



## COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOODS

[www.meridenncna.wordpress](http://www.meridenncna.wordpress)

### April 2025 Newsletter

#### Activities in April

Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup>: North Meriden

City Park

Sun 13<sup>th</sup>: Park & Rec Egg-Stravaganza Event

Wed 16<sup>th</sup>: Dutch Hill

ECHO

Hillside Gardens

Veteran's Assoc

Thurs 17<sup>th</sup>: Westsiders

Action 13

Lewis Ave

Thurs 17<sup>th</sup>: Meriden Healthy Youth Coalition Film: Screen Agers

Thurs 24<sup>th</sup>: South Meriden

Glen Hills

Stagecoach Riders

Crown Village

7pm Meriden Public Library

1pm-3pm Meriden Public Library

6:30pm First Baptist Church

6:30pm Immanuel Lutheran Church

5:30pm-7:30pm Meriden Public Library

6:30pm Tom's Place

\*\*\*\*\*SAVE THE DATE: MERIDEN'S DAFFODIL FESTIVAL May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> HUBBARD PARK!!\*\*\*\*\*

#### Meriden Police Dept Tip Lines

If you have any information or tips regarding crime, narcotics, or shootings you can report them anonymously to the Meriden Police Department by either calling or emailing the following:

Major Crime Tips: Telephone (203) 630-6253 Email: [mpdtips@meridenct.gov](mailto:mpdtips@meridenct.gov)

Narcotic Tips: Telephone (203) 630-6273 Email: [mnarcoticsunit@meridenct.gov](mailto:mnarcoticsunit@meridenct.gov)

#### Meriden Police Dept: Calls for Service & Interactive Reports

The Meriden Police Dept is offering a new tool to keep residents apprised of the Department's activities including the calls for service the police department responds to daily. The department is rolling out the first of the interactive reports which will be accessible on the City of Meriden website at:

[www.meridenct.gov/city-services/police/interactive-reports](http://www.meridenct.gov/city-services/police/interactive-reports)

#### Help needed!! Council of Neighborhoods Daffodil Fest Food Booth

We are in need of volunteers to help out at the Council of Neighborhoods food booth on Sat May 3<sup>rd</sup> 10am to 8pm and Sun May 4<sup>th</sup> 10am to 5pm. We will be selling our Silver City Waffle, Strawberry and Hot Fudge Sundaes. Proceeds from the booth helps cover the cost of our activities throughout the year. Any help would be greatly appreciated! To sign up please contact Holly Wills at [cwills0142@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cwills0142@sbcglobal.net)

#### Happy Retirement Fire Chief Morgan!

We send out our congratulations to Meriden Fire Chief Ken Morgan on his retirement which takes place April 1<sup>st</sup>! We wish him a very healthy and happy retirement and thank him for his service to the city and our neighborhoods! Deputy Chief Christene Schoeck will be promoted to Meriden's Fire Chief which takes effect April 11<sup>th</sup>. We welcome her to the new role as our new Fire Chief!

### Saving Paws Animal Rescue Fundraiser

Meriden Animal Control has an animal rescue Saving Paws that takes in cats and dogs and sometimes other domesticated animals. They care for them and get them ready to be adopted to their forever homes. They are a non-profit organization and have some upcoming fundraisers to support the rescue. They are accepting returnable cans and bottles. If you have any returnable cans and bottles please consider to donate them to Saving Paws. You can drop them off at the animal control office at 311 Murdock Ave or the group will pick up donations at Meriden residences. Also, they are planning a yard sale as another fundraiser. They are looking for donations for the yard sale. Drop off donations at the shelter anytime. Contact Saving Paws for questions regarding items that will be accepted. The yard sale will be on May 30<sup>th</sup>, May 31<sup>st</sup>, and June 1<sup>st</sup> 8am to 4pm at the animal control office at 311 Murdock Ave. All donations are tax deductible!

### Meriden Park & Rec Egg-Stravaganza Event: Sun April 13<sup>th</sup> 1pm-3pm Meriden Public Library

Children and their families are invited to "hop" through the library to collect treats from area non-profit and civic organizations. An easter egg hunt and selfies with the Easter Bunny are also being planned!

