





Joe Luciano's ***UNDERGROUND*** TRAVEL GUIDE[©]

“ACCESSIBLE” Places to Visit in New Haven County via Connecticut ADA paratransit providers

© 2014-2018 Joseph A. Luciano, Seymour CT

**Stimulate and exercise your brain and body.
Go to *Accessible* places!
Go for SHOPPING, ENTERTAINMENT, EDUCATION,
RECREATION, DINING**

Listed¹ here are only destinations served by Valley Transit and Greater New Haven Transit² and are **reasonably ADA accessible** as verified by phone interview and site visits by me or others who are helping this project develop. These destinations are but a small sampling of the many found at the New Haven [Department of Arts, Culture and Tourism website](#)

- Click on hyperlinks embedded in reviews for details about what to see at these destinations and for further information.
- **DISCLAIMER: Listings, descriptions, and opinions are the editor's and do not necessarily represent endorsements or recommendations by Connecticut ADA paratransit providers or CONNDOT.**
- Destinations are rated by “smilies” from
 to 
 and  to 

IMPORTANT TRAVEL TIPS:

1. Always fully charge your cellphone before the trip.
2. Enter the destination's phone number into your cellphone.
3. **Call your destination** to ensure it will be open on the day and time of your trip!
4. Enter the phone number of the bus company(s) you will travel on.
(Valley Transit: 203/735-6408; Greater New Haven Transit: 203/288-6643.
5. NEVER request a pickup time corresponding to the closing time of the place you will visit. Never! Why? because if your ride is delayed by

¹ Temporarily, listings are in random order. As this grows, an INDEX will be provided to jump to categories such as art galleries, malls, shopping centers, stores, restaurants, theaters, museums, concert halls, and more.

² As this travel guide develops, the other ADA paratransit providers will be added. There are a total of 10 such companies. See the list at <https://www.ctada.com/ServiceProviders.asp>

traffic, you might be waiting outside in cold, wind, rain, snow, or a heat wave.

6. READ my **WARNINGS (pp 2-3)** about pitfalls of paratransit by [Connecticut ADA Service Providers](#).

YOU MIGHT NOT LIKE travel via Connecticut ADA Service Providers!

► Rides are “shared rides.” This means the bus that picks you up may already have other passengers on board. Or, you may be the first passenger to board, and then more persons will be picked up and dropped off before your destination. This, of course, increases your time on the bus. Can you handle it? Read on.

► Because rides are shared, you may encounter **unreasonably long rides**. Recently a 12-minute ride to my shopping destination became a 90-minute ride home. I complained to CONNDOT about it and was advised that it could have taken 121 minutes and still be within CONNDOT’s policy of “acceptable ride times.” Reason: CONNDOT compares our ride times to how long the ride would be if we travel by “fixed route” buses. (You take a fixed-route bus to a transfer point and then wait for another bus to continue the trip.)

Here’s CONNDOT’s actual explanation to me:

... you contacted the Department because you received a trip from Valley Transit District (VTD) on June 2, 2017, that you believed was excessively long: 1 hour and 24 minutes to be exact. *Under the provisions of the ADA as codified in 49 CFR 37.121, " ... each public entity operating a **fixed route** system shall provide paratransit or other special service to individuals with disabilities *that is comparable* to the level of service provided to individuals without disabilities who use the fixed route system".* This means that a trip is considered excessively long if the trip length is longer than the comparable fixed route time, *including the time it takes to walk to a bus stop, wait for the bus, transfer to another bus if necessary, and walk to one's destination.* **VTD defines ADA excessive trip time** to be 30 minutes over the comparable fixed route trip time. VTD also provided the following breakdown of the trip in question:

"Mr. Luciano's requested pick up time at Wal-Mart 465 Bridgeport Ave, Shelton, CT was for 2:15pm. The GBT 15 bus would have arrived at 2:33pm (Walmart Shelton Bus Shelter) and would have brought him to the **transfer point** at the Derby Train Station at 2:46pm. The connecting bus, which is the Connecticut Transit F6 bus, would arrive at 3:28pm (per printed schedule) and would have arrived at the bus stop closest to his home at 4:04pm (Main Street/opposite Bank Street). Using fixed route service (GBT 15 and *CTtransit F line*); total trip time would be 1 hour and 31 minutes. With the addition of 30 minutes per the Excessive Trip Policy and Procedure, **Mr. Luciano's trip on the VTD bus was within the total comparable time of 2 hours and 1 minute**".

The trip by VTD provided me met the requirements of the ADA provisions; however, VTD, and the other ADA-Paratransit providers, try to keep passenger trip travel times to a minimum.

► In my opinion (and that of other elders with disabilities I discussed this issue with), a 2-hour ride to home from a trip that took 12 minutes to get there is unreasonable because:

- a) I—and others like me—are ADA certified passengers. We are elderly and often exhausted at the start of our rides home. For example, we may be returning after another dialysis treatment or after another chemo therapy session. Or maybe we want to get home before the anesthesia from a tooth extraction loses its effectiveness.
- b) As CONNDOT admits above, we elders *with disabilities* are compared to persons without disabilities. And, our paratransit system is compared to the *fixed route* system. **That's a comparison between apples and garlic!**

► **Why** are these policies adopted?

