

Newtown Woman's Club, GFWC, Inc.  
P.O. Box 101 • Newtown, CT 06470

*Newtown Woman's Club*  
**Rooster**



*Ramblings*



**March 2025**



### **On This Date in History: March 20**

- 1854 Boston Public Library opens in Boston, Massachusetts as the first large free municipal library in the US
- **1890 General Federation of Women's Clubs founded in the United States**
- 1914 1st international figure-skating tournament held in US, New Haven
- 1934 American all-round female super athlete Babe Didrikson Zaharias pitches a hitless inning for Philadelphia A's in their exhibition pre-season baseball game against Brooklyn Dodgers
- 1985 Libby Riddles is 1st woman to win Iditarod Trail Dog Sled Race



Newtown Woman's Club March Luncheon  
 Sal's Family Ristorante and Pizzeria  
 630 Main St, Monroe, CT  
 203-268-1862  
 March 20, 2025

**Location:** Sal's Family Ristorante and Pizzeria, 630 Main St, Monroe, CT

**Directions:** Take route 25 into Monroe. Sal's is 6.4 miles from the flagpole on the left-hand side. There is a subway in the middle of the parking lot.

**Time:** 11:30 a.m. Registration and Social Time. 12:00 p.m. Meeting and Luncheon

**Date:** Thursday, March 20, 2025

**Cost:** \$33 (Please make checks payable to the Newtown Woman's Club)

**Program:** Game Time Surprise!

### February Luncheon Menu

*"A recipe has no soul. You, as the cook, must bring soul to the recipe."*  
 ~Thomas Keller

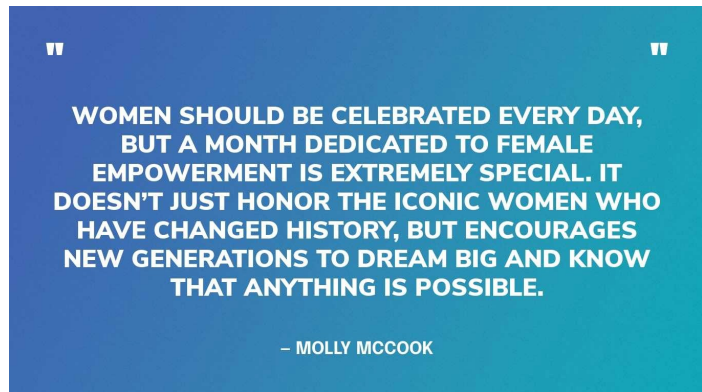
- Salad

#### Main Course (Choose one)

- Vegetable lasagna
- Chicken Parmesan
- Soul Francese

#### Coffee and Dessert (Choose one)

- Cheesecake
- Tartufo



**Deadline for reservations is Saturday, March 15, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.**

*NO EXCEPTIONS will be made after that date.*

If you have any questions, please call Marg Studley at 203-426-3651

**PLEASE NOTIFY YOUR CALLER IF YOU WILL BE AWAY! THANK YOU.**

**Please pay for your lunch by check or exact cash amount.  
 Karen and Peg will thank you for that!**

# The Newtown Woman's Club, GFWC/CT, Inc.

## Rooster Ramblings

VOLUME LVII

Issue 7

March 2025

Editor: Judy Rosentel

President:  
Rosemary Rau

Website: nwc-gfwc.org


**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:** *Rosemary Rau*




### All About March


~March 4 **Mardi Gras** aka Fat Tuesday.


~March 5 **Ash Wednesday** marks the start of Lent.

~March 8  **International Women's Day**, a day that not only celebrates the achievements of women and the progress made toward women's rights but also brings attention to ongoing struggles for equality around the world.

~March 9 **Daylight Savings Time**  don't forget to "spring forward" and set your clocks one hour ahead!

~March 15 **Ides of March!** Dark legend surrounds this ill-fated day. Beware!

~March 17 **St. Patrick's Day**  According to lore, folks originally wore a shamrock on St. Patrick's Day in recognition of the Saint's use as a symbol of the Trinity. Today's translation, the Wearin' of the green!

