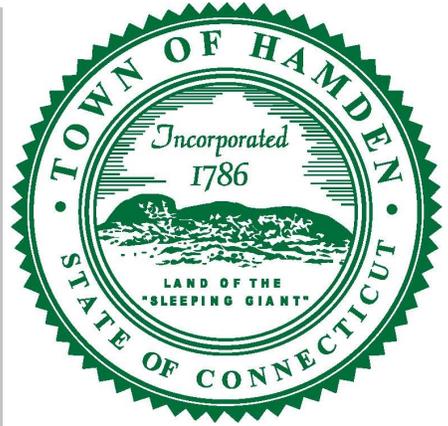


Town of Hamden Monthly Newsletter



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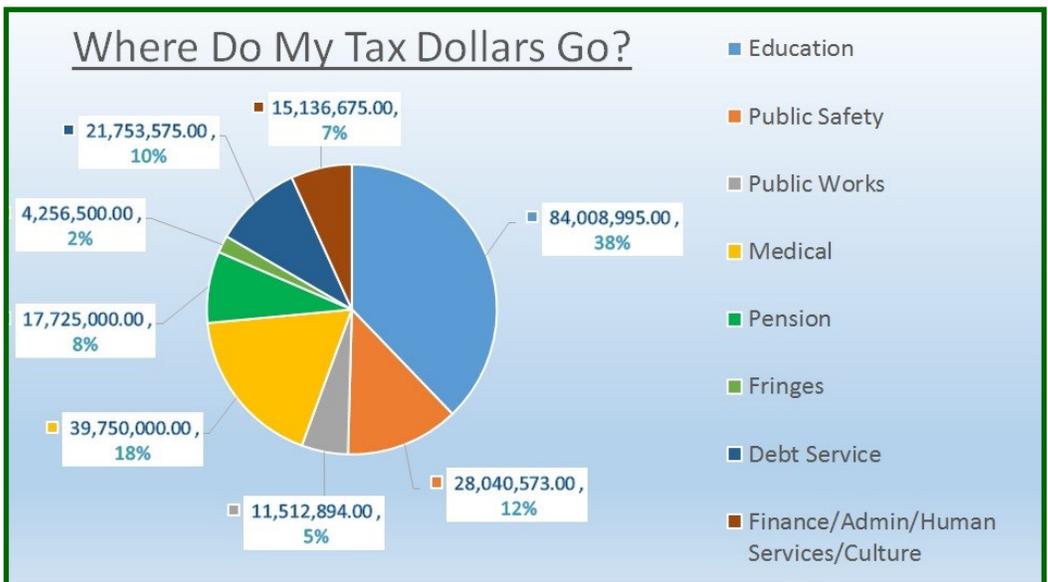
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Mayor Leng Presents Recommended Budget

Mayor Curt Balzano Leng formally presented his proposed budget for the 16-17 Fiscal Year to the Hamden Legislative Council on March 16th. Throughout the budget address, Mayor Leng discussed the improved status of Hamden's finances, his vision for continuing to strengthen the Town's finances, and efforts to maintain and enhance the many quality services Hamden delivers.

In order to cover large, mandated expenses without creating a heavier burden on Hamden taxpayers, the budget was very carefully crafted, with the majority of Departments seeing cuts or a freeze. In total, the Mayor recommended cutting or zero increases in 21 of the 33 Town Departments or Divisions.

Mayor Leng's recommended budget includes an overall increase of approximately 5% or \$10.65 million, with the overwhelming majority of the increase being a direct result of financial obligations in the form of medical insurance and pension funding increases. Proportionally, 2.3% or nearly \$5 million is required for Medical Insurance expense increases, nearly 1% or \$2 million is required for Pension Reform funding, and nearly 1% or \$2 million cover capital expense payments, which pay for Town building improvements, road paving and related infrastructure investments. **These three required increases alone total 4.1% or nearly \$9million of the overall budget increase.** The remaining increase to the budget, which was less than 1%, covered small increases to the Board of Education and our Public Safety Departments.



Mayor Leng Presents Recommended Budget Continued

This budget year is a challenge to explain with clarity due to the implementation of two State mandated changes; including the 2015 Revaluation and the recent State approved cap on motor vehicle taxes. These changes illustrated with specific detail in the spreadsheet contained here in the Town's March Newsletter.

