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U.S. Small Business Administration's Shuttered Venue Operators Grant program



The U.S. Small Business Administration's Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG) program was established by the Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Nonprofits, and Venues Act, and amended by the American Rescue Plan Act.



The most recent public data indicates 36 grant awards in Connecticut totaling \$14,463,327. There is a set-aside in place for smaller applicants, \$2 billion is reserved for eligible applications with up to 50 full-time employees. As of the most recent report, there are still funds available in this bucket. So far, about \$584 million has been allocated out of the \$2 billion.

Of the 36 Connecticut entities that have received awards, the smallest award was under \$5,600 and the largest \$5.7 million was awarded to The Bushnell, Hartford, CT.

Eligible entities may be live venue operators or promoters, theatrical producers, live performing arts organization operators, museum operators, motion picture theatre operators or owners, and talent representatives, per the Economic Aid Act. The SVOG portal is still open to receive applications.

The list of grantees is public information and is now posted on our SVOG webpage, you can find it here: [Shuttered Venue Operators Grant \(sba.gov\)](https://www.sba.gov/shuttered-venue-operators-grant)

From the Desk of Our President & CEO JoAnn Ryan



LESSONS FROM A 28-YEAR CHAMBER PRESIDENT



It's the season for graduations! I recall the event when The Connecticut Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives honored Paul Timpanelli, the retiring President & CEO of the Bridgeport Regional Business Council.

His message, one of 8,400 he has delivered throughout his 28 years was on target. He gave me permission to share it with you.

"Ethics and values – the foundation and nothing else matters without this

The vision thing – ability to see the future and know how to get there

Balance in life – critical part of ability to lead

The World is run by those that show up – you must be at the party and the wake

Surround yourselves with people that are smarter

than you – makes you look good and strengthens your ability to see shortcomings

Don't let the negative get you down – pay no attention to it

Anger, jealousy, prejudice sap energy – don't let this influence your day

Persistence helps you win – tough environments require toughing it out

The big picture – somebody has to do it - take it on

Optimism rules – always look ahead, never backward and maintain a positive attitude

Disappointment is the cradle of ambition – defeats are lessons that enable rethinking and revisioning

Leaders and you – get to know the movers and shakers

Motivating and inspiring – serves as an example to those that will support your vision

Capacity to influence – requires respect and support

No problems – just solutions that require those around you to think creatively and forcefully

Anything nice to say – building a support network requires a leader to recognize the value in others

Failure by fragmentation – a leader builds coalitions and decreases fragmentation

There's something in the water – a challenging environment is not unique

Building walls prevents opportunity – inclusiveness and diversity are strengthening

Honesty remains the best policy – in all that you do, honesty in your dealings will always bring rewards."

These words of wisdom resonate with each of us especially during these challenging times. Paul was one of my mentors so I am grateful that he shared his experience.

JoAnn Ryan is President & CEO of the NW CT Chamber of Commerce. You can reach her by email: joann@nwctchamberofcommerce.org or phone: 860-482-6586

Upcoming

CHAMBER ZOOM EVENTS

- July 1 Membership Committee Meeting - 8 am
- July 5 Chamber Closed for Independence Day
- July 6 Small Business Council Meeting - 8 am
- July 7 WOW Advisory Committee Meeting - 8:30 am
- July 8 Government Relations Committee Meeting - 8 am
- July 8 Leads III - 9 am
- July 12 Leads I - 12 pm
- July 13 Leads IV - 8 am
- July 14 Leads II - 8:30 am
- July 15 Restaurant & Retail Peer Group Meeting - 10 am

- July 19 Business After Hours at Sunset Meadow Vineyards - 5-7 pm
- July 20 Insurance Committee Meeting - 8 am
- July 21 Health Council Meeting - 8 am
- July 22 Board of Directors Meeting - 8 am
- July 26 Leads I- 12 pm
- July 27 Business with Breakfast hosted by The Cottage at Litchfield Hills
- July 28 Leads II - 8:30 am
- July 28 Celebration of Success at The Inn at Mount Pleasant - 5-7 pm

Save the Date

Celebration of Success –Wednesday, July 28th,
5:00pm – 7:00pm | The Inn at Mount Pleasant

WOW Forum – Hybrid
Friday, October 1st, 8 AM | The Warner Theatre

25 Days of Hope for the Holidays
FM 97.3 WZBG and the Chamber
December

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Torrington Savings Bank



SAVE THE DATE

Friday, October 1st

LIVE, IN-PERSON EVENT!

