



Monday, Jan. 1
there will be
**no publication or
e-edition**, due to
the observance of
New Year's Day

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Samantha Rajotte

Programs improving lives of those in Southington awarded \$300K

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
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SOUTHINGTON — More than \$300,000 has been awarded to seven local organizations through The Bradley Henry Barnes & Leida Upson Barnes Memorial Trust at The Main Street Community Foundation. Samantha Rajotte, scholarship and program officer at the Main Street Community Foundation, said a total of \$301,983 was awarded from the fund. The money was given to “organizations working to improve the lives of Southington residents.”

“Main Street Community Foundation awarded grants to seven nonprofits to help improve the health needs of Southington residents, especially in the

See RESIDENTS ON PAGE 4

School district gets high marks

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BRISTOL — Catherine Carbone, Superintendent of Schools, has released her annual report for the school district and wishes local families a “Happy New Year.”

Carbone’s New Year’s message was shared on the parentsquare.com website, which the district uses to share updates with parents.

“It is hard to believe that our holiday recess is already here,” Carbone wrote. “It is always heartening to see all of the different festive activities and cultural celebrations of learning that take place throughout our district during the holiday season.”

This time of year is a time of reflection, gratitude, and intention setting both for me personally and our district.”

Carbone thanked families for participating in the completion of Phase 1 of the “Re-imagining BPS 2023 plan,” a “successful redistricting” and for their “invaluable feedback and participation” during the BPS Strategic Planning 2025-2030 efforts.

“In the new year, we will be providing updates on the next steps of the strategic planning process,” she

See SCHOOL ON PAGE 4



Superintendent Catherine Carbone’s take on 2023 and what’s ahead for New Year.



Busy Hero goes viral

Bristol Police Department

Meet Hero, the new K9 dog for the Bristol Police Department. He’s just getting started and he’s already gone viral.

Doing a great job from the start

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BRISTOL — A post from the Bristol Police Department about their new police dog, Hero, stopping car thieves on Christmas eve has gone viral.

On Thursday, the

Bristol Connecticut Police Department page gave a “shout out” to Hero, the new K9 police dog.

The post stated that she “was busy in the early hours of Christmas Eve.”

“After four suspects fled from a stolen car, she was able to track and apprehend

all four of them just in time to put them on Santa’s naughty list,” the post read.

As of Friday, the post had received more than 1,100 hearts and likes, 114 comments and 42 shares from residents praising Hero for her efforts.

City Councilor Cheryl

Thibeault wrote that Hero had done a “fantastic” job and shared the post.

“Great police work,” wrote Thibeault.

Brian Avery, commander of American Legion Post 209, also congratulated Hero on a job well done.

“That’s a good dog,” he

wrote. “Way to go Bristol Police.”

Rx Crystals Owner Kristi Wright raised the money for the Bristol Police Department to purchase Hero through the Operation Opioid nonprofit started by her late father, Phil Vonella, in 2018.

See HERO’S ON PAGE 4

INSIDE

- Abby 6
- Classified 15-16
- Comics 6
- Editorial 5
- Features 6
- Horoscopes 6
- Local News 2-4
- Obituaries 7
- Public Notices 13
- Puzzles 16
- Sports 9-12
- State 2
- Weather 7

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Program grants

Continued from Page 1

priority areas of behavioral health, healthcare needs for an aging population, as well as healthy initiatives and lifestyle," Rajotte said.

Five of the seven grants will continue funding important projects that align with the identified community health and healthcare priorities. Those grants are as follows:

Bread for Life – \$55,000 to support the continuation of the meal program for Southington's food-insecure population. Specifically, the grant will assist with the purchase of food, related items for packaging and expenses for meal delivery to homebound residents such as gas and vehicle maintenance.

The Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington – \$27,000 to support health, safety and well-being initiatives that support Southington's young children and educate their caregivers. Program topics are recommended by constituents and fall within the areas of mental health, nutrition, development concerns and childhood safety.

Southington-Cheshire Community YMCA – \$4,983 in additional funds to support increased costs associated with the con-

struction of the splash and spray park at Camp Sloper, which provides healthy and safe recreation for campers.

Southington Community Cultural Arts (SoCCA) – \$50,000 in funds to support the continuation of the All Access program for neuro-diverse adults with learning differences. The program teaches creative work skills, provides a source of income for participants through the sale of their art, and increases socialization and self-confidence, thereby enhancing quality of life. Participants also have the opportunity to have their artwork exhibited in galleries, museums and on SoCCA's website.

UConnHealth – \$150,000 to support the continuation of UConn Health's Child and Family Development Program which provides a comprehensive array of mental-health services for children and families in Southington. The center provides parent support groups, behavioral management groups, prevention groups to improve children's emotional competence, drop-in consultation hours and psychological evaluations for medication and is also strongly endorsed by Southington Public

Schools, collaborating closely with them for referrals and curriculum development.

In addition, two organizations were awarded proactive grants from the Trust:

Friends of Southington Community Services – \$5,000 in funds will be used for emergency food purchases, energy assistance, housing assistance and other basic needs of Southington residents.

Wheeler Clinic – \$10,000 in funds to support the capital campaign for the One Hope Street project in Bristol which will expand access to medical, pharmaceutical and behavioral health services for the community, including Southington residents.

Since the Bradley Henry Barnes and Leila Upson Barnes Memorial Trust was established 50 years ago, with the express purpose of providing funds for local organizations that work to improve the health and wellbeing of Southington residents, advisors and stewards of the Trust have worked to keep that purpose alive. Since MSCF was appointed trustee of the Trust in 2004, over \$13 million has been awarded to local organizations.