~March 20 **March equinox** - also known as vernal or spring equinox in the Northern Hemisphere-marks the beginning of spring.  On this day, the Sun stands directly over Earth's equator.

~March 29-31 **Borrowing Days** As weather lore has it, the last 3 days of March were "borrowed" from April and considered the days of wintry weather relapse.

### Trivia:

Did you know that March is National Umbrella Month?

Wishing you all good days ahead!

*Rosemary*

### MOM - Jeanne Braude Magi

#### What is your favorite season and holiday?

I love Autumn with the changing colors and it means winter is coming. Holiday, Easter is my favorite

#### What is your favorite animal? and do you have pets?

Felines are my favorite. I do not have any pets now. I always had several cats and sometimes a dog. I raised Siberian Huskies with my first husband.

#### What is your favorite color? Green

#### Do you collect anything? Hobbies? Talents?

Crafting, mahjong, crossword puzzles, reading. Used to cross country and alpine ski, and ice skate.

#### If you go back in time, what topic/event would you choose?

Advocating for people with disabilities.

#### What is the bravest thing you have ever done?

Racing on the Bondurant Race track in Arizona for my 60th birthday.

#### What is/are your favorite pleasure(s)?

Favorite pleasure is spending time with my family. I am so blessed with 13 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

**CONSERVATION/ENVIRONMENT:** *Evie Watts*  
*Millie Anderson*



Your E and C committee will collect new or gently used shoes at our March luncheon meeting. The shoes will be donated to Soles4Souls, a nonprofit organization headquartered in Nashville, TN. The shoes it receives are distributed to various programs throughout the world, and help those in need. The shoes are given directly to individuals or are repurposed by tradesmen thus providing work opportunities. In our banner year, we collected more than 100 pairs of shoes. Let's top that figure! P.S. We know how hard it is to give up a pair of shoes, even those we haven't worn in decades. But please try. Thank you.

Bad news! We're sorry to say that this year's "Cards for St. Jude's Children's Ranch" was less than successful. We know times have changed and we are mailing fewer and fewer cards. E and C will mail cards received to St. Jude's in June. We will accept donations at our March, April and May meetings. Thank you.

**OPERATION SMILE:** *Jeanne Braude-Magi*



Hopefully sometime in April/May we will be sending our package to Operation Smile. Once we obtain 23 small stuffed animals and 41 coloring books the inventory will be complete to send.

If anyone would like to contribute throw size light cotton blankets it would be greatly appreciated. We need 44 more blankets! Blankets are in addition to the list given to us by Operation Smile.



**FOOD PANTRY:** *Barbara Bradley*  
*Chris Dran*

This month's food collection will be for The FAITH Food Pantry. Thank you to all our Newtown Woman's Club members for their continued support.

**CARING FRIENDS:** *Mary Obre*

Our president, Rosemary Rau asked the Caring Friends committee to send a Sympathy Card to the families of the passing of a few of our Connecticut GFWC members and officers, which was done:

Grace Matyskiela Lindsay past president of the Farmington GFWC Woman's Club for the years 2008 - 2010.

Patty Kwashnak, member of Harwinton GFWC, Patty co-chaired NER Conference in Mystic.

Kelly Leach, member of Killingsworth GFWC; was past president of the Killingsworth Woman's Club.

Please contact me if you have any updates on Marion or Dottie that I can share with our membership. You can reach me at [mtobre@aol.com](mailto:mtobre@aol.com) or call at 203-426-4130.

**WAYS AND MEANS** *Marie Sturdevant*  
*Marg Studley*

On April 11th and 12th we are holding a gold fundraiser in the Gathering Room at the Library. Hours are 11 am until 4 pm. Greeters are needed for both days.

**PROGRAMS:** *Marie Sturdevant*  
*Marg Studley*

We are going to play a fun game - surprise!

## MINUTES:

Pat Lowell



### Newtown Woman's Club Meeting MINUTES February 20, 2025

President Rosemary Rau opened the meeting at 12:04pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alice Horahan.

The Collect was led by Jeanne Braude-Magi.

An Inspirational Message was read by Chris Dran.

