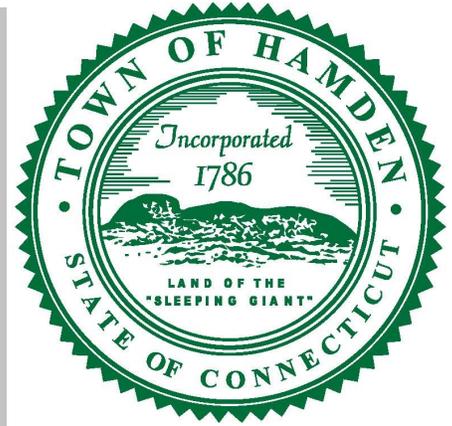


Town of Hamden January 2016 Newsletter



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Zoning Commission Approves Solar Panels, Continues “Green” Effort

In continued efforts to become more “green”, the former landfill at Hamden’s transfer station will be home to some new technology. Earlier this month, the Planning and Zoning Commission approved the installation of 4,000 solar panels over a span of 4.5 acres at the transfer station, located at 238 Wintergreen Avenue.

The Town will lease the 4.5 acres to True Green Capital Solar Generation IV. This will allow Hamden to purchase net metering units from TGC at 86% of their value, that can then be used at full value towards five of the Town’s Unit-



Reduce. Re-use. Recycle!!

ed Illumination accounts. This will save the town about \$30,000 per year for the duration of the 20 year contract with TGC, for a total of around \$600,000.

Solar panels will not be the Hamden transfer station’s first “green” improvement. Recently, the crew at the transfer sta-

tion worked with completely recycled materials to turn their new pond into Hamden’s first outdoor classroom. Last year, Hamden Middle School students transplanted a White Oak tree donated by Brooksvale Park, and won \$7,000 for their school by submitting a video of their experience in the Scotties

“Trees Rock!” contest.

Hamden remains committed to offering stellar services while also remaining cost effective, environmentally friendly, and sustainable. All of these improvements wouldn't be possible without the constant drive, hard work, and dedication of the Hamden Public Works Team. We thank you all!

Adopt a Fire Hydrant this Winter

The Hamden Fire Department encourages residents to “Adopt a Hydrant”. When fire hydrants are covered by plowed snow, our Firefighters do their best to clear them as quickly as possible.

With more than 1000 fire hydrants in the Town of Hamden and an annual call volume of 10,000 calls, the task of clearing fire hydrants is sometimes extended and of course time consuming.

The Hamden Fire Department asks that residents, who are physically able, assist your Firefighters in clearing fire hydrants close to your home or business.

A Letter from Mayor Curt Balzano Leng



Mayor Curt Balzano Leng, wife Stefanie, and son Cooper.

Greetings Fellow Hamdenites:

I proudly welcome you to the first ever Hamden Monthly Newsletter. The newsletter will be a way for officials to highlight information about events, services, programs and accomplishments (both large and small) that the Town has achieved. I am very proud to launch this newsletter - a new step toward increasing our outreach and information flow with residents, and I feel confident it will serve as a tool for those who wish to keep abreast of the current or recently completed projects, events, and issues which make up the fabric of Hamden community life.

While I am pleased to launch this newsletter, and of the new platform it offers to our residents, I believe that more can be done to strengthen the relationship between Town Officials and Hamden Residents. It is my sincere objective to provide a more intuitive and accessible government to the citizens of Hamden. We can accomplish this through the new Mayor's Night Out Initiative, the soon to launch Mayor's Day Out, a renewed focus on

publishing community forums in the newspaper, our increased social media presence, a redesigned Town website (also underway), this newsletter and much more.

While the era of "new media" is challenging in many ways, Town Officials and specifically my team in the Mayor's Office, have been working tirelessly to develop new and improved methods of information dissemination and constituent service resolutions. The Mayor's Office is researching alternative platforms for the distribution of information. This will include things such as events and social programs, public works accomplishments and statistics, and other important press and event related documents.

We will be working diligently to implement these improvements, both digitally and in Town buildings, including the Constituent Services Center in the Government Center and the Libraries; so that information is available to as many people as possible. It is my hope as your Mayor to maintain a strong flow of information and civic dialogue within our great Town. Happy 2016!!

- Mayor Curt Balzano Leng

Rochford Field and Villano Park are Revitalized and Open

The revitalization of the Newhall/Highwood neighborhood has been a continuing focus of the Town's economic and community development interests. In the aftermath of the residential remediation project, completed in 2012, and in consideration of the future development of the Hamden Middle School, the Town of Hamden has put significant effort towards the revitalization of this community.

