 tons of PCB-contaminated soil were dug up and hauled off site under supervision of the EPA and the state's department of energy and environmental protection. The city had soil samples analyzed afterward, and has been doing groundwater monitoring ever since.

"We've been through several administrations and every one, including Mayor Jeff's, has supported us," Malley said. "We knew back at the start that it was a brownfield, but we also knew NVCOG and the state do a great job of offering grants to assess brownfields and ultimately clean them."

Hartford Courant

A TRIBUNE PUBLISHING COMPANY

NEWS EXECUTIVE
Nathan Rosenberg
Executive Editor

HOW TO REACH US

The Hartford Courant is published daily except on Sundays and public holidays. For advertising rates and other information, please call (860) 462-6000 (local calling area) or (800) 444-6000 (toll-free). For classified advertising rates, please call (860) 462-6000.

Our Circulation Customer Service team is available Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. For more information, please call (860) 462-6000.

NEWSPAPER DELIVERY
860-525-5555

Subscriptions: Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery of new subscriptions. Delivery is guaranteed for the first year. Delivery is not guaranteed for subsequent years.

Advertising: For advertising rates and other information, please call (860) 462-6000.

Address: 100 State St., Hartford, CT 06103

Phone: (860) 462-6000

Fax: (860) 462-6000

E-mail: advertising@courant.com

Web: www.courant.com

The Hartford Courant is a member of the Tribune Publishing Company.

BREAKING NEWS

Be the first to know when news breaks

SIGN UP TODAY

courant.com/newsletters

YOUR PERFECT JOB IS WAITING

Search jobs. Post your resume. Stand out from the crowd.

careers.tribpub.com

The Bristol Press

Serving the Communities of Central Connecticut



FILE
The Wallace Barnes Nature Trail in Bristol

Wallace Barnes Nature Trail recognized for accessibility

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

BRISTOL — The Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut have been included as part of the Connecticut Age Well Collaborative's "Age Well Across Connecticut Tour" for the Wallace Barnes Accessible Nature Trail.

"Age Well Across Connecticut" recognizes places and programs in the state that demonstrate age, dementia, and disability inclusivity. This summer, the Connecticut Age Well Collaborative asked state residents to nominate "hidden gems" in their communities, from the best accessible attractions, to the most welcoming local businesses, to the most inspiring initiatives.

Nominees were required to be Connecticut-based, open to the public with an existing location or

See AGE ON PAGE 4

Bristol seeking developer for remediated site

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

BRISTOL — The City of Bristol is accepting submissions from developers and associated parties interested in buying and developing an approximately 15-acre remediated Brownfield property near the ESPN headquarters.

Dawn Nielsen, marketing and public relations specialist for the City of Bristol, said the property

at 894 Middle St. encompasses three contiguous parcels owned by the City of Bristol: Lot 17, Lot 17-3 and Lot 17-4-1. Combined, the parcels make up an approximately 15-acre site that has 599.5 feet of frontage along the west side of Middle Street, 1,140 plus feet of frontage along the southerly side of Enterprise Drive, and additional frontage along the curve between the two streets.

"The property is a visi-

ble, high-profile location enjoying the highest traffic counts in the City of Bristol, with convenient access to Interstate I-84 and CT Route 72," Nielsen said. "The property is located in the center of Connecticut, nearly equidistant to New York City and Boston."

Nielsen said that it's a 25-minute drive to Hartford from the property and 40 minutes south to New Haven.

See BRISTOL ON PAGE 4



A map showing the location of the 15-acre site at 894 Middle St.

PICKLEBALL ALL YEAR



Steve Roberts, Mike Scalia, Joshua Kesling and James Sagnam playing pickleball at Camp Pickleball.

Brian Johnson

Camp Pickleball features 10 indoor courts

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

PLAINVILLE — With 10 indoor courts, the new Camp Pickleball has brought a year-round space for the fast-growing sport to the area.

The 23,400 square foot space that owner Trish Jennings, her husband Matt and their business partner Nate Rule opened on Sept. 28, at 17 Northwest Dr. provides a large indoor space for leagues, lessons, tournaments and

drop-in games.

"We started playing pickleball around three years ago," Jennings said. "Then, when the winter came around, we had nowhere to play. So, we decided to build our own indoor space."

Pickleball is a tennis-like game with a smaller court, making the game accessible to people of different mobility levels. It has seen a large increase in popularity in the past several years, with towns including Bristol

replacing public tennis courts with pickleball courts.

Jennings said Camp Pickleball has been "very successful" so far.

"We are up to more than 450 members

See PICKLEBALL ON PAGE 4

INSIDE

Dear Abby	11
Classified	9-10
Comics	11
Editorial	5
Features	11
Horoscopes	11
Local News	2-4
Nation/World	x
Obituaries	7
Puzzles	10
Sports	7-10
State	x
Television	8
Weather	2

CONTACT THE BRISTOL PRESS

Mailing Address:
The Bristol Press, P.O. Box 229
Willimantic, CT 06226

Location:
One Liberty Square,
New Britain 06050

To Subscribe:
860-423-9466 ext.1 or
delivery@thechronicle.com

To Report News:
860-225-4601, or
bcauto@newbristainherald.com



The Reworld trash-to-energy plant in Bristol

Residents concerned; incredulous about medical waste burning plan

BRENDAN CROWLEY
@THEBRISTOLPRESS

BRISTOL — Presentations by the owner of a trash to energy incinerator and the state agency tasked with regulating it left residents incredulous during a public hearing Thursday on Reworld's plan to start burning medical waste at the facility.

Representatives of both

Reworld — formerly Covanta, the company that owns the trash-burning power plant in Bristol — and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection characterized the company's request as a "minor" adjustment to its permit, which would allow it to process up to 57 tons a day of medical waste at the plant.

Residents in Bristol and Southington expressed fear that burning medical waste would release more toxic fumes than the trash from town dumps it has already been processing at the plant for decades.

Some residents were also incredulous that DEEP would consider approving the per-

See RESIDENTS ON PAGE 2





One Liberty Square,
New Britain 06050

The Bristol Press
(ISSN 0891-5853)
is published each morning
Monday through Saturday
except on federal holidays by
Connecticut News Media Inc.
Copyright 2022, Connecticut
News Media Inc.

CIRCULATION

For Circulation issues or
questions, call 7:30 am to
4 pm, Monday-Friday and
8 am to 10 am Saturdays.
860-423-8466 ext 1 or email
our circulation department at
brian.m.johnson@bristolpress.com.
Closed Sundays.

We do not publish a print edition
on federal holidays. We publish
an e-edition in its place.

HOW TO REACH US

860-225-4601

NEWS TIPS

bcarroll@bristolpress.com

SPORTS

obishop@bristolpress.com

OBITUARIES

Deadline 1 p.m. for next day
obit@bristolpress.com

ADVERTISING

Retail: 860-423-8466 x314
jank@bristolpress.com
Classified: 860-423-8466 x316
classified@bristolpress.com

REPRINTS

No reproduction or reuse
of material without express
written consent.
Contact us for permission.

POSTAL INFORMATION

The Bristol Press, pending
periodical #25653,
is published 6 days per week
excluding Sunday.
Periodicals postage paid
at Bristol, CT. Post office
address: P.O. Box 229
Willimantic, CT 06226.
Postmaster: Send address
changes to The Bristol Press,
P.O. Box 229
Willimantic, CT 06226.

RATES

Single copy:
Monday - Friday \$2.00
Saturdays \$2.50
Subscription:
One Year: \$375



Camp Pickleball at 17 Northwest Dr., Plainville.

Pickleball spot comes to Plainville

Continued from Page 1

now," she said. "I think people like it because it is a type of competitive sport that is very easy to pick up but hard to master. You can get into it easily and then continue to work to improve your game."

Camp Pickleball offers drop-in play, court reservations for groups of players, lessons and clinics with coaches, tournaments and leagues.

"Our next league is starting the week of Nov. 18," Jennings said. "We also have a big tournament coming up Nov. 23 and 24. We have also hosted four corporate team-building events and several birthday parties. We have a

license from the town to host BYOB events." Jennings said that she is open to the idea of expanding if Camp Pickleball continues to be successful going forward. She said Plainville was selected for Camp Pickleball because it's a central location for a lot of players in the area.

"I'm from Southington and it seems that the main communities for pickleball in our area are West Hartford, Cheshire and Southington," she said.

For more information on Camp Pickleball, call 860-846-8084 or visit campsickleballct.com or Facebook.

Bristol welcomes commercial proposals, but no residential

Continued from Page 1

Nielsen added the property is also located near several "high-profile" sites, including ESPN headquarters across the street, five hotels within 2.5 miles or less, Lake Compounce Amusement & Water Park directly behind the site, two industrial parks housing more than 30 businesses, and the Bristol Event Center.

Nielsen said the City of Bristol acquired the site, which was formerly home to a metal reclamation operation, years ago before completing the necessary environmental assessment and remediation activities for the site to be developed again.

The site had previously suffered environmental contamination and was designated as a Brownfield property. Remediation on the PCB-contaminated property was completed with a \$1.3 million grant from the Connecticut Department of Economic &

Community Development and matching funding from the city.

The property can't be developed for residential use because of the remediation, she said. But the city is encouraging proposals for commercial development, including warehouses, manufacturing, recreation/tourism and retail.

"The City invites proposals that enhance the economic development of the City through the best use of this important City-owned parcel," Nielsen said. "The City is specifically interested in commercial/industrial prospects that will enhance the local economic base through a redevelopment project that meets high standards of design, exhibits high market feasibility, offers employment opportunities, and that can offer other benefits to the community."

Nielsen said the city will select one or more qualified

proposals. The representatives of these proposals will then be invited for an interview with city officials. Should the first selector be unable to complete an agreement for any reason, she said the city reserves the right to pursue other developers.

Proposal submissions will be accepted by the Purchasing Department until Jan. 7, 2025 at 11 a.m. Nielsen said requests for proposals are being accepted for the "raw land" at 894 Middle St. between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

A "non-mandatory" pre-submission meeting will be held at 11 a.m. or Dec. 3, on the northeast corner of the property, at the intersection of Middle Street and Enterprise Drive for interested parties to meet city staff and discuss the property, Nielsen said.

Brian M. Johnson can be reached at 860-269-0822 or bjohnson@bristolpress.com.

