

Mattatuck wears purple for military kids

By John Cullen

WATERBURY – This April, the Mattatuck Museum proudly joins the nationwide celebration of Military Kids Month by participating in "Purple Up! For Kids."

In a show of support and gratitude for military families, museum staff wore purple April 1 to recognize the sacrifices and resilience of children in military households.

As a proud Blue Star Museum, the Mattatuck offers free admission to active-duty military personnel and their families year-round, ensuring they have access to the arts, history and cultural experiences that enrich the community. This initiative, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and Blue Star Families, reflects the museum's commitment to making arts and cultural experiences accessible to those who serve.

On April 26, the museum will offer a special Purple Up! Military Kids Storytime and Kids Art Workshop activity at 11 a.m. when children will hear a story about resilience and create a picture frame, followed by a gallery tour at noon. Military children will receive free admission to this special activity. There will be a \$5 admission for other participants, which will go into the Museum's Purple Up Fund to pay for admission of military children throughout the year.

"We are proud to be part of this national effort," said Bob Burns, director of the Mattatuck. "Military children show extraordinary strength and adaptability. We are honored to celebrate them and provide a welcoming space where military families can explore, learn and connect with the arts."

Military families are welcome to visit at any time by presenting a valid military ID. The museum's diverse exhibitions and educational programs provide engaging experiences for visitors of all ages. The museum invites all visitors to join in recognizing military families during April. Guests are encouraged to wear purple in solidarity and share their support on social media using #PurpleUp and #MattatuckMuseum.

The Southbury Cham-



Courtesy of Mattatuck Museum/

Waterbury's Mattatuck Museum staffers gear up for "Purple Up! For Kids" in celebration of Military Kids Month. Staff wore purple to honor the resilience and strength of children in military families.

pleUp and #MattatuckMuseum.

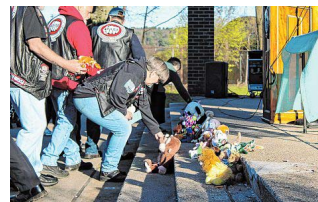
Southbury Chamber elects slate of new officers

SOUTHBRURY— At a recent meeting, the Southbury Chamber's board of directors voted to elect a new slate of officers: Chairman Charles Berger from Chaffield True Value; Vice Chair Danielle Hawthorne from Southbury Neighbors Magazine; Secretary Treasurer Kathy Lengyel from Ion Bank President/CEO Lynn Ward from Waterbury Regional Chamber.

In addition to electing its leadership, the board also welcomed the following new members: Doug Alley from Newtown Savings Bank; Candice Meyer from Heritage Hotel Golf Spa Conference Center; Shay Nagarsheth from Small Business Development Center and Simone Pyne from SPYNE Pilates Studio.

The 14-member board meets monthly to guide chamber staff regarding local programming, events, and public policy and economic development.

The Southbury Cham-



Courtesy of Southbury Chamber and Susan B. Anthony Project

Members of Bikers Against Child Abuse Western CT Chapter place stuffed animals in honor of every child victim of sexual violence Susan B. Anthony Project supported at its 2024 vigil in Torrington.

ber, an affiliate of the Waterbury Regional Chamber, was formed in August 2022 following the dissolution of the volunteer-run Southbury Business Association.

In addition to serving the local business community as a resource and advocate, the chamber has organized several signature events, including the Festival of Wreaths, and an Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner. The Chamber also hosts a monthly networking series called Wake Up Your Business on the third Friday of every month from 8 to 9 a.m. at Calvary Southbury, giving area

business professionals and opportunity to network, get business leads and learn from others in the community.

For information, visit: www.southburychamber.com.

Torrington Historical Society gets \$25K grant

TORRINGTON — Torrington Historical Society has announced receipt of a \$25,000 contribution from Torrington Savings Bank.

This donation will support the design development phase for the History Education Center, a transformative project

for the society's Main Street campus. The History Education Center is being designed by the architectural firm of Mark Cavagnero Associates of San Francisco. Mark Cavagnero was born and raised in Torrington.

The History Education Center will be an entirely accessible facility serving the community and visitors. It will feature a new climate-controlled addition to the Carriage House that will ensure the long-term preservation of Torrington's historic collections of objects and archival materials

and in addition, will house a dedicated gallery, archive and research library for the study of Torrington's history. As part of this project, the Carriage House will be renovated to include a room for educational programs and a unique space on the second floor which will be available for both public and private events.