At The Warner Theatre, Torrington

2021 Theme: Mindfulness Matters

We are excited to return to an in-person Forum this year featuring incredible keynote speakers *AND* we're bringing back the afternoon breakout sessions!

Keynote Speakers include: an author, mindset mentor and natural health strategist; a resilience strategist and motivational speaker; a former ESPN producer turned entrepreneur, and a professional stand up comic.

We can't wait to see everyone **IN PERSON** at this year's **WOW! Forum!**

More information can be found at wowforum.org.

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TORRINGTON AUTHOR'S BOOK OF POETRY PUBLISHED

TORRINGTON, CT – A resident of Torrington, Conn., and author of six nonfiction books, Patricia Mason-Martin has had her first full-length poetry book published. The 105-page collection, titled *In Venice I Could Sing*, contains 46 original poems and is published by Local Gems Press. The small publisher, based on Long Island, N.Y., has published poets from more than 10 countries and 30 different states.

“I have been writing poetry for as long as I can remember and am grateful to my creative writing teachers and workshop leaders for their encouragement and support,” says Mason-Martin. “I am also appreciative of Local Gems Press for publishing my collection and allowing me to share my personal work with a broader audience.”



A graduate of Darien High School, Mason-Martin relocated to Woodstock, N.Y., before her move to Torrington, Conn. An author, poet/performer and freelance copywriter, she was also the creator and host of *SpeakEasy*, a monthly poetry/spoken word series that took place on the first Sunday of

every month at the Noelke Gallery in downtown Torrington until the COVID pandemic. Mason-Martin also serves as a marketing communications specialist at Community Health & Wellness Center, a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) with locations in Torrington, Winsted, and soon Canaan, Conn. CHWC is a member of the Northwest Connecticut Chamber of Commerce.

Previously, her poetry has been published in several anthologies and magazines, including *Poets to Come*, an anthology celebrating Walt Whitman's 200th birthday; *Fired Up! Creative Expression for Challenging Times*; *Trees in a Garden of Ashes: Poetry of Resilience*; *A Pathway to Dreams*; *Goddess: Raising consciousness Through Spoken Word*; *WaterWrites: A Hudson River Anthology*; *Unlocking the Word: An Anthology of Found Poetry*; *Art Times Journal*; *Chatham Magazine*; and *E.P.I.C. Magazine*.

In Venice I Could Sing is available at select independent book stores and on Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Venice-I-Could-Sing/dp/1951053591/>

In addition, the poetry book is also available on the website of local author Jack Sheedy at www.JackSheedy.com. For more information on Patricia Mason-Martin, visit www.patriciamartin.com.

Patricia Martin
Author/Writer/Communications Professional
www.patriciamartin.com

Corporate PARTNERS

HARTFORD HEALTHCARE OPENS TWO NEW LOCATIONS FOR COVID-19 VACCINES

TORRINGTON, CT – Hartford HealthCare and Charlotte Hungerford Hospital have opened two new locations in northwest CT to provide more convenient COVID-19 vaccines for the public and pre-op patients.

Charlotte Hungerford Hospital

Memorial Building Conference Hall
540 Litchfield Street, Torrington
Saturdays from 9 AM to 4 PM
Beginning Saturday, June 26

Hartford HealthCare HealthCenter

80 South Main Street, Winsted
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9AM to 11 AM
Beginning June 22

Walk-ins are welcome. Anyone 12 years and older is eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine. Those under 18 need to be accompanied by a parent or guardian. For more information about hours of operation, directions and scheduling, visit HartfordHealthCare.org/vaccine.



“We strongly encourage getting the vaccination for yourself and family members who are eligible. It has been an important factor in reducing the spread of COVID-19 in our region.” said Paul Scalise, MD, regional Vice President for Medical Affairs at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital.

Corporate PARTNERS

SALISBURY BANK AND TRUST COMPANY ANNOUNCES EMPLOYEE PROMOTIONS

Lakeville, CT – Salisbury Bank and Trust Company, is pleased to announce the promotion of three employees.

