

Everyday lately there are reports of car thieves and others stealing purses etc in our neighborhoods and around our Hamden Plaza retailers. I propose that the Town allocate extra funds to address the need for more Police surveillance and arrests in our neighborhoods and more money to address the mental health issues which have soared during COVID.

Jeffrey Leinen, Maher Ave, Hamden, CT 06518

Pay off the debt and lower property taxes. Higher property taxes means lower property values which forces the town of Hamden to raise the mill rate which means lower property values which forces the town of Hamden to raise the mill rate which means lower property values.  
This vicious cycle ends poorly for everyone.

Frank Vollero

Please use this money to pay down our debt so taxes in this town don't keep going up.

Andy and Ellen Wormser, Bedford Avenue, Hamden, CT 06517

Will the American Rescue Funds for Hamden be used to repair the Mather St and Waite St bridges?  
The work is planned, but delayed and is needed for my neighborhood, Whitneyville.

I support HATS forward looking request for a commitment from Hamden to use 1% of the towns funds from the American Rescue Funds for tree related issues. Purchasing, planting, caring for trees as well as providing public education and a youth jobs program to do the work will be an investment in the community. Areas of most need for trees is south Hamden.

Thank you for asking for the public's input.

Janet Kazienko

Here are my two suggestions for use of the ARPA funds for Hamden. Of course, I'm well aware that I have no idea how much we will receive.

1. Pay for a coordinator to create and manage a "bank" of tutors for the public school system. We have a wealth of well educated retirees in Hamden who might be eager to join, even on a volunteer basis. But having a paid coordinator can make all the difference in a volunteer program. With remote school due to Covid, there are so so many children who have fallen behind and need help with homework, basic reading and math skills.
2. Create a fund for rental assistance for those who have long covid and cannot return to work or who have lost jobs due to covid related issues (business closings, vulnerable to being exposed while working, etc.). Documenting the validity of claims would be the biggest obstacle and would necessitate careful leadership.

Many thanks for your attention.

Paulette Rosen, Blake Rd, Hamden

I am suggesting that Hamden use a portion of the funds to get Hamden's financial house in order. Addressing debt and taxes, two sides of the same coin, will breathe new life into our town whose financial future could be catastrophic.

Jacob Feigenbaum, Edgehill Rd, Hamden, CT 06517

I understand we have these funds for both FY 22 and FY 23, and that they must be used in the following four categories:

Public health emergency  
Economic consequences of the pandemic  
Pay for eligible workers  
Invest in infrastructure including broadband water and sewer.

Here are my suggestions under each category;

Public Health:

- Encourage getting vaccinated -Money for \$20 debit cards per person per vaccine, to offset travel and lost wages - Handed out at clinic upon receiving shot. Clinics receive more funds upon submission of data of vaccines administered.
- Reimburse citizens for Covid related hospitalization and doctor visits. This can be reimbursed to hospitals and doctors at the Medicare approved rate as set by CMS.
- Institute gun and rifle buyback program offering \$100 cash per weapon upon submission of weapon. No questions asked and no ID required. Implemented at police and fire installations across Hamden.

Economic Consequences:

- Help provide food to people impoverished as a result of the pandemic including loss of job.

1. Provide quarterly grants of up to \$15,000 to soup kitchens and food pantries, battered women and homeless shelters, as well as mental health walk-in agencies. Grants can be renewed upon submission of invoices showing expenditures of \$10000 on food and \$5000 for clothing and bedding.
2. Provide quarterly grants to houses of worship of up to \$5000 geared for low income families (limit of \$500 per quarter) who have experienced economic distress because of the pandemic. Grants can be renewed by submission by head of the house of worship of non-personal information on # families and children served and amounts up to \$500 per quarter.

Pay for Eligible workers

- Provide paid tuition for on-line or on-site training for any displaced person upon submission of account of lost job and courses to be taken. Tuition payments to vendors continues based on satisfactory completion of each course completion -unit or semester. Course materials including computer can be paid for based on class requirements. Hookups and payments for broadband access and monthly reimbursements can be made based on registration, and continued progress and completion of training /course of study.
- Provide child care subsidy of \$75 /week per child to encourage and assist in return to work. Subsidy paid directly to parent upon regular submission of monthly paycheck stubs.

Investment in infrastructure including water, sewer and Broadband

- Provide low income families, and shelters with broadband access and computer hardware to assist in school work, job and training opportunities and access to self improvement. Computers will be handed out and internet access will be paid for based on proof of low income status.

These ideas should or can be called 6 month “ demonstrations “ so they can be properly evaluated and either ended or expanded based on success. I believe the accountability measures I outlined will pass muster with any due diligence review.

Stocky Clark, Ridge Rd.

My suggestion is to implement the “Say Something Anonymous Reporting System”, a tip line on which students could submit their concerns (via phone or an app) anonymously. This came about as a result of the Sandy Hook shooting. Students are in the best position to identify warning signs from other students. We need to switch our mindset to identifying problems upstream in the process as opposed to putting out fires once they’ve occurred.

Please review the book titled, Upstream by Dan Heath. His ideas aren’t new but he presents the idea of making a commitment upstream in the process to try and identify the root cause so issues can be addressed early on so as to avoid downstream consequences.

Paul Cuzzo, Ash Drive, Hamden, CT 06518

I am writing to ask you to make careful and deliberate, long term decisions regarding these valuable funds. We are lucky to have this influx of money at a time when Hamden is in financial trouble. I am well aware of the parameters regarding its use, however, I would like the decision-makers to consider these points when deciding how to spend this money:

1. Wait. Don't jump in and spend the money this year. As far as I can determine, we don't have to spend the money right away. We can accrue interest on this money that will help us with our debt.

2. See what other communities are doing with their money and get good ideas of good programs. Please don't rush out to spend it all at once.

3. Plan for bigger, long term investments in our community. Spending on short term solutions helps no one. For example, we should be thinking about developing Pre-K programs. This would allow parents to send 3 and 4 year old children to public programs. We could provide educational preschool for working families and elevate educational opportunities for our children at the same time.

