



MERIDEN ★ WALLINGFORD ★ SOUTHINGTON ★ CHESHIRE

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OK, how about this year?

Councilors still not sold on having dispatchers take medical calls

By Dan Ivers
Record-Journal staff

MERIDEN —For the second straight year, City Manager Lawrence J. Kendzior is hoping the city can realize some savings

by having police and fire dispatchers handle medical calls.

In his budget proposal for the 2011-12 fiscal year, Kendzior included \$125,000 in revenue from the state's "Enhanced 911" program. It is contingent on changing the decades-old practice of sending medical calls to employees at Hunter's Ambulance — which has not proved popular with many city councilors.

Kendzior proposed the same thing last year but it won little support, and Council Majority Leader Keith Gordon said he did not expect that to change.

"If we were going to do EMD (Emergency Medical Dispatch), we would need three times that amount of money," Gordon said.

The Enhanced 911 program is funded through surcharges on cellular phones and is offered to communities willing to train dispatch employees in medical, police and fire responses to cut down on disconnections and delays.

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Matt Andrew / Record-Journal

Don't call it home ec! From left, Luke Ferreira, Alexa Bracken and Sarah Delaney are preparing broccoli and cheddar soup in Megan Juhase's family and consumer sciences class at Kennedy Middle School in Southington.

Unified arts refreshes old concepts

In Southington's middle schools, gym, family science will never be the same

By Kimberly Primicerio
Record-Journal staff

SOUTHINGTON — The days of dodge ball and basketball in gym are gone. Forty-minute classes devoted to apron making and baking cookies are no more.

Unified arts classes such as gym,

family and consumer sciences and technical education in the middle schools aren't what they used to be. Children aren't just given a basketball and told to play a game of three-on-three. "Home ec" doesn't exist. Students enrolled in family and consumer sciences aren't baking treats; they instead are figuring out the steps of a recipe and troubleshooting when ingredient mixing goes wrong.

"We're getting away from just stitching and stirring," said Kirsten Elliott, a family and consumer sciences teacher at Kennedy Middle School.

Two years ago, Assistant Superintendent Howard J. Thiery brought

unified arts teachers together to discuss how their classes could move forward and include skills such as self-direction, teamwork and creative thinking. All middle school students are enrolled in the exploratory classes. By having a little bit of knowledge in each area, students can decide what interesting classes they want to take at the high school, Elliott said.

"There's nothing wrong with what we're doing," Michael Lodovico, gym teacher at DePaolo Middle School, said. But he said, there's room for change and improvement.

Gym teachers from Kennedy Middle School as well as Lodovico and

Sharon Kennedy, another gym teacher at DePaolo, visited a physical fitness program in Burlington that had undergone several changes. He said the teachers took what they could from the curriculum and adapted it.

"Our curriculum was team sports-based," he said.

During the physical fitness test, students aren't just running the mile; they're talking about target heart rates and taking each other's pulses. Circuit training is also taking place. Lodovico said music is played in the gym as students get into groups and

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Arciero feeds off Moses Y's energy

By Jesse Buchanan
Record-Journal staff

WALLINGFORD — There's a lot of energy at Moses Y. Beach School, and that's what's kept Principal Robert Arciero in the elementary grades.

Arciero, 39, became principal of Moses Y last year and went through the restructuring of the elementary schools, which split them into K-2 and 3-5 schools. He said redistricting has allowed more attention to be focused on the younger students of Moses Y, while still working closely with educators at its sister 3-5 school, Rock Hill.

Moses Y, on North Main Street, has about 380 students. Arciero, a Cheshire resident, recently sat down with the Record-Journal for an interview.

Q: You became principal last year. What's your educational background?
A: I came to Wallingford via West Hartford. I was assistant



Matt Andrew / Record-Journal

Robert Arciero is in his second year as principal of Wallingford's Moses Y. Beach School, which is now a K-2 school.

principal for a science, math and technology magnet school (Smith Magnet School) with a diverse population of students — wonderful experience. I was there for two years before coming here so it was a great training ground.

Before that I was in Waterbury for a number of years. Before leav-

ing Waterbury for West Hartford I was a teaching vice principal, so a great experience, you kind of straddle the threshold between the two worlds. It's an administration designated spot and it allowed for a chance for a lot of professional development with teachers so it was a really good



experience, good training ground. There was a sense of urgency in an urban school district so it was really good training for that professional development.

Q: What position did you start at in Waterbury?
A: As a teacher. I've always been in elementary school, the age level always appealed to me. I never had any interest in moving higher. The younger grades always appealed to me, the younger kids.

Last year in the midst of change (Moses Y changed from pre-K-5 to pre-K-2) I was thrilled. People have often asked me, 'How did you feel about that, working with younger kids?' It's a delight. The younger kids are amazing. Energy

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Southington fire displaces 7

SOUTHINGTON — Two children were taken to the hospital for observation and two families were displaced after a fire in a bedroom at 161 Oakland Road around 7:15 p.m. Sunday.

Fire Lt. Paul Higgins said the fire was raging in the second-floor bedroom of the two-family house when firefighters arrived. Firefighters had the fire extinguished within 20 minutes, Higgins said.

Bystanders watched as firefighters tossed a still-smoldering mattress out of the second-floor window, followed by shovelsful of charred debris.

Nicole Rebstad, who lives on the other side of the house, stood talking with neighbors.

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Today's question

With so many questions designated as "failing," what should be done about the No Child Left Behind Act?

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Outside:

Clouds early today, than afternoon sun, highs near 45. Clear and quite cold tonight, lows in the mid-20s.