Policy is determined (without public hearings!) by highly paid people, who are not “living it” as we do. They are not elderly; they are not persons with kidney disease riding home after dialysis. They are not cancer patients anxious to get home before side effects kick in.

► **All too often, buses get “packed”**

On another recent trip, the bus was “packed” with too many passengers—more than the driver could deliver on time to their destinations. One, a male, complained that he had been riding around for “hours” and had to pee. Because the bus company’s computer system has a faulty logistics program that decides who gets picked up and then dropped off first, I got dropped off before the man complaining about his bladder pain. While I was de-boarding, he took out his urine bottle and stood up to pee. This upset the lady nearby. She hurriedly got off the bus to give the poor guy some privacy.³

Computer-generated itineraries are stupid. Sometimes the computer program makes the driver go back to the same origination point to pick up yet another passenger—and then transport that one to the point it had just left.

On another recent trip, my bus went by Trap Falls Reservoir 4 (four) times and traveled on Waverly in Huntington 4 (four) times! Yes, the computer program is stupid. Passengers complain; drivers complain. But the latter fear retaliation if they complain to the brass.

To makes matters worse, sometimes a person at the bus company overrides the computer and adds more passengers than the driver can handle.

Another example: On arrival to pick up an elderly passenger, the daughter and travel companion of the passenger was outraged, telling the driver, “My mother should be at the doctor’s office now!” To make the daughter understand that his “lateness” was not his fault, the driver showed her his “manifest” (a list of times to pick up passengers). The daughter looked at it and said, “It’s no wonder you couldn’t get here on time. They gave you only five minutes to get here. That’s impossible! Your computer is stupid.”

► In my early experiences with Connecticut ADA Service Providers, buses arrived more than an hour late—or not at all! Service has improved—sometimes. Lateness or “no shows” transformed an otherwise “sweet” out-trip, say for shopping, theater, dining, or art gallery, into a “sour” experience. My **worst experience**: getting stranded at a popular restaurant (with my 85-year-old companion): when I called the company, the agent said there was “no record” that we were to be picked up! “What!” I said. “Your computer isn’t programmed to ensure that passengers must be picked up to return home? Are we expected to stay overnight at this restaurant you took us to?” (A special bus was then dispatched to pick us up at 6:30pm. We had been scheduled to be picked up at 1:30pm. Our ride was, therefore, 6 (six) hours late.) My friend was exhausted; during the long wait, she fell asleep on a chair in the lounge where customers wait for tables. Several customers, upset that elder persons were in distress, wanted to call police on our behalf.

► **What should be happening to improve paratransit?** I will try my best to enlist investigative reporters of a national TV network to examine this problem. I will also present this issue to all my legislators. Or, you can participate in the “ADA Rider/Consumer Advisory Group.” Voice your opinion there! Meetings are held at GNHTD, 1014 Sherman Avenue, Hamden, CT 06514 in the multi-purpose room.

Do something about bad service! If you are a paratransit passenger, write or email or call your legislators!

###

³ I’m not making this up.

Consumers have rights to review products & services

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/2044/text>

Opinions expressed in this Travel Guide are protected by the **Consumer Review Freedom Act of 2015**. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/2044/text>

Sponsored by Senator [John Thune](#) (R – South Dakota), this law renders contractual gag clauses void if they prohibit consumers from reviewing products, service, or assessing performance, and if the clauses constitute “form contracts.” (Many lawyers would term these [adhesion contracts](#) because the consumer has almost no power or leverage to negotiate a better deal.) The Consumer Review Freedom Act also gives the [Federal Trade Commission](#) the power to enforce the law on behalf of gagged consumers.

Congress stepped in because certain businesses including restaurants threatened to sue consumers for “defamation of character” after they posted critical negative reviews.

S. 2044: prohibits the use of certain clauses in “form contracts” that restrict the ability of a consumer to communicate regarding goods or services offered in interstate commerce that were the subject of the contract, and for other purposes.

The US Congress entered the fray with the **Consumer Review Freedom Act of 2015**. Sponsored by Senator [John Thune](#) (R – South Dakota), the bill renders contractual gag clauses void if they prohibit consumers from reviewing products or assessing performance, and if the clauses constitute “form contracts.” (Many lawyers would term these [adhesion contracts](#) because the consumer has almost no power or leverage to negotiate a better deal.) The Consumer Review Freedom Act also gives the [Federal Trade Commission](#) the power to enforce the law on behalf of gagged consumers. Here,

Congress followed the lead of California, which in 2014 became the first state to adopt [a statute](#) forbidding businesses from gagging their customers. The measure is also supported by [Yelp](#), where more than [90 million](#) reviews have been posted.

Some businesses may go even further and file *meritless* defamation cases against reviewers, hoping the high costs of litigation will squelch the critics and cause them to retract their comments. These baseless libel suits are known as [SLAPPs](#) – strategic lawsuits against public participation.

Today, many states now have [anti-SLAPP statutes](#) that allow victims to quickly dismiss these frivolous cases, thus taking some sting out of defamation as a remedy for negative reviews.

###

Mattatuck Museum

<http://www.mattatuckmuseum.org/visitus>



144 West Main Street, Waterbury CT 06702

203/753-0381 ext 130

CLOSED Mondays

OPEN Tuesday - Saturday: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Sundays: 12 noon - 5:00 p.m.

(Galleries are cleared 15 minutes before closing.)

