

The *CRCOG* Connection

April 20, 2023 | Issue 4



CONGRATULATIONS
CRCOG!
WINNER OF THE



FOR
WEBSITE DESIGN

Special Thanks to



Springtime is here! We're looking forward to getting back outdoors and hope you are too! We have some good news:

- CRCOG's website received a [2023 Gold Hermie Creative Award](#) for website design. Congrats to [BBG&G Integrated Marketing](#) too and thanks for your submission!
- [Matt Hart has a new blog post](#), read it here and let us know what you think with a comment.

Today's newsletter is **1408 words** and is about a **7-minute read**. Happy reading!

Save the Date for CRCOG's Annual Meeting

SAVE THE DATE



CRCOG
ANNUAL
MEETING
 **2023**



RIVERFRONT BOATHOUSE
THURSDAY
JUNE 15, 2023
2 PM



**RIVERFRONT
RECAPTURE**

We're excited to announce our Annual Meeting on **June 15, 2023**, from 1:30 – 5:30 pm. An email invite with registration details will be sent in May. Tickets for this year's event will be \$25. Payment should be made by cash or check.

Event contact: [Laura Rosenbluth](#)

**CRCOG announces Ryan Faulkner as new
Senior GIS Analyst**

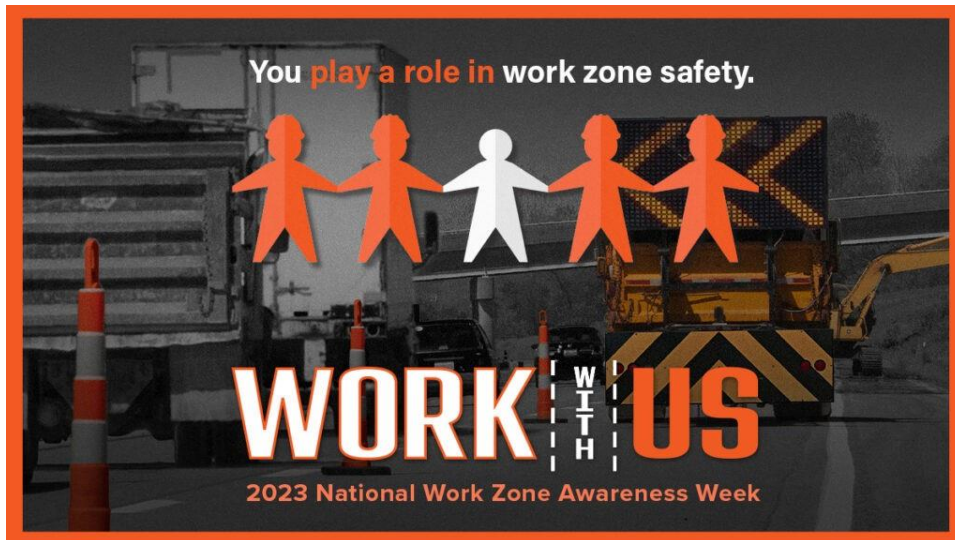
We're pleased to welcome our new

Senior GIS Analyst



Congratulations to Ryan Faulkner! He was selected as CRCOG's new Senior GIS Analyst. Ryan began reporting to Erik Snowden on April 1 as part of CRCOG's new GIS and IT Unit within the Municipal Services Department. Ryan started with CRCOG as a Transportation Intern in May 2020 and joined us full-time as a Transportation Planner in January 2021. We're very excited about the GIS work Ryan will undertake in this new position, and we expect great things from him!

National Work Zone Awareness Week (April 17-23, 2023)



This week brings attention to the National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW) campaign. This event takes place throughout the United States, with partnerships between national road safety organizations, government agencies, state departments of transportation (DOT), councils of governments (COGs), and individuals.

In December of 1999, the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA) approached the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) to launch the first official NWZAW. It took place in Springfield, Virginia.

Connecticut's motto "Obey the Orange – Slow Down for Work Zones" emphasizes that each of us – whether motorist, pedestrian, or worker – can play a role in reducing the number of crashes and injuries by exercising caution in roadway work zones.

The 2023 weeklong commemoration includes:

- Work Zone Safety Training Day - April 17
 - National kickoff event - April 18
 - **Go Orange Day** - April 19
 - Social media storm - April 20
 - Moment of Silence - April 21
-

C2B Series: Getting Creative with Colchester Mills and Fabrics



When you walk into Colchester Mills and Fabrics, you will see an array of bright and beautifully designed quilts. There are also a lot of textiles, fabrics with interesting textures, and smaller crafting projects with creative touches throughout the store. It's a fan favorite, and individuals from all over the state come to buy high-quality fabrics, and crafting tools, take classes, or drop in to talk about a project.

Cheryl Dolloff's mother, Carolyn, a stay-at-home of four, was a frequent shopper. When she found out the business was for sale, she decided she wanted it and borrowed \$20,000 from her mother-in-law and bought it. Initially, the business focused on carrying an entire range of products for the home sewer/crafter/diyer. But in the 1980s, when quilting became popular, they expanded their offerings to include quilting fabrics and tools.

