



## COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOODS

### April 2023 Newsletter

[www.meridencona.wordpress.com](http://www.meridencona.wordpress.com)

#### Activities in April

Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup> : North Meriden City Park	7pm St Peter and Paul Church
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> : Park & Rec Egg-Stra Special Event	12pm-2pm Meriden Green
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> Dutch Hill ECHO Lower Eastside Hillside Gardens	6:30pm First Baptist Church
Thurs 20 <sup>th</sup> Action 13 Westiders Lewis Ave	6:30pm Immanuel Lutheran Church
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> : Meriden Police Dept Citizens Police Academy begins	
Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup> : South Meriden Glen Hills Crown Village Stage Coach Riders	6:30pm Tom's Place
Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup> : Meriden Daffodil Festival Tag Sale	9am-2pm Hubbard Park
Sat & Sun 29 <sup>th</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup> Meriden Daffodil Festival!	Sat 10am-8pm Hubbard Park Sun 10am-5pm

#### 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: Citizens Police Academy

Meriden residents are invited to attend the next Citizens Police Academy which is scheduled for April 26-June 14<sup>th</sup>. This is a great opportunity to learn about the role of police officers in our community. You will learn about policing history, community policing, motor vehicle stops, court & legal system, use of force, special operations, crime investigations and much more! The program also includes a ride a long with a police officer. Applications are due by April 10<sup>th</sup> and are available on the police dept's website or can be obtained at the entry lobby window of the police department. For further information please contact Lt Hector Cardona Jr. at [hcardonajr@meridenct.gov](mailto:hcardonajr@meridenct.gov) or call (203) 630-6272.

#### Meriden Park & Rec Egg-Stra Special Event: Sat April 8<sup>th</sup> 12p-2pm Meriden Green

Bring your children to enjoy this fun filled event! Children will be able to hop through the Green as they collect treats from area community organizations. There will also be a special easter egg hunt during the event. The Council of Neighborhoods will be giving out candy so please make sure to stop by and say hello to us!

#### Meriden Daffodil Festival: Sat April 29 & Sun April 30 Hubbard Park

The Meriden Daffodil Festival is scheduled for April 29 10am-8pm and April 30 10am-5pm! The parade is scheduled for 11:30am. The festival includes amusement rides, musical entertainment, business expo and much more! Make sure to come visit the Council of Neighborhoods and our neighborhood associations at our Silver City Waffle food booth under the tent along with other organizations offering a wide variety of food items.

### 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)

It will be announced as new reports are released and become available on the site.

### Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Fundraiser

The Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics will take place in the beginning of June. The Meriden Police Dept is participating in the fundraiser to benefit the Special Olympics. Shirts are available to be purchased. Ordering deadline is May 1<sup>st</sup>. If you are interested in purchasing a shirt please contact Sgt Vasco Lacerda at [vlacerda@meridenct.gov](mailto:vlacerda@meridenct.gov).

### Reporting of Bulky Waste and Graffiti

If you see any bulky waste or graffiti in the neighborhood please report it by completing a Citizen Service Request form on the City of Meriden's website. The form is very easy to fill out and only takes a few minutes to complete and submit to the city. Please improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods and help keep our neighborhoods clean by reporting these matters to the city.

### 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 Citizen Service Request form on the City of Meriden's website. Please drive safely!

### Meriden Little Free Libraries

Meriden Little Free Libraries is happy to announce FOUR drop off locations around Meriden for book and puzzle donations. They are: Gallery 53, 53 Colony Street, Tesoro Artisan Gift Boutique and Gallery, 763 Hanover Road, Hancock's Pharmacy, 849 East Main Street and Sans Souci Restaurant, 2003 North Broad Street. Feel free to drop off your books and puzzles at any one of these locations in the specially marked box and the books and puzzles will find their way to a library or two or more all around Meriden. You can also place books directly into any one of the Twenty Five Little Free Libraries of your choosing and puzzles in the Little Free Puzzle Library located at the children's playground at Hubbard Park. Please place all of the puzzle pieces in a zip bag to ensure no pieces are lost. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity with book and puzzle donations. Feel free to take a book or leave a book, sharing the love of reading while increasing literacy in Meriden and beyond. A special THANK YOU to Meriden Food and Nutrition Services for a generous donation of pencils in celebration of National School Breakfast Week from March 6 - 10th. Stop by a Library and find the pencils along with a book to read. Please follow us on Facebook at Meriden Little Free Libraries for information and special events.

