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Town Manager's Corner

Moving Forward

Connecticut continues to make progress in its fight against the coronavirus. The availability of testing and increasing vaccination rates has reduced the State's COVID-19 positivity rate which allows the Governor to move Connecticut into a new level of re-opening. As of May 20, all restrictions on businesses were lifted with the exception of wearing masks indoors.

For Clinton, State vaccination data at the end of April indicates that over 60% of Town residents received their first dose of vaccine against COVID-19. I am encouraged to note that the high risk age group of 65+ achieved a 99% rate for full vaccination. Completing the vaccination process by getting your second shot helps support the lifting of restrictions and open our local economy.

Lifting restrictions allows our local businesses to return to a sense of normal. It also raises the question of what can we do to support local businesses to stay economically competitive. The Town secured a Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant that will help us to invest in Main Street by supporting façade improvements. Façade improvements not only keep the Town attractive but also supports our Main Street as a stronger destination for shoppers and new entrepreneurs.

The Town will also receive once-in-a-lifetime, direct federal funding to support pandemic recovery under the American Recovery Plan. This unique source of funding requires the Town to look to the long-term to get the most impact from these funds. As you can imagine, there is a lot of work being done behind the scenes to decipher and manage information regarding these federal funds. We want to make sure that we do not just spend the money, but invest it in a fashion that supports long-term growth in Clinton. It presents a unique opportunity to support the expansion and retention of the local business community.

We do see encouraging signs that support local business growth. Construction of the new Big Y on Killingworth Turnpike did not slow during the winter months and we look forward to a fall Grand Opening. The Clinton store will be the first to use a new store model, making it unique in Connecticut. Manufacturing is also expanding in Clinton as Bausch Advanced Technologies is moving forward with another expansion. Bausch is a worldwide manufacturer, headquartered here, in the rapidly growing,

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Karl Kilduff, Town Manager



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Town Manager... continued from page 3

extremely competitive pharmaceutical packaging machinery industry. New construction is also underway along West Main Street which will continue to grow our community.

Finally, after many months of work, the Town's proposed budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year will go to the voters of Clinton in May. This vote will mark a return to approving the budget by a referendum vote, which has been made possible by the progress made against COVID-19.

After passing a budget last year with no increase in the tax rate, the tax rate for 2021-2022 is proposed to decrease. When approved, the budget will still support investments in Clinton and delivery of essential services.

During the pandemic, many small businesses learned to rely on technology to support their operations. That same lesson can be learned for town hall services. We are looking forward to implementing a system that will move more town services online. Not only will these investments make services more efficient, it will also reduce the risk that the pandemic brought forward. Budget investments help us meet the expectation that technology will be the way services are delivered to the public.

Enjoy the opportunity to be outside and take in the beauty of the coastline. Stay safe. Enjoy the first signs of spring.

Karl Kilduff, Town Manager

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From the Town Clerk's Office

DOG LICENSING BEGINS JUNE 1st

June is the month to license your dog(s). Dogs licensed on or after July 1st will be charged a late fee of \$1.00 per month, per dog. Please stop in our office any time after June 1st to register or mail to the Town Clerk's office. Don't forget to include your rabies and spay/neuter certificate if applicable.

Permanent Absentee Ballots: An elector can file an AB application together with a doctor's certificate (presumably on letter head), stating that they have a permanent disability and are unable to appear in person at their polling place. This will

allow an elector to be on our Permanent Absentee ballot list. AB ballots will then be automatically mailed to the elector for the November 2, 2021.

Shellfish licenses are available in the Town Clerks Office. (We only accept cash & checks) If you have any questions, please call the Town Clerk's Office at 860-669-9101

Sharon Uricchio, CCTC, MCTC
Clinton Town Clerk

The Clinton Land Conservation Trust

Eunice Symonds Scholarship

The Clinton Land Conservation Trust is pleased to announce the 2021 winners of the Eunice Symonds Scholarships. Twenty two third and forth graders submitted persuasive essays to try to win a week at Bushy Hill Nature Camp. This year CLCT is able to send ten kids to camp with the monies given to the Trust by Eunice Symonds in 2008. The

winners are: Sophia Vinclette, Chloe Shields, Brenden Bradley, Evan La-France, Celeste Shorey, Victor Alvarado, Bryson Wenderkin, Cormick McEnaney, Ethan Rae and Viviane Honorio.

