



Mayor's Office | Phone: 860.584.6250 | Fax: 860-584-3835

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** (Bristol, CT) August 18, 2021

***Mayor's Back to School Pencil Hunt 2021***

(BRISTOL, CT) – Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu and the Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Department welcome all school children grades Pre-K to 8<sup>th</sup> to join them at the 4th Annual Mayor's Back to School Pencil Hunt, to be held on Thursday, Aug. 26, at Muzzy Field from 5 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

“Due to Covid19, this event will have some changes to keep all participants safe,” said Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu. “This is also the second year that the event will be held on a Thursday in response to concerns that we received from working parents.”

Bristol families with children in school are encouraged to join in the festivities as students hunt for pencils to win prizes. The prizes include Leapfrog Academy, an Amazon Fire, a Kindle, a Chromebook, a TI84 calculator, gift cards, pencils and more. Local sponsors include: First Bristol Federal Credit Union, Bristol Plaza, Shop-Rite of Bristol and other generous community members.

“With such a positive response from the community the last three years, we are excited to make this event bigger, allowing for more children to get excited about the new school year and to provide school supplies to students,” said Sarah Larson, Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Department Deputy Superintendent.

The event is free, but requires registration ahead of time through the Bristol Parks and Recreation website, [www.bristolrec.com](http://www.bristolrec.com). “It is important that prior to registering for the event, parents review the Covid procedures that are available at: [www.bristolrec.com](http://www.bristolrec.com),” said Councilman Scott Rosado, liaison to the Parks Commission. “Times are going to be staggered to allow for cleaning in between age groups and other things that have to happen to be safe. We ask that parents understand that these items need to be done in order to have this particular event again this year and we ask for their patience and cooperation.”

The rain date is set for Saturday, Aug. 28th, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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