Stacey Curtis has been promoted to Vice President, Branch Administrator. Stacey started as Executive Assistant in July of 2008 and was promoted to Assistant Vice President in 2014. In January of 2016 she took on a new role as Branch Manager of the Canaan office. She transferred to the Newburgh office in September of 2020. In addition to her new responsibilities as Branch Administrator, Stacey will continue to manage the Newburgh Branch office.



Stacey Curtis



Maria Seeley

Maria Seeley has been promoted to Vice President, Mortgage Advisor. Maria has been with the bank since September of 2013. She started as an underwriter in the mortgage origination area and in September of 2019 she was promoted to Loan Originator in the NY market. She quickly excelled in her new role, has handled high volumes of loans with ease, and has exceeded her goals.

Dayna Cook has been promoted to Assistant Vice President, Training Manager. Dayna has been with the Bank since March of 2009. She started as a teller and was promoted to Training Manager in 2015. In 2018 she was nominated to attend the Connecticut School of Finance and Management, a rigorous two-year program from which she successfully graduated in 2020.



Dayna Cook



SALISBURY BANK
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Corporate PARTNERS

HOSPITAL EARNS SECOND CONSECUTIVE 5-STAR QUALITY RATING

SHARON, Connecticut — Sharon Hospital is one of just four in Connecticut and 455 in the nation to earn the top score for quality patient care, awarded by The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Patient experience, readmissions and overall patient safety were areas where Sharon ranked above the national average of the more than 4,600 hospitals measured by the federal agency. Read more about the accolade [here](#).



COMMUNITY TOTAL JOINT CAMP CLASSES

If you or someone you know faces joint issues, is considering a hip or knee replacement or has met with one of our surgeons to begin a joint replacement procedure, we encourage you to attend the hospital's Total Joint Replacement Class.

- **When:** 2 to 3 pm every fourth Thursday of the month (June 24, July 22, August 26, September 24)
- **Where:** The hospital's Board Conference Room 2

Teams from our ambulatory surgery unit, nursing, nutrition and physical rehabilitation department will discuss important education and resources so you know what to expect before and after surgery.

To register for a class or get more information, call the [rehabilitation department](#) at (860) 364-4065.

PRIMARY STROKE CENTER CERTIFICATION FROM THE JOINT COMMISSION

In May, Sharon Hospital earned its initial Primary Stroke Center Certification from The Joint Commission in collaboration with the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association.

Also known as a “brain attack,” a stroke occurs when a blood vessel carrying blood and oxygen ruptures or is blocked by a clot, halting the supply of vital nutrients to the brain.

“Primary Stroke Certification from The Joint Commission



demonstrates how Sharon Hospital is well equipped to provide specialized stroke care when time to treat is critical,” said Dr. Paul Wright, senior vice president and system chair of the Neuroscience Institute at Nuvance Health. “Effectively and quickly treating stroke lowers the risk of someone experiencing long-term disability or death,”

[Click here](#) to learn more about our certification and stroke care at Nuvance Health.

COVID RECOVERY PROGRAM

As your advocate in care, we are ready to help you return to the activities you enjoy most. Those impacted by persistent symptoms and health complications from COVID-19 can seek support through the [Nuvance Health COVID Recovery Program](#) for a thorough assessment of ongoing virus complications and symptom management.

- The first appointment is held via telemedicine, where the condition, symptoms, medical history, risk factors, previous tests and treatments are reviewed by a physician.
- The doctor makes recommendations for symptom management and/or provides referrals for additional diagnostic testing and specialty care.

Read more about this collaborative and coordinated approach [here](#). Call (203) 350-7432 (TTY (203) 899-5016) to schedule a telehealth visit and receive a customized treatment plan.

Thank you for your continued support of Sharon Hospital. If you have questions or feedback, we hope to hear from you! Contact us at: sharonhospital@nuvancehealth.org

Chamber MEMBERS

KIDSPRAY CHILDREN'S MUSEUM AND LITCHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENT WONDERS OF THE GARDEN, A SPANISH-ENGLISH STORY TIME

Torrington – KidsPlay Children's Museum and Litchfield Historical Society are partnering to offer Wonders of the Garden, A Spanish-English Story Time. The program will be held at 10 a.m. on 4 consecutive Tuesdays starting on July 20 at the Tapping Reeve Meadow located at 82 South Street in Litchfield.



