



**The Rotary Club of the Torrington and Winsted Areas**

## **Rotary Matters!**



### **Last Week's Program:**

Christina Emery introduced Jessica Kubicki, Chief Initiative Officer at The Housing Collective.

The Housing Collective serves as the backbone and designated lead for Connecticut's homeless response system, known as the Coordinated Access Network (CAN). Jessica's role involves supporting organizations dedicated to preventing and ending homelessness, and ensuring stable, affordable housing for all.

Jessica spoke about how her organization covers most of Northwest Connecticut,. She explained that they are not direct service providers but instead facilitate resources for the homeless response system. She noted that in the last year, 5300 households entered some intervention with the homeless response system in Northwest Connecticut/Litchfield County.

The lack of emergency shelters in Northwest Connecticut is acute. She notes that even when somebody is designated as being in crisis, a lot of time can be spent waiting to get into a shelter. Because of the limited number of beds, 73 days is a typical wait time. Once somebody can achieve admission to a shelter, the average length of stay is 133 days with thereafter, the average wait for affordable housing or an apartment being 6 months. In total, therefore, it is not unheard of for people in crisis to require over 400 days in order to get well situated into a stable situation.

She explains there are two key solutions to SOLVING homelessness in this region. The first is lack of appropriate housing inventory, the second is prevention. She notes however that those two challenges are not easy to solve. The lack of affordable inventory has been well documented and

discussed in our meetings at Rotary. The insufficient funding arises because there is no federal funding to support homeless individuals... there's only state funding. She explains that this year, to support the homeless in Connecticut, \$20 million was needed with only \$4.5 million having been authorized.

As it concerns inventory, she makes the obvious point that rents have increased 65% especially post COVID while incomes have not changed. She notes that increasingly so, people who are looking for housing are working. Fully 40% of people who are facing homelessness are employed. She notes that even 22% of those individuals working in these various organizations seeking to solve homelessness in the Northwestern corner of the state, are themselves at risk for homelessness.

We appreciate the time Jessica spent with us. These speakers continue to give those of us in the Club a better and better understanding of the challenges faced by many in our community. Being better informed as we are, we in Rotary are in a better position to help to the extent that we can!

Thank you Jessica for speaking to us and to Christina for securing her for us!

We also promised Jessica that we would help promote the upcoming:

[CT Coordinated Access Network's End Homelessness Northwest/Litchfield Legislative Roundtable](#)

On behalf of the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness and the Northwest, Waterbury & Litchfield Coordinated Access Network (CAN), please join us for a roundtable conversation focused on addressing homelessness in your community. This event will bring together homeless services providers, local partners, and the community for a discussion about our collective work to solve homelessness.