'Age Well Across CT Tour' designates inclusive trail

Continued from Page 1

regular schedule, free or low cost, and designed with an aging, dementia, and/or disability lens. From these nominations, a list of nearly 50 places of experiences, in-person and virtual, were selected, including the Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut.

"As we work to foster more age, dementia, and disability inclusive communities, it's critical to lift up community voices and celebrate local action," community partnership manager for the Connecticut Age Well Collaborative Christina Gray said. "AgeWell Across Connecticut does just that. Each of these picks was chosen by a member of their community who observed and honored their contribution to creating spaces where we can all thrive, across the lifespan."

This past spring, The Barnes Nature Center — part of Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut — just completed a mile-long fully accessible nature trail behind the visitor center. The trail is wide enough for two wheelchairs, with

seating and educational signs throughout at points of interest. The trail is open seven days a week from dawn to dusk. The visitor center is open Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m.

"A lot of communities have multi-use trails, which are also used by bicycles, but this is the first dedicated handicapped accessible nature trail in the area," Scott Heth, executive director of the Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut, said. "A lot of those multi-use trails are along roads, but this will actually allow people to get out and experience nature."

The mile-long trail takes visitors on a winding route through a pine and hemlock forest, a deciduous forest, wetlands and over the Freeman Hill brook. The trail has a gentle, 4.5% elevation to make it easier for people using wheelchairs or walkers or pushing strollers. There are several rest areas and benches along the way and two covered structures, as well as plaques with facts about the surrounding habitat.

Heth said he was

"thrilled" to have the trail included on the tour.

"We're so happy that this trail is receiving so much notoriety," he said. "It goes to show how much attention it has received in the community."

Heth said the trail has seen an "incredible" amount of use.

"People are now able to get out into nature that wouldn't otherwise be able to do so, whether due to accessibility issues or trepidation," he said.

Heth said the trails are elevated so that they do not disrupt the habitats of the animals living in the area. People who walk the trail, he said, will have a good chance of spotting barred owls, deer, bobcats and wood thrush. He said he has also seen blue herons.

"There are a variety of birds that need large expanses of forest for their habitat," Heth said. "That is why open space protection is so important."

For the complete "Age Well Across Connecticut Tour" list, visit stagewellcollaborative.org/acrosset

Brian M. Johnson can be reached at 860-269-0822 or bjohnson@bristolpress.com.



Customer Service, Our Superpower

Not all superheroes wear capes, ours wear lab coats, and customer service is their superpower! Our pharmacists are ready to assist you with all your pharmaceutical needs. They understand that life is busy and can feel overwhelming. That's why our dedicated staff is here to help you navigate your care. They'll work directly with your providers to manage your prescriptions so you don't have to. They'll also consult with you about our co-pay assistance program and other cost-effective alternatives. And when your meds are ready, you'll get to choose from curbside pickup, mail or free delivery anywhere in the state. Talk about convenience! There really are everyday heroes among us!

Bristol Health
Pharmacy

860.506.0675
BristolHealth.org/Pharmacy

NEED OIL?
Check Your Tank

Spring Brook
Fuel & Food Service

Join our family of satisfied customers!

860-225-6491
springbrookfuelandfood.com

CT HIC 0000322
CT Lic # 365591

Medicaid Accepted

Bristol
HEARING AIDS, LLC

860-506-3720

Our goal is to listen to you, understand your hearing loss, find a solution, and help you lead an active and healthy life.

VOTED BEST HEARING SPECIALIST YEAR AFTER YEAR

72 Pine St., Suite B, Bristol
www.bristolhearingaids.com

Medicaid Accepted

Hartford Courant

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Business takes shot at fun

Full of flying objects directed at various themed targets



Fork+Band Slingshot Shooting Gallery owner Andy Cislo stands in front of the slingshot wall at 99 Main St. in downtown Bristol. Sean Krofssik/Hartford Courant

BY SEAN KROFSSIK | HARTFORD COURANT

Andy Cislo rediscovered a childhood interest in slingshots about five years ago and now he has opened his own business to bring the fun and challenging

activity to Connecticut.

Fork+Band Slingshot got its certification of occupancy on Nov. 7 and had its first full day of business on Saturday, when its galleries were full of flying objects directed at various themed targets at 99 Main St. in Bristol. The business includes a shooting gallery and a retail shop selling slingshots and accessories.

Cislo said he hopes his gallery will be a regular stop for birthday parties, team building events or people interested in learning more about slingshots and the safe and proper way to deploy them.

Cislo is a sociologist by trade and was previously a university-based researcher. He initially owned a temporary slingshot shooting gallery in the Meriden Mall from November 2023 to this past February.

“We wanted to get our own place, our own brick and mortar,” Cislo said. “We liked the building that was going on in downtown Bristol.”

It took four months to get the building up and running. Cisco said the building was previously filled with trucks for a landscaping business.

Cislo, 56, and his wife Naomi have a 12-year-old daughter. Cisco, a New Jersey native, said he would build his own slingshots in his childhood, and he hoped to show his daughter how to use them in the backyard when she was old enough.

“I kept one in my closet and years went by there was a pesky woodpecker on the chimney,” Cislo said. “I’m not a hunter, I would never want to hurt it. I just wanted to scare it off and it worked, and I didn’t even come close to it.”

It was around that time, during the start of the COVID pandemic and Cislo was overcoming a “major health problem,” that he rediscovered his interest in slingshots.

“It was a lot harder than I imagined,” Cislo said. “I found all of these forums of people using the coolest slingshots. I saw the equipment people were using, and I learned as much as I could. I was outside every day while I was getting back on my feet.

“I was in the backyard, and I put up a pie plate in the tree and stood 10 meters away and I missed a lot,” he added. “But I started listening to experts. When you take away the mythology of it and think about the physics ... you can see the value of the simplicity.”

Cislo said the slingshot is a form of relaxation for him and keeps him grounded and wants to share his passion with guests of all ages.

“This is a low-key place,” Cislo said. “It’s relaxed and we are here to just get you started. Success means something different for everyone. Everyone has a different goal.”

Cislo builds many of the slingshots himself with composite bamboo. The galleries accommodate 14 with seven tables and two people per table. The themes include Rock ‘n Roll, Carnival, Enchanted Forest and Slingshot Target among others.

Cislo said there are couples that come for date night, families with children 5 years old and above as well as a lot of retirees. Cislo gives a quick education to customers when they come in. Eventually, there will be a video for new slingshooters to view in its place.

“It’s fun for everyone and there is no pretense and no artificial fun. We are pumped with manufacturing excitement,” Cislo said. “You are having fun with your family, and we provide the environment.”

The cost is \$30 for an hour and customers are asked to sign up through an online reservation. On the reservation, they will ask for the customer’s height, so the proper slingshot is available.

“People light up when they get here,” Cislo said. “It’s an hour of unlimited play and it’s like being at the Midway and playing a carnival game but you can keep playing this game and it’s fun. It’s a chance to release some tension in their shoulders and become childlike again. It’s fun and simple. That’s the beauty of this.”

There is no alcohol on the premises but there are prepackaged snacks and drinks for sale. There are also lockers available.

“Most people equate us to ax throwing, but this is a different experience,” Cislo said. “It’s not a drinking or bar environment. It’s about enjoying yourself and pure, simple fun. It’s not about aggression. It’s about you and your family having a fun time together.”

For the more serious slingshooter, specific skills classes are offered. There is an area for target skills training that is World Slingshot Association regulation from up to 20 feet away.

“In addition to having fun, this is also a place where people can come and get good,” Cislo said. “We also have targets that are connected to a remote control. I am hoping to get some people who are interested in improving their skills. ...

My ultimate goal is to get people so interested that they come in and we learn from each other and build a community in that way, too.

“There is not an existing, built-in market for this,” he added. “I have to teach them. I have to demonstrate, and I have to lead by example. This is a lot of what we are doing. ... Most people when they come in don’t want to talk to me, their head is on a swivel and they want to get over there and start playing.”

Bristol Mayor Jeff Caggiano said he was excited to add another business to the downtown area.

“Our community has consistently mentioned a need for interesting experiences downtown, and Fork+Band certainly fits that bill,” Caggiano said. “Fork+Band provides a fun atmosphere for children, teens and adults and is an ideal complement to other offerings downtown.”

SPECIAL INSIDE
TV & STREAM
Dune: Prophecy

TURKEY SHOOT
Free throw contest
offers turkey
prize Page 4

VOL. 153 NO. 275
BRISTOLPRESS.COM

The Bristol Press

Serving the Communities of Central Connecticut

WEEKEND EDITION, NOVEMBER 16/17, 2024

\$2.50



Eversource's
PURA offices in New Britain

Eversource's Yankee Gas proposes \$47 per month rate hike

BRENDAN CROWLEY
@THEBRISTOLPRESS

Eversource-owned natural gas provider Yankee Gas has applied for a rate hike that would raise the average customer's bills by \$46.74 a month starting next November.

The company applied on Tuesday to the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority to allow it to increase residential customers' bills by about 38%, generating an additional \$209 million in revenue for Eversource next year.

Eversource provides natural gas service through Yankee Gas to 222,800 residential customers across 85 towns in Connecticut, including Bristol, Southington, Plainville, Plymouth and Wolcott.

Connecticut Attorney General William Tong said
See GAS ON PAGE 4

New buffet coming to Bristol Commons

DYLAN BRACCIA
@THEBRISTOLPRESS

BRISTOL — A new restaurant, Hibachi Buffet, is coming to the Bristol Commons plaza in January.

Jason Liang is the manager for the new Hibachi Buffet. He said there will be over 200 different kinds of food featured.

"There will be Chinese, Japanese, Mexican, and American cuisine at the buffet,"

Li said. "There will also be a hibachi section."

Food will be ready for customers when they get there. Liang said that plates will be at the tables for customers, and they will just have to get up and go to the buffet line for food.

Food out in the buffet will be maintained by the staff. Liang said that the hot food would stay over 135 degrees, and cold food would be kept

under 40 degrees.

The 10,000 square foot restaurant will be located at 99 Farmington Ave.

Liang said the sign has just gone up for people to see driving by.

"It's very easy to find, the sign is so big," Liang said.

The inside is still under construction, and the front will be replaced with glass.

Liang said that they are targeting a January date to open, and they are fully staffed.



The newly-placed sign at Hibachi Buffet.

DYLAN BRACCIA

TEARING DOWN THE HOUSE



Carl Johnson

The condemned house on Seymour Road in Plymouth being demolished on Friday, Nov. 15, 2024.

