



COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOODS

www.meridenncona.wordpress.com

April 2026 Newsletter

Activities in April:

Thurs 2 nd : North Meriden City Park	7pm Meriden Public Library
Wed 15 th : Dutch Hill ECHO Lower Eastside Hillside Gardens Veteran's Assoc	6:30pm First Baptist Church
Thurs 16 th : Westsiders Action 13 Lewis Ave	6:30pm Immanuel Lutheran Church
Tues 28 th : South Meriden Glen Hills Stagecoach Riders Crown Village	6:30pm Tom's Place

****SAVE THE DATE.....MERIDEN DAFFODIL FESTIVAL.....MAY 2nd & 3rd 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@meridentct.gov

Narcotic Tips: Telephone (203) 630-6273 Email: m narcoticsunit@meridentct.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.meridentct.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 2nd 10am to 8pm and Sun May 3rd 10am to 5pm. We will be selling our Silver City Waffles, 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

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 nonprofit organization and are 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.

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 Free Little Libraries

Spring is in the air and that means Meriden Little Free Libraries is gearing up for another fabulous season of reading, literacy and fun! Come visit any one of our little free libraries scattered throughout Meriden. We are stand-alone book boxes located in parks, businesses, private residences, the mall and library, Housing Authority complexes and schools. We also have a very busy Little Free Puzzle Library located at Hubbard Park near the playground, and a stick library for dogs located at the dog park at Beaver Pond. Take a book or two, read it and afterwards you can keep it, bring it to a Little Free Library, or give it to a family member or friend to read. If you have lots of books, they can be dropped off at Hancock's Pharmacy and Sans Soucis restaurant. The main purpose is to give people access to free books and to encourage reading to everyone. Our libraries are taken care of by volunteer stewards who keep them clean, organized and stocked as well as placing fun items to encourage people to stop by a library or two. Follow us on Facebook at Meriden Little Free Libraries to get updated information regarding books, literacy, and our promotions. Feel free to send us a message if you are interested in helping this wonderful endeavor.



News from the Meriden Department of Health and Human Services – April 2026

165 Miller Street * 203-630-4226 * www.meridenhealth.com

[“Like” us on Facebook for the latest updates!](#)

Connecticut Foodshare Mobile Pantry

NEXT DATES:

Ceppa Field (83 Gale Avenue): April 9 and 23 from 1:00 – 2:00pm

Mt. Hebron Church (84 Franklin Street): April 3 and 17 1:15 – 2:15pm

Please consider signing up for text alerts in case of cancellation by texting the word FOODSHARE to 85511. To find additional locations visit their website: <https://www.ctfoodshare.org/find-food>.



Hartford Hospital’s Mobile Mammography

Tuesday, April 14, 2026 8:00am – 1:15pm

Hartford Hospital’s mobile mammography van will be at 165 Miller Street on April 14 from 8:00am – 1:15pm. These screening mammograms are offered for women between 35 and 40 who have not had a mammogram, and for women 40 and older who have not had a mammogram in over a year.

To schedule an appointment call (860) 972-1243.



Hartford HealthCare “Mini” Medical Mission

Monday, April 20, 2026 4:00 – 7:00pm

Hartford HealthCare will be hosting a “Mini” Medical Mission at the Women and Families Center (169 Colony Street) on April 20 from 4:00 – 7:00pm.

Free services for the community – no insurance required

- Health screenings
- Educational services
- Haircuts
- Community resources and more

Staff will be there offering free naloxone training, department information, and more!

National Public Health Week

During the first full week of April (April 6 to 12), 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.

This year's theme is: *Ready. Set. Action!* and calls on each of us to look back at the progress we've made and look forward to the steps needed for an even healthier future. Because one truth guides it all: **Good health doesn't just happen.**

The theme aligns with the mission of our Department: "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. Whenever possible, the Department will endeavor to employ strategies, policies, and intervention through community engagement and partnerships to ensure health equity."

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 including episodes on our podcast, *Meriden Health Talk*.

SAVE A LIFE DAY

Our department is partnering with other local health departments/districts for SAVE A LIFE DAY on April 8th - an initiative to educate the community on how to recognize and respond to an opioid overdose by administering Naloxone.

Our naloxone training will be on April 8 between 1:00 - 3:00pm at the Meriden Green (Mill Street) in partnership with Rushford. Stop by for a pop-up style training and receive a FREE naloxone kit, CPR face shield, and other prevention resources.

This year we are pleased to announce that **25 local health departments/districts** across the state of Connecticut will be participating:

- Aspetuck Health District
- Bridgeport Health Department
- Central Connecticut Health District
- Chesprocott Health District
- Darien Health Department
- East Hartford Health Department
- East Shore District Health Department
- Fairfield Health Department
- Housatonic Valley Health District
- Ledge Light Health District
- Meriden Dept. of Health and Human Services
- Middletown Health Department
- Milford Health Department
- Monroe Health Department
- Naugatuck Valley Health District
- New Britain Health Department
- North Central District Health Department
- Norwalk Health Department
- South Central Health District
- Stratford Health Department
- Trumbull Health Department
- Uncas Health District
- Wallingford Health Department
- West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District
- West Haven Health Department

Can't make it on April 8? Join us at one of our monthly community trainings! This training is an essential part of overdose prevention education where participants learn what an overdose looks like and how to reverse one.

