Town of Hamden August 2016 Newsletter

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Hamden Issues Bonds At Lowest Rates Ever

Mayor Curt Balzano Leng is extremely pleased to announce that Hamden has successfully issued $28,535,000 of General Obligation Bonds for various Town and school infrastructure investments and capital improvements. These projects were approved in previous years and utilized short-term financing for funding, prior to deciding the optimal time to go to the market for traditional longer-term capital financing.

The bonds were issued at the lowest borrowing rate in Hamden's recorded financial history. The bonds will be repaid over the next 20 years and the True Interest Cost (TIC) is 3.02%. "Consistent with the Town's debt policy, the new bonds will be repaid in equal installments over the next twenty years," commented Salvatore DeCola, Director of Finance.

"Hamden's A+ bond rating from Standard & Poor's provided investors with a strong degree of security", noted Barry Bernabe, the Town's financial advisor and Managing Director of Phoenix Advisors. He continued, "The Town's bonds were 5 times oversubscribed, which demonstrates very strong investor confidence in Hamden's financial management."

Mayor Curt Leng commented, "It is very rewarding to see our team's consistent commitment to improving the Town's finances pay off in a very real and tangible way, resulting in lower borrowing costs to Hamden's taxpayers. This historically low interest rate will allow the Town to continue to invest in projects that improve the safety and quality of life for our residents, while at the same time mitigating Hamden's debt burden. The market continues to show the Town of Hamden that it has confidence in our financial management and practices."

For further information, please contact Information & Research Officer, Patrick J. Donnelly at (203) 287-7009 or by email at pdonnelly@hamden.com.

A Letter From Mayor Leng

Greetings Fellow Hamdenites—

It is my pleasure to present you with the August edition of the Hamden Town Hall Newsletter. The month of August has been an exciting one, with a variety of different projects and programs seeing progress. As I am sure many Hamden residents have noticed, the Town is wrapping up our annual Summer Paving program. This summer we paved an additional 7 miles of road, an essential investment into our road infrastructure. This work, coupled with the 10 miles paved last Fall (2015) and the upcoming 8-10 miles of road we will pave in Fall (2016), will mean that Hamden has repaved over 10% of our Town's roads in less than one year.

In addition to road investments, sidewalk repairs and replacements are also underway with 4 new sidewalk contractors recently procured via public process to work all across Town. Augur, Thornton, Manilla, Third, Colony, Winchester & Davis streets and more will all be seeing sidewalk repair and replacement in 2016. Much more sidewalk work is scheduled for spring & Summer 2017. Due to the strategic sidewalk capital investment now underway, our sidewalk repair waiting list (which was a disgraceful 20 year waiting list just 6 years ago) will be reduced to a more manageable 3-5 year waiting list in just two years!

Another infrastructure project, which I'm very proud of and is nearing completion, is the Southern Dixwell Avenue Streetscape overhaul and expansion. This overhaul is currently being completed from the New Haven line to Arch Street, including expansions that will enhance the Streetscape on the side streets off of Dixwell leading to the Farmington Canal. This enhancement project bookends the impressive investments the Town recently completed at Rochford and Villano Park. Together, these are very tangible revitalization investments that our Town is making in key locations.

In addition to asphalt, concrete and streetscape work, when you drive around Hamden you will also see new trees, shrubs & flowers that have been newly planted in 2016, with an additional roughly 75 free plantings planned for Fall of 2016. Special thanks to the Public Works & Parks Department for their great work and to our new Tree Commission for helping to make Hamden "greener" in 2016.

As a Town, we should all be proud of these efforts, because they add both beauty and value to the great community we call home.

Finally, Hamden has a number of excellent programs coming up for the fall season. I kindly ask you, our readers, to spread this information to your friends, families, and co-workers and pass the word about the fantastic programs, volunteer opportunities, news, social services, and special events Hamden has to offer.

Thank you for reading—I wish you all the best. See you next month!

