

Unapproved  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**MARCH 1, 2010**

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on Monday, March 1, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield.

Present: Councilors Drake, Kotkin, Manousos, McAlister, Roberts, Deputy Mayor Console, and Chairperson Hemmann.

Absent: Councilors Hurley and Montinieri

Also present: Jeff Bridges, Town Manager and Dolores G. Sassano, Town Clerk.

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Peter Gillespie, Town Planner, presented the following report:

WELCOME!

- **Fresh Pickings** - Goff Brook Shops – The Farm Fresh produce market recently reopened under new ownership.
- **Hartford Medical Group** – Wethersfield Shopping Center - A ribbon cutting was held on February 24 to celebrate the opening of this new medical building.
- **Just Perfect Consignment**- Goff Brook Shops – Has recently opened in this shopping center.

#### RECENT APPROVALS

- 322 Silas Deane Highway – **Lifeline Financial** – Construction is underway for interior and exterior improvements to convert this building for office use. Façade improvement funds from the EDIC are being used to assist this project.
- 1290 Silas Deane Highway – A building permit has been filed for interior remodeling of the first floor (20,000 s.f.) to accommodate **ITT Technical School**.
- Wethersfield Shopping Center – A building permit has been filed to renovate and expand space to accommodate the relocation of **Once Upon A Child**.
- The former Koto Steakhouse at 2138 Berlin Turnpike is being remodeled under new ownership and will reopen as **Yuan Asian Bistro**.

#### DEVELOPER/PROPERTY OWNER/REALTOR CONTACT

- Preliminary plans have been submitted to the PZC by a developer interested in developing property on the Berlin Turnpike for a 150 unit apartment complex to be named Collier Place. An application to modify the multifamily zoning regulations has been filed and will be heard by the PZC on March 2.
- An application has been filed by the new owner of former Ritz Camera building – 526 Silas Deane Highway for a façade improvement loan for this property.
- A façade improvement application has been filed by the owner of the property at 318 Silas Deane Highway and the building that houses **Hair Innovators Beauty Salon**.

- Met with an interested business start up looking to lease the former Mainly Tea space on Main Street.
- Met with the owner of Lucky Lou's Restaurant on Main Street to discuss plans for an expanded outdoor patio.
- Met with several interested buyers for the former FunZone building and will be compiling information for them as they research the property.
- Met with business owner looking to lease space for a motorcycle repair shop.
- Met with prospective new owner for office building at **376 Silas Deane Highway**.
- Discussed plans for possible new tenant for vacant **Hollywood Video** space on Silas Deane Highway.
- Met with owner of Goff Brook shops to discuss plans for possible tenant space in this shopping center.
- Met with developer of the Ridge at Wethersfield – Assisted Living project on Ridge Road to discuss the next steps for this project.

#### OTHER NEWS AND INITIATIVES

##### **Economic Development and Improvement Commission**

- On Wednesday morning **February 25** at 8am in the Council Chambers in Town Hall the EDIC hosted the second breakfast meeting with the business community to discuss the creation of a Wethersfield Shops Local program. Over 50 local businesses expressed an interest in participating in these meetings. The Commission has started to narrow down the ideas suggested for this new program.

##### **Tourism/ Preserve America**

- Preliminary design concepts have been submitted and are being reviewed for the wayfinding signage program. Final design specifications are on hold pending an upcoming meeting with the Connecticut Department of Transportation.
- In partnership with the Wethersfield Historical Society received notice from the State Commission on Culture and Tourism that we will be receiving the full grant requested \$10,402 to assist us with an advertising campaign that will promote Historic Wethersfield in newspaper inserts in the NY/NJ and Connecticut Metro area.

Councilor McAlister said that he heard that there are a lot of interested people in the former FunZone but a deal can't be closed. There are a lot of vacant properties in Town. Building owners have no incentive to rent out their property. In Arizona property owners are charged the same tax if a property has a house on it or not. He said that the Town might want to look into charging a tax on property owners that have underused property. It would lower the taxes for other businesses in Town that are active and act as an incentive to get empty buildings filled.

Peter Gillespie, Town Planner, said that Connecticut does not have such a tax. The Town could get information to its legislative delegation. It would have to be a statutory change. There are properties in Town that need an additional incentive to find tenants.

Councilor McAlister said that he would like to start that discussion.

Councilor Kotkin asked for an update on the Ridge project.