### Meriden Healthy Youth Coalition: Screen Agers Film: Thurs April 17<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm-7:30pm Meriden Public Library

Meriden Middle and High School Families are invited to view a special screening of Screen Agers on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Along with the film viewing dinner will be provided. Great opportunity for youth to earn community service hours. For more information contact Marissa Acciardo at [Marissa.Acciardo@hhchealth.org](mailto:Marissa.Acciardo@hhchealth.org).

### Reporting Potholes on City's streets

Potholes originate by freezing and thawing of the roads. If rain, sleet, or snow fall into cracks in the roads it will also freeze and expand disturbing the road's bottom layers causing the potholes to form. If you see any potholes as you are driving you can report them by completing a Request for Service form on the City of Meriden's website. Please drive safely!

### Meriden Warming Center

A Warming Center has opened for those in need to keep warm during the winter months from December 2, 2024 to May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 located at the Women and Families Center 169 Colony St. It is open daily 7pm to 7am and is operated by New Opportunities. The warming center will be able to accommodate 30 individuals (male or female) nightly on a first come first serve basis. Singles only. No families. For further information call (475) 261-4236.

### Meriden Free Little Libraries

Stewards are going through their libraries giving them a clean sweep, straightening out books and stocking up for the upcoming season. There are currently Twenty-Seven Little Free Libraries throughout Meriden, with many libraries located at local parks to coincide with sporting events. Currently the Little Free Library at Yale Acres, located at Broadview Court and Gilbert Road is out of service. We are in need of a handy person who would like to take care of the occasional fix it with the libraries, everything from repairing doors, adding latches, applying caulk and painting are typical tasks. Feel free to reach out to our Facebook page, Meriden Little Free Libraries, if you or if you know someone who may be interested. We would greatly appreciate the help. Be on the lookout for Meriden's signature flower, the daffodils, surrounding many of the Little Free Libraries thanks to the Maloney Leo's Club. A wonderful sign of spring for several years now, thank you! We are partnering with the Meriden Boys and Girl's Club at a book giveaway on Saturday, May 10 from 9 to 11 at John Barry school. Stop by our table and learn about the Little Free Libraries, our locations and what we do around the community. We'd love to chat with you! Just a reminder, we have four drop off locations throughout the city to make it easier of you to donate books and puzzles. The locations are San Souci Restaurant, Hancock's Pharmacy, Gallery 53, and Tesoro Gifts and Boutique. Each location has a basket where you can drop off the books. As always, we are grateful to the organizations that support our mission of getting free books out into the community for young and old alike, thank you to the Meriden Rotary Foundation, we are grateful for your continued support. Keep in touch with us on Facebook at Meriden Little Free Libraries, for updated info about our libraries and events.



## **News from the Meriden Department of Health and Human Services – April 2025**

165 Miller Street \* 203-630-4226 \* [www.meridenhealth.com](http://www.meridenhealth.com)

### **Connecticut Foodshare Mobile Pantry**

#### **NEXT DATES:**

**Corner of Miller and Center Streets: April 10 and 24 from 1:00-2:00pm.**

**Mt. Hebron Baptist Church, 84 Franklin Street: April 3 and 17 from 1:15 – 2:15pm.**

Bring your reusable grocery bags!



A full schedule can be found at: [ctfoodshare.org/findhelp](http://ctfoodshare.org/findhelp). To sign up for text alerts for schedule changes, text the word FOODSHARE to 85511.

### **Hartford HealthCare Mobile Mammography**

Hartford Hospital's Digital Mobile Mammography coach is coming. Take the time to visit us for your screening mammogram. Mammograms can save lives.

These screening mammograms are offered for women age 40 and older who have not had a mammogram in over a year. They will be in front of our building

(165 Miller Street) on April 8th from 8:00 AM - 1:15 PM by appointment. To schedule an appointment call (860) 972-1243.



### **COVID-19 Home Test Kits**

We have COVID-19 home test kits! Kits are available for Meriden residents in our office (165 Miller Street) Monday - Friday, 8:00am - 4:30pm. The kits expire in December 2025. We cannot provide bulk kits to businesses or organizations.

Households can still order 4 free at-home COVID-19 test kits through the federal government. Your order of COVID tests is completely FREE - you won't even pay for shipping.

