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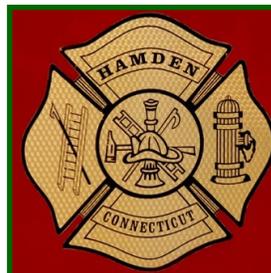
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Annual Holiday Food Drive December 11th

The Hamden Volunteer Firefighters and the Police Department Explorers will be conducting their Annual Holiday Food Drive to benefit the Hamden Food Bank. Any non-perishable food item as well as pet food and diapers will be collected outside the Stop & Shop store at 2335 Dixwell Ave. In addition, donations of turkeys (fresh or frozen) and hams will be welcomed.

The FINAL December drive on Sunday, Dec 11th from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Food products most needed are: cereal; box milk (1% or 2%); oatmeal; canned fruit; pasta & sauce; bottled water & juice; rice (11lb bag or box); canned potatoes; beans (all varieties). For the pets the needs are: kitten & puppy food; adult cat & dog food; treats [No rawhide please!] & toys. If you have any questions regarding what items are most needed call 203-562-5129, ext. 1110. If the above days and times are inconvenient to make a donation stop by the Keefe Community Center located at 11 Pine Street during the hours of 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Mon to Fri.



A Letter From Mayor Leng



Greetings fellow Hamdenites,

Welcome to the November Issue of the Hamden Town Hall Newsletter. Allow me to take this opportunity to extend my best hopes and wishes for you and your families throughout this year's Thanksgiving season. Here in our great community, there is much to be thankful for - and it should not be forgotten that this is made possible by all of us working together with good intentions and an unmatched civic commitment to the people who live in our great Town.

I want to share some great work by Town personnel and community volunteers that was performed in advance of the Thanksgiving Holiday. The Hamden Food Bank, which historically has collected Thanksgiving food items and assembled Thanksgiving meal baskets for those unable to celebrate, provided meals for more than 350 Hamden families this Thanksgiving Season. I am immensely proud of these efforts, and I thank all Hamden residents for their generous donations to the Hamden Food Bank throughout this holiday season. Your contributions directly impact the lives of those folks who need our support the most, and for this I am eternally grateful. In December, Hamden is launching an enhanced Food Bank initiative designed to assist working residents in need by offering an "After-Hours Food Bank" program once per week. We hope to help a lot of families once we get the word out about this important new program!

In addition to the stellar efforts of the Hamden Food Bank, I would also like to thank the St. Rita's Knights of Columbus and the Hamden Rotary Club. The KOC and Rotary Club each held coat drives and provided over 100 coats to Hamden's children and families in need. I appreciate these efforts immensely, and congratulate the KOC and Rotary club on the impacts their contributions make to our community.

While the Thanksgiving Holiday has come and passed, the season of giving is just beginning. The Hamden Volunteer Firefighters and Police Explorers will be conducting the final day of their Annual Holiday Food Drive on Sunday, December 11th, from 11am – 4pm outside Stop & Shop at 2335 Dixwell Avenue. In addition, The Hamden Kids Holiday Toy Drive is being held on December 10th and 11th by Hamden Community Services, in collaboration with the HHS Cheerleaders, Hamden Police and Volunteer Fire Fighters, Hamden Youth Center and the CT Ravens football organization, with support from the Mayor's Office and so many other community volunteers. More information about these giving opportunities is contained throughout this newsletter, and is available at www.hamden.com. I ask all of those who are able to contribute what you can to make a difference. Please, spread the word about these giving opportunities to your friends and family, and make the effort to change someone's life and holiday season!

In addition to opportunities for charity and holiday cheer, this issue as always contains information about progress on projects and programs throughout town. I ask that you consider sending your feedback - as I want to hear from you - regarding what programs and projects you have liked, disliked, and those you believe we still need to tackle in the coming year. As we prepare to release this issue, I have had the honor of serving as your Mayor for a full year of my first regular term. It is an honor that I take very seriously - always know that I will never stop working hard for you and for our spectacular Town.

-Curt Balzano Leng

Hamden Kids
Holiday Toy Drive

Hamden Kids
Holiday Toy Drive



HAMDEN MART ENTRANCE
and WAL-MART ENTRANCE
2300 Dixwell Avenue

Saturday, December 10, 2016
10am-4pm

Sunday, December 11, 2016
10am-4pm

Gifts for kids ages 10- 12 are most needed

Gift Suggestions: movie passes, gift certificates, gift cards, athletic wear, sweatshirts, hoodies, pro sports team wear, soccer balls, basketballs, footballs, ear buds, headphones, phone chargers, restaurant certificates, pajamas, hats, scarves, gloves.