Children and families are invited to enjoy interactive garden-themed stories read in both English and Spanish by KidsPlay volunteers, Humphry Rolleston and Carmen Neale. They will also explore the natural history of the garden and learn about agriculture in New England. Each week they will feature a different topic including rocks and soil, pollinators and other garden helpers, traditional garden plants, and textile crops with hands-on STEM activities and story extenders that promote early literacy and language exploration.



Families spread out on the lawn of the Tapping Reeve Meadow to enjoy stories read in both English and Spanish by KidsPlay Children's Museum Volunteers, Carmen and Humphry.

Premier

MEMBERS

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Keystone Place at Newbury Brook
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Seitz LLC
Systems Support Group
T&M Building Company, Inc.
and Torrington Downtown Partners
UCE Fine Builders
Valerie Manor
Webster Bank

"We are so excited to partner with KidsPlay and welcome families to the Tapping Reeve Meadow for story time." says Kate Zullo, Head of Education at the Litchfield Historical Society. "Stories are a great introduction to exploring history and the natural world."

Patty Cassella, the Learning Experience Specialist at KidsPlay said, "Planning this story time with Kate Zullo was exciting! The study of New England through the perspective of historical gardening opens up interesting STEM topics such as the challenges of early agriculture and pollinator habitat. I can't wait to enjoy the stories in two languages and explore the materials with the children!"

KidsPlay volunteer, Humphry Rolleston said, "I am delighted and honored to again be part of this great partnership between two of my favorite institutions this Summer. I look forward to reading some great stories to the children, parents and caregivers with the wonderful Carmen Neale."

This program is best enjoyed by families with children ages 3 to 8. There is limited space for this free event. Please register by visiting www.kidsplaymuseum.org or by calling KidsPlay at 860-618-7770. For outdoor events, we are asking visitors (ages 2+) to wear masks if they cannot maintain social distancing. Bringing a mask is advised for you and your child for any hands-on collaborative projects.

(Continued on next page)

Chamber MEMBERS

(KidsPlay continued from page 8)

Located at 7 South Street, Litchfield, CT, The Litchfield Historical Society operates the Litchfield History Museum and the Tapping Reeve House and Litchfield Law School. Starting June 24, both sites are open Thursday by appointment, Friday and Saturday 11 am to 5 pm, and Sunday 1 pm to 5 pm. To better serve our community, the Litchfield History Museum and the Tapping Reeve House & Law School offer free admission for all, sponsored by Ericson Insurance Advisors. Visit www.litchfieldhistoricalsociety.org or call 860 567 4501 for more information.

KidsPlay Children's Museum is currently open to the public Wednesday to Sunday 10 am to 4 pm, with extended hours on Thursdays, 10 am to 7 pm. Visitors are strongly

encouraged to reserve or purchase advanced timed-entry tickets. Unticketed visitors will only be permitted as capacity allows. All visitors (ages 2+), staff and volunteers are required to wear a mask covering mouth and nose at all times within the Museum. For more information, please visit www.kidsplaymuseum.org or call 860-618-7700 to plan your visit.

Follow Litchfield Historical Society on Facebook @litchfield.historical.society, Instagram @litchfieldhistory, Twitter @judgereeve, #litchfieldhistory. Follow KidsPlay Children's Museum on Facebook @kidsplaychildrensmuseum, Instagram @kidsplaymuseum, Twitter @kpmuseum, #kidsplaymuseum.

KIDSPLAY CHILDREN'S MUSEUM Y LITCHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTAN LAS MARAVILLAS DEL JARDÍN Y LA HUERTA, LA HORA DEL CUENTO EN ESPAÑOL E INGLÉS

Junio 15, 2021, Torrington - KidsPlay Children's Museum y Litchfield Historical Society se asocian para ofrecer "Las maravillas del jardín y la huerta," la hora del cuento en español e inglés. El programa se llevará a cabo a las 10 a.m. los 4 martes consecutivos a partir del 20 de julio en el Tapping Reeve Meadow ubicado en 82 South Street en Litchfield.

