

## Inside this issue:

A Letter from the Mayor	2
Anti-Smoking Ordinance Passes	3
2015 Elderly Benefit Totals	4
Youth Services Seeks School Supplies	4
Ridge Hill Playground Improvements	5
Manufacturing Company Moves In	6
Brooksville Welcomes New Bee Colony	7
HFD Commissions New Fire Engine	8
Hamden Paves 8 Miles of Roadways	9
Summer Grilling Safety Tips	10
Hamden Symphony Orchestra Performs	11
Police Department Update	12
Department Spotlight: Engineering	13
Event Spotlight: Sounds of Summer	14
QVHD Survey	14
Information Guide	15

## Mayor Curt Balzano Leng Champions Anti-Smoking Ordinance



Mayor Curt Balzano Leng is very pleased to announce that the Hamden Legislative Council has recently passed a new Ordinance which will ban the use of harmful tobacco products at Town parks, recreational facilities, and Public School grounds. The new Ordinance will allow enforcement by the Hamden Police Department and violations will carry a fine of \$100.00. The goal of this Ordinance is to enhance the health and safety of our residents and children by ensuring that Hamden's parks, schools, and recreational areas remain free of the dangers of 2<sup>nd</sup> hand smoke.

Commenting on the Ordinance, Mayor Leng noted, "The health dangers associated with 2<sup>nd</sup> hand smoke are well known. To be good stewards of our parks and work in the best interest of our residents, we must work together to provide safe, clean, recreation areas." Richard Leonardo, chairman of Hamden's Parks & Recreation Commission, said, "I whole-heartedly support the Ordinance to prohibit smoking and tobacco products from our Parks and Recreation facilities, with the hope of keeping our residents safe and healthy."

In addition to support amongst Town Officials, various public and private community groups have also expressed support of the new Ordinance. Hamden

## A Letter From Mayor Leng



Greetings fellow Hamdenites-

Welcome to the July, 2016 Issue of the official Town of Hamden Monthly Newsletter. I'd like to thank our readers for their continued interest in what is happening here in Hamden – and for the many kind words we've received regarding this newsletter and the information we're working hard to distribute. If you have additional ideas for places this newsletter should be dropped off, or electronically sent to, please send me your thoughts at [cleng@hamden.com](mailto:cleng@hamden.com). I am very pleased to share the newest developments, policies, events, and improvements occurring in our great Town.

Starting this spring and into the summer, Hamden has been making extensive efforts to increase our beautification and revitalization efforts through renewed "Clean and Green" efforts. Hamden Public Works, in cooperation with the Hamden Tree Commission, planted over 70 trees so far this year, with plans to double that number in the fall when a quality time for tree planting returns. These trees were planted in neighborhoods, parks and on municipal properties and have represented the beginning of the first major tree planting program in our Town in well over a decade. Residents who wish to request trees in their neighborhoods may do so by navigating to [www.hamden.com](http://www.hamden.com), locating the "Tree Commission" web-page, downloading the "Request a Tree" form and sending that form back to the Hamden Tree Commission.

Another great revitalization effort underway is the Dixwell Avenue Streetscape restoration and enhancement, (highlighted in the May issue), which is now nearing completion. Stenciled concrete has been poured, new benches, trash bins, and light fixtures have been installed, and various landscaping activities are being conducted. We do this work to illustrate our commitment to investing in the southern Dixwell Avenue corridor and surrounding neighborhoods, and to welcome those who enter Hamden on Dixwell Avenue with infrastructure we can all be proud of and to support the cultivation of new and existing small businesses. Before and after pictures will be shared in a future issue.

In addition to the Dixwell Streetscape, the Hamden Clean & Green Commission has been working closely with Recycling Coordinator, Andrew Kinlock, and the Solid Waste & Recycling Commission to ensure that Hamden's parks remain as clean, green, and pristine as possible! You'll often find these commission members, and their crews of volunteers, working closely with our Public Works and Parks staff to ensure that Hamden's parks are properly maintained and kept clean – especially after large events like our Food Truck Festivals and Summer Concert Series. On behalf of Hamden Residents, I'd like to thank all the folks I've mentioned for their hard work around Town – and I encourage residents to reach out directly to these Commissions if they wish to volunteer and to me if you might be interested in becoming a Commissioner!