Story Hike - Something Brand New!

Kids and adults will thoroughly enjoy CLCT's new Story Hike being installed in Peters Woods on the Bougie Trail.

The story is called "A Seed is Sleepy" by Dianna Aston with beautiful illustrations by Sylvia Long. The Story Hike is being cosponsored with the Henry Carter Hull Library and will feature games and contests for anyone who goes on the hike. The trail head is on Valley Road with plenty of parking. See how much fun hiking and reading can be!



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Annual Family Golf Classic Tournament

As the weather begins to turn warmer, many an avid golfer begins to anticipate returning to the course. With outdoor activities now deemed safe by the CDC, the Clinton Education Foundation and the Clinton Lions Club are getting ready for their golf tournament, the Family Golf Classic.

This annual tournament will be held this year on Monday, October 11 at the Clinton Country Club. The tournament serves as a means to raise money to support the work of these two community service organizations. The Clinton Education Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization launched in 2006, has as its mission "to enhance public school education" in the town of Clinton. The foundation accomplishes its mission by providing financial support for initiatives that create educational opportunities for the children of Clinton, opportunities that are not funded by the town or other public-funding sources.

We annually award to public school students and teachers grants and scholarships which enable them to pursue their dreams and passions.

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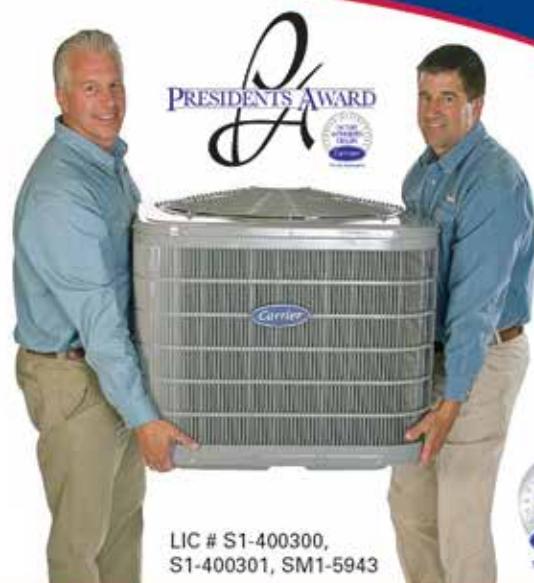
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Golf Classic... continued from page 7

The Clinton Lions Club is a community service organization that offers scholarships and sponsors youth activities, funds the DARE program for the school district, and helps supply our police officers with life-saving Narcan.

The golf tournament is a big part of fundraising for both organizations. Tournament sponsorships are available at a variety of levels and are a great way to advertise your business or organization. If you would like to become a sponsor, please visit the CEF website

at <https://sites.google.com/site/clintoncef> or contact the Clinton Education Foundation/Clinton Lions Club at P.O. Box 684, Clinton, 06413. If you might like to play, check out the website for more information.

Both organizations are looking forward to October, to a glorious autumn day, with the pandemic hopefully well behind us.

Clinton EDC

The EDC is proud to say that Clinton's economic development is more active today than it has been in many years. The new Railroad Station is near completion and the sprawling new Indian River Complex under construction. Much more is underway; mixed-use complexes being built, manufacturing companies building additional capacity and many new residential plans are in various stages of approval.

The town was awarded a \$128,000 "STEAP Main Street Façade Improvement Grant". While not a large amount, the EDC's goal is to leverage it as the initial step in improving the appearance of downtown; enlisting businesses and local organizations in the much-needed revitalization of our Main Street. The results can be used as a basis for additional grants.

