

Monroe Senior Center

Celebrating Life's Dimensions —

December 2025

235 Cutlers Farm Road Monroe, CT 06468 (203) 452-2815 www.monroect.gov

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Happy December!

As a reminder, please make sure you are not only checking in with the front desk for events and exercise classes but The My Senior Center Kiosk as well!

Signing up for events either over the phone or by signing your name on the sheets located in the lobby is mandatory. Otherwise you will not be permitted to attend the event.

Most sign up deadlines are a week prior so RSVP ASAP so we can save you a spot!

Wishing you a Happy Holidays & Happy New Years!



Tuesday, December 16th at 12:00 \$12 Per Person

Catered by:



Menu:

Turkey, Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce, Carrots & Peas, Dinner Roll & Dessert!

Space limited sign up at the front desk

Current Events

By Art Gottlieb, LCSW, CSA Friday, December 5th at 1:30pm

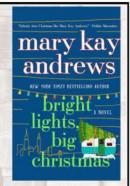


Framed by a weekly outline of trending news, this program will rely on rigorous, yet respectful debate to enhance the understanding of divergent viewpoints in current affairs, politics, sex and religion, and their effects on culture will not be avoided. A focus will be placed on the development of critical reasoning skills and examination of pre conceived biases effecting personal objectivity

Session is free sign up in lobby

Book Club

"Bright Lights, Big Christmas" By: Mary Kay Andrews



Discussion Date: Wednesday, December 10th at 2:00pm

Caregiver Support Group

Tuesday, December 23rd at 3:00pm

Caring for a loved one can take its toll upon us affecting our mental and physical health. Join Art Gottlieb, LCSW, CSA for this session held in the center's library where you can open up and express your feelings and frustrations and receive non-judgmental advice and suggestions

Session is **FREE** for anyone 60 & over or caring for someone 60 & over NO MEMBERSHIP NEEDED

Center Info & Helpful Resources



Commission for the Aging

Chair ~ Susan Bannay Vice Chair ~ Leslie Gosselin Secretary ~ Jeanne Nicolett Kathleen Sochacki, Sam Tucci, & Vivian Capoccitti

BOOKS FOR 2025-2026



10TH

SEPTEMBER The Summer of 1969 By: Elin Hilderbrand

OCTOBER

The Nurse's Secret

NOVEMBER

By: Amanda Skidmore

12TH

Craig & Fred: A Marine, A Stray Dog, & How They Rescued Each Other By: Craig Grossi

DECEMBER **10TH**

Bright Lights, Big Christmas By: Mary Kay Andrews

JANUARY

No Discussion Date

FEBRUARY 11TH, 2026

The Snow Child By: Eowyn Ivey

MARCH 11TH, 2026

The Senator's Wife By: Liv Constantine

APRIL 8TH, 2026 Homer's Odyssey By: Gwen Cooper

MAY 13TH, 2026

The Things We Do For Love By: Kristen Hannah

JUNE 10TH, 2026

The People We Met On Vacation By: Emily Henry

Senior Planet's

Senior Tech Help Hotline Monday to Friday: 9:00am to 8:00pm

sponsored by AARP and can help any senior struggling with a technology issue!

This FREE hotline is

Saturdays: 9:00am to 2:00pm

Call: (888)-713-3495 English, Spanish, & Chinese Available

CENTER DIRECTORY Center Phone Number 203-452-2815

Kim Cassia - Director, ext. 4

Ainsley Panza - Administrative Assistant, ext. 1

Amy LaChioma - Elderly Services Coordinator, ext. 3

John Williams - Transportation Coordinator, ext. 2

Evana Falzone - Office Assistant, ext. 0

Drivers - Rosemarie Syarto, John Delfino, Joe Lombardo, Don Florentino, Mike Pfalzgraf

Bob Scopoletti - Custodian

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES STAFF

Mary Ann Kalm

Eddie Lui

Social Services Coordinator Food Pantry Coordinator 203-452-2813 203-452-2817

ENERGY ASSISTANCE

Energy Assistance Applications are being taken by Mary Ann Kalm, Social Services and Amy LaChioma, Elderly Services. For a list of items needed to apply and to set up your appointment, contact Mary Ann at 203-452-2813 or mkalm@monroect.gov, OR Amy at 203-452-2815 ext. 3 or alachioma@monroect.gov.