Finally, I believe the most important action the Town took in July was the passage of a new ordinance banning smoking and tobacco product use within Hamden Parks. Passing an anti-smoking ordinance will make our areas of recreation cleaner and provide for safer areas for our children to play and enjoy our many outdoor playscapes and programs without the proven health hazards of second hand smoke. We were proud to receive the endorsement of the American Lung Association Northeast Chapter for this effort to improve our Town's public health. No child should have to worry about inhaling smoke in a dugout or on playground and now this is the law of our land. More information on this new effort is contained within this issue.

Thank you once again to our readers, and all municipal officials who have helped to make Hamden such a fantastic place to live and work!

- Curt Balzano Leng

## Mayor Curt Balzano Leng Champions Anti-Smoking Ordinance (Cont'd)

Soccer Association President, Chris Ruggiero, commented, “As President of the Hamden Soccer Association, I fully support the ordinance prohibiting tobacco use within Town parks and recreational facilities. Our players and spectators shouldn't be exposed to 2<sup>nd</sup> hand smoke while playing soccer. It is our responsibility to provide a safe environment for our children to enjoy.” In conjunction with the support of Hamden Soccer, Vice President of the Hamden Fathers Baseball / Softball Association,



Smoking at Town parks will be prohibited as of October 1st

Carl Sargolini, said in response to the new Ordinance, “It is time to take tobacco out of baseball once and for all. Mayor Leng’s initiative is a great way to do that and it is also a great example for all of the kids in Hamden Fathers Baseball and Softball.”

Finally, the new Ordinance has received overwhelming support and praise from Officials at the Quinnipiac Valley Health Department (QVHD). Leslie Balch, Director of QVHD, said this when asked her thoughts on the new Ordinance, “QVHD supports the efforts of the Town of Hamden to ban tobacco use in the parks. I believe this effort will not only protect park users by decreasing the risk of exposure to the dangers of second hand smoke, but also set an example for our children by establishing tobacco use as an unacceptable behavior in our community. The positive impact of this smoking ban can also be projected to include parks with less litter resulting in cleaner parks with decreased maintenance costs, teaching our children about healthy behavior, attracting residents to the parks to partake in increase physical activity, and improving the general well-being by providing attractive, healthier places to gather.”

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

## Hamden Announces Elderly Benefit Totals for 2015

Mayor Curt Balzano Leng and Chief Assessor, Ross Murray, are pleased to announce Hamden's contributions to elderly tax benefits for the 2015 Fiscal Year. In 2015, Hamden provided approximately \$1.07million worth of tax benefits to elderly residents living in town. In total, Hamden froze the benefit distribution to 42 applicants, provided local credit to 674 applicants in the amount of approximately \$861k, and provided additional local credit benefits to 301 applicants in the amount of approximately \$165k. These benefits provide a credit which reduces the individual tax bill of each elderly recipient; the benefits are not an exemption which reduces the assessment of an individual's property.

Speaking on behalf of the 2015 Elderly Benefit totals, Mayor Curt Leng said, "I am very pleased that Hamden is able to provide such significant assistance to our elderly residents in need. Our elderly deserve as much help as possible, and should not be subject to losing their homes or other personal property due to circumstances arising from the 2015 State Mandated Revaluation. I am very proud of the benefits Hamden is able to offer to our residents, and I thank Chief Assessor, Ross Murray, Tax Collector, Kathleen Flynn, and Elderly Services Director, Suzanne Burbage, for all of their hard work towards ensuring that Hamden's elderly are taken care of and provided opportunities to relieve mounting financial pressures."

## 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 Farmer'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](mailto:srubino@hamden.com).

## Ridge Hill School Playground Receives Recreational Improvements



Mayor Curt Balzano Leng is very pleased to announce the Town of Hamden and Hamden Board of Education have begun work on a number of improvements at the Ridge Hill School Playground. The contractor for the project is DiChello Construction, LLC., and was chosen via a competitive bidding process conducted earlier this year. Work began on July 18<sup>th</sup>.

