



Photo by Brian Ambrose Photography

Pictured left to right are: Roger Smith, co-director of Clean Water Action; Robert Palmer, director of plant facilities; Rob Klee, commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection; Catherine Diviney, energy specialist; Judy Allen, team member; and Bernard Pelletier, team member.

## Diviney receives 'Power of Change' award

Energy specialist accepts Difference Maker Leadership recognition on behalf of the town

By Abigail Albair  
Editor

The town of West Hartford has once again been recognized for its energy efficiency achievements.

Catherine Diviney, the town's energy specialist, received the municipal Power of Change Difference Maker Leadership

Award on behalf of the town during a ceremony held at the State Capitol June 17.

Diviney earned an honorable mention in the category for her work in initiating energy cost savings and energy conservation projects for the town of West Hartford.

During the 2013 awards cycle, the town and West Hartford

public schools received first honors as Top Town Hall and first honors in the Municipal Innovation category, respectively.

The town hall was recognized for its full-building lighting retrofit, which saw a nearly 17 percent reduction in energy consumption over the first six months of project completion.

The innovation award rec-

ognized new and effective school district efforts toward energy reduction through efficiency, particularly the annual Energy Conservation Challenge in all 16 public schools.

This year, the Power of Change Awards added new categories "to recognize individuals,

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## Bringing people together

BCNA art initiative organizes Poetry on the Patio

By Jennifer Senofonte  
Staff Writer

Arts at Bishops Corner formed about two months ago under the umbrella of the Bishops Corner Neighborhood Association in the hopes of bringing the community together through art.

As such, the subcommittee has organized Poetry on the Patio, a poetry reading series that will be held this summer on the patio between Blue Plate Kitchen and Maximum Beverage in the Marshall's plaza in Bishops Corner.

On July 22, West Hartford Poet Laureate Ginny Lowe Connors will perform a poetry reading and, on July 29, former poet laureate Maria Sassi will do a poetry reading.

Both events will begin at 7 p.m. and residents are encouraged to attend to enjoy the work of the local poets.

"We think arts bring the community together, so we are doing these events to, hopefully, have people come out and give it a try. We're hoping poetry lovers come and people who may think

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## Towns now have option to evaluate best EMS provider

Legislative changes brought about by local efforts

By Abigail Albair  
Editor

A recent legislative change has opened the door to new possibilities for how the town delivers emergency services.

Until recently, towns did not have the option to change emergency medical service ambulance providers or to provide the service as a municipality. Now, as of Oct. 1, municipalities will have the authority to petition for an alternative provider, should a town determine that the best option lies elsewhere.

Currently, American Medical Response provides paramedic service and ambulance transport in West Hartford. Officials stressed

that there are no problems with the current provider, and that the legislative change was not driven by a desire on the part of any one town to change EMS provider, but was driven by the issue of a town's right to choose.

President of the West Hartford Firefighters Association Kerry Warren explained, "First and foremost, the fire department leadership and the union leadership and the council and town manager were all pushing in the same direction for this reform. It is a fundamental home rule issue that a municipality can decide who provides their emergency services, including fire and EMS. It seemed like a good common sense reform."

Mary Ellen Harper, Farmington director of fire and rescue services, served as co-chair of the Connecticut Emergency Medical Services Primary Service Area Task Force and worked with other municipality representatives, including Warren, to change the law.

The task force began meeting regularly last September and delivered its final report to the commissioner of public health in February of this year. The recommendations of the PSA task force were included in House Bill 5597, an act implementing the provisions of the state budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015,

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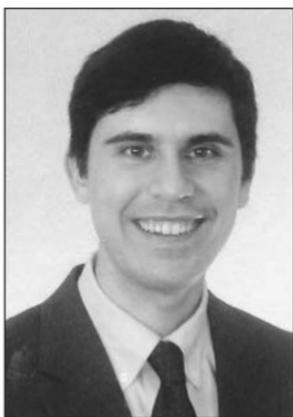


File photo

As of Oct. 1, municipalities will have the authority to petition for an alternative emergency medical services provider, should a town determine that the best option lies elsewhere.

**Central Connecticut Cardiologists, LLC  
is delighted to announce that  
Andrew Davidson, M.D. has joined the practice.**

Dr. Davidson graduated with honors from Yale University. He obtained his M.D. degree from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. He was an Intern, Resident, and Cardiology Fellow at Strong Memorial Hospital, University of Rochester Medical School.



Central Connecticut Cardiologists, LLC members (Drs. Russell A. Ciafone, J. Scott Galle, John T. Cardone, Steven E. Lane, Kathleen Kennedy, John I. Baron, Dale T. Toce, Atique A. Mirza, and Haris Athar) have provided cardiac care for over 35 years.

