



Ashley O'Neill of Stratford with her parents and a Sikorsky Credit Union representative.

Bond Commission to consider \$1.2 million for Sterling House

by Melvin Mason
Editor

the additional \$1.2 million was a priority for the Bond Commission.

Stratford's state legislators are pleased to know that another \$1.2 million is set to be given to the Sterling House Community Center to pay for a new elevator and other improvements.

The town's delegation in the General Assembly expects the State Bond Commission to approve funding for the improvements when the commission meets on July 12.

Sterling House could receive \$1.2 million as a second installment for the same amount toward the installation of an elevator and other accessibility and safety improvements.

"Sterling House offers many indispensable recreational and educational programs for all age groups and this funding will facilitate access and safety at the center," said Rep. Joe Gresko, D-121. "I will continue to support anything we can do to enhance the grounds and support the delivery of services."

Rep. Laura Hoydick, R-120, said the new elevator planned for Sterling House "represents an essential step forward in enhancing the effectiveness of Sterling House in doing the important charitable things that are central to its mission."

She also thanked Gov. Dannel Malloy, the Office Of Policy and Management Secretary Ben Barnes and Barnes's office for their work in ensuring that

"The Sterling House does critical charitable work throughout Stratford, and this elevator project is very important to their operational capabilities," said Rep. Ben McGorty, R-122. "I am pleased to see these bond funds approved for this important project."

Sen. Kevin Kelly, R-21, said called Sterling House "an incredible asset to the people of Stratford. I cannot thank the organization enough for all the wonderful things they do for our community and how they empower people to reach their full potential. This funding will go towards needed safety improvements and will help make the center accessible to everyone. With a new elevator and other updates this grant will ensure that people with disabilities and seniors have access to the food pantry."

For Ed Gomes, D-23, Sterling House is "a crucial part of the Stratford community."

"This new funding will make sure even more people can access the important services provided for people of all ages. I would like to thank the whole Stratford delegation for working to get this done."

Sterling House is a multi-service community that provides affordable social, educational and recreational activities, for people of all ages, which assist them in their positive and healthy development.

Sikorsky Credit Union awards Stratford student \$1,000 scholarship

Sikorsky Credit Union recently awarded \$1,000 scholarships to five high school seniors who are headed to college in the fall of 2016. Through the Thomas J. Williams scholarship program, Sikorsky Credit Union annually awards five scholarships to students who use the money toward college expenses such

as tuition, books or materials. Students wrote essays describing money lessons learned in high school, or about achieving a financial goal. A record 75 students submitted essays, which were reviewed by a committee.

Ashley O'Neill of Stratford was one of this year's winners. Other winners are Christian

Gamauf and Megan Gray of Oxford, Joseph Szweczyk of Ansonia and Christine Walsh of Milford.

"There is always great enthusiasm for these scholarships," said Diane Farrell, senior vice president of marketing. "We were able to meet all of this year's winners in person, and they all were excited to learn

of their outstanding achievement. I can tell from their essays that they all have a very bright future ahead of them."

Sikorsky Credit Union annually awards scholarships, and named the program after Thomas J. Williams, longtime CEO of the Credit Union, who passed away in 2015.

Letters to the Editor

Board of Ed has not negotiated fairly

To the Editor:

I take issue with Jim Feehan's statement, "[e]veryone deserves an increase, who's doing their job properly," Feehan said. "These are non-union employees who have a lot less benefits than the union employees and they're deserving of an increase just like anyone else."

He is incorrect or it's an outright lie. My husband has been a union employee of the Board of Education for 31 years - a custodian. He went without a contract and without a raise because these "professionals" would not nego-

tiate fairly. Their benefits are not over and above - they get paid sick time, vacation, health care coverage. Most of the time their annual increase is less than a cost of living adjustment and doesn't even cover what the increase for health care premiums are. They are paid pennies compared the administration. Sure, some pensions, but they've paid into it - for years. They also must put more into their health savings accounts, while non-union puts less. Many maxed out on step increases, so they only get whatever their contract states for an annual

raise. Many years, it was 1% or 1.5%, while administration got more, including annuities or stipends. Don't be fooled. The collective bargaining agreements for all Board of Ed union employees are on the Board of Ed website - read them for yourselves. If they call the clothing allowance or longevity extra benefits over and above what non-union receive - let's see what the stipends for those non-union employees amount to. Feehan should post those. I'd like to know what benefits Feehan is talking about.

I also take issue with Fee-

han's comment that Center School only had 37 students. That was true for this past school year only because John Harkins' attempted takeover by force last August 2015 when he gave the BOE two weeks to evacuate the building. Before that, the building housed several programs and had over 100 or more students in it. His statement is a way to make keeping the building senseless. It only became that way because of John Harkins and his crack Economic Development department.

Patricia C. Sperling

Get 'angry', save Center School

To the Editor:

Center School: save it, get angry, even. Actually, tempers all over town have been heated for quite a while. We're also in a drought, not only for want of rain but also of sense. We need sense about so many matters before town "boards and commissions" as well as from the Mayor and Council. Zoning's doing it—though some are surprised to learn that "anything goes" is not the rule. There's a reason that liquor license go-aheads, just like housing density upward revisions, are not to be handed out just because someone's in

a hurry, or some illusory taxable grand list improvement is claimed. Let Zoning zone! Or better yet, go and watch them work; at least they're not behind closed doors.

Behind closed doors is where still too much town business gets done. For instance, have you heard the story that the Mayor has ordered Center School to be emptied out by the middle of the month so that "demolition testing" may begin? Most people believe this is the latest step in a dance of death that brings to the floor many partners— Greater Bridgeport Regional

Council's plan to transform Stratford into a regional commuting feeder complete with a parking garage in its historic center, the Mayor's passion for privatizing public assets, the Board of Ed's willingness to throw Center School overboard in exchange for an upward ratcheting of its unaudited and opaque budget demands, and Council's forbearance of all of this rot as part of its own budget deal with said Mayor, whose concomitant tax increase has left perhaps as few as three out of 30,000 voters "happy."

That Harkins-Dapon-

te-Chase budget will continue to bear sour fruit over the next year; you can taste it on social media where it still curdles, in a community that thought it had accomplished more last November. Well then! We now have two jolly special election contests to look forward to, come October. This Council should stay the Mayor's hand at the Center School wrecking ball until the likes of Greg Cann and Scott Farrington-Posner can join in and save it.

Thomas Yemm

Director, For Stratford Network

EPA announces a 30-day public comment period, an open house, a meeting, and a hearing on the Proposed Cleanup Plan for the Raymark Industries, Inc. Superfund Site, Operable Units 2, 3, 4, and 6. There will be three community involvement opportunities regarding this Proposed Plan:

The Public Informational Meeting - Wednesday, July 20, 2016 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Stratford High School Auditorium, 44 N. Parade St./Victoria Soto Way, Stratford, Connecticut.

Public Hearing - Tuesday, July 26, 2016 7:30 p.m. Stratford High School Auditorium. The Public Hearing will be preceded by a short presentation and Q&A session from 7:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Public Open House Session - Wednesday, July 20, 2016 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Stratford High School Auditorium

The public comment period runs from June 30, 2016 to July 29, 2016. To learn more about the Raymark Industries, Inc. Superfund Site, visit our website at www.epa.gov/superfund/raymark.

For further information about these meetings or the public comment process, call Marilyn St. Fleur, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, at 617-918-1617, or toll-free at 1-888-372-7341, extension 81617.

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