Effect of Revaluation on Mill Rate:

After the revaluation of property values was completed, commercial value increased, but residential value decreased, resulting in a net Grand List decrease of just over 5%. This change alone, assuming there was not one dollar of additional spending added to the budget would change Hamden's mill rate from 40.87 to 43.10 (2.23 mill increase) to collect the exact same level of taxes. This is not uncommon to see a change in the mill rate in a Revaluation Year – another CT municipality reportedly will see a mill rate change from 42 to close to 52 due to the result of their Revaluation and car tax which are described in the next section.

Effect of New State Motor Vehicle Tax Cap:

The new car tax program will reduce every resident's car taxes down to a fixed 32 mills. This represents an average tax decrease of \$67 per motor vehicle owned based on this separate, now lower mill rate for motor vehicles. While this tax reduction is a benefit to many, it unfortunately also had the consequence of increasing the Town of Hamden's mill rate for homes, apartments and businesses. *(The Administration is working with Hamden's State Delegation to address this problem, which would bring the Town additional revenue to cover lost motor vehicle funds, which Mayor Leng would use to recommend a lower mill rate.)* This change alone, assuming there was not one dollar of additional spending added to the budget, would increase the Town's general mill rate by 1.27 mills on everything other than motor vehicles.

	Last Year 2015-2016 Council Budget	Last Year With Revaluation 2015-2016 Council Budget	Last Year with Revaluation & Car 2015-2016 Council Budget	2016-2017 Mayor Budget
Expenditures	211,535,939.00	211,535,939.00	211,535,939.00	222,184,212.00
Revenues net of current taxes	48,173,435.00	48,173,435.00	48,173,435.00	62,891,867.00
Motor Vehicle Taxes @ 32. mills			9,275,000.00	-
Total Non Tax Revenue	48,173,435.00	48,173,435.00	57,448,435.00	62,891,867.00
Estimated Revenues	163,362,504.00	163,362,504.00	154,087,504.00	159,292,345.00
Collection Rate	98.75	98.75	98.75	98.75
Adjusted Gross to 100%	165,430,383.80	165,430,383.80	156,037,978.73	161,308,703.80
Add local Elderly Relief	700,000.00	700,000.00	700,000.00	700,000.00
Adjusted Gross	166,130,383.80	166,130,383.80	156,737,978.73	162,008,703.80
Total Grand List	4,075,182,746.00	3,864,776,363.00	3,864,776,363.00	3,864,776,363.00
Estimated State Circuit Breaker	(10,007,989.00)	(10,007,989.00)	(10,007,989.00)	(9,736,995.35)
			(322,117,155.00)	(322,117,155.00)
Taxable Grand List	4,065,174,757.00	3,854,768,374.00	3,532,651,219.00	3,532,922,212.65
Calculated Mill Rate	0.040866726	0.043097371	0.044368371	0.045856856
Change in Mill Rate		0.002230645	0.001270999	0.001488485
Mill Rate	40.87	43.10	44.37	45.86
Change in Mill Rate		2.23	1.27	1.49
Costs of a mill	4,065,174.76	3,854,768.37	3,532,651.22	3,532,922.21

Mayor Leng Presents Recommended Budget Continued

Effect of Revaluation and New State Motor Vehicle Tax Cap:

Together, the adjusted mill rate created from the Revaluation and the motor vehicle lower fixed mill rate increased the Town's mill rate from 40.87 to 44.37, a 3.5 mill increase to collect the exact same level of taxes.

Effect of Mayor's Proposed Budget:

The newly recommended budget, and required expenses and cuts discussed earlier, required a 1.49 mill increase, which is the total increase that the Town would have seen absent the Revaluation and the new motor vehicle program. With all of the changes explained in this newsletter, the average valued single family home, which owns one average valued motor vehicle, would see an annual tax increase of approximately \$133. This increase will reduce to under \$100 should the Car Tax revenue fix, currently being worked on at the State, be approved.

Unlike non-Revaluation years, it is more difficult to clearly represent the average change in taxes because each property will see considerably different taxes – both positive and negative – depending on value. Without looking at your specific household information, one can assume that the higher mill rate automatically means a tax increase and this is not necessarily the case. Our goal is to make each property's information, with comparison pre- and post-reval and motor vehicle cap, available on the Town website and also included in your tax bill.

