

Westbrook events

VOLUME 20 • QUARTER 4 • 2020



From right to left -
Noel Bishop, First Selectman, Paul Winch, Westbrook Foundation President, Elizabeth Carpenter, Social Services Coordinator, Gary McCauley, Old Saybrook Rotary Club President, Liz Wood, Edd's Place, Tate Mayeux, Edd's Place

A Compelling Message from Social Services
see inside cover



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On the Cover...

A Compelling Message from Social Services



When the Old Saybrook Rotary called and asked if I would be willing to do a project for Thanksgiving holiday meals, I jumped at the chance! I always get great pleasure from collaborating with the OS Rotary as the projects they do are thoughtful and worthwhile.

Since the Old Saybrook Rotary encompasses the towns of Old Saybrook, Westbrook and Old Lyme, the plan began with the idea of wanting to have more of a connection with the town of Westbrook. The Rotary approached the Westbrook Foundation for funding as they are Westbrook centric and very generous to the town. The Foundation thought it was a great idea to help citizens who needed assistance at Thanksgiving and the grant was approved.

Pat Settembrino and President Gary McCauley, Old Saybrook Rotary, approached me to identify who would most benefit. My first thought was the seniors who, due to COVID, would not be leaving home for Thanksgiving. These folks would include those already homebound, fearful of going out, fragile from age or medical conditions etc. The Rotarians wanted to support a local restaurant for the meals rather than going with a large corporation. They wrote down a few names and picked up the phone to call the first one. As it happened the restaurant was Edd's Place which had recently been purchased by Tate Mayeux and Liz Wood. Liz is originally from Westbrook. The offering they have was exactly what the Rotary Club was looking for, everything homemade from "scratch". The order was placed for the individually packaged meals to be delivered to Town Hall for distribution. Liberty Bank in Old Saybrook who are active members in the Rotary, offered their tote bags for packaging the meals. The Rotary didn't miss the personal touch as each meal has its own

notecard to the recipient attached. Social Services made a lot of phone calls and at the end of the process, just over 50 people had accepted the offer. The need was there and the response was swift. Residents were overwhelmingly thankful. Many were telling me how they appreciated the gesture and were quick to relay their stories.

The concerns and demands of our department are always many and since the onset of the coronavirus, the load has increased with each passing month. Our office has opened 18 new files over the most recent 30 days. For clients, the biggest concern right now is unemployment or reduction of hours which leads to issues of lack of money for food, heat, rent, utilities, health insurances etc. One in four children in America is being affected by food insecurity. There has been a 45% increase nationwide in people going to the food bank as a result of the devastating impact of COVID-19. In fact, the average number of individuals accessing St. Mark's Soup Kitchen, as compared to last year, has increased 150%. On Tuesday, 11/24, 306 individuals accessed the Soup Kitchen for a total of 15,890 pounds and 940 bags of food distributed in a 2 hour period. The Westbrook Foundation has donated an additional \$30,000 to the Shoreline Soup Kitchen due to the pandemic and over the past 10 years, the Foundation has donated a total of \$100,000 to the Shoreline Soup Kitchen.

Westbrook is fortunate enough to have the Visiting Nurses Association, Senior Center and Youth and Family Services who also do outreach to this vulnerable population. Due to the pandemic, the Senior Center is closed at this time but the staff continues to contact their members on a regular basis. The VNA has been serving Westbrook residents since 1927 providing nursing and rehab services to the client in the home setting. They offer Health Promotions including education, emergency management and wellness clinics and screenings. Westbrook Youth and Family Services work to build stronger individuals and families and a healthier community by offering affordable mental health services and community programming.

Elizabeth Carpenter
Department of Social Services, Coordinator

First Selectman's Corner

We are entering the holiday season and look forward to a new year with hope for the future. The pandemic of COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on so many of our residents and the past year has been challenging with unintentional consequences due to the pandemic. Your municipal government, with its dedicated staff and all of our volunteers, has unselfishly given of their time and talent during this difficult time with the necessary leadership to move Westbrook forward.

I am very pleased to say that in the past 9 months, there was never any significant interruption of services due to COVID-19 and, in fact, as a result of our virtual meetings, more residents participate via ZOOM than in regularly scheduled in-person meetings. Per Governor Lamont's Executive Order, we will continue, until at least mid-January, to have virtual meetings of all Boards and Commissions.

I submit for your consideration some of the major projects for 2021 that demonstrate our ongoing commitment to be responsive to the needs of this community:

- Our financial house is in good order. We have, for years, had a well balanced budget with only minimal increases in the municipal budget. Staffing has not expanded and, in fact, whenever possible, we hire part-time staff to minimize personnel costs. I can say with all assurance that your tax dollars will continue to be

well spent. Our annual budget process has begun and we will continue with a zero based budgeting to ensure that there is the highest level of accountability for every line item.



Noel Bishop

- Prudent and conservative financial planning has resulted in commendable annual financial audits. Additionally, a 2 to 4 year Capital Plan has been developed that addresses some of the necessary improvement projects including:

- Library Community Room
- Continued repair of the jetties at West Beach
- Enhancements to sidewalks for pedestrian safety and many other infrastructure projects that are necessary for our residents.

- A consultant has been retained and worked with our Planning Commission to develop a Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). This plan will be completed no later than June 2021 and will establish our priorities for the next 10 years.

- Westbrook is also proceeding with a Hazardous Mitigation Plan. Among other things, it will address the rising sea levels and other issues that are affecting our shoreline communities. I would encourage you to contact Eric Knapp, Planning, Zoning and Development Coordinator to receive updates.

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Kathy Alsop

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

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Ward Feirer 914-806-5500
wfeirer@gmail.com

OLD SAYBROOK

OLD LYME • EAST LYME

Betty Martelle 860-333-7117
betty@eventsmagazines.com

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TOWN HALL HOURS

Mon – Wed: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Thursday: 9:00 am – 7:00 pm

Friday: 9:00 am – noon

TOWN HALL CLOSED

Christmas & New Years:	January 1 st
December 24 th	Other Days:
December 25 th	January 18 th
December 31 st	February 15 th

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Selectman's Corner continued from page 3

• The Board of Education, after a thorough selection process, has appointed a new Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Kristina Martineau. Dr. Martineau began her duties on December 1st and she clearly has all of the credentials and an excellent track record of providing the necessary leadership for our school system. I know she is eager to listen to our residents regarding our school system.

• We are in the process of doing a Revaluation of all properties. Municipal Valuation Services, LLC has been selected as the result of a Request for Proposals. As part of this process, one of our staff members will be photographing all of the residences in Westbrook. It is not required that this individual enter anyone's home but we do need documentation from each residence. There will be more information on social media, the Town's website and the Harbor News regarding the name of the individual and the timeline for these photos.

COVID-19, among other things, will demand more support from our current Social Services Department. An additional financial commitment may be required to ensure that residents who may have lost their jobs or who are living on very constrained incomes are receiving the necessary assistance from our municipal government.

