



DERBY SENIOR CENTER NEWS

Visit us at 293 Main Street, Derby, CT 06418 • Call us at 203.736.1484 • Email us at seniorcenter@derbyct.gov

December 2025



Did you know? "Jingle Bells" was originally a Thanksgiving song, and the first artificial Christmas tree was made of goose feathers dyed green.

CENTER INFO

Hours of Operation:

Monday-Friday: 9:00am-4:00pm

Any changes will be posted.

Phone: 203-736-1484

Fax: 203-736-1486

Our Staff:

Executive Director:

Dawn Hebert, MSW

Email: dhebert@derbyct.gov

Coordinator/Assistant Director:

Olga Capristo, BSW

Email: ocapristo@derbyct.gov

Administrative Office Clerk:

Kathy Gerwien, BA Business Admin.

Email: kgerwien@derbyct.gov

Kitchen Manager:

Christine Turecek, AA In Culinary

We are closed on
December 24th, 25th & 26th in
observance of Christmas and
December 31st, January 1st, and
January 2nd in observance of
New Year's Day

Happy Holidays to All!

POINTS OF INTEREST

- The **Elderly Commission meeting** is on the first Monday of every month at 3:00pm.
- The **Executive Board Meeting** is on the second Tuesday of every month at 10:00 am. The **Events Planning Committee** is after the Executive Board Meeting at 10:30
- **Medicare Counseling**—We have a trained CHOICES counselor available to assist you. Call the center to set up an appointment.
- **Veteran's Services & Benefits** Please contact Andy Cota at 203-736-8882 with questions or for an appointment. He is available on Wednesdays, 9:00am-1:00pm.
- **ATTENTION: Membership is due one year from the date that you pay going forward.**
- **Volunteers: Wanted! Please call if you are interested in calling BINGO. We are in need of callers. Without a volunteer we will only have Bingo twice a month. Your help is greatly appreciated.**

ATTENTION: When signing up for paid events, please write a separate check for each event or pay by cash. It is very difficult to separate payments that are clumped together. Thank you in advance.

LOOKING AHEAD

Noon Year's Hot Dog Bingo

Tuesday, January 6th

12:00pm—\$3.00

Hot Dog, Sauerkraut,

Baked, Beans

Dessert /Beverage.

Space is limited.

Registration required.



WELCOME TO THE DERBY SENIOR CENTER

The Center's purpose is to serve as a resource center providing a broad range of services and activities to meet the diverse social, physical and intellectual needs of older adults.

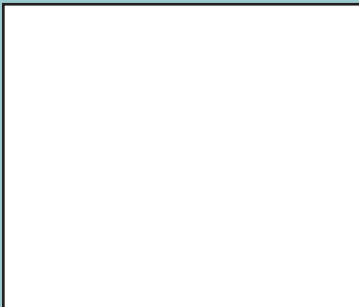
NEW INFORMATION

- **NO-SEW QUILTING CLASS** on Fridays at 11:00. No experience necessary. Call to sign up.
- **December 4th—12:00 pm-Caring Transitions** will be here to talk about their support system to help seniors transition through life's stages. They will be bringing a **FREE Boxed Lunch** for all attendees.
- **December 9th—Carolyn Gontarski** will be here to talk about **Legal Services** during our Senior Café at 11:45am..
- **Arts & Crafts**—Join Nancy for Arts and Crafts class on Wednesday, December 3rd and 10th.
- **Diamond Art**—Join Sue the first Tuesday of every month for this fun craft activity. Limited to 10 spots, so sign up early.
- **Book Club**—will meet on Wednesday, December 3rd to review the book **"The Cliffs"** by J. Courtney Sullivan. Large print books available at Derby Public Library.
- **Birthday BINGO**—December 23rd—sponsored by "Brightstar Homecare"

PLEASE NOTE:

If Derby Schools are closed, we are closed to the public. The staff is here if you need to speak to us. If the City of Derby closes, staff will not be here.

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MONTHLY REMINDERS

Membership Renewals are due one year from last renewal date. Please renew if you have not already done so. Derby residents \$6.00, non-residents \$8.00.

NOTE:

If you know of anyone interested in learning more about what the Center has to offer, he/she is welcome to come to any of our activities and/or events as your 1-time guest or he/she may come on their own for a free week trial. Just check in at the office.

Haircuts

Haircuts are on the 2nd Monday of the month—\$10 cash. Please call for an appointment.

Blood Pressure Screenings with Parish Nurse, Maggie Sessa, is on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

Please remember to swipe your keytag at the KIOSK when you enter. See the staff if you do not have one or need assistance.