Hamden Kids Holiday Toy Drive is collaboration between Hamden Community Services, Hamden High School Cheerleaders, Hamden Police Department, Hamden Volunteer Fire Fighters and Hamden Youth Center.

Contact Darlene Butler, Community Services Director, 203-562-5129 x1111 for further information.

Hamden Fire Department

Holiday Fire Safety

Lieutenant Daryl Osiecki, Engine Co. 2

From Thanksgiving to New Year's Day, fire departments across the United States respond to thousands of fires caused by careless cooking and faulty holiday decorations. These fires have caused devastating injuries and catastrophic property damage. Many holiday celebrations have been ruined. However, by following the fire department's safety tips and using caution, we can all enjoy the up and coming holiday season. The National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) has conducted many studies on fires that occur during the Winter Holiday Season. Below are some statistics that show just how dangerous these fires can be.

Holiday cooking

- Thanksgiving Day is the leading holiday for cooking fires in the home. Christmas Day and Christmas Eve are next on the list.
- Many of these fires resulted in civilian injuries and deaths.
- An average of 18% of these cooking fires were due to holiday decorations placed too close to the cooking appliance.
- These fires resulted in millions of dollars in damage.

Holiday decorations

- Fire departments respond to over 800 structure fires per year that began with decorations. This does not include Christmas Tree fires (see below)
- Holiday decoration fires caused on average, 1 civilian fire death, 41 civilian fire injuries and over \$13 million in property damage.
- Decoration were too close to heat sources (candles, stove, etc.) in 45% of the fires.
- More decoration fires occurred in the kitchen than the family room or den area.

Christmas trees

- Annually, Christmas tree fires cause more deaths and property damage than any other type of holiday fire.
- According to an NFPA study, 1 of every 31 reported home fires that began with a Christmas tree resulted in a death, compared to an average of 1 death per 144 total reported home fires yearly.
- Faulty electrical cords and holiday lighting is the leading cause of Christmas tree fires. ([VIDEO](#))

Candles

- Candles started close to 40% of home decoration structure fires.
- Throughout the year, 50% more structure fires were caused by candles in December alone. The other 50% of fire caused by candles happened between the months of January and November.
- Nationally, the top three days for structure fires caused by candles were Christmas, New Year's Day, and Christmas Eve.

Hamden Fire Department

Holiday Fire Safety

Here are some tips to help keep you and your family safe during the winter holiday season.

Cooking

- Stay in the kitchen when cooking so you can keep a close eye on the food.
- If cooking a meal that takes a long time, (Turkey, Roast, etc) please check it frequently.
- Always be focused and alert when cooking large meals. Too many people in the kitchen can be distracting.
- Always be sure to keep wooden utensils, food wrappers, oven mitts and towels away from the cooking areas when not in use. These can easily catch fire if they are placed too close to the burners.
- Please keep children away from the stove and other cooking areas. Steam or hot water from vegetables, hot gravy, or coffee could cause serious burns.
- Move matches and utility lighters out of reach of children.
- If using an electric knife, electric coffee maker, plate warmer, mixer, etc, please utilize the counter space along the wall so that party guest don't trip and fall over the extended electrical cords.

If using a turkey fryer, please read the instructions first and follow all safety suggestions before operation. **And, NEVER USE A TURKEY FRYER INSIDE THE HOME.** ([VIDEO](#))

Holiday Decorations

- Please use decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Always keep lit candles away from decorations and anything else than can catch fire.
- When using holiday lights on the outside of your home, please make sure that they are made for outdoor use. Indoor lights used on the exterior of the home can catch fire during rain and snow showers.
- Please replace strands of lights that look damaged or worn.
- When connecting multiple strands of holiday lights, please be sure to only connect the recommended amount of cords. Overloaded electrical cords can heat up and cause a fire.
- Never use nails or screws to hang lights on the outside of your home. They can damage the electrical cord. Use plastic clips or handers specially made for hanging lights.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Always blow out candles and turn off lit decorations before going to bed or leaving the house.
- If you are using a live holiday tree, please make sure to keep it watered every day. Also, be sure to discard it outside and away from the home when the needles start to fall off and the branches become brittle.
- Always test your smoke detectors and never block your home's exits.