Dr. Davidson is practicing at the East Granby, Simsbury, Enfield, and Hartford locations.

For more information visit [www.ctcardiology.com](http://www.ctcardiology.com)

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which was approved in May. State Rep. Mike Demicco, whose efforts started the task force, pushed for and said there was bipartisan support for the changes.

"Now we're in a position where we can compare providers, look at what we're getting and see if that's the best option," Harper said. "Up until now, we couldn't do that."

She added, "It's just best practice," noting that every other contract towns enter has a beginning and an end point, and the town can conduct a bidding process to solicit other service contract options and determine the best value for a town. "We needed the same transparency for EMS," she said.

Section 22 of Bill 5597

states that municipalities can submit an alternative local emergency services plan which, if approved by the commissioner of public health, would allow a municipality to change providers for the following reasons: the current PSA responder has failed to meet the standards of the local EMS plan, the municipality has established a performance crisis or unsatisfactory performance, the PSA responder does not meet a performance measure, the municipality has developed a plan for regionalizing service, or the municipality has developed a plan that will improve or maintain patient care and has the opportunity to align a new PSA responder that is better suited than the current one to meet the community's needs.

Other changes outlined in the bill regulate the sale or transfer of a PSA, something that was not previously regulated.

Since the bill's passage, West Hartford Mayor Scott Slifka said town administration and fire and police department officials have been reviewing the details of Section 22 and what the changes will mean for the town.

"It's much more complex than it appeared to be at first glance," Slifka said, "But, obviously, the changes being passed [are] a great step in the right direction."

Slifka, who noted that the review of the changes will continue for the next few months at least, has broadly discussed the concept of "right-sizing" the fire

department in the past.

"In light of these changes that we have, there is the potential that the current size of the department could very well be the right size," he said, explaining that there could be the opportunity to utilize firefighters in West Hartford in a way they are not being used today, specifically to provide EMS.

Such a change would harness firefighters' diverse skills while also being cost-effective, he said.

"The modern firefighter, so to speak, is somebody with an extensive EMS background and perhaps [someone] trained even beyond that, and we and the fire department agree that we ought to be able to put those skills to use for the town much more than we're able to today," Slifka said. "This change allows us to explore all that."

Warren echoed that sentiment saying, "The fire department at the present time and in the future will be comprised of individuals with a wide variety of skill sets including a high level of EMS capabilities. The possibility of providing a service with five strategically located fire houses and dedicated town employees in all of them could benefit the community and realize some cost efficiencies."

Still, Warren again noted that the current provider could be the best option for the town, and explained that "what the legislation does at its heart is gives the town options where the previous legislation doesn't give any."

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**When's Your Independence?  
By Jay Gershman**

Now that our Nation's Independence day has passed, it is time to reflect on our own. All too often we hear commercials asking, "Are you prepared for retirement?" Unfortunately, the thought of retirement sends a shiver up the spine of many people facing the issue. Frankly most working people are just plan scarred. Scared of having little to do, being less relevant and most important, losing their work family.

As a financial advisor, it is relevant whether you dream of retirement on a sandy beach or plan to work until you drop at your desk. Instead, it is important that it's your decision. Achieving "financial independence" is what allows you to decide on your terms what your future could be.

One way to financial independence is through planning. Unfortunately, many people equate financial planning with investing and don't realize that investing is only one important component of planning for your time of financial independence.

Regardless of age, to be financially independent, some day, it is important to be "financially all-set today." To help with that achievement, I have created my own "All-set Test" designed to help highlight areas that could require attention. While the entire test is nearly 8 pages, I'd like to share just a few basic questions with you. The full version will be available on our website by our next column.

\_\_\_\_\_ You have organized your financial affairs, made sure all beneficiaries are accurate, and not hiding cash in the backyard.

\_\_\_\_\_ You have accumulated points for credit and purchases that you can use for cash back or travel.

\_\_\_\_\_ You understand that being out of debt isn't always the best strategy compared to other uses of the extra payments.

\_\_\_\_\_ You understand your own risk tolerance and are mentally and financially prepared if your investment balance should decline when the market corrects.

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**Parade participants sought**

The Park Road Association is inviting community members to participate in the 17th annual Park Road Parade Saturday, Oct. 18 at 10:30 a.m.

"The Park Road Parade is zany, unique and, most of all, a celebration of all that is good in West Hartford and beyond," reads a press release from the town.

Each year, the parade draws over 7,000 people to the Park Road neighborhood. Last year, over 90 contingents marched the one-half mile route down Park Road, from South Highland Street to Jessamine Street.

The parade features bands, clowns, dancers, floats, antique cars, dogs of all shapes and sizes, sports

mascots, color guards, businesses, civic and cultural organizations, and town officials.