A few noteworthy facts:

- Over 1,000 households will see a tax cut of more than \$500 with the new budget;
- Over 3,500 households will see a minimum tax cut of \$250 with new the budget;
- Unfortunately, there are approximately 700 households where significant value increase or high-end property value stability will see increased taxes by \$1,000 or more;
- Fortunately, approximately 10,000 households will see a tax cut, a tax freeze or an increase of less than \$250 annually with new budget;
- And close to 70% of single family homes will see a) a tax cut, b) a tax freeze or c) an increase of less than \$300 annually, assuming they have two motor vehicles or more, or higher than average value;

Mayor Leng said, "Hamden's goal now is to control and reduce costs where we can, while simultaneously ensuring that funding for our essential services, which residents expect and deserve, are not impacted. This budget seeks to be innovative in delivery of services and enact changes that lower or hold governmental expenses, while safeguarding the sanctity of our essential services."

Some examples of cost savings or efficiency efforts recommended include:

- Streamlining the processes of our Town's Planning & Zoning, Engineering and Building Departments – including the launch of paperless online permitting, a "one-stop-shop" for permits in Hamden Government Center and expanded permit hours;
- The return of a contracted grant writer to ensure that Hamden is not missing opportunities to get grants that will off-set expenses;
- The move of Board of Education Administrative Offices to available space at the Hamden Government Center for operating cost savings and the added efficiency that will come from working together in the same physical building;
- Recycling and trash management programs designed to reduce costs associated with the removal and disposal of our waste;

Additional information on the Mayor's Recommended Budget, including Mayor Leng's budget address, graphs and spreadsheets prepared to explain how the Town spends its funding and more details on the impact of the revaluation, motor vehicle changes and the new budget, as well as the entire budget document are all available for review on the Town of Hamden website at www.hamden.com

Mayor Leng Implements Town-wide Spending Freeze

Mayor Leng has implemented a spending freeze for the remainder of the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year. The spending freeze will go into effect immediately and will affect all non-essential operating budget expenditures. The freeze will not cut any service or program that is already planned, nor required maintenance or contractual obligations. The goal of the spending freeze is to ensure a balanced end-of-fiscal-year budget while maintaining our high level of public services and governmental responsibilities to the residents of Hamden.

Mayor Curt Balzano Leng said, "As stewards of Hamden's government, we are working very hard to end Fiscal Year 2016 (ending June 30th, 2016) with a balanced budget. If achieved, it would be Hamden's 5th consecutive balanced or surplus budget. This consistency and stability has been a key factor during our reviews by Wall Street, and simply put, is just good government. Finishing FY16 with a balanced budget would also further stabilize the Town's fund balance and overall financial position."

Register to March in Hamden's Memorial Day Parade

The Town of Hamden will present its 80th annual Memorial Day Parade on May 30th, 2016 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at Hamden High School and continuing north along Dixwell Avenue to the Memorial Town Hall. The Parade will be reviewed on Dixwell Avenue near Evergreen Avenue. Following the parade there will be a wreath ceremony at the Veterans Memorial in front of Hamden Middle School. After the invocation, Mayor Curt Balzano Leng and the Parade Marshal will address those in attendance, and wreaths will be placed at the Memorial.

The Town of Hamden would be honored if current members of our Armed Forces would join us. If you would like to march, please call the Mayor's Office at 287-7100. The parade will serve as a tribute to the deeds of our veterans and a source of pride to our citizens.

We are always in need of convertibles to drive some of our Veterans. Many local organizations have registered to march in the parade. If your group is interested in participating, please contact Gail Vasil in the Mayor's Office at (203) 287-7100 before May 15th, 2016.

Hamden's 10th Annual Earth Day Celebration Approaches



Hamden Solid Waste and Recycling Commission at Earth Day Celebration 2015

Hamden's 2016 Earth Day Celebration will be held on Saturday, April 16th from 10am - 3pm at the Hamden Middle School, located at 2623 Dixwell Avenue. This year's family-oriented, free celebration will feature an excellent array of exhibitors promoting earth friendly services, products and organizations, food, music, and free activities including face painting, woodworking projects, bird feeder crafting, a scavenger hunt (complete it and win a prize), a coloring contest, and additional hand-crafts, activities, and other fun and games.

