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| <p>Volume 2   Issue 2</p> <p>July, 2026</p> <p>Wayne Covill, Editor</p> <p><a href="mailto:covilw@yahoo.com">covilw@yahoo.com</a></p> |  | <p><b>GDAMC</b></p> <p><b>Sesquicentennial</b></p> <p><b>Summer Newsletter</b></p> |
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**"Never question your wife's judgement – after all, just look at who she married!!" – Anon.**

## **Summer Fun!**

The heat is on!! It's time to travel, or maybe just kick back and relax in the shade. Whether you're hitting the road, shipping out on a soothing cruise, or planning a "staycation" packed with early rounds of golf or fishing in the morning mist, summer is the time to get 'er done!! All of the regular activities except billiards, investing, and skiing are carrying on, so there is no lack of opportunities for fun and fellowship.

### **By July:**

- Corn should be at least knee high
- Trout and bass are clustered in deep shady pools
- The A/C is sending the electric bill higher
- Outdoor concerts and Farmer's Markets are in full swing



Be sure to check on our website (<https://www.gdamc.org/>) for even more timely news and events!

We hope you'll find this newsletter interesting and helpful! Please let us know what you think about it! We are always looking for new ideas and contributors, photos, stories, poems, and events, so please don't hesitate to email me with your critiques and/or suggestions.

## **A Message From Our President:**

### **“We’re out of coffee!”**

Something happened at our Meeting on May 13, that seldom happens. Our Hospitality guru, Dave Sanford, came up to me during the break, before the speakers talk, and said, “Paul, we’re out of coffee.” And not just our stainless steel, single wall, big 60 cup regular coffee urn, named after our colleague, John Jabieski, but the decaf coffee as well.

What happened?

Did I put the group to sleep yapping about Sir David Attenborough as the factoid moment? Did Stan's Trivia questions make the group so dizzy that they needed a jolt of java to bring them back to reality? Nah! Nothing like that. It was better. We had over 60 members attend the meeting that day. Yes, the snowbirds are back, but attendance at many of our meetings this past year have been large and consistent. Why? I think there are multiple reasons.

In the past 12 months we've:

- Grown our membership. We are 150+ members now.
- Started this quarterly newsletter you are reading at this moment.
- Re-introduced pickleball, became anglers and now have a Maker's group.
- We recently started reimbursement and payments via Zelle. Don't worry, checks are still welcomed as well.
- During a time where prices of everything seems to be going up, we decreased dues \$10.
- We started having 'factoid moments' at meetings.

So, while all those reasons are additive as to why we get >30% attendance at our meetings, there is more, and that more deserves a thanks. So, as I end my first year as President, I want to thank:

- Those who come early to set-up the mic and speakers for the meetings, put out the coffee and snacks, prepare the check in membership list; and during the meeting provide us humor, trivia and featured speakers. Let's not forget post-meeting clean-up.

- The Activity Leads who keep us moving at some activities and learning with others.
- The Officers and Board Members who always think about what we can do better for our members and the club.
- And a special thanks to you, the membership, for all the camaraderie, friendship, banter and thoughtful togetherness we share at the meetings and event gatherings.

Lastly, many of us joined the GDAMC for the activities, whether it be golf, pool, or one of the other 12 activities we share time with each other. Perhaps you have not attended a meeting in a while. I encourage you to do so when we resume in September. I guarantee there will be something that you will take away that day that you did not know before. Perhaps it is one of Frank's jokes, a Stan trivia question, an event that our VP, Jim, is letting us know about, the speaker that Peter had for the meeting, a photo taken of you by Mark for the membership only website area, a factoid moment, or, the best, being with a group of people enjoying sometime together. Give it a try and make it so Dave once again must tell me "Paul, we're out of coffee!" Enjoy the summer, stay cool and see you in September.

Paul

## **Danbury 250**

America turns 250 years old this year and Danbury is celebrating with events all summer long. Go to [danbury250.org](http://danbury250.org) for details. Below is info from the site.



## Commemorating 250 Years of the Declaration of Independence

**WELCOME!**

At the Danbury Museum, we are working to create multiple years worth of events and programming to celebrate 250 years of Danbury and American history. Visit our [event page](#), follow us on [social media](#), and share your ideas of all the different areas of Danbury's diverse history that we can explore together, via our [contact page](#). We look forward to many years of exciting, community-wide programming. With our many area partners in the humanities, we are creating a wide variety of musical, historical, artistic, and cultural events--there will be something for all Danburians to enjoy.