The playground at Ridge Hill School is slated to receive the following improvements and upgrades: installation of a brand new “silt fence”, installation of a 5ft high ornamental fence, installation of a new bench with footings, new concrete sidewalks and parking areas, installation of rubber curbing and wood fiber safety surfaces, laying of new fine grade topsoil, fertilizer and seed, and planting of a number of Silverbell and Flowering Dogwood trees. The total cost of the project is \$112,500.00 and work is expected to be completed by the beginning of the 2016 school year.

Commenting on the project, Mayor Curt Leng said, “It is always a sincere pleasure of mine to bring to life projects which revitalize Hamden’s schools and neighborhoods. The improvements currently underway at Ridge Hill School will make a lasting impact on the quality of Hamden’s recreational facilities for years to come. I look forward to the project’s completion and the enjoyment Hamden’s school kids and parents will feel from knowing Ridge Hill’s playground is now modern, clean, green, and accessible.”



New fencing is prepped for construction

## Manufacturing Company Moves to 16 Corporate Ridge

Precision Grinding Solutions, provides manufacturing and high precision grinding services using state-of-the-art equipment for a wide variety of industries, including aerospace, marine, medical, and oil industries. Precision Grinding Solutions has expanded their current manufacturing operations and process capabilities, which provides employ-



Director of Economic Development, Dale Kroop (2nd right), with PGS Employees  
ment opportunities for highly skilled workers and apprentices within the region. Precision Grinding Solutions has completed a capital investment of \$200,000 in capital improvements, and has made \$1,000,000 in manufacturing equipment investments.

To encourage *Precision Grinding Solutions* to come to Hamden, the Town offered incentives through the Hamden Business Incentive Program, which included a provision for a five-year tax abatement, an infrastructure grant, and waivers of a portion of building permit fees.

The Hamden Business Incentive Program has successfully run since 1998 and continues to help support our local economy. "It is really exciting to have a company like *Precision Grinding Solutions* join the Hamden community. Our incentives and quality of workforce are very attractive to companies like this", stated Dale Kroop, Director, Economic and Community Development.

For further information about *Precision Grinding Solutions, LLC*, contact President, Curt Reed by email at [creed@precisiongrindingsolutions.com](mailto:creed@precisiongrindingsolutions.com). Their web site is <http://www.precisiongrindingsolutions.com/index.html>.

For further information about the Hamden Business Incentive Program, contact Dale Kroop, Director, Economic and Community Development, by phone at (203) 287-7033, or by email at [dkroop@hamden.com](mailto:dkroop@hamden.com). You can also find a description of the program on [www.hamden-ct.com](http://www.hamden-ct.com).

## Brooksvale Park Welcomes New Bee Colony

Mayor Curt Balzano Leng, along with the Arts and Recreation Commission, is excited to announce that Brooksvale Park will now be home to its very own bee apiary. The apiary, which is home to between 8,000 and 10,000 bees according to park ranger Vinnie Lavorgna, was installed on June 3rd.



The addition of the bees is \_\_\_\_\_ These containers house the bee colony \_\_\_\_\_ part of a long-term effort on behalf of the Arts and Recreation Department to connect residents to the wildlife around them. While many people may think of bees to be unwelcome in a public area, bees are crucial to pollinating crops and wildlife, and Ranger Lavorgna hopes that this addition to Brooksvale

Park will teach residents about that importance.

“Our goal is to connect the public to all of the beautiful wildlife that surrounds them and people may not realize it, but bees are a big part of that,” Lavorgna said.

The bees are still orienting themselves to their new home, but have been becoming more active throughout the park and



\_\_\_\_\_ An up-close look at the inside of the bee colony \_\_\_\_\_

visitors will surely start noticing them in the surrounding areas. Lavorgna said that while the apiary will be closed for public access during their introduction phase, visitors will be eventually be able to have guided access to see the apiary and the bees busy at work.

## Hamden Fire Department Commissions New Engine



Fire Engine 3 hits Hamden's Streets this Summer!