In addition, don't miss a pre-event bird walk at 8am (for details call Florence McBride at 203-288-6777), C.J. May's Magic Show at 11:00am, the Orchid Awards at 12:00pm Noon, and the Audubon Birds of Prey demonstration at 1:00pm. Other activities throughout the entire day will include Circle K's petting zoo, a hands-on reptiles exhibit by Hamden High School, and opportunities to "Touch a Truck" with a Hamden fire truck, police car, and more! Additional activities and events will be announced in the coming weeks.

Attendees are encouraged to bring cell phones, thumb drives, hard drives (crushing on site), ink cartridges, eye-glasses and batteries for recycling. Feel free to bring your expired, unused, and/or unwanted medication for free, confidential and safe disposal. Additionally, bring your (gently) used children's books. Donations will be distributed by AARP Experience Corps to area children who have little access to books.

Sponsors will include DEXSIL, Caps Woodworking & Home Improvement, People's Products, Bread & Chocolate, Paradise Nursery, Specialty Wire, Spring Glen Cleaners & Tailors, Take 2, Inc, and Parrett, Porto, Parese, & Colwell, P.C. Additional exhibitors and event sponsors will be highlighted as the event draws near, so keep an eye out for additional press related to the 2016 Earth Day Celebration!

Save the Date! Hamden's Annual 5k Road Race

Hamden's Annual Road Race is back and better than ever! All proceeds from the race will be donated to the Town of Hamden's Community Services Department Camp Scholarship Fund. This fund helps families with financial need afford the cost of summer camp for their children.

The Hamden Road Race will be held at Town Center Park (2623 Dixwell Avenue) on Saturday, June 4th, 2016. The event will include a 5k run, a 1k Kids Fun Run, a Health & Wellness Expo, and plenty of activities for the whole family. The 5k road race will start at 9:00 a.m. and will offer runners some rolling hills in the first mile but reward them with a downhill finish. The 1k Kids Fun Run will be held entirely inside Hamden's Town Center Park and will start at 8:30 a.m. The Health & Wellness Expo will be a great opportunity for vendors, sponsors and advertisers to showcase their products and services to a large, healthy-minded audience.



Hamden is continuing its strong partnership with one of the largest event management companies in Connecticut, Team Mossman Events (TME), to organize the race. This year, the Hamden Road Race is expecting over 2,500 combined runners, spectators, volunteers and vendors for its fourth run.

"The Hamden Road Race is a great day of fun in Town Center Park. It's a family-oriented event with opportunities for everyone to enjoy. With all proceeds going to the Camp Scholarship Fund, it's truly a day of a community building right in the center of Hamden. There will be lots of activities for kids, free giveaways, and much more," said Matthew Fitch, Town Center Park Commission Chairman. To participate in the race, please visit the Hamden Road Race page on <http://www.active.com/hamden-ct/running/distance-running-races/hamden-road-race-2016>. There you will find easy online registration as well as information about the race course and event location.

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

Hamden High School DECA Wins Big at State Competition



Hamden High School DECA Students

Each year, Hamden High School DECA wins more and more events at the Connecticut DECA State Career Development Conference. This year's conference was held on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at the Aqua Turf in Southington. With over 1,100 students from throughout the state in approximately 45 marketing related events, Hamden DECA finished strong with its best performance ever. Thirty-four HHS students won awards, and those who placed in the top three in their respective events qualify to travel to represent the Town and State in the International DECA Competition in Nashville, Tennessee in April. The International DECA Competition is expected to draw over 18,000 high school students, teachers, advisors, business professionals, and alumni—all gathering to demonstrate and share knowledge gained through their respective academic and professional careers.

Founded in 1946, DECA stands for Distributive Education Clubs of America and boasts over 200,000 members at the high school level in more than 3500 schools internationally. The organization serves to prepare students for the professional world, namely in the areas of marketing, hospitality, finance, and management.

We are proud to have these students representing our school district and wish them luck!

Hamden Joins Connecticut Coalition for Justice in Education Funding

Mayor Curt Balzano Leng is pleased to announce that Hamden has officially joined the Connecticut Coalition for Justice in Education Funding, also known as CCJEF. Earlier this year, Mayor Leng was asked by the CCJEF to serve on the “Steering Committee” for the organization and has gladly accepted the position, having been elected at the 11th Annual Meeting of the CCJEF on March 18th, 2016.