-Curt Balzano Leng

Hamden Regional Chamber of Commerce Prepares for "Restaurant Week"

The Hamden Regional Chamber of Commerce and Presenting Sponsor Bankwell, are pleased to announce its Annual Hamden Restaurant Week from Monday, September 19 through Saturday, September 24.

"We're thrilled to partner with Bankwell to make this annual community event possible," said Nancy Dudchik, HRCC President. "We're glad to have them join us in showcasing all our diverse and unique eateries. It's a great opportunity for people to discover a new restaurant, or revisit an old favorite for great prices and deals.

Bankwell officials were happy to have the opportunity to participate. "Here at Bankwell, we are pleased to partner with the Chamber to help bring great events like Restaurant Week to the community," said Leila Votto, Assistant Vice President of Bankwell. "We're committed to giving back to the communities we serve."

Open to any restaurant in Hamden, participants must agree to offer either a $12 prix fixe lunch, $24 prix fixe dinner (or both), or a Buy-One-Get-One Option. Restaurant owners interested in learning more about Restaurant Week, are asked to please contact the Chamber office at 203-288-6431 for full details. We're looking forward to promoting all our area restaurants for this un-fork-gettable week!

To see the growing list of participating restaurants visit www.iloverestaurantweek.com or find us on Facebook at Hamden Restaurant Week.

HAMDEN REGIONAL | CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

High School Baseball & New Multi-Purpose Field Moving Forward with Enhancements

Mayor Curt Balzano Leng, Legislative Council President Jim Pascarella, and Hamden Board of Education Chairman Adam Sendroff, are very pleased to announce that the Town recommended a proposal to the Planning & Zoning Commission regarding the Hamden High School Baseball and Multi-purpose Field Renovation Project. The recommendation includes significant safety, playability and comfort enhancements for the project.

Recommended project enhancement highlights include the following:

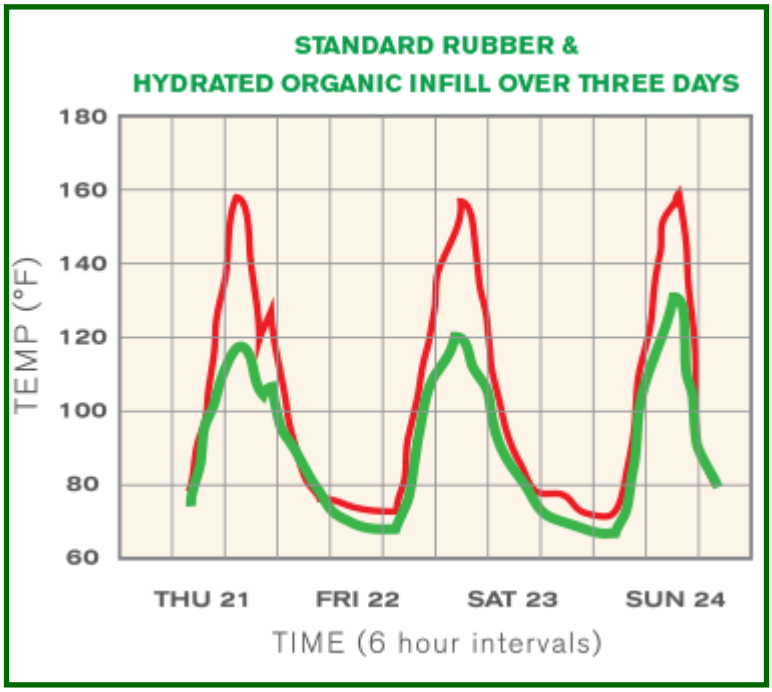
- Installation of a "shock pad", which will be installed directly underneath the turf installation and will improve the field's impact absorption capabilities and concussion prevention rating. The shock pad comes with a 25-year warranty;
- Use of an alternate turf infill product, "GeoFill", which is an entirely organic artificial turf infill system, creating the most natural playability possible next to grass;
- This infill choice also stays much cooler than other infill choices, allowing for safer and more comfortable playing surface conditions even in hot weather;
- GeoFill" artificial turf has been in-use for over 10 years, and has more installations across the world than any other organic alternative infill system currently available. GeoFill infill is a 100% natural product, comprised of various organic and sand materials, including coconut husk and cork;
- We hope will be a more universally acceptable alternative to natural grass for students, parents, coaches and residents.