Some of our smaller businesses may never be able to re-open and one of our high priorities is to continue to reach out and patronize them. Our partnership is one of the great strengths of Westbrook.

It has become obvious to us during this pandemic that continued good communication at all levels is essential. Our webpage has been redesigned and updated messages are posted to the site on a weekly basis. I cannot emphasize strongly enough that you access the website, www.westbrookct.us several times each week. My office receives messages

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Market swings making you uneasy? Let's talk.

Ryan P Breen
Financial Advisor

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Selectman's Corner continued from page 5

from Governor Lamont on a daily basis regarding the status of COVID-19 and what, if any, new or existing protocols need to be addressed. Our Health Director, Zachary Faiella, continues to

provide excellent information to our community. I continue to be filled with hope and enthusiasm for all of the many opportunities we have and how fortunate we

are to call Westbrook home. It is a privilege to continue to serve as your First Selectman.

Noel Bishop, Selectman

Westbrook Recreation

2020 has been a long and challenging year for everyone. The Recreation Department has worked tirelessly to offer a wide variety of programs from summer camp for children to pickleball and exercises classes for adults, while successfully implementing measures to keep everyone safe.

We are looking forward to starting our winter programs right after the first of the year. We will be offering Yoga, Essentrics and Zumba for adults and seniors. Our new Essentrics program has 31 adults participating between four classes. This program is one of the best-kept secrets on the shoreline. Please come and try any of our classes for free (one time) and you'll be hooked.

If conditions allow, Recreational Basketball will start on January 9, 2021. The program runs for 7 weeks at different times on Saturday mornings depending on age and grade level. This class is for any boy or girl wanting to improve how they play basketball. Emphasis is on skills, drills and having fun. Classes will be taught in a non-competitive and safe environment so that all children are winners. Tot and 1st & 2nd grade basketball will be held at the Mulvey Building if the school is not available.

Youth floor hockey will begin on March 6th and run for 6 weeks on Saturday mornings. Floor hockey is a fast-moving, safe and fun sport for both boys and girls. This class is a great way to expose your child to street, ice and field hockey. The program will focus on learning skills such

as trapping, passing, puck control and scoring. Check it out online at westbrookrec.com.

Be sure to try our Youth Sports programs on Saturday mornings. They run September through June and once you see how fun and engaging they are, you'll come back every year for more.

Please remember that all participants in our programs must wear masks indoors for the duration of the pandemic. Hand sanitizing and disinfectants are available on site and all equipment will be regularly cleaned and sanitized.

Happy Holidays from the Westbrook Recreation Board!

Westbrook Wetlands & Watercourses Commission

DO YOU NEED A WETLAND PERMIT?

What is an Inland Wetland or Watercourse?

Inland wetlands include areas commonly referred to as fresh-water wetlands, swamps, marshes and bogs. They are distinguished from tidal wetlands (e.g. salt marshes) by the absence of tidal waters. Tidal water generally rises and falls with the tide. The Connecticut River is tidal up to Hartford. Inland wetlands are defined by the State of Connecticut as land that "consists of any of the soil types designated as poorly drained, very poorly drained, alluvial (deposited by rivers), and floodplain."

"Watercourses" are defined by the State of Connecticut as "rivers, streams, brooks, waterways, lakes, ponds, marshes, swamps, bogs and all other bodies of water, natural or artificial, public or private, which are contained within, flow through or border upon this State."

How Do I Know If There Is An Inland Wetland and/or Watercourse on My Property?

If you think there may be an inland wetland or watercourse on your property, you may be able to confirm this by reviewing your property file in the Land Use Office. There is a generalized soils map in the office, but you may also need to hire a soil scientist to confirm the precise boundary of the wetlands and watercourses

on your property. The Inland Wetland Agent can assist you with this matter.

Which Activities Require Permits?

As defined by the State Wetlands and Watercourses Act, a "regulated activity"...any operation within or use of a wetland or watercourse involving removal or deposition of material, or any obstruction, construction, alteration or pollution, of such wetlands or watercourses..." The Town of Westbrook IWWC regulates such activities (including tree clearing) within 100 feet of an inland wetland or watercourse, OR any activity that may impact wetlands. This 100' foot upland review area is not a "no build" zone, but rather the activity in this area is evaluated for its possible impacts to the wetland or watercourse.

How Do I Get a Permit?

The Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission (IWWC) meets to review permit applications on the first Tuesday of the month (with the exception of November). The applications and directions are available online on the Town website and in the Land Use Department. Applications received by 4:00 pm the previous Thursday in the Land Use Office will be added to the agenda. It is necessary for the applicant to attend the meeting to present their applications and answer questions. The wetland agent will be able to guide you through the process.

Adopt A Spot Comes in All Sizes



The largest Adopt A Spot is the landscaping bordering the parking lot between the Turtle Café and Key Bank on the Boston Post Road.

native perennials, grasses, shrubs, and trees. We also hope that Gomez's generosity will inspire other businesses to adopt a spot and help to beautify Westbrook.

Deborah Rie

Adopted spots range in size from a small area under a welcome sign to our "park in a parking lot." Gomez Landscaping is maintaining both the front and rear landscaping that borders the parking lot that is on the Boston Post Road between the Turtle Café and Key Bank. Adopt A Spot appreciates all the care that Gomez Landscaping is giving to our largest spot. This area creates a small "pocket park" filled with native perennials, grasses, shrubs and trees. We hope that the next time you use the parking lot you will spend a few minutes walking through the landscape and noticing the various

Westbrook Assessor's Office

The Town of Westbrook Assessors' Office is about to commence the state mandated revaluation project. The revaluation will be effective on the October 1, 2021 Grand List.

The Town has hired Municipal Valuation Services (Munival) to assist the Town with this revaluation. Munival is a Connecticut-based revaluation company built on a foundation of valuation experience, and local market expertise. Their three (3) principals, Chris Kerin, Mike Fazio, and David Herbst are MAI appraisers, with over 80 years of combined appraisal experience in the Connecticut market.

As part of the revaluation process, every homeowner will be receiving a data verification letter via US Mail in the month of January/February. This letter will outline specific characteristics about your property. Please review the letter and make any necessary corrections directly on the form and return via the methods provided in the letter. As part of our quality assurance program we will investigate discrepancies and if warranted, request an appointment for inspection.

The town will be taking pictures during the revaluation process of each individual residence in an effort to update, document



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and verify our records. The individual taking pictures will have identification and an official letter from the town, if you ave any cOOcerns you may contact the Assessor's office for verification and questions at 860-399-2033.

Thank you for your cooperation.

If you have any questions regarding the revaluation project you may contact us at 203-292-5500.