Peter Gillespie, Town Planner, said that it is a \$9,000,000 project. It passed through all of the local building processes. The developer is having some trouble with the HUD process. The Town provided a tax incentive to help with the project.

Councilor Kotkin asked if the tax incentive expires.

Peter Gillespie, Town Planner, said that it does expire.

### CENTRAL CONNECTICUT HEALTH DISTRICT REPORT

Paul Hutcheon, Director of the Central Connecticut Health District, presented the attached report.

Councilor Drake asked how many cases of lead poisoning are there.

Paul Hutcheon, Director of the Central Connecticut Health District, said that there are about 6 cases or fewer a year.

Councilor Kotkin said that the flu clinics were very well run. He said that in the past the Central Connecticut Health District was approached by Plainville about joining but at the time it didn't make sense to include them. Has there been any talk of other towns joining?

Paul Hutcheon, Director of the Central Connecticut Health District, said that towns look at joining when a circumstances arises, like their director of health leaves. The District reviews the options when a town approaches it. It would have to make sense for the District to add another town.

Councilor Kotkin said that costs were pretty much flat over the last few years. He asked what the current estimates were.

Paul Hutcheon, Director of the Central Connecticut Health District, said that the proposal is to keep the rate the same at \$4.06 per capital for the sixth year in a row. The Board of the Central Connecticut Health District will meet on March 18, 2010. Last year, Wethersfield's contribution went down because the census numbers showed a decrease in population.

Chairperson Hemmann asked if there is a prevalence of asthma in Town. The report shows that it is the leading cause of absenteeism in school. Have any triggers been identified?

Paul Hutcheon, Director of the Central Connecticut Health District, said that the mystery of asthma is finding the triggers. The greatest concern is the home that is why the State has issued a grant for home evaluations.

Chairperson Hemmann presented a Proclamation establishing April 5, 2010 to April 15, 2010 as 2010 National Public Health Week. Two board members, Nancy Klatt and Dianne Doot, representing Wethersfield were present to accept the Proclamation.

Councilor Roberts led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Dolores Sassano, Town Clerk, took attendance.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Meher Shulman, Oldham Road, said that she has been in Town for two years and is very impressed with the professions positive experiences she always has at the Library. She started volunteering at the Library a year ago and was pleased to compile the results of the customer service survey. Very positive comments were echoed throughout the survey. She was impressed by how many people use the Library and the broad range of services that are used. She read some responses from the survey.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, said that Wethersfield spends \$23,000 on average for special education costs per child. Wethersfield is ninth out of 26 Towns. It is not the average as Councilor Kotkin said. It is at the high end. The Town has a great opportunity to find savings this year in the budget. Connecticut is one of the highest States for electrical rates. Everything has a lot of taxes and surcharges built into the prices. Connecticut has a problem with spending. The bad economic times are going to continue and the Town needs to reduce costs and cut spending.

George Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, said that that he has been attending Board of Education meetings. The Board budget is an issue. He has spoken to the Board of Education members of their need to share the pain in the budget process. The town side of government is really sharing the pain. Employees are taking home less pay. The Superintendent and his cabinet have hefty salaries and use smoke and mirrors when it comes to furlough days and financial savings. The Superintendent did not take furlough days, had a salary freeze, but then received a \$5,000 bonus. There was no pain in that. He did not receive less money. It is just consolidated political speak. It is going to be a pretty tough time for the Town and State. The Council needs to reduce spending and ask the hard questions. A zero budget from the Superintendent is a budget with no pain in it. He said that it leads him to believe that there was too much fat in it to begin with. He said that a zero budget sounds good but a 10 percent reduction would be better. He said that the Library deserves all of the accolades it receives. His wife is a big fan of the Library.

### COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Manousos said that the Budget and Finance Committee met. All Departments are requested to bring in a zero budget increase. The Library Board budget update was received.

The Committee has to determine what is an acceptable level of services for the Town and residents. There was a presentation from CCM at the meeting. There is a price tag to join CCM and the Committee will have to discuss joining. The auditors are coming to the next Budget and Finance Committee meeting.

Councilor Drake said that he attended the Library Board meeting. The Board is continuing to review the Library budget. He said that the Library really relies on its volunteers. He thanked Meher for her work on the survey. The Friends of the Library have donated significant amounts of money over the years, including the purchase of furniture after the renovations. He said that the Public Works Committee also met. There was a discussion on fees for service and on Town owner properties. A recommendation will be made to the full Council regarding all Town owned property.

