

Veterans Strong Community Center, Inc.

Serving Veterans – Past, Present & Future
a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

Veterans Strong Community Center, Inc.

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Bristol City Hall
111 North Main Street
Bristol, CT 06010

www.vetstronginc.org

Like Us on Facebook
Follow Us on Twitter &
Instagram

(VSCC -a 501(C)(3) non-profit -is an
independent information and
resource center.)

Hours of Operation:

Mon - Thurs: 8 am - 4 pm;

Friday: 8 am - 2 pm.

Evening hours available by
appointment. Please be aware
hours are subject to change do to
outreach in other towns.

August 2019 Newsletter

You'd think with the lazy days of summer, things would be quiet at VSCC. Think again. It's always a whirlwind of activity. We are excited to announce that VSCC was awarded a grant from the Bristol Brass General Grant Fund and the James R. Parker Trust at Main Street Community Foundation to support ongoing outreach in the communities VSCC serves. While VSCC is open to all Veterans, it does primarily serve the communities of Bristol, Burlington, Harwinton, Plainville, Plymouth, Thomaston and Wolcott. This grant allows VSCC to continue to conduct monthly / bi-monthly outreach events in each of the towns it services. The outreach events allow Veterans and their families that are unable to travel to the main office in Bristol the opportunity to connect with staff and get appropriate and relevant resources and referrals. We are excited to receive a grant from Main Street Community Foundation again this year. Being able to keep the main office open with staff, while conducting outreach in the other towns, has helped us maintain continuity and provide better services to Veterans.

We are busy gearing up for a busy fall and holiday season - taking inventory of our clothing closet (could use women's clothing) and food panty (see page 6); prepping for the 50th running of the Mum-A-Thon Road Race (which benefits Veterans Strong Community Center); updating our space with armed waiting room chairs for the safety of our clients; participating in a number of local community festivals and fairs (see page 5); and continuing our mission of *servicing those who served*. We are also working on more grants and fundraising events. We value and appreciate all the support we receive! Without the communities' support, we would not be able to do what we do!



There are very few and very specific instances when a Veteran can be charged for services associated with filing for VA benefits and claims. If you or your loved one has been charged please feel free to call Attorney General Tong's office 860-808-5318.

The Office of (//AG) Attorney General William Tong

Press Releases



STATE OF CONNECTICUT ATTORNEY GENERAL WILLIAM TONG

03/28/2019

ATTORNEY GENERAL TONG, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS WARN AGAINST FEE FOR BENEFITS SCHEME

Federal Law Prohibits Fees for Preparation and Presentation of Veterans' Benefits Applications in Most Circumstances

(Hartford, CT) – After becoming aware that Connecticut veterans have been charged potentially illegal fees for preparation of veterans' benefit applications, Connecticut Attorney General William Tong and Connecticut Commissioner of Veterans Affairs Thomas Saadi urged veterans and their families to immediately report such schemes and reminded the public that it is illegal to charge for preparation or presentation of veterans' benefit applications in most circumstances.

The Office of the Attorney General is aware of at least two veterans allegedly charged \$500 and \$750 to apply for benefits through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The Office of the Attorney General is reviewing those allegations and conferring with the United States Attorney's Office.

Federal laws govern the preparation and presentation of veterans' applications for benefits. Preparers must be accredited by the VA and they are generally prohibited from charging applicants for these services. Click [here](https://portal.ct.gov/DVA/Pages/Office-of-Advocacy-and-Assistance) (<https://portal.ct.gov/DVA/Pages/Office-of-Advocacy-and-Assistance>) for a list of the State Department of Veterans Affairs, Advocacy and Assistance Offices.

"Charging veterans to access benefits they served and sacrificed for is not only morally abhorrent, it's illegal. There are accredited entities available to assist for free throughout Connecticut. If you are aware of anyone attempting to take advantage of veterans and their families by charging bogus fees, I want to know," said **Attorney General William Tong**.

"I applaud Attorney General Tong and the U.S. Attorney for their actions to protect our Veterans. These men and women served our nation so that we may live free and we have a duty to ensure that they are not victimized by scam artists and conmen. To assist our Veterans the State Department of Veterans Affairs has experienced Veteran Service Officers in each Congressional district providing free federal benefits preparation and filing. I urge Veterans with questions about applying for benefits to contact the DVA office in their district," said **Commissioner Saadi**.

Local Events and VSCC Service Providers for August 2019

Monday, August 5, 2019— VetCenter Counselor Available; by appointment only made through Veterans Strong Community Center

Friday, August 9, 2019— Thomaston Outreach from 9-12pm at Thomaston Town Hall

Monday, August 12, 2019— VetCenter Counselor Available; by appointment only made through Veterans Strong Community Center

Wednesday, August 14, 2019— Burlington Outreach from 9-12pm at Burlington Senior Center / Burlington Town Hall

Thursday, August 15, 2019— Veterans Service Officer Available; by appointment by calling Jason Coppola, CT DVA Veterans Service Officer @ 203-805-6340

Saturday, August 17, 2019— Rockwell Summer Festival from 10:00 am — 6:00 pm

Wednesday, September 4, 2019— Bristol Veterans Council Meeting 6:30 pm in First Floor Meeting Room, Bristol City Hall



Recruitment Events

Thursday, August 1, 2019 - 10:30 am - 12:30 pm - RGIS at Waterbury American Job Center, 249 Thomaston Avenue, Waterbury. Two Sessions one at 10:30 am; one at 12:30 pm. Bring two forms of ID with you.