MEDICARE'S OPEN ENROLLMENT

October 15th to December 7th

Don't delay schedule your appointment to review the 2025 plans to ensure they meet your medical &/or prescription needs! Call or email Amy LaChioma to set up a time to review your Medicare Advantage, Medicare Supplement or Prescription Drug Coverage. Call 203-452-2815 x3, or email: alachioma@monroect.gov

Winter Closing Notices

Check out WFSB Channel 3 or WTNH Channel 8 after 9:00 am to see if we are closed or delayed. You can call the Center after 8:00am for a recorded message regarding our status.

We do not follow the school closings.

Center Events

The Battle of Trenton: December 26th, 1776

Presented by: Art Gottlieb, LCSW, CSA Friday, December 12th at 1:30pm

In this bold stroke of crossing the freezing Delaware River to capture Trenton New Jersey, General George Washington changed the fortunes of the beleaguered Continental Army and along with it the chances for winning the war for American Independence

Sign up in lobby

Owls in CT & Beyond

Tuesday, December 9th at 2:00pm Presented by: Thomas Kosturko from Compassion Home Care

- Fun facts about owls of Connecticut and elsewhere
- · Owl trivia
- The 9 different owl species in Connecticut
- Amazing slideshow, presentation of Owls of Connecticut and the World
- · and more!!!

Sign up in lobby!

DOWNSIZING FOR BETTER LIVING

Presented by: Art Gottlieb, LCSW, CSA Tuesday, December 23rd at 1:30pm

There comes a point where it is beneficial both monetarily and emotionally to reduce one's ownership of "stuff" to a manageable level. Almost all of us are in possession of things, large and small, that we feel responsible for, but their upkeep is no longer aligned with our current desires, needs or priorities. Many find an unexpected sense of relief and freedom after giving themselves permission to finally let go.

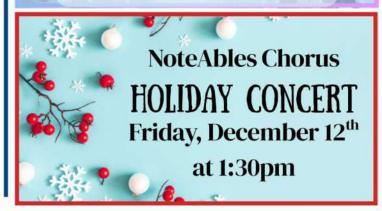
SIGN UP IN THE LOBBY

FLOWER ARRANGING WORKSHOP

Friday, December 19th at 2:00pm
PRESENTED BY: RESTORATIVE BLOOMS

All supplies included! Bring in your own Small or Medium vase if preferred for a personalized touch.

FREE! Limited spots available



Center Events

CANASTA

Tuesdays at 12:30pm LOOKING FOR NEW PLAYERS!

Canasta is a partnership card game in the rummy family where teams aim to be the first to reach a target score

Please Call Evana 203-452-2815 ext 0 To have your name put on the list of players!





Wednesdays at 1:00pm

Scopa is an Italian card game where players aim to capture cards by matching their value or creating combinations that equal the value of a played card. The goal is to score points by capturing the most cards.

Please Call Evana 203-452-2815 ext 0 To have your name put on the list of players!

Silk Scarves

Wednesday, December 10th at 1:00pm Presented by: Danielle Ramos from Maefair & Aubrianna Ancona from First Light Home Care

Unleash your inner artist and join us for a fun silk scarf painting class. You will leave with a beautiful ready-to-wear silk scarf, designed & painted by you! No artistic ability needed.