The Clinton Manufacturing Coalition

(CMC), now in its 3rd year, has made major strides in gaining access, recognition and support from State and regional resources, e.g., Workforce Alliance, Goodwin University, ReadyCT, the CT Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner David Lehman and Colin Cooper, the state's first chief manufacturing officer. An overarching CMC, EDC and BOE goal is to build awareness of, support for and

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student participation in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). Many of our local (and state-wide as well) manufacturers cannot find trained employees for many well-paying jobs; and many graduating Morgan School seniors are not aware that great jobs are to be found right here, if they have the skills. STEM is a win for both. Much is underway. The effort got a major boost with the active and critical involvement of the PTA and entire Morgan School staff.

Morgan was awarded a \$40,000 Perkins Grant for the purchase of STEM instructional equipment and is applying for a second grant this year. Morgan students are already beginning their apprenticeships with our local manufacturers.

There is much going on here in Clinton and the future looks even brighter.

John V Allen, Chair, Clinton EDC

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- Kathleen Cartwright, Reference & Information

GREETINGS FROM THE CHILDREN'S ROOM

Please call or check our website for program description, dates, and registration information.

The library grounds will come alive with our 2021 Summer Reading theme, "Tails and Tales"! We are looking forward to welcoming you back for in-person, outdoor programming. The Children's Room crew is busy planning fun, enriching animal-themed programs to help keep your kids active, engaged, and reading all summer long.

Animal Embassy will return to our library with rare and beautiful live animals for their "A Tale of Two Tails" program. These rescued/adopted creatures seem to come straight from a fairy tale; Quilliam the African crested porcupine, Bloo the Flemish giant rabbit, Taiga the Eagle owl, Sully the giant tortoise, and Kooneykooney the Kunekune pig are a few that could make an appearance. Thank you to Clinton Girl Scout Troop 62191 for sponsoring this event.

Ranger Russ from Meigs Point Nature Center and **Riverside Reptiles Education Center** from Enfield will amaze us with live reptile shows.

We are also welcoming two local educators this summer; STEM/STEAM enthusiast **Claudia Esposito** from Cool-ology and artist/teacher **Kristin Cafferty** from **Splash Into Art**, will share their passion with rising 2nd-6th graders with monthly "Tails and Tales" themed programs.

Tween Time, a program for rising 3rd-6th graders, will feature three in-person crafting sessions.

Baby & Me (birth-24 months) and **Stories & More** (ages 2 & up)



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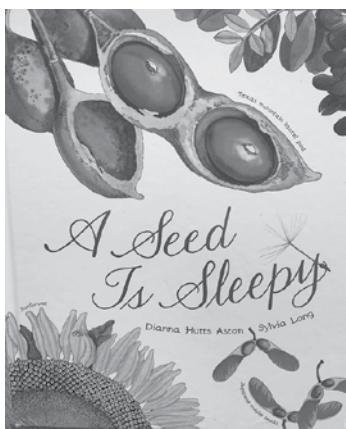
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will also return to in-person this summer.

Read & Bead, our popular summer reading incentive, is back! Children can earn beads and brag tags for reading and completing bingo card challenges. We have new “Tails and Tales” themed brag tags and beads. Our summer reading programs will run from June 21st-August 20th.

Happy reading! - Coralie Williams, Head of Children's Services



"Our First StoryHike Book,
'A Seed Is Sleepy'"

Sylvia Long. Check back for new seasonal installations.

GET OUTDOORS WITH HENRY StoryHike, Activity Backpacks, & more.

With support from the Clinton Land Conservation Trust and The Community Foundation of Middlesex County, Henry Carter Hull Library is excited to share a collection of fun new outdoor activities and resources.

In late May, guests of all ages will enjoy exploring a StoryHike along the Bougie Trail at Peters Memorial Woods on 35 Valley Road in Clinton. The first book installation on the trail is *A Seed Is Sleepy* by Dianna Hutts Aston, which explores the lifecycle of a seed with beautiful illustrations by

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Library... continued from page 11

We'll celebrate the opening of our first StoryHike with Grab & Grow Gardening Kits, complete with everything you need to start your own mini vegetable and herb garden - Visit our website or call to reserve your kit (all ages welcome - one per family). Seeds for this program were generously provided by the UCONN Master Gardener Program.