A motion to approve the minutes of our January 16, 2025 meeting was made by Lisa Walsh and seconded by Nancy Kennedy.

Our 50/50 raffle netted \$23.00, and the special raffle netted \$35.00.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**-CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH:** Pat Lowell discussed a collaboration with The Vet Center and their upcoming National Vietnam War Veterans Day program. They will need assistance setting up on Wednesday, March 26, and would like volunteers to greet Veterans and their families as they enter the program on Thursday, March 27 at 11am at 131 West Street in Danbury. More details will be shared at our March 20th meeting. Sylvia Poulin thanked us for signing Valentine's Day cards for the Rocky Hill veterans.

**-HEALTH AND WELLNESS:** Jan Happel first congratulated club members for our dedication and involvement! She then handed out Vial of LIFE kits for us to fill out our and our family members' "Medical Info" in case of a medical emergency. A magnet on the back of the pouch allows us to attach it to a metal surface like a refrigerator. We then fill out a sticker to place on an outside door indicating where the Vial of LIFE is located.

**-OPERATION SMILE:** Jeanne Braude-Magi read us some information on this International Organization, and noted that high school and

college students are attending a related one-week conference. For our part, we still need 23 new stuffed animals and 41 coloring books by our March 20th meeting. Jeanne would also like donations of 50, light weight blankets to send separately with our other donations. Members said that these blankets can be purchased at Kohl's and Walmart stores.

**-FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Alice Horahan asked us to add suggestions to the list in our red folders for our upcoming donations. We are committed to the fire department, the Labor Day Parade, and the NHS scholarship. She encouraged us to fill her quarters collector/tube as it is getting heavy!

**-ARTS & CULTURE:** Marcia Cavanaugh reminded us about our photography contest to be held at our March meeting. We will vote on one photo to go to District Day in April, and then on to the State Convention in May. The photos must have been taken in 2024, measure 8" x 10", and be mounted.

**-BOOK CLUB:** Marg Studley announced that the next meeting will be held at Booth Library on Thursday, February 27 at 1pm. The book this month is *Wave: A Memoir* by Samali Deraniyagoda.

#### -OTHER BUSINESS:

Peg Forbel is taking names for members wishing to attend Southwest District Day, Tuesday, April 15, 2025, from 9am – 2:30pm at Café on the Green, 100 Aunt Hack Road, Danbury, CT. Checks can be made out to Newtown Women's Club for \$46.00 and given to Peg no later than April 4th. The theme this year is "Garden Party."

Jo Ann Bruno is asking us to take lots of photos of our club activities so she may post them on our website and facebook.

Janet Stockalis received a lovely gratitude card from Danbury Pediatric Nurses for their recent Knitting Committee donations.

*Continued...*

...Continued

Marg Studley announced that the Restaurant and Programs Committee is in the process of booking our March meeting at Sal's Restaurant in Monroe.

President Rosemary Rau adjourned the meeting at 12:25pm.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Pat Lowell, Recording Secretary*

**Our second annual Anniversary Pins Ceremony will take place at our May 15th meeting to honor those members who have earned pins this year. As we did in 2024, please wear something red to this meeting as a meaningful year-end tradition!**

**CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH:**

*Pat Lowell*

The Vet Center, Danbury, has reached out to us for help with their 50th National Vietnam Veterans Day Commemorative Celebration, taking place on Thursday, March 27th from 11am to 1pm. They are also asking for our help to set up tables the day before, Wednesday, March 26th. If committee members and others are able to stay for a few minutes after our February meeting, I will have more information to share.

Also, the new Director of Therapeutic Recreation at Stone Bridge, Frances Hernandez, is starting a knitting group, and she is asking for donations of yarn and knitting needles.

Please send Judy any information or photos for the website and/or Facebook. Check out our website: <http://www.nwc-gfwc.org/>.

**The next newsletter deadline is April 3, 2025**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** *Alice Horahan*

REMINDER: Last chance!

Please submit the name of any organization you think should be considered to receive a donation from our Club this year. The Finance Committee will then create a ballot of possible recipients to be voted on by the membership. The forms for your suggestions will be in the red folders on the tables. If you are unable to attend the meeting, just email [aahorahan@att.net](mailto:aahorahan@att.net) Thank you for your cooperation.