On behalf of the Hamden Fire Department, we want to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. If you have a question or comment for the Hamden Fire Department, please contact the Hamden Fire Chief's Office at (203) 407-5880.

Town of Hamden 2016 Holiday Ornament

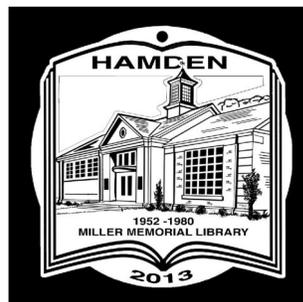
The Hamden Arts, Recreation & Culture Department (ARC) is happy to introduce its official 2016 holiday ornament. This year's selection features the Freedom Park, located across the street from Hamden's Memorial Town Hall at the intersection of Whitney and Dixwell Avenues. A ceremony on January 28, 1973, featured the dedication of the state's first "Freedom Tree," a living tribute to American servicemen. It honored all Vietnam Prisoners of War (POW) and soldiers Missing in Action (MIA). This symbolic tree is adorned with a bronze plaque which states: "This Freedom Tree - with the vision of universal freedom for all mankind - is dedicated by the citizens of Hamden to all prisoners of war and men missing in action".

The Junior Woman's Club of Hamden, Inc., under the auspices of VIVA (Voices in Vital America), spearheaded this event, assisted by Robert Dietter of Dietter's Garden Center who donated the tree.

The 2016 pewter ornaments, printed on both sides, are \$10 each, and come with a brief narrative about the Park. They were designed by Karl Widman, under the direction of ARC Supervisor Laura Luzzi.

Also available are ornaments from recent years: Hamden Rotary Pavilion/Town Center Park (2015), Ghost Parking Lot (2014); Hamden Miller Memorial Library (2013); Hamden Police Department (2012) and Hamden Volunteer Fire Department (2011); and Hamden Middle School (2010). Each is being sold for \$10.

Ornaments from earlier years are also available at a reduced rate of \$5 each while supplies last. They include: Thornton Wilder House (1997); Margaret L. Keefe School (2002), Spring Glen School (2003); Farmington Canal Greenway (2007); and Whitneyville Church (2008). All ornaments are sold on a first-come, first-served basis. To reserve an ornament call 203-287-2579 or visit the Hamden Recreation Department, 2750 Dixwell Avenue.



Town of Hamden
2016 Holiday Ornament



VISIT THE RECREATION OFFICE
LOCATED ON MAIN FLOOR OF THE
GOVERNMENT CENTER
TO PICK UP THIS YEAR'S ORNAMENT!

\$10.00 EACH

FREEDOM PARK

203-287-2579

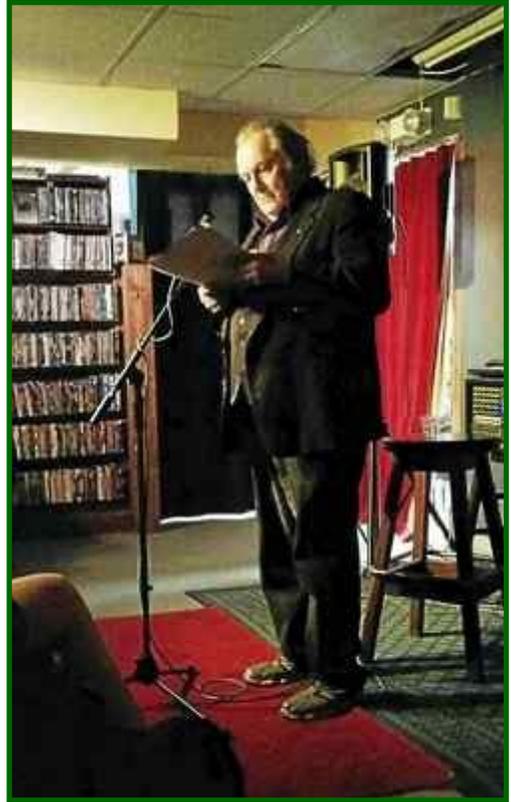
ALSO AVAILABLE PREVIOUS YEARS!!