What: Northwest/ Litchfield CAN Legislative Roundtable

When: Friday, November 8th, from 10-11 AM

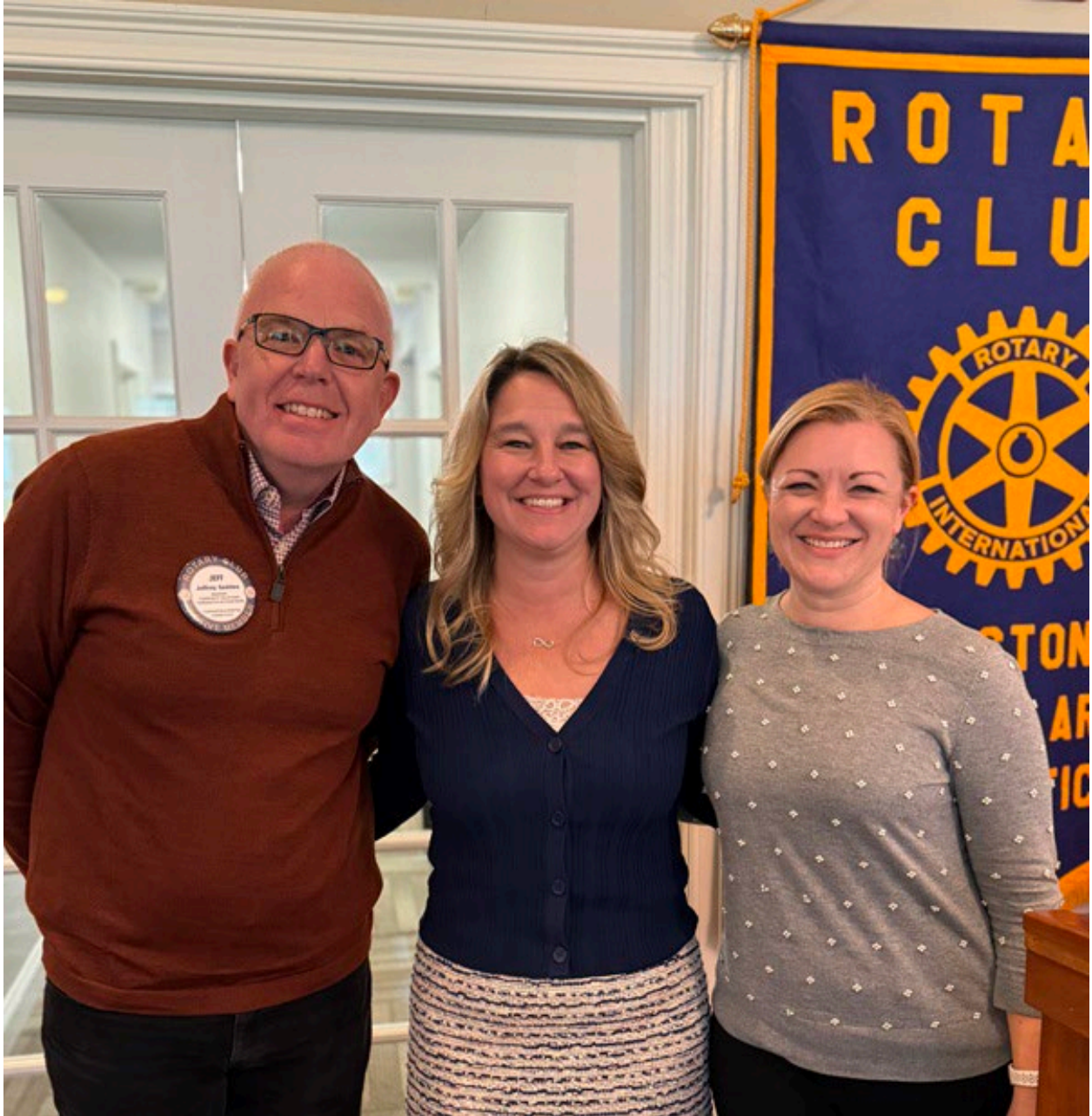
Where: Torrington Library, 12 Daycoeton Place, Torrington, CT 06790



Christina Emery, Jessica Kubicki, Rotary President Jessica Gueniat

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Also last week, we had the pleasure of welcoming to our club our newest member! Lisa Ferris is the new Executive Director of the United Way of Northwest Connecticut. She is known to most of us in the Club and we are very happy for her participation and for her new stewardship of the United Way we wish her luck in that regard and we certainly welcome her to the Club. When you next see Lisa, take the opportunity to greet her, introduce yourself and say welcome!



Jeff Geddes, Lisa Ferris, Rotary President Jessica Gueniat

## This Week's Program:

We will be visited by our Rotary District Governor, Vin Marinaro. Vin hails from the Pittsfield Club and is going to be giving us an update as to all the various initiatives that the District is targeting this year! Invariably these District Director visits are a highlight of the Rotary year! (Plus, he's evidently Italian... so he's got that going for him!)



Rotary District Governor, Vin Marinaro

As a Rotarian, there's no excuse not to be informed and included: Members can join in the meeting either by their direct attendance or by Zooming in. Feel free to participate either way... and know that if you don't participate, you won't fulfill your requirement to attend at least 60% of the meetings of the Rotary Club of the Torrington and Winsted Areas. Being busy is not an excuse to not attend ... Being busy has been an attribute of active, involved, impactful Rotarians from the Northwest corner for more than 100 years.