The 2016 fire pumper pictured above is only the 7th motorized apparatus since 1915 to be assigned as Engine 3. This brand new Smeal pumper became part of the HFD's rolling stock on Monday morning, July 25, 2016 and is housed at 421 Hartford Tpke., Station # 3.

The truck was built by Smeal on a Spartan Gladiator chassis, with a 10' roof. It is equipped with a 1,500 GPM pump and carries 750 gallons of water, 40 gallons of Class A foam, and is also equipped with a brand new Holmatro hydraulic rescue tool.

It carries 1,000 feet of 5" LDH and 600 feet of 3" supply lines. There are 600' of 1-3/4" attack lines: One crosslay has 300', another 200', and there are 100' on the front bumper. There is also a 200' 2-1/2" attack line up top. The new Engine replaces a 1999 HME pumper which served exclusively as Engine 3 for 17 years (1999 to 2016). It will now become a spare.

This new fire pumper provides our Firefighters with the most up to date safety features and will deliver years of service to the Town and its citizens.

## Hamden Paves Approximately 8 Miles of Roadways

Mayor Leng and Public Works & Parks Director, Craig Cesare, are very happy to announce that the Summer phase of the 2016 Paving Program is now underway. In total, approximately 8 miles of various roadways around Hamden are being repaved throughout the summer season, which remains on par with road-paving totals over the last five Fiscal Years. Over the past five years Hamden has paved approximately 59 miles of road.

Work on developing the Summer 2016 paving list was completed in early June, and road milling began on July 25th. Paving commenced on July 27th and is expected to continue throughout the month of August. *The paving list was determined by a variety of factors, including severity of road condition, proximity to community assets such as schools and parks, the last time the road was paved, traffic counts, as well as continuation of multi-year paving projects.* In addition, the Town had the ability to review road conditions based on an independent, professional Road Pavement Evaluation, originally completed by the South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG) and recently updated this past year by the Town. This index rated every road in Hamden on a scale of 0 (worst) to 100 (best).

Commenting on the completion of the Summer Paving Program, Mayor Curt Balzano Leng said, “Investing in Town roads and sidewalks is a top priority of forward thinking municipalities. The progress Hamden has made over the past 5 years, and especially within the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year, is a great start towards repairing town-wide infrastructure. Although we have accomplished a great deal, we still need to do more to address the many roads in Hamden that are still in disrepair. With the help of our yearly street indexing data and a dedicated team of public works professionals, we are carrying forward a systematic approach of repair and maintenance which tackles the areas within Hamden that need revitalization the most. I am very proud of our accomplishments thus far, and I look forward to continuing these efforts in the Fall of 2016.”

# Summer Grilling Safety Tips

With the summer in full swing, The Hamden Fire Department encourages everyone to use their grills in the safest possible manner. According to the U.S. Fire Administration, grill fires cause an estimated \$37 million in property loss each year. Fifty-seven percent of home grill fires occur during the months of May, June, July and August. Seventy-nine percent involve gas grills. Not only do these fire cause significant property damage, they can also cause severe burn injuries as well. Summertime barbecues are always a great way to enjoy the warm weather. We ask that everyone follow these simple steps to make your cookout the best one yet.

## **Grill Placement**

- Grills should never be used in enclosed areas, decks, or porches. Please allow plenty of distance from combustibles.
- Never store propane cylinders indoors. Leave the tank connected to the grill when not in use. Spare tanks should be stored outside and away from the grill.
- Store charcoal, starter fluids, and lighters in a cool, dry area and always away from children.

## **Inspect Grill Before Lighting**

- Inspect all hoses to make sure they are secured. A spark may ignite gas leaking near the tank.
- Leaks can be found by using a soap and water mixture sprayed on the connections. Once the gas is turned on, small air bubbles will form exposing the leak.
- With infrequent use, insects can make nests inside the burners. These clogs may cause the gas to build up and ignite in another area causing a fire.
- For grills that are used more often, clean out the collection trays that catch the grease from the previous use. These trays can overflow and spill into the storage compartment under the burn chamber. If ignited, the grease fire can spread very rapidly.
- Always light the grill with the lid open. With the lid closed, gas can build up and cause an explosion. In some cases where people have kept the lid closed, gas was ignited once the lid was opened. The fireball that ignited caused serious burns.
- Once the grill is lit, if you still smell gas (rotten egg odor), turn the grill and gas tank off immediately. Have the grill serviced by a technician prior to operating it again.
- When using starter fluid for charcoal grills, always use the proper fluid designed for charcoal. Never add starter fluid after the fire is lit.