Councilor Kotkin said that the Insurance Committee met. Every three years the Committee needs to send out an RFP for Insurance agents. Healthcare costs are increasing. They are shared between the Town and employees. It is a significant number in the budget. The Committee is looking at bidding out stop loss charges for a cost savings. He said that the Traveler's is getting into municipal liability insurance. CIRMA is offering a three year rate guarantee.

Councilor Roberts said that she attended the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee. There are two programs coming up, one in April and the other in May. She will have more information as the dates get closer. The Memorial Day Parade Committee also met. The parade is set for May 29<sup>th</sup>.

Chairperson Hemmann said that she attended the ribbon cutting for Hartford Medical Group. Councilors should have received a memo concerning a meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup> with the MDC to update the Clean Water plan. Councilors also should have received an updated list of committee assignments.

### COUNCIL COMMENTS

Deputy Mayor Console said that he is glad to see the improved lighting in the parking lot. He attended the UNICO pasta dinner on Sunday. Over 1,000 people attended. He wants to make sure the Town continues to look into seatbelts on its school buses.

Councilor Manousos said the he discussed the lights at Cottone Field with Recreation and Parks Board. It is a community project that is about 70 percent complete. He said that he would like to get some comments from the public and explore ways to get this project completed within the existing budget. He said that this may be more appropriate for the Budget and Finance Committee or CIAC.

Councilor Kotkin thanked the Mayor for the updates list of committee assignments. He said that in response to Mr. Young's comments, Councilor Kotkin said that Wethersfield has a lower than average number of students. He said that a few years ago, the Town created a fixes asset inventory after a theft of Town property was discovered. He asked for an update of the inventory.

Chairperson Hemmann said that:

- The Nature Center will be holding its annual dance at the Community Center on March 27<sup>th</sup> and tickets are available.
- The Planning and Zoning Commission will be meeting tomorrow night, March 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- The Redevelopment Commission is meeting March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- The Citizens Energy Commission is meeting March 4<sup>th</sup> as is the Youth Advisory Board.
- The St. Patrick's Day Parade in Hartford is Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Jeff Bridges, Town Manager, said that:

- At the last meeting, after executive session the Town Council moved to amend the contract for the Wilkus property and the purchase is moving forward. Town staff reviewed the condition of the property. The contract calls for a closing by May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The Town received an energy grant for the remaining windows at the Community Center and Keeney Cultural Center.
- The Town's insurance carrier will pay for the window replacement at the Police facility, minus the Town deductible.
- The Public Works Committee reviewed an ordinance from CRCOG that would establish a solid waste authority which would serve its members of CRRA. This authority would act as a manger for communities. The ordinance will be up for consideration at the next meeting. At the Capitol today legislators said that a bill will be introduced tomorrow that changes the governance of CRRA to make it more locally based. He said that most of the hang-ups with CRRA were with its governance.

#### COUNCIL ACTION

Deputy Mayor Console moved **"TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF HOLLY M. DYJAK FROM THE YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD"** seconded by Councilor McAlister.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Deputy Mayor Console moved **"TO APPOINT GERALDINE MUNROE TO THE CULTURE AND ARTS COMMITTEE FOR A TERM FROM 3-1-10 TO 6-30-10"** seconded by Councilor Roberts.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Drake moved **“TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT A STATE MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM FOR ELDERLY AND DISABLED DEMAND RESPONSIVE TRANSPORTATION (DIAL-A-RIDE EXPANSION GRANT) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$37,470 FOR WETHERSFIELD AND \$95,000 TOTAL, AND TO NEGOTIATE AND SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE TOWNS OF NEWINGTON AND ROCKY HILL TO PROVIDE A TRI-TOWN MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICE”** seconded by Councilor McAlister.

Jeff Bridges, Town Manager, said that this is a grant from the State of Connecticut for the expansion of the Dial-A-Ride service for five day a week service for medical appointments to surrounding towns. \$95,000 is the combined application amount for the three towns.

Chairperson Hemmann said that this is not a new program. The Town has been receiving funds since 2006. It is a continuation of a program that allows transportation to other communities for medical appointments.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO SET A SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2010 AT 6:00 PM IN THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS TO DISCUSS AND ACT ON A REFUNDING OF CERTAIN GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS”** seconded by Councilor McAlister.