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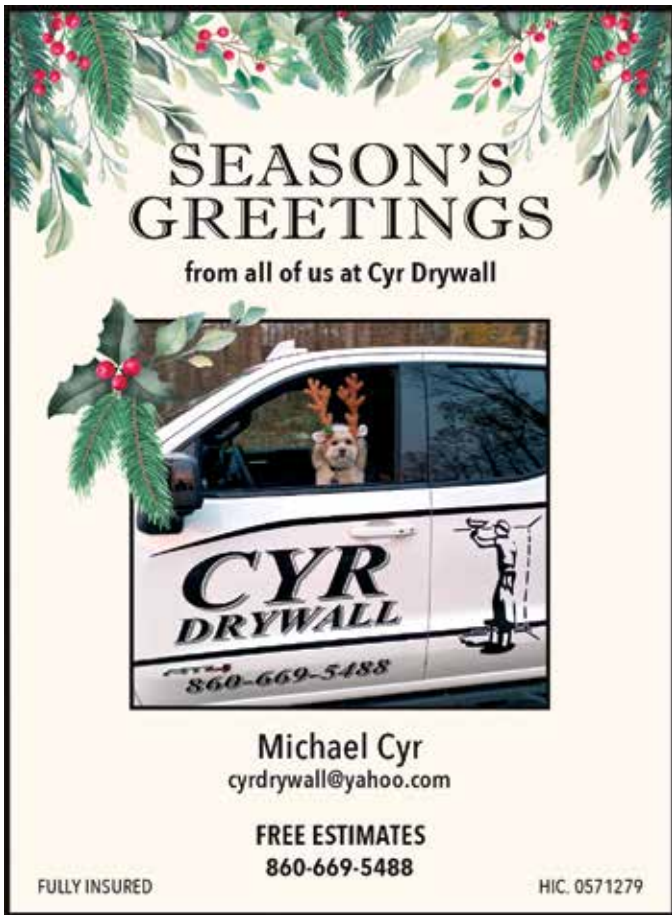
Westbrook Garden Club

Happy  Holidays

We have been busy these last few weeks decorating our window boxes and planters for the holidays. It makes our town look so festive and we certainly need some festivity this year! If you have not had a chance to check out the Meadow Walk, next time you are at the post office take a moment to see the new signage that has been installed and the beautiful new benches!

We have another new project that has been keeping us busy. The garden club has volunteered to install a garden for the new Habitat for Humanity house that has been built on Hammock Road north. So far, we have been able to clean out the debris and expose a beautiful stone wall. There are plans to plant a foundation garden and some plantings near the large rock on the property. We are so happy to enhance this charming home for the new family moving in.

As we end this very trying year, we would like to thank all of you who took the time to stop and complement our members on the décor, window boxes and planters in town. Thanks also to those of you who supported our Fall Mum Sale, it was a huge success! If you are interested in joining the garden club, please contact us at westbrookgardenclubct@yahoo.com.



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Tax Collector's Office

January is just around the corner. You have the whole month of January to pay without penalty.

The second half of your Real Estate, Personal Property and Supplemental Motor Vehicle is due.

We encourage you to please pay by mail. They can be mailed to 866 Boston Post Road, Westbrook. Or you can pay online at www.westbrookct.us. Credit cards are accepted with a fee of 2.5% for credit cards, \$3.95 for a visa debit card and \$2.00 for e-check. There will be a drop off box outside of the main entrance of the Town Hall if you wish to drop your bills off.

Reminder- If you would like a receipt when paying your tax bill please send your entire bill in and a self- addressed stamped envelope.

If you should have any questions or concerns about your tax bills, please do not hesitate to contact the Tax office at 860-399-3043

Have a safe and healthy Christmas and New Year!!

Tax Collector
Kimberly Bratz, CCMC

Westbrook Senior Center

COVID-19 and REOPENING PHASES

Due to the risk of COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) spreading among elderly persons in congregate settings, the closure of Westbrook Senior Center to the public will continue until further notice.

The closure continues to follow the Governor's Executive Order that has been extended through February 2021. As we work toward a "soft" opening (no date yet), you will receive communication from our office. This communication will include services/ programs being offered, schedule and capacity. You will also receive protocols that are required to be followed to ensure participants safety. These communications will be sent via US mail and email. If you, a friend or family member have not been receiving correspondence from our office, please call (860)399-2029 to be added to our mailing list and/or email list.

We appreciate your patience and will keep you updated as to when we can resume operations. Please call (860) 399-2029 or check the Town website for updates. We look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Courtney Burks-Director
Amber Shaw-Assistant Director

WESTBROOK Community Listings

IMPORTANT TOWN HALL NUMBERS

Accounts Payable.....	(860) 399-3008
American Legion Anderson-Hoxie Post 103.....	(860) 669-0336
Animal Control Officer	(860) 662-3117
Assessor	(860) 399-3016
Assessor Clerk.....	(860) 399-3045
Building Official	(860) 399-2035
Emergency Management.....	(860) 577-0622
Emergency Management website.....	www.westbrookem.com
Environmental Health	(860) 399-3018
Finance Director.....	(860) 399-3004
Finance Director / Assistant.....	(860)399-1235
Fire Department / Business calls.....	(860) 399-9492
Fire Marshal Office / Business calls.....	(860) 339-5621
Harbor Master	(860) 982-7555
Health Director.....	(860) 399-9869
Inland Wetland Enforcement.....	(860) 399-3017
Transfer Station	(860) 399-6356
Land Use - Planning/Zoning/IWWC Admin. Asst	(860) 399-3091
Land Use - Building/Health Dept. Admin. Asst	(860) 399-0339
Probate Court	(860) 510-5028
Recreation	(860) 399-3095
Registrar of Voters	(860) 399-3042
Selectman's Office	(860) 399-3040
Senior Center Director	(860) 399-3048
Social Services.....	(860) 399-3090
Tax Collector	(860) 399-3043
Town Clerk	(860) 399-3044
Town Garage	(860) 552-4496
Town Web site.....	www.westbrookct.us
Treasurer	(860) 399-3040
Westbrook Senior Center	(860) 399-2029
Zoning Enforcement/Planning	(860) 399-3041

SCHOOLS

Daisy Ingraham Elementary School	(860) 399-7025
Junior-Senior High School	(860) 399-6214
Middle School.....	(860) 399-2010
Superintendent of Schools.....	(860) 399-6432

HOME HEALTH CARE

Visiting Nurses of Westbrook.....	(860) 399-3088
Ambulance & Oxygen Business Calls	(860) 399-7000

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Resident Trooper	(860) 399-7304
State Trooper.....	(860) 399-2100

LIBRARY

Westbrook Public Library	(860) 399-6422
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USEFUL NUMBERS

9 Town Transit	(860) 510-0429
Community Foundation of Middlesex County	(860) 347-0025
First Congregational Church of Westbrook.....	(860) 399-9367
Garden Club.....	westbrookgardenclub@yahoo.com
Historical Society	(860) 399-7473
Westbrook Youth & Family Services.....	(860) 399-9239
St. Mark's.....	(860) 399-9207
St. Paul's Episcopal Church.....	(860) 399-5402

Westbrook Building Department

I wanted to dedicate this article to the importance of applying for and receiving a building permit and to update all on the protocol's we are currently following based on the recent uptick in COVID-19 infections. As the Building Department did in the spring of 2020, we are again performing inspections via Zoom virtual meetings. Unlike in the spring most of you have heard of Zoom and many of you probably use it every day. When you call to schedule your inspection, this office will email a Zoom meeting link with the day and time of the inspection. You do not need to have a Zoom account to inspection, log-in to the meeting. Please contact the Building Department prior to your scheduled inspection if you have questions.