Franz Douskey Named Hamden's 1st Poet Laureate

Mayor Curt Balzano Leng is proud to announce that Mr. Franz Douskey was recently appointed as Hamden's 1st "Poet Laureate". This honorary position was created to recognize the substantial contributions of Hamden residents to the Arts, specifically poetry and written works. Mr. Douskey has been chosen as the first appointee to this honorary office, in recognition of his enormous contributions to American art and culture throughout his life. He was the unanimous recommendation for this honor by the Hamden Arts Commission, who led the charge advocating for this recognition in Hamden and selecting the first recipient.

Mr. Douskey is a poet, novelist, teacher, and American writer who has been published in almost 200 publications, including: The New Yorker, The Georgia Review, The New York Quarterly, and Rolling Stone Magazine. His first full-length book of poetry, "West of Midnight and Selected Poems" was published in 1982, and he has read from this and many of his works in hundreds of venues across the Nation. "West of Midnight and Selected Poems" was nominated for a 2012 Pulitzer Prize. Mr. Douskey was honored by the Hamden Arts Commission on November 2nd, and was officially proclaimed Hamden's "1st Poet Laureate" by Mayor Leng.

Commenting on the appointment of Mr. Douskey as Hamden's Poet Laureate, Mayor Curt Balzano Leng stated, "It is with great pleasure I bestow this honor upon Franz Douskey. Mr. Douskey's life work and achievements so very impressive, and he is certainly more than deserving of being named our "Poet Laureate". I am so pleased that Franz chose to call Hamden home."



Mr. Douskey reads at ceremony honoring him as Hamden's 1st Poet Laureate. Photo courtesy of the New Haven Register

Hamden Constructs New Salt Product Storage Shed For Improved Storm Preparedness

Mayor Curt Balzano Leng and Public Works Director, Craig Cesare, are very pleased to announce that Hamden's new salt storage shed is under construction. The new salt storage shed will be located at Hamden Public Works, 1125 Shepard Avenue, Hamden, CT 06514 and is nearing completion, with the goal of being completed in time for this year's winter months. The final stages of construction are being performed by ClearSpan, a contractor operating out of South Windsor, CT.

The Town of Hamden obtained the majority of the funding for the construction of the salt storage shed via grant funding awarded through Connecticut's Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP). Hamden was awarded \$200,000 for the construction of the salt storage shed, with the remaining funds approved in a prior year capital projects budget. Upon completion, Hamden's new salt storage shed will significantly increase the Town's salt/ice melting product volume, making the Town better prepared to address hazardous winter weather conditions. At the same time, the Town is working to realize cost savings associated with procuring salt by procuring it in the "off season" or during "off-peak" demand months.

Commenting on the new salt shed, Mayor Curt Balzano Leng stated, "The new salt storage shed will allow Hamden Public Works to quickly and effectively mobilize its storm response crews, ensuring that each crew has immediate access to properly stored road-clearing materials. The expectation for this also being a potential cost saver for the Town made it a win-win project."

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



Hamden Art League's
Silverbells Arts Exhibition and Sale

HAMDEN ART LEAGUE'S
SILVERBELLS
art exhibition and sale



painting by Ruth Morill

NOVEMBER 30, 2016 – JANUARY 3, 2017

Miller Memorial Library Senior Center
2901 Dixwell Avenue / Hamden, Connecticut

RECEIVING: Tuesday, November 29, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

RECEPTION: Tuesday, December 6, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

For more information, visit www.hamdenartleague.com



Carlton Industries Expands in Hamden

Carlton Industries has completed their move from Marne Street to 33 Rossotto Drive, increasing their business and production area from 18,000 to 26,000 square feet. The Hamden Legislative Council had previously approved business incentives for Carlton Industries to move and expand its manufacturing business. Carlton Industries was awarded a tax abatement on the property improvements and the purchase of new personal property. They were also awarded a grant and a waiver of the building permit fees.

Dale Kroop, Director of Economic and Community Development in Hamden, noted, “Carlton Industries is an important business in Hamden and we are excited to see that they have chosen to expand here. They are a quality company that provides good jobs. This is exactly what we want to see here in Hamden, companies who rent committing to the town by purchasing a building to expand. Business retention and expansion is a critical part of our focus.”

Since 1994, Carlton Industries, an ISO certified company, has provided turnkey electronic contract manufacturing services including circuit board assemblies, wire harnesses, cable assemblies, box builds, automated inspection, X-ray inspection, in circuit testing and Hipot testing. Their services are used by a variety of market sectors including aerospace, communications, energy, medical, industrial, military/defense systems, scientific instruments and security systems. They currently employ over 50 people with plans to hire ten additional employees over the next several years.