4. We need to address all sorts of infrastructure problems in our community. We need to build better technical infrastructure to make Hamden a community where homeowners and businesses want to locate. We need to create better infrastructure in our wastewater systems and in sustainable and ecologically friendly use of the land that we have. We should promote housing projects that use little to no energy. We should plant trees everywhere.

I am interested in hearing what other citizens would like to see done with this money and I'd be interested in seeing what other communities and experts think should be done. We can't rely on just one source of "input."

I would appreciate your considering using ARPA funds for street lighting. I have supported Bob Pattison and Christina Crowder's efforts at getting upgraded, more efficient street lighting options for our town. They did an incredible amount of work to show that Hamden could have saved a lot of money with their plan.

I was so disappointed when our opportunity for buying our street lights and taking more control of our energy usage was passed due to our financial status.

I am hoping that with ARPA funds we may be able to change this situation and take control of our street lighting needs and costs. Please consider using some of our funds for this project.

Elaine Dove, Santa Fe Ave, Hamden, CT 06517

A Hamden children and youth drop in center rich in programs

A new inter-generational community center

Exponentially increase the number of social workers and access to medical care in all the the schools.

Increase the number of guidance counselors and add career counseling in the high school.

Increase school bus transportation expense and require electric buses in return. (the transportation companies say that they cannot afford to electrify the fleet at the current payments)

Thomas M Fortuna

I want to speak about the Hamden Alliance for Trees proposal.

The people who map such things have demonstrated a correlation that is remarkably consistent. The correlation is that people who live in urban areas with abundant trees are healthier, live longer and yes, are wealthier than those where there are fewer trees. This has been mapped all around this country and indeed, all around the world.

If we are serious about environmental equity and justice, and I hope we are, we need to take trees seriously. Dr. Cecil Konijnendijk is a Dutch Professor of Urban Forestry at the University of British Columbia. He consults globally about these matters. I recently heard a talk he gave where he offered a simple standard for adequate urban forests. 3 -- 30 -- 300. That's

- three trees visible from our windows,
- thirty percent tree canopy cover in our neighborhoods and
- three hundred meters to a wooded park or area. (That would mean not having to walk much more than five or ten minutes to get to a wooded place.)

3 -- 30 -- 300. That's easy to remember. It's a great target for the wellbeing of our Hamden neighborhoods. One of the nice things about Hamden is that many of us already live in such areas.

And here's another good idea that could bring more of Hamden closer to this goal. The Hamden Alliance for Trees has proposed that 1% of the American Rescue Funds Act go to a program engaging some of our underemployed youth in learning about, caring for and planting trees where they are needed. Education would be an important part of this and could result in broader awareness of the values trees bring to our neighborhoods. Employment and job training for our youth are very real needs. This seems like a win - win - win. Superintendents Goeler, Melillo and Highsmith have responded positively to this idea. Healthy work, work that might even lead to a full time career, all while improving Hamden. Employment, education and trees.

Let's go for at least 1%. Everyone will benefit. I urge you to move this forward.

Here's Dr. Konijnendijk's slide about the 3 -- 30 -- 300 rule. His presentation is here:

<https://vimeo.com/676056689>

Ralph Jones, Mulberry Hill Street

On behalf of Hamden Alliance for Trees I am asking you to commit 1% of Hamden's American Rescue Plan Act funds to purchase, plant and care for trees, provide tree education along with a youth jobs program to help do the work.

HAT's supporters are very concerned about the impact climate change is having on our community. Trees are part of our most basic and essential infrastructure and are critically important assets. Trees are our allies in the effort to protect our environment as they naturally sequester carbon, absorb stormwater, mitigate flooding and reduce the heat island effects. All this while cleaning our air and providing beauty and charm to our town.

Over the past few years we have lost thousands of trees to tornadoes and other extreme weather events, to development projects, and to electric utility practices. Property owners have removed trees due to fear that they will fall on their home or cause other injury or because they don't want to clean up after them. Trees create beautiful and healthy neighborhoods. It's important that they be protected, planted, cared for, understood and appreciated.

Trees play an important role in addressing equity and environmental justice issues. We are concerned that trees are especially scarce in Southern Hamden, an area too often neglected. The negative health impacts of air pollution and lack of summer shade create serious problems for children playing, pedestrians walking and folks riding their bikes. These health impacts are especially dangerous for children and the elderly. Heat kills more people than any other weather event and our summers are longer and hotter every year.

Education is an important part of this proposal. It is important that community members appreciate trees and want trees in their neighborhoods to improve their health, their environment, and for economic benefits.

We also recognize that meaningful youth employment is needed in Hamden. This program will develop youth work skills as they learn about trees and their benefits. As our youth go about working with trees, they will encourage a sense of ownership and pride in the community and a bond will be fostered between the young people involved, the residents and the trees.

Trees are a well-documented part of our public health infrastructure, providing significant economic benefits. <https://shar.es/aWzOhE> It is very appropriate to use ARPA funds for a project such as this. We hope that you agree that the 1% of these funds that we're requesting should be used to address the growing impact of the climate crisis on our vulnerable residents. We ask that you please support funding this plan.

Diane Hoffman Wilmot Rd.  
Phil Cronan Woodin St.  
Henry Dynia Forest St. Extension  
Melinda Tuhus Carmalt Rd.  
Ralph Jones Mulberry Hill St.

As I noted in the community meeting, it feels like a fresh wind is blowing in Hamden. Thank you.

The ARPA funds have the potential to put Hamden back on a road to recovery. It is hard to get past all the wish list items, but Hamden should probably focus on those things that will, as Justin put it, carry into the future- that bring us forward. You have a tough job prioritizing and figuring out what

items are fundable through other sources including our own tax base. The list that people are and will send in will be long. All are important.

