

NATION

Trump rally
victim honored
in Pa. Page 6

BUSINESS

CNN, Fox host
Lou Dobbs dies
at 78 Page 12

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The Bristol Press

Serving the Communities of Central Connecticut

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FILE

Mayor Joe Kilduff

DOT: Town intersection

Foundation gives \$153K in grants

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@BRIANJOHNSONBP

SOUTHINGTON — The Main Street Community Foundation has awarded more than \$153,000 in grants to 44 area organizations through its general grant cycle.

Samantha Rajotte, scholarship and program officer with the Main Street Community Foundation, said that the recipient

organizations are those “working to improve the lives of Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott residents.” Grants, she said, were awarded to meet the various needs in the communities which the Main Street Community Foundation serves.

“The grants will help these organizations further their reach in order to meet the needs of residents, from

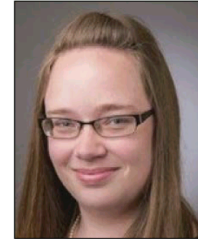
food insecurity to collaborative creative programs,” she said.

The grants were distributed from 35 endowed funds, which were established by donors to support causes they are most passionate about.

“Grant applications for this cycle are submitted once a year, and are thoughtfully reviewed by twenty-eight local residents that make up the

Community Foundation’s volunteer Distribution Committee,” said Rajotte. “The Committee not only reviews all proposals, but also conducts site visits, and makes the final funding recommendations to the Foundation’s Board of Directors. All of this is to ensure that the goals and programs of the grantees are feasible and align with the donor’s intent.”

See GRANTS ON PAGE 4



FILE

Samantha Rajotte



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Equine gestalt back

Continued from Page 1
ly traveled to Colorado to
train to become a certi-
fied equine gestaltist. She
said that while programs
of this sort are more com-
mon in the midwest, there
was nothing quite like it
in Connecticut when she
began her training. She
explained the concept
behind equine gestalt
coaching as people learn-
ing to release unresolved

negative feelings. Then,
following those ses-
sions, they take a horse
for a walk around a pen.
Whitlock-Pope said that
the animals then help to
“validate” participants’
progress.
“If someone has truly let
go, the horse will follow
them,” she said. “If not,
the animal will stop. The
horse can sense if peo-
ple are feeling different.

It’s something you have
to experience for yourself.
I’m truly a believer.”
Whitlock-Pope said that
the purpose of the program
is to “support individuals
in the discovery of their
personal truth, to encour-
age the development of
personal awareness and
the strength to find one’s
voice, while also valuing
and appreciating the many
parts of self.”

Paris readies Seine for the Olympics

Continued from Page 1

“I didn’t know it started
today,” said Emmanuelle
Witt, a 35-year-old commu-
nications freelancer who was
stopped by police near the
Alma bridge while biking
across town. She desperately
went on her phone to fill out
the online form to get her QR
code, unaware that the vetting
process could take several

days.
Those with the precious
code – either on their phones
or printed out on pieces of
paper – passed smoothly past
police checkpoints at gaps in
the barriers taller than most
people.
Those without got mostly
turned away – with no amount
of grumbling and cajoling to
make officers budge.

Grants awarded to many community organizations

Continued from Page 1

Since its establishment
in 1995, the Main Street
Community Foundation
has awarded grants and
scholarships totaling more
than \$29.5 million. It is
one of the leading grant-
makers in the region.
For more informa-
tion on the Main Street
Community Foundation,
or the general grant cycle,
visit mainstreetfoundation.org.

The following organiza-
tions were awarded grants
in the 2024 General Grant
Cycle:

American Clock & Watch Museum
- \$1,750 - Historic Window Replacement
(Pat & Bob Wollesberg Family Fund for
the Community)
American Red Cross - \$4,000 -
Disaster Relief Services for residents of
the Foundation’s service area (Bristol
Brass General Grant Fund, Jaspertha
Family Memorial Fund, Inc.,
Animal Rescue Foundation, Inc.,
\$1,240 - Spray & Neuter Program for

shelter cats and dogs in the
Foundation’s service area (Elizabeth
I. and Louis J. Matt Animal Protection
Fund)
Arts for Learning Connecticut -
\$4,000 - Express Yourself, a social and
emotional resiliency through
the arts program to be held at Joseph
A. DePaola Middle School, Southington
(KAWFY Memorial Fund),
Lynda M. Manne and Michael F.
Colomencio Jr. Hands-On Fund)
Boys & Girls Club of Bristol - \$5,000
- Journey: Path to Adulthood a program
to help youth develop a sense of identity
and define personal values as they transi-
tion to young adulthood (Douglas and
Noreen Schumann Special Interest
Fund, Desmond Family Charitable Fund,
Bristol for Life - \$1,078 - Technology
upgrade to support organizational events
and data collection as well as the educa-
tion of clients (KAWFY Memorial Fund)
Bristol Adult Education - \$1,990 -
Healthy snack pantry for food-insecure
students (Angela and Al Canuso Family
Charitable Fund, Ronald F. & Emalie P.
Dubaine Family Fund)
Bristol Adult Resource Center, Inc. -
\$4,800 - New lawnmowers for Yard

