



EXCHANGE

CONNECTICUT DISTRICT EXCHANGE CLUBS

SPOTLIGHT THE LATEST NEWS, VIEWS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volume 3, Winter Update

NEW CLUBS!

“Congratulations to the Exchange Club of Bristol CT for sponsoring a new Excel Club at Bristol Eastern High School! This is our latest Excel Club this year! I would also like to congratulate our newest Connecticut Exchange Club, the Northwest Hills Exchange Club!! A new initiative is underway, uniting civic-minded individuals, businesses, and community leaders across Torrington, Litchfield, Winsted, and beyond...” Joe Dudek, President, The National Exchange

Please see pages 2 & 3.

President's Note:

It has been an exciting year for our Connecticut Clubs, especially with the announcement of two new Exchange Clubs! One in the works, and one Chartered in November. Congratulations to the Bristol Eastern Excel Club, for chartering a new Club with 21 members! Great things coming for their Club. Thanks to Dianna and Karl Tack, and Bill Solder for their Club Building efforts.

*Also in November, the Connecticut District Exchange Clubs proudly hosted **two Field of Flags displays**, honoring veterans, first responders, and community heroes. We will spotlight how each Club in the District can host their own Field of Flags at the January District Virtual Training event - more details coming soon!*

Thank you to all for your efforts to make our communities a better place to live.

Important dates

January 12th - CT District BOD meeting - Zoom 6:30-8 pm

January 17th (tent.) 9 am to Noon - District Virtual Training Session

January 31 - Shelton's 12th Annual SUPERBOWL themed minigolf tournament. [Get your Tickets.](#)

“This was exciting news hearing about the new Exchange Clubs sponsored in Connecticut...”

Ginny Greatsinger, President, CT District Exchange



BRISTOL EASTERN HIGH SCHOOL EXCEL CLUB

We Are Excited to Announce a New Club!

We are proud to share the formation of the 7th new club of Exchange's 2025–2026 administrative year, the Exchange Excel Club of Bristol Eastern High School in Bristol, Connecticut. This outstanding new club was built through the dedication of Bill Solder, Dianna Tack, and Karl Tack, and sponsored by the Exchange Club of Bristol, CT. The club was officially chartered with 19 new members on November 17, 2025.

National President and Volunteer Field Representative Joe Dudek led the Charter Event, welcoming this impressive group of students into Exchange's long-standing tradition of service. The new club is part of Region 12 within the Connecticut District Exchange Clubs. We proudly welcome these new members to Exchange. Their commitment to service will make a meaningful impact in their school and community. Welcome to Exchange!

The club's members have already begun planning service projects aimed at making a positive impact in their school and the greater Bristol community.



NORTHWEST HILLS EXCHANGE CLUB

Congratulations to our newest Connecticut Exchange Club, the Northwest Hills Exchange Club!! A new initiative is underway, uniting civic-minded individuals, businesses, and community leaders across Torrington, Litchfield, Winsted, and beyond. This collaborative effort seeks to promote the core values of Americanism, foster community spirit, support youth development, and advance the main mission of preventing child abuse. By bringing together diverse groups with a shared passion for service, this initiative aims to make a lasting and positive difference throughout the region.



FIELD OF FLAGS

We're thrilled to announce the addition of the Fields of Flags, a heartfelt tribute to our local veterans! The flags are proudly displayed at their starting locations—the American Legion Hall on Route 202 in Litchfield, CT, and the Town Green in Winsted, CT. This inspiring project comes together thanks to the dedication and teamwork of Exchange Club members Kathy Craig, Bill Solder, Ginny and Paul Greatsinger, Erin King and Roger Picard, whose efforts are helping expand Exchange Clubs throughout Northwest Connecticut. The Fields of Flags honor veterans in our communities until November 17th, with more locations to be announced soon. This initiative is a proud part of our advance awareness for America 250 next year. Let's come together to thank our veterans for their service and celebrate the spirit of unity and patriotism!



Exchange Club Field of Flags

Celebrating Freedom

This living tribute reflects the courage, sacrifice, and unity that define our American spirit.