To order visit: <https://www.covidtests.gov/>

Need help placing an order for your at-home tests? Call 1-800-232-0233 (TTY 1-888-720-7489).

Have a COVID-19 home test kit at home? Many have extended expiration dates. [Check the expiration date by visiting the FDA website.](#)

MERIDEN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

#### **COVID-19 Home Test Kits**

Meriden residents - COVID-19 home test kits are available at 165 Miller Street, Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm.



Households can order 4 free test kits from [www.COVIDTests.gov](http://www.COVIDTests.gov).

Need help placing an order? Call 1-800-232-0233 (TTY 1-888-720-7489).



Looking for respiratory virus guidance? Visit [www.meridenhealth.com](http://www.meridenhealth.com) or scan the QR code!



### **National Public Health Week**

During the first full week of April, the American Public Health Association (APHA), observes [National Public Health Week \(NPHW\)](#) to recognize public health's accomplishments and highlight key issues that are important to improving the health of our country. Join us April 7 - 13, 2025 for the 30th Anniversary of National Public Health Week with the theme: It Starts Here.

This year's theme, It Starts Here, aligns with the overall goal of our department in that your health is our mission. At the Meriden Department of Health and Human Services, our goal is to protect the health and social well-being of the people in Meriden, to promote an environment conducive to healthy lifestyles, and to prevent adverse health outcomes.

Check out our Facebook page: [City of Meriden Health & Human Services Department](#) during National Public Health Week for content that highlights services and program our department offers.

## SAVE A LIFE DAY

Our department is partnering with other local health departments/districts for SAVE A LIFE DAY on April 9th - an initiative to educate the community on how to recognize and respond to an opioid overdose by administering Naloxone.

Our training will be on April 9th from 5:00 - 6:30pm at 165 Miller Street. The training will include hands-only CPR (no certification). To register, call (203) 630-4288.

The following local health departments/districts will also be participating:

- Aspetuck Health District
- Bridgeport Health Department
- Central Connecticut Health District
- Chesprocott Health District
- East Hartford Health Department
- East Shore District Health Department
- Farmington Valley Health District
- Middletown Health Department
- Milford Health Department
- Naugatuck Valley Health District
- Norwalk Health Department
- South Central Health District
- Trumbull Health Department
- Wallingford Health Department



## Updates from Marley the Meriden Lion

### Trusted Messenger Videos

We are thrilled to announce our trusted messenger videos that were filmed in January are now available! You can view the first two videos featuring Anna Ryan, Public Health Nurse, and Rob Kosienski Jr., President of the Meriden Board of Education on our Facebook page. Videos will also be highlighted on our Childhood Vaccinations webpage: [bit.ly/ChildhoodVaccinesMeriden](https://bit.ly/ChildhoodVaccinesMeriden).

We would like to thank our staff and community partners that were featured in these videos including:





- Meriden Board of Education
- Hispanic Health Council
- First Congregational Church Preschool

We would also like to thank the Meriden Public Library for letting us use the children's section for filming, and their continued support with grant activities.



### Bebés Activos Bilingual Playgroup

Staff attended Bebés Activos Bilingual Playgroup at the Meriden Public Library on March 21st. Marley the Meriden Lion was there for pictures and staff distributed “goodie bag” lunch bags with information about our Public Health Clinic, School Readiness program, and more!

Staff will also attend the playgroup on April 11 and April 25 from 10:00 - 10:45am.



### Measles Messaging

This year, there have already been more measles cases in the U.S. than last year. Measles is a highly contagious and potentially dangerous illness. Babies and young children under five years old are at higher risk for serious complications. If you are planning to travel, and your child has not had an MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine, talk to their doctor.



You may also call our Public Health Clinic at (203) 630-4234 to schedule an appointment for an MMR vaccine. Childhood vaccines are available for all Meriden residents at no cost regardless of their health insurance status.

## Youth Services

Join us in partnership with the Meriden Healthy Youth Coalition and the Meriden Public Library for a free screening of Screenagers: Growing Up in the Digital Age! This will be held at the Meriden Public Library on April 17, 2025 starting at 5:30 PM. Dinner will be provided!

This award-winning documentary takes a deep dive into the challenges families face with social media, video games, and academics. It offers practical solutions to help kids and teens navigate the digital world in a healthy way.