ADMISSION Free to Museum Members ([Join Now](#)):

Adults: \$7, Seniors (65+) and Students with valid College I.D: \$6

Children under 16: Free

ACCESSIBILITY

- The museum's [HANDICAPPED ENTRANCE](#) is at the side of the building. A doorbell is there for you to use; the receptionist will unlock the door or you can ask that it be opened for you. An automatic door opener may be provided in future development plans.
- Some [DISPLAY CASES](#) ARE ACCESSIBLE, having knee space for wheelchairs. Wheelers can get up close!
- An ACCESSIBLE ELEVATOR will take you to third floor collections.
- RESTROOMS are ADA accessible.
- The outdoor [ATRIUM-PATIO](#) IS NOT ACCESSIBLE. It is attractively furnished with bistro tables under umbrellas and chairs, inviting visitors to dine al fresco. However, there is a mobility barrier (a vertical drop/rise) at the threshold. So, don't bring lunch. Eat at home before you go.
- The counter at the visitor reception desk is inaccessible, but staff will provide a clipboard for you to sign for purchases.

FEATURES & EVENTS **You will love the Matt!**

Everyone who loves art and remembers the factories that thrived in Waterbury and other valley towns will find excitement here at the "Matt"—an amazing center of art and history, a friendly gathering place nurturing creativity and learning to encourage a deeper understanding of ourselves and our heritage.

There are HANDS-ON EXHIBITS. You can operate a machine to make brass buttons.

Besides hosting MUSIC CONCERTS in its Performing Arts Center, the Matt presents events you can participate in such as creative writing and drawing workshops. See [calendar](#) and [programs and events](#).

The September issue of Connecticut Magazine lauds the Matt's recent renovations. Existing gallery spaces now create a welcoming and visually appealing environment. Construction also provides a better showcase for the museum's artwork. Worn carpeting was removed and squeaky floors were silenced and replaced with brand-new hardwood flooring. See my [photos](#) taken at two recent visits. See the [Matt's photos](#).

The museum hosts day trips too. On September 30th, art lovers took a Day Art Trip to the Cloisters and Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine.

All in all, my wheeler companions and I thoroughly enjoy the Matt. Give yourself two hours to leisurely study the displays—three if you want to do the third floor.

visited 2015-06-06, 2015-09-03

Silk Road Art Gallery: Fine and Folk Art of China



Beginning February 28, 2015 Monday-Saturday 10:00am-6:00pm

Silk Road Art Gallery, 83 Audubon St., New Haven CT

203/772-8928 www.silkroadartnewhaven.com

FREE to the public. The upper floor area is accessible by a ramp better than ADA specs. Come with your wheelchairs, scooters, walkers, canes—and enjoy!

Selected works of art are reasonably priced to sell.

Silk embroideries, hand carved puppets, and paper cuts are all pieces of folk art tradition in China.

Holiday exhibits take a look at “lost arts” while incorporating the fine art of educated brush painters with landscapes and painted scrolls.

CURRENT EXHIBIT is titled **Ephemeral, Eternal: Meditations on Nature** and features works by New



Haven sculptor **Gar Waterman** and **Chinese** brush painter **Shen Dawei** (photo at left). Shen Dawei is an esteemed landscape artist from the ancient political and cultural capital of Xi'an, China. His landscapes depict journeys through the artist's own interpretations of the mountains of China, along with a few studies from more familiar local scenery. Gar Waterman's works reflect observations of natural phenomena, sensual devotion to the tactile possibilities of material, and

a model maker's tinkering sensibility.

The work of these artists shows a common reverence for the majesty and mystery of nature, a dedication to exposing its beauty, and an unwillingness to be bound by literalism in their work. Both artists eschew postmodernism in favor of what they see as the enduring beauty inherent in nature, form, and craft.

NEW! Chinese Tea Service

Learn about Chinese tea services, an integral part of Chinese culture and history, now offered in our gallery. You can learn step by step about the ways of preparing, pouring, and enjoying green and black (red) teas. Or you can follow our booklet about the service and experience it on your own.

CALL 203/772-8928 to reserve space for your group.

\$5 per person for the first hour — Mon-Sat, 10am – 5pm — groups of up to 12



Liwen Ma (马丽文),
President and CEO
of ArtPlus and Golden Earth Art
2015-03-19 1349

.....CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE.....➔

BOARDING/DEBOARDING Audubon Street is one-way; MyRide must deboard and board you on the sidewalk across the street from this gallery. There are curbcuts enabling you to cross the street. There is a PUBLIC PARKING GARAGE next to the Creative Arts Workshop.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Much more than sipping tea, the Chinese Tea Service offered here is opportunity to peacefully relax and enjoy the social art of conversation!)

See photos taken during editor's visit at <https://www.facebook.com/5FingersPianomanJoe>

visited 3-19-2015 to confirm ADA accessibility of the facility.

Longhorn Steakhouse

838 Bridgeport Avenue

Shelton, CT 06484⁴ <https://www.longhornsteakhouse.com/locations/ct/shelton/shelton/5321>

203/944-9852



Also at 70 Universal Drive

North Haven, CT 06473

203/776-4676

THE FOLLOWING represents this guide's evaluation of the Shelton CT location only:

The moment my paratransit ride (Valley Transit) stopped at the entrance, the manager/host (Jamie) came out to greet and escort me into this restaurant. The public entrance is flat with no changes in level. Entrance is through a foyer having double inline doors spaced generously apart to enable maneuvering. After opening these doors for me, Jamie led me to a wheelchair-accessible table in the main dining room. (The greeting I received reflects that this restaurant's staff has received ADA training on how to accommodate customers with disabilities using mobility devices.) My server (Danielle) moved table settings and condiments within reach of my working hand, as she probably realized they were beyond reach of my paralyzed hand.