I put forth 2 things that are top on my priority list. Community development and children. They reflect my feeling that what we do here is integrally tied to our economic development and quality of life vision.

If our town, as I believe it is, can rightly be thought of as a ring town to a larger city (NHV), then our comparative advantage- our value- is its sense of place. It is where folk can go to raise a family. It offers diversity, Small shops and businesses, walkable/bikable streets, parks and playgrounds, good access to internet etc. It is a town populated by trees and and good schools, Traffic on roads is slowed. Community efforts to offer a hand to those in need is vibrant.

Importantly- one of Hamden's most important qualities is that it has- in the past- offered a good education which is what our taxes should be supporting. Our kids however have been through hell and whatever we can do to support our children's recovery from the trauma of COVID ~ to regain their sense of possibility, joy and community is essential.

To support these ends with use of ARPA funds I direct you to two pieces by Brookings

They are:

1) Use of ARPA funds as a lifeline for business districts <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/the-avenue/2021/07/12/the-american-rescue-plan-can-be-a-lifeline-for-business-districts/amp/>

2) Use of ARPA funds to support playful learning : <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/the-avenue/2021/06/01/how-local-leaders-can-use-american-rescue-plan-funds-to-support-playful-learning-in-cities/>

Good luck and thank you again. WELL DONE!

Please consider use of ARPA funds to purchase our current UI lights and update our town lighting to appropriate LED lighting. This initiative will enhance the character of our town and neighborhoods, support the development of a rejuvenated economic base, save money and mitigate light pollution which imposes serious costs on human and wild life.

There are local initiatives to join the international "dark sky" movement (see [www.darksky.org](http://www.darksky.org)) to control light pollution. Taking this proactive action would brand Hamden as a leader in the environmental movement, attracting residents and business who are focused on a sustainable future.

This is a clear priority for our schools and even our economic base as it impacts school performance. I hope you consider using ARPA funds to address.

<https://ctmirror.org/2022/02/19/surging-behavioral-health-care-needs-for-children-put-strain-on-school-social-workers/>

I thought I would share this from Brookings re use of COVID monies for education ....

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/education-plus-development/2022/03/11/education-technology-post-covid-19-a-missed-opportunity/>

Judy Clark, Ridge Road, Hamden, CT 06517

We would have been lost without our forests and parks to provide a safe, relaxing and recreational space for our residents over the past 2 years. Folks who don't have access to these places and don't have a shade tree near to where they live are in great danger in the summer heat.

Diane Hoffman

In general I would hope that the funds are used for building capacity and infrastructure improvements and not just on day to day operating expenses.

I would suggest looking at the 2019 Plan of Conservation and Development and the priorities identified therein for some very worthy ideas on spending these funds. One would be to fund a consultant to prepare the necessary modifications to the existing zoning regulations identified in the POCD. Another would be to fund neighborhood input (such as a charette) for those changes also as proposed in the POCD for both Southern Hamden along Dixwell and Northern Hamden along Whitney Avenue in the area of QU. There also needs to be planning made towards expanding Hamden's sewers down Whitney Avenue towards Cheshire, as identified as a priority in the POCD and also identified as a priority by Mayor Garrett. There are other worthy ideas in the POCD that the ARPA funds could also be used towards, such as expanding access to the Farmington Canal Trail.

Paul Begemann, Glendower Rd, Hamden, CT 06517

I have tutored kids for a number of years at New Haven Reads. It is an established program with impressive data on the kids' progress. Tutors range from Yale and UNH students to retired people like myself. It's fun and incredibly rewarding for the volunteer tutors and has made a real difference not only for the kids' academic progress but also their self esteem. They also run a book barn of donated books that kids can take home for free and keep. During the ups and downs of the Pandemic New Haven Reads has done an amazing job switching back and forth from face to face to virtual sessions and has provided training to the tutors to help them make the switch. Kids have lost so much ground these last years and it seems crazy to develop a tutoring program from scratch when this program exists. I think Hamden should use ARPA funds to approach New Haven Reads and provide support to expand the program to include Hamden if they are willing. I think we'd attract a lot of volunteers here, including perhaps Quinnipiac students.

Helen Ward

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the use of ARPA funds. A few thoughts and questions:

- Re Keefe center, are renovations/additions better paid for with bonding rather than using ARPA? and/or Federal infrastructure funds?
  - You may know that Sen. Looney and the legislature are proposing an array of supports for mental and emotional health, some of which may be similar to what we could spend from ARPA. I imagine you're already following this proposal to consider what that could pay for vs. ARPA
  - If you haven't already seen, here is a new online '[local govt ARPA investment](#)' tracker that you can use to see how other towns are spending their \$
- for ARPA Hamden priorities, consider these categories of investment to enhance the health and economic well-being of our neighbors:
- Childcare providers in CT have been hammered during COVID. Not only are they important employers, they also are the foundation of our economy, allowing others - especially women and

those with lower incomes - to join and remain in the workforce. Unfortunately, childcare workers are underpaid, and tend to be Black and brown. ARPA funds could be applied to support this vital, front-line service that has been hit hard during the pandemic

- Broadband. Critically important, and we saw during COVID those without really struggled, esp. those with school-aged children. There should be universally available broadband everywhere in Hamden, ARPA could help get there
- Experiments with providing income to families with lower incomes. You may know that Hartford and Middletown mayors are thinking about ARPA pilot projects on Guaranteed Basic Income, part of a national movement of Mayors.
- Extend sewer in north Hamden. While important and may technically be supported with ARPA, I do wonder if it would have the broad community benefit we'd want, particularly on our Black, brown, and lower income neighbors who've been hit hard by COVID. As with Keefe, this may be better bonded
- Linear trail. Some places in the US (see PA) are also making the ARPA case for linear trail enhancement as critical for health and well-being. You may know that the Hamden trail usage jumped considerably during the pandemic. I'm sure the Farmington Canal Commission could suggest priorities that would benefit from ARPA investment; here, too, I can imagine that infrastructure funds could also be put to work

Finally, in the category of improving health and safety, you may know there's a long abandoned, creepy-looking wood-frame building in Brooksvale Park, near the Veterans Memorial Hall. Picture below. I believe it was built some decades ago as part of a scout project. It's no longer in use. Not only is it an eyesore, it is dangerous and could invite bad actors. This wouldn't be a big ticket item, and maybe could even be done within existing town budget rather than ARPA.