Plymouth Public Works takes on blight list

BRENDAN CROWLEY
@THEBRISTOLPRESS

PLYMOUTH — A major milestone in the town's battle against blight, a long-vacant condemned house near Lake Winfield was demolished on Friday.

The house on Seymour Road has been abandoned

for years after a fire rendered it uninhabitable, Plymouth Public Works Director Carl Johnson said.

Johnson was made director of the Public Works department in October after serving as interim director. His work tackling the town's blighted properties was one of the reasons

Mayor Joe Kilduff gave for nominating Johnson to fill the spot permanently.

Johnson said he's already cut the blighted properties list in half, mostly by improving how the town communicates blight issues with property owners. But taking down the house on Seymour Road is the big-

gest, most visible step so far.

"Everyone's complained about it," Johnson said. "It's right down in the center of the recreational area and near the high school."

The property is under foreclosure and has \$10,000 of blight liens on it from not being cleaned

up for so long, and the courts will decide whether it should be sold by the court, or turned over to the town to sell, Johnson said. Either way, the hope is that the town will recoup the cost of cleaning it up.

Also high on the priority list is another highly visible

See IMPROVED ON PAGE 4

INSIDE

Abby	6
Classified	15-16
Comics	6
Editorial	5
Features	6
Horoscopes	6
Local News	2-4
Obituaries	7
Public Notices	13
Puzzles	16
Sports	9-12
Auto	8
Weather	2

CONTACT THE BRISTOL PRESS

Mailing Address:
The Bristol Press, P.O. Box 228
Windsor, CT 06095

Location:
One Liberty Square,
New Britain 06050

To Subscribe:
860-422-8466 ext 1 or
delivery@thebristolpress.com

To Report News:
860-225-4801 or
bcravens@thebristolpress.com



0 0805 93119 8



The Bristol Police Department.

FILE

Bristol Police launching system for 'confidential, anonymous' surveys

PRESS STAFF
@THEBRISTOLPRESS

BRISTOL — The Bristol Police Department is launching a new tool that it says will allow residents to submit confidential, anonymous feedback to the department.

The department said in a press

release it will start using Axon's My90 reporting tool on Monday, Nov. 18.

After interacting with a member of the Bristol Police, My90 will send that person a text message link to a confidential online survey, the release said. The survey gives residents a chance to share their experiences and per-

spectives without collecting any personal data, the release said.

"By listening and utilizing feedback, the Bristol Police Department will continue to foster community relationships, improve outcomes for calls for service, and drive positive changes in how we protect and serve our community," the release said.

Hartford Business Journal

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Bristol-based Century Spring CEO buys the company, pays \$2M for HQ



100 Wooster Court, Bristol

By Michael Puffer

Century Spring CEO Lisa V. Bayne recently purchased the Bristol-based manufacturer and its 32,986-square-foot industrial building.

A limited liability company headed by Bayne in October paid \$2 million for the 1975-vintage, concrete-and-cinderblock building on 4.1 acres at 100 Wooster Court. The seller was a limited liability company headed by William J. Waseleski.

State business records list Waseleski as president of Century Spring Manufacturing Co. He paid \$975,000 for the property in 2013, according to town records.

“I bought the business (Century Spring) as well as the property, and now it is a 100% woman-owned small business,” Bayne wrote in an email response to questions. “Century Spring will

remain on the same property. I am working to keep manufacturing in CT and I have a strong and very skilled team that is working alongside me.”

Bayne said business has grown in the month since her takeover and employees are excited about the growth and change. She said she previously held “minor shares” in the company and decided to buy out her partner as he retired.

According to its website, Century Spring makes springs and wiremolds for the aerospace/defense, entertainment/recreation, automotive after-market and other industries.

Bayne said she expects to grow her staff of 32 over the next year or two, with a focus on growing her spring engineering capacity. With contracts and parts becoming ever more complex, customers expect Century Spring to solve problems, she said.

"Problem solving is the value-added service we offer that puts us ahead of the competition," Bayne wrote.



Michael Anastasio

Police say man crashed stolen Corolla into town police cars

BRIAN M. JOHNSON @BRIANJOHNSONBP

SOUTHINGTON — Southington Police said they arrested an East Haven man after he crashed into police vehicles while allegedly trying to flee in a stolen car.

Michael Anastasio, 36, of East Haven, was charged Nov. 12 with larceny of a motor vehicle (second offense), third degree larceny, first degree criminal trespass, possession of burglar tools and interfering with an officer.

Anastasio was arrested at the Southington Rest Area on westbound I-84 in Plainville last week, according to Southington Police Capt. James Armack.

Southington police responded to a report that a stolen silver Toyota Corolla with an out of state license plate was approaching Southington from

See POLICE ON PAGE 4

Poulos; Moderate Caucus oppose rate hike

BRIAN M. JOHNSON @BRIANJOHNSONBP

SOUTHINGTON — Rep. Chris Poulos and the members of the House Moderate Caucus have sent the state utility regulator PURA a letter opposing the proposed \$209 million rate increase by Yankee Gas.

Poulos, a Democrat who represents the 81st House District, which includes Southington, and fellow

members of the Moderate Caucus submitted the letter on Monday. It encourages PURA to reject the 43% increase, which would amount to about \$46.47 a month for the average customer starting Nov. 1, 2025.

"The current system is broken, and we need to look at reforming Connecticut's energy delivery model to make it more affordable for ratepayers," Poulos said.

The Moderate Caucus said they plan to propose a comprehensive bill during the 2025 legislative session, which starts Jan. 8 and ends June 4, to address conservation and energy generation aimed at reducing customer bills.

"My priority during the 2025 legislative session is to provide sustainable relief and cost certainty to ratepayers, hold energy companies

See POULOS ON PAGE 4



A sign for PURA offices in New Britain.

MAIN STREET APARTMENTS



A file photo shows the remains of the Mafale's Plaza at 37 Main St. after a fire in 2022. (Inset) A rendering by architect Schadier Seinau Associates P.C. showing the four story, mixed-use building planned for 37 Main St.

Apartments; commercial approved for former Mafale's

BRENDAN CROWLEY @THEBRISTOLPRESS

BRISTOL — A mixed-use building with first floor commercial spaces and 28 apartments upstairs was approved by the city Zoning Commission to fill the Mafale's Plaza lot.

The commission voted unanimously Monday night to approve the application from Gold Coast Properties, registered to Easton developer Stephen Shapiro, to build a new, four-story, 7,035 square foot building at 37 Main St.

The building will house 22 one-bedroom apartments and 6 two-bedroom apartments above about 3,000 square feet of retail space.

James Ziogas, attorney representing the applicant Gold Coast Properties, said the developer is applying for state financing

for "workforce housing" for employees of Bristol Hospital, less than a mile away.

If approved, the state would provide tax credits in exchange for a portion of units being income-restricted, Ziogas said. He

said the project is designed to accommodate Bristol Hospital employees, but the units won't be exclusively for them.

"The income requirements would be the same whether you work at the hospital or you are a physician," Ziogas said.

See DEVELOPER ON PAGE 4

INSIDE

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

CONTACT THE BRISTOL PRESS

Mailing Address:
The Bristol Press, P.O. Box 223
Willimantic, CT 06226

Location:
One Liberty Square,
New Britain 06050

To Subscribe:
860-423-8465 ext 1 or
delivery@thebristolpress.com

To Report News:
860-225-4601, or
bcomms@thebristolpress.com



NEW ENGLAND
Stone & Mulch Supply LLC
860-918-8806
JoesLandscapeDesigns.com
3 Ripple Court
Berlin CT 06037

860-541-1908
joeslandscapedesigns.com • jjoerez1360@gmail.com

JOE'S LANDSCAPE DESIGNS
3 RIPLE CT. BERLIN CT 06037

FULL LANDSCAPE DESIGN

- Removal of Trees, Bushes & Shrubs - 24 Hour Service
- Install new planting beds / Mulch beds
- Drainage & Installation of French Drains
- Planting & Fall Cleanups • Full Lawn Care Installation
- Land Clearing • Weekly Landscape Maintenance

SPRING CLEANUPS

- Free Estimates

FULL ASPHALT MAINTENANCE

- Free Driveway Sealing
- Fix Cracks / Damaged Driveways

MASONRY

- Retaining Walls / Stone walls
- Pathways / Patio Pavers
- Walkways / Front Steps

Trees & Bushes River Stone All Sizes
Top Soil • Mulch • Sand • Gravel
Salt • All types of stone

Same Day Delivery



One Liberty Square,
New Britain 06050

The Bristol Press
(ISSN 0891-6563)

is published each morning
Monday through Saturday

except on federal holidays by
Connecticut News Media Inc.

Copyright 2022, Connecticut
News Media Inc.

CIRCULATION

For circulation issues or
questions, call 7:30 am to

4 pm, Monday-Friday and
8 am to 10 am Saturdays.

860-423-8466 ext. 1 or email
our circulation department at

circulation@bristolpress.com

Classified Sunday.

We do not publish a print edition
on federal holidays. We publish

an e-edition in its place.

HOW TO REACH US

860-423-8466

NEWS TIPS

860-423-8466

SPORTS

860-423-8466

OBITUARIES

Deadline 1 p.m. for next day
obituary.

CentralCTCommunications.com

ADVERTISING

Retail: 860-423-8466 x3316

Classified: 860-423-8466 x3316

classified@bristolpress.com

REPORTS

No reproduction or reuse
of material without express

written consent.

Contact us for permission.

POSTAL INFORMATION

The Bristol Press, pending
periodical #85053.

is published 6 days per week,
excluding Sunday.

Periodicals postage paid
at Bristol, CT. Post office

address: P.O. Box 229,
Williamantic, CT 06226.

Postmaster: Send address
changes to The Bristol Press,

P.O. Box 229,
Williamantic, CT 06226.

RATES

Single copy:

Monday - Friday \$2.00

Saturdays \$2.50

SUBSCRIPTION:

One Year: \$375

Police say Anastasio facing second car theft charge

Continued from Page 1

Cheshire. Officers canvassed the area and spotted the car at the rest stop, Annack said.

The report said there were two people in the car. When officers converged on the Corolla, the operator shifted into drive and attempted to flee, hitting police vehicles.

"Once the operator realized his vehicle was immobilized, he and his passenger became compliant with officers' commands," the report stated. "Both occupants

were taken into custody without further incident." According to the report, no injuries were sustained by either the suspect or the officers on the scene. Minimal damage was caused to the vehicles.