A problem was encountered only in the men's restroom: I needed help to exit the restroom, which was otherwise fully ADA compliant. The exit door was too hard to open because it required more than a five-pound pull. Having programmed my cellphone with this restaurant's phone number, I called. The manager/host came promptly to open the door. He agreeably accepted my advice to have the automatic door closer adjusted to comply with the ADA standard of not more than a 5-pound pull. (Compliance to be checked next visit)

All in all, at this location customers with disabilities can expect to be welcomed and accommodated.
visited 2018-05-11

⁴ Managing partner: Stephanie Brannen SBrannen@loho.com

Knights of Columbus Museum

1 State Street, New Haven CT 203/865-0400



Open Daily 10 am - 5 pm

FREE ADMISSION The museum is free to the public as a courtesy from the Knights of Columbus. This includes groups as well as individuals

This is a “**must see**” visitor destination. You will marvel at the beauty. [Multiple exhibits are in progress simultaneously](#); so allow two hours for each exhibit. “Peace on Earth: Crèches of the World” will run November 18, 2017 - February 19, 2018. It is extraordinary! [SEE my photos](#).⁵

Peace on Earth: Crèches of the World is the museum’s 13th. It is an extraordinary display of artistic representations of the birth of Jesus. This art form, referred to as a Nativity scene or crèche and attributed St. Francis of Assisi in Italy during the 13th century, has become a focus for artists around the world. The museum’s array of crèches showcases diversity of cultures


On exhibit are many items from the museum’s own collection, including its recent acquisitions of Polish szopki, stone sculptures from Zimbabwe, and Hummel figurines. Also included are crèches on loan from Glencairn Museum (Pennsylvania), the International Marian Research Institute at the University of Dayton (Ohio), the Loyola University Museum of Art (Illinois), and Saint Joseph’s Oratory of Mount Royal (Québec).



The museum will also feature its annual CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL, beginning December 2, 2017. This popular display of two dozen Christmas Trees showcases the imagination and talent of Connecticut elementary schoolchildren who create handmade ornaments and trim in their classrooms then travel to the museum to tour the Christmas exhibit and decorate a tree.


ACCESSIBILITY

According to the museum’s website, the museum is “. . . handicapped accessible” and “. . . has elevators, handicapped access ramps and wheelchairs available to all visitors.”

A  is given because of absent ADA-required signage (1) at the main entrance that indicates the location of the accessible entrance; (2) at the accessible entrance identifying it as such. As a result, I wheeled my powerchair past the accessible entrance all the way to the end of the block and mistakenly entered the underground parking garage. I did not see any ADA-required signage in the garage pointing the way to access. By trial and error I found elevators. The call button of one was inoperable. The other was working and it took me up to the lobby. The experience was quite upsetting. But greeters and visitor services assistant Gina Wallace welcomed me with coffee and donuts and expressed concern and regret

⁵

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1773093409402230&set=ms.c.eJxFU8cRAzAI2yhniin7L5YLisVXh1Axlkw77SKadr3tIwOYn~%3BajaucBqgN4PSCGcp2UPHGikpKUBkUeYDGu4A6~%3BM6H3D~%3BiJ2WGkVA5F3IK3OxNHKVszoUEVGyDfDvcz4cLfRdOPVpLWVX5LW7jj4WOthyMt~7iYKE4kJrYxt5noITXIsqBoUBjfpzHRIYVKLoC09pz61QI3Xx~uPhQxAtO6J1u~%3BqLBIMUGnXGpWatv6nIMwvhs6TYa7uA95Ki6Gk6LIRh9F4EPpY~DCg8rLNyY2qoMsGm9EJ~%3BWHdY1d8cA1ZRtFESneP3a1y~ULNtH44LeQ5ngtC~%3BDofWWPSnc~raugt~%3BQX3FxsZU~.bps.a.1773093169402254.1073741964.100001047636306&type=3&theater>

for my misadventure in the parking garage. Museum director Kathryn Cogan was on hand to hear about how absent ADA signage caused a stressful unnecessary search for access. She expressed sincere resolve to make things right and even phoned GNHTD to advise the location of the bus [drop-off/pickup point](#) (on Fair Street). The gated accessible entrance is only a few yards away and, because it is secure, has a call button and intercom. Press the button and tell security you are there to visit. The gate will unlock and you can follow a descending ramp to elevators. I overlooked this access because the International symbol of Access was not there. 

PARKING is available free in the garage beneath the museum. If the museum garage is full, there is ample parking at public lots and garages within a block or two of the museum. Cost for the nearby lots is generally from \$5 to \$12.

DINING While the museum does not have onsite access to prepared foods, a soda machine or a snack machine, restaurants are nearby—just a one-block wheel to Orange Street.

TIP: If going by paratransit bus, plan your trip to be dropped off at a nearby restaurant (Hunan House, 32 Orange Street, New Haven, CT 06510 203/776-6663), then wheel over to the museum. But be sure to inform your transit provider to pick you up for your ride home from the museum's address at 1 State Street. You will need at least 3-4 hours for dining and the museum.