The Connecticut Coalition for Justice in Education Funding is a broad-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit that seeks to achieve an adequately and equitably funded PreK-12 public education system that is based on the learning needs of students and the real costs of delivering high-quality education in every community. In 2005, CCJEF and several named school children and their parents filed suit against the State of Connecticut (CCJEF v. Rell) for its failure to meet its constitutional obligation to adequately and equitably fund the public schools. (<http://ccjef.org/>)

Hamden was a leader in getting the coalition started in the mid-2000s under Mayor Carl Amento’s leadership. Commenting on Hamden’s involvement with the CCJEF, Mayor Leng said, “It is my firm belief that our children and taxpayers deserve more from Connecticut Legislators. For far too many years, local municipalities like Hamden and others around Connecticut have been egregiously underfunded by the State. If Hamden received proper funding via the Education Cost Sharing state grant, similar to the funding West Haven receives, we could invest more into education and reduce Hamden’s taxes between 5-9mills without any cuts in services. Together, in conjunction with other municipal leaders from across the State, we can and will fight to bring about a better future for Connecticut’s children.”

The Connecticut Coalition for Justice in Education Funding seeks to accomplish 3 primary “key goals”, which are:

Adequacy

Revamp the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) formula and related grants to reflect the real cost of meeting the learning needs of all students and preparing them for success in college or advanced training, the modern workforce, and productive citizenship.

Equity

Ensure that adequate school funding is distributed equitably based on student learning needs, fair measures of town wealth, and fidelity to the tax equalization principles underlying the ECS.

Property Tax Relief

Shift the lion’s share of funding for school operations away from property taxes and onto the State, lessening the heavy dependence on this regressive tax structure. (<http://ccjef.org/key-goals-objectives>)

Mayor Curt Leng to Hold Budget Focused “Mayor’s Night Out ” on April 18th



Mayor Leng addressing residents during Mayor’s Night Out at Three Brothers’ Diner, September 2015

Mayor Curt Balzano Leng will be hosting a “Mayor's Night Out” event on April 18th, from 6pm – 8pm at Thornton Wilder Hall, located inside the Hamden Public Library at 2901 Dixwell Ave, Hamden, CT 06518.

Mayor Curt Leng intends to present details regarding the Mayor’s proposed Fiscal Year 16-17 budget to members of the general public and various civic associations from throughout Hamden and gain citizen input. A PowerPoint presentation which will focus on the financial status of the Town will be shared, which explains the changes the recent revaluation had on our local budget. The goal of this Town Hall assembly is to provide greater accessibility to the Mayor throughout the community and foster a direct connection with residents. “Mayor's Night Out” will continue to be held in various Hamden neighborhoods throughout the coming months.

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

Johnson Road to be Closed Due to Bridge Construction

It is anticipated that beginning Monday, April 18, 2016, Johnson Road will be closed to through traffic between Hillfield Road and Still Hill Road in order to replace the bridge over Brookdale Stream. Detour signs will direct traffic through and around the work area via Shepard Avenue, West Todd Street, Hillfield Road and Still Hill Road.

Johnson Road will be open for local traffic from both ends; however there will be no access over the bridge during construction. Local emergency services have been made aware of this information as well. The bridge is expected to be reopened to traffic by mid July 2016. The contractor is the Nagy Brothers Construction Company of Monroe, CT.

Any questions or concerns may be directed to:
the Hamden Engineering Department at (203) 287-7040.

Hamden Youth Services Offers Red Cross Babysitting Classes

The Town of Hamden Youth Services Bureau will be offering a two-day Red Cross certified instructional babysitting class for youth ages 11 to 15. The training will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 21, 2016 and Friday, April 22, 2016, in room 103 at the Board of Education, 60 Putnam Avenue, Hamden.

These classes will be taught by Hamden Youth Services' Outreach Counselor, Beth Chiarillo (a certified American Red Cross Babysitting Instructor). Each of the courses offered, will provide students with basic information required to responsibly care for children, including feeding and diapering as well as emergency techniques necessary to ensure a safe environment.