### Daffodil Yarn Bloom 2023

Crocheters and knitters needed for the 2023 Daffodil Yarn Bloom to benefit the Meriden Police Department lobby. It's that time again to make crocheted or knitted daffodils for a community art mural to Make Meriden Bloom. Last year's bloom was very successful, so it was decided to do it again! Feel free to contact [Joanne.grabinski@gmail.com](mailto:Joanne.grabinski@gmail.com) for patterns or create your own to crochet or knit daffodils using natural looking, (yellow, white, cream, pink, peach etc.) preferably acrylic yarn and approximately 6 to 10 inches in diameter. Special thanks to the Meriden Public Library, located at the Meriden Mall, where you can pick up patterns and if needed yarn, and drop off your finished daffodils by April. Gallery 53 located at 53 Colony St. has also generously agreed to be a drop off location. Let's see how many daffodils we can create to brighten up the Daffodil City!



## **News from the Meriden Department of Health and Human Services – April 2023**

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

### **COVID-19**

#### **Meriden Data and Information**

Each Friday, the Department of Health and Human Services issues a report on COVID-19 cases, vaccination rates, and other data for our city. The most recent report can be found on the City’s website:

<https://www.meridenct.gov/covid-19-information/>.

### **CT Food Share Mobile Pantry**

The CT Food Share Mobile Pantry in partnership with New Opportunities of Greater Meriden will be in the parking lot on the corner of Center and Miller Streets (next to our building) every other Thursday 1:00 – 2:00 PM. In March, the Mobile Food Pantry will be there on Thursday, April 27, 2023.

### **Public Health Education**

#### **Virtual Narcan Training**

YOU can save a life and reverse an opioid overdose by administering Narcan. Please join us in partnership with Rushford for our monthly virtual Community Narcan Training! Trainings in 2023 will be offered on:

- April 5, 2023 5:30 – 6:30 PM
- May 2, 2023 9:00 – 10:00 AM
- June 7, 2023 5:30 – 6:30 PM
- July 5, 2023 9:00 – 10:00 AM
- August 2, 2023 5:30 – 6:30 PM

Participants will receive a Narcan kit, CPR face shield, medication disposal bag, medication lock box, and more! Please register for this training by emailing Elizabeth DeMerchant at [edemerchant@meridenct.gov](mailto:edemerchant@meridenct.gov) or calling (203) 630-4288.

#### **Virtual QPR Suicide Prevention & Community Narcan Training**

Join the Meriden Department of Health and Human Services and Chesprocott Health District on Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup> 10:00 – 11:30 AM for this virtual suicide prevention training where you'll learn:

##### QPR Training:

- How to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis.
- How to question, persuade, and refer someone to help.

##### Narcan Training:

- Signs and symptoms of an opioid overdose.
- What Narcan is and how to administer it.
- Good Samaritan Laws.
- Local resources and support.

Participants will receive a certification as a QPR Gatekeeper upon completing the training. For more information and to register please contact: Elizabeth DeMerchant, Public Health Educator at [edemerchant@meridenct.gov](mailto:edemerchant@meridenct.gov) or (203) 630-4288.

*In Honor of National Public Health Week...*

#### **FREE Virtual QPR Suicide Prevention & Community Narcan Training**



**Thursday, April 6, 2023  
10:00 - 11:30 AM  
Virtual via Microsoft Teams**

##### **What You'll Learn:**

##### **QPR Training**

- How to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis.
- How to question, persuade, and refer someone to help.

##### **Narcan Training**

- Signs & symptoms of an opioid overdose.
- What Narcan is and how to administer it.
- Good Samaritan Laws.
- Local resources and support.

**Participants will receive a certification as a QPR Gatekeeper and a certificate of completion for Narcan Training. FREE Narcan kits and other prevention resources will also be provided for those who attend.**

**For more information and to register please contact:**



Elizabeth DeMerchant, [edemerchant@meridenct.gov](mailto:edemerchant@meridenct.gov)  
Kathryn Glendon, [kglendon@chesprocott.org](mailto:kglendon@chesprocott.org)



## Meriden Senior Center

### **Renters' Rebate Program**

The City of Meriden will start accepting applications for the Renters' Rebate program starting next Monday, April 3rd until September 29, 2023. This program is for Connecticut Renters who are elderly or totally disabled, and whose income does not exceed certain limits, income has to be under \$40,300 for a single person and under \$49,100 for a married couple. Person renting an apartment or room, or living in cooperative housing or mobile homes may be eligible for this program.