PHOTOGRAPHY You can take photographs of the building, permanent exhibits and other specific areas of the museum. Temporary exhibits are subject to certain considerations. Ask the front desk museum staff.



ATTRACTIONS The massive main lobby will welcome you as you begin a dramatic journey through the history of the Knights of Columbus.

A statue by acclaimed sculptor Antonio Castellanos Basich depicts *Cristeros* martyred for their faith in Mexico during the 1920s.

The two-story atrium beckons guests to explore temporary exhibits in the upper lobby.

Above the staircase hangs an ancient cross that was atop St. Peter's Basilica for nearly 400 years.

The Knights of Columbus Museum is absolutely a “5 Smiley destination”!

visited 2017-11-29 to assess ADA accessibility of the facility.

Boxcar 145 (restaurant)

145 Main Street, Downtown Seymour, Connecticut 475/675-5284

(Opposite the train station) 😊 😊 😊 😊 😊

Opened summer 2018. This is Downtown Seymour's first haute cuisine restaurant with a true chef that is ADA accessible on all issues! With dining companions I have enjoyed Chef Kadir's cooking, ranging from broiled encrusted salmon to burgers, and even spaghetti & meatballs.

As I reviewed in Yelp:

With family on Fathers Day 2018 I enjoyed true haute cuisine at new downtown Seymour restaurant Boxcar 145. Kadir, the cook, actually a masterful chef, meticulously prepared and carefully presented his encrusted salmon (for me) and a falafel dish (for my niece).

Falafel, as good foodies know, is the Middle Eastern dish of spiced mashed chickpeas formed into balls or fritters and deep-fried and usually eaten with or in pitta bread. For dessert we shared the chef's crème brûlée cheesecake.

This new restaurant deserves 5 out of 5 stars or smilies for food quality and service. Our server provided us with cheerful professional attentive service and knew details of the regular menu and the specials. Her description of the chef's mashed potatoes characterized it as far from the usual mediocre fare. It was extraordinary, with texture and flavor unlike any I've ever had.

By the way, some of the salad greens came fresh from the restaurant's garden. Thus, Boxcar 145 may be Seymour's first "garden to table" restaurant.

Most importantly, Boxcar 145 is accessible according to Americans with Disabilities Act architectural standards! (It's exactly what downtown Seymour needs and what its growing disabled population has been craving.

SEE more: https://www.facebook.com/pg/boxkadir145/reviews/?ref=page_internal

visited several times in 2018



Boxcar 145 2018-08-04

Yale Center for British Art

1080 Chapel Street, New Haven, Connecticut 06510-2302 | 877/274-8278



Admission is free

HOURS Galleries and Museum Shop: Tuesday to Saturday, 10 am to 5 PM,
Sunday: noon to 5 pm

GETTING AROUND THE MUSEUM Complimentary manual wheelchairs and stools are available next to the elevator on the ground floor, on a first-come, first-served basis. The Center's galleries, Reference Library, and Study Room are **accessible by wheelchair**. If you have limited mobility or use a wheelchair and require assistance to attend a program in the Lecture Hall, please see the security guard at the information desk in the Entrance Court. We request that you arrive ten minutes before the start of the program. As part of the current building conservation project, **restrooms are being remodeled** to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act 2010 Standards..



NOTE: The history of each work of art is described on a placard that, unfortunately, is **too high for wheelchair visitors and small persons including children to read**. So, until this museum either lowers these placards, provides placards that visitors can remove for reading (as Yale does), bring binoculars or a telescope.

[Click here to SEE WHAT'S INSIDE the Yale Center for British Art](#)

NEARBY RESTAURANT: [Atticus Bookstore Café](#) (American, Bakery, Coffee Shop, Vegetarian), 1082 Chapel Street, New Haven, CT 203-776-4040

TRAVEL TIP Chapel Street is one-way. Wait for your MyRide across the street in front of Yale University Art Gallery. There are free-use tables and chairs there. (MyRide buses cannot board you or drop you off in front of the British Art Center.)

Last visited August 2018

Yale University Art Gallery



203/432-0606

(Yale Center for British Art & restaurants are across the street.)

1111 Chapel Street at York New Haven, CT 06520

Gallery entrance is at the corner of Chapel and York Streets

The Gallery is free and open to the public.

HOURS Tuesday–Friday 10:00 am–5:00 pm

Thursday (Sept.–June) 10:00 am–8:00 pm

Saturday–Sunday 11:00 am–5:00 pm

Closed Mondays

Closed New Year's Day, July 4th, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, and Christmas

ACCESSIBILITY

A wheelchair-accessible entrance to the Gallery is available via an elevator opposite the entrance at 1111 Chapel Street. All public areas of the Gallery are wheelchair accessible.

PARKING Accessible parking is available in the Chapel-York Garage at 150 York Street and at other garages and parking lots near the Gallery. Metered handicap parking spaces are available on streets near the Gallery. For more information, please call 203.432.0606.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS The Gallery and Lecture Hall are accessible to wheelchair users and others who need to avoid stairs. Elevators are located throughout the Gallery with access to all floors. A limited number of wheelchairs are available to borrow. Please inquire at the Information Desk.