Police did not name the other occupant of the Corolla.

Anastasio was taken into custody and charged. He was held on a \$50,000 surety bond.

Brian M. Johnson can be reached at 860-269-0822 or bjohnson@bristolpress.com.

SOUTHINGTON POLICE BLOTTER

Jose Maldonado, 41, of 525 Tolland St., East Hartford, was charged Nov. 12 with disorderly conduct, second degree unlawful restraint and second degree failure to appear.

Nicholas Marchesi, 34, of 43 Forestville Ave., was charged Nov. 12 with second degree physical threatening.

Michael Andrew Anastasio, 36, of 69 Gerrish Ave., East Haven, was charged Nov. 12 with possession of burglar tools, larceny of a motor vehicle (second offense), third degree larceny, first degree criminal tower and interfering with an officer/resisting arrest.

Mohammad A. Alwisha, 31, of 100 Cabot St., New Britain, was charged Nov. 13 with illegal sale of an electronic nicotine system to a person under 21.

Bharath Kumar Avula, 24, of 254 Greenwich Ave., New Haven, was charged Nov. 13 with illegal sale of an electronic nicotine system to a person under 21.

Mahita Gutikonda, 23, of 164 Thornley St., New Britain, was charged Nov. 13 with illegal sale of an electronic nicotine system to a person under 21.

Hamad Adil Khan, 26, of 120 Valley St., Providence, RI, was charged Nov. 13 with illegal sale of an electronic nicotine system to a person under 21.

Christopher Negron, 31, of 115 Main St., Stamford, was charged Nov. 13 with second degree failure to appear.

Azhar Saeed, 34, of 11 Village Gate Dr., was charged Nov. 13 with illegal sale of an electronic nicotine system to a person under 21.

Six stores busted for selling tobacco products to underage customers

BRIAN M. JOHNSON

@BRIANMJOHNSONBP

SOUTHINGTON

Employees at six local smoke shops sold tobacco and vape products to underage customers without ID during a recent compliance check by the Southington Police Department and partner agencies.

Southington Police Capt. James Annack said the compliance check occurred on Nov. 13 at approximately 4:45 p.m.

The Southington Police Department's Detective and Patrol divisions, the DMHAS Prevention and Health Promotion Division's

Tobacco Prevention and Enforcement Program (TPEP) and the Southington STEPS Coalition conducted compliance checks at 12 town stores. They were completed using a person under the age of 21 who did not have any identification with them.

The underage customer was able to purchase tobacco and vape products from the following local businesses:

- Food Mart (Sunoco) at

398 Main St.

- Cigar Plus Tobacco

Shop at 909 Meriden-

Waterbury Turnpike

- K&M Smoke Shop at

1672 Meriden Waterbury

Turnpike

- Smoke Village at 681

Queen St.

- Smoke Valley N

Convenience at 1173

Queen Street

- Cigar and Vape Hookah

at 400 N. Main St.

"The employees working at these stores that sold the tobacco products to the underage individuals were issued infractions for the illegal sale of vape products to someone under 21 years of age," the report said. "The Southington Police Department will continue to work with partner agencies in the future in preventing sales of these products to those that are prohibited from purchasing them."

Poulos says 'long-term' fix for high energy costs is the priority

Continued from Page 1

like Eversource and its subsidiaries accountable, and work on a long-term fix to our energy model," Poulos said. "I am proud to join with like-minded legislators and collaborate on the development of a legislative proposal to this end."

In the interim, Poulos encouraged those interested to file a public comment in the Docket No. 24-12-01 or participate in public comment hearings, which he said are "tentatively scheduled" for 2025 in February, March and April.

Poulos said anyone who submits a comment in the docket needs to include the following information: Docket Number, their name and their home address. He

said that they should not include any account numbers, phone numbers, other personally identifiable information or inappropriate language.

"Comments filed in PURA proceedings become public record and will be posted in the public PURA docket database and available for public viewing," Poulos said. "By submitting comments to PURA, the entirety of your comment will become part of the public record in the Poulos, corresponding docket."

Comments may be filed through the PURA web-filing system or via email to Pura.ExecutiveSecretary@ct.gov.

On Monday, PURA

denied a separate rate hike request from Connecticut's other major gas companies, both owned by United Illuminating parent company Avangrid - Southern Connecticut Gas and Connecticut Natural Gas.

Southern Connecticut Gas had proposed a rate hike that would increase bills by about \$13.20 a month for its customers, while Connecticut Natural Gas had proposed raising bills by about \$6.60 a month - including customers in New Britain, Berlin and Newington.

PURA rejected both rate hikes, and instead ordered SCG to cut bills by about \$3.50-\$4 a month, and CNG by about \$7.8 per month.

Developer seeking 'workforce' housing incentives from state to build apartments

Continued from Page 1

ical therapist at another facility in town, or any type of retail worker as long as they meet the income requirements, they would be eligible for this," he said.

The development would replace Mafale's Plaza, which burned down in 2022, destroying Crystal Diner, Vivaldi Pizza, Marty's Package Store and Main Street Laundromat.

Ziogas said developments in the area including the Centre Square Village Apartments and the Wheeler Health clinic on North Main Street - have brought a "critical mass" of people into downtown Bristol, which the Gold Coast development would contribute to.

"That's going to promote restaurants; it's going to promote shopping," Ziogas said. "We're starting to see the results of our efforts after many, many years of waiting, but the time is at hand."

Charles Nyberg, the architect on the project, said the bottom floor could potentially hold three retail spaces. There aren't any businesses in line to fill the space yet, but it would likely be retail or office space as the designs wouldn't accommodate for the exhaust system a restaurant would need, he said.

The developer is leasing 21 spaces from a city parking lot directly behind the building on Church Street for resident parking. The parking lot was previously an H.J. Mills paper factory that closed in 1985 and burned down in 1998. The

"We're starting to see the results of our efforts after many, many years of waiting, but the time is at hand."

JAMES ZIOGAS

city bought it in 1999 to remediate it and turn it into a parking lot.

The lot isn't used much. City Planner Robert Flanagan said, so leasing it to the apartment building is a "good marriage of municipal property and economic development."

Brendan Crowley is editor of the Bristol Press. He can be reached at bcrowley@bristolpress.com.

Sharing Holiday Kindness with Local Families

Would you like to support a family in need?
Sponsor a holiday meal package for

Thanksgiving
and
Christmas

Join Bristol Press and New Britain Herald by sponsoring a Holiday Meal Package. Your sponsorship will be noted with a 3.51" x 2" ad on our sponsor thank you page in Bristol Press and New Britain Herald on 11/27 and 12/19.

The cost for area businesses to participate is \$250,
billed as \$125 each in November and December

The Bristol Press

NEW BRITAIN HERALD

To participate call Ben 860-384-9835, Janet 860-329-5536

Are you a Press or Herald Reader that would like to participate?

We will run your name as a sponsor. Make check payable to The Bristol Press or New Britain Herald, P.O. Box 229, Williamantic, CT 06226. Readers may donate \$10, \$25, \$50 or other amount.

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:



Join us for
a FREE Trial Lesson!
860-992-6671

PLATINUM PAWNBROKERS



2534 Middle Street
Bristol, CT 06010
Tel: 860-423-4033
Text us: 860-423-1920

57 Broad Street
New Britain, CT 06053
Tel: 860-423-6223
Text us: 860-331-9326

CT's Favorite pawnshop!

Council agrees to buy land slated for subdivision to add to Hoppers

Brendan Crowley @TheBristolPress
Nov 26, 2024



Hoppers-Birge Pond in Bristol.
Mike Orazzi

						
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

BRISTOL – The City Council unanimously agreed to buy nearly 11 acres of land to add to Hoppers Open Space – if the owner agrees to the appraised price of \$560,000, and if the state approves a grant covering 75% of the cost.

The agreement to buy the two Perkins Street lots from P&B Properties would prevent the New Britain-based developer from moving forward with a proposal to turn the lots into a 16-home subdivision, and permanently protect the land from development as part of the 270-acre city preserve.

Mayor Jeff Caggiano said Tuesday morning he had not yet heard from P&B Properties whether they will accept the \$560,000 offer, but he was hopeful that would happen later in the day. The Press could not reach P&B principal Jim Pryor.

“I’m not 100% confident [P&B] is going to agree with it, but it is the full and final offer,” Caggiano said.

Caggiano said the council isn’t in a position to offer more than the \$560,000 value set by an appraisal of the 10.7 acre lots by John W. Nitz & Associates, which the city received on Friday.

“We want to be mindful of taxpayer dollars, not just city taxpayer dollars, but state taxpayer dollars as well,” Caggiano said.

The council’s approval of the letter of intent at its special meeting Monday night came a week before the deadline for the city to apply for an open space grant from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, which would cover \$420,000 of the \$560,000 purchase.

The grant application is due Monday, Dec. 2, and Caggiano said before the council approved the purchase that he is “very bullish” the state will approve it. The purchase also needed the approval of the city Board of Finance, which was scheduled to meet Tuesday night.

Caggiano said it was a “monumental effort” for city staff to meet the application deadline after P&B offered to sell the property as open space in mid-October.

Pryor said at the time P&B wanted to give the city another chance to buy the property after residents pushed back on the developer’s proposal to build 16 single-family homes there. P&B has withdrawn their wetlands application for the subdivision, but Pryor said they would move forward with that application if the sale to the city doesn’t go through.

The state grant would leave the city to cover \$140,000 – a quarter of the purchase price, and closer to the \$125,000 Caggiano said the city offered to buy the property in 2022, before P&B bought it for \$400,000.

“It would be a pretty cool thing for us to pull off, to actually get this done,” Caggiano said.

Brendan Crowley is editor of the Bristol Press. He can be reached at bcrowley@bristolpress.com.



FILE
The 'White Elephant Holiday Shop' opens Friday at the Historical Society.

Historical society hosts holiday shop and craft fair

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

BRISTOL — The Bristol Historical Society has announced the return of its "White Elephant Holiday Shop" Nov. 29 and Holiday Craft Fair on Dec. 7.

The holiday shop will open for the season on Friday Nov. 29 at the Bristol Historical Society at 98 Summer St. It will remain open until Christmas during the Bristol Historical Society's regular hours, Saturday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Bristol Historical Society and shop will be closed Nov. 27, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

Maya Bringe, past president of the Bristol Historical Society, said the shop will provide visitors with the opportunity to find a unique gift for the holidays.

