

# COUNCIL BRIEFS

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January 23, 2009

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A **Budget Forum** will be held on Wednesday, January 28 in the Town Hall Auditorium at 7 PM to discuss the budget environment of the municipality, both town services and public schools, in preparation of the 2009-2010 fiscal year budget. Presenters include Mayor Scott Slifka, Town Manager Ron Van Winkle, and Public Schools Director of Finance & Planning Chip Ward. A community forum will follow the presentations in which the public may ask questions and offer comments and suggestions. Everyone is welcome. You can watch the forum live on WHC-TV, Channel 5 and 95, and on the web at <http://www.whctv.org/>

**Mind the pennies and the dollars add up:** The Town Clerk's Office will save at least \$8000 each year in staff overtime and temporary payroll by automating its absentee ballots and financial reports, and by hiring a new vendor to process its Land Records.

The Town Clerk's Office also re-negotiated its Copy Machine Agreement with a new vendor and expects to save at least \$6000 a year. The new agreement allows the Town Clerk to keep the proceeds from the public copy machine in the Land Records area and pay a reduced lease fee for the use of the machine.

**Why Volunteer at the Library?** A patron who was filling out an application to be a library volunteer answered the question: Why do you want to volunteer at the library? She responded, "In the past year I have really enjoyed the services the library provides and I would have spent a fortune on books if I had to buy them, so I would like to give back. I also think the atmosphere at the new main library is great."

Volunteers are invaluable to the town and save the taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars each year in the services they provide.

[Volunteer opportunities](#) are found at the senior centers, parks, Hillcrest Area Neighborhood Outreach Center, social services, WHC-TV,

Noah Webster House, to name a few. For more information on volunteering, call 561-7567.

**WHPD contributes to CCMC big donation:** The Connecticut Children's Medical Center received a check for \$105,000 on January 15 from the 6th Annual Geno Auriemma's "Fore the Kids" Charity Golf Tournament which included \$21,000 from a 2008 Dodge Charger that was seized by our police department in a criminal case.

**Rockledge Golf Club is the place for winter fun!** Now you can walk, jog, cross country ski or snow shoe on the winter trails at beautiful Rockledge Golf Club. Choose from the yellow trail (.6 mile); the red trail (1.5 miles); or the blue trail (2.2 miles.) The yellow and red trails are cleared for walking and jogging. The blue trail can also be used for cross country skiing or snow shoeing (weather permitting.) All three trails start and end at the Rockledge Pro Shop and are clearly marked with colored markers spaced 0.1 mile apart – so following the trails is safe and easy. Trails are open from dawn to dusk, every day including holidays.

**Police Department adds two new officers to the force:** Officer John Begin and Officer Gregory Jones have joined the Police Department this month and will begin training at the Police Academy in February. The two new hires reduces vacancies to nine.

Officer Begin is a graduate of Central Connecticut State University with a degree in Criminology and recently attended the Police Department's College Academy. He lives in Newington. Officer Jones is a graduate of Boston University with a degree in Physics. He is a resident of Canton.

Ronald F. Van Winkle,  
Interim Town Manager