David Radcliffe, Brooksvale Ave

Please set aside funds from the ARPA funds for street tree planting, especially in Spring Glen which has been decimated by tree loss over the past few decades.

Stephen Grossman, Greenway Street, Hamden, CT 06517

I am writing to you to give you input regarding how Hamden should spend the ARPA funds coming from the federal government. I attended last week's community meeting regarding this issue. I agree with others who asked that some of the funds be used to upgrade the Keefe Community Center.

I would also like to add my strong recommendation that the town use the funds to renovate and/or build new playground equipment for the children of this town. At present, there are only three playgrounds which are in good condition: Villano Park and John DeNicola Park in southern Hamden and Josh's Jungle in the center of town. This is not a large number considering all the children in this town.

Josh's Jungle is a great playground, but it could be improved by adding swings and more climbing apparatus for older children.

The playground at Bassett Park is in total disrepair. A new playground needs to be constructed. I also highly recommend that the town consider constructing a playground at Brooksvale Park to serve families of northern Hamden. It would be a perfect location and complement the other family activities which take place there.

Travel down the road to Cheshire to see the wonderful playground built across from the high school. It has activities for children of all ages, including swings. (Bartlem Park)

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Donna Pallanti

I support Hamden exploring all options to acquire streetlights from UI and to update them to LED fixtures using ARP funds.

Thanks so much for considering this, and for all you do!

Sarah Clark, Haverford St.

I support Hamden exploring all options to acquire streetlights from UI and to update them to LED fixtures using ARP funds.

Carol Cheney, Ridge Road, Hamden, CT 06517

In my experience Hamden needs to implement better control of vehicular traffic. The volume and speed of private and commercial vehicles on Whitney and major arteries leading to Whitney, is out of control. We recently had our car totaled by a QU student pulling out of Dunkin Donuts. Literally every type of responding service (policemen, firemen, ambulance driver, wrecker) as well as commented that this is a daily occurrence. Too much traffic going too fast. I can't recall the last time I saw someone pulled over for speeding in Hamden. That is why we do our shopping in Cheshire or North Haven, where police are visible and people drive more in-line with the law. Thank you for this opportunity to express my opinion.

Dr. Dorothy Baker, River Road

I am writing in support of Mr. Stocky Clark's previous letter re the spending of ARPA funds. I believe the gist of his recommendations was spending on those most in need in our community, to the degree allowed by the funds' restrictions.

Perhaps monies devoted to tutoring or additional resources for school children most affected by the online learning/lack of attendance time would be an excellent way of bringing schoolkids up to speed.

James Lerner, Lansdowne Ave, Hamden

I support Hamden exploring all options to acquire streetlights from UI and to use ARPA funds to update them.

Judy Lhamon, King Street, 06517

My name is Patrick Pierre and I am a homeowner and resident of Hamden. COVID relief funds have been used to provide free meals to students at our schools and I think that should continue. Last summer, there were some camps offered free of charge at the elementary schools and that should continue as well, if possible.

My only request is that these programs are offered to not just parents who send their kids to Hamden Public Schools as nearly all Hamden residents have been impacted by Covid-19. My children attended a New Haven magnet school and then transferred to St. Rita Catholic school but were not initially

given access to the free summer programming because they were not students in the Hamden public school system. I did not think that was just.

I think if the group decides to use these funds toward summer camp programming, that should also include Hamden based camps such as: Eli Whitney museum, YMCA and the town's camp run by Parks and Rec.

If the group decides to use the funds toward free school lunches, then the recipients should also include the town's private/parochial schools i.e. St. Rita's, Hamden Hall, Sacred Heart etc. Those students were not less effected because their families have them go to these non-public schools.

Many seniors in our community have become increasingly socially isolated during these past 2 years. I think increased outdoor, recreational programming targeting this population group would be fantastic.

Patrick Pierre

What is the status of plans for a visitor center at Sleeping Giant State Park? Does the town want to use ARPA funds to partner with the state to build the visitor center and playground, move the parking lot, and plant trees in the wake of the 2018 tornado? The park has witnessed major visitor growth in recent years especially during Covid. A new visitor center would help meet this increased need for a more healthy, attractive and livable Hamden.

Walt Harris, Shepard Ave

Please use the funds to encourage new business and entrepreneurs to locate in Hamden. Everywhere you look there are either vacant offices or commercial parcels. Business is the engine of our community and we need to restart it asap.

Gary Drucker

I implore the management of The Town if Hamden too use all funds to cut property and car taxes for Fy 22 and 23

Based on inflation and spiraling energy costs there is a significant financial burden on seniors who have fixed income ..

I believe demographically the majority of our population in Hamden is over 60 years of age..

I also implore the Mayor too freeze all salaries on the town and Board if Ed .. and to use economy of scale relative to Employee manpower ..

Dennis OKeefe

Helping small businesses and health care workers are my top 2 choices for how to allocate these funds.

Norma Pezzini

My only input for the use of the grant money is that the committee remember and think about what is going to happen once the money runs out. How can we and can we keep whatever is decided upon

happening. The Hamden tax payers can NOT take on any more debt. I also understand that planting trees was one of the suggestion. Any type of landscaping needs money and personnel to take care of it. It is not a one time deal. That is another consideration, long term maintenance of ideas. PLEASE, PLEASE - Think long term, not just we have money, spend it, make people happy and then what - Think about the future of all Hamden citizens, not just how people are feeling at this moment!!