One key project assisting in the neighborhood's revitalization has been the remediation and restoration of Rochford Field and Villano Park. This project began November of 2014, and the remediation of underground storm drainage systems as well as the installation of sod and the complete rebuilding of Winchester Ave. were finished at the end of 2015.



Newly renovated Rochford Field and Villano Park

In addition to the new and improved Rochford Field, Villano Park has also seen improvements. In 2014 the Hamden Legislative Council renamed Milrock Park as Villano Park for the man who helped to provide the leadership needed to redevelop the Newhall community in Hamden, former Mayor of Hamden and State Representative, Peter Villano. 'Peter Villano has a record of service rivaled by very few, and he's known as a perfect gentleman from nearly everyone he's worked with. He served with class as an effective leader in Hartford, advocating for working class and families and children in Hamden and has been a tireless supporter of his district and the Hamden community throughout his career. If anyone deserves this honor it is Peter Villano", stated Mayor Curt Balzano Leng.

The remediation and restoration Villano Park is in accordance with the Newhall Consent Order entered into in 2003. The design of the park was a collaboration between the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), the Town of Hamden, Haley and Aldrich Engineering, and Stantec Corporation design firm. The included numerous community meetings, the Park and Recreation Staff and Commission, Town officials and neighborhood residents. We tried to incorporate as many stakeholders as possible. "Mayors Jackson and Leng and Councilwoman Shomaker were all part of the process to bring to this to fruition." stated Mr. Dale Kroop, director of the Hamden Economic Development Corporation and primary project lead on the remediation of the Rochford Field area.

Rochford Field has received a new soil surface, baseball, softball, and soccer fields. It will also include a walking track. The park is expected to be a recreational hub for all Hamden residents and the final completion and reopening of Rochford Field is on schedule for spring 2016.

Winter Tips and Warming Station Locations

The Hamden Fire Department would like to offer some tips to stay safe and warm this winter:

- *If at all possible, stay indoors during a storm.*
- Walk carefully on snowy, icy, walkways.
- Avoid overexertion when shoveling snow. Overexertion can bring on a heart attack—a major cause of death in the winter. Use caution, take breaks, push the snow instead of lifting it when possible, and lift lighter loads.
- Keep dry. Change wet clothing frequently to prevent a loss of body heat. Wet clothing loses all of its insulating value and transmits heat rapidly.
- Drive only if it is absolutely necessary. If you must drive: travel in the day; don't travel alone; keep others informed of your schedule; stay on main roads and avoid back road shortcuts.
- Let someone know your destination, your route, and when you expect to arrive. If your car gets stuck along the way, help can be sent along your predetermined route.
- If the pipes freeze, remove any insulation or layers of newspapers and wrap pipes in rags. Completely open all faucets and pour hot water over the pipes, starting where they were most exposed to the cold (or where the cold was most likely to penetrate).
- Maintain ventilation when using kerosene heaters to avoid build-up of toxic fumes. Refuel kerosene heaters outside and keep them at least three feet from flammable objects.
- Conserve fuel, if necessary, by keeping your residence cooler than normal. Temporarily close off heat to some rooms.
- If you will be going away during cold weather, leave the heat on in your home, set to a temperature no lower than 55°F.

For more winter weather tips, visit www.Hamden.com.

Please see our Warming Station locations below. Locations available weekdays 8:30am—4:30pm.

Keefe Community Center	11 Pine Street
Government Center	2750 Dixwell Ave.
Police HQ Foyer	2900 Dixwell Ave.
Humphrey Fire Station #2	71 Circular Ave.
Ridge Road Fire Station #3	441 Hartford Turnpike
Mt. Carmel Fire Station #5	2095 Whitney Ave.
Westwood Fire Station #9	295 Johnson Road
Miller Memorial Library	2901 Dixwell Ave
Community Branch Library	91 Circular Ave
Whitneyville Library	125 Carleton St

Mayor Leng Appoints Acting Town Engineer and Acting Town Planner



Acting Town Planner, Daniel Kops (left), pictured with Acting Town Engineer Elliot Fuller (right)

Mayor Curt Balzano Leng has appointed Elliot Fuller to the position of Acting Town Engineer and Daniel Kops to the position of Acting Town Planner. Mr. Fuller and Mr. Kops will serve in their respective positions until permanent replacements are recruited and appointed. Speaking in regard to the appointments of Mr. Fuller and Mr. Kops, Mayor Leng commented, “It is with great pleasure and confidence that I appoint both Mr. Fuller and Mr. Kops to their respective positions. Both of these gentlemen are fine examples of what it means to be public servants, and their personal qualifications exemplify the professional standards we strive for.”