**VETERANS:** *Sylvia Poulin*

On the last page, you will find the note from the Rocky Hill Veterans to thank us for the Valentine Day cards that were delivered to them.

ALSO, remember with spring cleaning time that you can email [Pickup Please.org](http://Pickup>Please.org) if you have any clothing or small appliances that you no longer need. (no children items) They will contact you and set up a time for P/U and then send a letter that you donated. These items go directly to veterans.

**Message Corner**

**BINGO prizes for Stone Bridge - (formally Newtown Rehab) If you can bring small gifts to each meeting for Pat to bring to Stone Bridge, she would appreciate it. Please refer to the list from our October newsletter.**

**We also collect for The Center for Empowerment and Education at each meeting.**

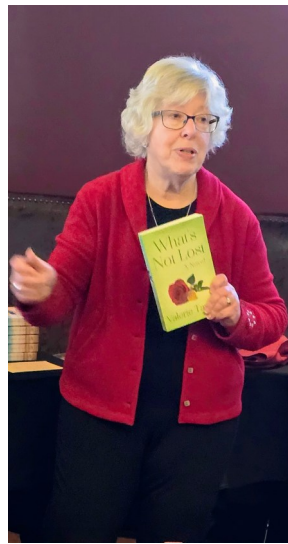
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**There will be a link to the newsletter on the website each month in case you have trouble opening the email file. Here is the link. If you click on it, it will bring you to our site. <http://www.nwc-gfwc.org>**

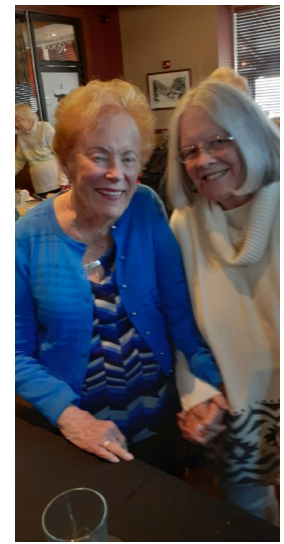
**Author Book Signing luncheon on  
Saturday, February 22 at the  
Black Angus Grill in Danbury.**



*Marie Sturdevant, Valerie Taylor  
and Marg Studley*



*Valerie Taylor*



*Marie Sturdevant and  
Barbara Bradley*

**ARTS:**

*Marcia Cavanaugh  
Michelle Rosenthal*

We will be judging photographs at the March Meeting that will be chosen to go to our District Day on April 15.

**THE WORLD IN PICTURES CONTEST** These photographs showcase the people, places, and things at home and around the world that impact our lives in a meaningful way, as expressed in these three categories:

**Our World Up Close**—Create a visual that offers a novel viewpoint or a macro image that takes the viewer into a whole new, tiny world. Macro photography creates photos of small items that are larger than life. Some common examples are bugs or parts of flowers.

**Natural Wonders**—Use wide angles and panoramas, or changeable landscape images, to showcase mountains, meadows, sandhills, rivers, waterfalls, oceans, deserts, or any other magnificent vista.

**Reflections**—Feature a setting, situation, or landmark that brings back poignant memories, or capture a fleeting image reflected in glass, water, or another mirrored surface.

**PHOTOGRAPHS FOR STATE JUDGING:**

- Photographs may be vertical/portrait or horizontal/landscape.
- Photographs must be the original work of the member submitting the photograph.
- Each photograph must be an 8 X 10-inch print. • All photographs must be mounted on a rigid 8 X 10-inch board and overall thickness may not exceed 3/8 inch. No mattes, frames, or hangers are to be included.
- Photographs may be taken using film or with digital cameras and may be color or black and white.
- Printed photographs will not be returned.
- Each photograph must have a label affixed to its back with the following information:
  - Contest name: World in Pictures with category or GFWC Living the Volunteer Spirit • Photographer's Name, Email Address, Mailing Address, and Phone Number
  - Name and State of the sponsoring club
  - Title and a brief caption giving location, date, and other pertinent information about the photograph
  - Arrow indicating the top of the photograph