Activity Backpacks are now available for adults, too! Try birdwatching, en plein air acrylic painting, and gardening, with backpacks filled with tools, materials, and resources to explore these hobbies in nature. Children will also enjoy the Get Outdoors! CLCT backpack, complete with everything young nature enthusiasts need. Visit our website to place a backpack on Hold, or stop by the display at the Front Desk to check one out.

For a limited time, borrow one of our new activity backpacks or let us know that you completed our "StoryHike BINGO" and receive an "I Hiked With Henry" button, while supplies last. To learn more about these outdoor activities and resources, visit: www.hchlibrary/hiking-with-henry. Where will Henry take you?! - Sarah Borgnis-Tobin, Head of Outreach



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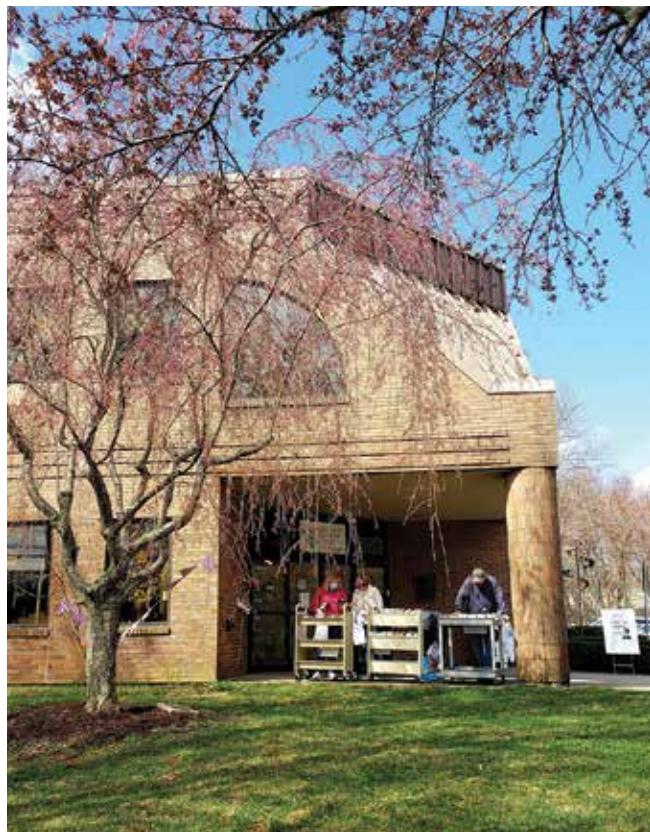
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Patrons browse book sale at April Craft Fair.

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The Clinton Parks & Rec Department

COVID-19 continues to have an impact on our way of life and our department but things are improving!

Although we were not able to offer Park and Rec Basketball last winter, we were able to run our travel basketball program with a limited number of participants.

We are excited for the many summer camps we have available this year. We have camps for kids ages 3 to 15. No need to worry, we are still following CDC guidelines so there are restrictions we will

be following to keep everyone safe. Check out our website for the complete listing of camps and their dates.

Our Zumba program continues to run strong despite the pandemic. We are still offering outdoor classes but have opened our facility for classes to be held during inclement weather.

Please check our Facebook page (Clinton CT Parks & Recreation) to keep up to date on our programs as things change on a daily basis. Or go to our website at <https://parkrec.clintonct.org>.

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Passive House: Efficiency from the Ground Up

By Enoch Lenge

An energy-efficient home may call to mind features like LED lighting and ENERGY STAR™ appliances. While these can certainly help increase efficiency and lower energy costs, there is so much more that can be done. The way a building is designed and constructed can have huge impacts on the energy it uses. One building standard that is synonymous with efficiency is Passive House, which uses up to 50% less energy than a conventional building according to Eversource passive house experts. Here's how:

What is the Passive House standard? In a nutshell, Passive House is a building performance standard focused on delivering a high level of energy savings and carbon reduction for all building types. Through a comprehensive integrated design process, Passive House-certified buildings are designed to minimize the amount of heat transfer through a building's envelope - exterior walls and windows - resulting in minimal energy needed to heat, cool and operate a building. Passive House can help states and municipalities meet their climate goals and create a sustainable future while dramatically cutting energy costs, and improving comfort, for homeowners and renters.