Registration fee for the two-day training is \$60 for Hamden residents, \$40 for paid Hamden Youth Center members and \$70 for non-residents (includes the Babysitter's Training Handbook with CD-ROM and the certificate). Registration forms are available at the Hamden Youth Services Bureau, Keefe Community Center 11 Pine Street, Hamden 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. or on-line at www.hamden.com. For additional information, please contact Beth Chiarillo, Outreach Counselor at (203) 777-2610 ext. 1137 or via e-mail: bchiarillo@hamden.com.

April is Bulk Trash Month

Town Officials would like to remind residents that the full month of April is Bulk Trash Month. Residents are asked to please have all bulk items out by April 1st to ensure pick-up. Acceptable items include :Mattresses, furniture, rugs (have to be rolled up and tied like a log; roll must be four feet or less in length), household appliances: washers, dryers, air conditioners, stoves, refrigerators, freezers, toasters, lamps, microwaves (Note: State law requires that air-tight doors on refrigerators and other appliances be removed), light and heavy iron goods, metal items (sort to one end of pile for separate scrap metal recycling truck pick-up). Please see the [bulk trash policy](#) on our website for more information and information on how to dispose of items that are not acceptable for bulk pick up.

Residents are also reminded of the regular, weekly trash and recycling policy to ensure ease of disposal:

- Trash and recycling carts must be 3ft away from each other and other objects such as cars, trees, fire hydrants, etc
- NO trash outside of town issued trash carts will be picked up by the trash hauler
- The trash hauler cannot pick up carts that are overflowing or have their tops open
- Please have carts out BEFORE 6am on the day of pickup to guarantee pickup– many residents choose to put them out the night before scheduled pick up
- Please place carts with lid opening toward the street
- Please DO NOT place any kind of plastic bags into recycling carts– they are not recyclable
- Please ensure all recyclable items are going into the recycling cart– It's state law!
-

If a cart is broken, please call Recycling Coordinator, Andrew Kinlock, at (203) 287-7100 to order free replacements. You can bring any excess of trash to the Hamden Transfer Station at 231 Wintergreen Avenue in New Haven from 8am-3pm M-F or every 1st and 3rd Saturday from 8:00 -11:45am

More information on bulk or weekly trash pick up, trash and recycling schedules, and more can be found at Hamden.com/recycle

Civilian Emergency Response Team In Action



Hamden Civilian Emergency Response Team Vehicle

The Hamden Community Emergency Response Team “CERT” vehicle, (call sign EM 44) serves as a mobile command center and personnel rehabilitation unit for Hamden’s Emergency Management Staff and unified Fire/Police Department operations. The vehicle is also used for temporary shelter for any displaced individuals from structure fires or other hazardous conditions, to include being out of site and sheltered from media as requested. Blankets, clothing and stuffed animals are stored on board for any residents that may be displaced or need comforting. Individuals are stabilized, interviewed and made ready for the Red Cross Personnel to finalize the relocation process if needed. The vehicle is assigned to Hamden CERT Personnel who are either notified by the Fire

Chief/ Emergency Management Director or on-scene Command Staff Personnel.

The vehicle will accommodate up to eight personnel and has a full supply of all needed rehabilitation equipment along with a heavy-duty generator, heat and A/C units. Multiple mobile radios that can monitor and transmit to all surrounding towns are on board along with 15 portable radios and a 4 in 1 fax, copy, printer and scanner machine. The vehicle is hard wired with two landline phones that can be activated with any hard line feeder cable. Multiple Oxygen supply systems along with arm emersion cooling chairs are just part of the large cache of rehabilitation equipment and supplies. A helicopter landing zone kit is stored on board along with a large variety of portable lighting and traffic control equipment and electrical cords that can be run from vehicle to a site as needed. Three 12’ x 12’ pop-up canopy tents and one large 20’ x 17’ mounted roll-up awning provide sun or rain protection when needed.

Hamden CERT functions as a division for the town’s emergency management system. The unit has been in service for the past 12 years and has been used at many major emergencies and long duration incidents along with substantial pre-planned community events. We are one of a few emergency management groups in the area that operates and manages their own vehicle. The vehicle is part of the Fire Department’s fleet and maintained by Fire Department mechanics.

The vehicle is stored at the Ridge Road Station which has an ice machine for loading coolers before any deployment and acts as a mobile cooling station or rehabilitation operation. The vehicle is kept on an A/C shore-line inside quarters because of the heavy reliance on power.