**Please call us with any questions.**

**Marcia 203-270-6943 • Michelle 203-426-0660**

## KNITTING:

*Janet Stockalis*

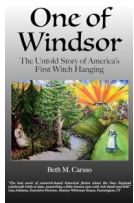


A group of friendly women who volunteer their time and talent to do good for many deserving people. We meet the first Tuesday of every month from September to May at the Booth Library. 1pm - 3pm. We knit baby hats and blankets for Pediatric and Nursery babies, hats and scarves for Veterans, homeless and local food pantries and the Newtown Police Dept. giving tree.

New members are always welcome. Yarn, needles, crochet hooks and patterns are provided. Even if you never knitted or crocheted, there are people who will help you learn or refresh you. Simple projects, no pressure and a friendly time together. Please join us in this worthwhile endeavor!

## BELLES, BOOKS AND CANDLES:

*Joan Lavery*



I want to thank everyone who came to the book club discussion, we had a nice turnout and enjoyed some great tea.

The book for March 27th is "One Of Windsor" by Beth Caruso. See you at the library at 1:00. If you want to bake cookies please let me know. I will supply the tea.

Happy St. Patrick's Day. 

- **Mar** "One of Windsor: The Untold Story of America's First Witch Hanging" By Beth Caruso
- **April** "Blue Dahlia" by Nora Roberts
- **May** "The Women" by Kristin Hannah

## INTERNATIONAL:

*Jeanne Braude-Magi*

### Heifer International:

*Alice Horahan*



Our quarter container is starting to fill up. We'll soon be able to provide protein and nourishment for the women and their families that we help.

## HEALTH AND WELNESS

*Jan Happel*

### Preventative Medicine

*Marcia Cavanaugh*

## TATTOOS

Over 32% of American adults have a tattoo. Approximately 25% of those wish they hadn't gotten it. A tattoo is meant to be permanent. The ink is placed beneath the surface of the skin, in the 2nd layer, the dermis, so it does not disappear with normal shedding of skin cells. But that makes the ink difficult to remove.

The size, color and location of your tattoo, as well as your skin color, will affect the outcome of a removal attempt. A common way to remove or lighten a tattoo is through laser treatment. Q-switched lasers emit a pulse of energy that breaks the tattoo ink into tiny pieces. Over several weeks, your body's immune system eliminates the ink particles. The procedure can be painful. Swelling, bleeding or blistering may occur. Several treatments may be needed. Often it is not possible to remove all evidence of a tattoo.

At-home removal kits are not approved by the Food and Drug Administration. They have not been shown to be effective and may be harmful.



# TREASURER'S REPORT 06/01/2024 - 02/28/2025

Peg Forbell - Treasurer

BALANCE ON HAND AT BEGINNING OF PERIOD			5/31/24	1,594.33
	BUDGET		FUNDRAISING	
CASH RECEIVED:				
CHRISTMAS BASKET INCOME			445.00	
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH (BOTTLES)	15.85			
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH (OP SMILE)	60.00			
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH (ST JUDE)	530.00			
HOSPITALITY - LUNCHEON PAYMENTS	5,709.00			
INTEREST INCOME	5.05			
MEMBERSHIP-DUES, APPLICATIONS, NAME TAGS	2,236.00			
OPERATING INCOME - 50/50, RAFFLES, SALES	694.00			
WAYS & MEANS - RAU ORNAMENTS			25.00	
WAYS & MEANS - ORNAMENTS			6,360.00	
WAYS & MEANS - DONATIONS			150.00	
WAYS & MEANS - BOO BOXES			200.00	
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS:</b>	<b>9,249.90</b>		<b>7,180.00</b>	<b>16,429.90</b>
DISBURSEMENTS:				
CARING FRIENDS				
CHRISTMAS BASKET EXPENSE			445.00	
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH (HEIFER)				
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH (ST JUDE)	530.00			
COMMUNITY DONATIONS			150.00	
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY - BOX RENT	242.00			
FEDERATION DUES	900.00			
FUNDRAISING EXPENSE - ORNAMENTS			2,863.06	
FUNDRAISING EXPENSE - BOOK SIGNING			75.00	
HOSPITALITY - LUNCHEON COSTS	4,914.41			
INCORPORATION FEE	50.00			
INSURANCE	125.91			
PROGRAM EXPENSE	140.00			
TREASURER	14.60			
VETERANS	154.04			
WEBSITE				
YEARBOOK	189.44			
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>7,260.40</b>		<b>3,533.06</b>	<b>10,793.46</b>
BALANCE AT END OF REPORTING PERIOD			2/28/2025	7,230.77