Why are Building Permits important?

A building permit gives you, your insurance company, your neighbors and the town assurance that specific minimum standards are met in constructing, altering, or repairing your home by complying

with the Building Code. These standards are based on well-established health, safety, and environmental considerations intended to protect the integrity of the buildings, safety of inhabitants, and the welfare of the public.

So, when do I need a Building Permit?

A building permit is needed for the following activities:

- To change, replace, or remove walls, columns and beams
- To change to required exits or sources of natural light and ventilation (including windows)
- For new construction, major repairs, renovations, and demolitions
- For the installation of new boilers, furnaces, plumbing fixtures, garages, additions, porches, and decks
- Building mechanical, supply or exhaust ventilation system
- Build, replace, or enclose and heat a new or existing porch system
- Change from a single family to multiple family building

- Complete modernization or conversion
- Construction or alteration of plumbing systems
- Demolish any building
- Erect chimneys
- Alteration to source of required natural light and ventilation
- Finish rooms in the attic or basement
- Installation, replacement or extension of warm air furnaces in all building types
- Replace roof
- Alteration or expansion of electrical system
- Add additions (upper floor, first floor expansion, greenhouse, etc.)
- Add a dormer
- Build an attached garage
- Build a carport

And last, why should I get a permit?

There are many important reasons to obtain the required permit(s) and to obtain the required inspections for your project

- Protects property value - Your home or business is an investment. If your project does not comply with the codes and



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standards adopted by your community, the value of your investment could be reduced.

- Saves money - Property insurance may not cover work or damages caused by work done without permits and inspections.
- Makes selling property easier - When a property is listed for sale the title search will sometimes reveal work was performed in the dwelling without applying for and receiving a building permit. When this happens, you will be required to correct the violation prior to your closing date. You may have the option of applying for an after the fact permit which will allow all departments to review the work performed

and to determine if it meets all Zoning, Health and Building code requirements. This can take several weeks and sometime several months if the work requires a number of additional approvals. Many financial institutions will not finance a purchase without proof of permit and a final inspection.

- Improves safety - The permit review and inspections process is designed to ensure that all construction is safe. By following code guidelines, your completed project will meet minimum standards of safety and will be less likely to cause injury to you, your family, your friends, or

future occupants. Mandatory inspections complement the contractor's experience and act as a system of checks and balances resulting in a safer project.

- And last but not least, It's the law - Work without a permit may be subject to removal or other costly remedies.

Please feel free to email me with any comments or questions to:
dmaiden@westbrookct.us

David W. Maiden
Building Official

Seeking to Establish the Lewis Daniels Scholarship

To honor recently retired Library Director Lewis Daniels and his 40 years of exemplary service to our community, in partnership, the Friends of the Westbrook Public Library and the Westbrook Public Library Board of Trustees seek to establish the Lewis Daniels Scholarship, through the Westbrook Foundation. The scholarship is intended to encourage young people of Westbrook to pursue a career in librarianship or education.

Contributions may be made out to the Westbrook Foundation, noting the Lewis Daniels Scholarship, and sent to the Westbrook Foundation at Post Office Box 528, Westbrook, CT 06498.

Submitted by MaryJo Noonan, Chair
Westbrook Public Library Board of Trustees

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Applications Being Accepted for Mechanics - Submit to Office



The Westbrook Health Department

The Westbrook Health Department is offering a limited number of FREE Radon test kits to homeowners.

Radon is a naturally occurring, radioactive gas released in rock, soil, and water formed from the breakdown of uranium. Levels in outdoor air pose a low threat to human health. However, radon can enter homes through surrounding soil, foundation cracks, private water supply wells, and thus become a health hazard inside buildings.

Radon does not cause symptoms and you cannot see or smell radon gas. An elevated radon level in your home may affect the health of you and your family. Breathing in radon gas over prolonged periods may damage lung tissue. In the US, exposure to radon is the leading cause of lung cancer in nonsmokers. The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that radon causes more than 20,000 lung cancer deaths in the country each year. If you smoke and your home has radon, the risk of

developing lung cancer is much higher. Radon has been found in elevated levels in homes in every state. High radon concentrations can occur sporadically in all parts of CT. Two homes right next to each other can have different radon levels.

The only way to know if you have an elevated radon level above the EPA action level of 4 pCi/L is to test your home's indoor air. Radon levels vary seasonally and tend to be higher in the winter months; therefore, its best to test from November to March when your house is closed up. The EPA recommends that homes with radon levels at 4 pCi/L or higher be reduced. However, any amount of radon exposure can pose some health risk.

For more information on obtaining a FREE test kit, call Westbrook Health Department at 860-399-9869 or email ZFaiella@Westbrookct.us

For more Radon information, visit: <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Environmental-Health/Radon/Radon-Program>

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860.702.3000
State.treasurer@ct.gov

Attorney General

William Tong

55 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106
860.808.5318 Fax 860.808.5387

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Devin Carney

CT House Republican Office,
L.O.B. Room 4200, Hartford, CT 06106
860-240-8700, 800-842-1423 Toll Free
devin.carney@housegop.ct.gov

Senator 33rd District

Norman Needleman

Legislative Office Building, Room 3300
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
860.240.8600

Rep. 35th District

Jesse Maclachlan

CT House Republican Office
L.O.B. Room 4200, Hartford, CT 06106
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Fax (202)224-9673

Congressman Joe Courtney

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Harbor Management Commission

With many new boaters on the water, Westbrook has had an uneventful, safe boating season. Most moorings along the shoreline have been legally registered and several abandoned or dangerous moorings have been removed. The Harbor Management Commission appreciates the help of those who identify and tell us about such moorings, so that we can continue to improve the safety of boating along our shores. In 2021, the Harbormaster will begin enforcement of revised mooring tackle and inspection requirements (all moorings are to be removed for inspection every two years by town ordinance). Tackle requirements and applications for mooring permits may be found on the Harbor Management page of the Westbrook Town website.

The Friends of Westbrook Barrier Islands, sidelined by the coronavirus in 2020, will be reinvigorated in 2021. The group was founded to educate the public about Westbrook's Islands and the birds that depend on them. Note that Salt Island, owned by the town of Westbrook, may be visited year-round, while Menunketesuck Island, owned by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, is closed to visitors year-round. Duck Island, owned by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, is closed to visitors from May until September.

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From the Town Clerk's Office

I deeply appreciate the kind and encouraging words, phone calls, notes, and emails from many of you and the uplifting words of encouragement from my co-workers in the hallways of town hall during these past months. You kept us going and I thank you.