- April 1, 2026 5:00 – 6:00pm
- May 6, 2026 9:00 – 10:00am
- June 3, 2026 5:00 – 6:00pm
- July 10, 2026 9:00 – 10:00am

All attendees will receive a naloxone kit, certificate of completion, and other prevention resources. Training are FREE and open to Meriden residents and organizations. To register, call our Public Health Educator at (203) 630-4288 or email edemerchant@meridenct.gov.

Updates from Marley the Meriden Lion

Kindergarten Registration

Will your child be 5 years old by September 1, 2026? If so, your child is eligible to register for Kindergarten for the 2026-2027 school year.

Registration starts the second week of April. 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:

1. A **physical examination** within 12 months before the first day of school (August 26, 2026) **AND**
2. A copy of the child's **immunization record**.

For specific questions about health requirements, please contact our Public Health Clinic at (203) 630-4234.



Our Public Health Clinic provides vaccines for Meriden children, ages 18 and younger, at no cost regardless of their health insurance status.

Questions? Call our Public Health Clinic at (203) 630-4234.

Meriden Early Start

Meriden Early Start provides affordable, high-quality early education and care for children from infancy through age five who are not yet eligible for kindergarten.

Program Highlights:

- ✓ Age-appropriate classrooms
- ✓ Evidence-based curriculum
- ✓ Skilled Early Childhood Staff

In addition to the 15 programs in Meriden, Meriden Early Start has three Parent Ambassadors. The Parent Ambassadors' role is to serve as advocates for families of young children. They help get parents connected with local early childhood programs and services. They aim to help parents and caregivers feel empowered in their child's education and development. As Parent Ambassadors they play an important role in making sure parent voices are heard, valued and included in the community.

To learn more about Meriden Early Start, visit our website [here](#) or call our Early Childhood Coordinator, Rhonda Knight, at (203) 630-4222.

UPCOMING EVENT: Growing Together with Meriden Early Start

Join the Parent Ambassadors on April 18th from 10:30am - 12:30pm at the Meriden Public Library for a sensory play group in honor of Autism Awareness Month! Open to children up to 5 years old and their caregivers. To register visit the Meriden Public Library's website [here](#).

Meriden Senior Center

Membership to the Senior Center is FREE for Meriden residents age 55 and over! The April 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

This is a program for Connecticut renters who are elderly or totally disabled, and whose incomes do not exceed certain limits. Persons renting an apartment or room, or living in cooperative housing or a mobile home may be eligible for this program.

Persons legally married must apply together. Persons legally separated or divorced must apply individually.

2025 Income Guidelines:

Single: Must not exceed \$46,300 if unmarried.

Married: Must not exceed \$56,500.

Appointments are available April 1 – September 20, 2026.

To make an appointment call the Meriden Senior Center at (203) 237-0066, (203) 630-4708 or (203) 630-4273.

Renters' Rebate Program 2026



Appointments Available: April 1 to September 30, 2026

Appointments will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays only

Meriden Senior Center - Renters' Rebate Office - Lower Level
22 West Main Street, Meriden

Call to make your appointment: (203) 237-0066, (203) 630-4708 or (203) 630-4273.

Filing extensions for medical conditions are no longer available.

This is a program for Connecticut renters who are elderly or totally disabled, and whose incomes do not exceed certain limits. Persons renting an apartment or room, or living in cooperative housing or a mobile home may be eligible for this program.

Persons legally married must apply together. Persons legally separated or divorced must apply individually.

WHAT TO BRING - DON'T FORGET!

- Your Social Security 1099 form from 2025 if you get regular Social Security Income (SSI).
- A letter from Social Security if you get SSI which clearly states your total 2025 income. Call 1-800-772-1213 to request this document if you do not have it.
- You **MUST** bring proof of disability from Social Security Administration if under the age of 65 and you have a disability.
- Proof of any other 2025 income (pension, employment, interest, dividends, etc.)
- A copy of the 2025 Income Tax Return signed and submitted to the IRS (if you filed one with the IRS).
- Proof of all 2025 rent payments (rent receipts from each month in 2025 signed by the landlord or rent ledgers from the housing complex).
- Proof of all 2025 utility payments: i.e. electric, gas, oil, and water (example - bring a full year print out from Eversource for 2025).

2025 Income Guidelines:

SINGLE: Must not exceed \$46,300 if unmarried. MARRIED: Must not exceed \$56,500.



SAVE THE DATE: The Meriden Senior Center's Annual Health Fair will be Wednesday, May 6, 2026 from 9:00 – 11:30am at 22 West Main Street. More information to come!

Newsletters

Our office publishes 3 newsletters:

1. [Senior Center – Connections \(monthly\)](#)
2. [Seasonal Health and Respiratory Virus Updates \(monthly\)](#)
3. [Life-Saving Overdose Prevention and Response \(quarterly\)](#)