Mr. Elliot Fuller, who has served in Hamden’s Engineering Department since 2002 and has previously held the positions of Staff Engineer and Assistant Town Engineer, has dutifully pledged his expertise towards Hamden’s ongoing engineering projects. He holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of New Haven.

Mr. Daniel Kops, who has most recently served Hamden as Assistant Town Planner since 2006, offers more than 30 years of planning and zoning experience in a variety of governmental and private sector capacities. Mr. Kops previously served as Hamden’s Town Planner from 1992 to 1998. He also served the City of New Haven and the City of Waterbury through the 1980s and the mid-2000s respectively. Kops holds a B.A., M.A. and Ph. D. from Cornell University, specializing in City and Regional Planning.

Hamden Celebrates Legacy and Achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Rev. Sallie Lowry leads members of the Hamden Community in prayer

The Town of Hamden held its annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration at Thornton Wilder Hall Friday, January 15th. The event was moderated by Rev. Sallie Lowry, Pastor of Miracle Temple UAME Church, New Haven, and focused on King's life, accomplishments, and lasting effects. David Garretson, Director of Legislative and Constituent Services, set the tone of remembrance and appreciation. "Dr. King understood his place in history, and his role as a leader to fight injustice in society. He was keenly aware of the need to fight without violence, so that the issue of injustice could not be ignored because of the focus on the violence", he said during his opening remarks.

Board of Education Chairman, Adam Sendroff, shared the memory of his family sending a sympathy card to Reverend King's family when he passed. He noted that it holds a special place in his family's home because "It's a real, tangible link to history." The keynote speaker was Legislative Council President, James Pascarella. He reflected on King's fight for equality and connected that fight to present day issues we are facing. "2016 seems in many ways like 1968," he said "but this week for the first time I thought that hope is starting to emerge again", referencing President Obama's State of the Union condemning modern day racism and positive Republican response by South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley. "Yes, we have work to do. We as a country need to remember what happened 48 years ago and that we have already fought this fight," said Pascarella.

In addition to the speakers, Hamden High School Student, Maya Michelle, performed beautiful renditions of "Lift Every Voice and Sing", "America the Beautiful" and "We Shall Overcome". The event showcased that Reverend King's memory and legacy are alive and well in Hamden.

Department Spotlight: Public Works

The Public Works Department has been hard at work the past few months on a huge array of Town-Wide Infrastructure improvements. Throughout 2015, Hamden Public Works crews deployed in multiple areas of the Town to engage in their yearly road patching and paving program, fixing potholes and filling cracks along some of Hamden's most heavily trafficked roadways. Over 40 roadways were paved this past year, with more to come this spring!

In addition to a stellar performance maintaining Hamden's roadways, the Public Works Department energetically and effectively battled the first major snowfall of the 2016 winter season. The crews worked quickly and diligently to clear the snow off our roads so residents were able to get where they needed to go. Our fantastic winter crews and drivers plow for 12 hour shifts to ensure around the clock snow preparedness and safe driving.

When not occupied with seasonal activities and pioneering new technologies for the Town, members of the Public Works staff are hard at work making the transfer station even better for residents, maintaining our parks, removing dangerous trees and planting new ones, cleaning storm drains, and performing more revitalization and safety functions that keep our town clean and safe.