A presidential election that took place four years ago gave us approximately 400 absentee ballots; this year our office handled close to 1700 absentee ballots and the turnout at the polls brought the total voters to over 4300. What a historic time in Westbrook.

Early spring of 2020, we saw the beginning of COVID and the need to implement safe practices that allowed for conducting day to day operations of this office while keeping everyone safe; staff as well as the public, maintain social distancing and follow CDC guidelines. Please know that we are here every day and we are operating our office by APPOINTMENT ONLY. We maintain normal business hours: Monday through Wednesday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm; Thursdays 9:00 am to 7:00 pm and Fridays 9:00 am to 12:00 noon.

We had a drop box installed at the rear (main) entrance to the building for recordings, documents, etc. Tables chairs

and a tent were set up outside to meet couples for marriage licenses and conduct other business outside. Now with winter coming, we will create a safe space in the multi-purpose room of the building when necessary to meet in person.

You will see regular updates at Westbrookct.us and the Town Clerk's Page. A tab called Resources/Forms provides all the applications and links to other websites such as DEEP. Contact us at 860-399-3044 or jangelini@westbrookct.us and dtarbetsky@westbrookct.us. Please stay safe and enjoy your holidays.

Joan

Energy Committee

LOOKING FOR THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

For the past 11 years Westbrook's Energy Committee has influenced, developed and supported energy management and sustainability initiatives and awareness throughout Town. These initiatives have resulted in cost mitigations within our Town buildings and energy savings in the homes of Westbrook residents.

The Energy Committee is looking for new members to continue the Committee's vision and build upon its successes. You don't need a PhD in Energy Management or know how to conduct a whole home energy assessment instead the Committee needs individuals who are looking to make a difference.

You are probably asking yourself, "If I was looking to join this Committee, what would be the commitment?"

- Meeting once a month for about an hour and a half - 3rd Wednesday of the Month

- Collaborating with a great group individuals from various backgrounds

- Making a difference within our community

If you would like to learn more about becoming a Committee member or attend an upcoming meeting please contact me at cehlert01@comcast.net or 203-623-9819.

Stay Well,

Members of the Westbrook Energy Committee

Chris Ehlert – Chair	Bill Fish – Vice-Chair
Darlene Briggs	Jill Brainerd
Bill Fredrickson	Lesley Wysocki
Richard White	Gary Gavigan

REMINDER: If you should notice that a streetlight is not functioning properly please contact Department of Public Works' Colleen Topitzer at (860) 552-4496 or via email ctopitzer@westbrookct.us M-F 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and provide both the pole number and physical description of the location (nearest house numbers or landmark) where this issue exists.

Westbrook Land Conservation Trust

The Timberland Drive and Toby Hill Chase properties are the Trust's largest properties, and have trails that connect in the middle! The parcels were acquired in 2006 as part of a town regulation requiring the designation of open space in subdivisions. Timberland Drive consists of 15 acres that includes wetland, hilly forest and Trout Brook, and can be accessed from Lake Louise Drive, off Timberlane Drive. Toby Hill Chase is 26 acres of upland forest on Autumn Ridge, off Toby Hill Rd. Look for Land Trust sign posts. The trail is clearly marked. If you are looking for an extended hike

or bike ride, you could exit to Lake Louise, turn right on Timberlane Drive, head south on Route 153, then enter the Preserve off Rt 153. The 41 acres of these two properties help protect our natural resources, provide an excellent opportunity for outdoor recreation, and are an important part of the town's plan of development. If the town can purchase the adjoining 146 acre Toby Hill VIII land, a large gap would be filled in the continuation of the McVeagh Greenway, envisioned in the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development. in northeast Westbrook. The Westbrook

Land Conservation Trust came into being in 1968 when there was concern over the development of ecologically invaluable salt marshes. With the donation of a privately held piece of salt marsh that year on Hammock Road, the Trust began its journey

in preserving open space, now totaling 31 land parcels equalling over 150 acres, as well as the conservation rights to 51 acres. If you live near one of our signs, and would like to join in stewardship of its property, or simply appreciate the protected open

space we preserve, please consider joining this organization. Write us at: WLCT, PO Box 1124, Westbrook, CT 06498. Email is WestbrookLCT@gmail.com. Also, visit our new website at <https://westbrookctlct.wixsite.com/landtrust>.

Winter Emergency Preparedness

Westbrook Emergency Management would like to remind our residents to remain vigilant during our winter months. Winter preparedness includes:

- Ensure your home disaster kit is ready to meet your needs for the winter. This includes extra dry goods and bottled water in the pantry for 5-7 days. Replace any items that are unusable or expired. Don't forget hand sanitizer and other disinfectant products.
- Communicate regularly with family members or friends especially before traveling.
- Your vehicle (prepared for winter, cold weather) should have its own disaster kit with your cell phone car charger, blanket, bottled water, light snacks, flashlight and jumper cables. Add facial masks and hand sanitizer for COVID-19 safety. If you become stranded, call 911 immediately.
- Keep your home adequately supplied with oil, propane or wood (heat source) on hand at all times. If you experience a power outage, regulate temperatures in your home by closing doors and using appropriate window shades. Never use generators, grills or similar devices inside garages or near entrances for heating the residence. The carbon monoxide given off by these devices can kill or make your family extreme sick. Notify Eversource immediately of your power outage.
- Use caution when clearing snow from driveways, walk ways and other locations. If you can't complete this task, ensure you have family, friends or hire a contractor assist you.
- Remain patient when Public Works is activated for clearing and treating our roads. With any sizable snow fall, consider staying off the roads.
- Pet and livestock owners need to be alert for extreme cold temperatures and conditions.
- Ensure you have registered your cell phone for Westbrook Severe Emergency Notifications through the CT ALERT System. Our reverse mass notification system will notify you if we declare a state of emergency or other severe conditions affecting the town.
- Wellbeing checks are encouraged to family, friends and those with special needs are especially important this time of year.

Emergency Management continues to monitor conditions throughout the winter months relating to extreme weather conditions. Regular information is posted on our Facebook and Twitter pages with extreme notifications on our website.

Visit our website www.westbrookem.com for complete winter preparedness tips and registering with CT ALERT.

Donald Izzo
Emergency Management Director

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Bringing a Sense of Place to Westbrook's History

Westbrook, first a land of the Native American tribes, was originally known as Pochoug. As part of the Saybrook Colony, it was known as the Oyster River Quarter and later as West Parish. The first known house built in this area was on Horse Hill Road, once known as Chestnut Hill. The structure was built by Robert Lay in 1648. The original house is no longer there but later additions built by Daniel Lay and Col. Asa Lay remain today. Dating houses, churches, schools, and public buildings with exterior plaques helps give an historical context to a sense of place.



Joseph Spencer Homestead – 1742- Essex Road

The names of our rivers, ponds, bridges and houses often reflect the names of settlers past, even our recent past with the John P. Riggio Municipal Building and the John H. Wilson bridge.

