

# Local News

## DAILY DIGEST

### NAUGATUCK

#### Three families displaced by fire at Oak Street house

A fire at a century-old home Saturday night displaced at least three families, firefighters said. The three-family house at 90 Oak St. caught fire at about 8:30 p.m. and was engulfed in flames when firefighters arrived. Naugatuck Fire Department called for assistance from Waterbury Fire Department due to the age of the house and the size of the fire. It was still burning when a Waterbury fire vehicle arrived, but the flames had been extinguished. Waterbury firefighters helped inspect the house and put out the last patches of fire. There were no injuries.

The multifamily home, which has five bedrooms, was occupied when the fire began. Waterbury Battalion Chief Felix Sambuco said the fire appeared to be caused by old wiring.

The fire began in the living room of the third floor apartment and quickly spread into the walls. Because of the age of the structure, it lacked insulation and fire stops. Sambuco said it could have spread quickly.

Two rooms on the third floor were destroyed. Electricity to the house was cut off, and the residents were being relocated by the American Red Cross. There was fire, smoke and water damage throughout.

Sambuco said he thought there were three or four families living there. Naugatuck land records show that the house, owned by Thomas W. Baranowski, was built in 1906.

### OXFORD

#### Firefighters rescue 3 men after boat mishap at Lake Zoar

Oxford firefighters responded to a report of a boat sinking and three men in the water in the area of the Stevenson Dam on Saturday.

Fire Chief Scott Pelletier said FirstLight Power Resources was hauling plates behind a boat for work on the dam when two of the four airbags used to float the plates deflated. That caused the back of the boat to sink, he said.

The Oxford Volunteer Fire Department was alerted about 12:10 p.m. of the sinking boat and three people in Lake Zoar, north of the dam, Pelletier said. When firefighters arrived, the boat was bobbing up in the air, with the rear in the water, he said.

The men were brought to shore, where they refused medical attention, he said. The Stevenson Fire Department also responded with Monroe police, Oxford Resident Trooper Sgt. Daniel Semosky, who coordinates the Lake Zoar Patrol, on a lake patrol boat and representatives with the state Department of Environmental Protection.

Pelletier said he does not know what the plates were being used for, but was told they weigh between 6,000 and 7,000 pounds. A representative of FirstLight Power Resources couldn't be reached for comment.

### OXFORD

#### School district receives 16 superintendent applicants

The school district has received 16 applicants for the position of superintendent of schools, Board of Education Chairwoman Rose A. McKinnon said.

The job posting closed on Dec. 3. McKinnon said the superintendent search committee, which is the nine-member school board, is expected to meet this week to interview candidates. The district received a good range of qualified applicants from Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York, she said.

In August, the board hired Interim Superintendent James A. Connelly to replace former Superintendent Judith A. Palmer, who resigned to become superintendent of Region 7, a four-town school district with offices in her hometown of Winsted. Connelly, who is paid \$600 a day, will work through Dec. 31, or until the district finds a new superintendent, whichever comes sooner.

The school board enlisted the help of New England School Development Council of Marlborough, Mass., in the search. Last month, it conducted focus groups, and has completed a profile for the board to use.

## MORE NEWS INSIDE

### A special Christmas party



People with special needs were treated to a Christmas party at the Wolcott Land Owners Protective Association on Saturday. PAGE 3B

### Trail expansion planned

Local and state officials plan to expand the Antiques Trail and seek an official designation like the state's Wine Trail. PAGE 2B

### Chef aids deaf people

A line chef at the Heritage Hotel in Southbury recently stepped out from behind the stove to work as a translator for 80 deaf people at a conference. PAGE 2B

>>> DEATHS ON PAGE 2B

# Standing up to cyberbullies

## Waterbury using suspensions, education

BY MICHAEL PUFFER  
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

WATERBURY — An Internet posting of pictures of five city girls accompanied by lewd and disparaging comments led to the suspension of five Kennedy High School students last week.