Jacqueline Dunn, Hotchkiss Ln, Hamden, CT 06518

We would like to see some of Hamden's ARPA funds used to make the sidewalk on the west side of Whitney Avenue, between Armory Street and Blake Road, safe and accessible for pedestrians of all abilities. The current "sidewalk" is a mishmash of fragmented asphalt over fragmented concrete. In some places it is jagged and half the width it should be. In other places there are huge gaps and uneven areas that could lead to serious injuries (twisted ankles, etc.).

This stretch of Whitney Avenue is a major walkway for many people who, like us, work at Yale, walk downtown, use the parks (Edgerton and East Rock), and take long walks in the area, etc.

We have lived in Whitneyville for 21 years, and no improvements have been made to that stretch of sidewalk during that entire time. And it's very likely that it's been much longer since any improvements have been made there.

We think the time has come to improve this walkway for the benefit of all pedestrians who make use of it.

Anne Sommer

Thank you for the opportunity to present my public input for the Town's expenditure of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) monies scheduled to be received by the Town. I understand ARPA money must be used for specific projects and one of those eligible categories is to improve parks and playgrounds.

As a proud, life-long Hamden resident, I value our neighborhood parks and playgrounds because they serve as outdoor community hubs and gathering spaces. As we have suffered through the isolation of the pandemic, updated, safe outdoor playgrounds are needed more now than ever as an outlet for children to play and connect outside of their structured school day.

**I am requesting the Town of Hamden utilize ARPA funds to repair or renovate Larry's Playground at Bassett Field and the Denicola Park playground.** Larry's Playground mainly serves the neighborhoods of Spring Glen and Ridge Hill/State Street while Denicola Park playground serves Whitneyville. Both playgrounds have suffered from a lack of maintenance in recent years. When playground equipment was worn-out or broken, it was removed but not replaced.

Thank you for listening to my concerns and your consideration of my idea.

Mike Conklin, Spring Garden Street, Hamden, CT 06517

I'm writing to ask that the town of Hamden use ARPA funds to restore and improve the playgrounds at Bassett Park and DiNecola Park as both have been allowed to fall into disrepair in recent years. I used to frequent both playgrounds with my two young children who loved both playgrounds. We now find ourselves traveling to North Haven or Cheshire so that our children have nice safe playgrounds to use. This is unacceptable when we have a playground literally 10mins walk from our home but which is unusable. Please restore our local playgrounds to their former family friendly glory.

Breandan Hasson

Thank you for the opportunity to present my public input for the Town's expenditure of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) monies scheduled to be received by the Town. I understand ARPA money must be used for specific projects and one of those eligible categories is to improve parks and playgrounds.

As a new Hamden resident with young kids, I value our neighborhood parks and playgrounds because they serve as outdoor community hubs and gathering spaces. As we have suffered through the isolation of the pandemic, updated, safe outdoor playgrounds are needed more now than ever as an outlet for children to play and connect outside of their structured school day.

I am requesting the Town of Hamden utilize ARPA funds to repair or renovate Larry's Playground at Bassett Field and the Denicola Park playground. Larry's Playground mainly serves the neighborhoods of Spring Glen and Ridge Hill/State Street while Denicola Park playground serves Whitneyville. Both playgrounds have suffered from a lack of maintenance in recent years. When playground equipment was worn-out or broken, it was removed but not replaced. Some new swings would be wonderful. Thank you for listening to my concerns and your consideration of my idea.

Shari Rahamim, Woodlawn st, Hamden, CT 06517

I am writing to encourage the town to use the ARPA monies to improve Larry's Playground at Bassett Park. This park is a pillar of our community and a wonderful resource for our children. Unfortunately, the playground has many broken items or items that were removed and never replaced. A once thriving playground has become rundown and unsafe. Please consider use of the ARPA funds to bring this playground back to its full potential.

Bridget Siegert

Thank you for the opportunity to present my public input for the Town's expenditure of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) monies scheduled to be received by the Town. I have learned that ARPA money must be used for specific projects, including parks and playgrounds.

As a Hamden resident and parent to 3 kids, I value our neighborhood parks and playgrounds. The parks have been a lifesaver for my family during COVID.

I am requesting the Town of Hamden utilize ARPA funds to repair and renovate Larry's Playground at Bassett Field. Bassett Park is such a vibrant space, full of children for most of every day, but much of the equipment is in disrepair and/or is unsafe for younger kids. When playground equipment was worn-out or broken, it was removed but not replaced.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kim O'Neill, Russell St, Hamden, CT 06517

I'm writing a short note to write in support of using ARPA funds to repair and renovate Hamden playgrounds. De Nicola and Bassett are wonderful community treasures, and are both in need of significant repair. Please consider using these time sensitive funds to make the necessary repairs, so that future generations can enjoy these parks as much as my children have.

Mira Debs, Wakefield St, Hamden, CT 06517

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As a Hamden resident, I value our neighborhood parks and playgrounds because they serve as outdoor community hubs and gathering spaces. As we have suffered through the isolation of the pandemic, updated, safe outdoor playgrounds are needed more now than ever as an outlet for children to play and connect outside of their structured school day.

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Thank you for listening to my concerns and your consideration of my idea.

Rachel Cohen, Hawley Road, Hamden, CT 06517

Thank you for the opportunity to present my public input for the Town's expenditure of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) monies scheduled to be received by the Town. I understand ARPA money must be used for specific projects and one of those eligible categories is to improve parks and playgrounds.

As a new parent and Hamden resident, I value our neighborhood parks and playgrounds because they serve as outdoor community hubs and gathering spaces. As we have suffered through the isolation of the pandemic, updated, safe outdoor playgrounds are needed more now than ever as an outlet for children to play and connect outside of their structured school day.

I am requesting the Town of Hamden utilize ARPA funds to repair or renovate Larry's Playground at Bassett Field and the Denicola Park playground. Larry's Playground mainly serves the neighborhoods of Spring Glen and Ridge Hill/State Street while Denicola Park playground serves Whitneyville. Both playgrounds have suffered from a lack of maintenance in recent years. When playground equipment was worn-out or broken, it was removed but not replaced.