Hamden Police Department Monthly Update

On March 5th, the Hamden Middle School hosted “The Police and Youth Program Grant Showcase,” a federally funded opportunity of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee. The Hamden Police Department presented information regarding their ongoing efforts to build effective interactions with Hamden’s kids through projects and team-building concepts. The HPD was one of 10 participating departments, and partnered with close to 40 teens from three groups: The Hamden Police Explorers, the Hamden Middle School Police Athletic Program, and the Hamden Youth Center.



Farmington Canal Beautification Volunteers

Among other initiatives aimed at encouraging positive connections, the Hamden Police and these groups will visit Sky Zone, where officers and kids will participate in team-building activities. The HPD will also sponsor a Discovery Dance (see details on page 4) for youths with special needs, with each attendee encouraged to bring a non-perishable item for donation to St. Ann’s Soup Kitchen. Look for these youth groups and Hamden officers in the coming weeks, as they will assist in the beautification of the Farmington Canal Line and other areas of Hamden, removing graffiti and cleaning debris.



Officer Jay Bunnell with members of the Police and Youth groups in a team-building exercise

Department Spotlight: Meet Our New Recycling & Solid Waste Coordinator



Andrew Kinlock

The Town of Hamden is pleased to announce the recent hiring of Andrew Kinlock. Mr. Kinlock will serve as Hamden's Recycling & Solid Waste Coordinator, and will maintain office hours Mondays and Thursday 8:30am—4:30 pm and Fridays 8:30am—1:30pm. He may be reached by email at akinlock@hamden.org or by calling 203-287-7108.

Working here in Hamden is something of a homecoming for Andrew, who grew up in Hamden and graduated from Hamden High School in 2007. He is a college graduate of The George Washington University, with a B.A. in Environmental Studies & Geography and a minor in Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Andrew brings to Hamden a wealth of experience in the field of public health, namely environmental health, and has worked in vari-

ous capacities managing and analyzing a variety of environmental data with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the University of Connecticut. He has a passion for the environment and looks forward to serving Hamden to help create a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable future for our Town and residents.

Commenting on Mr. Kinlock's recent hiring, Mayor Curt Balzano Leng had this to say, "Bringing onboard an individual with Andrew's experience and environmental education background is a win for the Town. We will be working very closely together on a number of initiatives designed to reduce expenses and enhance our environment."

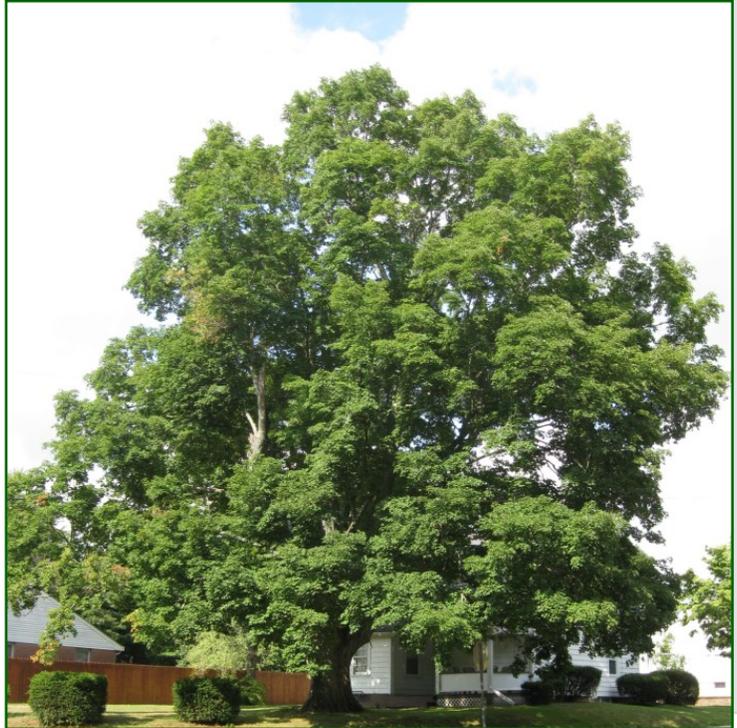
For further information, please contact the Hamden Mayor's Office
at (203) 287-7100.