GeoFill Organic Turf & In-fill

Commenting on the decision to move forward with the fall safety enhanced shock pad and the natural GeoFill system, Mayor Curt Balzano Leng noted, "The quality of our fields, the safety of our athletes, and the health of our community are the most important factors in determining how Hamden pro-

High School Field Enhancements Continued

ceeds with just about any improvements project. Given the opportunity to provide better fall protection, a more natural feel to the field of play and near elimination of the chemicals inherent in all other infill choices – this system and design is the best option for this field, at this time".



Surface temperature of GeoFill (green) opposed to standard rubber (red)

Legislative Council President Jim Pascarella said, "I am very pleased with the decision to move forward with the proposal and GeoFill system. Overall playability and safety has always been my priority in advocating the renovation of these fields. This will be a top quality turf field for Hamden's athletes and will allow for more outdoor play for multiple different sports teams."

"As Hamden Soccer Association President, I am very pleased with the decision to move forward with an environmentally safe field for our children. Geofill is a good alternative, which still provides the feeling and support of a natural grass field without the expensive daily maintenance. This will also allow our community fields in our Town parks to avoid overuse that sometimes occurs when they are heavily played on by youth and adult recreational leagues and the high school teams. It's a great victory for the athletes of Hamden," added Chris Ruggiero, Hamden Soccer Association President.

"We applaud Mayor Leng and the Town for choosing safe, natural materials," said Louis Burch of Citizens Campaign for the Environment. "Reducing exposure to toxic chemicals for children should be everyone's top priority. This is a significant victory for Hamden families, and we call on neighboring communities to follow suit."

For further information, please contact Information & Research Officer, Patrick J. Donnelly at (203) 287-7009 or by email at pdonnelly@hamden.com.

Ridge Hill School Playground Receives Recreational Improvements

Mayor Curt Leng and the Hamden Engineering Department are pleased to report that improvements at the Ridge Hill School Playground are moving forward on schedule. Work began on July 18th and is expected to be completed in time for start the upcoming 2016-2017 school year. For more information call the Engineering Department at 203-287-7040.

Energy Use & Climate Change Commission Seeks New Members

The Hamden Energy Use and Climate Change Commission celebrates 10 years working on behalf of our Town on energy issues. We've worked on energy use, efficiency, fuels, EVs, green buildings and schools, residential solar programs, and have many more tasks yet to come. We will be working with town officials, the state DEEP, Greenbank, the other 100 town commissions in CT, solar installers, the regional 15 town Council of Governments, UI, advocacy organizations. But there are now 4 vacancies we need to fill. If you have an interest in our environment, saving the town money (think: tax rate), efficient town government, or even saving the planet, please reach out to us by contracting:

Martin Mador, EUCC Chair
martin.mador@aya.yale.edu
203 281 4326

Hamden Reminds Residents of Diaper Bank Services

Mayor Curt Leng and Community Services Director, Darlene Butler, would like to remind Hamden residents of the support opportunities provided by the Hamden Diaper Bank.

Starting in June 2015, Hamden Community Services partnered with the New Haven Diaper Bank, Inc. to create the Hamden Diaper Bank. Over the past year, the Hamden Diaper Bank has served 267 families and 327 babies, with clients receiving a total of 16,350 diapers. New and continuing clients receive diapers once a month, and there are no income requirements to enroll in the program. Parents and guardians who are interested in enrolling in the program can call Hamden Community Services at (203) 562-5129 ext. 1126 to schedule an enrollment appointment.