A discussion will follow the screening—join us for this important conversation!

Register now by or using this link:

<https://forms.gle/C7QS2DdRGQGzr2qZ7>



## Meriden Senior Center

Membership to the Senior Center is FREE for Meriden residents age 55 and over! The February issue of the Meriden Senior Center newsletters is [now available on our website](#).

### Transportation Services

The Meriden Senior Center provides free rides to and from the Center, to in-town medical appointments, and scheduled shopping trips. Rides are available for residents age 55 and over and persons with disabilities under age 55. Please call the Mini-Bus Transportation Office at (203) 237-3338 to learn more.

### Nutrition Program

A healthy, nutritious lunch is served daily for Senior Center members age 60 and over. There is a nominal fee for members age 55 to 60. Call (203) 630-4704 to learn more. The lunch menu is available in the newsletter.

### Renters' Rebate Program

Renters' Rebate runs from April 1 to September 30 and is for Connecticut renters who are elderly or totally disabled, and whose income does not exceed certain limits. Income must be under \$45,200 for a single person and under \$55,100 for a married couple. Person renting an apartment or room, or living in cooperative housing or mobile homes may be eligible for this program.

Appointments will be held at the Meriden Senior Center, 22 West Main Street. Appointments are required and can be made by calling 203-630-4708, 203-237-0066 or 203-630-4273. Learn more about this state program at <http://tinyurl.com/StateRR2024>.

## School Health

### Kindergarten Registration

Will your child be 5 years old by September 1, 2025? If so, your child is eligible to register for Kindergarten for the 2025-2026 school year! To start the registration process, please visit the Meriden Board of Education's Central Registration website:

<https://www.meridenk12.org/parents/registration/>



Part of the registration process is meeting the State of Connecticut's health requirements. This includes:

- A physical examination within 12 months before the first day of school (August 28, 2024) **AND**
- A copy of the child's immunization record

For specific questions about health requirements, please contact the Meriden Department of Health and Human Services' Clinic at (203) 630-4234.

## School Readiness

Meriden School Readiness provides affordable, quality childcare slots for 3, 4 and 5 year old children not yet eligible for kindergarten living in Meriden. Programs provide children with a School Readiness experience that can assure they will enter kindergarten ready to learn.



If you are interested in learning more, please call Rhonda Knight, School Readiness Coordinator, at (203) 630-4222 or email her at [rknight@meridenct.gov](mailto:rknight@meridenct.gov).

## Environmental Health

### Preparing for Tick Season

Tick season varies from region to region, but in Connecticut the season typically starts in April and runs through October. With more milder, shorter winters in the recent years means ticks may not have been dormant through the winter months leading to a population increase for the spring and summer seasons.

Here are some prevention tips on how to avoid tick bites:

#### Before You Go Outdoors:

- Wear protective clothing: Wear light-colored clothing so you can more readily see if a tick may be stuck to your clothing. Tuck the bottom of your pant legs into your socks so ticks can't crawl inside your pant leg.
- Wear insect repellent: Use insect repellent (i.e. bug spray) on your clothes and skin. ALWAYS read the product label. Use a product that contains no more than 30% DEET (usually listed as the first ingredient on the product label).

#### After You Come Indoors:

- Check your clothing, pets, and body for ticks: Ticks may be carried into the house on clothing. Any ticks that are found should be removed. Tumble dry clothes in a dryer on high heat for 10 minutes to kill ticks on dry clothing after you come indoors. Ticks can ride into the home on clothing and pets, then attach to a person later, so carefully examine your pets after they come indoors.
- Conduct a full body check when you come indoors, checking under the arms, in and around the ears, inside the belly button, back of the knees, in and around the hair, between the legs, and around the waist.

#### Submitting a Tick for Identification and Testing:

Ticks found on a person can be brought to our Environmental Health Office to be identified and tested for tick-borne diseases such as Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, and babesiosis. Tick testing is offered by The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station as a public service free of charge. If you have any questions or concerns, please call our Environmental Health office at (203) 630-4226.

## Newsletters

Our office publishes 3 newsletters:

1. [Senior Center – Connections \(monthly\)](#)
2. [Seasonal Health and Respiratory Virus Updates \(monthly\)](#)
3. [Harm Reduction and Opioid Response \(quarterly\)](#)