Art Class with Kathy Monday, December 15th at 1:00pm

Senior (Ja

Every Wednesday at 12:00

December 3rd

Lasagna Rolette Marinara Sauce Winter Blend Veggies Garlic Bread Cookies

December 10th

Swedish Meatballs **Buttered Egg Noodles** Meadow Blend Veggies White Dinner Roll Clementine

December 17th

Christmas Special Stuffed Chicken Breast Roasted Red Potato **Garlic Green Beans** White Dinner Roll **Christmas Dessert**

December 24th

Chicken Marsala **Buttered Noodles & Brussel Sprouts** Wheat Bread Cookies

December 31st

New Years Special Sliced Ham with Pineapple Cherry Sauce **Loaded Mashed Potatoes Brussel Sprouts** White Dinner Roll **Boston Cream Pie**

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CONTACT MF Ileana Vasquez

ivasquez@lpicommunities.com (800) 888-4574 x3105



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- At the Monroe Senior Center our mission is to create opportunities for mindful aging through physical activity, social engagement, creativity, lifelong learning and guidance, which creates a positive impact on our entire community. We do this by providing a balance of social, recreational, education, wellness and financial programs for adults, age 55 and older.
- Below is a description of our regular weekly and monthly programs. Please note locations may change due to special event program scheduling. On our monthly calendar and throughout the newsletter we highlight the special events programs.
- If there is something that you don't see and feel we should offer or try let us know.

CLASSES / PROGRAMS DAY & TI		LOCATION	FEE
-	DAYATIME	LOCATION	
Art Class A monthly class led by Kathy Pontin that delves into a variety of projects to stimulate your creative side.	3 rd Monday 1:00pm	Program Room 1	No Fee
BINGO 15 games with a variety of patterns that changes every other month. Win monetary prizes	Mondays 1:00pm	Main Room	\$3.00 per 15 Game card
Book Club Meets monthly except July & August, lively discussion on the books read.	2 nd Wednesday at 2:00pm	Library	No Fee
Brain Games Join Danielle Ramos from Stone Bridge Center for Health & Rehabilitation in Newtown for challenging puzzles and brain teasers as an enjoyable and effective way to improve brain health	2 nd Wednesday at 1:00pm	Program Room 2	No Fee
Bridge Classic card game that can test your skills and strategy	Mondays & Thursdays 10:30am	Program Room 2	No Fee
Chess A game of strategy played between 2 opponents. The objective is to checkmate the opponent's king.	Thursdays 9:30am	Main Room	No Fee
Chorus Choral Director Vic Johnson works with the NoteAbles Chorus to learn new ensembles to perform at a variety of events	Fridays 1:30pm	Program Room 1	No Fee
Current Events An interactive discussion of trending news led by Arthur Gottlieb, LCSW, CSA	1 st Friday 1:30pm	Library	No Fee
Farkle A dice game where players take turns rolling 6 dice, accumulating points by scoring specific combinations and risking a Farkle (rolling no scoring dice)	Tuesdays 12:30pm	Program Room 2	No Fee
Historical Lectures Monthly program on a historical topic (military, local, political, etc.) led by Arthur Gottlieb, Historian & Former professional curator of naval history as well as the former Technical Director of Exhibits at the Intrepid Sea-Air-Space Museum in NYC.	3 rd Friday 1:30pm	Library	No Fee