Awards are given to Best Float, Best Overall Performance, Best Costume, Best Musical Performance and Best Community Spirit.

Visit [www.westhartford.org/ParkRoadParade](http://www.westhartford.org/ParkRoadParade) to sign up or for more information.

The genesis of the parade started in 1998 as a celebration of the completion of a 18-month road reconstruction and beautification project, which bonded both businesses and residents of the area.

The release from the town details, "Since then, the parade has grown bigger and better."

# Museum wins Astronomy Day Award

The New Children's Museum announced that, for the second year in a row, it is the recipient of the 2014 Astronomy Day Award for Small Metropolitan Areas.

Astronomy Day 2014 was held May 10, and this year's theme at the museum was "Celebrate the Moon." Visitors were not only given the opportunity to participate in fun and educational hands-on activities and planetarium shows, but also had the unique chance to view – and touch – authentic moon rocks and soil as well as meteorite samples from other parts of the solar system. The West Hartford Police Department participated by providing escort for these national treasures, and Duffy Elementary School fifth-grade teacher Clare Taylor and the school's Lunar Team presented a special program in the Travelers Science Dome Planetarium.

Astronomy Day is an annual event sponsored by Sky & Telescope, the American Astronomical Society, and the Astronomical League.

"I can always count on you



Guests touch the moon rocks on Astronomy Day.

Courtesy photo

for quality Astronomy Day events. Your efforts, along with that of all the other organizations that hosted special events for Astronomy Day, have touched thousands of people and has brought the wonderful science of astronomy to the public's attention," wrote Gary E. Tomlinson, Astronomy Day coordinator, in the award letter.

The museum will receive the award at the Astronomy League's annual convention that will be held July 10-12 in San Antonio, Texas.

The New Children's Museum is located at 950 Trout Brook Drive in West Hartford and at Roaring Brook Nature Center in Canton. More information is available at [www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org](http://www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org).

## POETRY

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poetry is stuffy can see that that's not the case," Arts at Bishops Corner member Rebecca Webber said.

Two members of the BCNA, Signe Rogalski and Diane Miken, started the Arts at Bishops Corner subcommittee.

The poetry series is one of several ideas that is coming together for arts events at Bishops Corner hosted by the subcommittee this summer.

"We are dedicated to the belief that the arts facilitate communication as well as foster creativity and diversity," Arts at Bishops Corner Chair Rogalski said. "Arts are essential to the heart and soul of a community."

Webber said that because art is inclusive and creative, it was a way to connect local people and bring more art to the area.

In the planning stages are other summer activities including graphic arts demonstrations, a film festival at the senior center and activities geared toward kids.

The group is also inviting

everyone in the Bishops Corner neighborhood to participate in making a community canvas in September.

"We want to let everyone do their own thing on the canvas and, hopefully, have it displayed at Whole Foods because they exhibit art," Webber said.

The group is also seeking other poets who are interested in doing poetry readings throughout the summer.

For more information email [sigrogalski@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sigrogalski@sbcglobal.net) or [rebeccawebber@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rebeccawebber@sbcglobal.net).

The BCNA is comprised of residents, businesses and nonprofits.

The goals include beautification of Bishops Corner; to increase pedestrian and bicycle safety; foster communication with residents, businesses and nonprofits; and play an active role in the redevelopment of Bishops Corner.

The BCNA meets the second Friday of every month. For more information, search Bishops Corner Neighborhood Association on Facebook.

## CHANGE

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state agencies and municipalities, not only for specific energy efficiency projects, but also for leadership and innovation that are making a sustainable and systemic difference in the state's approach to reducing energy use," according to a press release.

State facility managers, town leaders, boards of education and stakeholders entered energy efficiency projects in five award categories: Top Building, Innovation, Difference Maker, Performance Contracting and Breaking Ground.

The entries were judged by a panel of energy and environment experts from government, business, academia and advocacy organizations, the release explains.

West Hartford established a Clean Energy Task Force in 2005, which has helped to implement a comprehensive energy plan.

The town recently took part in Solarize West Hartford, an initiative to provide options and promote the benefits of solar energy to West Hartford residents.

Contracts were signed for 72 projects under the program, which more than doubled the number of solar installs in the town over the last eight years, according to information from the town.

The sponsors of the Power of Change Award are the Common Sense Fund, Hampshire Foundation and the Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation.

In her remarks, the Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation President Michelle Knapik, not-

ed, "As these award winners have shown, investments in energy efficiency, energy infrastructure, best practices and behavior provide immediate, multiple and long-term benefits. These town and state leaders are demonstrating what is possible to achieve

in the built environment, and they are setting an example for public leaders nationwide. Their efforts put Connecticut on the leading edge of transforming our relationship with energy – this is a path toward a brighter, cleaner energy future."

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