Service program in Bristol, Plainville
and Terryville (Pyrenski/Audet Family
Fund, Pat & Bob Wollesberg Charitable
Fund)
Bristol Child Development Center -
\$3,000 - Expansion of the Little Chef’s
program, a hands-on culinary and garden-
ing experience for students and families
(Pat & Bob Wollesberg Family Fund for
the Community, Fuller and Myrtle
Barnes Fund for Education, Karen and
Kim Murphy Family Charitable Fund)
Bristol Family Resource Centers -
\$4,500 - W.O.R.K.S. (Working Parents:
Options, Resources & Key Supports)
program to help working parents build
collaborative relationships with their
children’s school (Ciccarelli-Vitale
Community Advancement Fund, Fuller
and Myrtle Barnes Fund for Education)
Bristol Historical Society - \$1,596
- Past Perfect initiative, a technology
upgrade to enhance the museum’s visibil-
ity by allowing free online access to the
collection (Stephen and Catherine Saman
Memorial Fund)
Bristol Recovery Club Inc. - \$4,000 -
Beverage vending machine for member’s
use at meetings (Bristol Savings Bank
Fund, Fornagioni-Lodovico Family Fund,
Tedesco-Gallant Charitable Fund)
BristolWORKS! - \$3,000 - Financial
aid for individuals enrolled in workforce
training and development classes residing
in the Foundation’s service area (Willy
Barnes Fund for Community Leadership
Initiatives, Bristol Brass General Grant
Fund)
Burlington Library Association Inc. -
\$6,000 - Hoops, a library streaming ser-
vice providing instant access to eBooks,
audiobooks, comics, movies and music
(Burlington Community Fund, James R.
Parker Trust)
Burlington Volunteer Fire Department
Inc. - \$5,378 - Purchase of two specialized
nozzles that will help eradicate large fires
(James R. Parker Trust)
Claret Oak State College Foundation
Inc. - \$4,760 - Break the Paper Ceiling
program to remove financial barriers to
degree completion for adults returning
to college (Bristol Brass General Grant
Fund, Bristol Savings Bank Fund)
Connecticut Foodshare - \$3,500 -
Mobile Food Pantry supplying meat/dairy/
produce to underserved neighborhoods
in Bristol, Burlington, and Southington
(Bristol Brass General Grant Fund, Tuxus
Family Fund)
Connecticut Humane Society - \$1,000
- Veterinary care for at-risk pets in the
Foundation’s service area (Elizabeth I. and
Louis J. Matt Animal Protection Fund)
Environmental Learning Centers of
Connecticut, Inc. - \$5,000 - Phase II of
Wallace Barnes
Accessible Nature Trail project includ-
ing benches, signs and connection of trail

ends (Bristol Brass General Grant Fund,
Merriam Family Fund)
Family Resource Center of
Southington - Southington Board of
Education - \$4,582 - Building Blocks of
Learning school readiness program for
Southington children ages three to five
(KAWFY Memorial Fund)
Friends of Southington Animal
Control Inc. - \$3,000 - New ground
surface for outdoor kennel to improve
exercise area for animals (Elizabeth I. and
Louis J. Matt Animal Protection Fund)
Friends of the Wolcott Dog Pound,
Inc. - \$3,000 - Outreach and veterinary
care of pets from low and moderate-in-
come homes in the Foundation’s service
area (Elizabeth I. and Louis J. Matt Animal
Protection Fund, Terry & Margarette
Fletcher Family Fund)
Healing Meals Foundation
Corporation - \$4,500 - Healthy Meals
program for seriously ill persons in our
service area (Bristol Brass General Grant
Fund, Douglas and Noreen Schumann
Special Interest Fund)
Imagine Nation, A Museum Early
Learning Center - \$5,000 - Building
STEAM with Imagine Nation program for
students and families in the Foundation’s
service area (Fuller and Myrtle Barnes
Fund for Education)
Kelly’s Kids, Inc. - \$3,200 - Kelly’s
Kids Farm Playgroup, a therapeutic
program focusing on social skills devel-
opment for children in the Foundation’s
service area (Douglas and Noreen
Schumann Special Interest Fund)
Kelly’s Kids, Inc. (Wolcott Youth
Services Bureau) - \$2,000 - Wolcott Youth
Playgroup, an early childhood program for
preschoolers in Wolcott (Bristol Savings
Bank Fund, Karen and Kim Murphy
Family Charitable Fund)
New England Auto & Transportation
Museum Inc. - \$1,200 - Annual Summer
Car Show in Bristol (Bristol Brass General
Grant Fund)
Nightingale Symphony Orchestra -
\$6,000 - Educational Children’s Concerts
in schools throughout the Foundation’s
service area (James R. Parker Trust,
Bristol Brass General Grant Fund,
Margaret Haberman Memorial Fund for
Music)
Operation Fuel, Inc. - \$5,000 -
Emergency Energy Assistance in the
Foundation’s service area (Jim & Eleanor
Frawley Community Fund, Bristol Brass
General Grant Fund)
Plainville Community Food Pantry
- \$2,500 - Intervention, Outreach and
Referral Program providing food and
other basic needs for Plainville residents
(Paige Wartnick Laderriere Memorial
Fund, Bristol Brass General Grant Fund,
Becker Family Fund)
South Central Health District - \$3,000
- Community Life Saving classes such as

