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Sen. Cicarella - Connecticut Parents Should Not Be Forced To “Co-Parent” With The Government



North Haven: State Sen. Paul Cicarella (R-34) released the following statement following a busy day of public hearings at the Legislative Office Building:

“Today, residents came to Hartford to make their voices heard on many bills and rightfully so. Notably, parents and children showed up in force to push back against government overreach that seeks to insert itself into decisions that should belong solely to families.

As a parent myself, I can say this clearly: I wouldn’t want to co-parent with the government. Connecticut residents should have a choice without the state interfering in how they educate their children or dictate their medical care.

I want to thank every resident who came to Hartford, shared testimony, and reminded lawmakers that families know best. The people of Connecticut are not asking for special treatment they are asking for respect and the ability to make their own choices without bureaucratic interference.

I will continue to fight against government overreach and ensure that the voices of Connecticut residents are heard loud and clear.”



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ACADEMIC Excellence

DEAN’S LIST

University of Pittsburgh
Wallingford resident, Addison Molampy, a Forensic Science and Psychology student at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford, was named to the Fall 2025 Dean’s List.

Veterans Honor Guard Seeking Volunteers

The Veterans Honor Guard of Meriden is looking for Honorable Discharged Veterans, male or female, to volunteer in Veterans Burials. It is a great way to honor your fallen brother or sister by giving them the honor they deserve.

So, if you can spend a few hours to volunteer, please contact Clark Doebr at (203) 223-3338 or Ray Bednarz at 860-690-5833.

WANTED: Old tools, musical instruments, military, Winchester, Colts, antique guns & old hunting & fishing. We buy gold & silver coins and jewelry. Anything related to vintage jewelry. Call Joe, (203) 488-7271

Help Double a \$5,000 Donation To Support Linens of Love

Liberty Mutual and Safeco Insurance have awarded Abbate Insurance Associates, Inc. a 2026 Make More Happen™ Award for its impactful partnership with Linens of Love, a nonprofit that provides linens, blankets, towels, comforters, and toiletries to individuals and families in need across the Greater New Haven community and beyond. The award includes a \$5,000 donation, which can be doubled to \$10,000 through online community support.

Abbate Insurance Associates, Inc. and Linens of Love's story are now featured on the official Make More Happen microsite at agentgiving.com/abbate-insurance-associates, where supporters can vote to help unlock the full \$10,000 donation. If the story receives at least 750 combined votes and comments, the \$5,000 award will be doubled. The funding would allow Linens of Love to restock essential inventory, expand service to new partner organizations, and meet rising demand across the community.

Linens of Love was founded by Mary B. Pursell, President and Principal of Abbate Insurance Associates, Inc., after a Midnight Run visit that revealed a critical yet often-overlooked need: access to clean, comfortable linens for people transitioning out of shelters, families reunited after separation, and veterans in need. Today, the nonprofit collaborates with a network of 15 social service agencies to help neighbors begin their next chapter with dignity and comfort.

Abbate Insurance Associates, Inc. employees play a hands-on role in keeping Linens of Love running—contributing time, muscle, and donations by loading cars, carrying items to the office pick-up point, and supporting daily operations. As demand continues to grow, Linens of Love has expanded its partnerships, including supplying CT Beds with sheets, comforters, and pillows for 80 twin beds

KofC Thanks Sliders Of Wallingford For “Give Back Night”



Pictured: On Saturday, March 7th, Will Aliou (center) the manager at Sliders of Wallingford, presented a check to 3rd degree knight Tony Scafariello (right) and 4th degree knight Robert Linsley (left) of the Knights of Columbus Pinta Council 5 of Wallingford.

Wallingford: The check represents proceeds from a “Give Back Night” hosted by the Knights who partnered with Sliders and held on Tuesday, February 24th. The Knights thanked Will and the entire staff at Sliders for there help and support. The proceeds will be earmarked for Wallingford student scholarships.

Registration Open for the Energize CT eesmarks™ Student Contest

The Energize Connecticut Sponsors, Eversource and Avangrid, Inc., subsidiaries United Illuminating (UI), Southern Connecticut Gas (SCG), and Connecticut Natural Gas (CNG), announced that registration is open for the 21st annual eesmarks™ Student Contest.

Through the eesmarks Student Contest, K-12 students are encouraged to discover how energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable solutions can impact our world through grade-level-appropriate prompts. **Contest registration is open until March 20, and project submissions are due on March 27.**

Student prompts for Grades K-8 include a poster (Grades K-2), limericks (Grade 3), an outdoor billboard (Grade 4), a fictional story with an energy-saving character (Grade 5), a persuasive letter (Grade 6), a comic strip (Grade 7), or a social media post (Grade 8).

High school-age students (Grades 9-12) are asked to produce a persuasive image in words or pictures, such as a short poem (125 words or less) or a cartoon strip (12 cells or less) that advocates for an energy-saving or sustainability topic. Entries will be evaluated based on scientific validity and concise and convincing imagery.

All work must be completed by the individual submitting the entry. No group projects will be accepted.

Finalists in all categories and grade levels will be honored at a special awards ceremony to be held in May at the Connecticut Science Center in Hartford. Winners will receive a certificate and a gift card.

For more information about the contest, visit EnergizeCT.com/student-contest.

Wallingford Garden Club Attends CT Flower And Garden Show



Pictured Top: Hostesses: Geraldo, Lawrence, Karen Grava, Susan Geraldo, Jeanne Lawrence, Annmarie Wolfer, and Wendy Hartley. **Bottom:** Martha Shea – Dracaena; Echeveria, Sue Laursen – Echeveria, Karin Pyskaty - Mistletoe Cactus, Rose Northrop - Beetle Pepperomia, and Carmelina Villani – Hedgehog Cactus.

Wallingford: The 43rd Annual CT Flower and Garden Show took place at the CT Convention Center in Hartford on Feb 19-22, 2026. This year’s theme was ‘A Storybook Garden’.

Many WGC members volunteered as hostesses for this event. They wore special Federated Garden Club aprons and name tags for guests to ask questions about the displays in their designated areas: floral designs, horticulture, education and floral displays.

Some of the WGC members who participated were

Members who participated in the Horticulture Division were Martha Shea for her Echeveria and Dracaena plants, Carmelina Villani for her Hedgehog Cactus, Karin Pyskaty for her Mistletoe Cactus, Rose Northrop for her Beetle Pepperomia, Susan Laursen for her Echeveria.

Flower Show Awards were given to all these entries. Congrats to all.

Wallingford Garden Club is a member of the Connecticut Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc; New England Garden Clubs, Inc and Nation Garden Clubs, Inc.

Article by Betty Wilson and photos by Renee Jerzyk.