Jeff Bridges, Town Manager, said that a resolution is being introduced tonight for the refinancing of general obligation bonds. In order to take advantage of the market and to have this resolved before the budget, staff is requesting a special meeting to hold a hearing and Council action on this next week. The refinancing would take advantage of the current market rates which will allow the town to save between \$400,000 and \$700,000 in debt without expanding life of the debt and smooth out the peak of the bonds.

Councilor Roberts asked if the meeting could be moved to 6:30 p.m.

Jeff Bridges, Town Manager, asked the Town Clerk if the legal notice was already sent to the newspapers.

Dolores Sassano, Town Clerk, said the legal notice has been advertised but they could change the time as long as it was later than the scheduled time of 6:00 p.m.

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO AMEND THE MOTION TO CHANGE THE TIME TO 6:30 P.M.”** seconded by Councilor McAlister.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Councilor Drake asked if the bonds are callable. He asked if the old bonds are paid off by the new bonds.

Jeff Bridges, Town Manager, said that the uncallable bonds will be escrowed to maturity. Even with the purchase of the escrow account and maturity, the Town will still realize a savings. The underwriter has cherry picked those that would provide more overall savings. Under the current scenario, there will still be a 4 percent savings in today’s market.

Councilor Drake asked if the refinancing will affect the Town’s rating because the Town is doubling up its bonds.

Jeff Bridges, Town Manager, said that for all intents and purposes the old bonds go away.

Deputy Mayor Console thanked the Town Manager for working on this.

Councilor Manousos said that this projection is much better than the first projections.

Jeff Bridges, Town Manager, said that the town will solicit bids now and hope that the market stays for the next three weeks.

#### ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

Dolores Sassano, Town Clerk, said that this resolution is for a \$6,000 grant to allow the Town to complete the records management program that is underway in the Building, Engineering and Planning departments. The public hearing date is set for March 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### **RESOLUTION FOR A GRANT FROM THE HISTORIC DOCUMENTS PRESERVATION PROGRAM**

Resolved: that Jeffrey K. Bridges Jr. as Town Manager or Dolores G. Sassano, as Town Clerk, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name of and on behalf of the Town of Wethersfield a contract with the Connecticut State Library for a Historic Documents Preservation Grant.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT EXCEEDING \$20,000,000 REFUNDING BONDS FOR PAYMENT IN WHOLE OR IN PART OF THE OUTSTANDING PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST AND ANY CALL PREMIUM ON THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD'S \$1,920,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, ISSUE OF 1996, \$7,000,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, ISSUE OF 2001, \$7,000,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, ISSUE OF 2002, \$3,500,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, ISSUE OF 2003, \$15,000,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, ISSUE OF 2005, AND \$6,855,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, ISSUE OF 2009, AND COSTS RELATED THERETO**

RESOLVED,

(a) That the Town of Wethersfield issue its refunding bonds, in an amount not to exceed TWENTY MILLION DOLLARS (\$20,000,000), the proceeds of which are hereby appropriated: (1) to fund one or more escrows, the balance held in such escrows, together with the investment earnings thereon, to be applied by the Town to the payment in whole or in part, as to be determined by the Town Manager and the Treasurer, of the outstanding principal of and interest and any call premium on the Town's \$1,920,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 1996, \$7,000,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2001, \$7,000,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2002, \$3,500,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2003, \$15,000,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2005, and/or \$6,855,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2009, including the payment of interest accrued on said outstanding bonds to the date of payment, and (2) to pay costs of issuance of the refunding bonds authorized hereby, including legal fees, consultants' fees, trustee or escrow agent fees, underwriters' fees, net interest and other financing costs and other costs related to the payment of the outstanding bonds described above. The refunding bonds shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-370c of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and any other enabling acts. The bonds shall be general obligations of the Town secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town. The Treasurer shall keep a record of the bonds. The Town Manager and the Treasurer are authorized to determine the amount, date, interest rates, maturities, redemption provisions, form and other details of the bonds; to designate a bank or trust company to be certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for the bonds; to sign such bonds by their manual or facsimile signatures in the name or on behalf of the Town; to designate a financial advisor to the Town in connection with the sale of the bonds; to sell the bonds at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds. The law firm of Day Pitney LLP is designated as bond counsel to approve the legality of the bonds.

(b) That the Town hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that costs of the refunding may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that (except to the extent reimbursed from grant moneys) the Town reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the refunding. The Town Manager and the Treasurer are authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as they deem necessary or advisable and to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds authorized by this resolution, if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

(c) That the Town Manager and the Treasurer are authorized to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds to provide secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds.