First Aid, CPR, Stop the Bleed and AED
training for Plainville and Southington
residents (KAWFY Memorial Fund)
Southington Festival Choral
- \$1,000 - Winter (2024) and Spring
(2025) concerts performed in Southington
(Southington Arts Council Legacy Fund,
KAWFY Memorial Fund)
Southington Girls Softball League -
\$2,000 - Lookie and Farm Field upgrades
(KAWFY Memorial Fund, JoAnn &
David Mills Family Fund)
Southington Southern Little League
- \$2,000 - Upgrades to three fields to
improve quality and standardize size
(KAWFY Memorial Fund)
Terryville Public Library - \$2,500
- Accessible adult seating for residents
and library patrons (Bristol Savings Bank
Fund, Bristol Brass General Grant Fund)
The Appge House - \$4,000 - Client
Transportation Initiative for housing-in-
secure clients in Bristol and surrounding
towns (Bristol Brass General Grant Fund)
The Carousel Museum - \$3,200 -
Expansion of Thursday Night Lecture
Series promoting the mission of the muse-
um (Bristol Brass General Grant Fund,
Jay & Elizabeth Tyrrell Fund for the Arts)
The Children’s Law Center, Inc. -
\$4,000 - Legal representation of children
in family court from the Foundation’s
service area (Bristol Brass General Grant
Fund)
The Children’s Museum - \$2,500
- Science Achievement for All (SAFA)
program for students in Bristol Public
Schools (Fuller and Myrtle Barnes Fund
for Education)
The Diaper Bank of CT - \$2,500
- Provide diapers to non-profit organiza-
tions serving low-income families through
a diaper distribution network in the
Foundation’s service area (Bristol Brass
General Grant Fund, KAWFY Memorial
Fund)
The Salvation Army - \$5,000 -
Creative Arts and Music (CAM) Academy
for Bristol youth (Douglas and Noreen
Schumann Special Interest Fund, Pat
Aamji, Bob Wollesberg Family Fund for
the Community)
The Eagle’s Nest - \$2,590 - Purchase
of a used Chair Lift providing access to
the second-floor classrooms for clients
with restricted mobility (Bristol Brass
General Grant Fund, Nana Jane’s Fund)
United Way of West Central CT -
\$5,500 - Staff support for BECA (Bristol
Early Childhood Alliance) Coordinator
(Edward W. and Audley K. Mink
Memorial Fund, Bristol Brass General
Grant Fund)
Veterans Strong Community Center
- \$6,000 - Operating support to conduct
outreach and case management services
for veterans in the Foundation’s service
area (Guzzo/Reidy Charitable Fund,
Bristol Brass General Grant Fund).



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Kilduff explains delay reasons

Continued from Page 1

of our downtown.”
According to the DOT,
the project, which began
in spring 2022, includes
intersection improve-
ments along Route 6
between Prospect Street
and Baldwin Park Lane.
However, during opera-
tions in fall 2023, it was
discovered that the origi-
nal ground survey model
used to develop the
project contained inaccura-
cies.

That is the reason for

the delay.

“Construction of the
major roadway work
has been paused while
the survey is corrected,
and the design reviewed
and updated to ensure
roadway, driveway, and
sidewalk grading are
constructed correctly,” a
DOT statement read.

However, during this
time, the department said
that it has also identified
other potential improve-
ments that can be made,
which include “extend-

ing streetscaping and
illumination” through the
project’s limits.

“Designers are current-
ly working with the Town
of Plymouth leadership
to incorporate these
improvements,” the DOT
statement read.

“At this time, it is antici-
pated that the design will
be complete by winter
2024. Construction is
expected to resume in
spring 2025 and be com-
pleted in 2026 based on
this current schedule.”