Thank you to the Community Services Department, Temple Beth Sholom, and Hamden Hall Day School for their diligent work and generous donations to ensure that Hamden's parents and guardians can provide a high level of care for their newborns, infants, and toddlers!

Hamden Youth Services School Age Child Care Program

The Hamden Youth Services Bureau operates a state licensed After School Program located in the Keefe Community Center at 11 Pine Street. Limited openings are available. The program is opened to Hamden residents enrolled in Kindergarten through 6th Grade. Transportation is provided by the Hamden Public Schools in the area. Program hours are 3:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m. during the school year according to the Hamden Public Schools' calendar. The program is open at 12:30 p.m. on early dismissal days and 8:30 a.m. on vacation days and some school holidays and professional development days. Monthly tuition is based on a sliding scale determined by household income and family size. A free, nutritious afternoon snack included. Activities include outdoor play, homework assistance, indoor play, Kids' Fit Club, STEM, Zumba, arts and crafts, field trips and much more. For additional information, please contact Sally Nutcher, Child Care Director at 203 777-2610 ext. 1121.

Hamden Welcomes "The Salad Palace"

Hamden is very pleased to welcome a brand-new business to our town! The Salad Palace recently opened in Whitneyville, across from the Playwright Café on the Corner of Whitney Avenue and Putnam Avenue.

The Salad Palace serves healthy smoothies and a variety of unique and classic salad combinations! Head on down and check them out, and support your local Hamden businesses!

www.thesaladpalace.com

23 Putnam Ave Hamden, CT 06517

Hamden Youth Services Seeks School Supplies for Hamden Children

Town of Hamden Youth Services Bureau provides Hamden students with free school supplies to meet their academic requirements. This initiative was created to assist Hamden families who have displayed financial need and are having difficulty in providing their children with the necessary items needed for school.

We are turning to residents, schools and or organizations for help. We are currently seeking donations of any of the following new items: backpacks, lunch boxes, notebooks, pencils, pens, rulers, pocket folders, pencil sharpeners, glue, magic markers, tape, calculators, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, three ring binders, etc.

All items may be dropped off at the main office of Hamden Youth Services Bureau located at the Keefe Community Center, 11 Pine Street, Hamden, CT 06514 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday or at our table at the Hamden Famer's Market (at Hamden Town Center Park) every Friday thru Oct. 7th from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Susan Rubino, Coordinator at 203 777-2610 ext. 1120 or srubino@hamden.com.

Hamden Economic Development
Real Estate Review

Hamden Continues to Hold the Lowest Industrial Vacancy Rate in Region

The industrial vacancy rate for Hamden's 90 industrial buildings is 8.1%, the lowest vacancy rate for comparable communities in the New Haven North region. As the industrial vacancy rate for the entire New Haven Region is 11.8%, Hamden's industrial vacancy rate of 8.1% rests comfortably below average. "Although we are pleased to have a low vacancy rate, it challenges us to seek new opportunities," stated Dale Kroop, Hamden's long time Director of Economic and Community Development. Hamden's low industrial vacancy rate is based on its net absorption of 39,151 square feet of industrial space between 1/1/16-12/31/16.

Hamden's average asking rent for industrial space is $7.34 per square foot. Hamden's industrial vacancy rate of 8.1% despite the higher than average asking rent demonstrating that Hamden is a place where industrial businesses want to locate. Many companies have taken advantage of the Hamden Business Incentive Program, which offers tax abatements, grants and waivers of building permit fees for business expansions or relocations.

Hamden's Office Vacancy Rate Lower than Regional Average

Hamden's office vacancy rate for its 24 buildings is 13.1%, which is below the vacancy rate for the entire New Haven Region of 16.1%. Hamden's office vacancy rate is significantly lower than those of many competing communities. For example, Cheshire's office vacancy rate is 23.8% and Milford's is 30.3%

Hamden possesses a year to date net absorption of 43,516 square feet of office space from January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016. More than half of Towns in the New Haven region also possess a negative net absorption rate for office space.