(d) That the Town Manager, Treasurer and the other proper officers of the Town are authorized to take all other action which is necessary or desirable to enable the Town to effectuate the refunding of all or a portion of the Town's \$1,920,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 1996, \$7,000,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2001, \$7,000,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2002, \$3,500,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2003, \$15,000,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2005, and/or \$6,855,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2009, and to issue refunding bonds authorized hereby for such purposes, including, but not limited to, the entrance into agreements on behalf of the Town with underwriters, trustees, escrow agents and others to facilitate the issuance of the refunding bonds, the escrow of the proceeds thereof and investment earnings thereon, and the payment of the outstanding bonds in whole or in part.

(e) That the Superintendent of Schools, the Chairman of the Board of Education, the Board of Education and other proper officers and officials of the Town are authorized to execute and file all necessary applications, agreements and documents with the State Board of Education in order to obtain any applicable State grants to defray in part principal and interest on refunding bonds authorized hereby to the extent such bonds are allocable to the refunding of school bonds issued pursuant to Section 10-289 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and to pay costs of issuance related to the refunding of said bonds.

(f) That this resolution shall be effective upon passage by the Town Council.

(g) That the above authorization to issue refunding bonds shall lapse on June 30, 2011.

### MINUTES

Councilor Roberts moved **“TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 16, 2009”** seconded by Councilor Manousos.

Councilor Roberts said that on page 4, fifth paragraph down the word payment should be proposal and the word many should be several.

All Councilors present voted AYE. Chairperson Hemmann abstained. The motion passed 6-0-1.

### PUBLIC

George Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Circle, said that he is speaking about the lights. It is a very controversial decision, not a casual conversation about Town funds not being used. It was well documented. The lights caused quite a stir with the Wethersfield Taxpayer's Association. It was forced to go to referendum and caused discord in the neighborhood. The lights were motivated by a few residents so that they could see their children play sports. It is not incumbent on the taxpayers of the Town to layout money so that people can watch their children. There are energy costs associated with the lights, too. It flies in the face of all that makes sense in this economy. It is a frivolous investment. It is not a good idea.

Councilor Manousos asked if Mr. Ruhe thought that it was still the sentiment felt around Town.

George Ruhe said that he doesn't know but the Town is looking at very tight times. He said that the Town shouldn't do anything that will negatively impact taxes. Of all the projects in Town, this is probably one of the lowest priorities. The Council should get used to the idea that it can't squander any resources. It would not reflect positively on the Town Council. He urged a high level of caution in considering this. He said that the Wethersfield Taxpayers Association may have to get together again.

Councilor Manousos said that he has no intention of forcing this on anyone. In full disclosure, he said that he is the President of the soccer club in Town. The Club would benefit from the lights

as would football. He is not trying to ram this down anyone's throat. There are other options. He said that he just wanted to get comments from the public.

George Ruhe said that if the group want the lights and can pay for them that is fine if no Town money is used. The principal is involved. Mr. O'Conner and company said that no Town funds would be used for this project.

George Wallace, 22 Chesterfield Road, said that his flu shot from the Town cost medicare \$37 while residents were only charged \$30 and the government allows it. He said the Councilor Kotkin and Mr. Young are comparing apples and oranges when discussing special education costs. The Town has to learn to live within its means. If Wethersfield took its students and bussed them to Glastonbury for the last decade, the Town would have saved \$13,000,000. He said that he is happy with his lot in life and wants to see the Town remain affordable for all people.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Road, said that he agrees with Mr. Ruhe's remarks on the lighting of Cottone field. The Town needs to look at its long term dividends and expenses, not lights. The lights will cost the Town too much money. The utilities are full of taxes and surcharges. He said that adding a surcharge to property owners for not using their properties to its highest value sends a terrible message to business owners. Other towns have lower taxes. Wethersfield's taxes are too high. The Council needs to stay focused on spending and look at pensions, too.