Remember the sacrifices - be grateful for the gift of freedom - be proud of our Country



The National Exchange Club
is a Proud Partner of
America250



This event is Sponsored by
your local Exchange Club

More Information



Exchange Club of Branford, CT, Exchange Club of Bristol, CT, Exchange Club of Canaan, Exchange Club of Cobleskill, NY, Exchange Club of Danbury, CT, Exchange Club of Dutchess County, Exchange Club of Farmington, CT, Exchange Club of Glastonbury, CT, Exchange Club of Greater Candlewood, Exchange Club of Madison, CT, Exchange Club of Naugatuck, CT, Exchange Club of New Canaan, CT, Exchange Club of Northwest Hills, CT, Exchange Club of Norwich, CT, Exchange Club of Old Saybrook/Westbrook, Exchange Club of Portland, CT, Exchange Club of Rockville, Exchange Club of Shelton, CT, Exchange Club of Stamford, CT, Exchange Club of Waterbury, CT, Exchange Club of West Hartford, Exchange Club of Westport, CT, Exchange Club of Wolcott, CT, Exchange Club of Yonkers, NY

OTHER CLUB NEWS

Bristol Exchange Club:

Joe Dudek and Jack Ferraro were one of the lead vehicles in this year's 2025 Mum Festival Parade! Congratulations to the Bristol Exchange Club for another successful festival this year, with perfect weather! The Mum Festival celebrated 63 years of entertaining our communities. Thank you Jack for Chairing this amazing event for the last 10 years! Enjoy a well deserved retirement! Jason Fields and Andrea Botto Adams will be taking the helm as the 2026 Mum Festival Chairs!



For More Photos, visit: www.MainStreetBristol.Com - Slideshow Display



The Mum Festival is Produced & Directed by the Bristol Exchange Club. "The Chrysanthemum symbolizes Friendship, Happiness, and Well-being... The Clock symbolizes Bristol's History, and this Time-Honored Event, and taking time to appreciate those three ideals and the Love of our community of All Heart..." Jack Ferraro

The Mum Festival has been a part of Bristol History for over six decades, thanks to the support of the Bristol Exchange Club, Our Mayor, City Council and several city departments. The Mum Festival will continue its fine tradition! We especially want to thank our generous Sponsors, Volunteers, and all our Supporters! Come join the fun on the Historic Memorial Boulevard & Field on September 25, 26 & 27, 2026!!

Portland Exchange Club:

Congratulations to The Portland Exchange Club, Celebrating 80 Years of Exchange!!



Exchange Club of Portland celebrates 80 years of community service, evolving membership, and impactful fundraising events.

Club History and Evolution

- Founded as a local chapter of the National Exchange Club in 1945.
- Initially all-male membership, with first female member welcomed in 2004.
- Current membership is approximately 40% female.

Community Engagement and Fundraising

- Club raises funds for community initiatives, donating all proceeds back.
- Annual events include Touch-A-Truck, seasonal bingo nights, and food drives.
- Major fundraiser: Exchange Club Charity Golf Tournament on May 8, raising thousands for local organizations.

Member Experiences and Contributions

- Longtime member Rich Sharr reflects on club's history and community events.
- Club serves as a platform for local leaders to engage with residents.
- Newer members, like Jennifer Donohue, appreciate networking and community contribution opportunities.



Contact Us

The CT District Exchange
Ginny Greatsinger, President
ginny.greatsinger2@gmail.com

CT District Exchange Club
Email: ctdistrictexchange.org/contact/
Website: ctdistrictexchange.org

OTHER EXCHANGE NEWS:

Mid-Year Virtual Education - Tentatively set for January 17th from 9 am to 11:30.

An invitation for this Zoom event will be sent late December with login details, and full agenda. Education modules will include:

- “State of the District”
- America 250 Celebration planning ideas
- Field of Flags - the who/what/where/when/how/how much
- Convention Update
- Child Abuse Prevention Updates: Parent Aide/HELP for Kids statewide perinatal program update
- Marketing Minute - resources to support your Club

All members are invited to participate. RSVPs are required. Look for more information soon!

