The Daily Campus



THE INDEPENDENT VOICE OF THE **UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT** SINCE 1896 • VOLUME CXXIX, NO. 90

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Secretive Tolland detention center plans paused

by Jenna Outcalt
NEWS EDITOR
SHE/HER/HERS
jenna.outcalt@uconn.edu



The Connecticut State Capitol building in Hartford. Tolland town officials plan to further evaluate a new juvenile detention center that the state has planned to build in the town.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF SAGE ROSS ON FLICKR

Plans for a juvenile detention center in Tolland were put on hold until further evaluations could take place, according to a press release from Connecticut General Assembly.

Town officials in Tolland claimed that they were kept in the dark about the original plan to build the detention center, sparking concern and outrage. State Rep. Tammy Nuccio of Tolland said she was "furious" about the secrecy in a Feb.12 Facebook post.

"I'm sure there were meetings and tours in our town, and I was not notified," she said. "It is common practice to always let other legislators know when you will be in their town, that common practice was circumvented and intentionally kept from your duly elected delegation."

Tolland Town Manager explained how he found out about the plan and told the community he would continue investigating why the land purchase and plans were so obscured.

"Because this project was initiated without public awareness and completely in secrecy, the residents of Tolland have not had — and may not have — any opportunity to provide input and concerns," Foley said in a Feb. 11 Facebook post. "The lack of transparency by the State of CT surrounding a project of this magnitude in such a critical area of our Town has been very disappointing, to say the least."

> **"Let me be clear: this is not over. But this pause gives us the opportunity to fully examine what this facility would mean for Tolland before any final decision is made."**
>
> **REPRESENTATIVE NUCCIO**

The land the state is attempting to purchase is along Tolland's only main commercial corridor, "in close proximity to daycares and elementary schools," according to the press release.

The press release stated the plan for the juvenile detention center was paused after a meeting between the Tolland legislative delegation, town officials, representatives of the Judicial Branch and state officials. Foley said in his post that the town's concerns were more than a case of "not in my backyard" because "one could argue that this is not our backyard — it's our front yard."

"This is an important step forward for transparency and for the residents of Tolland," the delegation said in a joint statement. "While this issue is far from resolved, we now have the opportunity to thoroughly examine what this facility would mean for our town before the state proceeds with any purchase. The voices of our residents must be heard in the process before any final decision is made, and we will make sure they are heard loud and clear."



The location where a new juvenile detention center is expected to be built. The State of Connecticut did not alert the municipality of Tolland of its plans.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF CT INSIDER ON FACEBOOK

The press release said town officials will be requesting further review on matters such as economic impact, safety assessment and infrastructure effects. It also said local lawmakers were promised more transparency from the state government as the project moves forward.

Nuccio said in a Feb. 18 Facebook post that she would "continue to fight to make sure Tolland is heard loud and clear every step of the way."

"Let me be clear: this is not over," she said. "But this pause gives us the opportunity to fully examine what this facility would mean for Tolland before any final decision is made."

NAUTICAL BOWLS IN STORRS TO CLOSE ON FRIDAY



An açaí bowl offered by Nautical Bowls. The store's final day before permanently closing will be this Friday.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @NAUTICALBOWLSSTORRS ON INSTAGRAM

by Mikayla Bunnell
STAFF WRITER
SHE/HER/HERS
mikayla.bunnell@uconn.edu

Nautical Bowls Storrs, a smoothie bowl shop in Downtown Storrs, will be closing this Friday, according to an announcement from the store.

Nautical Bowls Storrs, a franchise store run by a local Mansfield family, opened in early 2024. They serve "superfood" acai and pitaya bowls with a variety of fruit and granola toppings, and smoothies.

The store announced its closing last week with posts on their social media and a message to those on their mailing list.

"This space was never just four walls and a counter. It was early mornings with familiar faces, kids picking their favorite toppings, conversations in line that turned into friendships, and the quiet moments where someone told us we made their day a little better. That's what we'll carry with us," the store wrote on its Facebook page.

Upon opening, Nautical Bowls Storrs became a quick partner of University of Connecticut Athletics, appearing outside of Gampel Pavilion to give free samples and bringing women's basketball player Ice Brady to the store to help host a Grand Celebration event in April 2024.

Nautical Bowls often did fundraisers for clubs and organizations in the area, including at UConn. Some organizations include UConn Panhellenic, UConn Club Track, HuskyTHON and UConn Black Students Association.

The store is one of two smoothie bowl shops in Downtown Storrs. Just a few steps away is Playa Bowls, which also opened in early 2024.

Nautical Bowls Storrs will remain open for its regular hours for the rest of this week: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. today and Thursday and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday.



The exterior of the Nautical Bowls store in Storrs, Conn. The store will be closing Friday, Feb. 27 after opening in early 2024.
PHOTO BY OLIVIA DICKSON, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

For more... dailycampus.com | The_DailyCampus | The_DailyCampus | DailyCampus

NEW IN 2026 | PAGE 6
Four 2026 movie releases to keep on your radar

EDITORIAL | PAGE 7
Why the media shouldn't cave to the FCC

MBB | PAGE 12
No. 15 St. John's meet in Hartford in high-stakes battle

WE ARE NOT THE DAILY DIGEST