Deputy Mayor Console said that Wallingford and Waterford are on the list twice, so the list is only 24 Towns. Wethersfield is number 4 out of 24 towns.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:48 p.m., Councilor Roberts moved "**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**" seconded by Deputy Mayor Console. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano  
Town Clerk



# **Central CT Health District**

## **Community Health Report Card December 2009**

**Presented by:**

**Paul Hutcheon, Director of Health, MPH, R.S.**

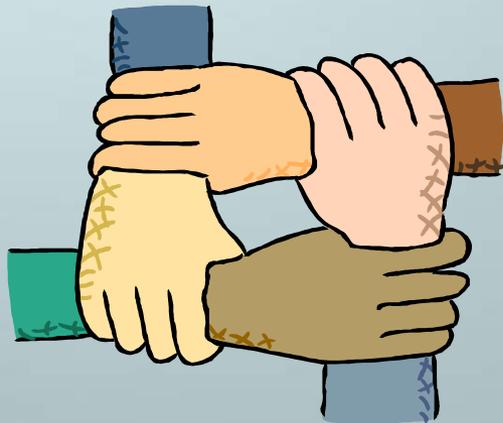
# Population

- Total District Population = 94,634
- District population has remained relatively stable for the past 5 years.
- Slight increase in population in Berlin, Newington, and Rocky Hill, but a decrease in Wethersfield.
- District's median age of 43-46 years; slightly higher than Hartford County (40) and State (40)



# Race %

- 87-94% of District residents are white, which differs from Hartford County (75%) and State (79%).
- The racial/ethnic minority population has remained at about approximately 4.0% over the past 5 years with Hispanics at the highest percentage at 4.4%.



# Socio-Economic Indicators

- District has a high school graduation rate of 97% vs. 92.6% for the State
- District's unemployment rate = 7.1% vs. 8.3% for Hartford County and 8.2% for the State
- District's poverty rate is 3.3% vs. 9.3% for Hartford County and 7.9% for the State
- There is an ↑ in Husky A enrollment for children for the District (fiscal year July 2008 – July 2009)



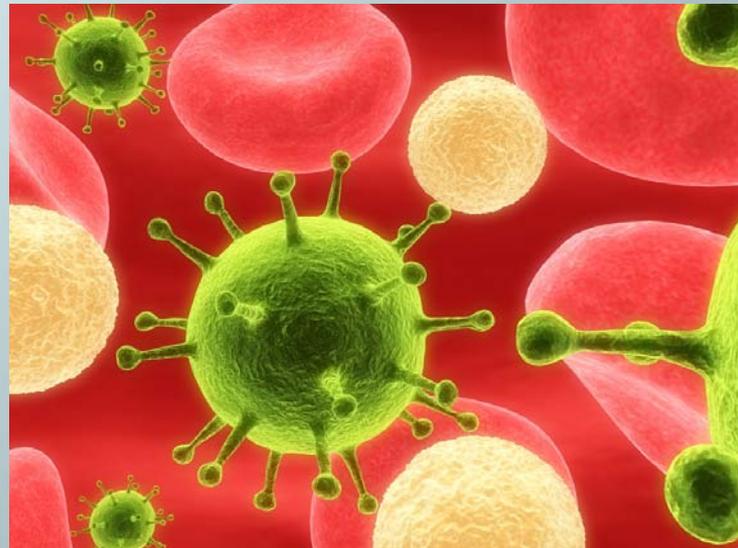
# Causes of Death

- Heart disease is the leading cause of death among adults in the District followed by cancer, stroke, chronic lower respiratory disease (CLRD), and unintentional injuries respectively.
- Over 80% of deaths in 2006 were age 65 and older, with 84% of these deaths occurring in those 75 and older.



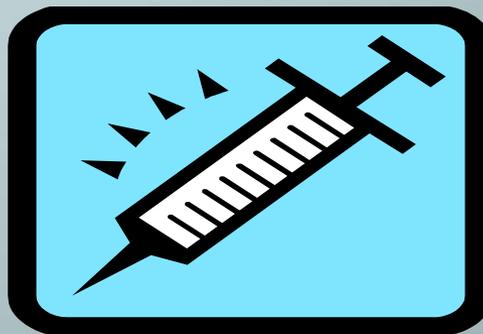
# Cancer Mortality, Both Sexes

- Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer mortality in the District followed by colorectal and pancreatic cancers respectively.
- Among both, men and women, there has been an ↑ in colon and pancreatic cancers in all four District towns.



# Influenza/H1N1

- 3,192 people given seasonal flu vaccine at 8 clinics in all four towns
- Over 6,000 people given H1N1 vaccine at 25 clinics in all four towns
- From April 1, 2009 to January 26, 2010, 31 H1N1 deaths have been reported State-wide.