Thank you for listening to my concerns and your consideration of my idea.

Jessica Tai, Filbert St, Hamden, CT 06517

Please use some of Hamden's ARPA monies to improve the playgrounds at Bassett Field and Dinecola Park. Both have suffered from neglect, lack of funds to maintain them, and vandalism. Many of our young Hamden residents use these parks, and more would if the necessary improvements are made.

Brenda Burt, Edgemere Rd.

We would like to see ARPA funds used to update and revitalize DeNicola Park and Larry's Playground. DeNicola Park has broken fence and broken playground equipment making it unsafe. The playing surface underneath the structures are hard as rocks and need to be resurfaced-again a safety issue. The park became an outdoor refuge for many during covid and families like to gather and spend many hours there. Some additional picnic tables here would also be nice.

Larry's playground had a nice fairly new structure but at the opposite end for younger children there is broken equipment. Also, a whole set of swings is missing and needs to be replaced. The ground surface needs attention in this area also.

We would like to see ARPA funds used for sidewalk additions, repair and enhancement.

Hamden is still a beautiful town. One of the best facets of the town is the ability to walk sidewalks in many neighborhoods like Spring Glen. Whitneyville needs some attention as people cannot walk on contiguous sidewalks to Dixwell Avenue via either Treadwell St or Mather St. Treadwell Street is also a connection to the linear trail. This presents very dangerous encounters between cars and people on foot or bicycles. Sidewalks need to be continued where they do not exist today.

A secondary concern is Waite Street between Whitney Avenue and Mather Street. This area is frequented by many people of all ages seeking a peek at the many birds that live on the lakes there. Walking is treacherous as there are no side walks. A first choice would be to close that stretch of road from auto traffic. A better, more affordable solution would be to add a raised sidewalk, and several more speed bumps.

My request here is to enhance the towns visual gifts with the ability to walk in neighborhoods and between neighborhoods on safe, and contiguous sidewalks.

I don't know about you, but during the pandemic our beautiful Brooksvale Park was an oasis for myself and my extended family plus many of our friends. Apparently many others used the park and park facilities to get out of the house and grab some fresh air and a great glimpse of nature. I saw many new faces at the playground, at the animal pens and on the trails.

I am appealing to you today to direct some of the ARPA funds awarded Hamden to be directed to enhancing Brooksvale, the jewel of Hamden. Here are a few examples of what should be done to keep this beautiful park a viable park into the future.

1. RESTROOMS - A new restroom facility is sorely needed at the park as visitors have increased exponentially 12 months a year. The "Porto-Potties" are a stop gap, but cannot be a permanent fix.

2. BUILDINGS - The Historic Barn, Veteran's Memorial Building - each needs repair and upgrade

3. PAVING - the roadways and parking lots have not been paved in over 25 years.

4. POND - needs to be re-dredged and relined to restock and enjoy! The pond is a great source of wonderment for little children and adults as the spring brings tadpoles, followed by the croaking of frogs, and the splash of fish. Incredibly, the winter, on a cleaned pond, would allow for more ice skating. This would be a great enhancement to Hamden, that prides itself of championship hockey teams and synchronized skating alike.

Please take our suggestions into consideration as you deliberate on the proper and best use of the ARPA funds. Remember how well our parks, especially Brooksvale, helped us survive the pandemic.

Rich and Stephanie Kollet, Belmont Street

Thank you for the opportunity to present my public input for the Town's expenditure of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) monies scheduled to be received by the Town. We understand ARPA money must be used for specific projects and one of those eligible categories is to improve parks and playgrounds.

As 2 proud, long time Hamden residents, we value our neighborhood parks and playgrounds because they serve as outdoor community hubs and gathering spaces.

We both literally rolled up our sleeves and helped with the refurbishment of Denicola Park when Pam Green helped spearhead this project, now ~25 (!?) years ago.

As we have suffered through the isolation of the pandemic, updated, safe outdoor playgrounds are needed more now than ever as an outlet for children to play and connect outside of their structured school day.

We are requesting the Town of Hamden utilize ARPA funds to repair or renovate Larry's Playground at Bassett Field and the Denicola Park playground. Larry's Playground mainly serves the neighborhoods of Spring Glen and Ridge Hill/State Street while Denicola Park playground serves Whitneyville.

Both playgrounds have suffered from a lack of maintenance in recent years.

When helped to install the playground equipment at Denicola Park, and when pieces became worn-out or broken, they were removed but not replaced.

Thank you for listening to our concerns and your consideration of this idea.

Jennifer Brosious & Laine Harris, Turnor Ave, Hamden, CT 06517

City wide, kids need a safe and engaging place to play. While my experience has need at Larry's playground & Dinicola park, both in great need of repair, I encourage the town to evaluate all parks for equitable investment.

Nette Compton, Harmon st

Thank you for the opportunity to present my public input for the Town's expenditure of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) monies scheduled to be received by the Town. I understand ARPA money must be used for specific projects and one of those eligible categories is to improve parks and playgrounds.

As a proud Hamden resident, I value our neighborhood parks and playgrounds because they serve as outdoor community hubs and gathering spaces. We are also parents of two small girls, ages 2 & 4. As we have suffered through the isolation of the pandemic, updated, safe outdoor playgrounds are needed more now than ever as an outlet for children to play and connect outside of their structured school day.

I am requesting the Town of Hamden utilize ARPA funds to repair or renovate Larry's Playground at Bassett Field and the Denicola Park playground. Larry's Playground mainly serves the neighborhoods of Spring Glen and Ridge Hill/State Street while Denicola Park playground serves Whitneyville. Both playgrounds have suffered from a lack of maintenance in recent years. When playground equipment was worn-out or broken, it was removed but not replaced. While it may seem like no big deal, it makes a big difference in the lives of our children.

Thank you for listening to my concerns and your consideration of my idea. I really hope this can happen for our children!