## Birthday's



### March

Jan Happel	5
Joyce Webster	5
Mary Ann Magee	14
Jean Braude-Magi	19

### April

Louise Baker	16
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GENERAL FEDERATION of  
WOMEN'S CLUB'S of CT



CALL to Southwest DISTRICT DAY  
Theme: "Garden Party"  
Tuesday, April 15, 2025

Café on the Green, 100 Aunt Hack Rd, Danbury, CT

Marlene Patren – District President  
Jeannie Braude-Magi – Assistant District President

9:00 - 9:30	Registration of Photography ** No Photography accepted after 9:30 am **
9:30 - 10:30	Registration Coffee, Tea, Pastries Raffle Sales
10:30 - 11:15	Call to Order Welcome, Inspiration, Pledge, Collect Introduction and Reports of GFWC/CT Officers Presentation of GFWC/CT Awards Introduction of Photography Judges
11:15 - 12:00	Entertainment
12:00 - 12:30	Social Time - Cash Bar Viewing of Photography
12:30 - 1:45	Expression of Thanks Lunch Served Raffle Sales
1:45 - 2:30	Election of Nominating Committee Photography Best in Show Raffle Drawings Announcements
2:30	Adjournment

# REGISTRATION and MEAL FORM

*(Due no later than April 4, 2025)*

**Registration: \$4    Lunch: \$46    Total: \$50**

Coffee, Tea and Danish available at 10:00 a.m.

Lunch: Choice of New York Sirloin, Chicken Piccata and Salmon Siciliano

Dessert: Chocolate Mousse Cake or Ricotta Cheesecake

**CLUB NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CLUB CONTACT:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Enclosed (\_\_\_\_) check(s) in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ reservations.**

**\*\* Please make checks payable to WCDNF \*\***

**Mail to: Maxine Driscoll—6 Shady Knolls, Danbury, CT 06811**

Name of attendees:	

**Directions to Café on the Green:** Take I84 west to exit 2B, Mill Plain Road. Make right at light and make right at next light to Route 6 (Mill Plain Road). Drive ¼ mile and make left on Aunt Hack Road. Drive ¼ mile and make left on Cedar Crest Drive. In 450 feet, take a right to Aunt Hack Road. Drive 1 mile (keeping left) and make a left into Richter Park and Café on the Green.



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER**  
287 West Street  
Rocky Hill, Connecticut 06067



*Ronald P. Welch*  
*Commissioner*  
*Brigadier General*  
*U.S. Army (Ret)*

February 18, 2025

Newtown Woman's Club  
ATTN: Sylvia Poulin  
85 Boggs Hill Road  
Newtown, CT  
06420-1966

Dear Ms. Poulin and Newtown Woman's Club Members,

On behalf of Commissioner Ron Welch of the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs, I would like to thank you for the beautiful Valentine's Day cards mailed to our campus in Rocky Hill, CT. These cards were delivered to our Veteran residents on Valentine's Day. The response was overwhelmingly gracious. They sincerely appreciated being thought of on Valentine's Day with hand-created and hand-written cards from your organization. With gratitude, we thank you for sharing in our mission of "Serving Those Who Served".

Please accept my sincere appreciation for your support and do not hesitate to contact me with any further feedback or questions.

Thank you for remembering our Veterans and the sacrifices they have made.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lindsay Jesshop".

Lindsay A. Jesshop  
Manager of Community Advocacy  
E: [Lindsay.Jesshop@ct.gov](mailto:Lindsay.Jesshop@ct.gov)  
P: 860 616 3603