Through our Historic House Plaque Project, we have had 24 participants buy plaques for their 100 year old or older home. Additional houses in town bear markers predating our program, one being at the David Bushnell museum house, originally the house of his uncle Ezra Bushnell, dating back to around 1678. Our other remaining 17th century house is located on Lost Pond Road.

With funding from the Westbrook Foundation, we are working on plaques to bring to public attention the history of the town-owned buildings and schools, and Westbrook's churches. These plaques are meant to give townspeople and visitors a sense of place as seen through time.

We have not been open to the public since March due to the pandemic. We so miss our visitors and our ability to research at the town vault! Please do keep in touch with us through our Facebook page where there is contact information. We wish all the best.

Catherine Doane, President
Westbrook Historical Society, Inc.



Westbrook Public Library plaque presently in production

Visiting Nurses

Since the Visiting Nurses opened in 1927, we have seen many changes; this last year being no exception. Since the Covid pandemic, our office never stopped working and we have been working tirelessly to provide the highest quality of care to our home care clients.

From the beginning of the pandemic, we were prepared with the proper PPE to keep our patients and staff safe. We stayed open during this challenging time with the goal of our patient's being able to stay safely at home. We thank you for trusting us to come in to your homes to work with you in your recovery.

We greatly appreciate the support we received in return, by thanking us with letters and phone calls, and sending in positive reviews to Medicare, which have earned us the highest 5 star rating. We have also earned the Homecare Elite award, which recognizes our agency to be in the top 25% of home care agencies in the country. A recent letter sent to the first selectman shows the support and gratitude from our patients.

"As a 77 year old resident of Westbrook I am writing this memo in support the Westbrook VNA. Three times over past two years I have fully utilized the VNA services and therapies. For the most part the same professional provided services and always stayed in direct communication with my doctors. Each clinician not only provided excellent service but also was extremely helpful in helping us to adapt to the constraints of our home environment by providing creative ideas and loaner equipment.

I am most grateful for the VNA services as I have needed PT, OT, nursing, and home health aide. During my recovery from two separate full knee replacements as well as my recovery from 11 rounds of chemo followed by an 11 hour Pancreatic cancer tumor removal surgery, the VNA has provided and continues to provide the most encouraging support and care. I believe that the compassionate and supportive care that I have received has accelerated my progress towards a full recovery.

My caregiver husband and I are most grateful for such a wonderful kind and supportive group of professionals in the Westbrook VNA."

Besides the work we do in the field, we stay busy with many other tasks. The nurses provide Flu Clinics and Blood Pressure Clinics. We also work closely with the Senior Center, Social Services, and the Department of Public Health. We have certainly missed seeing our seniors coming into the senior center during the pandemic, but look forward to everyone returning in the future.

when we can operate safely. We are working on some exciting programs and support groups, as we continue our Fall Prevention grant program to offer the community.

We pride ourselves in the excellent care our skilled and compassionate nurses, therapists and home health aides provide to you. As we move into a new year, please know that we are here for you.

Supporting Local Business During a COVID-19 Winter

Will your favorite restaurant survive a COVID-19 winter? Nobody knows for sure how pandemic-caused restrictions will affect businesses over the next few months.

With safety in mind, one option is to patronize your favorite local restaurants by ordering takeout. Most offer curbside pickup; many deliver, and some have expanded options that include family-size portions. Some restaurants have added take-out cocktails and bottles of wine to accompany your “at home” restaurant meals.

If you support local food pantries and soup kitchens, consider dropping off restaurant gift cards as part of your donation. What a wonderful winter treat for a family in need. How about an elder neighbor who

can't get out, especially when the inevitable snow and ice hit the pavement? Giving a restaurant gift card to those who are homebound allows neighbors and friends to enjoy a hot delivered meal when they want it most. And, of course, you're helping local restaurants get through a challenging winter season.

Think beyond restaurants and support local shops and services, such as personal trainers, massage therapists, local artisans and the shops at the Westbrook Factory Outlets that employ our neighbors and friends.

The Economic Development Commission reminds residents that our town's businesses give generously to support school athletic teams, arts programs, events on the Town Green and many other activities



that contribute to the quality of life we enjoy in Westbrook. This winter, buy local. And we'll get through the pandemic together.

Businesses interested in networking through the Westbrook Division of the Middlesex Chamber of Commerce can get information from Phil Cocchiola at headofschool@oxfordacademy.net or 860-399-6247 x.111.

Submitted by Marcia Simon for EDC

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Social Services

CRT Winter Heating Assistance Program



This federally funded program is designed to help low to moderate income households offset heating costs during the winter months. Homeowners and renters may apply.

The financial eligibility is as follows:

60 % OF STATE MEDIAN INCOME GUIDELINES

2020-2021

Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Annual Income	37,645	49,228	60,811	72,394	83,977	95,560	97,732	99,904
Monthly Income	3,137	4,102	5,067	6,033	6,998	7,963	8,144	8,325

Some additional asset limit guidelines are followed.

Eligible households may receive help for such heating sources as oil, natural gas, electricity, propane, kerosene, coal and wood.

Households eligible for the winter heating program may also be eligible to receive weatherization assistance. This can help conserve energy and lower heating bills.

Some may qualify for the furnace clean tune and test or repair and replacement programs as well.

This Federal program runs through March 3, 2021 for deliverable fuel heated households and May 3, 2021 for utility heated households. Applications will be taken by phone appointment only.

Please contact Social Services at 860-399-3090 to schedule an appointment or for general information.

[Like us on facebook!](#)

Want to reach every home & business in town?
Call Ward Feirer at 914-806-5500

A Seasonal Recipe / Courtesy of the Westbrook Senior Center

Spiced Drops

(Recipe Adapted from Good Housekeeping)

Ingredients

2 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
 1 tsp. baking powder
 1/2 tsp. baking soda
 3/4 cup butter
 3/4 cup sugar
 1/2 tsp. salt
 1 large egg yolk
 2 tbsp. light corn syrup (OR light molasses or maple syrup)
 1 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract
 1/2 tsp. almond extract
 2 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
 2 tsp. ground ginger
 1/4 tsp. ground clove
 1/4 cup coarse sugar

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. In medium bowl, whisk flour, baking powder, ground cinnamon, ground ginger, ground clove and baking soda; set aside.
2. With mixer on medium high speed, beat butter, sugar and salt until creamy; beat in egg yolk, corn syrup and extracts. With mixer on medium-low speed, beat in flour mixture until just combined.
3. With small (1-tablespoon) cookie scoop, form dough into balls and roll in coarse sugar. Place on large cookie sheet, 1 inch apart. Do not freeze.
4. Bake 15 minutes or until edges are set. Transfer cookies to wire rack; cool completely.

Westbrook Teen Leaders Attend Unified Youth Leadership Summit

Westbrook High School Teen Leadership group led by Mr. Chet Bialicki, and Westbrook High School Unified Sports led by Ms. Kara Lesandrine, participated in the annual Unified Youth Leadership Summit on November 19, 2020. Three hundred statewide participants attended a virtual presentation with the goal of promoting ideas and activities for students and adults to bring back to their schools that encourage inclusionary practices and support for one another.