The History Education Center will establish a community gathering place for expanded programs, exhibits and research. Students, residents and visitors will have new opportunities to view collections of objects, documents and photographs that "tell the stories of the people, industries, businesses, places and events that have shaped the unique community of Torrington and Litchfield County's largest town.

THS is in the beginning phase of a capital campaign for the project.

To learn more, visit <https://torringtonhistoricalsociety.org/history-education-center>.

Those interested in learning how they can contribute to this project should contact Mark McEachern, executive director, at

860-482-8260, ext. 102.

Sexual assault awareness events planned

TORRINGTON — Susan B. Anthony Project announces its Sexual Assault Awareness Month events, including the 17th annual SAAM Community Vigil on April 24 at 6 p.m. at Coe Park.

The vigil is open to the public, and offers the opportunity to remember victims and celebrate survivors of sexual violence. The "Speak Out" portion gives a voice to survivors and their families, with an invitation to attendees to share their stories. Several community members

will also be honored for their collaboration and support of SBAP throughout the year.

On April 17 at 6:30 p.m., SBAP will host a screening of "I AM EVIDENCE" at the Warner Theatre, 68 Main St. This screening is free and open to the public. Registration is encouraged to ensure adequate seating but not required.

Also, April 30 is "Denim Day," when millions of people across the world wear jeans to take a stand against victim-blaming, support survivors, and educate themselves and others about all forms of sexual violence.

Land grant awardees announced

KENT — Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy announces climate-smart agricultural grant awardees for the second round of the Building Resiliency on Northwest Connecticut Farmland Implementation Grant program. This initiative provides direct funding to farmers across Northwest Connecticut to adopt practices that enhance sustainability, productivity and climate resilience.

The program includes funding for 22 climate-smart agricultural assessments conducted by Berkshire Agricultural Ventures, NCLC announced 18 assessment awardees in the fall of 2024. Since then, NCLC has awarded four additional farms: Hamlin Preserve and Mary Moore Preserve in Sharon, Riverbank Farm in Roxbury and Knowledge Pond Aquaculture in Sandy Hook.

In March 2023, NCLC received an award of \$750,000 from the state Department of Agriculture through the Climate Smart Agriculture & Forestry Grant program, established under Public Act 22-118. This program allocated \$7 million to agricultural and conservation entities, and NCLC was one of 12 recipients selected for an award.

"Connecticut's farms are in the top three for most at risk of loss in the country. NCLC's Building Resiliency grant program provides direct investments to help our state's farmers and farms adapt and thrive in a changing climate," NCLC Executive Director Catherine Rawson said. "NCLC is proud to work alongside our farming community to strengthen food security and ecological resilience for generations to come."

"Connecticut's agricultural producers are committed to being part of the climate change solution through on-farm energy, soil health, and carbon sequestration projects to further increase their sustainability and resiliency," state Department of Agriculture Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt said. "Through the support of the Lamont Administration, CT DoAg has been proud to partner with organizations such as NCLC to make strategic investments in farm operations to support climate smart farming practices and long-term resiliency projects which will have a long-term positive impact."

Beyond assessments, the program provides direct funding for implementing climate-smart practices that sequester carbon and reduce emissions, while also lowering operational costs, improving water quality and enhancing biodiversity.

WOUND HEALING CENTER MARKS 20 YEARS



Courtesy of Saint Mary's Hospital

Saint Mary's Hospital's Wound Healing Center celebrated 20 years on Saturday in Waterbury. The facility has been awarded the prestigious Center of Distinction by Healogics numerous times, the nation's largest provider of advanced wound care services. This recognition includes a patient satisfaction rate higher than 92%.

HERE'S HOW TO GET YOUR ITEMS IN THE PAPER

Events occur in our lives every day, and we want to share them with others. The Community page does just that.

DID IT ALREADY HAPPEN?

EMAIL: communitynews@rep-am.com • MAIL: Community News, P.O. Box 2090, Waterbury 06722

IS IT GOING TO HAPPEN?

EMAIL: releases@rep-am.com • MAIL: Releases, P.O. Box 2090, Waterbury 06722

Notices should be brief and include the date, time and street address of the event, past or present.

Be sure to give us a call-back number. As always, individuals and organizations are responsible for accuracy.