MEALS / EVENTS

**Jingle & Mingle
Holiday Luncheon
Sing-A-Long**

December 18th

12:00 pm—\$15.00

Catered by Twisted Vine
Chicken Francaise, Ziti,
Garden Salad, Roasted
Potatoes, Vegetable, Bread/
Butter, Dessert, Coffee/Tea.
**PAYMENT MUST BE MADE
WITHIN 3 DAYS OF SIGN-UP.**

Senior Café

Tues. & Thurs. at 11:45 —\$3.00

****Please Call Ahead before
10:00am the day before****

Address: 293 Main Street Derby, CT

DIRECTOR’S CORNER

Hello friends,

Can you believe we’re already coming to the end of another year? Time really does fly when we’re having fun — and we’ve had plenty of it lately!

We had a beautiful Veterans Breakfast and a Sold-Out Thanksgiving Dinner thanks to Mattei’s. These events mean so much, and they wouldn’t be possible without all of you who help behind the scenes — whether it’s putting together centerpieces, decorating, cooking, cleaning up, or selling raffle tickets, we appreciate you. You’re truly the heart of it all!

Coming up next, Twisted Vine will be catering our Jingle & Mingle Holiday Luncheon. Come join the fun and Sing-A-Long to Live Accordion Christmas Music ! You won’t want to miss it! It always fills up fast, so make sure to call early and reserve your spot.

Please note, we will be selling Gift Certificates once again this year. More info on Calendar Page.

On another note, we’ are still collecting for Toys for Kids — if you’re able, please consider donating a new, unwrapped toy or making a small monetary donation to help brighten the holidays for children in the Naugatuck Valley.

We’re also gathering new socks, hats, and scarves for the homeless, and nonperishable food items for St. Vincent de Paul. Donation boxes are set up in the lobby — thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity!

From all of us on staff, we wish you and your families a joyful, peaceful, and very Happy Holiday Season — and a bright and beautiful New Year!

With warmest wishes, Dawn

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATTENTION: Just a reminder, please do not come into the Center if you are experiencing any cold or flu symptoms or simply not feeling well. Please stay home and get better.

Wreaths Across America—Please help CWV honor local heroes by sponsoring a wreath that will be placed on a veteran’s grave at St. Michael Cemetery. Info in Lobby.

Toys 4 Kids—We are collecting for Toys 4 Kids. Please consider donating an unwrapped new toy or making a monetary donation to make it a bright holiday for children in the Naugatuck Valley. Checks made out to TEAM, Inc. No stuffed animals please. Deadline 12/15.

Other Collections—We are once again collecting new socks, hats, & scarves for the homeless and Food for St Vincent de Paul. Thank you.

Please Note: If anyone hears of a member being ill, in the hospital, or lost a loved one, please let us know so we can send a card.

Movie Matinee: Monday, December 15th—2:00pm— "Christmas on the Square". An embittered scrooge of a woman plans to sell her small town, regardless of the consequences to the people who live there. However, a kindhearted angel (Dolly Parton) arrives, and shows her what would happen before she mends her ways and redeems herself.

