

State data: Danbury crime drops 25%

Follows spike in 2024
By Kendra Baker
STAFF WRITER

DANBURY — Reported crime in Danbury dropped sharply in 2025, with more than 930 fewer incidents reported than the year before, according to state crime data.

Danbury saw a nearly 25 percent decrease in reported criminal offenses between 2024 and 2025, according to National In-

cident-Based Reporting System data on the state Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection's Connecticut Crime Online website.

The decrease reflects an opposite trend from 2024, when the city saw an 8 percent year-over-year increase in reported crime due in part to a rise in incidents of vandalism and intimidation.

Since the start of his administration, Danbury Mayor Roberto Alves said the city "has made

deliberate and responsible investments in public safety."

In addition to putting more community-focused officers on the street, he said traffic enforcement has been strengthened, needed resources have been funded and support has been provided to people and organizations that help residents succeed.

Alves said that work and the dedication of the Danbury Police Department has paid off.

"I'm proud of this progress,

and we will keep building on it to keep Danbury safe for everyone," he said.

The latest NIBRS data shows 2,809 offenses were reported to Danbury police last year — compared to 3,744 reported in 2024 — and simple assault, shoplifting and vandalism were the top three reported crimes in 2025.

Though small in absolute terms — with low counts in both 2025 and 2024 — only five crime categories saw year-over-year

increases: murder, assisting or promoting prostitution, pornography/obscene material, statutory rape and stolen property offenses.

Danbury police investigated one murder in 2025 — the April fatal stabbing of a 22-year-old Jorge Michael Andrade-Vera on Granville Avenue — along with two incidents of assisting or promoting prostitution, according to the NIBRS data, which shows no such incidents

Crime continues on A6

Consensus elusive on Aquarion merger



Dan Haar
COMMENTARY

It seems like pretty much everyone who's not involved in the sale of Aquarion Water Co. to a nonprofit authority believes the merger would raise customers' rates excessively.

Monthly bills would spike in future years for several reasons, the argument goes — chiefly, higher debt to pay for the \$2.4 billion purchase; and lack of oversight by state regulators who have beaten down rate hike requests from Aquarion, owned by Eversource Energy.

A tsunami of elected and appointed officials from both parties, led most loudly by Attorney General William Tong, say the 700,000 Connecticut residents whose spigots flow Aquarion water would pay much more un-

Haar continues on A4

NEW MILFORD

Wetlands panel OKs 6-building industrial plan

Near future site for 107 townhomes

By Rob Ryser
STAFF WRITER

NEW MILFORD — A developer who wants to build three warehouses and three self-storage buildings on 25 vacant acres east of the Still River got the environmental OK from wetlands watchdogs to seek final approvals from town planners.

"The applicant's experts and the information submitted into the record have addressed, to the best of the applicant's ability, the concerns that were raised during the ... public

Wetlands continues on A6



Courtesy of Jenniffer Mayoral
Jenniffer Mayoral, her husband, Luis Cubillan, and their daughter, Hannah, participate in a protest in New Haven in 2024 after the Venezuelan presidential election.

VENEZUELAN IN CONNECTICUT

Maduro's capture brings relief, disbelief and hope

By Brianna Gurciullo
STAFF WRITER

Jenniffer Mayoral didn't get much sleep after U.S. forces captured Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro early Saturday.

A native of Venezuela and resident of Branford today, Mayoral recounted how a family member who lives in Spain called her in the middle of the night after seeing the news, which was quickly spreading

over social media.

"It's complicated," Mayoral said about her feelings that night.

There was a sense of relief as well as disbelief, she said.

"Every day, we've been waiting for something to happen, and it finally happened, so we are happy because I think the situation is going to change," she said Wednesday. "I know it's a long process, but we have the hope (that) everything is going to be better because we

need our country back."

Mayoral was born in Maracay and her husband in Caracas. They were living in Valencia with their then 3-year-old daughter, Hannah, when they left for the United States a decade ago. She described Venezuela as a country that is dangerous for anyone who doesn't agree with the government.

"We decided to come here and have a safe life," Mayoral said.

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Protesters rally in Conn. over fatal ICE shooting in Minn.

By Peter Yankowski, Eric Bedner, Richard Chumney and Brian Zahn
STAFF WRITERS

Scores of demonstrators rallied across Connecticut Thursday in protest of the fatal shooting of a 37-year-old woman in Minneapolis by a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer, joining protests in cities around the country.

Organizers denounced the Trump administration's immigration crackdown and demanded the

arrest of the officer who killed Renee Nicole Macklin Good, a U.S. citizen and mother of three who had recently moved to Minnesota.

In Hartford, about two dozen people gathered outside the federal courthouse on Main Street where ICE offices are located. They shouted chants, beat a snare drum and carried signs reading "Lock up ICE thugs," "Ice melts when the streets get hot" and "Justice for Renee."

Lily Mercado, a New

Britain resident with the organization Dare to Struggle, shouted through a megaphone, "I-C-E go to hell."

"We hope to accomplish channeling people's rage and fury about what happened yesterday right back to the oppressors," she said, arguing the agent who shot Good put himself in harm's way.

"His life wasn't in danger," she said. "He stepped in front of that car and used it as an excuse to kill somebody in broad day-

ICE continues on A6



About two dozen people protest outside ICE offices at the federal courthouse on Main Street in Hartford Thursday.

Jim Michaud/Hearst Connecticut Media