Considering Hamden's net absorption rate, the average asking rent per square foot of office space in Hamden is $14.77, which is below the $19.14 average asking rent for the entire New Haven Region. The low rents make Hamden's office vacancy rate likely to improve and makes Hamden a desirable place for businesses to rent an office.

For further information on the Hamden Business Incentive Program, contact Dale Kroop: Director @ 203-287-7030 or visit us on the web at www.hamden-ct.com .

HAMDEN
ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Hamden Color Run
Announcement & Registration

Hamden Color Me Run

Sponsored by
Hamden PTA Council and Hamden Mayor's Office

The Hamden PTA Council and Hamden Mayor's Office are proud to be hosting their second annual Color Me Run to provide enrichment opportunities for the children of Hamden. Join us for this fun event for all ages and abilities. Come run or walk a mile or a 5k loop that includes Hamden Town Center Park and Middle School. This is not a timed event. We encourage you to wear clothes and shoes you do not mind getting dirty. Although the color is 100% safe food grade quality you may want to wear eye and mouth protection.

Saturday, September 17, 2016 10:00am Hamden Town Center Park
Packet pick up at 8:30am-9:30am
Food, DJ, family fun and more!

Registration

Pre-register at http://colormerun2016.eventbrite.com **until September 1st and receive a t-shirt. Registration will be available race day. No t-shirts are available on race day. Pre-registration $25.00. Same day registration is $30.00.**

Make checks out to Hamden PTA Council and mail to Judy Goldberg, PTA Council President, 61 Hawthorne Avenue, Hamden, CT 06517. Town Center Park is located at 2761 Dixwell Avenue (in between Miller Memorial Library and Hamden Middle School).

Name_____ Phone_____

Address_____ Email_____

_____ participants x $25.00= $_____

T-shirt size (adult sizes only): _____ Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ XLarge

I understand that walking/running can be a potentially hazardous activity. I will not participate unless I am medically able and properly trained. I certify that I am medically able and in good health to participate in this event. I hold the Hamden PTA Council and its representatives and Town of Hamden and its representatives harmless for any from all or any claims of liability of any kind arising out of my participation in this event.
Signature_____ Date _____ 2016

Hamden Color Run
Announcement & Registration

Title Sponsor $3,000.00

- Name appears on the back top of the T-shirt and recognition on Hamden PTA Council Facebook
- Verbal recognition by DJ
- Name appears on race application
- Opportunity to set up a booth at the event
- Opportunity to distribute products, coupons and literature on race day
- Opportunity to address runners at the beginning of the race
- Five complimentary race entries with T-shirt and sponsor sign at the initial color station

Gold Sponsor $500.00

- Name appears on the back of the T-shirts and recognition on Hamden PTA Council Facebook
- Opportunity to set up a booth at the event
- Opportunity to distribute products, coupons and literature on race day
- Three complimentary race entries with T-shirt and sponsor sign at a color station

Community Sponsor $250.00

- Name appears on the back of the T-shirts
- Opportunity to set up a booth at the event
- Two complimentary race entries

Supporting Sponsor $100.00

- Name appears on display banner at the event

Thank you for your support! Please fill out this form and mail it to Judy Goldberg, Hamden PTA Council President, 61 Hawthorne Avenue, Hamden, CT 06517 with a check made out to Hamden PTA Council or pay on http://colormerun2016.eventbrite.com and choose your sponsorship selection.

