

News
BriefsBicycle riders to aid
MS fight Sunday

WESTPORT

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Connecticut Chapter is gearing up to host the 27th annual Bike MS:

bkm/Steelcase Ride, Sunday, starting and finishing at Sherwood Island. So far, 329 riders have registered for the ride. Cyclists can select from 12-, 30- or 62-mile routes.

More than 6,000 Connecticut residents are affected by multiple sclerosis, a potentially debilitating disease affecting the central nervous system. The cause is unknown and, as a result, there is no cure for MS.

Pre-registration is preferred. To register online go to www.ctfightsms.org. On-site registration begins at the following times:

— 8 a.m. for the 62-mile route. Start time is scheduled for 8:30 a.m.

— 9 a.m. for the 30-mile route. Start time is scheduled for 9:30 a.m.

— 10 a.m. for the 12-mile route. Start time is scheduled for 10:30 a.m.

The registration fee is \$35, with a \$125 fundraising minimum per rider. The ride will take place rain or shine, and includes a finish-line barbecue. Volunteers are needed for set-up, rest stop duties, photography and clean-up.

To register or volunteer, please visit www.ctfightsms.org or call 800-FIGHT MS.

McMahon Class of
1978 reunion

NORWALK

The Brien McMahon class of 1978 is holding its 30-year reunion on Saturday, Oct. 11, at the Norwalk Inn. Class members can go to www.norwalk.ws/bmhs30.html for more information.

City's fireworks
show July 3

NORWALK

Entertainment for all ages will be featured before and after Norwalk's annual fireworks display, which begin at dusk on Thursday, July 3, (rain date July 5). Organized by the Norwalk Department of Recreation and Parks, the fireworks can be enjoyed from Calf Pasture Beach and Shady Beach. The festivities begin at 6 p.m. in both locations. Parking is available at Calf Pasture Beach only. A fee of \$20 per car will be charged for cars without a Norwalk beach sticker.

At Calf Pasture Beach, the entertainment begins with "The Amazing Andy Show" as a treat for youngsters with a concert by The American Festival Band following. As a special attraction, singers from Crystal Theatre will perform excerpts from two historical musicals, "The Burning of Norwalk, 1779," and "Revolution Norwalk, 1777."

Entertainment at Shady Beach will begin with Changes in Latitudes, a Jimmy Buffett tribute band, followed by Billy Genuario and Frolix, whose repertoire ranges from 1960s standards to today's hits.

For additional information call the Norwalk Recreation and Parks Department Office at (203) 854-7807. For cancellation information call (203) 854-7938.

Golf tourney to aid
diabetes research

NORWALK

Golfers will tee off on Tuesday, June 24 to raise funds for research to find a cure for diabetes and its complications. More than 100 golfers representing local businesses will play at the Shorehaven Golf Club in East Norwalk at the 19th Annual Bill McMahon, IV - JDRF Golf Classic. The tournament is named for Bill McMahon, IV who was diagnosed with type 1 juvenile diabetes at the age of eight. Bill grew up playing golf and working as a caddy at Shorehaven Golf Club.

Foursomes and sponsorships are still available. Contact the JDRF office at (203) 854-0658 to learn more.

Hearing Wednesday on trash-hauling contract

NORWALK
By ROBERT KOCH

Hour Staff Writer

Residents are invited to speak their minds about a proposed trash-hauling contract during a public hearing before the Common Council at City Hall on Wednesday night.

Under the proposed contract, which is subject to council approval, the city would lease the Meadow Street transfer station from City Carting & Recycling Inc. and operate it as a commercial solid-waste transfer station. The Crescent Street station used for resident drop-off only and expanded to handle various recy-

clables.

The plan hit a hailstorm of opposition from South Norwalk residents and others at last Tuesday's council meeting. Council members voted to hold a public hearing.

The hearing is set for Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Community Room of City Hall, 125 East Ave.

"It's a public hearing called by the council for the contract that we're putting forward for a 10-year (agreement) for garbage hauling. (People) can speak about anything they want pertaining to the contract," said Fred A. Bondi, council president. "I'm going to have a

three-minute time limit (per speaker) like we have at the council meetings."

Bondi said the proposed contract then will go back to the council, "and we'll vote for it, or not vote for it, as the case may be." The council is scheduled to meet next Tuesday, June 24.

Harold F. Alvord, director of public works, gave a presentation on the proposed contract before last Tuesday's council meeting. He said he will give a similar but shorter presentation Wednesday night.

Alvord, Bondi and Mayor Richard A. Moccia back the contract as a successor agreement to

the city's current 25-year contract with Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority. That contract expires Dec. 31 and is costing the city at least \$2.1 million annually. Hiring City Carting, now the city's recycling hauler, would cut losses to \$1 million initially and perhaps to zero in the future, according to Alvord.

The plan is not without its critics.

