

Recommended



Giving Fund: Help a little boy's wishes for a bed, bike come



These are the Norwalk development



Norwalk's Chick-fil-A to reopen after drive-thru



Norwalk Concord Magnet School principal placed on



O al tr

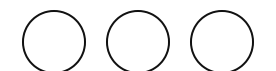
NEWS

Sen. Chris Murphy hosts roundtable in Norwalk to combat loneliness: 'It's a real spiritual sickness'



Katherine Lutge, Staff Writer

Dec. 9, 2023



END OF YEAR SALE: 6 MONTHS FOR 99¢! Start 2024 as a digital subscriber. Start 2023 as a digital subscriber.

ACT NOW



1 of 6



State Rep. Kadeem Roberts, D-Norwalk, left, and U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., right, at Norwalk City Hall on Friday, Dec. 8, 2023. Murphy sat down with community leaders in Norwalk to discuss how to support organizations in fostering social connection.

Katherine Lutge/ Hearst Connecticut Media

NORWALK — A day after introducing a bill to fight loneliness, U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy sat down with community leaders in Norwalk on Friday morning to discuss how to address social isolation in Connecticut.

Promoted Links



The Addressing Social Isolation and Loneliness in Older Adults Act, or SILO, seeks to establish a grant and training program for community-based organizations working to address social isolation among older adults and adults with disabilities.

The bill was introduced by Murphy and U.S. Sen. Bob Casey, D-Pa.

END OF YEAR SALE: 6 MONTHS FOR 99¢!
 Start 2024 as a digital subscriber. **ACT NOW**

“What I’ve proposed is to just start by creating a forum in the federal government where we have a

League Pass Holiday Flash Sale

NBA League Pass

The 21 Most Beautiful Women Of All-Time, Ranked In Order

YourDIY

Waterbury: 30+ Hottest Ridiculously Cool Gifts You'll Want To Buy Immediately

conversation about social connections and the lack of social connection that many Americans feel, and the role the government can play in trying to facilitate more of that connection,” Murphy said at the forum at City Hall.

“It sets up an office of capacity inside the federal government for agencies to talk to each other about the importance of connection, fighting isolation and loneliness, to come up with recommendations for how other levels of government can try to promote social connection,” he said.

Trending Gifts

[Learn More](#)



News

Officials: CT student, 17, killed in Route 7 crash

Austin Mirmina | THE HOUR

Man Finds Weird-Looking Snake - When Ranger Arrives, He Says: "You're Not Supposed To See This"

Daily Story

More News

Giving Fund: Help a little boy's wishes for a bed, bike come true

[Read Now](#)

These are the Norwalk development projects to watch in 2024

[Read Now](#)

Over 20 nonprofit, religious, local and health leaders from across Western Connecticut met in the Norwalk City Hall community room to “begin the conversation” about how the government can support communities and connect people.

Murphy said he is deeply concerned with the overall trends of drug abuse, gun violence, political extremism and social media issues that have plagued Americans over the last decade, noting the extreme isolation many felt during COVID-19 pandemic. In

Record Low Price! 2023 American Silver Eagle Coins.

Legacy Coin™

[Shop Now](#)

Masterpics | 3D Photo Crystals, The Perfect Christmas Gift

MASTERPICS 3D

[Shop Now](#)

Breaking: New 2023 Silver Eagle Coins Released

EagleCoin

[Shop Now](#)

by Taboola

BEST OF

July, Murphy introduced legislation to devise a national strategy for social connection.

“To me, it’s a real spiritual sickness,” he said.

State Rep. Kadeem Roberts, D-Norwalk, kicked off the roundtable discussion by urging the community to break down social barriers and create more available space for community members to gather.

Often referred to as "third place" community centers, churches and public parks are places

Guide to Legal Cannabis Dispensaries in CT



EXPERT OPINION

SUSAN CAMPBELL

Columnist



**Susan Campbell (opinion):
The night that saved my
Christmas**

Columnist Susan Campbell's Christmas is feeling a little off, until she visits a live nativity scene.

JOHN BREUNIG

Editorial Page Editor



**John Breunig (opinion):
Tipping in CT has reached
a tipping point**

Columnist John Breunig ponders the confusion over recent tipping cues as a CT lawmaker prepares bill to raise pay for tipped hospitality workers.

FRED MCKINNEY

Columnist



**Fred McKinney (opinion):
A reliable rate of return**

besides work and home where people can go to connect with others.

“I totally agree that those third places, those public spaces, those parts are really important. But again, referencing, one of the issues we have in Connecticut, is that there are some parts in public spaces that are open to everybody and there are others that are very exclusive,” Murphy added. “They are public spaces, but they are designed to make sure that only people from that geographic location, which tend to be people of the same race and income, have access.”

on early...

Fred McKinney writes ‘when it comes to quality early childhood education, it is a struggle for governments at all levels to invest in the most...