Recipient or spouse must be 65 years of age or older, or be 50 years of age or older and the surviving spouse of a renter who at the time of the renter's death had qualified and was entitled to tax relief provided such spouse was domiciled with such renter at the time of the renters' death, or 18 years of age or older and eligible to receive Social Security Disability benefits. Must meet a one-year state residency requirement. If legally married you must file the application together and bring all documentation for both even if you live in separate households. Rebates may be up to \$900 for married couples or \$700 for single persons depending on income and expenses.

Appointments can be made by calling (203) 630-4708.

## Meriden School Readiness

### **School Readiness Career Fair**

The City of Meriden (School Readiness) will be hosting a career fair April 5, 2023 at the Meriden Public Library - Boscov's Wing from 4:00 pm - 6:30 pm and is looking for programs and/or agencies who provide services to young children ages 6 weeks to 5 years of age to participate. If interested in reserving a table at this event please contact, Rhonda Knight, School Readiness Coordinator at (203) 630-4222.



## Environmental Health

### **Lyme Disease**



**Myth:** It is easy to see a tick.

**Fact:** A deer tick is about the size of a pinhead. Once attached, the tick will become engorged with your blood and be about the size of a sesame seed. Either way, they are very tiny and require you to do a close check of your entire body to make sure a tick is not attached.

**Myth:** Only Deer carry the tick that can cause Lyme Disease.

**Fact:** The deer tick will also feed on the field mouse, birds, dogs, and people. You don't have to actually be in the woods in order to become exposed to the tick. Make sure you check all pets for ticks. Any time you are in a grassy area, especially by woods or over grown areas, you need to be aware that the area most likely contains hungry ticks just waiting for someone to brush against them so they can crawl on to you, attach themselves and start feeding.

**Myth:** All ticks can cause Lyme Disease.

**Fact:** There are many types of ticks, including the dog tick and wood tick. Only a deer tick that is infected with the Lyme Disease spirochete can cause Lyme Disease. The tick must stay attached to you for a minimum of 24 hours in order to transfer the spirochete and cause Lyme Disease. That is why it is so important to check yourself after you are involved in any activity that may put you at risk.

**Myth:** You will always develop a bulls-eye type rash if a tick bites you.

**Fact:** Only 70 percent of people with Lyme Disease actually develop a rash at the bite site. You may start to develop flu-like symptoms such as fever, headache or overall weakness. Advanced Lyme Disease symptoms can also cause stiffness in your joints and you may think you have arthritis. Lyme Disease is a serious illness and you should seek medical care if you suspect you have Lyme Disease.

**Myth:** You can remove a tick with a match or petroleum jelly.

**Fact:** If you try to remove a tick with a match you will only burn yourself! Petroleum jelly will not remove the tick as its head is beneath your skin and drinking your blood. You must use tweezers to remove the tick, making sure that you place the tweezers next to your skin and remove the entire tick, head and all, by pulling slowly. You should then wash the area with soap and water, monitor the site for a rash and pay attention to any flu like symptoms.

Now that we have refreshed your memory, let's talk briefly about what you can do to prevent Lyme Disease. Wear light-colored clothing so you can more readily see if a tick may have hitched a free ride in search of a meal. Tuck the bottom of your pant legs into your socks so the tick can't crawl inside your pant leg. Use insect repellent on your clothes and skin, but be careful, use a product that contains no more than 30 percent DEET (usually listed as the first ingredient on the product label). Thoroughly check your body when you get home, and wash all clothing that has been sprayed (don't forget to take a shower too).

What happens if you find a tick even after you followed all the precautions? First, remove the tick and then place the tick in a container and take it to City of Meriden Department of Health and Human Services 165 Miller St., Environmental Health Office. We will send it to the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station laboratory in New Haven test the tick for the bacterium that causes Lyme Disease as well as Anaplasmosis and Babesiosis. Remember, not all ticks cause Lyme Disease.

If you suspect you have Lyme Disease, contact your medical provider. We are available to answer questions concerning Lyme Disease, please contact us at (203) 630-4226. Have a safe and tick free season.