The Westbrook High School Teen Leaders were the only live student presenters at this event. The Teen Leadership group at our high school focuses on building relationships through activities and practices promoting connectedness and support within the school and community at large. The CIAC Unified Sports asked our student leaders to present details of their recent project, a Social Emotional Learning Spirit Week, which was held at our school during the second week of our move to remote learning. Although social emotional learning is always a goal in schools, the present COVID pandemic proves that it is even more important when relationships are distanced beyond our control. The activities generated were researched by the Teen Leadership class and involved teacher/student interaction promoting better understanding of each other and enhancing empathy and self-awareness. Each day of the SEL Spirit Week allowed for a social/

emotional activity in every classroom which was fun and exciting, while at the same time building better understanding among peers. Westbrook High School's ideas were well received, and the conference participants were intrigued with the presentation from our students who showed such focused attention and support for inclusion and unity.

Other promising inclusionary practices were gained in return and ensured that social and emotional learning will be brought back to schools across Connecticut.

Westbrook Teen Leadership includes the following students: Marlee Archer, Emma Bransfield, Megan Greaves, Emilija Rowe, Carlet Thompson, Nicole Valiante and Alex Zanzalari. The Unified Sports Athletes and Partners included: Erik DeSousa, Megan Greaves, Thomas Greaves, Landon McKeith, Emma Parkhurst, and Emerson Aguilar Rivera.



Megan Greaves

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Westbrook Economic Action Initiative

Want a Better Job?

Know a Neighbor Who Does?

The pandemic continues to claim jobs, and unemployment compensation will soon start running out for many who lost their jobs last spring. If you or someone you know wants a better job - or training for such a job - the Westbrook Economic Action Initiative (WEAI) may be able to help.

WEAI is a group of Westbrook residents, including business owners, town government, non-profit organizations and many dedicated volunteers for which our community has always been known. WEAI seeks to help potential employees in many ways, including:

Education and Training - WEAI helped fund Westbrook High School's Career/College Readiness Coordinator (CCRC), who has assembled information online that helps identify career paths and training programs and teaches job

readiness, including interview and resume-writing skills. You can reach that information through the WEAI webpage at www.westbrookct.us/422/Westbrook-Economic-Action-Initiative or directly from the WHS page at whs.westbrookctschools.org/groups/77615/career_connections/career_connections__student_resources.

Entrepreneurship - Do you have an idea about your own business and being your own boss? WEAI sponsors programs with successful entrepreneurs who can help you determine whether your dream can become a reality.

Financial Literacy - If you would like help learning about budgets, credit and other financial opportunities and pitfalls, WEAI offers classes to help you learn.

WEAI is also working on other efforts to develop better employment opportunities for Westbrook residents. To enable residents to work, we have com-

mittees working to identify and resolve local issues of language, literacy, transportation and childcare availability. To attract better jobs, we are working with town government to reduce unnecessary burdens on employers that offer higher paying jobs and to enable higher use of the Westbrook town center.

WEAI grew out of work of the Shoreline Basic Needs Task Force, which has focused for years on sustainability for working residents who are having difficulty increasing their income and assets and making ends meet - sometimes known as ALICE (Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed). Westbrook has had one of the highest rates of ALICE (now about 36% of families) in Middlesex County. WEAI hopes to lower that number by doing whatever we can to increase the ability of ALICE to obtain better jobs.

Tony Cozza
Jim Crawford
Andy Schatz

Your Support Matters...Now More Than Ever.

Now is the time for us to give thanks for all the good people making great things happen in Middlesex County.

Thank you for stepping up to support our frontline workers with critical supplies and services.

Thank you for helping our local nonprofits meet the increasing and changing needs of our most vulnerable citizens.

Thank you for working together for a better today and a brighter tomorrow for all.



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Fall Home Projects To Boost Your Comfort and Energy Efficiency

By: Enoch Lenge

Fall is a great time to tackle those home improvement projects that have been put off because of the summer heat. In addition to landscaping, gutter cleaning, power washing, and deck repair, here are some home improvement projects to add to your list to boost your comfort while helping save you money and energy this winter:

- Upgrade Your Lighting – Did you know that the average household dedicates about 5% of its energy budget to lighting? Now that it's getting darker earlier and your lights are on longer, consider switching your current light bulbs with LEDs. According to Energy.gov, ENERGY STAR-certified residential LEDs use at least 75% less energy and last up to 25 times longer than incandescent lighting.
- Insulate Doors and Windows – Air sealing, especially in an old, drafty house, can save homeowners more than 20% on their heating and cooling costs. Installing weatherstripping around your doors and windows is an easy and low-cost way to improve your home's energy efficiency and keep the cold winter wind at bay.
- Check Your Attic for Air Leaks – An unfinished, poorly insulated attic is another common area where homeowners experience significant heat loss. Adding insulation to the attic floor and sealing any air leaks can help stabilize the temperature inside your home, prevent ice dams, and save on energy costs.
- Maintain Your Heating and Cooling Systems – Be sure to add scheduling a preventative tune-up with your local



- HVAC company to your list to keep that system running efficiently and preserving air flow. A clean system that is free of dirt and debris will run more efficiently and preserve airflow.
- Install Programmable Thermostats – You can save as much as 10% a year on heating and cooling by simply turning your thermostat back 7°-10°F for 8 hours a day from its typical setting. Programmable thermostats allow you to easily set your home's temperature in advance to avoid coming home to a freezing house. A smart thermostat takes that a step further by allowing you to set your temperature from your smart phone or tablet. Some even learn your habits and adjust accordingly – saving you even more.
- Window Replacement – While this may not be at the top of your list, replacing old windows, especially with high performance ones like triple-pane windows, can improve a home's energy efficiency and overall comfort.

Before researching various contractors or DIY-ing these improvements, take advantage of the limited time only, no-cost Home Energy Solutionssm program offered by Eversource. To get started, you can schedule an appointment with an Eversource-authorized energy expert to evaluate your home's energy efficiency needs. During in-person visits, energy experts, while following COVID-19 safety requirements, will also conduct important safety tests and install weatherization measures and energy-saving improvements, such as air sealing, LED lighting, and advanced power strips.

To help make these improvements more affordable, program participants can take advantage of 0% financing on approved energy-saving improvements, and up to 100% off of eligible insulation projects. Eversource has you covered with a wide range of energy-saving rebates and discounts, including a new triple-pane window rebate.

From now through December 31, Eversource is offering a \$100 rebate per window for each window replaced with an ENERGY STAR-certified triple-pane window.

Whether you're looking to improve the comfort of your home, save on your energy bill, or help save the environment, Eversource has several budget-friendly solutions to help you get started. To schedule your energy assessment, call 1-877-WISE-USE (877-947-3873), or visit Eversource.com to learn more about Eversource's residential offerings and additional ways to save.

Enoch Lenge is Eversource's energy efficiency spokesman and provides energy saving tips on the company's blog.