# Asthma

- Asthma is the leading cause of school absenteeism.
- Exact causes of asthma are unknown but are often triggered by environmental exposures including those in the home.
- CCHD received a three year grant from the CT DPH to implement the *Putting on Airs* in-home visitation program to assess and provide education to families to reduce emergency room visits and hospitalizations.



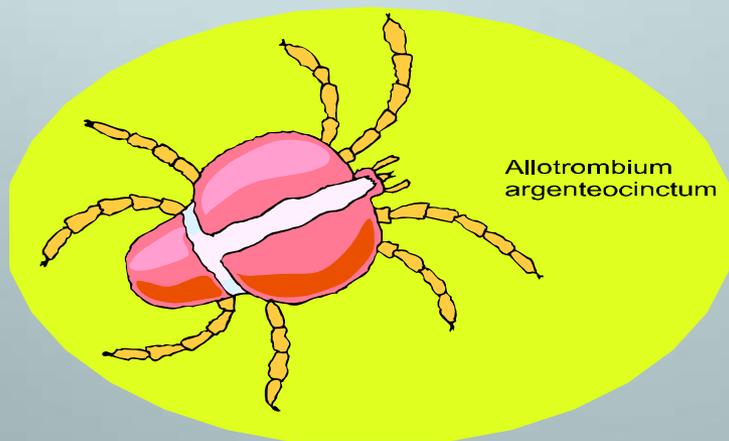
# Gastrointestinal Illnesses

- Each year, approximately 30 cases are reported to CCHD.
- The majority of cases are Salmonella and Campylobacter.
- CCHD has a Chief Sanitarian as well as four additional sanitarians located in each town that inspect food service establishments.
- Many cases occur from poor food preparation and handling at home.



# Lyme Disease

- The Incidence of Lyme Disease among CCHD residents is well below the state average with 21 cases reported in 2008.
- The key to preventing Lyme Disease is to limit exposure by taking personal protective measures.



# Lead Screening and Lead Poisoning

- In January 2009, a State mandate became effective that required all 1 and 2 year olds to be screened for lead poisoning.
- In 2007, less than 30% of 1 and 2 year olds were screened for lead in our District
- CCHD recommends being aware of peeling and flaking paint as well as dust formed from renovation work.



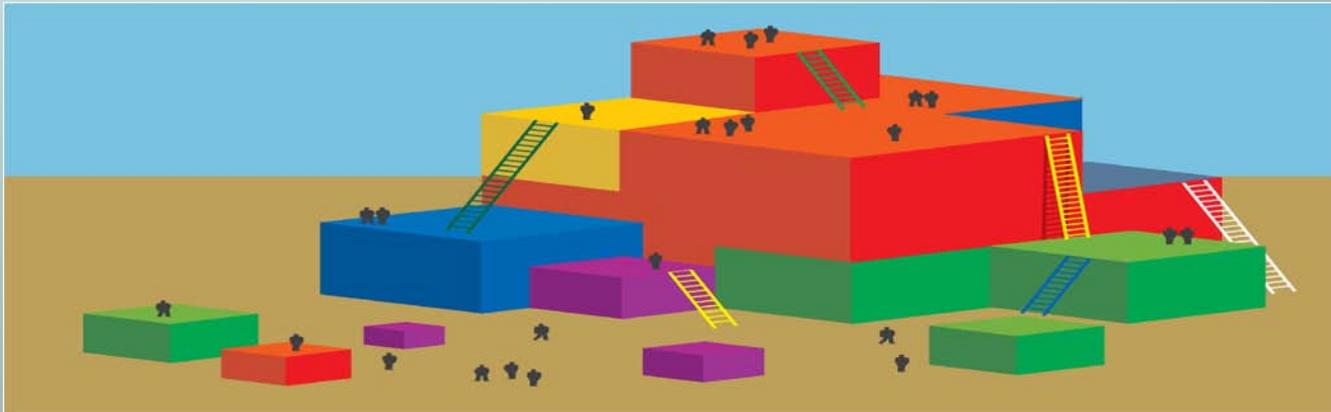
# Current CCHD Programs

## ➤ Screenings and Education

- Glucose (Blood Sugar) screenings
- Diabetes Self-care education classes
- Cholesterol screenings and education classes
- Pedicare Foot Clinics

## ➤ Community Health Education

- Smiles for Life – Dental Cleanings for Seniors
- Putting on Airs – Asthma Home Visitation Program



# Thank you!

Please visit our website at  
[www.ccthd.org](http://www.ccthd.org)