COLIN MCENROE

Columnist



Colin McEnroe (opinion): It's about Time for Taylor Swift

Columnist Colin McEnroe makes the argument for why Taylor Swift has earned her designation as Time magazine's Person of the Year.

SUSAN CAMPBELL

Columnist



Susan Campbell (opinion): Let's have debate clubs for adults

Columnist Susan Campbell explains why 'political debate is theater and the news coverage mostly keeps track of who dominated what conversation.'

MOST POPULAR

Transportation to "third places" such as a Boys & Girls Club was another issue raised that especially affects rural areas such as Redding and Easton.

While working to support youth, elderly and disabled people is already the mission of many organizations in Western Connecticut, Ginger Smith, founder and executive director of SOAR Together, said the meeting was an opportunity for the leaders to connect.

"Today is the day that we exchange business cards and we shake our hands," said Smith, who suggested organizing a "togetherness task force."

"I see you guys doing amazing things for people, and the world needs to see Connecticut as an example of the light," Smith said.

1. Over 1,000 abandoned lobster traps removed from Long Island Sound: 'Restoring the ecosystem'

2. Norwalk schools place Concord Magnet Principal Medard Thomas on leave, district says

3. Norwalk's Chick-fil-A to reopen this week, following drive-thru renovations and capacity expansion

4. CT billionaire to buy building products distributors, form new company: QXO

5. Norwalk police find man dead in vehicle parked at East Avenue funeral home

6. Mother dies in Middletown crash with 3-year-old in the car, police say

FIND THE BEST NEAR YOU

The Best Gyms in CT



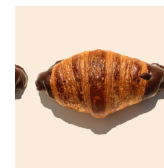
Murphy also invited those in attendance to add their comments.

“How do we get people that are in the trenches, quote-unquote, to come in this room and be able to speak up, to come in this room and talk about their experience,” said Esthephanie Peralta from Open Doors Shelter, which people dealing with poverty and homelessness in the greater Norwalk area.

“How do we give access to people to actually be here? I mean, there’s wonderful faces, great people here, but a lot of them look the same,” Peralta added.

“I don’t see a way where we’re going to move forward when these kinds of conversations keep

The Best Bakeries in CT



The Best Places to Work in Healthcare in CT



The Best Grinders in CT



The Best Bed & Breakfasts in CT



The Best Day Spas in CT



The Best Dry Eye Doctors in CT



happening but the people that are affected are not part of it.”

Murphy agreed and said, “This is a conversation with people that are implementing a lot of the work; you have to have a conversation with people who are living the experience, and that I think is the next step.”



Written By
Katherine Lutge

Reach Katherine on

Katherine Lutge is a reporter with The Norwalk Hour. She started working with Hearst Connecticut Media Group since April of 2023.

The Best Antique Shops in CT



PAID CONTENT



Delight in the spirit of the season at The Shops at Evergreen Walk

BY: THE PROMENADE SHOPS AT EVERGREEN WALK

Katherine attended Virginia Tech and graduated in December of 2022 with a degree in multimedia journalism and political science. She previously reported on the metro team for the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

[VIEW COMMENTS](#)

IN-DEPTH COVERAGE

- **These companies once made CT a giant**

- **Inside the CT puppet school**

- **The best and worst days to**

- **From Bradley airport to**

**in the toy-
making
industry**

**that
knows
the way
to
'Sesame
Street'**

**drive
during
the
holidays
in CT**

**London?
CT
officials
working
new
route**

Connecticut College Named Among The Worst In US

These Colleges Aren't Worth the Tuition They Demand

BrainSharper | Sponsored

[Learn more](#)

Master the Steps to Grow Your Career as a CFO

Advice from a CFO on How to Craft Your Playbook for Success. Download Your Guide Today.

Oracle NetSuite | Sponsored

[Learn more](#)

Bridgeport: Best Dentist Near You. See the List

Branded Links | Sponsored

[Learn more](#)

Wild Moments Luckily Captured By Elevator Cameras

Here's What Happens When People Forget There Are Cameras In Elevators

UnPasted | Sponsored

[Learn more](#)

Sponsored

THE HOUR

RETURN TO TOP

ABOUT

CONTACT

CONNECT

Our Company

Contact Us

Subscribe Today

[Privacy Notice](#) [Annual DEI Report](#) [Newsletter Sign Up](#)

[Terms of Use](#) [Our Use of AI](#) [Facebook](#)

[DAA Industry Opt](#) [Ethics Policy](#) [Twitter](#)

[Out](#) [Hearst Connecticut](#)

[Careers](#) [jobs](#)

[Advertising](#) [FAQ](#)

[Archives](#) [Today's e-Edition](#)

[Submissions](#)

[Corporate](#)

[Subscriptions](#)

[Your Privacy Choices \(Opt Out of Sale/Targeted Ads\)](#)

HEARST *newspapers*

©2023 Hearst Media Services Connecticut,
LLC