## **GDAMC New Members (March - June)**

Our membership is growing. Welcome to our new members who have joined recently:

**Zane Dicker**

**Carl Bauer**

**Angelo Carmella**

**Glenn Klein**

**David Wilkinson**

**Ted Blum**

**Rick Rogers**

**Lewis Westfall**

**Niel Marcus**

**Bey Rutherford**

## **Annual Picnic Reminder**

***Wednesday, July 8th, 2026***

***Hatters Park Pavilion***

***Time: 10am – 2pm***

## **Activities Spotlight:**

**Activity Leaders: Send me photos and info about one of your group's "special" days to be highlighted here each quarter.**

## **GDAMC Recruitment Table at Hatter's Park Tag Sale**

Ron Geck, Pete Sweeney, Ned Moore, Wayne Covill, along with Dave Sanford and Craig Morrison, in the photo, volunteered to man the recruitment table at the Hatter's Park Tag Sale in June.



## **Angler's Corner**

Mike Bonyai and Wayne Covill, enjoyed a beautiful morning fishing Great Hollow Lake in Monroe's Wolf Park, a location well known to members of the Hiking Group! Mike even caught a fish!!





## Fall Meeting Dates and Featured Speakers

Peter has a great list of speakers lined up for the fall and into 2027. The photo below is from a planned speaker's talk this fall. Can you guess who?



| Meeting Date | Scheduled Speaker                                                                                                                |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sept 9       | Peter Friedman "to share some behind the scenes stories of special individuals of whom they probably have heard for many years!" |
| Sept 23      | Paul Roszko will speak about his Birding Adventure in Tanzania, Africa!                                                          |
| Oct 14       | Kerrie Mills-Landa - Returns to tell us about hiking in the Andes Mountains in South America!                                    |
| Oct 28       | Tammy Thornton from HRRRA will speak to GDAMC about how to "Recycle Right Every time"!                                           |

## Local History:

On this, the 250th anniversary of the birth of our nation, it's fitting to learn more about Connecticut's role in the Revolution. While most of you are familiar with its role in feeding and equipping the Continental Army, (we aren't just "The Constitution State," but "The Provision State" as well) including the burning of Danbury and the Battle of Ridgefield, you may not be aware of the many other ways that our state contributed to our fight for independence.

This summer is the perfect time to visit the "rich array of preserved American Revolution sites to be found here, ranging from battlegrounds and monuments to winter encampments and historic spy-ring homes" :

-  [Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park](#) (Groton): Site of the 1781 Battle of Groton Heights led by traitor Benedict Arnold. The park includes the original earthworks, a Revolutionary War museum, and the 135-foot Groton Monument. [1]
-  [Keeler Tavern Museum & History Center](#) (Ridgefield): Located near the site of the only inland battle in Connecticut (1777). The tavern's post still has a British cannonball lodged in it from the conflict. [1, 2, 3]
-  [Putnam Memorial State Park](#) (Redding): Often called "Connecticut's Valley Forge," this is where General Israel Putnam's troops endured the harsh winter encampment of 1778–1779. [1, 2]
- [Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum](#) (Old Wethersfield): Features the Joseph Webb House, which served as George Washington's headquarters in May 1781 for planning the decisive Yorktown campaign. [1]
-  [Nathan Hale Homestead](#) (Coventry): The restored birthplace and family home of Nathan Hale, Connecticut's official state hero and famous Revolutionary War spy. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]
- **Compo Beach** (Westport): The landing site for 2,000 British troops

in 1777, marked today by a monument commemorating the marching path of the British forces. [1, 2, 3]

- **Connecticut River Museum** (Essex): Exhibits include a fully functional replica of the *Turtle*, the world's first submarine used in combat, invented by local David Bushnell to attack British warships. [1]
- **Fort Nathan Hale** (New Haven): Fort Nathan Hale and Black Rock Fort played roles in the American Revolution, the War of 1812 and the Civil War.
- **Fort Trumbull State Park and Museum** (New London): Historic coastal fortress with a museum offering tours, trails with harbor views & a fishing pier.
- **Trumbull's War Office** (Lebanon): Governor Trumbull's headquarters, from where he planned the defense of Connecticut.

**For additional information on these and more, see:**

<https://ctvisit.com/articles/revolutionary-connecticut>

## **Some Fun Things to do this Summer:**

### **July:**

- (Now thru October) – Danbury Farmers Market, City Center Green
- 07/02 – Ridgefield Playhouse, Marshall Tucker Band (8PM)
- 07/04 – Morris Bluegrass Festival, South Farms, Morris, CT (1PM – 10PM)
- 07/10 – Sherman Chamber Ensemble, Classical Classics, Merryall Ctr., New Milford
- 07/13 – Ridgefield Playhouse, Trombone Shorty & Orleans

**Avenue (7:30PM)**

- 07/18 – The Palace Theatre Danbury, The Beach Boys (7:30PM)
- 07/25 – Sharon Playhouse, 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, (runs thru 08/09), Sharon Playhouse
- 07/28 – Ridgefield Playhouse, Art Garfunkel (7:30PM)

**August:**

- 08/06 – Ridgefield Playhouse, Three Dog Night (7:30PM)
- 08/08 – Ridgefield Playhouse, Cast of the Jersey Boys (8PM)
- 08/14 – Sherman Chamber Ensemble, Twilight Reflections, Merryall Ctr., New Milford
- 08/15 – Ridgefield Playhouse, Glenn Miller Orchestra (8PM)
- 08/31 – Annual Bluegrass Concert, Judy Black Memorial Park, Washington Depot