"This popular part of our Holiday Craft Fair opens early for those

See WHITE ON PAGE 4

Bristol FD helps Brian's Angels feed 72

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

BRISTOL — Local firefighters provided a Thanksgiving feast for people in need Tuesday at Brian's Angels Homeless Outreach.

Fire Chief Richard Hart said 20 firefighters cooked, prepared and delivered four turkeys, mashed potatoes and other sides to the outreach organization at 99

Summer St. Tuesday.

"This was a new initiative that I think is going to become a great tradition with our department," Hart said. "I think it is important for people to know that we're not just there for emergencies. We are involved in the community and we're glad to do our part to make somebody's day a bit brighter."

Pat Stebbins, founder of Brian's Angels Homeless

Outreach, said the food was able to feed 72 people on Tuesday. And there were leftovers.

"The firefighters did a great job," she said. "It was an amazing, thoughtful thing they did. They really helped a lot of people."

Stebbins said Brian's Angels has been trying to assist more homeless individuals than ever this year. They will be opening

See CHIEF ON PAGE 4



Firefighters cooked and delivered turkeys and sides.

'SUBMERGED' IN STEM



Students compete in the LEGO robotics challenge "Submerged" as part of the CyberKnights STEM event at DePaolo Middle School.

Stacey Hilton

Robotics event offers hands-on learning, competition

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

SOUTHINGTON — The CyberKnights robotics team offered STEM activities for students at DePaolo Middle School this past Saturday.

Stacey Hilton, lead mentor of CyberKnights, said

the local FIRST Robotics team transformed the middle school into a "hub of STEM excitement." The Saturday event included a FIRST LEGO League Qualification event and a FIRST Tech Challenge scrimmage.

"The events drew participants and spectators

from across Connecticut, showcasing the power of teamwork, innovation and creativity in STEM," said Hilton.

Hilton said the FIRST LEGO League Qualification event brought together more than 20 teams from across the state to compete in this year's

challenge, "Submerged." Teams of elementary and middle school students used LEGO robots to tackle complex, aquatic-themed missions, she said.

"In addition to robotics, the challenge encouraged participants to collaborate, solve problems, and develop innovative ideas related

to ocean exploration," she said.

Winning teams earned the opportunity to advance to the Connecticut State FIRST LEGO League Championship, set for Dec. 14 in Glastonbury.

That same day, the CyberKnights hosted a

See ROBOTICS ON PAGE 4

INSIDE

Dear Abby	11-12
Classified	9-10
Comics	11-12
Editorial	5
Features	11-12
Horoscopes	11-12
Local News	2-4
Today in History	2
Obituaries	6
Puzzles	10
Sports	7-10
Home & Garden	3
Television	8
Weather	2

CONTACT THE BRISTOL PRESS

Mailing Address:
The Bristol Press, P.O. Box 229
Windsor, CT 06095

Location:
One Liberty Square,
New Britain 06050

To Subscribe:
860-422-8466 ext. 1 or
delivery@bristolpress.com

To Report News:
860-225-4801 or
bjo@bristolpress.com



Mayor Jeff Caggiano congratulates members of the Italian Social Club

Down Nelson

Italian Social Club celebrates 85 years

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

BRISTOL — Mayor Jeff Caggiano and city economic development leaders congratulated the Italian Social Club on their 85th anniversary Saturday.

The Italian Social Club, located at 31 Barber St., is a venue that can be reserved for social and civic activ-

ities. Dawn Nielsen, marketing and public relations specialist for the city of Bristol, said it provides a space for up to 120 people. Residents of Bristol and surrounding communities gather there for birthdays, weddings and other social events.

"Congratulations to the Italian Social Club on serving your members and the

community for the past 85 years," Caggiano said on the Mayor's Office Bristol CT Facebook Page. The Bristol All Heart Page also congratulated the club on reaching their milestone anniversary.

The Italian Social Club was originally established in 1939.

"The founding members

See ITALIAN ON PAGE 4



**One Liberty Square,
New Britain 06050**
The Bristol Press
(860) 891-5563
is published each morning
Monday through Saturday
except on federal holidays by
Connecticut News Media Inc.
Copyright 2022, Connecticut
News Media Inc.

CIRCULATION
For circulation issues or
questions, call 7:30 a.m. to
4 p.m. Monday-Friday and
8 a.m. to 12 a.m. Saturdays.
860-423-8466 ext. 1 or email
our circulation department at
delivery@thebristolpress.com.
Closed Sundays.

We do not publish a print edition
on federal holidays. We publish
an e-edition in its place.

HOW TO REACH US
860-225-4501

NEWS TIPS
browley@bristolpress.com

SPORTS
rguile@bristolpress.com

OBITUARIES
Deadline 1 p.m. for next day
obit
CenrtaCTCommunications.com

ADVERTISING
Retail: 860-423-8466 x3314
jank@thechronicle.com
Classified: 860-423-8466 x3310
classified@
cenrtaCTcommunications.com

REPRINTS
No reproduction or reuse
of material without express
written consent.
Contact us for permission.

POSTAL INFORMATION
The Bristol Press, pending
periodical #25653,
is published 6 days per week
excluding Sunday.
Periodicals postage paid at
Bristol, CT. Post office
address: P.O. Box 229
Willimantic, CT 06226.
Postmaster: Send address
changes to The Bristol Press,
P.O. Box 229
Willimantic, CT 06226.

RATES
Single copy:
Monday - Friday \$2.50
Saturday \$2.10
SUBSCRIPTION:
One Year: \$375

D'AMATO DONATION



Anthony D'Amato presented a \$2,000 donation to Community Mental Health Affiliates President and CEO Raymond J. Gorman on behalf of D'Amato Construction Company.

PLAINVILLE HONOR SOCIETY



Five Middle School of Plainville Students were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society last week: Ryan Bohn, Sukl Chen, Abigail Daniel, Zuzanna Pyrc and Milla Saksana.

FOLLOW US!
@THEBRISTOLPRESS

Chief says donation is the start of a 'great tradition' at Fire Department

Continued from Page 1

their overflow shelter on Monday.

"We have women with children, the elderly and the disabled," she said. "I know of one individual in a wheelchair who is sleeping

in the lobby of the police department."

Next August, Brian's Angels Homeless Outreach will have been assisting the homeless for 10 years. They provide toiletries, non-perishable foods, clothing, temporary shelter

and other supplies to those in need.

For more information on Brian's Angels, visit briansangels.org.

Brian M. Johnson can be reached at 860-269-0822 or bjohnson@bristolpress.com.

'White Elephant Holiday Shop' features local and hand-made items

Continued from Page 1

who want to get a head start on their shopping and decorations," Bringe said.

Bringe said the White Elephant Holiday Shop will feature a variety of gently used Christmas decorations, china, figurines, garland, wreaths, nutcrackers, stockings and more.

"You never know what will show up," Bringe said

previously. "It's a great opportunity to shop for locally-made, hand-crafted items to decorate your space with. It's a sure way to start your December off right and get you in the Holiday Spirit."

People will also be able to pick up a variety of hand-made items at the Bristol Historical Society's Holiday Craft Fair, which

will be held Dec. 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bringe said there will be more than 20 vendors at this year's event, which will also include a bake sale and opportunities to check out the White Elephant Holiday Shop.

For more information, visit bristolhistoricalsociety.org or call 860-583-6309.

Robotics event brought more than 20 teams from across CT to Southington

Continued from Page 1

FIRST Tech Challenge scrimmage. Hilton said the "thrilling" event featured three First Tech Challenge teams from Southington competing against teams from Woodbury, Farmington, and Avon.

"This event provided high school students the chance to test their robots in a competitive environment,

refining their strategies and building connections within the robotics community," Hilton said.

Hilton said the STEM events this past Saturday were made possible through the "dedicated efforts" of parents, adult mentors, and the CyberKnights high school students, whom she said volunteered their time

smoothly.

"Their support not only showcased the team's commitment to STEM education, but also inspired younger students to explore the possibilities of science and technology," Hilton said.

For more information about the CyberKnights, visit team195.com or email info@team195.com

Italian Social Club started in 1939

Continued from Page 1

of the Italian Social Club were various leaders from the Bristol community

who envisioned the need for a place where those of Italian heritage could meet to enjoy each other's com-

pany," Nielsen said.

To reserve an event at the Italian Social Club, call 860-582-9479.

Plymouth woman killed in four-car crash

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBR

PLYMOUTH — A woman was killed Tuesday in a four-vehicle crash involving a Department of Transportation vehicle, according to the Plymouth Police Department.

The crash occurred around 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 26. Police responded to the intersection of Poland Brook Road and Bemis Street for the report of a serious motor vehicle accident.

"Officers arrived

on scene and located a four-vehicle motor vehicle accident," the Plymouth Police Department shared in a statement. "Three cars and a DOT truck were involved. Officers located a female occupant in one of the vehicles that had serious injuries. Tragically, the female died while on scene."

The Plymouth Police Department said that they would not be releasing the identity of the woman who was killed in the crash until her family had

been notified.

"Our hearts ache tonight alongside them," the statement read.

The Naugatuck Valley Collision Investigation Team and the Connecticut State Police Truck Squad are assisting with the investigation of the accident. The road reopened at 10:22 p.m. on Tuesday.

The Plymouth Police Department thanked the Terryville Volunteer Fire Department and the Plymouth Volunteer Ambulance Corps for their assistance.



NEWSPAPER ADS WORK.

7 out of 10 newspaper readers who read a **CIRCULAR** take action after seeing the ad.*

THE TOP ACTIONS ARE >>>

- >>> Visit the store >>> Save the ad for future reference
- >>> Take advantage of the coupons/special offers *

Nobody cares more about your success than we do.

Nobody delivers a more engaged audience than we do.
Online and in print, turn to us for local news.

Newspapers are your best investment.
We care about local.

CT News
MEDIA, INC.



NEWSPAPER POWER.
Print, Digital & Social Solutions for our advertisers.
860-423-8466 x3314
jank@thechronicle.com

Need a Vacation,
but your wallet
doesn't agree!

Use our Personal Loan and start booking your hotel.

