

# THE NEWS-TIMES

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## RIDGEFIELD

### Wanted: Public buy-in for redesign of safety complex

Referendums failed before

By Christian Metzger  
STAFF WRITER

RIDGEFIELD — Ridgefield is attempting to move forward with drafting a new public safety complex, following a second failed referendum on the issue in November.

The Public Safety Facilities Committee meeting said they are looking to maximize public engagement in the process and keep residents informed of every step of the committee's plan in developing a plan for modernizing their police and fire departments.

Police and fire officials

previously expressed operational difficulties in trying to accommodate for the modern needs of their departments in buildings that are over 115 years old and not built for that purpose.

Last year there were two referendums on a proposed facility that would combine police, fire, emergency medical services staff into one facility. The second attempt in November made the project cheaper by reducing the square footage, but the referendum still failed by over 1,800 votes, with residents expressing reservations about the building's size and cost.

Members of the committee talked about starting with a blank slate and

*Police continues on A4*



Bryan Haeffele/Hearst Connecticut Media

A car is stuck in the snow on Greenwood Avenue in Bethel on Monday.

## Blizzard pounds state

Heavy snow, damaging winds, power outages hit Conn.

By Peter Yankowski and Nathaniel Rosenberg  
STAFF WRITERS

A powerful nor'easter winter storm brought blizzard conditions to Connecticut Monday for the first time in years, as a mix of heavy snow and driving snow essentially brought the state to standstill.

The storm closed Connecticut schools and most government offices Monday. Gov. Ned Lamont has declared a state of emergency and banned commercial vehicles from Connecticut's highways.

During a news briefing a little before noon Monday, the state's emergency management director said both the commercial vehicle ban and state of emergency remained in effect until further notice. The state's severe cold weather protocol was also enacted Sunday and remains in effect.

William Turner, the emergency management director, emphasized people should stay off the roads.

"While a full travel ban is not in effect, the travel is still very treacherous," Turner said during Monday's news conference.



A town employee clears snow in front of the Bethel Library on Greenwood Avenue in Bethel on Monday.

"The more we can keep everybody home and hunkered down for the storm, the easier it'll be for our emergency responders to respond to those emergency calls."

**Storm results in thousands of outages, no fatalities reported**

The storm resulted in thousands of power outages Monday. Ever-source, the state's largest power utility, warned Sunday that "several hundreds thousand customers" could lose power. Full restoration may take days, the company's president of Connecticut operations said.

*Blizzard continues on A7*



Paul Hughes/Hearst Connecticut Media

State Rep. Matt Blumenthal, D-Stamford, stands in front of a poster of former Trump aide Steve Bannon while discussing a state bill to prevent unauthorized federal law enforcement actions near polling places during a news conference Friday at the Legislative Office Building.

## Conn. bill would bar ICE agents within 250 feet of polling places

By Paul Hughes  
STAFF WRITER

HARTFORD — Democrats in Connecticut are preparing to propose a state law banning U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents from operating near polling places they say in order to protect voter access for the mid-term elections.

Legislation is being introduced through the state legislature's Democrat-led Government Administration and Elections Committee to prohibit federal

law enforcement operations within 250 feet of a polling place, an elections counting site, or other sensitive election locations and make violations a state crime.

State Rep. Matt Blumenthal, D-Stamford, the committee's House chairman, outlined the proposal Friday during a news conference at the Legislative Office Building with U.S. Rep. John B. Larson, D-1st District, and Lt. Gov. Susan By-siewicz on federal ban that Larson has proposed.

*ICE continues on A4*

## 'Co-living' is catching on in Conn.

By Alexander Soule  
STAFF WRITER



Alexander Soule/Hearst Connecticut Media

The Standard at Four Corners apartment complex in February at 1725 Storrs Road in Mansfield.

They are two of the newest sets of apartments to hit the Connecticut market — one a sprawling modern complex built by a national developer near the University of Connecticut in Storrs; the other a Victorian in Willimantic, recently refurbished by an entrepreneurial couple who got their start as Airbnb hosts.

The common thread connecting them? Both allow tenants to have a private bedroom for themselves and share the kitchen, living and dining rooms, in a concept dubbed "co-living" that is catching on in other parts of the country as a way to get more bang for the apartment buck — both for landlords and renters.

In Mansfield, Landmark Properties has site preparation underway at 134 N. Eagleville Road for an apartment complex to be called The Mark Mansfield. As the case with Landmark's new Standard at Four Corners apartments at 1725 Storrs Road, The Mark Mansfield will

*Co-living continues on A4*

## Historic Wake Robin Inn in Lakeville sells for \$3.5M

Property to become 'boutique hospitality campus'

By Andrew DaRosa  
STAFF WRITER

The Wake Robin Inn, a historic inn at the heart of Lakeville, has been sold for \$3.5 million.

The inn was sold to Tom Cervone of CR Properties Group, who represented the purchaser, Aradev LLC, according to a news release. Aradev LLC is registered through the Connecticut Business Registry as being attached to Steven Cohen.

Cohen's firm, Aradev LLC,

put in a proposal in 2024 to expand the property, but the application was withdrawn after opposition from public hearings. A revised proposal was approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission in October, according to the Hartford Business Journal.

The plan includes demolition of a 15-room building on the property as well as the demolition of two nearby houses, which Aradev LLC purchased in 2025. When renovations are complete, the inn will be expanded to 53 rooms and include

construction of four guest cottages, a spa and a fast-casual restaurant, the Hartford Business Journal's reporting notes. A news release calls it a "boutique hospitality campus."

Overlooking 11 acres of land, the 38-room country inn is known in the region as a central destination for weddings, retreats and for its proximity Lime Rock Park. Originally the Taconic School for Girls, a teacher from the school purchased the property and turned it into an inn in 1913, according to public hearing documents.



Courtesy of Dean Bender

The Wake Robin Inn, a 15,800 square-foot historic inn in Lakeville, has sold for \$3.5 million.

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Weather: Breezy and cold with sunshine and a few clouds. High: 31. Low: 10. Page A10