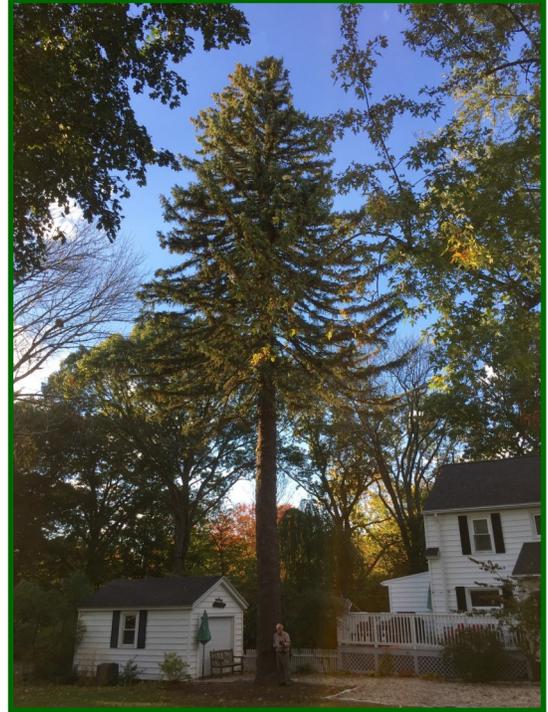
Mayor Curt Balzano Leng commented, “Our Administration is delighted to see the continued success of not only Carlton Industries, but several manufacturing companies throughout Hamden. I look forward to the positive developments that the expansion of Carlton Industries, and others, will bring to Hamden.”

For more information about Hamden’s Business Incentive Program, contact Dale Kroop at 203.287.7030, dkroop@hamden.com, or come into the Hamden Government Center at 2750 Dixwell Ave.

For more information concerning Carlton Industries, citizens can contact the business at 203.288.5605 or www.cicems.com

Hamden Tree Commissions' November "Notable Tree"

The Hamden Tree Commission is pleased to announce the Hamden Notable Tree for the month of November, 2016. This Colorado blue spruce, often called simply "blue spruce," is located in the Spring Glen area of Hamden. It was nominated by its owner, David Margolis, and Hamden's consulting arborist, Geoff Harris. The blue spruce (*Picea pungens*) is an evergreen conifer native to the Rocky Mountains and commonly found in western and northern states. Its cone-like shape is created by dense, symmetrical branches which gradually taper to a point at the top of the tree. The tree has 1.5 inch long, blue-green, four-sided needles that are sharply pointed. It produces 2 to 4 inch cones which tend to cluster at the top of the tree.



A typical blue spruce reaches a height of 30 to 60 feet at maturity, with a horizontal spread of 10 to 20 feet. This particular blue spruce is measured at 91 feet tall, with a circumference of 102.5 inches (8.5 feet) and a spread of 47 feet. Tree Commissioner Mike Montgomery, pictured here at the base of the tree, thinks it was probably planted around the time the house was built, in 1928.

The Tree Commission submitted the blue spruce to the Notable Trees Project in Connecticut, a program run by Connecticut College, and it was recently approved as the Connecticut Champion which means it is the largest recorded blue spruce in the State of Connecticut. The previous record holder, in the Town of Canaan, is significantly smaller at 87 feet tall with a circumference of 94 inches and a spread of 38 feet.

If you have a tree you would like to nominate, please send its location, an image and a few sentences describing the tree and what you think makes it notable to: help@hamden.com. Please include your name, address, email and phone number as well. Or you can mail your nomination to the Hamden Tree Commission care of the Mayor's Office, Hamden Government Center, 2750 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518.

“Little Free Libraries” Are Now Open at Town Center Park & Keefe Community Center

The Little Free Library that is located at Town Center Park is a donation by the Board of Trustees of the Hamden Public Library. It is a beautiful structure that received additional embellishment due to the artistic talents of library staff member Jan Hebel. It is truly a work of art for all to admire and use. The library is always filled with books for children, teens, and adults. Notices of library programs and services are available in an enclosed box that is affixed to the post.