To apply, scan the code above,
visit UBIFCU.com or
call us at 860-747-4152

UBI
A COMPLETE
UNITED BANKING GROUP

NCUA
NATIONAL CREDIT UNION

Bristol & Plainville
860-747-4152 UBIFCU.com



SOUTHINGTON
Church hosting
'Blue Christmas'
service Page 2

VOL. 153 NO. 296

BRISTOLPRESS.COM

WEEKEND EDITION, NOVEMBER 30 / DECEMBER 1, 2024

\$2.50

The Bristol Press

Serving the Communities of Central Connecticut



Rep. John Larson, D-Conn.

CT Reps report bomb threats on Thanksgiving

FATIMA HUSSEIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

At least six Democratic members of Congress from Connecticut were targeted by bomb threats on their homes Thursday, the lawmakers or their offices said.

Sen. Chris Murphy and all five House members — Reps. Jim Himes, Joe Courtney, John Larson, Jahana Hayes and Rosa DeLauro — reported being the subject of such threats. Police who responded said they found no evidence of explosives on the lawmakers' properties.

There was no immediate word whether Democratic Sen. Richard Blumenthal also received a threat.

The bomb threats against Democrats happened a day after a number of President-elect Donald Trump's most prominent Cabinet picks and appointees reported that they had received such threats, as well as "swatting

See FOUR ON PAGE 4

American Legion, Gloria Dei host toy drive

BRIAN M. JOHNSON

@BRIANJOHNSONBP

BRISTOL — The American Legion Post 209 family and Gloria Dei Lutheran Church will offer a breakfast with Santa Dec. 14 while collecting donations for Toys for Tots. The breakfast will be held Saturday, Dec. 14 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the church at 355

Camp St. Admission is free with the donation of a new, unwrapped toy, or \$5 without a toy donation.

American Legion Post 209 Commander Brian Avery encouraged people to attend and help support a good cause.

"Please join the American Legion Post 209 family for breakfast with Santa," he said. "Just bring an

unwrapped toy and place it in the box for toys for tots and you get breakfast."

Toys for Tots drop-off boxes have also been set up at the following locations:

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church at 355 Camp St.
The Bristol Elks Club at 126 South St.

The Veterans Strong Community Center at

See BREAKFAST ON PAGE 4



Donations for a past Toys for Tots at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church.

SIXTY YEARS OF SKIS



Mayor Jeff Caggiano speaks to Bill and Belinda Gonsalves, owners of Bob's Sports Chalet, and their son Brendan.

Bob's Sports Chalet celebrates 60 years in business

BRIAN M. JOHNSON

@BRIANJOHNSONBP

BRISTOL — Bob's Sports Chalet was honored by Mayor Jeff Caggiano and economic development leaders Tuesday for 60 years in Bristol.

Caggiano, along

with Economic Development Director Justin Malley and Dawn Nielsen, marketing and public relations specialist for the City of Bristol, presented a plaque to owners Bill and Belinda Gonsalves and their son Brendan.

The Gonsalves family

has run the store, which offers outdoor sporting gear and clothing as well as snowboard and ski rentals, for the past 15 years. Today the family-owned shop employs 10 people.

Bob's Sports Chalet was originally owned by Bob Abrams, who

died in 2023 at 93, and his wife Estelle. Their son David ran the business for 11 years before he died in 2005. His wife Eden, who is Belinda Gonsalves' sister, then ran the business until the Gonsalves family purchased it.

They moved the Bristol location to its current spot at 91 Pine St., which is double the size of the previous location on Route 6. They added a second location at 195 W. Main St. in Avon and purchased a warehouse

See CHALET ON PAGE 4

INSIDE

Abby	6
Classified	15-16
Comics	6
Editorial	5
Features	6
Horoscopes	6
Local News	2-4
Obituaries	7
Public Notices	13
Puzzles	16
Sports	9-12
Auto	8
Weather	2

CONTACT THE BRISTOL PRESS

Mailing Address:
The Bristol Press, P.O. Box 229
Windsor, CT 06095

Location:
One Liberty Square,
New Britain 06050

To Subscribe:
860-425-9499 ext 1 or
delivery@thebristolpress.com

To Report News:
860-225-4001 or
browley@thebristolpress.com



A sign promoting Black Friday is shown in a Best Buy.

What Black Friday's history tells us about holiday shopping in 2024

WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The holiday shopping season hit full speed with Black Friday, which kicked off the post-Thanksgiving retail rush.

The annual sales event no longer creates the

midnight mall crowds or doorbuster mayhem of recent decades, in large part due to the ease of online shopping and habits forged during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hoping to entice equivoating consumers, retailers already have spent weeks bombarding

customers with ads and early offers. Still, whether visiting stores or clicking on countless emails promising huge savings, tens of millions of U.S. shoppers were expected to spend money on Black Friday itself this year.

Industry forecasts

See BLACK ON PAGE 3



One Liberty Square,
New Britain 06050

The Bristol Press
(ISSN 0891-5583)

is published each morning
Monday through Saturday
except on federal holidays by
Connecticut News Media Inc.
Copyright 2022, Connecticut
News Media Inc.

CIRCULATION

For circulation issues or
questions, call 730 am to
4 pm, Monday-Friday and
8 am to 10 am Saturdays.
860-423-6466 ext 1 or email
our circulation department at
delivery@thebristolpress.com
Closed Sundays.

We do not publish a print edition
on federal holidays. We publish
an e-edition in its place.

HOW TO REACH US

860-225-4001

NEWS TIPS

Survey@bristolpress.com

SPORTS

tpull@bristolpress.com

OBITUARIES

Deadline 1 p.m. for next day
edition

CentralCTCommunications.com

ADVERTISING

Retail: 860-423-6466 x314

Classified: 860-423-6466 x319

Classified@bristolpress.com

REPRINTS

No reproduction or reuse
of material without express
written consent.

Contact us for permission.

POSTAL INFORMATION

The Bristol Press, pending
periodical #25653,

is published 6 days per week
excluding Sunday.

Periodicals postage paid
at Bristol, CT. Post office
address: P.O. Box 229

Willimantic, CT 06226.

Postmaster: Send address
changes to The Bristol Press,
P.O. Box 229

Willimantic, CT 06226.

RATES

Single copy:
Monday - Friday \$2.00

Saturdays \$2.50

SUBSCRIPTION:
One Year: \$376

Breakfast with Santa free with toy donation

Continued from Page 1

Bristol City Hall at
111 N. Main St.

The Bristol Polish
Club at 541 N. Main

St.

VFW Post 1979 at
1115 Wolcott Road,
Wolcott.

For more information,
call David
Cannarella at 860-978-
7605 or Rich Kilby at
860-329-2066.

Brian M. Johnson can be
reached at 860-269-0822
or bjohnson@bristol-
press.com

SOUTHINGTON POLICE BLOTTER

Joseph Michael
Cusimano, 47, of 25
Griswold St., Meriden,
was charged Nov. 20
with interfering with an
officer/resisting arrest,
second degree reckless
endangerment and fifth
degree larceny.

Edward James Elmore,
60, of 35 Comstock
Place, East Hartford,
was charged Nov. 21
with three counts of third
degree burglary, three
counts of sixth degree
larceny, three counts
of payment card theft,
three counts of criminal
attempt to spend less than
\$500 on a revoked pay-
ment card, three counts
of spending less than
\$500 on a revoked pay-
ment card, three counts
of third degree identity
theft and three counts of
criminal impersonation.

Edward Fascendini,
58, of 49 Forestville
Ave., was charged Nov.
21 with use of drug
paraphernalia, criminal
attempt to commit sixth
degree larceny, conspiracy
to commit sixth degree
larceny, third degree
robbery, second degree
breach of peace

and third degree assault.
Cassidy F. Fiorella,
51, of 88 Southington
Ave., was charged Nov.
21 with third degree
assault.

Desyer Lee Lopez, 28,
of 18 Roberts St., New
Britain, was charged
Nov. 22 with use of
drug paraphernalia, possession
of a controlled
substance (first offense),
and illegal possession
of a weapon in a motor
vehicle.

Isaiah Thompson, 43,
of 262 High St., New
Britain, was charged
Nov. 23 with second
degree criminal trespass
and second degree
breach of peace.

Aaron Travers, 54, of
(last known address) 95
Scott Road, Waterbury,
was charged Nov. 23
with violation of a protective
order.

Reggie Santoni, 32,
of 154 Dwight St.,
Apartment 2, New
Britain, was charged
Nov. 22 with second
degree larceny.

Mya Sultana Najarian,
18, of 10 Bagley Road,
was charged Nov. 24
with disorderly conduct.

All five U.S. Reps and one U.S. Senator from Conn. report threats

Continued from Page 1

attacks," in which perpetrators
initiate an emergency
law enforcement response
against a victim under false
pretenses.

Murphy's office said his
Hartford home was the
target of a bomb threat,
"which appears to be part
of a coordinated effort
involving multiple members
of Congress and public
figures." Hartford
Police and U.S. Capitol
Police determined there
was no threat.

DeLauro said in a
Thursday evening post
on X that the New Haven
Police Department's bomb
squad responded to the
threat and "determined
no bomb was present at
our home. I am thankful
for their swift response
& relieved no one was
harmful."

Hayes said the Wolcott
Police Department
informed her Thursday
morning that it had received
"a threatening email stat-
ing a pipe bomb had been
placed in the mailbox at
my home." State police,

U.S. Capitol Police, and
the House sergeant at arms
were notified. Wolcott and
state police responded
"and no bomb or explosive
materials were discovered."

Courtney's Vernon home
received a bomb threat
while his wife and children
were there, his office said.
Hines said he was told of
the threat against his home
during a Thanksgiving celebration
with his family.

The U.S. Capitol Police,
and Greenwich and
Stamford police departments
responded.
Hines extended his family's
"utmost gratitude to our
local law enforcement officers
for their immediate action
to ensure our safety." Echoing
other lawmakers who were
threatened, he added: "There
is no place for political violence
in this country, and I hope
that we may all continue
through the holiday season
with peace and civility."

Larson also said Thursday
that East Hartford Police
responded to a bomb threat
against his home.

The FBI declined to

give details on the latest
episodes except to say it
is investigating them as
partnership with other
agencies.

The threats follow an
election season marked by
violence: In July, a gunman
opened fire at a Trump rally
in Butler, Pennsylvania,
grazing him in the ear and
killing one of his supporters.
The Secret Service later
thwarted a subsequent
assassination attempt at
Trump's West Palm Beach,
Florida, golf course when
an agent spotted the barrel
of a gun poking through
a perimeter fence while
Trump was golfing.