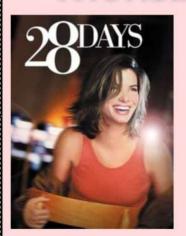
CLASSES / PROGRAMS	DAY & TIME	LOCATION	FEE
Knit & Crochet Work on your personal projects or help create items to donate to various organizations.	Thursday 2:00pm Friday 10:00am	Program Room 1	No Fee
Knit & Crochet Instruction Refresh your skills or come learn new skills. Instructors on site to assist as needed.	Friday 10:00am	Program Room 1	No Fee
Mah Jongg A rummy-like game played with tiles instead of cards.	Monday 12:30pm Thursday 9:30am Friday 12:30pm	Library Program Room 2	No Fee
Movies A weekly gathering to view current and classic movies.	Thursdays 12:30pm	Library	No Fee
Pinochle Trick-taking ace-ten card game	Wednesday & Friday 10:00am	Program Room 2	No Fee
Poker A card game where players bet on the strength of their hands. Aiming to form the best possible combination of cards in hand	Monday & Thursday 9:00am	Program Room 2	No Fee
Rummikub A tile-based game for 2-4 players where the goal is to be the first to get rid of all your tiles by forming valid combinations	Monday & Thursday 10:00am	Library Main Room	No Fee
remaining valid combinations			
EXERCISE / WELLNESS PROGRAMS	DAY & TIME	LOCATION	FEE
EXERCISE / WELLNESS PROGRAMS Fit & Fabulous A lively exercise program under the direction / instruction of Deb Beliveau. Includes light weights, exercise balls and resistance bands.	DAY & TIME Mondays & Wednesdays 10:00am	LOCATION Main Room	FEE See below
EXERCISE / WELLNESS PROGRAMS Fit & Fabulous A lively exercise program under the direction / instruction of Deb Beliveau. Includes light	Mondays & Wednesdays		
EXERCISE / WELLNESS PROGRAMS Fit & Fabulous A lively exercise program under the direction / instruction of Deb Beliveau. Includes light weights, exercise balls and resistance bands. All mobility levels welcome Pound Fit full-body exercise that combines cardio, strength training, and rhythm-based movements. It involves using lightly weighted drumsticks called Ripstix to	Mondays & Wednesdays 10:00am Friday	Main Room	See below
EXERCISE / WELLNESS PROGRAMS Fit & Fabulous A lively exercise program under the direction / instruction of Deb Beliveau. Includes light weights, exercise balls and resistance bands. All mobility levels welcome Pound Fit full-body exercise that combines cardio, strength training, and rhythm-based movements. It involves using lightly weighted drumsticks called Ripstix to perform various exercises to the beat of music. Stretch & Strengthen A class that focuses on strengthening the muscles of the lower body to enable seniors to get up from a prone position. All ages and abilities welcome, exercises will be adjusted for abilities. No aerobics, simple muscle exercises and activities encouraging	Mondays & Wednesdays 10:00am Friday 10:00am Wednesday	Main Room Main Room	See below See Below

NUTRITIONAL / SOCIAL	DAY & TIME	LOCATION	FEE
Senior Cafe Nutritionally balanced meals created by RW Solutions nutritionist. Menu posted in newsletter and on bulletin boards. Must complete a form 5 and be preregister for the program dates you'd like to attend as meal counts need to be called in each week.	Wednesdays 12:00pm	Main Room	Suggested donation between \$3-5
Bills Senior Dine RW Solutions nutritionist working with Bills Drive In created a menu of breakfast or lunch items to select. No substitutions. Must complete paperwork for the program and put money on your Senior Dine Card.	Once per day Monday – Friday Between 7:00am to 3:00pm	Bills Drive In 431 Monroe Turnpike Monroe, CT 06468	\$4.00 per meal
WELLNESS PROGRAMS	DAY & TIME	LOCATION	FEE
Bereavement Group This program offers a safe, compassionate and supportive environment for those grieving the loss of a loved one. Open to anyone suffering a loss. Sessions allow others to connect with others who have suffered loss, as well as to gain an understanding of the complex emotions that may be experience during the grieving process. Group facilitated by Joan Joyce, MS, NCC, LPC, CSA.	Wednesdays 2:00pm	Library	No Fee
Caregiver Education Group A monthly program that is informational, educational and interactive on a variety of topics to help caregivers, family, friends, neighbors learn how to handle and deal with a variety of situations, issues and more. Group led by Art Gottlieb, LCSW, CSA.	Monthly Last Friday 1:30pm	Library	No Fee
Caregiver Support Group If you are a caregiver and feeling stressed, isolated, overwhelmed or depressed this group can help you develop lifestyle changes and offer strategies for creating a life that, despite the daily stressors and emotions of caregiving, remains balanced and meaningful. Group led by Art Gottlieb, LCSW, CSA.	Monthly Last Friday 3:00pm	Library	No Fee
Medical Checks Sign up to visit RN Maggie Sessa from Griffin Hospital who will check your vital signs (blood pressure, pulse, respirations and more). She will answer questions regarding medications and medical concerns.	Usually 2 nd Wednesday 11:00am	Health Screening Room	No Fee

Hope to see you at The Center!