Los niños y las familias están invitados a disfrutar de historias interactivas con temática de jardín y huerta leídas en inglés y español por los voluntarios de KidsPlay, Humphry Rolleston y Carmen Neale. También explorarán la historia natural del jardín y aprenderán sobre la agricultura en la Nueva Inglaterra. Cada semana presentarán un tema diferente que incluirá rocas y suelo, polinizadores y otros ayudantes del jardín, plantas de jardín y de huerta tradicionales, y cultivos textiles con actividades prácticas de STEM y expansiones de cuentos que promueven la alfabetización temprana y la exploración del lenguaje.

"Estamos muy emocionados de asociarnos con KidsPlay y dar la bienvenida a las familias al Tapping Reeve Meadow para la hora del cuento", dice Kate Zullo, Directora de Educación de la Sociedad Histórica de Litchfield. "Los cuentos son una gran introducción a la exploración de la historia y del mundo natural".

Patty Cassella, especialista en experiencia de aprendizaje de KidsPlay, dijo: "¡Planear esta hora del cuento con Kate

Zullo fue emocionante! El estudio de la Nueva Inglaterra a través de la perspectiva de la jardinería histórica abre temas de STEM interesantes como los desafíos de la agricultura temprana y el hábitat de los polinizadores. ¡Estoy ansiosa de disfrutar de los cuentos en dos idiomas y explorar los materiales con los niños!"

El voluntario de KidsPlay, Humphry Rolleston, dijo: "Estoy encantado y honrado de volver a ser parte de esta gran asociación entre dos de mis instituciones favoritas este verano. Espero leer algunos cuentos excelentes para los niños, padres y tutores, con la maravillosa Carmen Neale".

Este programa es mejor disfrutado por familias con niños de 3 a 8 años. Hay espacio limitado para este evento gratuito. Por favor regístrese visitando a www.kidsplaymuseum.org o llamando a KidsPlay al 860-618-7770. Para los eventos al aire libre, estamos pidiendo a los visitantes (mayores de 2 años) que usen máscaras si no pueden mantener el distanciamiento social. Se aconseja llevar una máscara para usted y su hijo para cualquier proyecto de colaboración práctica.

Localizado en el 7 South Street, Litchfield, CT, la Sociedad histórica de Litchfield dirige el Museo de historia de Litchfield y la casa de Tapping Reeve y la Escuela de derecho de Litchfield. A partir del 24 de junio, ambos sitios estarán abiertos los jueves con cita previa, los viernes y sábados de 11 am a 5 pm, y los domingos de 1 pm a 5 pm. Para servir mejor a nuestra comunidad, el Museo de Historia de Litchfield y la Tapping Reeve House, y la Escuela de Derecho ofrecen entrada gratuita para todos, patrocinado por Ericson Insurance Advisors.

(Continued on next page)

Chamber MEMBERS

(KidsPlay continued from page 9)

Visite www.litchfieldhistoricalsociety.org o llame al 860 567 4501 para obtener más información.

KidsPlay Children's Museum está actualmente abierto al público de miércoles a domingos de 10 am a 4 pm. Se recomienda encarecidamente a los visitantes que reserven o compren boletos de entrada cronometrada por adelantado. A los visitantes no autorizados solo les será permitido entrar en la medida en que la capacidad lo permita. Todos los visitantes (mayores de 2 años), el personal y los voluntarios

deben usar una máscara que cubra la boca y la nariz en todo momento dentro del Museo. Para obtener más información, visite www.kidsplaymuseum.org o llame al 860-618-7700 para planificar su visita.

Siga a Litchfield Historical Society en Facebook @litchfield.historical.society, Instagram @litchfieldhistory, Twitter @judgereeve #litchfieldhistory. Siga a KidsPlay Children's Museum en Facebook @kidsplaychildrensmuseum, @kidsplaymuseum de Instagram, @kpmuseum de Twitter #kidsplaymuseum.

NCCC OFFERS TAXATION FOR SMALL BUSINESS SEMINAR

Winsted – Northwestern Connecticut Community College will offer “Taxation for Small Business” through an online seminar on Tuesday, July 20, 2021, 7 to 8:30 p.m. The program will be led by Dr. Kris Roberts, Managing Partner of the Roberts Tax Group in Torrington, CT. The seminar is free but registration is required.