If you intend on joining via Zoom, please contact Matt ahead of time (mnpdc@outlook.com) so that you can get the link for the meeting and further instructions in that regard.

## Scheduled Committee Meetings:

- Board meeting, Thursday, November 14, 2024, at 8am via Zoom. Board members will receive an email with the contact info.

## Torrington/Winsted Rotary News and Reminders:

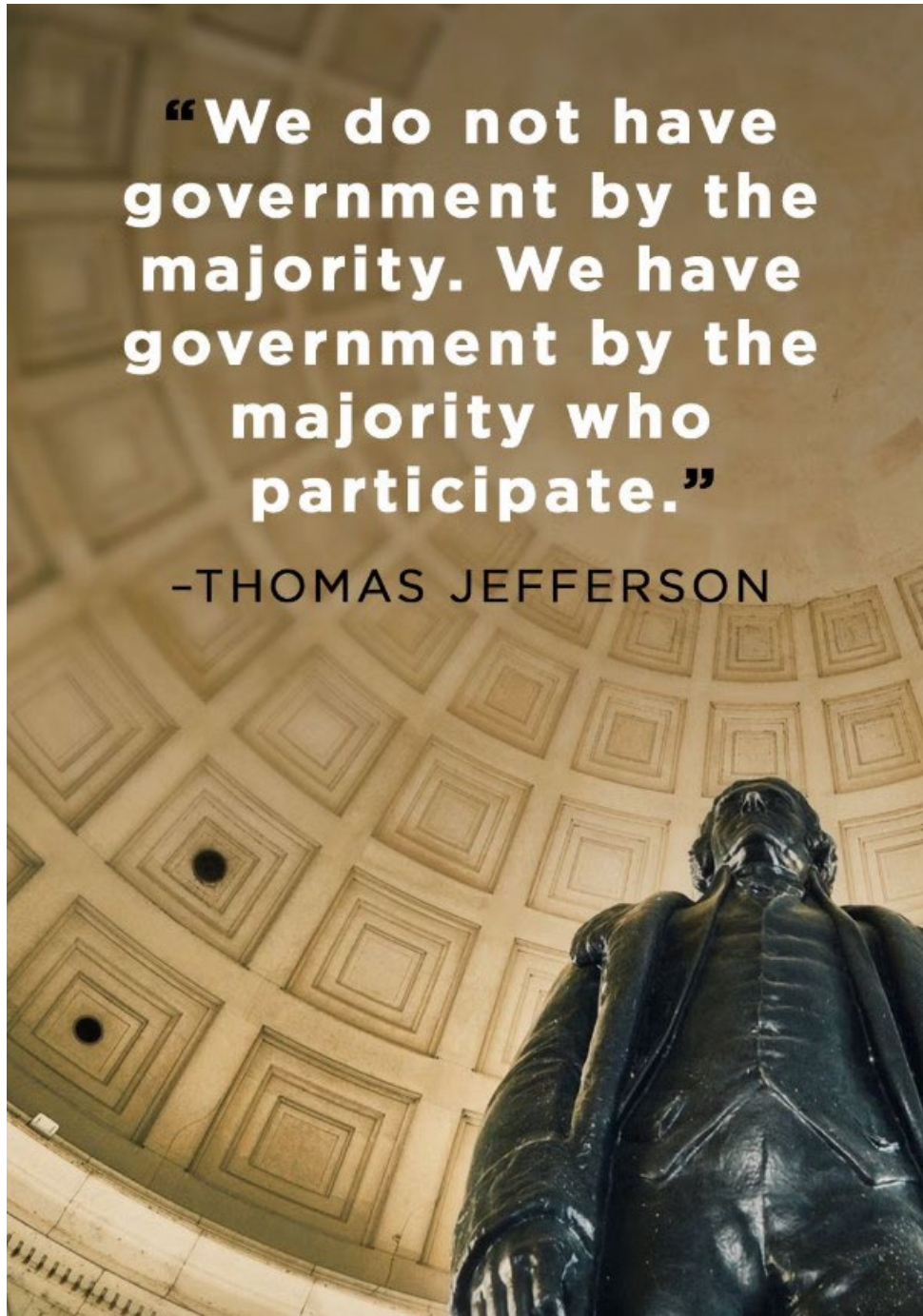
- **STILL NO WINNER LAST WEEK!** The potential jackpot grows! There's only 9 cards left in the deck and the progressive weekly jackpot stands at (approx.) \$1349. You can't play if you're not at the meeting! Come see if you can draw the Ace of Clubs!
- Long time members will remember the dedication to Rotary embodied in Frank Wargo, New Milford Rotarian, District Governor of District 7890 in 2000-2001 and in 2016-2017. He represented Rotary International as the keynote speaker at many district conferences and zone institutes around the world. He was a Rotarian's Rotarian. Unfortunately, we must report that Frank has passed. Please see his obituary here:  
<https://lillisfuneralhome.wordpress.com/2024/10/23/frank-wargo/>