RESTROOMS Wheelchair-accessible restrooms are located on most floors. There are three single-user/family restrooms located outside the Robert L.

McNeil, Jr., Lecture Hall, on floor 4M in the East Galleries, and in the Nolen Center for Art and Education on the lower level (LLE) of the East Galleries. All restrooms are indicated on Gallery maps and directional signs.

ASSISTIVE-LISTENING DEVICES

A limited number of assistive-listening devices are available free of charge during programs in the Lecture Hall. Please contact Elizabeth Harnett, Program Coordinator, at elizabeth.harnett@yale.edu or 203.432.0620, or ask the greeter at the entrance to the Lecture Hall.

ACCESS TOURS For visitors who are blind or partially sighted, the Gallery can provide a specially trained guide who can give extensive visual descriptions of artwork and participate in discussions about work on display in special exhibitions and permanent-collection galleries. Call 203/436-8827 to request this service two weeks in advance of your visit. **SERVICE DOGS** are permitted in the Gallery.

► **SEE current exhibitions** here <https://artgallery.yale.edu/current-exhibitions>

Last visited August 1, 2018



Seymour Public Library

46 Church Street, Seymour CT 06483 203/888-3903



Read all the papers! Read magazines you can't afford! Browse the new books. There are newly published novels and nonfiction. Browse the aisles. Find a book about a subject you know little to nothing about. Take it to a table or a comfortable chair. Enjoy the peace and pleasure of reading. Use a library computer to check email or write a letter to the editor. Restrooms are fully ADA compliant. Tables are wheelchair accessible. *Incidentally, the library director welcomes patrons who bring coffee or some other beverage for themselves while reading. Eating is not allowed—but there's a picnic table outdoors.*



The Seymour Library and Reading Room Association were established in 1892 on the second floor of the Old Town Hall on Second Street. In August 1955, a great flood destroyed many properties in the Naugatuck Valley, including the library.

In 1958 the Seymour Public Library moved into its new and current home on Church Street on land donated by former State Rep. Bernard H. Matthies. (Later the Matthies home became the Seymour Historical Society.)



drama; sports & recreation; and much more.

Through Bibliomation Seymour's public library enjoys access to resources of school and other public libraries in Connecticut. Patrons can do simple and advanced searches of its catalog, a specific library, or all Connecticut libraries. Catalog searching has been made interesting and easy for children to use. They can search categories such as animals & pets; art, music, and



Collections are organized to appeal to toddlers, preschool, elementary, and teens.

Arts and crafts, lectures, art exhibitions, story-telling, book discussion groups, and other events are hosted by the library. Events can be seen at <http://www.seymourpubliclibrary.org/calendar/2018-09/>



Frank Pepe Pizzeria Napoletana

157 Wooster Street, New Haven, CT 06511 203-865-5762



Known locally as Pepe's, Frank Pepe Pizzeria Napoletana is one of the oldest and best-known pizzerias in the United States. The New Haven location at 157 Wooster Street is its original location since 1925. Other Connecticut locations are in Fairfield, Manchester, Danbury, Yonkers, NY—and now Mohegan Sun Casino in Uncasville, CT.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS The entrance is **not ADA compliant**. Access is difficult on entering and exiting because there are two inline doors, close together with no room for maneuvering when you're between

them. Each door opens inwardly. You will need a person to hold each door open. The challenge on getting in is well worth it. Pepe's is the best!

ACCESS TO TABLES The wait staff invited me to take any table or booth. I had no difficulty wheeling around this historic pizzeria and was able to look at photos showing the celebrities and Presidents who came here for pizza. I took Table 10—the same table where I had dined with my parents, uncle, aunt, brother and cousin 65 years ago.

RESTROOMS Restrooms are **not ADA compliant**, but I was able to manage.

BOARDING/DEBOARDING The MyRide bus driver easily deboarded and boarded me. There are two parking lots that wheelchair vans can use.

TRAVEL TIP To avoid waiting outside in a long line of customers, go to Pepe's on any day except Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Try to arrive between 11am and noon.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS include a park, other restaurants, and

Libby's Italian Pastry Shop (since 1922).



Libby's is totally INACCESSIBLE. [See photos at by clicking here.](#)

Libby's is surrounded by curbing. Wait staff saw me looking at them; but no one came out to serve me—though my companion went inside to buy a Sfogliatelle (a shell filled with farina, ricotta cheese, and candied fruit).

Last visited September 15, 2014



Cracker Barrel



30 Research Drive, Milford CT 06460-8523

Exit 40 I-95 & Woodmont Road 203-877-7595

Sunday through Thursday 6:00am to 10:00pm | **Friday & Saturday** 6:00am to 11:00pm



WHEELCHAIR ACCESS In front of the main entrance is a porch that extends the full length of the building front and it has a foyer with two sets of inline double doors that lead into the very interesting gift shop. Employees are trained to watch for persons needing help to enter or leave. They or other visitors are likely to open doors for you. This is a very busy place. (The space in the foyer is not ADA compliant, but with help you'll get in.)

At my visit in July 2014, the cashier's station was not compliant. That is, the counter was inaccessible and so was the keypad to swipe your bankcard and enter your PIN. Because both the manager and cashier were uninformed about ADA access, I filed a complaint with the Dept. of Justice and notified corporate HQ. A few days later a Cracker Barrel attorney called to apologize and assure that the counter and PIN pad will be made accessible and employees would be trained about how to accommodate persons with disabilities. So when you go to the cashier, you'll find everything accessible.