Name_____ Phone_____

Company Name as you would like it to appear:

Address_____

Type: ◯ Title Sponsor ◯ Gold Sponsor ◯ Community Sponsor ◯ Supporting Sponsor

Please email your logo (jpeg) and a description of your business to:
hamdenptacouncil@yahoo.com Judy Goldberg 203-506-4400

2nd Annual Project 365 Announcement

Project 365 was launched to help communities identify specific projects they could address year-round. Hamden Youth Services Bureau has collaborated with the Hamden Police Department for their 2nd Annual PROJECT 365 "Clean and Safe Neighborhoods".

PROJECT 365

Project 365 was launched to help communities identify specific projects they could address year-round.

Project 365 is sponsored by the Town of Hamden's Youth Services Bureau (HYSB), HYSB Volunteers and supported by the Town of Hamden Parks and Recreation and the Hamden Police Department.

Please join us for our

2nd Annual PROJECT 365

"Clean and Safe Neighborhoods".

Saturday, September 17, 2016

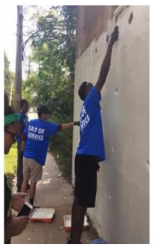
10:00AM-2:00PM

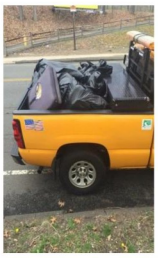
Saturday, September 24, 2016

10:00AM-2:00PM

Saturday, October 8, 2016

10:00AM -2:00PM





https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/bja/180775.pdf

Last year 2015-2016 Fall and Spring Project 365, had 581 volunteers completing 2,324 hours of service!!! This was truly a team effort including Southern Connecticut State University, Yale University, Quinnipiac University, Hamden Youth Center, HYSB Volunteers and Volunteer Coordinator, Hamden Police Cadets, Hamden Public works and Parks, The Clean and Green Commission and the Hamden Police Department.

This year we will continue to focus on cleaning up "problem areas" and emphasizing beautification. We will remove illegal trash and graffiti. A year-long clean-up campaign can help reduce or eliminate existing problems and help beautify the areas that were once considered problem areas.

We are looking for businesses, clubs and anyone 12yrs and older, who would like to volunteer and participate in these Fall events. If interested, please call *Hamden Youth Services* Volunteer Coordinator, Patunia Medy @ (203) 777-2610 ext. 1124 or e-mail her - PMedy@Hamden.com

Boards and Commissions Need You!

Hamden's Boards and Commissions are seeking new members...

must be a registered town voter!

especially unaffiliated, Republicans, minor parties, & registered voters

WE WANT YOU!

For more information on Hamden's Boards & Commissions please visit:
www.hamden.com

If you are interested in applying, please send your resume & cover letter to:
Vera Morrison
Town Clerk
2750 Dixwell Ave
Hamden, CT 06518
(203) 287-7028

Police Department Offers Citizens Police Academy

Thursdays, September 8th– December 8th
6:30-9 p.m. at the HPD Training Division

A behind-the-scenes look at a 21st century police department--your HPD--for citizens and college students, and for business and property owners. We want Hamden's 60,000+ residents--from our many neighborhoods, at every stage in life, from all backgrounds--to understand what we do all day: how we work to keep you safe; the reality vs. what you see on TV; what you can do to help us. We hope to learn from you as well during this 13-week course--your feedback, questions, and concerns help us to better do our jobs.

In a relaxed and friendly atmosphere at our training classroom at the Hamden P.D., you'll learn about us, and we will learn about you.

- Walk a mile in our shoes: Who we are, what we do, and why we do it—we'll answer your questions about current controversial issues: patrol procedures, ethics and integrity, motor vehicle stops, cultural awareness and hate bias, and use of force
- TV vs. Reality (it must be like a CSI episode, right?): Crime scene investigation, computer and internet crimes, police technology, and criminal justice procedures (not like a John Grisham novel?!
- In my backyard?: Major crimes and fraud investigations, drugs and gangs.
- What you can do to help us: Crime prevention, Blockwatch, Firearms safety.
- Everyone's favorite—K-9s!: Meet these furry members of the HPD, learn about their training, and enjoy a demonstration of their skills

Those wishing to participate should contact the Hamden Police Department at 203-287-4000 or email Sgt. Brent Zuscin directly at BZuscin@hamdenpd.com.