Movies

THURSDAY AFTERNOON MOVIES



DECEMBER 4TH "28 DAYS" PG-13-1HR 43MIN

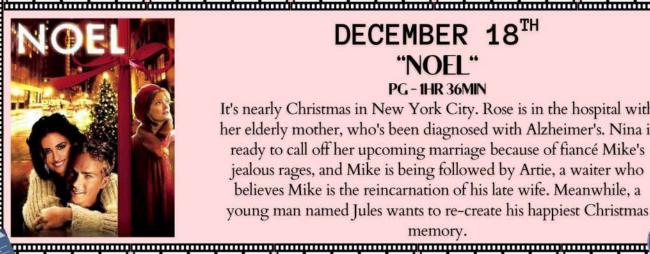
The story of Gwen Cummings (Sandra Bullock), a successful New York writer living in the fast lane and everyone's favorite party girl -- until she gets drunk with boyfriend Jasper (Dominic West), borrows her sister's (Elizabeth Perkins) wedding limo and earns herself a stay in court-ordered rehab.



DECEMBER 11TH "CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG"

G-2HR 24MIN

While truant from school, young siblings Jeremy and Jemima meet the beautiful Truly Scrumptious (Sally Ann Howes), who falls for their widowed father, Caractacus Potts (Dick Van Dyke), and his various oddball inventions, including the family's noisy rebuilt car, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. One day at the beach, Caractacus tells Truly and the children a fanciful fable about the villainous Baron Bomburst (Gert Frobe) and his evil designs on the Potts family car.



DECEMBER 18TH "NOEL"

PG-1HR 36MIN

It's nearly Christmas in New York City. Rose is in the hospital with her elderly mother, who's been diagnosed with Alzheimer's. Nina is ready to call off her upcoming marriage because of fiancé Mike's jealous rages, and Mike is being followed by Artie, a waiter who believes Mike is the reincarnation of his late wife. Meanwhile, a young man named Jules wants to re-create his happiest Christmas memory.

December Programs

a lot				A STATE OF THE STA
Every Monday	Every Tuesday	Every Wednesday	Every Thursday	Every Friday
9:00 Poker	10:00 Knit & Crochet	9:30 Pinochle	9:00 Poker	9:30 Pinochle
10:00 Fit & Fabulous	ACCUSA DE SEA	10:00 Fit & Fabulous	9:30 Chess	10:00 Pound Fit
10:00 Rummikub	12:30 Canasta	12:00 Senior Café	9:30 Mah-Jongg	10:00 Knit &
10:30 Bridge	12:30 Farkle	1:00 Scopa	10:00 Rummikub	Crochet
12:30 Mah-Jongg		2:00 Bereavement	10:30 Bridge	12:30 Mah-Jongg
1:00 BINGO		Group	12:30 Movie	1:30 Chorus
		2:30 Stretch &	1:30 Computer Tutor	
NOTE OF THE PARTY.	500	Strengthen	2:00 Knit & Crochet	No. CENTER.
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	2	3	4 2QDAYS	5
		2:00 Commission	12:30-	1:30 Current Events
		On Aging		1
		Meeting	Movie Movie	
8	9	10	11	12
Ĭ	2:00 Owls of CT	1:00 Silk Scarves		11:00 RN Maggie
	\/	2:00 Book Club	12:30- Chatta Chatta	1:30 NoteAbles
	Y. 🛎		Movie	Holiday Concert
	J. L. L.			1:30 Battle of
4 =	Y E		10	Trenton
15	16	17	18 NOEL	19
1:00 Art Class With	12:00 Holiday		12:30-	2:00 Flower
Kathy	Luncheon			Arranging
	1670		Movie Movie	Workshop
	74			
22	23	24	25 CLOSED	26 CLOSED
	1:30 Downsizing	11:30 Bereavement		
	3:00 Caregiver	Group		RRY. STMAS
	Support Group	Center Closing		
		Early at 1:30pm		2 222
29	30	31		
		11:30 Bereavement	Mappy	
		Group	(Day)	GYNY) 4
		Center Closing	New year	(3)(30)
		Early at 1:30pm	0.0	
	I	Larry at 1.30pm		



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