Before the pandemic, the business only had an informational website. Cheryl and a team of employees literally answered hundreds of phone calls a week, sent photos via text and/or email, and processed orders in the shop. They offered pick up from the parking lot or to ship products to our customers. Keeping customers supplied with cotton fabrics and elastic was a gargantuan task, but we succeeded. Our customers also made thousands of masks for our first responders, hospital staff, and residents of local nursing homes.

"I'm extremely grateful to my staff and customers," said Cheryl. We wouldn't be able to offer the quality products and experiences they have come to expect."

Colchester Mills and Fabrics isn't just about creativity; their customers also foster community connections in the community. They have an amazing group of ladies led by Laura McCarrick called the Stitched with Love Community Sew Group. They work on various projects throughout the year based on various needs. The women donate the stockings to the local Secret Santa, lap quilts to residents of a local nursing home, backpacks, and quilts to families involved in some state agencies, placemats for Meals on Wheels recipients, reading pillows for school-age kids, baby quilts and isolette covers for babies in the NICU to name a few things these amazing ladies have done.

They offer a wide range of classes, including beginner quilting classes for those that have the desire to learn to quilt, quilting 102 and 103, which teach you about additional quilting techniques, more advanced quilting classes such as dynamic dresdens, making your own tuffet (footrest), quilling (an ancient paper art), wool felting, etc. They also have an English Paper Piecing Club, a Punch Needle Club, and four d daytime "Open Sew Dates" where you can come into the classroom and work on whatever projects you wish. The Friday night "Girl's Night Out" once a month, which is a pizza party, laughs, and sewing, often sells out in advance, so sign up early.

ICYMI

There are a lot of things happening in our region. Here are some events and news we want you to know about in case you missed it.

- We're hiring a Transportation Planner or Senior Transportation Planner. [Apply today.](#)
- Missed our legislative update? Catch up here. [CROCG's Legislative Update \(April 3, 2023\)](#)
- [Vision Zero and Complete Streets: Two Complimentary Strategies to Improve Safety.](#)
- [MyCTsavings Deadline Extended: CT State-Mandated Retirement Plan](#)

- **Safety Academy Workshop: Roundabouts (May 10, 2023, 8:30am – 3:30pm):** This course will address how practitioners can get roundabouts installed on Connecticut roadways and the potential barriers faced. Please visit www.t2center.uconn.edu to register for this class. Registration is free.
- **Safety Academy Workshop: Combating Rural Roadway Departures (May 2 and 3, 2023, 8:30 am – 3 pm):** Thirty people in the United States will die today because of a roadway departure on a rural road. This workshop will provide participants with information on countermeasures that can reduce the number and severity of these crashes. The workshop will also help participants understand the systemic approach to implementing these countermeasures. The May 2 workshop will be in Bristol, and the May 3 workshop will be in South Windsor. Please visit www.t2center.uconn.edu to register for this class. Registration is free.
- U.S. DOT Safe Streets and Roads for All, Implementation Grants: **Tuesday, May 2, 2023, 1:30-3 pm (EDT) [Register](#)**
- U.S. DOT Safe Streets and Roads for All, Action Plans: **Wednesday, April 26, 2023, 1-2:30 pm (EDT) [Register](#)**
- U.S. DOT Safe Streets and Roads for All, Supplemental Planning and Demonstration: **Thursday, April 27, 2023, 1:30-3 pm (EDT) [Register](#)**
- **Capitol Region East Coast Greenway Study**, one public workshop left! Join us in Bloomfield on April 26, starting at 4pm. Check out the project website for news and more chances to participate and to submit comments.

CRCOG's Meetings

April 20, 2023

[CREPC Committee Meeting](#) (Hybrid)

9:30 – 11 am

April 24, 2023

[Cost Review Sub-Committee Meeting](#) (Virtual)

11 am – 12 pm

April 24, 2023

[Transportation Committee Meeting](#) (Virtual)

12 – 1:30 pm

April 26, 2023

[Policy Board](#) (Virtual)

12 – 1:30 pm

May 10, 2023

[Executive Committee](#) (Virtual)

12-1:30 pm

May 16, 2023

[Municipal Services Committee Meeting](#) (Virtual)

12 – 1:30 pm

May 22, 2023

[Transportation Committee Meeting](#) (Virtual)

12 – 1:30 pm

May 24, 2023

[Policy Board](#) (Virtual)

12 – 1:30 pm

Regional Meetings

- [April 20: Company of Women Luncheon on the YWCA](#)
- [April 22: Liberty Bank and Hartford Athletic Clean-Up Day](#)
- [April 25 - May 14: DANDELION \(World Premiere!\) at Playhouse on Park](#)
- [April 29: Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix in Concert](#)
- [April 29: Restless Mountain Bluegrass Band at Playhouse on Park](#)