Katie & David Henry, Norris St, Hamden, CT 06517

Thank you for the opportunity to present my public input for the Town's expenditure of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) monies scheduled to be received by the Town. I understand ARPA money must be used for specific projects and one of those eligible categories is to improve parks and playgrounds.

As a proud Hamden resident, I value our neighborhood parks and playgrounds because they serve as outdoor community hubs and gathering spaces. As we have suffered through the isolation of the pandemic, updated, safe outdoor playgrounds are needed more now than ever as an outlet for children to play and connect outside of their structured school day.

I am requesting the Town of Hamden utilize ARPA funds to repair or renovate Larry's Playground at Bassett Field and the Denicola Park playground. Larry's Playground mainly serves the neighborhoods of Spring Glen and Ridge Hill/State Street while Denicola Park playground serves Whitneyville. Both playgrounds have suffered from a lack of maintenance in recent years. When playground equipment was worn-out or broken, it was removed but not replaced.

Thank you for listening to my concerns and your consideration of my idea.

Matthew Regan, Underhill Road, Hamden, CT 06517

I am a resident on Dessa Drive. I am advocating for improvements to be made to Larry's Playground at Bassett Field & Dinicola Park playground. We bought our house on Dessa Drive because of the proximity of Larry's playground and the beautiful wetlands. Our son is 9 now and I have seen the decline in the park's condition over those years. We had the luxury of using the park when it was mostly new. It is sad to me that the sand tower and pretend kitchen/ monkey bars were taken down, and the broken flower swing was never fixed and that parts of the younger children's playing area was taped off. I feel bad for parents of children with little ones who don't get to experience the park as we did with our child.

Please consider making Larry's Playground nice again. How about a butterfly garden with native flowers from CT like milkweed. I would help out with a planting day. Or a small spiral labyrinth walk like on the Wallingford Canal Trail and at Hammonasset Park? These projects would not require a lot of funds.

Kimberly Van Aelst, Dessa Drive

Long email short: Please upgrade these parks with this money.

Sarah Dunn, dessa drive, Hamden

Thank you for the opportunity to present my public input for the Town's expenditure of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) monies scheduled to be received by the Town. I understand ARPA money must be used for specific projects and one of those eligible categories is to improve parks and playgrounds.

As a parent, I value our neighborhood parks and playgrounds because they serve as outdoor community hubs and gathering spaces. As we have suffered through the isolation of the pandemic, updated, safe outdoor playgrounds are needed more now than ever as an outlet for children to play and connect outside of their structured school day.

I am requesting the Town of Hamden utilize ARPA funds to repair or renovate Denicola Park and Bassett Park playgrounds. The Basset park Playground mainly serves the neighborhoods of Spring

Glen and Ridge Hill/State Street while Denicola Park playground serves Whitneyville. Both playgrounds have suffered from a lack of maintenance in recent years. When playground equipment was worn-out or broken, it was removed but not replaced.

Other ideas include a back walking trail along the Water company property connecting the end of Bedford and corner of Norris to Glendower and the school. This would be safer for our students and reduce the foot traffic on Whitney by the school and possibly improve the flow of traffic for cars waiting at the cross walks.

I also wouldn't be opposed to a walking playground on a corner of the land trust or water company properties, but particularly with the land trust property I think this should remain mainly a natural wooded place too.

Thank you for listening to my concerns and your consideration of my idea.

Misha and Vince Serfillippi, Hawthorne ave, Hamden, CT 06517

I'm writing with reference to suggestions for the distribution of ARPA relief funding. Our community, and most notably our youth has been hurt by the pandemic, and we need to invest in many avenues to address learning loss, and increased anxiety now present. I propose we provide the non-profit, We Are The Village, Inc with 2 line items of \$100,000 per year for FY 23, and FY 24. This would be approximately 1.61% of the allotted funds to our town, which would help cover rent, utilities, wifi, and a few part-time staff at Pershing St. This funding would go a long way to lessen the impact that the pandemic has had on our children. Let me tell you why I think this is an invaluable investment for our town and community. These funds are categorized into buckets, of which I think We Are The Village, Inc fits nicely into #2. "Respond to the far reaching public health and negative economic impacts of the pandemic, by supporting the health of communities, and helping households, small businesses, impacted industries, nonprofits, and the public sector recover from economic impacts." We Are The Village, Inc is a non-profit that was founded by Melissa Atterberry-Jones, to create a safe-space for our youth. Over the past two years she has serviced hundreds of kids in the Hamden/New Haven area and has created something really special in our town. The Village services kids aged 10-18 after school from 230-630pm. But most importantly this is a place for kids with troubled home lives to be safe. Melissa has put together many productive workshops like teaching kids how to manage finances, teaching them martial arts and boxing, and having journal time for kids to express themselves. As the pandemic reemerged this fall The Village had to temporarily shut down. Even when shut down they managed to organize 2 school supply giveaways, a coat drive, and a holiday toy drive. We Are The Village, Inc recently reopened and is servicing kids again and we are looking to make it sustainable and long lasting. I met Melissa when I was campaigning in the summer, and immediately saw the value in her program. I talked to thousands of people in Hamden and one of the recurring themes that people voiced was "our kids have nothing to do, so they get in trouble." This winter, Melissa asked me to join the volunteer board at We Are The Village, Inc, and I agreed because I think what she is providing addresses this specific issue. I heard it from residents time and time again, and see this as being a productive solution to address the root cause of some of the violence we are seeing in our community. We are committed to seeking a multitude of revenue sources, in addition to fundraising. But we think it would be incredibly valuable to have the town as a partner on this, as we look to address the needs of our children and build a brighter future for Hamden. To me, I really think this is a small investment to create something really special for our children, and I'd be happy to talk more via phone/text (203-654-1799), or email [petercyr@berkeley.edu](mailto:petercyr@berkeley.edu). And I also would

love to show anyone the space if you want to see our new awesome game room, pool, and ping pong table.

Peter Cyr, Hamden resident.

