

PLAINVILLE
Be part of the Memorial Wall at PHS Page 2

PET OF THE WEEK
Walter the cat is available to adopt Page 2



The Bristol Press

Serving the Communities of Central Connecticut

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New York Stock Exchange

With nearly 2% inflation, why hasn't fed dropped the interest rate?

CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
 ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — From Wall Street traders to car dealers to home buyers, Americans are eager for the Federal Reserve to start cutting interest rates and lightening the heavy burden on borrowers.

The Fed is widely expected to do so this year — probably several times. Inflation, as measured by its preferred gauge, rose in the second half of 2023 at an annual rate of about 2% — the Fed's target level. Yet this week, several central bank officials underscored that they weren't ready to pull the trigger just yet.

Why, with inflation

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Main Street grants applications

BRIAN M. JOHNSON
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BRISTOL - The Main Street Community Foundation is now taking grant applications. "Main Street Community Foundation's general grant cycle is now open and welcomes nonprofit organizations serving Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington, and/or Wolcott to apply

for grants," said Samantha Rajotte, scholarship & program officer. "The deadline to apply is March 22." Rajotte said that grant requests should fall within the following program areas: "basic needs," "access to opportunity," and "vibrant communities." Organizations must benefit residents of Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and/or Wolcott.

"Preference will be given to organizations if the program/project responds to changing or emerging needs of the community or leverages or generates other funding/resources. Preference will also be given if the program or project promotes collaboration among nonprofit organizations without duplication of efforts, and/or enhances an existing program to



Susan Sadecki, President and CEO, Community Foundation.

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HOMELESSNESS



Homelessness in on the rise in Bristol. Outreach groups are seeking stronger cold weather provisions for those in need.

Bristol issue needs to be addressed

DEAN WRIGHT
 @THEBRISTOLPRESS

BRISTOL — With homeless outreach advocates saying the number of Connecticut residents becoming unsheltered is reaching unprecedented heights alongside a growing senior demographic, outreach groups across the

state are looking to create stronger cold weather programs in order to pave a better future for aiding those in need.

"Last year, we had around 27 people outside [in winter]," said Christine Theberge, executive director of Bristol's only overnight program for those finding themselves

unsheltered. St. Vincent De Paul Mission of Bristol. "As of [mid-December 2023], we had [around 80] people outside."

St. Vincent is part of the Central Connecticut Coordinated Access Network which is often referred to as the Central CAN. CANs are part of a statewide initiative that

seeks to streamline a process connecting applicants facing homelessness with resources in their communities.

The Central CAN is one of seven others throughout the state and is responsible for services in Bristol, New Britain, Southington, Plainville and Berlin. According to data

cited as of January 15 and provided by the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness — an organization that supports CAN endeavors statewide and monitors databases of unsheltered individuals — four unaccompanied persons between the ages of 18 and 24 were recorded

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Maj. Gen. Marcus Evans, Commanding General of the Army's 25th Infantry Division, an interview on Thursday.

US military drills in the Philippines will continue

JIM GOMEZ
 ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANILA, Philippines — Combat exercises between the United States and the Philippines involving thousands of forces each year will not be affected by America's focus on the

wars in Ukraine and the Middle East, a U.S. general said Thursday.

The Biden administration has been strengthening an arc of military alliances in the Indo-Pacific region to build deterrence and to better counter China, including in any future

confrontation over Taiwan and the disputed South China Sea.

But there have been concerns that the war in Ukraine and the Israel-Hamas conflict could hamper America's pivot to Asia and the Pacific and

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Main Street grant applications

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encourage sustainability.”

Additionally, there are Field of Interest (FOI) funds available in this grant cycle that support the following specific uses:

- Care and support of animals
- Sports field maintenance in Bristol and Burlington
- Programs / projects benefiting the Burlington community
- Non-sport, noncompetitive programs / activities for children attending ele-

mentary and middle schools in Southington.

“Grants from these funds are in addition to numerous other unrestricted and FOI funds,” Rajotte explained.

The Main Street Community Foundation’s Distribution Committee, a volunteer group of appointed community representatives, recommends all grant decisions for final approval by the Foundation’s Board of Directors. Since 1995, when the Foundation was established, more than \$28.2 million has been awarded in grants and scholarships

to improve the local communities.

Interested organizations must contact Kate Kerchaert, director of grants and programs, or another member of the grantmaking team for a preliminary discussion at least one week prior to the deadline. Kerchaert can be reached at 860-583-6363 or by email at kate@mainstreetfoundation.org.

To learn more about the application process, guidelines, and eligibility criteria, visit mainstreetfoundation.org/apply-for-grant.