Boards & Commissions Spotlight: Tree Commission

Have you been wondering about the health of your trees? Has someone told you that a tree of yours needs to come down? Well not so fast! There are many benefits to having mature trees on your property, and once removed, they will take decades to replace. So before making a decision to remove a tree, here are some things to consider!

Many problems may be related to the variety of tree growing in your yard. Hemlocks, for example, have been infested with woolly adelgid and scale insects for years, but with proper and timely treatments they can recover and continue growing for years. Throughout our area ash trees are dying as the result of another insect pest, the emerald ash borer (EAB). Treatments for infestations of EAB are only effective if caught in time. Many maples and a popular variety of flowering pear suffer from structural weaknesses that can lead to falling branches and cracked trunks. However these weaknesses can often be remedied by thinning the canopies of the trees to reduce weight. Even cables and threaded rods can be installed to strengthen and support the tree.

Do you have a large tree such as an oak on your property? It is common for such trees to have numerous large dead branches. This may be an example of its natural growth pattern or it may be a sign of decline. Pruning by removing dead limbs back to their branch collar guarantees the proper healing process. However, too many dead branches may suggest decay in the tree, and a careful inspection for other signs of decay is warranted. Look for nesting cavities, sawdust from carpenter ant activity, dead peeling bark or mushroom growth on the trunk -all of which point to root problems.



A large Sugar Maple in Town!

If you want to know more about your tree before making a decision, find an arborist. A good arborist will be able to assess tree risk or health. The best way to find an arborist in your area is to contact the Connecticut Tree Protective Association's website: www.ctpa.org or phone 203-484-2512. A lot of information about trees can be found on the internet, and a good place to start is with the Arbor Day Foundation's website (arborday.org). The Hamden Tree Commission is also working to bring information to residents through updates to its webpage on the Town of Hamden website.

Remember, look to save the tree first! You'll regret a hasty decision for years to come.

Geoff Harris,
Town of Hamden
Consulting Arborist

Community Event Spotlight: Tri-Town “Walk Like MADD”

Tri-Town Walk Like MADD is your chance to do something about drunk driving in your community. You can help MADD eliminate drunk driving by signing up for a Walk Like MADD event near you as a walker, team captain, or volunteer. You can even be involved without attending the event by signing up as a virtual walker or making a donation to another walker or team.

TRI-TOWN WALK LIKE MADD

W H E N

APRIL 30, 2016

W H E R E

TOWN CENTER PARK

W H A T T I M E

8:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

Register online now at www.walklikemadd.org/tritown.

The 2016 Tri-Town Walk is dedicated to George Giering. George was injured by a drunk driver on July 21, 2006

On Saturday, April 30 Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) will be holding their Annual Tri-Town Walk Like MADD event to help raise awareness about the dangers of drunk driving. Their goal is to create a world where there are no more drunk driving victims.

The walk will be held at Town Center Park, 2761 Dixwell Avenue. Registration starts at 8:30 AM, and the walk begins at 10AM. For more information on becoming a sponsor, team captain, or an individual walker, please visit www.walklikemadd.org/tritown. You can also contact MADD CT at (203) 764-2566 for more information.

Town Center Park is very pleased to host this event this summer, and we encourage all members of the community to participate by signing up! Together, we can end drunk driving!

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

Information Guide March 2016

Helpful Resources

Hamden Youth Services:

- [Red Cross Babysitter Training Classes](#)
- [Youth Center](#)

Hamden Elderly Services:

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

Hamden Arts & Recreation:

- [Summer Camp CIT Application Information](#)
- [Arts and Rec Program Registration](#)

Upcoming Events

[Spring Bus Trips](#)

[Bricks 4 Kidz April Vacation Program](#)

[Slamma Jamma Basketball Camp](#)

[4th Annual Hamden Road Race](#)

[SOHA Spring Kid Fest](#)

[Presidential Primary Set for April
26th](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- [Mayor's Proposed 2016-2017 Budget Available for Download](#)
- [Mayor Leng Implements Spending Freeze](#)
- [Hamden Summer Camps Offer Early Registration](#)
- [UI Mix Avenue Project Update 03-11-16](#)
- [UI Mix Avenue Project Update 03-25-16](#)



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Giant**



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INPUT AND SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER CAN BE EMAILED TO**

PATRICK J. DONNELLY



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