Starting a small business may start with a great idea, but great ideas can be quickly go awry if business owners are unprepared for the various taxes associated with managing their businesses. “Taxation for Small Business” invites current business owners, and those considering starting a business, to learn about the various taxes associated with small businesses. The 90-minute session will include discussion of income, self-employment, property, and pass-thru entity taxes, as well as the various types of organizational structures such as C-corporations,



S-corporations, partnerships, LLCs, and DBAs, and how these different legal structures can influence a business's taxes.

Roberts has 25 years of experience in the field of accounting, taxation and entrepreneurship and is a federally licensed Enrolled Agent tax practitioner. She is also Assistant Program Chair at the Malcolm Balridge School of Business at Post University in Waterbury and has published numerous tax related articles. Dr. Roberts is a

Northwest CT native and currently serves on the advisory board for the Entrepreneurial Center of Northwest CT located at NCCC.

To register, please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/taxation-for-small-business-tickets-160853861229>.

For more information, please contact Laura McCarthy at lmccarthy@nwcc.edu. This seminar is sponsored by the Entrepreneurial Center of Northwest Connecticut, located at NCCC, and the Northwest Connecticut Economic Development Corporation.

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

We thank God for the freedoms we enjoy in our country and do not take them for granted. We are blessed that we can live in a country where we enjoy its many freedoms to work, live, worship and vote as we please. So, take a moment on this 4th of July and pause to consider freedom and all it means to you. You might reminisce about a special 4th of July celebration from the past; who was with you and what you did.

Independence Day is commonly associated with fireworks, parades, barbecues, carnivals, fairs, picnics, concerts, baseball games, family reunions, political speeches, and ceremonies. We hope you'll get to enjoy some of these festivities or at least watch one on TV. We are wishing you all a wonderful 4th of July as we celebrate our nation's freedom and those who have helped to make us free.



News and NOTES

Webinar:

Paycheck Protection Program Loan Forgiveness

Tuesday, July 6th 11:30 am



Program Includes:

- ✓ Eligible expenses
- ✓ Forms & instructions
- ✓ Forgiveness timeline
- ✓ Q & A

Register: www.sba.gov/ct Small Business Events Calendar

Contact: Sylina Jacobs at (860) 680-6883
Sylina.Jacobs@sba.gov



U.S. Small Business
Administration



UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD

ENTREPRENEURIAL CENTER

WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER

CONNECTICUT UPDATE:

On June 14th, following his travels to Eastern Europe, Murphy, a member of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, joined members of Connecticut's Ukrainian community for breakfast at the Ukrainian National Home in Hartford. Murphy, joined by U.S. Senators Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.) and Rob Portman (R-Ohio), traveled to Lithuania and Ukraine in June to reaffirm U.S. commitment to regional partners and strengthen democratic reforms. The bipartisan delegation also met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and expressed their support for Ukraine against Russian aggression and encouraged progress toward democratic reforms.

Following his visit to Hartford, Senator Murphy, U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal and Connecticut Secretary of the State Denise Merrill held a press conference in Hartford to speak about the importance of protecting voting rights and supporting our election system by passing the For the People Act – comprehensive legislation to strengthen our democracy.

In Southington later that day, Murphy, a member of the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, convened a roundtable with Connecticut caregivers and specialists to discuss legislation to support the work of caregiving and to raise awareness for Alzheimer's disease. Last

month, Murphy reintroduced legislation that would provide retirement compensation in the form of Social Security credits to those who left the workforce or significantly reduced their hours in order to care for their loved ones.

On June 18th, Senator Murphy joined local officials and environmental experts in Old Saybrook to discuss shoreline mitigation projects and his role as Chairman of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security which oversees FEMA funding for these important initiatives. He learned about the Hepburn Dune project, a flagship example of a successful living shorelines project in the Borough of Fenwick.

After his visit to Old Saybrook on Friday, Senator Murphy visited Camp Hazen in Chester with State Representative Christine Palm and First Selectwoman Lauren Gister to meet with leadership and for a tour of the campgrounds. The Senator received an overview of the camp operations and was able to see the kids participate in their daily activities. Camp Hazen received \$25,000 in summer enrichment funds from the State of Connecticut.