Among those who
received threats Wednesday
were New York Rep. Elise
Stefanik, Trump's pick to
serve as the next ambassador
to the United Nations;
Matt Raso, Trump's initial
pick to serve as attorney
general; Oregon Rep. Lori
Chavez-DeCarmen, whom
Trump chose to lead the
Department of Labor, and
former New York congressman
Lee Zeldin, who has been
tapped to lead the EPA.

Chalet has equipped region with ski and sports equipment since 1964

Continued from Page 1

in Burlington, where
they package and ship
out items purchased
online.

Belinda Gonsalves
said the family is proud
to be able to carry on
the store's legacy and
reach the 60 year mile-
stone.

"It's amazing,
especially with the
challenges that retail
stores are facing
today," she said. "We
are a very niche market
— there's not a lot of
ski and snowboard
stores around. We also
pride ourselves on personalized
service to customers.
There's not a lot of places
anymore where there are
people who will help you."

Brendan Gonsalves
also attributed the success
of Bob's Sports Chalet to
the service they provide.

"I've been working
here since I was 15, so
for about 15 years now,
and people just love
our service, that we're
a mom & pop shop and
that we're very family

oriented," he said.

Brendan Gonsalves
added the store has a
wide variety of products
to purchase. In addition
to ski and snowboard
equipment, they also
sell hats, gloves, winter
jackets, disc golf
products and gear and
hiking and camping
equipment — which
are popular during the
summer.

But, Belinda
Gonsalves said, Winter
is still their busiest season.

"The store started
off as just a ski and
snowboard shop, but
we really expanded our
products and our online
presence," she said.

Bill Gonsalves said
customers come to
Bob's Sports Chalet not
only from Bristol, but
all throughout the state
and even New York.

"We see a lot of people
from Southington and
Cheshire because of
Mount Southington,"
he said. "We also see
lots of people from
Canton, Avon and
Simsbury because of

Ski Sundown. We're
really in the perfect
location."

Bill Gonsalves
recalled the City of
Bristol coming out to
celebrate their expanded
location opening
in 2016 with former
mayor Ken Cockayne.
He was happy to
welcome Caggiano,
Malley and Nielsen on
Tuesday.

"It is great to see that
they've only continued
to grow since then,"
Malley said, adding
that Nielsen started the
effort to find and recognize
local businesses who've
been around 30 years
or more.

Caggiano said that
Bob's Sports Chalet is
a "cool, iconic Bristol
business."

"They are a family-
owned business who
have been open forever
and have probably
served everybody in
Bristol," he said.

Brian M. Johnson can be
reached at 860-269-0822
or bjohnson@bristol-
press.com.



NEWSPAPER ADS WORK.

7 out of 10 newspaper readers who
read a **CIRCULAR** take
action after seeing the ad.*

THE TOP ACTIONS ARE >>>

- >>> Visit the store >>> Save this ad for future reference
- >>> Take advantage of the coupons/special offers*

Nobody cares more about your success than we do.

Nobody delivers a more engaged audience than we do.
Online and in print, turn to us for local news.

Newspapers are your best investment.
We care about local.

**CT
News**
MEDIA, INC.



NEWSPAPER POWER.

Print, Digital & Social Solutions for our advertisers.

860-423-6466 x3114
jank@thebristolpress.com

Meet our new sleep expert

It is a pleasure to have Dr. Himanbu Sapkota to the Bristol Health community. It is a pleasure to support community and critical care patients and have a specialist in sleep medicine. Dr. Sapkota is a board certified in internal medicine and board certified in sleep medicine. He is also a board member of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine. Dr. Sapkota completed his medical education at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. He is a board member of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine.

Himanbu Sapkota, MD
Internal, Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine

25 Newell Road, Suite D-24, Bristol

Call 833.424.3627 or visit bristolhealth.org

Bristol Health
Medical Group

Economic Development/Marketing/Grants/CDBG Report

December 2024

Downtown/West End Updates

- Centre Square:
 - Carrier is moving in renters for Centre Square Village Phase I, and construction of “Phase II” continues with sitework/foundation work.
 - Hope Street Parking Garage construction has ramped up, with the large concrete “puzzle pieces” coming together on site.
 - Streetscape construction for North Main Street (in front of McDonalds, former Dunkin, and Post Office) is ongoing.
 - The final parcel available for development must temporarily be used for parking during the Hope Street Garage construction.
- Golden Years’ opening is pushed to December/January. 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 and for the public.
- Ironhorse Pub is open and doing very well.
- New owners Rosendo and Jenny are leading Main Street Pint and Plate into the future, with plans to maintain the restaurant’s success while adding their own flavor to the menu.
- Fork Plus Band Slingshot is open ECD staff and the mayor visited recently and took part in a short competition that went very well for the ECD Director.
- The Rusgrove family and team continue the build-out of the new Pure Foods at Centre Square Village with potential for an additional project as well.
- The Michaels Organization continues due diligence on the J.H. Sessions project. Michaels’ primary task currently is piecing together several funding sources which include State of CT funding through the Dept. of Housing. More details to come via the Downtown Committee.

Development Outside Downtown

- Industrial Update:
 - FORCE Automation is nearly finished on its site plan for SEBBP Lot #3. The ECD board will get a “sneak preview” of the project at the December meeting.
 - A small manufacturer from a nearby community will soon occupy space at 139 Center Street. More to come in 2025.
 - Lot #6 of the SEBBP will be discussed at the December ECD meeting.
 - Midstate Driving School continues site plan work for Lot #10/11
 - A small, family-owned manufacturer from a nearby community is set to lease approximately 30,000 square feet at the former “ESPN North”
 - After years of discussions, a small manufacturer from a nearby community is set to purchase 492 Birch Street. More to come.
- Route 6:
 - SNIPES, a European based streetwear retailer, will open a 7,000 square foot store in Bristol Plaza in the coming months.

- Divine Health, a fresh juice/smooth bar, is open at 724 Farmington Ave. next to Benjamin Moore paint.
- Ocean State Job Lot has purchased the former Walmart Neighborhood Grocery at 325 Oakland Street.
- An Asian food buffet style restaurant is opening in the Market32 plaza. We have connected with the business owner/plaza owner.
- Construction on the ProHealth/car wash/fast casual restaurant project on Route 6 is well underway.
- DESI Market, an established Connecticut chain of South Asian markets/eateries, will open in the former Eblens space very soon.
- Both gas stations are under construction
- Forestville
 - ECD staff will have an update on the Brownfield project at 43 East Main St. for the December meeting.
 - ECD staff is working with a commercial building owner on a façade update using the ECD Façade Improvement Grant program.
 - 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

- ForkPlusBand Slingshot: Assisting with a renovation cost for 99 Main Street.

State of CT Urban Jobs Tax Abatement for Manufacturers

- Approved Applications: G&M Woodworking (relocation) and Bauer Inc. (building expansion).

Downtown/West End/Forestville Façade Program

- Future projects include Smith Cycles on Riverside Ave., Self-storage on Prospect/Main, and 14 East Main Street in Forestville.

Forgivable Revolving Loan

- Four loans have closed with several loans in process.

Marketing

1) ECD Ribbon Cuttings, Business Anniversaries and Business Site Visits:

Ribbon cutting ceremonies – Jimmy’s on the River Re-Grand Opening, GF Fitness, Genoa Pharmacy at Wheeler Health

Business Anniversaries – George’s Terryville Avenue Market, 35 Years; Italian Social Club, 85 Years; Bob’s Chalet, 60 Years

Business Site Visit – Fork + Band Slingshot (<https://www.forkplusbandslingshot.com/>)

2) **Marketing and Public Relations Initiatives:**

- Downtown LIVE at the Rockwell Theater now has its own website, please share it: <https://downtownlivect.com/>
- An updated parking map and public relations initiatives for downtown is being developed; Wayfinding signs are being researched so that a plan can be created to promote our downtown and to help new and returning visitors navigate where to park, shop, eat, and play.

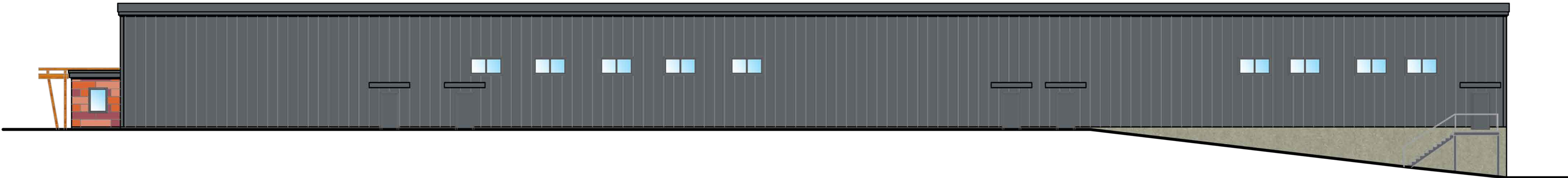
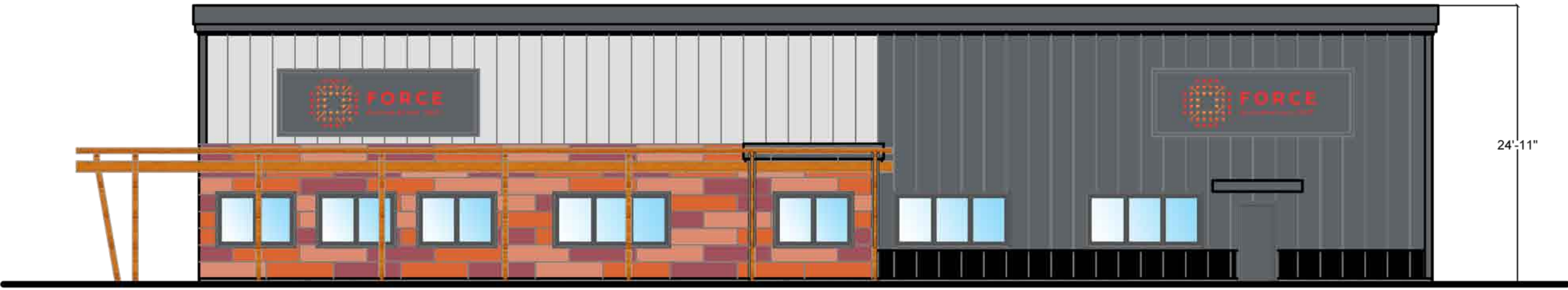
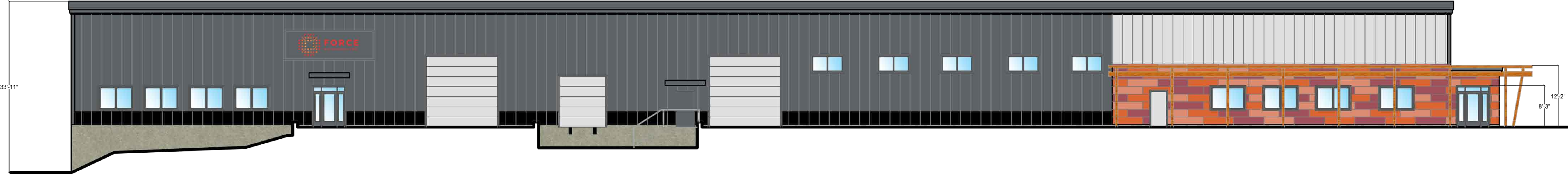
Grants Administration