Brooksvale Park Revitalization - Environmental Community Ctr. / Community Farm

- Non-Profit which reboots and builds on original "Poor Farm" lease agreement
- Produces goods and services for community health & resiliency
- Rebuilding & deepening Ecological / Human / Economic ecosystem loops
- Regional model for reactivating underfunded municipal open spaces

ARPA site upgrades - basic infrastructure for partners / Match for State Farm Grants

Proposed Partners:

Friends of Brooksvale Park: Enhanced Non-Profit partnership / leadership plan

Yale Forestry: ECC Biz plan / Field Lab – Living Lab

Quinnipiac - Marketing & Social media / Field Lab – Living Lab / Social Events

UConn Cooperative Extension: Farm & Forest mgt.

DEEP Forestry: Forest Mgt. Plan: Habitat / Forest Products / Ag. soils / Recreation

CT. Dept. of Ag. Farmlink: Soils – Site Assessment/ Farmer Leases/ \$ Grants

TPL: \$ Grants / Community Engagement (plan / design/ restore / stewardship....)

Proposed Programming:

Farmer(s) (Farmlink) Pick your own yr. round / CSA+ / Foodbank support / Ed+ programming

Native plant Nursery Pick your own flowers, Native nursery stock / Ed. + programming

Christmas Tree farm \*(Alt. Ed +) w/ Grazing Sheep (\*Farmland Restoration Grants)

Nature Based pre- school (Classroom space?)

Alt. Ed - Conservation corps (w/ Yale... Other?). (Classroom Space?)

CT NOFA: Ed. Programming+

BSA / GSA (Restore Campgrounds / Trails)

Community Events: Farmers Market / Food trucks / Outdoor Movies & Music / Spartan races

Vincent Piselli

I'm checking in to see how Urban Concepts can apply for Hamden ARPA funds. We want to provide Social Worker support to HHS students and families attending the Village.

Please let me know how to submit an application.

Rhonda Caldwell

Dear Town of Hamden folks,

Thank you for soliciting input for how the ARPA can be used to benefit our town.

I write to you as a fourth generation resident of New Haven/Hamden. My great-grandparents emigrated from Poland and settled in the Beaverhills section of New Haven. My great-grandfather was a saddlemaker on the Farnham farms, property which eventually became Southern CT State College. My grandparents moved to the Highwood neighborhood of Hamden. My father grew up there, attended Margaret L. Keefe elementary school, and graduated from Hamden High School in

1952. My two sisters and I likewise graduated from Hamden High. Having lived in, attended college and university, and worked in many other places (North Carolina, New Jersey, Florida, Hawai'i, and Maryland), I moved back to Spring Glen to begin a job at Yale and care for my elderly parents in 2016. I have lived here since. My mother has passed and my husband and I continue to live with and do caretaking for my father, in the very house where I did most of my growing up. All of this is to establish my Hamden bona fides!

My suggestion is inspired by two stories from my family history. One is my grandmother's fond recollections of the Dixwell Avenue trolley that carried her into New Haven to work and shop. She never learned to drive and the trolley was a lifeline. The second story is my father's memories of the farms that existed along Dixwell Avenue in southern Hamden, as well as the orchards next to the High School, which later became the Plaza and Mart. He and other kids worked in the farms and orchards in the summer and after school.

Can we think creatively about how to improve the quality of life in southern Hamden and recreate the transportation corridor between southern Hamden and New Haven in a way that addresses the needs of the 21st century?

Specifically, some things I'd like to see are:

1. Improve the aesthetic appearance and functionality of the streetscape of Dixwell Ave in southern Hamden. Invest in the low-income housing in the area, not to gentrify it but to improve the quality of life for low-income residents. Beautify the streetscape. Create little parks and useful bus shelters.
2. Improve the usability of the canal trail from southern Hamden into New Haven. Make this a safe and viable transportation corridor for commuting into New Haven. Foster economic opportunities for lower income people, BIPOC. Encourage and provide resources for small businesses, especially minority-owned, along the trail. Think Mikros in northern Hamden! How about a bike repair shop that offers bike maintenance workshops; smoothie shops; coffee or tea cafes; small restaurants. Foster more bike and foot traffic so that lone bike riders feel more comfortable using the trail.
3. Research the agricultural history of Hamden and think creatively about how to incorporate that history into an economic revival of southern Hamden. Community gardens? Small commercial growing opportunities and value-added products (like jams/jellies, hot sauces and BBQ sauces, herbal teas, soap). These things shouldn't just be the province of more privileged white folks (like myself).
4. What kind of green-economy jobs can we invest in for Hamden youth and adults alike? I don't have any practical suggestions, but would love to see a Hamden task force focused on these issues.

Thanks for reading and thanks for asking for input. I'd love to see a green-economic revival in Hamden designed to meet the needs of immigrants, lower income people, and people of color.

Good luck with your efforts!

Michelle Zacks, Thornton St., Hamden 06517

It was brought to my attention that there is the possibility of using ARPA fund for playgrounds.

I am fully in support of this. I live in Spring Glen and would love to have the local parks improved for my family and neighbors. Please put the money towards Basset Park and Denicola.

Sarah of Greenway St in Spring Glen

Dear Mayor Lauren Garrett:

Digitalization is a universal imperative. Literally everything in life and in every endeavor hinges on this truth

Nevertheless, many people in Hamden, as it is elsewhere, are apt to be excluded.

- Many households do not have internet access
- A large number of adults can't use a computer
- A substantial portion of citizens aren't comfortable using technology

Such exclusions prevent any number of people from participating in the necessities and values of life.

Hopefully, you have been following the successes attained through the Hamden Public Library's Digital Navigation program which provides digital inclusion.

Our community is fast becoming a well-respected regional touch-stone for this issue.

Please participate by upholding the continuation of funding for this vitally important community need.

There are still many Hamden citizens who would benefit.

Thank you!

Philip Kuchuk

Arcadia Ave, Hamden