## For Your Edification:

**“We do not have  
government by the  
majority. We have  
government by the  
majority who  
participate.”**

**-THOMAS JEFFERSON**



## Birthdays:

Helt, Lou.....09 November

Benecchi, Ed.....18 November

Magistrali, Michael.....19 November

Sullivan, Kevin.....28 November

## Club Anniversaries:

Smith, Jeff.....11/07/0024.....24 years  
Sullivan, Kevin.....11/10/98.....26 years  
Benecchi, Ed.....11/14/23.....1 years  
Cassella, Larry.....11/16/82.....42 years  
Ponte, Antonio Jr.(TONY)      11/27/18.....6 years  
Childs, Starling W II(STAR)      11/29/22.....2 years

## Upcoming guest speaker responsibilities:

Christina Emery .....29-Oct-24  
DISTRICT GOVERNOR .....5-Nov-24  
Jessica Gueniat .....12-Nov-24  
Jeffrey M Geddes .....19-Nov-24  
Maria Gonzalez .....26-Nov-24  
Jessica E Gueniat .....3-Dec-24  
Lee Hall .....10-Dec-24  
William G. Harding..... 17-Dec-24  
CHRISTMAS EVE: NO MEETING .....24-Dec-24  
NEW YEAR'S EVE: NO MEETING .....31-Dec-24

If you've scrolled down this far, you're one of my favorite people! Please remember to watch this space weekly so that you can appropriately plan for when it's your time to provide the club with a program/speaker. All of us working together in this regard makes for more interesting meetings and a better, more informed club!

If your presenter will require the projector and the screen to be set up, please let Matt know ASAP. Also, please let your presenter know that if there's any concerns about the functionality of their presentation, an option is for them to email any presentation they may have to Matt ahead of time who can install their presentation on his laptop to minimize potential complications.



It is your responsibility to introduce your speaker.

Please inform the speaker of the following guidelines of The Rotary Club of the Torrington & Winsted Areas:

- They will have at most ½ hour to do their presentation. Including time for questions.
- It is not the policy of the Club to donate funds raised from the Sergeant-at-Arms presentation to the organization represented by the speaker on the day of the presentation.
- Further, an invitation to make a presentation to The Rotary Club of the Torrington & Winsted Areas does not suggest that the Club endorses the presenter's views - political or otherwise.
- The Rotary Club of the Torrington & Winsted Areas does not provide an honorarium or reimburse a speaker in any way and a presentation to the Club should not be made with an expectation of financial support.

## Torrington/Winsted Rotary Links:

Website:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TWRotary/>

Rotary Web-Photo Albums: [Web Photo Albums](#)

“Be more kind than necessary, for everyone you will meet today is fighting some sort of battle.”

-K. Purcell

Respectfully submitted, your temporary scribe,

Matt Pagano

[mnpdc@outlook.com](mailto:mnpdc@outlook.com)