Recent Grant News:

- Cybersecurity grant funded by the Connecticut DEMHS – Not funded.
- EPA dollars via NVCOC for Brownfields Assessment grant -- 43 East Main Street – Funded.
- An application was filed for a DEEP Open Space Grant to purchase two parcels of land in the Hoppers-Birge Pond area to add to existing City open space. An appraisal of the parcels was conducted and the City Council voted to submit the application at a Special Meeting on Nov. 25.
- An application is being prepared with assistance from NVCOC for a grant from the CT Regional Performance Incentive Program to create a new Animal Shelter in an existing building that will accommodate Bristol, Plymouth, and possibly Wolcott's needs, as well as satisfy state regulations for adequate animal shelter facilities. This is a rolling application that could be submitted in Dec. or Jan. 2025.

CDBG Program Highlights

- CDBG Year 49 – CAPER approved. Year 49 is now closed out.
- CDBG Year 50 – First quarter grant payments processed.
- 5-Year Consolidated Plan – CDBG Policy Committee met to start discussing goal setting based on the results of the survey of the community conducted in 2023. A Public Hearing will be held in January 2025 to discuss proposed revision to the prioritization of goals. The first proposal is to move Goal #4 (economic/workforce development) up to #3, and push #3 (supporting infrastructure and non-profit facility improvements) to #4. This proposed goal revision will need to be presented at the public hearing in January, and other suggestions solicited at that time.



MANUFACTURING FACILITY
LOT 3 BUSINESS PARK DRIVE
BRISTOL CONNECTICUT

ISSUE DATE
JULY 27, 2024

REVISIONS

Aug. 11, 2024	
Nov. 11, 2024	

DRAWING INDEX

A.1	Elevations	A.6	
A.2		A.7	
A.3		A.8	
A.4	First Floor Plan	A.9	
A.5		A.10	

CODE DATA

The basis for design is the following:

2021 International Building Code
2022 CT Supplement
2021 IECC
(ResCheck Software Version 4.7.2.0)

The General Contractor and all Sub
Contractors shall comply with all Local,
State, and Federal Building Codes and
Regulations as applicable

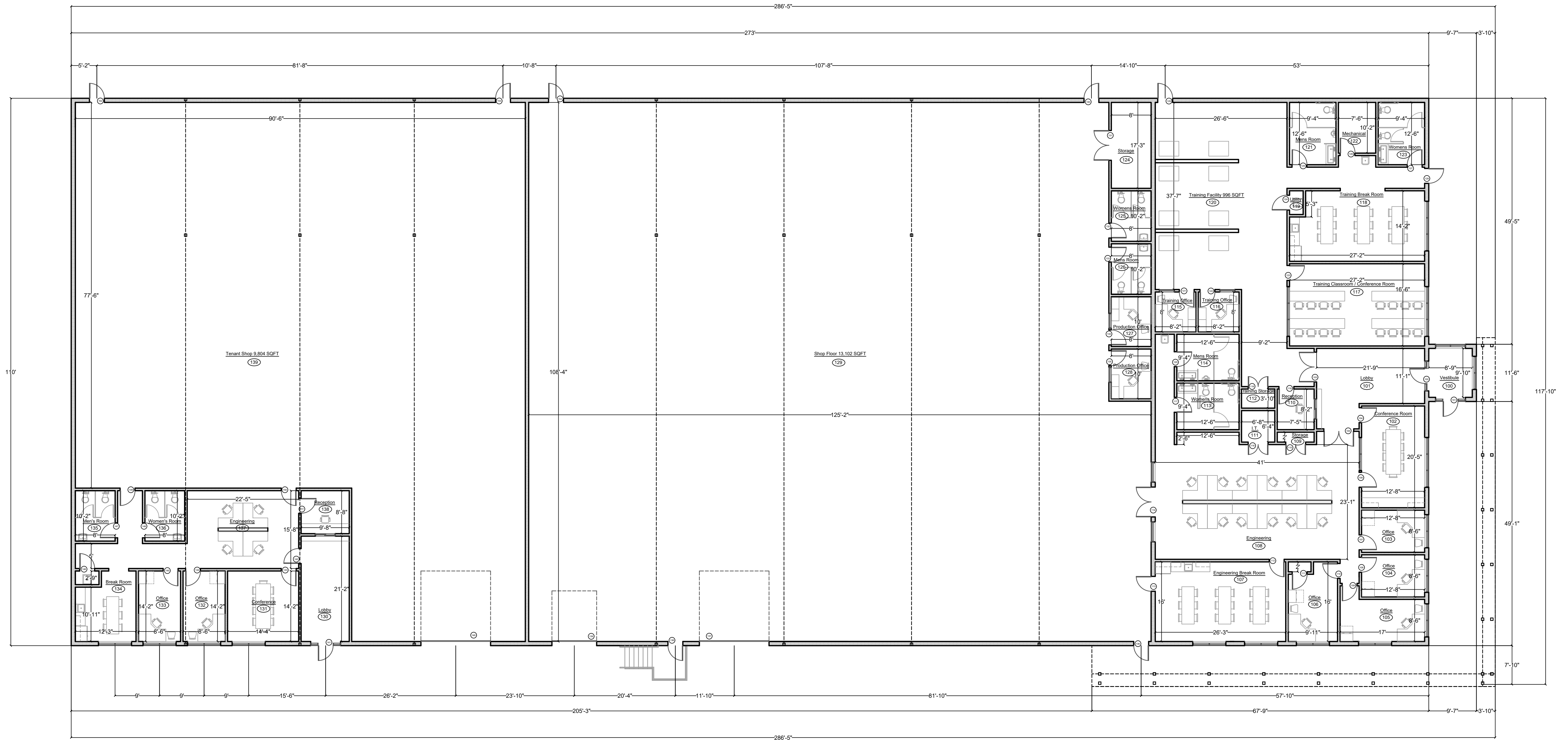
ELEVATIONS

SCALE
 $\frac{3}{32}'' = 1'-0''$

SHEET
A.1

D | P | S
DEVELOPMENT PLANNING
SOLUTIONS LLC

225 NORTH MAIN STREET
SUITE 207
BRISTOL CONNECTICUT
(860)506-4268



Drawing Title	Scale
FIRST FLOOR PLAN 30,030sqft	$\frac{3}{32}'' = 1' - 0''$
DPS_CLIENTS_FORCE AUTOMATION_BRISTOL_LOT 3 BUSINESS PARK DRIVE	Project Number 2024-22



November 20th, 2024

Mayor Jeffrey Caggiano
City of Bristol
111 North Main Street
Bristol, CT 06010

Re: NVCOG FY24 EPA Assessment Award – Environmental Assessment Services at 43 East Main Street, Bristol

Dear Mayor Caggiano:

Thank you for responding to the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG) request for assessment projects under Cooperative Agreement BF-00A01460.

We are pleased to inform you that the Naugatuck Valley Council of Government's Regional Brownfield Partnership has approved a funding award in the amount of \$65,000 to complete a Phase II environmental site assessment at 43 East Main Street, Bristol. Data collected within the Phase II environmental site assessment will determine the level of efforts needed for the Phase III environmental site assessment and associated remediation cost allowing the municipality to redevelop the site back into a community asset.

We are excited to see the positive impact this initiative will have within the local community. Please note, this award is contingent upon the submission of an executed access agreement and the 10% funding match. We look forward to working closely with your office to ensure the successful implementation of the project. Please feel free to contact Ricardo Rodriguez at rrodriguez@nvcogct.gov or 203.982.0797 if you have any questions or need further assistance with the next steps.

Once again, Congratulations!

Best Regards,

Ricardo J. Rodriguez
Brownfields Program Director
Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments



City of Bristol
Office of Town and City Clerk
111 North Main Street
Bristol, Connecticut 06010

To: Erica Cabiya, Town & City Clerk

From: Economic and Community Development
(Name of Board or Commission)

Contact Person: Justin Malley Telephone Number: 860-584-6187

Address: 111 North Main St., Bristol CT 06010 E-mail Address: justinmalley@bristolct.gov

In compliance with Section 1-225 of the Connecticut General Statutes the following is a listing of dates of the regular meetings of the Economic and Community Development:
(Name of Board or Commission)

MONTH	DATE/DATES	TIME & PLACE OF MEETING
JANUARY 2025	January 9, 2025	5:00 P.M. – Council Chambers
FEBRUARY 2025	February 6, 2025	5:00 P.M. – Council Chambers
MARCH 2025	March 6, 2025	5:00 P.M. – Council Chambers
APRIL 2025	April 3, 2025	5:00 P.M. – Council Chambers
MAY 2025	May 1, 2025	5:00 P.M. – Council Chambers
JUNE 2025	June 5, 2025	5:00 P.M. – Council Chambers
JULY 2025	July 9, 2025 (Wednesday)	5:00 P.M. – Council Chambers
AUGUST 2025	August 7, 2025	5:00 P.M. – Council Chambers
SEPTEMBER 2025	September 4, 2025	5:00 P.M. – Rm. 111/Meeting Rm. 1-3
OCTOBER 2025	October 2, 2025	5:00 P.M. – Council Chambers
NOVEMBER 2025	November 6, 2025	5:00 P.M. – Council Chambers
DECEMBER 2025	December 4, 2025	5:00 P.M. – Council Chambers

Yours very truly,

(Signature) Chair

(Signature) Recording Secretary

(Date)