

# STAMFORD ADVOCATE

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## 'Running on empty'

### Staying longer in shelters, animals face stress and illness

By Tyler Fedor  
STAFF WRITER

Dr. Sasha Golovyan, a veterinarian at the Animal Clinic of Milford, said she remembered when a bulldog was surrendered to the clinic's care.

Golovyan said the owner told clinic staff the bulldog had eaten part of their CPAP machine and worried

they couldn't afford the dog's surgery if it happened again so they decided to give it up. The clinic did the surgery and found the dog a home.

"It still comes in as a patient," she said, adding pets surrendered to the clinic usually find a home in three to five days.

Her animals could be considered the lucky ones though as other shel-

ters report animals are staying longer.

For the Connecticut Humane Society, some animals can be there for more than three weeks, up from just a few days, according to James Bias, the society's executive director.

"The animals are going to be impacted because a shelter, while it's a safe haven, it's not a home," Bias said.

**Shelters continues on A7**



H John Voorhees III/Hearst Connecticut Media

**Gator is one of the dogs at the Connecticut Humane Society in Wilton.**



The UConn women's team bus makes its way Thursday to the Mortgage Matchup Center in Phoenix, home of the NCAA Women's Final Four.

Jim Shannon/Hearst Connecticut Media

### With both teams in the Final Four, UConn fans savoring every moment

By Austin Mirmina  
STAFF WRITER



Arnold Gold / Hearst Connecticut Media

**UConn women's basketball superfan Carol McKenzie holds her Huskies puppet, Jonathan Jr., at her home in Farmington on Wednesday.**

When Braylon Mullins' 35-foot prayer sent the UConn men's basketball team to the Final Four last weekend, Huskies fans across Connecticut and beyond erupted in celebration.

Ken Lipshez was cheering, too, just as he had a few hours earlier when the UConn women's team clinched its own Final Four trip. Even in that moment, though, there was a hint of sadness.

Watching UConn hoops together has become a winter ritual for Lipshez and his wife, who are both retired and live in Farmington. "UConn basketball has served as a unifier, almost like a marriage

**Fans continues on A4**

**For full coverage** and results of the NCAA Basketball Tournament games, go to [ctinsider.com](http://ctinsider.com).

## Geno, players celebrate Mullins' game-winner

By Roger Cleaveland  
STAFF WRITER

PHOENIX — The UConn men's basketball and women's basketball teams are back in the Final Four in the same season for an unprecedented sixth time, but never before has it happened like this.

Braylon Mullins' deep 3-point shot from the logo with 0.4 seconds left in the men's 73-72 Elite Eight victory over arch nemesis Duke last Sunday was a finish for the ages that rever-

**Dan Haar:** UConn ignites our dopamine-fueled collective moment. **A5**

berated throughout UConn Nation.

While UConn fans throughout the state passionately celebrated the shot that sent the men's team to the Final Four, no one felt more pride or connection to that historic moment than the counterparts in the women's program.

**Braylon continues on A4**



Jim Shannon/Hearst Connecticut Media

**UConn's Sarah Strong, left, and Azzi Fudd laugh at a comment by head coach Geno Auriemma at a news conference before the Final Four in Phoenix on Thursday.**

## Shell gas on Boston Post Road in Darien to build convenience store

By Sandra Diamond Fox  
STAFF WRITER

DARIEN — Despite some concerns on traffic congestion, Darien's Shell Station on Boston Post Road will be building a 2,400-square-foot convenience store while demolishing its service garage.

The gas station, at 805 Boston Post Road, and convenience

store, will be branded as "Standard." The station will continue to sell Shell gas.

At Tuesday's Planning & Zoning Commission meeting, commission members voted 4:2 in favor of the plan.

Commission members Jamie Zion, John Sini, George Reilly and Chair Steve Olvany voted for the plan while members Amy Barsanti and Adam Balgach vot-

ed against the plan.

Construction will take about nine months, Olvany has said.

"My client is very pleased that after careful and comprehensive consideration of their application, the commission voted to approve its application to reposition an old and tired service station with a new, attractive state of the art gas station with a convenience store. It will be a handsome addi-

tion to the Post Road corridor serving the Darien community," said Attorney Michael Cacace of Cacace, Tusch & Santagata. He was speaking on behalf of Standard Realty, LLC, the applicant.

Cacace said Standard Realty intends to move forward to secure a building permit and commence construction as soon as possible. The gas station will be closed during construction.

The Shell gas station is in a commercial zone located at the intersection of Boston Post Road and Sedgwick Avenue. The two buildings on the property total 3,750 square feet. According to the plan, there will just be one building — the convenience store, which will sell sandwiches, snacks, and coffee, and also, car supplies.

**Shell continues on A7**

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**Weather:** Variable clouds; showers later.  
High: 66. Low: 43. **Page A10**