What does Passive House entail specifically?

A building designated with the Passive House standard is the ultimate in energy-efficient design. These buildings prioritize a number of different design principles, namely: air-tight thermal envelope, continuous insulation on all exterior surfaces, minimized thermal bridging, highly-efficient HVAC systems, and efficient windows to utilize natural light and passive solar gains.



How much does Passive House cost? When designed and planned from the onset, building to a Passive House standard does not necessarily cost much more than conventional construction. And incentives available from Eversource can help offset the incremental costs.

What should developers know? Passive House is a performance-based standard that requires a comprehensive integrated design approach. Thus, it should be a clear goal at the very start of the process, and in some cases even before design drawings have been developed. Eversource also supports Passive House training and certification for building professionals in Connecticut and Massachusetts to increase the number of Passive House consultants in the region.

As a sponsor of Energize Connecticut, Eversource is encouraging developers to construct Passive House-certified buildings by working with project teams to share energy saving expertise and through enhanced resources for multifamily buildings with at least five units. Passive House helps homeowners and renters save money while dramatically cutting carbon emissions, has a global support network, a proven track record and offers flexibility for each project. All of these things make Passive House a powerful tool in the fight against climate change.

Enoch Lenge is Eversource's energy efficiency spokesperson.

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Partners in Community

The Governor of the State of Connecticut has penned a bill to legalize recreational use of marijuana for those over the age of 21, and he is pushing hard for it to pass. As of 4/30/2021 this bill has been modified numerous times but has passed through both the Judiciary and Finance Committees and is currently on the floors of the House and Senate for vote. By the time you are reading this, it is entirely possible that CT may have passed legal recreational use of marijuana.

Some may think that this law is a no brainer and will bring revenue into our state. Sadly, the results from states like Colorado and Washington, who have had legal recreational use for years, do not look like a financial boon. What these states did not figure in was the increase in costs for traffic accidents due to impaired driving, increases in need for addiction treatment, increases in visits to emergency rooms for accidental poisonings of children, as well as time lost at work due to substance use, among other things. Legalized recreational use comes with a price tag, not free money.

The biggest concern for families in Clinton, whether marijuana becomes legal to use or not, is the impact of marijuana use on teenage brains:

It is imperative that parents understand that the products used currently are far, far different than the 70's or 80's. The THC content (the psychoactive component, causing the "high") is as high as 90% in some products that are available today. In "our" day the average THC content was 4-5%. The high potency leads to addiction more quickly and damage to teenage brains, which are not fully developed. The THC interferes with the essential "pruning" process that must take place in the teen brain and results in faulty nerve pathways. Depression, lack of motivation, anxiety and even loss of IQ points have been noted by numerous studies of adolescents who use marijuana.

If Connecticut legalizes marijuana, the result will inevitably be a decrease in youth's perception of harm, which leads to increases in use. All of the states that have legalized have seen a jump in teen use, despite the law stating that no one under the age of 21 can possess or use legally. Parents need to understand that access will increase (youth share with us on surveys that it is very easy to access now!). It is important for adults to understand how harmful teen use can be and to speak plainly with their children about avoiding use. More information is available on www.clintonpic.org and www.learnaboutsam.com. You can also email Kelley Edwards, prevention coordinator, for more resources at kedwards@clintonct.org.

Kelley Edwards
Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator, Town of Clinton

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The Pleasing Power of Pizza

by Morgan McMinn

Publisher's Note: Our "The Last Word" feature generally focuses on someone with Connecticut ties who has attained notoriety in a particular field and who is giving back to our community. This time, we have a different take. Something that captures our collective attention. Something fun. Something that brings us together. Pizza, of course!