On Monday, June 28th, Murphy hosted a town hall at the Winsted Senior Center with Mayor Candy Perez to discuss issues relevant to Connecticut's senior

(Continued on next page)

News and NOTES

(CT Update continued from page 11) citizens, including support for caregivers, drug pricing reform, and protecting the social safety net. Last month, Murphy reintroduced legislation that would provide retirement compensation in the form of Social Security credits to those who left the workforce or significantly reduced their hours in order to care for their loved ones.

Following his visit to Winsted, Senator Murphy held a roundtable in Goshen at the site of the recent 620 acre Highlands acquisition, which has doubled the Goshen Wildlife Management Area. Along with local stakeholders, the Senator highlighted the need to reauthorize the Highlands Conservation Act which would reauthorize the program through 2028 with \$20 million in annual funding.

Following his visit to Goshen, Senator Murphy headed to Art of Yum restaurant with Mayor Neil O'Leary in Waterbury to discuss the need for continued support for local businesses and to tout the SBA relief programs included in the American Rescue Plan. Murphy met with Art of Yum's owners to discuss the need to replenish the Restaurant Revitalization Fund and gather feedback on how he can better advocate for Connecticut's restaurants in Washington.

Senator Murphy was then joined by local officials for a walking tour in Simsbury that highlighted women-owned businesses that received support from the federal government during the pandemic. The senator gathered feedback on Simsbury's economic development and how he can better advocate for local businesses in Connecticut.

This past Tuesday, Senator Murphy visited the Sherwood Island State Park to hold a roundtable on Coastal Resiliency with two of Westport's shoreline projects in clear view. The Senator, recently named Chairman of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security, is in a unique position to shift priority from disaster response to disaster prevention and mitigation as an effort to save protect shorelines. Here's what the Senator had to say in summary.

Following his visit to Westport, Senator Murphy hosted a roundtable in Bridgeport with local officials and minority small business owners to discuss the experience of Bridgeport businesses that applied for CARES funding, identify areas for improvement, and gather feedback on how he can continue supporting small, minority-owned businesses as they recover from the economic impacts of COVID-19.

Also on Tuesday, Senator Murphy eagerly toured the Boys and Girls Club of Shelton to learn how they are expanding programming and access to area students at their Raymond Lavietes Summer Camp. In an effort largely made possible

by Senator Murphy, the Boys and Girls Club benefited from the American Rescue Plan's federal aid to summer enrichment programs for the purposes of inclusion and socio-emotional growth for students. The Summer Camp has since taken on 20 new students.

After his visit in Shelton, Senator Murphy visited with the team at Sikorsky to celebrate the next CH-53K helicopter contract for the U.S. Marines.

On Wednesday, June 30th, Senator Murphy visited Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) for a conversation with university leadership and SCSU students on COVID-19 vaccine distribution, following the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities' (CSCU) announcement on Thursday to require that all students get vaccinated before starting school in the fall. Murphy, SCSU President Joe Bertolino, and SCSU students discussed outreach efforts to connect students with vaccines throughout the summer.

On Wednesday in Orange, the Senator met with local leaders of West Haven, Milford, and Orange to discuss the need to invest in transportation infrastructure, including bridge and road repairs and train access, in order to improve safety and cut commute times. He will bring these local priorities back to Washington as the Senate continues negotiations on an infrastructure package.

After visiting Orange, Senator Murphy headed to Hartford with Senator Blumenthal, Don Schubert, President of the Connecticut Construction Industries Association and Amy Parmenter of the AAA Allied Group for a press conference on transportation and infrastructure. The goal of the press conference was to discuss infrastructure negotiations and highlight the importance of pursuing a two track path to ensure any infrastructure package also takes bold action to tackle climate change, expand access to childcare, and significantly increase funding for Connecticut's rail and the Northeast Corridor.

On Wednesday afternoon, Senator Murphy joined Governor Lamont and Senator Blumenthal for a press conference at the Connecticut Science Center for the announcement of a new initiative beginning Today. Children in Connecticut can attend museums and cultural attractions for free this summer.