Library Director Marian Amodeo says "What better way to promote literacy in and among our community than by sharing books with residents of all ages? And remember that our little free library is an exchange, so residents should feel free to take books but also to share books with others. Drop off a book or two from your own supply at home so that others may experience the joy of reading as well!"



The “Little Free Library” is located in Town Center Park, right next to Josh’s Jungle All Abilities Playground!

To find out more information regarding the “Little Free Library” and other programs offered by the Hamden Public Library, please call 203-287-2686

Hamden Police Department Monthly Update

The Hamden Police Department would like to provide crime prevention tips for the holiday season.

- When shopping, park your vehicle in a highly illuminated area.
- When returning to your vehicle, look inside before entering.
- When walking to your vehicle, have your keys accessible. You want to unlock the door to your vehicle as quickly as possible.
- Place purchased items in the locked trunk of your vehicle. These items should not be in plain view.
- Do not leave your purse/wallet, money, cell phone or other electronic equipment inside of the vehicle.
- If you are the victim of a robbery, don't resist. Contact the police (911) immediately.
- Carry only the credit cards you need.
- Avoid carrying a large amount of money.

The Hamden Police Department has recently investigated a larceny complaint, in which numerous gifts were stolen from inside of a parked motor vehicle.

Also shown is an image that was provided to the Hamden Police Chief from Dr. Joe DiBacco, the principal at Shepard Glen School.

Two of our police officers, who wish to remain anonymous, delivered 8 turkeys and “all of the trimmings” to that Shepard Glen for needy families.

We salute these officers, and thank them for going above and beyond the call of duty this Thanksgiving season. We wish everyone a happy Holiday Season and the very best for our Guardian Protectors.



For more information, citizens can contact the Hamden Police Department at 203-230-4000

Police & Fire Fighter Appreciation Day

PROCLAMATION

Town of Hamden

Office of The Mayor

POLICE AND FIRE APPRECIATION DAY

November 30, 2016

WHEREAS; Public Safety Officers are our Guardians and work tirelessly to protect our citizens, enforce our laws, and keep our community safe; and

WHEREAS; Today, November 30, 2016, the Community of Hamden Connecticut expresses our profound gratitude to the ***Town of Hamden Police Department*** and ***Town of Hamden Fire Department***. With the awareness that we can never fully repay them for their service, we thank all Police Officers and Firefighters in the Town of Hamden who work devotedly and selflessly on behalf of the people of Hamden regardless of any dangers they may face or sacrifices they may be called upon to make; and

WHEREAS; Today, we ask all citizens of Hamden to reflect on the invaluable work of the ***Hamden Police Department*** as we enjoy the peace and order they bring to our community and we wish all Police Officers to know that they are never taken for granted and that words are not enough to express our appreciation; and

WHEREAS; Today, we ask all citizens of Hamden to reflect on the invaluable service provided by the ***Hamden Fire Department***. Our Firefighters bravely respond to calls for help any hour of day or night often placing themselves directly in harm's way to secure the safety of others.

NOW, THEREFORE; I, Curt Balzano Leng, Mayor of the Town of Hamden, on behalf of all residents of the Town of Hamden, do hereby express deep gratitude to the men and women of the Hamden Police Department and Hamden Fire Department, who day and night stand guard for us all, making Hamden a safe place to call "home"; and I ask all people of the Town of Hamden to express their gratitude to Hamden Police Officers and Firefighters at every opportunity.



Curt Balzano Leng, Mayor

Information Guide November 2016

Helpful Resources

Hamden Youth Services:

- [Program Guide](#)

Hamden Elderly Services:

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

Hamden Arts & Recreation:

- [Arts and Rec Program Registration](#)

Hamden Public Library

- [Calendar of Events](#)
- www.hamdenlibrary.org

Upcoming Events

[Saturday Arts Programs](#)

[“Sensational Sunday” Performance Series](#)

[Holiday Food Drive](#)

[Silverbells Art Exhibition & Sale](#)

[Holiday Toy Drive](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- [Mayor Leng Proclaims November 1st “Extra Mile Day”](#)
- [Hamden Honored as a High Achievement Energy Leader](#)
- [Hamden Ranked “38th Best Place to Live”](#)
- [A Place of Honor for Military Memorabilia](#)
- [Hamden Reminds Residents of Diaper Bank Services](#)
- [Like us on FACEBOOK & Follow us on TWITTER](#)



**WE'RE ON
THE WEB!**
VISIT US!



**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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