- The Public Works Department

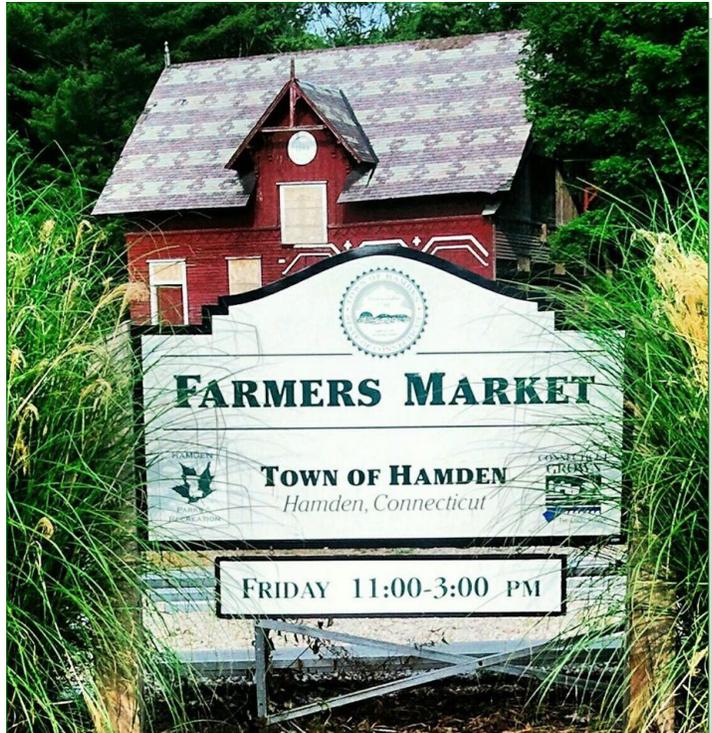


Public Works & Parks Department Ceremonial Plow

Boards & Commissions Spotlight: Town Center Park

What a year it was for the Town Center Park Commission, and what a year we have in store! Last year, Hamden residents enjoyed a variety of activities, including the Annual Hamden Road Race, Farmer's Market, Biannual Food Truck Festival, Summer Movie Series, the first installation of Hamden's annual Heritage festival "BBQ and Bluegrass", and more! This year, we look forward to those events returning and some new and exciting events to be announced.

We are proud that we are able to offer community strengthening events for residents to meet, relax, and have fun. The commission is pleased to say that last year's events such as the Summer Movie Series and Food Truck Festivals saw more than twice the amount of people in attendance than the year before! This year, we're hoping to grow those events even further, as these events have become a staple of the Hamden community.



The 2015 Hamden Farmer's Market was an overwhelming success.

Reflecting on last year's events, Town Center Park Commissioner, Matthew Fitch, looks back on the spring, summer, and fall in the park with satisfaction, "From our regular Friday Farmer's Market, to the Friday Night Movie Series, to the Summer Concert Series—Town Center Park really is the place for the residents of Hamden to unwind, relax, and enjoy the community which makes our Town such a special place to live."

Whether it's delicious food from Connecticut owned food trucks, hand made treats and crafts from a Hamden based vendor, fun national performers, family friendly movies, something to get your family moving, or a place for family and friends to meet, Hamden's Town Center Park will be the place to be this year!

**Please note, that events such as the Summer Concert Series and the annual Silverbells Celebration are sponsored by the Hamden Arts Commission, who we will also be spotlighting in the months to come!

Be on the lookout for updates at Hamden.com and on our [Town Center Park Facebook](#) page!

- The Town Center Park Commission

Information Guide February 2016

Helpful Resources

Hamden Youth Services:

- [2015-2016 Youth Services Program Guide](#)
- [Youth Center](#)

Hamden Elderly Services:

- [February 2016 Newsletter](#)
- [February Miller Café Menu](#)
- [February Miller Café CHOICE Menu](#)

Hamden Arts & Recreation:

- [Winter Entertainment Series](#)
- [Arts and Rec Program Registration](#)

Upcoming Events

[Valentines Day Discovery Dance to be Held Feb 5th](#)

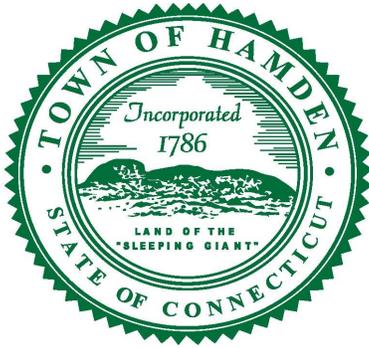
[Basic CERT Course Starts Feb 10th](#)

Stay Involved on Facebook!

- [Town of Hamden](#)
- [Hamden Youth Services](#)
- [Hamden Economic Development](#)
- [Town Center Park](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- [Hamden High Multipurpose Playing Field Public Hearing Scheduled for Feb 9th](#)
- [Mayor's Inaugural Address](#)
- [Presidential Primary Set for April 26th](#)
- [Voter Registration Deadlines Released](#)
- [Hamden High School DECA's Public Relations Campaign Asks Residents to Support Pledge to Pledge](#)



HOW DID
WE DO?

EMAIL US



LAND OF
THE
SLEEPING
GIANT



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR READERS!
INPUT AND SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER CAN BE EMAILED TO

PATRICK J. DONNELLY



Subscription Services Coming Soon!

Email Information & Research Officer, Patrick J. Donnelly, to be added to the Town Hall Monthly Newsletter subscription list. Over the coming months, residents can submit their contact information for compilation into a subscription list. As our web-services are updated, those who have subscribed will receive a copy of the monthly newsletter directly to their email!! You may email Patrick directly by directing your correspondence to:

pdonnelly@hamden.com