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Joan Joyce - Our Finest Athlete by Sigrid Kun

Many fondly remember going to Raybestos Memorial field in Stratford, CT. Amid chants of “Joanie, Joanie,” the softball phenom mowed down the competition. Joan Joyce dominated women’s fast pitch softball for decades - beginning her amateur career at age 13 with the Raybestos Brakettes. The Waterbury, CT native excelled at every sport she tried - a true competitor, a lifelong coach/mentor. Joyce combines an unbridled, remarkable talent with a matter of fact, humble personality. While she readily speaks about her success, there is no bragging.

Many consider her as “The Greatest Woman Athlete of All Time.” Her jaw-dropping achievements/honors take pages to list, including 20 Hall of Fame inductions, Connecticut Athlete of the Year (selected by the Connecticut Sports Writers Alliance), and a softball field renamed Joan Joyce Field (a part of Municipal Stadium in Waterbury).



Women’s softball coach at Florida Atlantic University.

A LIFETIME OF ASTOUNDING ACHIEVEMENTS

Joyce’s softball career covered 1954-1963 and 1967-1975 with the Brakettes and 1964-1966 with the Orange Lionettes. The slingshot pitcher notched 150 no-hitters and 50 perfect games with a lifetime earned run average of 0.09. An outstanding hitter, her career batting average is .327. In 1974, her Brakettes were the first American team to win the World Championships.

She co-founded the International Women’s Professional Softball Association, being the star player for

and part-owner of the Connecticut Falcons. The Falcons won every championship of the IWPSA’s existence (1976-1979).

She is a four-time Women’s Basketball Association All-American and three time AAU Basketball All-American. She played on the USA Women’s National Team in 1964 and 1965, setting a national tournament basketball single-game scoring record (67 points) in 1964.

She formed the Connecticut Clippers volleyball team in 1968, and competed as a player/coach. She was named to the All-East United States Volleyball Association Regional Team. Taking up golf at age 35, she spent 19 years on the LPGA tour (1977-1995). She still holds the LPGA and PGA record of just 17 putts in one round of golf.

Now 80, Joyce is the women’s softball coach at Florida Atlantic University. Starting the program from scratch in 1994, she has amassed 12 Conference Championships, participated in 11 NCCA Tournaments, and won 8 Coach-of-the-Year Awards.

THE SECRET TO SUCCESS?

“I don’t know,” she says. “The only thing I can say about me is that I am very competitive. . . . I will beat you at just about everything. If you beat me, I’d shake hands. But I’d say to myself, you are not going to beat me a second time.”



Joan with her biggest fan - Dad (Joe Joyce).

Photo courtesy of Joan Joyce.

Her mother worked days. She, her father (above) and brother played sports all the time. “We would end up going to my father’s softball games,” she recalls. “We had no gloves. We’d run around everywhere while my father was playing. When they came in from the field, they’d put the gloves under the bench. We’d take them and start catching. When they went back in the field, they’d have to come and get the gloves back from us.” When her father played basketball, she and her brother would wait for the halftime buzzer and then fly onto the court to play.

SPECIAL MOMENTS - JOYCE SHARED A FEW



Striking Out Ted Williams/Hank Aaron. She calls striking out Ted Williams (left) and Hank Aaron her favorite moments. “It’s the easiest thing I’ve ever done in my life,” she relates. “They had no chance against a softball pitcher just because of the distance.” She faced Williams as part

of fundraisers in 1961 and 1966; Aaron in 1978 in a West Hartford exhibition. There were no radar guns then. A doctorate study from USC determined her pitching speed to be the equivalent of 119 mph in baseball.

Invited to China by the All-China Sports Federation (1979).

“It was the first team ever invited to China,” she recalls of the Connecticut Falcons. “When we played our last game sixty thousand people came to the game. I was looking out and it was like a flood of people just coming and coming and coming. And I’m thinking, ‘Oh, my God!’” The American team won all six games. In the final game, Joyce pitched a no-hitter to beat the Chinese all-star team.



Softball World Championships (1974).

Joyce pitched a no hitter against Australia. “Only one walk. And we picked her off,” notes Joyce. “It would have been a perfect game.” She also stymied Japan, giving up only two hits. No team wore helmets then. Japan showed up wearing them. Was it to distract her or out of fear of her? “It didn’t work,” she laughs. “You did not want to get me focused or to get my attention. Stare at me? Give me looks? I would say to myself,

keep doing that ‘cause you’re never going to beat me. I just didn’t like to lose.”

Photo of Joan coaching (far left) courtesy of FAU Athletics.

Photo of Joan pitching (left) and photo of Joan with Ted Williams (above left) courtesy of Joan Chandler.



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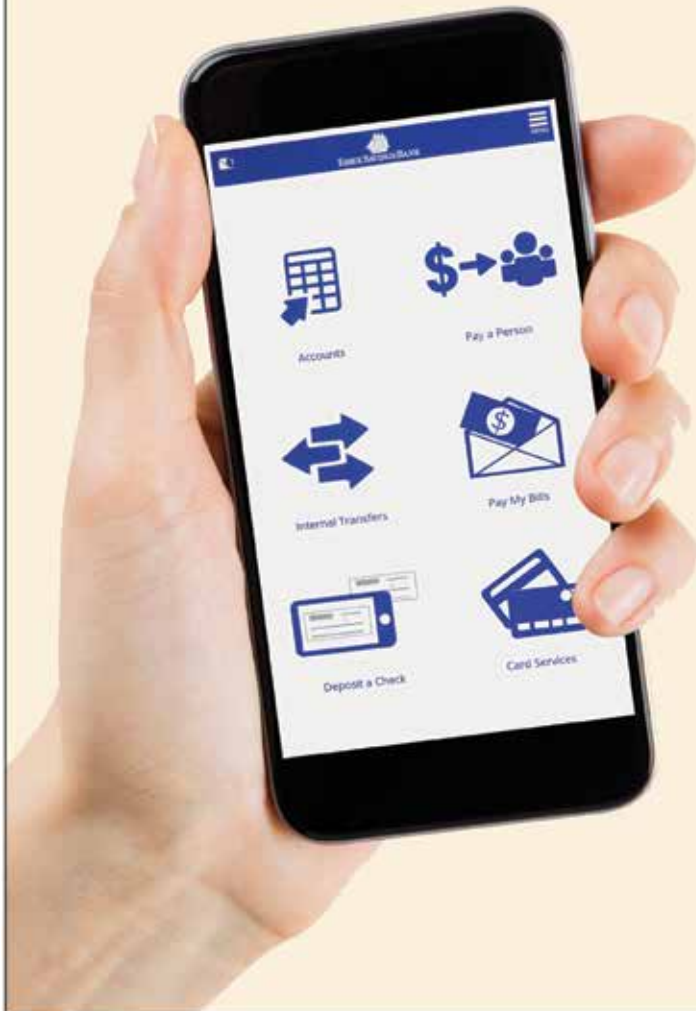
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