ACCESS TO TABLES Employees have been trained about space

needed for wheelchair maneuvering and are likely to lead you to an accessible table in any area you prefer in this huge restaurant. If there's an unoccupied table near the fireplace, you'll get it.

RESTROOMS Interiors of restrooms are ADA compliant. Doors do not automatically open, so ask an employee for help.

BOARDING/DEBOARDING MyRide bus drivers will find plenty of good spots to park and for using the wheelchair lift. Curbscuts leading to the main entrance on the porch are ADA compliant. The restaurant is surrounded by huge parking lots to accommodate RVs, tour buses, school buses, and MyRide vehicles.

TRAVEL TIP To avoid waiting in the gift shop for a table, try not to arrive at peak times and on holidays. But even if there's a line of people waiting, turnover is fast. It's nice having breakfast at a table near the fireplace. Usually in winter burning logs crackle and pop. And the cooks hang a cast iron kettle over the fire to keep your soup warm.



ONSITE ATTRACTIONS you'll love the gift shop. It's jammed with unusual candies, toys, games, books, and hard to resist seasonal decorative art. And it's scented with potpourri fragrances of clove, nutmeg, and cinnamon—aroma therapy to relax and put you in the mood to spend. Candies are displayed at children's level.

The porch is kind of quaint with dozens of rocking chairs sized for kids and big people. There's even a checkers playing board that's huge with huge checker pieces. While waiting for your MyRide to pick you up, play a game or watch cars and trucks speeding by on the



Connecticut turnpike.

Last visited June 2018

Hunan House



32 Orange Street, New Haven, CT 06510
203/776-6663

SUMMARY: Accessible Elements:

- a) front door public entrance, without being asked, staff notices you arriving and rush to open the door for you;
- b) wide aisles between tables and chairs;
- c) wheelchair-accessible tables;
- d) restrooms have maneuvering room, grab bars, accessible sinks;
- e) without being asked, staff notices you headed for restrooms and rush to open the door for you.



Hunan House is outstanding and exceptional on two important grounds: First, it's **accessible** by ADA standards and, second, the food is delicious. Overall, Hunan House (new name, new owner/management; previously Royal Palace) satisfied my every desire: accessibility, white table cloths, service, hot tea provided without asking for it, and truly authentic Chinese food. Why "authentic" Chinese? On the menu: Jellyfish with soy sauce, Hunan mashed pepper with frog, and hot pot casseroles. During my appetizer course, Chinese people came in to dine, ordering without even looking at the menu.

The main dining room, which is spacious and separate from take-out customers, overlooks Orange Street; there are alcoves with large banquet tables for social and business parties. (One of the latter was in progress.) Tables and chairs are spaced to provide clutter- and barrier- free accessible routes, or aisles, to restrooms.

On my visit today with a companion, who also uses a mobility device, Alice, the maître d' brought me to a wheelchair accessible table (the best ever because even my powerchair's armrests were able to go under the table, allowing me to move up close and be comfortable.

That there is talent in the kitchen became apparent when we found the shrimp absolutely tender and generously supplied with fork tender vegetables in a sauce having the perfect balance of sweet and salt. These were on a bed of pan-fried fine crispy noodles.

If you are a diner with disabilities, Hunan House will be perfect for you. Everything is Accessible (capitalized because even the restrooms are accessible with plenty of maneuvering room and accessible sinks). While there are double in-line doors at the main entry, the space between them exceeds minimum ADA standards. So, diners using wheelchairs will find it quite easy to roll in.

Last visited May 22, 2017

Hunan House seeks to brings authentic Chinese food to New Haven

http://www.nhregister.com/lifestyle/20170516/hunan-house-seeks-to-brings-authentic-chinese-food-to-new-haven#disqus_thread

Brass Mill Center



(a mall in Waterbury CT)

495 Union Street, STE 139, Waterbury, Connecticut 06706 (203) 755-5000



WHEELCHAIR ACCESS Everything, every place is ADA accessible here (and at all malls)!!!! Outside the mall there are ADA curbscuts and crosswalks should you wish to shop at nearby stores.

TRAVEL TIP #1 when booking with MyRide, request to be dropped off at **mall entrance #5** (IHOP & Olive Garden). This is the upper level. Once inside you can take the elevator down or up to the movie theater. Or you can turn left for the food court next to Sears.

TRAVEL TIP #2 Add the mall's phone number to your cellphone in case you need help:

203/755-5000, press 1 for English, then 6 for SECURITY OFFICE.

NAVIGATING THIS MALL IS DIFFICULT

At all entrances there are free-standing directory "towers" showing a map of the mall. However, these are of little use to small or short people and persons using wheelchairs. While they can read the words printed at the lower part of the directory, they cannot read the code numbers on the map at the upper part. Codes correspond to the stores. The security office has 8 x 11 paper copies of the mall directory, but you will not be able to find the security office and code numbers—because they are too small and too far away to read. Even people who can stand have trouble finding these tiny code numbers. Worse, codes numbers on the printed version also are too hard to read. And there's no sign on the mall directories telling where you can get the printed mall map—which is useless anyway.



RESTROOMS All restrooms are ADA compliant.

BOARDING/DEBOARDING Use entrance #5 (Olive Garden & IHOP).