PERVERSIVE, SEEMINGLY UBIQUITOUS PIZZA

Every second, 350 slices of pizza are eaten in the United States. 93% of Americans have at least one slice per month. In total, this comes to about 3 billion pizzas sold every year! Indeed, you are likely to eat more than 23 pounds in one year! So what is it that makes pizza so popular in U.S. culture - the taste, the convenience, any hidden health benefits, or maybe that there is just a little bit for everyone?

ORIGINS OF PIZZA

It appears that pizza has been around since the times of the Ancient Egyptians, Greeks and Romans. Naples, Italy is considered as the modern birthplace of pizza. It is believed that pizza's popularity rose when Queen Margherita visited Naples in 1889 and requested to try various pizzas (her favorite rumored to be what is today's Margherita pizza). Decades later, immigrants to America brought with them their pizza-making skills. Often sold by unlicensed vendors, one of the first known pizzerias (still in operation today) was found in Manhattan in 1905 - G. Lombardi's.



Waiting patiently in line for Pepe's pizza

In Connecticut, Italian bakers were beginning to make their mark in 1890 and by 1920, there were more than 20 Italian bakeries in New Haven alone. As demand for bakeries and pizza increased, so did the number of restaurants. In 1915, Francesco Scelzo opened the "Pizzeria Napoletana" and a few years later Baker Francesco "Frank" Pepe arrived and began his pizza business. Frank hired his nephews who later opened Westville Apizza and Sally's Apizza.

Pizza grew in popularity over the years and became a part of American culture. Pizza culture also evolved over the years across the country, featuring unique styles such as Chicago and California.

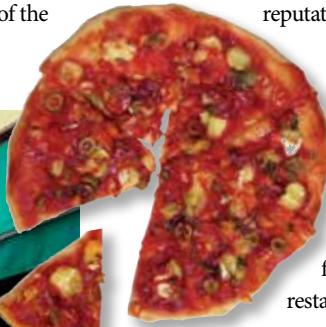
CONNECTICUT - A PIZZA MECCA

There has been a long debate on where the best pizza can be found - New York, New Jersey, Chicago, Connecticut? Connecticut consistently ranks at the top of the charts. In 2020 and 2021, six Connecticut pizza establishments topped the 101 best pizza



Pick up window at Sally's Apizza.

places in America according to The Daily Meal - all six in the top 50. Frank Pepe's Pizzeria Napoletana has consistently ranked number one (theculinary.com). Recently, state legislators (Representative Patricia Dillon and Senator Gary Winfield) even proposed a bill that would make pizza Connecticut's state food. They noted the importance of pizza to Connecticut and the pride the state has in our long-standing reputation and family-owned pizzerias.



House Bill No. 5656 consists of a simple declaratory sentence: "To recognize the contribution of pizza to the state's cuisine and economy by designating it as the state food." A number of individuals submitted testimony in support of the concept. That included New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker who noted the roll that pizza plays in his city. He stated: "Anchoring our food scene is the best apizza in the world. Family-owned pizza

restaurants are at the heart of our city, and their contributions to our community and economy go far beyond the flavor and excellence of their specialty dish. During a time when it is difficult to feel a sense of community, the uniquely delicious qualities of New Haven pizza brings us together, even when we're physically apart."

Colin Caplan of Taste of New Haven underscored (among other things) that: Connecticut has among the oldest pizzerias in the U.S., one of the largest number of pizzerias per capita in the U.S., and the most independently owned pizzerias in the U.S. In addition, Connecticut restaurants make \$8.2 billion in sales and add 160,000 jobs annually. And did you know (according to Mr. Caplan) that the pizza box, pizza vending machine, home making pizza set and white clam pizza were first created and invented in Connecticut? As of press time, the legislation appears to be on its way to becoming law.



Any way you slice it, this amazing meal is a part of our everyday lives and has been a staple of community and spending time together. From competitions to create the largest pizza to NASA funding a 3D to make pizza for astronauts, it has an importance anywhere you go. Pizza has evolved in America and forms a unique part of American culture.

Note: We note with sadness the recent passing of Gary Bimonte, co-owner of Frank Pepe's Pizzeria Napoletana. All of us at Events Magazines send our deepest sympathies to his family, friends, and the entire pizza community.

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