Monday, August 5, 2019 - 9 am - 9:30 am Interviews—Task Home Care at Waterbury American Job Center, 249 Thomaston Avenue, Waterbury. ** Arrive as close to 9:00 am as possible.**

Tuesday, August 6, 2019 - 10 am - 12 pm - Atlantis Management Group at Bristol American Job Center / Tunxis@Bristol Campus, 430 North Main Street, Bristol

12 pm - 3 pm - U.S. Census 2020 at Waterbury American Job Center, 249 Thomaston Avenue, Waterbury.

9 am - 2 pm - DATTCO, 44 River Street, Bridgeport, CT

Tuesday, August 13, 2019 - 10 am - 12 pm - Waterbury American Job Center, 249 Thomaston Avenue, Waterbury.

Tuesday, August 20, 2019 - 1 pm - 3 pm - Combined Insurance at Waterbury American Job Center, 249 Thomaston Avenue, Waterbury.

Tuesday, August 27, 2019 - 10:30 am - 12:30 pm - Fascia's Chocolates Inc. at Waterbury American Job Center, 249 Thomaston Avenue, Waterbury.

A listing of job openings received from CT DOL are posted weekly in the Center.

Recruitments are posted as they are received both in the Center and on the Facebook page, so please check for any updates. If you are interested in any of the above, you must be a registered user of CTHires to participate in this event. If you are not registered, please visit www.CTHires.com to register as an Individual prior to the events.

Waterbury American Job Center - 249 Thomaston Ave., Waterbury, CT

Torrington American Job Center - 59 Field Street, Torrington, CT

Bristol American Job Center - Tunxis@Bristol, 430 No. Main St., Bristol, CT

If you need additional job search / vocational rehab resources, please contact the Veterans Strong Community Center.

Festival Time

Veterans Strong Community Center will be “going on the road” – attending some of the local festivals / fairs. Be sure to come out and visit us!



Saturday, August 17th – Rockwell Festival, Rockwell Park, Bristol



Sunday, September 8th – Thomaston Car Show, Main St., Thomaston



Sunday, September 15th – Burlington Tavern Day, Burlington Green, Burlington

Saturday, September 21st & Sunday, September 22nd – Bristol Mum Festival, Memorial Boulevard, Bristol



Mum Festival

Produced by The Bristol Exchange Club



Save the date for the 50th

running of the Mum-A-Thon Road Race to benefit Veterans Strong Community Center! Sunday, October 20th at St. Paul Catholic High School, Stafford Ave., Bristol, CT.



Veterans Strong

Community Center, Inc.

Serving Veterans – Past, Present & Future

Food Pantry Wish List

- Peanut Butter
- Jelly/Jam (Grape or Strawberry)
- Chicken Noodle Soup
- Canned/Dried Fruit
- White or Brown Rice
- Granola Bars
- Apple Sauce
- Canned Chicken
- Spam
- Cooking Oil
- Dried Herbs and Spices
- Instant Potatoes
- Trail Mix/ Nuts
- Water
- Fruit Snacks
- Crackers
- Cereal
- Jello/Pudding
- Shelf- Stable Milk
- Powered Breakfast Mix
- Drink Mix
- Canned Vegetables
- Hand Warmers
- Cleaning Supplies and Paper Products
- Baby Wipes (Travel and Regular Sized)
- Shaving Cream (Travel and Regular Sized)
- Mouth Wash (Travel and Regular Sized)
- Feminine Products
- Shampoo/Conditioner (Travel and regular Sized)



INTRO TO VETERANS ROWING & KAYAKING

DATE: SATURDAY, AUGUST 3RD, 2019

TIME: 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

WHERE: RIVERSIDE PARK
20 LIEBERT ROAD
HARTFORD, CT 06120
UNITED STATES



Are you a veteran or military service member interested in rowing or kayaking? Now you can try both for free at the Greater Hartford Jaycees Community Boathouse in Riverside Park, thanks to Riverfront Recapture, Connecticut Adaptive Rowing Program (CARP) and Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital.

Classes are free of charge but registration is required. For more information please contact Paige McCullough-Casciano at 860-714-2421 or pmccullo@stfranciscare.org.