Britt Foulds
State Scheduler & Outreach Assistant
U.S. Senator Chris Murphy
Office: 860-549-8463

BACKPACK & SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE

Join us in our mission to collect backpacks and school supplies for teachers and students



Items will be distributed via the following organizations:
United Way of West Central CT, CT Partnership for Children, Friendly Hands Food Bank,
Children's Community School

STUDENT ITEMS NEEDED

Backpacks, Pencils, Notebooks, Crayons, Erasers, Binders, Markers, Pens, Rulers
Colored Pencils, Scissors, Glue Sticks

TEACHER ITEMS NEEDED

Ziploc bags, Color Copy Paper, Card Stock, Hand Sanitizer, Tissues, Cleaning Wipes, Folders,
Dry Erase Markers, Sticky Notes, Highlighters,

ONLINE DONATION OPTION

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/INFN884820TR4?ref_=wl_share

DEADLINE: August 4th 2021

Any questions please contact Amanda. Cell: 203-894-6482 amanda@smalbino.com



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WORDS OF WISDOM FOR THE GRADUATES

As Dr. Seuss said, "I'm sorry to say so but sadly, it's true that Bang-ups and Hang-ups can happen to you." Oh my, not sure if even he could have imagined this unprecedented environment. Despite it all, the guidelines for success for these exceptional students are still relevant and meaningful to all of us.

Set your priorities.

Education does not end with commencement; rather it is the beginning of a life-long journey that requires setting your goals and learning from each experience.

If you commit to something, complete the task despite the challenges. Even if it's not your life dream, finish what you start and learn from it. Then move on without burning bridges. Many doors will open for you as long as you keep an open mind.

Do what you love, and love what you do.

You bring to the table many talents from previous jobs and life experiences. Identify the skills and talents you possess and think about how you can transfer them to a job and career that you will love.

Know that life is a roller coaster with highs and lows.

Build on the positive rather than the negative. Although it is sometimes hard to fathom, we will recover from this period. It will be a different world, but we will overcome the fear, anxiety, and sadness.

Be persistent.

Move forward despite challenges holding you back. See the possibilities in the good rather than fear of failure. There are options for all situations and predicaments.

Surround yourselves with positive people.

Positive relationships are most important in the realm of things. You will find mentors and new best friends along the way but always remember family and the community that guided you.

Share your talents.

The most precious gift you can give another is your time and attention. It does not matter whether you have little ability or great ability. What counts is what you do with what you have.

Remember that we walk this way only once. Do it with integrity, selflessness, good health, and belief in a higher power. Above all, do it with a sense of humor.

JoAnn Ryan is President & CEO of the NW CT Chamber of Commerce. You can reach her by email: joann@nwctchamberofcommerce.org or phone: 860-482-6586





Upcoming **CHAMBER ZOOM EVENTS**

- | | | | |
|---------|--|---------|--|
| July 1 | Membership Committee Meeting - 8 am | July 20 | Insurance Committee Meeting - 8 am |
| July 5 | Chamber Closed for Independence Day | July 21 | Health Council Meeting - 8 am |
| July 6 | Small Business Council Meeting - 8 am | July 22 | Board of Directors Meeting - 8 am |
| July 7 | WOW Advisory Committee Meeting - 8:30 am | July 26 | Leads I- 12 pm |
| July 8 | Government Relations Committee Meeting - 8 am | July 27 | Business with Breakfast hosted by The Cottage |
| July 8 | Leads III - 9 am | | at Litchfield Hills |
| July 12 | Leads I - 12 pm | July 28 | Leads II - 8:30 am |
| July 13 | Leads IV - 8 am | July 28 | Celebration of Success at The Inn at Mount Pleasant - 5-7 pm |
| July 14 | Leads II - 8:30 am | | |
| July 15 | Restaurant & Retail Peer Group Meeting - 10 am | | |
| July 19 | Business After Hours at Sunset Meadow Vineyards - 5-7 pm | | |

Save the Date

Celebration of Success –Wednesday, July 28th,
5:00pm – 7:00pm | The Inn at Mount Pleasant

WOW Forum – Hybrid

Friday, October 1st, 8 AM | The Warner Theatre

25 Days of Hope for the Holidays
FM 97.3 WZBG and the Chamber
December