**September:**

- 09/06 – Danbury Car/Truck Show Rogers Park (10AM – 4PM)
- 09/23 – Ridgefield Playhouse, Kenny G (7:30PM)
- Danbury Westerners Baseball:
- Check website for schedules games
- ACT Theater, Ridgefield: [www.actofct.org](http://www.actofct.org)
- New Upcoming Productions:
- Beautiful, The Carole King Musical – 10/22/26 – 11-22-26
- Avenue Q – 02-04-27 – 03-07-27
- TBD – 05-20-27 – 06-20-27 (to be revealed in the fall due to licensing restrictions)
- Music At The Ridge: [www.musicattheridge.org](http://www.musicattheridge.org)

- Various Performers, Sundays, 4PM
- 24 Clapboard Ridge Rd., Danbury

## **Greater Danbury Area - Upcoming Events**

### **Charles Ives Music Festival:**

- 07/26 – American Classical, Lounsbury House, 316 Main St., Ridgefield, CT
- 07/30 – Anthem Bluegrass & Folk, Keeler Tavern Museum, Ridgefield, CT
- 08/03 – Music For The Theatre, Lund Hall, First Congregational Church, Ridgefield, CT
- 08/06 – Orchestras & Composers, Ives Concert Hall, White Street, Danbury, CT
- 08/08 – Rhapsody Rock & Roll, Ives Concert Hall, White Street, Danbury, CT

### **La Zingara Restaurant, Bethel:**

- Jazz every Wednesday, 7PM (Dinner at 6PM) Reservations required.

#### **Website Links:**

- WCSU: [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com)
- Ridgefield Playhouse: <https://ridgefieldplayhouse.org/>
- Paramount Hudson Valley Theater, Peekskill: <https://paramounthudsonvalley.com/>
- A.C.T. Theatre of Ridgefield: [www.actofct.org](http://www.actofct.org)

- The Palace Theatre, Danbury: [www.thepalacedanbury.com](http://www.thepalacedanbury.com)
- Edmund Town Hall, Newtown, Comedy Nights:  
[www.live@edmundtownhall.org](http://www.live@edmundtownhall.org)
- Brookfield Congregational Church: [www.uccb.org](http://www.uccb.org)
- Music at the Ridge: [www.musicattheridge.org](http://www.musicattheridge.org)
- Danbury Music Centre: [www.danburymusiccentre.org](http://www.danburymusiccentre.org)
- Putnam Chorale: [www.putnamchorale.org/next-event](http://www.putnamchorale.org/next-event)
- Tarrywile Mansion : [www.tarrywile.com](http://www.tarrywile.com)
- Brookfield Theatre: [www.brookfieldtheatre.org](http://www.brookfieldtheatre.org)
- Danbury Patch: [www.patch.com](http://www.patch.com)
- Sherman Chamber Ensemble: [www.SCEmusic.org](http://www.SCEmusic.org)
- Charles Ives Music Center: [www.cimf@wctyo.org](http://www.cimf@wctyo.org)
- Sharon Theatre: [www.sharonplayhouse.org](http://www.sharonplayhouse.org)
- Danbury Westerners: [www.danburywesterners.com](http://www.danburywesterners.com)

**Looking for even more fun events a little farther  
afield? Visit:**

<https://www.visitnewengland.com/all/events/events/>

<https://destinationdutchess.com/calendar>

<https://travelhudsonvalley.com/events/category/putnam/>

<https://www.visitwestchesterny.com/things-to-do/events/>



Looking to give away or locate some “stuff?” Post your unwanted items and/or your wants on **Buy Nothing**: <https://buynothingproject.org/>

You can also email your Freebies giveaways or wants to [covilw@yahoo.com](mailto:covilw@yahoo.com) to be listed here as well.

### **Fun Fact:**

- At 1,083 feet tall, if the Eiffel Tower were placed in the southern part of the (relatively) shallow North Sea, nearly 90% would still be visible above the surface!

### **Wheel It Forward**

**Wheel It Forward** is a new kind of community library lending out durable medical equipment at no cost. (Suggested donations are always welcome!)

**Wheel Chairs**

**Canes**

**Shower Chairs**

**Knee Scooters**

**Crutches**

**Toilet Risers**

**Commodes**

**Rollators**

**Hospital Beds**

**Rolling Walkers**

**Ice Machines**

**Plus More!**

With locations in Stamford, Bridgeport-Stratford, Newtown, and soon at North Haven, they also accept donations of unneeded, serviceable equipment which are then lent out along with new equipment.

**Phone: 203-652-8600**

**Website: [WheelItForwardUSA.org](http://WheelItForwardUSA.org)**

**Look for the next issue on or about September 10!**



Our "Home Away From Home!"