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

HONORABLE DISCHARGE

INFORMATION SESSION AND DISCHARGE UPGRADE CLINIC



PLAINVILLE, SOUTHTON & BERLIN DISCHARGE UPGRADE CLINIC

AMERICAN LEGION POST 68

154 PORTERS PASS, BERLIN, CONNECTICUT

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17TH: 12-3

Saturday 5 October 2019: 1st Inaugural Flight

Hosted by Honor Flight Connecticut

Phone (518)209-5655

Email HonorFlightCT@Gmail.com

Application <https://honorflightct.org/applications>

Donations <https://honorflightct.org/donations>



MISSION: TO TRANSPORT AMERICA'S VETERANS TO WASHINGTON, DC TO VISIT THOSE MEMORIALS DEDICATED TO HONOR THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICES OF THEMSELVES AND THEIR FRIENDS.
<https://honorflightct.org/home>



Rockwell Summer Festival 2019

AUGUST 17 @ 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Bristol's West End Association, a non-profit neighborhood group of merchants and residents committed to the preservation, safety and overall quality of living in the City's West End, hosts a weekend festival at Rockwell Park every August.

Past events have included a car show, basketball tournament, skateboard tournament, live bands, food booths, craft/art vendors, kids zone and more!

FREE to attend.

For information on Vendor Applications, Check-In Details and Food/Health Department Applications – visit <http://www.westendbristol.org/rockwell-festival/>

Rockwell Park
Rockwell Park
238 Jacobs Street
Bristol, CT 06010
860-584-6160
www.bristolrec.com

Organizer:
West End Association
Email:
westendbristol@gmail.com
Website:
www.westendbristol.org

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY THE WEST END ASSOCIATION



Military Appreciation Day

Saturday, Aug 17, 2019 at 10:00am

Ocean Beach Park
98 Neptune Avenue
New London, CT 06320

The City of New London, Ocean Beach Park and New London Veterans Affairs is planning their Second Annual Military Appreciation Day.

Free access to the beach for Active Duty, Military Reservist, Retired Military and Veterans in the Greater New London area and their families will be provided.

In addition, there will be a program that takes place at 3:00 pm to honor qualified veterans with the Connecticut Veteran War-time service medal and Vietnam lapel pin. U.S., State and local officials will also present the medal recipients with their specific certificates of appreciation for their service to our country.



Events List for 2019

Mount Snow Skiing Event	25 January
Ice Fishing Day	2 February
4th Annual Wild Game Dinner & Charity Auction Fundraiser	16 February
Spring Trout Fishing Derby	20 April
Turkey Hunt	29-30 April
Spring Turkey Shoot Fundraiser	18 May
Striped Bass Fishing Trip with RTR	20 June
Rifles to Rods Clambake Fundraiser	2 June
Boston Bowhunter 3D Shoot and BBQ	8 June
Wilderness Veterans Retreat for Couples	14-16 June
Deep Sea Party Boat Trip	June/July
The Appalachian Trail Weekend	July
New England Adventures' 3rd Annual Family Day	10 August
Bass Flotilla	17 August
New England Adventures 4th Annual Black Bear Camp	1-7 September
New England Adventures' 2nd Annual Family retreat	13-15 September
NEA Disabled Veteran Maine Moose Hunt	16-19 September
Fly Fishing Weekend with Rifles to Rods	4-6 October
New York State Deer Hunt	7-11 October
New England Adventures 3rd Annual Pheasant Hunt	11-13 October
Fall Turkey Shoot Fundraiser	27 October
NEA's 3rd Annual Steelhead Camp with Rifles to Rods	4-9 November
New Hampshire State Deer Hunt	13-16 November
New England Adventures' 3rd Annual Deer Camp	4-7 December
Sea duck Hunt	December
Late Season Duck and Goose Hunt	December

Please find applications for all of these events at www.NewEnglandAdventures.org. Please email info@NewEnglandAdventures.org for inquiries or to sign up for an event.



Wednesday, October 16, 2019

8AM to 11PM

Join us in supporting our
Community Agencies and Organizations!

**YOUR \$5 SHOPPING PASS
BUYS A FULL DAY OF:**

- 25% Off Discount Shopping Pass
- Refreshments
- Fabulous Register to Win Prizes

All Shopping Pass proceeds benefit participating local non-profit agencies and organizations.

For Shopping Passes or Information, Contact:
Veterans Strong Community Center
860-584-6257

PTSD Veterans Retreat

rans and/or Couples

other life struggles with clear goals and a solid help you figure out where you are going and how fuel to live.

SD and depression, or just a difficult trial or treat and take a step toward living free. "The ram and has been proven effective and might

ouan Green, survived a tragic jet crash as a s of PTSD and a whole host of other medical is, staring into the abyss, he was given a choice, ing path, or live free. He chose to live free.

he Ladder UPP" at www.silouan.com.

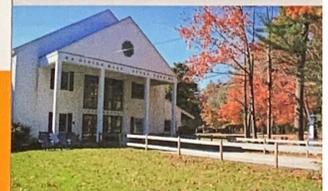
ation, and will be fully refunded at the pats are 100% drug and alcohol free. All lodging, o Veterans free of charge. Transportation to or



July 7-12, 2019

Oceanwood Conference Center
17 Royal Street
Old Orchard Beach, ME 04063

Presenter:
Silouan Green creator of
"The Ladder UPP" program



IS RETREAT TODAY
HopeMA.org/Retreats

reet, Suite 157 Worcester, MA 01603 | P: (774) 243-7859 | www.projectnewhopema.org