## **Safety Around The Grill**

- Always keep children and pets away from a lit grill.
- While grilling on hot days, be sure to hydrate while cooking.
- Never leave a lit grill unattended.
- For charcoal grills, let the coals completely cool before discarding.

In the event of a gas leak, fire, etc, please call 911 immediately. Do not attempt to extinguish an out of control fire or try to stop an active gas leak. Our firefighters have the proper equipment to safely control this type of emergency. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Hamden Fire Chief's Office at (203) 407-5880 or the Hamden Fire Marshal's Office at (203) 407-3181.

# The Hamden Symphony Orchestra Performs for Hamden & Awards Scholarship

The Hamden Symphony Orchestra, an all-volunteer community orchestra in its 54th year, is proud to have concluded a successful 2015-2016 concert season! Under the Musical Direction of Vesna Mehinovic, who has been the conductor of Hamden Symphony since 2008, the Orchestra has expanded its membership to over 50 musicians in the greater Hamden area. The Orchestra was thrilled to have participated for the first-time at Hamden's Volunteer Firefighters Fireworks earlier this month, performing patriotic favorites and other American-classics to celebrate Independence Day. Previous concerts this season took place at our regular venue, the Hamden Memorial Town Hall auditorium, and featured some of the Orchestra's most ambitious and challenging musical selections to date. These included Tchaikovsky's monumental 6th



The Orchestra performs at Memorial Town Hall

Symphony, "Pathetique", and Chausson's, gorgeous song-cycle, "Poem of Love & The Sea", an innovative presentation that integrated dance & visual projections to complement the musical story.



The Orchestra performing in Hamden Town Center Park

Music. The 2016 winner of this award was Isabella Baldoni, a violinist and aspiring composer. As we look ahead to our 55th season, and our next performance on Friday, November 18th at 7:30 pm, we are seeking additional musicians to join the Orchestra, including Strings, French Horn & Oboe, as well as other volunteers to help out in many roles. Please visit our website [www.hamdensymphony.org](http://www.hamdensymphony.org) for up-to-date news, ways to get involved, and videos of these performances.

# Police Department Monthly Update



Police and Youth Program closing ceremony at Hamden Youth Center

This month, members of the Hamden Police Department participated with various Hamden Youth in a number of activities which are part of the “Police & Youth Program”.

The program typically serves between 15 and 30 youths who participate in a series of activities such as graffiti removal, cleaning up the Town, participating in Food Drives, and more. These activities are designed to benefit the community while building positive relationships between the officers and youths involved. We are very proud of our Officers, and Hamden’s Youth, for working together to make our Town so great.

Ms. Shala LaTorraca offers “Books to the Rescue” program to the Hamden Police Department. The program is designed to “equip first responders with resources to help soothe and distract a child in crisis.”

These resources include stuffed animals, children’s stickers, and activity and chapter books which are packaged in a “Books to the Rescue” bag that will be placed in appropriate police vehicles.



Left to right: Lieutenant Brian Carmdoy, Ms. Shala LaTorraca, and Police Chief Thomas Wydra

The Police Department would also like to remind residents about proper Child Passenger Safety Laws in Connecticut.