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MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>1</p> <p>10:00 Chair Yoga 11:45- Strength Training with Bobbi 3:00 Elderly Commission Meeting 9:00-3:00—Pool Billiards</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:00—Line Dancing 11:00—Diamond Art 11:45—Senior Café 1:00 Bingo 1:00 Pool Billiards</p> 	<p>3</p> <p>9:30 Gentle Yoga 11:45- Strength Training with Bobbi 12:30—Crafting with Nancy-</p>  <p>1:00—Library Book Club 9:00-3:00—Pool Billiards</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:30 Mahjongg 9:30 - Pinochle, Chess, Bridge, Dominoes-Call to sign up 10:00 Hook & Needle</p> <p>12:00—Caring Transitions Presentation with FREE Boxed Lunch</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:00 Grocery Shopping w/ VTD 10:00—Chair Tai Chi 11:00—“NO-SEW” Quilting with Rose 9:00-3:00—Pool Billiards</p>
<p>8</p> <p>10:00 Chair Yoga 10:00-12:00 Haircuts 11:45- Strength Training with Bobbi 1:00-Cardio Drumming 9:00-3:00—Pool Billiards</p> <p>“Rock This Town”</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10:00—Line Dancing 10:00—Board Meeting 10:30-Events Planning Committee Meeting 11:30-Legal Services Presentation 11:45—Senior Café 12:30 Blood Pressure 1:00-3:00 Bingo by Townsend Agency 1:00 Pool Billiards</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:30 Gentle Yoga 11:45- Strength Training with Bobbi 9:00-3:00—Pool Billiards</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:30 Mahjongg 9:30 - Pinochle, Chess, Bridge, Dominoes-Call to sign up 10:00 Hook & Needle Grp 10:30 Reiki (by appt) 12:30—Wine Glass Painting with Cosmic Black Cat</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:00 Grocery Shopping w/ VTD 10:00— Chair Tai Chi 11:00—“NO-SEW” Quilting with Rose 9:00-3:00—Pool Billiards</p>
<p>15</p> <p>10:00 Chair Yoga 11:45- Strength Training with Bobbi 1:00-Cardio Drumming 9:00-3:00—Pool Billiards 2:00—Movie Matinee—“Christmas on the Square”</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10:00—Line Dancing 11:45—Senior Café 12:30 Blood Pressure 1:00-3:00 Bingo 1:00 Pool Billiards</p> 	<p>17</p> <p>9:30 Gentle Yoga 11:45- Strength Training with Bobbi 9:00-3:00—Pool Billiards</p> <p>12:30— Decorating Committee</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:30 Mahjongg 9:30 - Pinochle, Chess, Bridge, Dominoes-Call to sign up 10:00 Hook & Needle 10:30 Reiki (by appt)</p> <p>12:00 Christmas Dinner Catered by Twisted Vine \$15.00</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:00 Grocery Shopping w/ VTD 10:00— Chair Tai Chi 11:00--“NO-SEW” Quilting with Rose 9:00-3:00—Pool Billiards</p>
<p>22</p> <p>10:00 Chair Yoga-- 11:45- Strength Training with Bobbi 1:00-Cardio Drumming 9:00-3:00—Pool Billiards</p>	<p>23</p> <p>10:00—Line Dancing 11:45—Senior Café 1:00-3:00 Birthday Bingo sponsored by Brightstar Homecare 1:00 Pool Billiards</p>	<p>24</p> <p>CLOSED</p>	<p>25</p> <p>CLOSED</p>	<p>26</p> <p>CLOSED</p>
<p>29</p> <p>10:00 Chair Yoga-- 11:45- Strength Training with Bobbi 1:00-Cardio Drumming 9:00-3:00—Pool Billiards</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10:00—Line Dancing 11:45—Senior Café 1:00-3:00 Bingo 1:00 Pool Billiards</p>	<p>31</p> <p>CLOSED</p>	<p>January 1</p> <p>CLOSED</p>	<p>January 2</p> <p>CLOSED</p>



GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE!



With the upcoming Holidays, why not consider giving a gift certificate to the Derby Senior Center? This is a quick, easy, and perfect gift to share with your friends or loved ones who are members here. It can be used by the recipient for any of our activities, trips or classes! Just call the center to request an amount of your choice, and we will have it ready for you to pick up.

DERBY SENIOR CENTER

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CURRENT TRIP SCHEDULES — — — CALL THE CENTER FOR SIGN UP OR INFO

Transportation for seniors is available 5 days a week from Valley Transit District call For more information or to schedule a pick up call 735-6408 Free transportation to & from the center on Tuesdays—call VTD 24 hour in advance for pick up

“Rock This Town” Christmas Show at Aqua Turf	Price: \$89 SELF-DRIVE	December 8, 2025
NEW TRIPS:		
“Valentine’s Day with the King—Sturbridge MA	Price: \$119	February 16, 2026
“An Irish Celebration” with Dee Reilly-Holyoke, MA	Price: \$133	March 10, 2026
“Tropicana Atlantic City” 2 shows-\$50 slots/\$50 food	Price: \$345 Dbl, \$445 Single	March 30-April 1, 2025
“Motown Meets Doo-Wop”, Holyoke, MA	Price: \$139	April 21, 2026
“Linda Ronstadt” Aqua Turf	Price: \$95 SELF-DRIVE	May 5, 2026
“Joshua” Sight & Sound, Lancaster, PA	Price: \$625 Dbl, \$799 Single	June 9-11, 2026

“Spain’s Classics & Portugal” —Collette	Prices start at \$5999 Double	April 7 — 21, 2026
“National Parks of America”—Collette — NEW	Prices start at \$5999 Double	July 13 -- 24, 2026
“British Landscapes”—Collette — NEW	Prices start at \$4999 Double	October 11 — 20, 2026

Address: 293 Main Street Derby, CT **Phone:** (203) 736-1484 **Fax:** (203) 736-1486