Waterbury schools, like

schools nationwide, are experiencing a growing number of problems with technology related discipline issues.

In Waterbury, school officials are hoping to push back against the trend with educational workshops conducted by city police officers. Beginning in January, officers will meet with all student, in small groups,

from grade five on up.

"It's not just educating the kids, but it's educating the bullies that what they are doing is criminal or at least against school policy," Police Capt. Christopher Corbett said.

Officials are also promising a round of information sessions for parents.

"Cyberbullying" will be one

of the main focuses, but the new lessons will also cover other technology related problems.

Detective Peter Morgan, one of the department's two computer crime analysts, said he's only encountered a handful of technology crimes involving youth. He suspects the vast majority go unreported by kids who don't want to be perceived as snitches or who are afraid of increased bullying.

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# Homes for the holidays



JONATHAN WILCOX REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

Deirdre Bologna, Carolann Rich and Randy Rich of Woodbury take a tour through the Cape Cod-style home of Ron and Katherine Craig, built in 1811 by Benjamin Curtiss Peck, during the Women's Club Of Woodbury's 16th annual Holiday House Tour Saturday morning. Funds from the tickets will go to scholarships, food and fuel banks and other charities.

# Water line to be in by year's end

BY QUANNAH LEONARD  
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

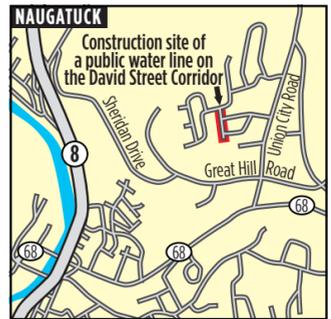
NAUGATUCK — Construction of a public water line to help residents whose wells have tested positive for a potentially dangerous chemical is expected to be finished by the end of this year, borough officials said.

The borough is installing the line and hookups along the so-called David Street corridor, where 10 homes will be tied into the public

water supply.

Those properties — homes on David Street, Gail Drive and Ramsey Avenue — were chosen because sampling data collected by the state Department of Environmental Protection show high levels of PCE, or tetrachloroethylene, in their well water — or they're adjacent to the contaminated groundwater and could easily connect to the line, Public Works Director

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STEVE RAGGIE REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

# Electronics recycling will start Jan. 1

BY JIM MOORE  
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

TORRINGTON — Computers, monitors, printers and televisions are stacked in a storage container here, waiting for pickup as the state's new electronic waste recycling system is coming on line.

Starting Jan. 1, it will be illegal to dump these electronics in the trash. Cities and towns will be required to contract with a state-approved vendor to collect the electronic devices covered by a 2007 state law for recycling and disposal.

Not every town has filed a plan to comply with the new law and regulations, and the state has yet to release the list of approved vendors. Another question remains unsettled as well: what will become of the microwave oven tucked behind the televisions and computer monitors in an electronics

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# Toys by the carload



JONATHAN WILCOX REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

Foundation President Ginny Ciocchetti unloads a car full of toys at the Marie and Pat Ciocchetti Foundation's annual Christmas toy drive at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Waterbury on Saturday morning. Clothing and food were also donated to local needy people through Family Services of Greater Waterbury, Safe Haven of Waterbury and Waterbury Youth Services.

# Panel favors moratorium on wind farms

BY QUANNAH LEONARD  
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

PROSPECT — A draft resolution by a Town Council subcommittee would call for state legislators to place a moratorium on wind energy projects until state minimum standards are created.

The resolution, which hasn't been finalized yet, would recommend the Town Council to support renewable energy projects, acknowledge its responsibility to safeguard residents' health, welfare, quality of life, safety and economic stability and support town land use and local health boards in establishing regulations for these projects.

It also would support Mayor Robert J. Chatfield's appearance before the Connecticut Siting Council as the town's representative, asking the sit-

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