Community Emergency Response Team to Hold Classes

Mayor Curt Balzano Leng and Fire Chief David Berardesca would like to strongly encourage residents to explore the possibility of joining Hamden's Community Emergency Response Team. Hamden's team is one of the best in the State, and we are looking for new members! Check out the flyer below for more information on classes, skills you'll learn, and how to register!

If You're on Your Own, could you assist your neighbors !

Hamden Community Emergency Response Team

Classes Starting for Hamden CERT on September 21, 2016

Teams will learn over 9 weeks:

- Disaster Preparedness
- Team Organization & Disaster Psychology
- Medical Operations
- Damage Assessment
- Fire Suppression
- Light Search and Rescue
- Traffic & Crowd Management

A CERT member is a person who is trained to prepare for and respond after a disaster in their neighborhood. A group of ten or more members of a neighborhood, apartment complex, business, or similar residential area comprise a team. Anyone who is interested in helping his or her neighborhood prepare for a disaster and provide assistance afterward. Team training even if they are not affiliated with a team.

Classes will be in the Evenings from 7:00 pm–9:30 pm.

Call: Dave Lewis @ 203-654-1894
Robert Freeman @ 203-287-9921
Debbie DiLeone @ 203-988-7599

citizen corps
UNITING COMMUNITIES
PREPARING THE NATION

Community Event Spotlight: Out of the Darkness Walk

2015 Out of the Darkness Walk

The 6th annual Out of the Darkness Community Walk will take place on Sunday, Sept. 25 at 12:30 p.m. at Hamden Town Center Park. The walk, hosted by the Southern Connecticut chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), supports the AFSP's local and national education and advocacy programs and its goal of reducing the annual rate of suicide 20 percent by 2025. Half of the money raised by the walk funds local suicide prevention programming in Southern Connecticut. For more information and to register, visit http://afsp.donordrive.com/event/hamden.

Organization Spotlight: Quinnipiac Valley Health District Survey

EXPRESS YOUR OPINION!

Health of a community is not just the absence of illness or disease. Rather, the health of a community involves all aspects of life, including economic, recreational, environmental, cultural and spiritual components.

Quinnipiack Valley Health District's (QVHD) Community Health Coalition is collecting opinions about health in the Hamden community through a **Community Health Assessment** in order to develop a **Community Health Improvement Plan.** You don't need to be a resident. We are also interested in the opinions of those who work within the town and serve the residents.

Your voice is important! Please consider completing a survey. You can find it on the QVHD website, www.qvhd.org, or go directly to the survey, https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GKX69H5 or call QVHD (203 248-4528) for a mailed copy or if you have questions.

Information Guide
July 2016

Helpful Resources

Hamden Youth Services:

- Youth Center

Hamden Elderly Services:

- September 2016 Newsletter
- September 2016 Miller Café Menu
- September 2016 Miller Café Choice Menu

Hamden Arts & Recreation:

- Arts and Rec Program Registration

Solid Waste & Recycling:

- Town Services & Guides

Upcoming Events

Hamden Farmer's Market Fridays 11-3pm

Free Summer Movie Series

Festa Italiana, September 30th

Library Events Summer Schedule

Columbus Day Parade, October 9th

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **OFFICIAL NOTICE OF DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY 8/9/16**
- **Recognizing and Thanking Vietnam Veterans, Oct. 18th**
- **Child Car Seat Safety Reminder**
- **Hamden Streamlines Recycling Web-Page**
- **Like us on FACEBOOK & Follow us on TWITTER**

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE SUBSCRIBED!

INPUT AND SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER CAN BE EMAILED TO

PATRICK J. DONNELLY

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

VISIT US!

Land of the Sleeping Giant

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