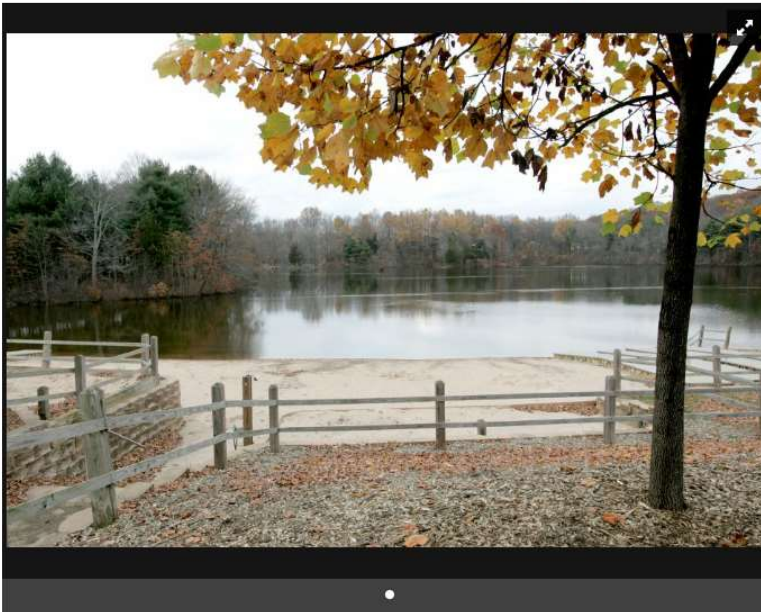


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### Southington-Cheshire YMCA receives \$200K for Save Sloper Pond project



FILE PHOTO – The pond at Camp Sloper in Southington. | Record-Journal

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May 29, 2019 02:59PM By Jesse Buchanan, Record-Journal staff



SOUTHINGTON – The Main Street Community Foundation awarded more than \$300,000 to local groups for wellness efforts.



Grants were awarded from the Bradley Henry Barnes and Leila Upson Barnes Memorial Trust.



The largest grant was \$200,000 to the Southington-Cheshire YMCA's Save Sloper Pond project. The YMCA has been raising money for dredging and other work to keep the pond healthy and useable for Camp Sloper.



An education agricultural group headed by local farmer Mark Ramsay got a \$35,000 grant to expand youth programs. Students attend Lewis Education Agricultural Farm to learn how food is grown.

"Food is pretty important and a lot of youth today don't understand where food comes from. They think food comes from a supermarket," Ramsay said. "There's a lot that goes into producing food, healthy food."

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He's hoping to expand programs, add a greenhouse and start a pollinator program that stresses the importance of bees.

"It's a help, it's definitely a help with everything we do in the schools and everything we have going on," Ramsay said of the grant.

The Southington Education Foundation received \$34,000 for a project to improve mental health through emotional intelligence in district schools.

Bread for Life received \$10,000 to support its meal program. Hartford HealthCare Senior Services received \$10,000 to help fund the 2020 Healthy Family FunFest.

In addition to the Sloper Pond money, the YMCA received \$19,000 to offer diabetes prevention programs to those at risk or newly diagnosed.

The foundation awards grants that meet the criteria laid down by the Barnes family.

"Main Street Community Foundation takes great care to carry out the legacy of Bradley Barnes to improve the health outcomes of Southington residents," said foundation president Susan Sadecki.

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