Last Tuesday night, Harborview residents, Ward B Democrats Chairman Bobby Burgess and Diane Lauricella, president of The League of

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Police raid
after-hours
gambling club;
4 arrested

NORWALK

By AMANDA NORRIS

Hour Staff Writer

Police raided an illicit, after-hours gambling club on Martin Luther King Drive early Sunday morning, seizing liquor, money and a handgun.

According to a press release, more than \$2,000 from illegal liquor sales and gambling was recovered, along with the gun.

Three alleged operators were charged during the raid, and one patron.

After executing a search and seizure warrant for the American Trucking Co., 349 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, police found a sizable crowd gathered inside at 3:15 a.m. and a .380-caliber pistol underneath a car parked in the front lot.

"We are still researching the (origin and ownership) of the gun," said Lt. Peter Randall, head of the Special Services Division.

Police also seized a closed circuit surveillance system, poker and black jack tables, neon beer signs, bar stools, a refrigerator, ice chest, liquor and beer.

About 150 patrons were present when officers arrived. Aside from Jason Britt, 31, of 86 Woodward Ave., who was turned over to State Police due to an outstanding warrant for criminal impersonation and first-degree failure to appear in court, no other patrons were charged.

All patrons were identified, though, and more arrests may be forthcoming, police sources said.

The alleged operators, Kirby Miller, 44, and Ophelia Miller, 34,

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Rell criticized
for veto of social
services cabinet

HARTFORD

Associated Press

Gov. M. Jodi Rell is hearing criticism for her veto of a bill that would have created a cabinet to consider long term funding options for struggling nonprofit social service agencies.

Rell nixed the bill on Friday. She said the legislation created an unnecessary new layer of bureaucracy and expense, and it interfered with the powers of the legislative and executive branches of government.

The bill created a 24-member cabinet that was supposed to come up with budget recommendations on how to help the private agencies, which provide numerous state services, such as group homes and programs for the elderly.

Sen. Gayle Slossberg, who worked on the bill, called Rell's veto unconscionable and accused her of bringing up a problem that doesn't exist.

Just a thought . . .

So long as books are kept open, then minds can never be closed.

■ Gerald R. Ford, former U.S. president



Nicole Lue, 12, stands before her Powerpoint project as it displays on a screen. Lue was one of approximately 80 6th-graders at Roton Middle School who used Powerpoint to produce cross-curriculum presentations on a computer. The students were led through the development process by the school's computer teacher, Sara Vogel, and family and consumer science teacher, Laurie Given.

This pop-art always in good taste

NORWALK

By HAROLD F. COBIN

Hour Correspondent

What does knowledge of fruits and vegetables have to do with photography, poetry and the late artist Andy Warhol? Well, for about 80 sixth-graders at Roton Middle School, all were components of PowerPoint presentations they produced in a class titled "Taste of Photography."

Created with the assistance of the Norwalk Education Foundation, the month-long class had the students shoot photographs of fruits and vegetables, research their origin and nutritional value, write poems about them, and morph their food images to mimic Warhol's pop-art style.

The multi-curriculum course was taught by computer literacy and web design teacher Sara Vogel and family and consumer science teacher Laurie Given.

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A photograph of a pepper sixth-grader Blair Polite modified to mimic the style of the late artist Andy Warhol.

What's up, doc? Hospital's new play area for kids

STAMFORD

By JILL BODACH

Hour Staff Writer

Meet the newest staff member at Norwalk Hospital: Bugs Bunny.

Norwalk Hospital has partnered with Stamford Town Center to host a Looney Tunes play area on the shopping center's seventh level.

The 1,600-square-foot play-scape includes three-dimensional figures of Bugs, Daffy Duck, Tasmanian Devil, Sylvester, Tweety; a 17-foot carrot; an eight-foot watermelon slide; and a five-foot tunnel through a cracker.

Health and wellness activities geared to children will take place in the play area, said Maura Romaine, community relations director for Norwalk Hospital.

"This is a great opportunity for

us to focus on young families, provide health education and reach out to kids and their parents," Romaine said. "We'll be providing parenting programs, storybook reading, pediatric safety and nutritional information."

This particular partnership came about because Norwalk Hospital and Stamford Town Center have worked together in past to host community outreach events like health screenings, health fairs and the breast cancer survivor fashion show. Romaine said the hospital attempts to reach out to communities in several towns surrounding the hospital, including Stamford.

"This play area and the food court add a terrific dynamic to our mall," said Jim Zielinski, director of marketing and sponsorship for the Stamford Town Center. "It's an ideal place to gather, have fun, get

to know your neighbors and learn about family health care from the experts."

The atmosphere of the playscape is informal, making it less intimidating for people to ask medical questions of the doctors, nurses and other hospital staff, Romaine said.

"We find that when we're in an informal setting people are more comfortable about asking us questions, so it's a great opportunity for the staff to meet members of the public and hear what their needs are," she said.

The official ribbon-cutting will take place on June 28.

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