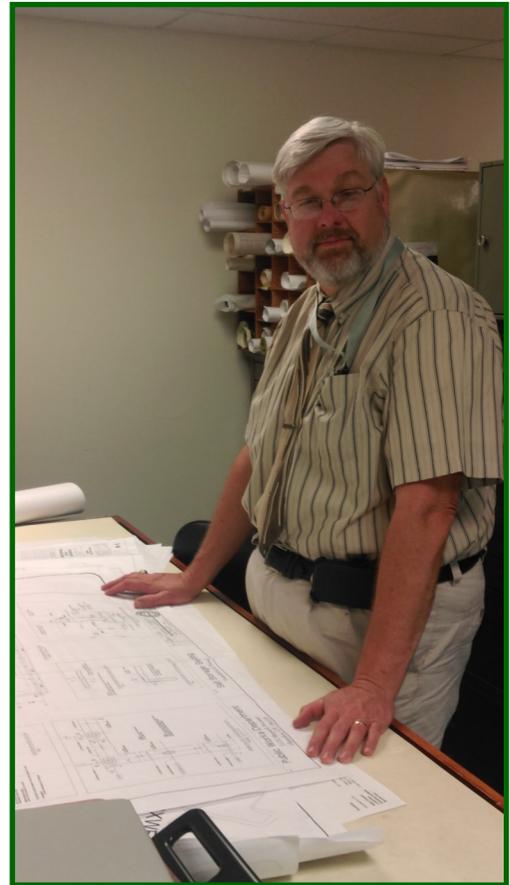
[Please click HERE for additional Information](#)

## Department Spotlight: Hamden Engineering Department

### Mark Austin Appointed Hamden Town Engineer

Mayor Curt Balzano Leng is pleased to announce that Mr. Mark Austin, of Northfield, CT, has been appointed as the full-time Town Engineer for the Town of Hamden. Speaking in regard to the appointment of Mr. Austin, Mayor Leng commented, “It is with great pleasure and confidence that I appoint Mr. Austin to the position of Town Engineer. Mr. Austin fully embodies the qualities of a dedicated public servant, and his professional qualifications exemplify the standards Hamden strives for in its employees.”

Mr. Austin, who most recently served as the Director of Public Works for the Town of Southbury, also served the Town of Bristol from 1994-2015 as both a civil and environmental engineer. Mr. Austin’s professional experience offers strong management capabilities with a consistently proven track record of completing complex projects in an accurate, smooth, and effective manner. He has designed projects ranging from very simple drainage analysis solutions to complete road reconstructions, bridge replacements, sidewalk installations and much more. On a personal level, Mr. Austin considers volunteer service to others to be the highest calling, and is glad to contribute to the field of professional engineering by offering his service throughout his personal life and within local, state and national platforms. He holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Connecticut, a Masters of Public Administration for Norwich University, and is a Certified Professional Engineer in the State of Connecticut.



Town Engineer Mark Austin

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

## Community Event Spotlight: Sounds of Summer 6

The 6th Annual Incarnation of “Sounds of Summer” was held in Hamden Town Center Park this past July 17th. The event featured a host of local bands and performers in a day long event devoted to discovering and enjoying the music of the past and present.

Arthur Bargar, organizer of Sounds of Summer since its inception, would like to thank all performers and attendees for joining the festival this year. Residents should keep a watchful eye out for more information about next year’s Sounds of Summer event!



## 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.*



Quinnipiac 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](http://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:

- [August 2016 Newsletter](#)
- [August 2016 Miller Café Menu](#)
- [August 2016 Miller Café Choice Menu](#)

### Hamden Arts & Recreation:

- [Arts and Rec Program Registration](#)

## Upcoming Events

### [Free Summer Concert Series](#)

### [Free Family Concert Series](#)

### [Free Summer Movie Series](#)

### [Hamden Dessert Festival](#)

### [Library Events Summer Schedule](#)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- [OFFICIAL NOTICE OF DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY 8/9/16](#)
- [Recognizing and Thanking Vietnam Veterans, Oct. 18th](#)
- [Hamden Sets the Stage for "Festa Italiana", Sept. 30th](#)
- [Child Car Seat Safety Reminder](#)
- [Hamden Approves Anti-Smoking Ordinance for Town Parks](#)



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THE WEB!**  
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**Land of the  
Sleeping  
Giant**



**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE SUBSCRIBED!  
INPUT AND SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR MONTHLY  
NEWSLETTER CAN BE EMAILED TO**

**PATRICK J. DONNELLY**



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