City looks to tech to solve bus issues

New software lets parents track their child’s bus on their phone

By Brian Gioiele

School and bus company staffers are beginning training on new software which, when implemented early next year, officials believe will alleviate parents’ concerns about student transportation.

Board of Education Vice Chair James Grazzini, at the board’s meeting Wednesday, said that staffers will begin training on the Traverse student transportation software on Sept. 28 at the district’s central office. The technology upgrade, which will be implemented in January, has been in the works since July, according to Mayor Mark Lauretti.

“We’ve been implementing a lot of things. This is going to be a very user-friendly system,” Grazzini said.

Grazzini said students spam the most important thing to consider. “It’s all about safety first when it comes to students. I feel that this new program will put us leaps and bounds ahead of many other districts,” he said.

This announcement comes days into the new school year, during which time parents have voiced anger toward the city-owned Shelton Student Transportation Service (SSTS) over crowded buses, See Buses on A6

Angling for some fun

Youth gather at American Legion’s first fishing derby

By Brian Gioiele

Young anglers from throughout the area gathered at Great Hollow Lake in Monroe Saturday for their fishing skills to be put to the test.

The youth fishing derby was the first held by the American Legion Department of Connecticut’s 3rd District, but Legion Committeeman Mike Kellett hopes that the strong turnout holds well for this becoming an annual event.

“The idea came up at a meeting that I had with Bridgport Post 177,” Kellett said. “Members came back about how Post in Trumbull used to hold a fishing derby as part of Legion’s Fishing Derby.

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Fountain Square work back underway

By Brian Gioiele

Work on Fountain Square, which has remained dormant for more than a year, is back underway.

The site’s developer, Fountain Square, LLC, on the zoning application - said in a statement to Hearst Connecticut Media that construction of the 710 Bridgeport Ave. property has commenced.

“The developers of Fountain Square have secured all necessary funding and investors needed to complete the project,” the statement reads. “The restart of construction has already commenced and should be in full swing over the next few weeks.”

This update on the site’s status comes as many residents and business owners have spent months questioning the development’s future in letters to the editor and social media posts.

In early 2020, prior to onset of the pandemic, Dan Sutliffe, Sr., of DFW Building Co., has been the construction manager for the Fountain Square project, stated that lease agreements were in place for some 70 percent of what will be the available space at the mid-rise site at the corner of Bridgeport Avenue and Parrott Drive — the former UI property.

RUNNING AWAY WITH A VICTORY

Shelton High scored 28 unanswered points and defeated No. 4 ranked Greenwich 17-14 Friday in a CT Football Alliance game at Fitch Stadium. The unbeaten Gaels will visit Trumbull on Friday.

Inside

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SHELTON SCHOOLS

Nearly 90% of staff now vaccinated

By Brian Gioiele

Nearly 90 percent of the school district’s staff has received the COVID vaccine, according to Superintendent Ken Saranich.

Saranich said 90 percent of the district’s certified and non-certified staff members have received at least one dose of the vaccine. In all, the district has 686 (full time, 3 part time staff members), of which 599 are vaccinated, through Thursday.

“Our high vaccination percentage shows the great culture and community spirit of Shelton Public Schools,” Carol Pannozzo, chief of staff, stated in a statement to the organization.

Pannozzo said, in accordance with Lamont’s executive order, staff may request a religious or medical exemption in lieu of the vaccination. However, all employees who have not received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by Sept. 27, will be the available space at the district’s central office.

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