FEATURES OF THIS MALL Brass Mill Center features the following services and amenities:

- ATM
- Family Restroom
- Fed Ex Drop Off Location
- Free Wi-Fi
- Lost and Found
- Mall Gift Cards
- Safety Escorts
- Stroller Rental
- Taxi Services
- TDD Services
- UPS Drop-Off Location
- Wheelchair Service

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS Outside the mall there are other stores and restaurants you can safely reach because mall management provides ADA curbscuts and CONNDOT crosswalks. Included are: Chili's, Copy Max, McDonald's, Michael's, Office Max, Petco, Save-A-Lot, Sears Auto Center, T.G.I. Friday's, T.J.Maxx, and Toys R Us.

Last visited October 9, 2014

► **NEW HAVEN MUSEUM**



114 Whitney Ave., New Haven CT 06510 203-562-4183

Tuesday – Friday: 10 am – 5 pm Saturday – 12 – 5 pm

Free 1st Sundays: 1-4 PM

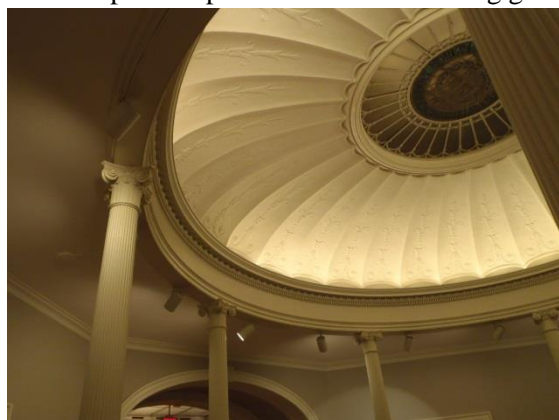
Open to the public every first Sunday of the month **FREE OF CHARGE**.

The Whitney Library is not open on Sundays—except for 1st Sundays.

Adults \$4 | Seniors \$3 | Students \$2 | Under 12 Free

CLICK [here](#) to see editor's **album of photos**.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS “Wheelers” & persons using walkers or other mobility devices will be delighted here. The building has two stories. Both levels are accessible! A classic elevator, built in the 40s probably, will take you to and from the second floor—though it's a tight fit getting in. A staff member pulled open the elevator's sliding gate and doors for me.



RESTROOMS are on both floors and are ADA compliant.

ACCESS TO EXHIBITS museum staff is cognizant of ADA and place displays to allow easy passage of wheelchairs. You will enjoy being able to move around and get close to everything—even in the gift shop.

However Fastened to walls are placards that explain the exhibited item. Text is too small to be readable. Graphic artists with knowledge of geriatrics use at least 14-point type. Maybe magnifying glasses are needed. But! This museum thoughtful provides handsets (like those on old-fashioned telephones) that are wall-mounted in many places. Pick one up and **LISTEN TO AN**

AUDIO EXPLANATION about the item exhibited. It's like getting a private lecture.

BOARDING/DEBOARDING A driveway on the right side of the building leads to the handicapped ramp. MyRide bus drivers will find plenty of space for parking and for using the wheelchair lift. You will see a “button” to press as you go up the ramp. It's a doorbell. Press it and a staff member will open the door for you.

ATTRACTIONS in museum & NEARBY you'll love the museum's gift shop. Nearby on Whitney are restaurants.

CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

● **WINFRED REMBERT: AMAZING GRACE**

(On view March 11 through June 21, 2015)

This exhibition is organized by the Hudson River Museum and is the first major retrospective of New Haven artist Winfred Rembert, whose art on leather conveys his compelling personal narrative of joy and struggle during the tumultuous moments of the American Civil Rights Movement.

● **AN ARTIST AT WAR: DEANE KELLER, NEW HAVEN'S MONUMENTS MAN**

(On view through May 9, 2015)

In 1943, Nazi Germany controlled most of Western Europe and the Allies were preparing for the invasion of Italy and France. Urged by American scholars to spearhead an international effort to save and preserve Europe's cultural treasures, President Franklin D. Roosevelt established a civilian commission to promote the formation of a Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives (MFAA) section of the military. For the first time in

history, soldiers whose job it was to protect cultural heritage during wartime were dispatched to Europe.

Known as the Monuments Men, these art world professionals included artists, architects, historians, museum directors, curators, and others. Among them was **Deane Keller**, a painter and professor of art at Yale University.

- **From Clocks to Lollipops: Made in New Haven**

(On view through May 30, 2015)

From the Colonial era to the present day, New Haven has produced an astonishing variety of goods including hardware, carriages, automobile parts and accessories, firearms, corsets, clocks, carpeting, rubber overshoes, clothing, musical instruments, silver-plated wares, and candy — just to name a few! Many of the City's factories served a national and even international market. The harbor was an important avenue for bringing in coal, metals, cotton, and other raw materials.

More than 100 objects, advertisements, trade cards, photographs and other items from the Museum's collections are featured in this fascinating look at the production of consumer goods in New Haven, both handmade and factory made, over the past three hundred plus years.

Railroads brought improved distribution of goods. By 1849, New Haven would have direct rail service to America's leading commercial center, New York City. Over the years, businesses founded in other communities in the 19th century, such as Chauncey Jerome Clocks in Bristol, Sargent & Company in New Britain, and L. Candee Rubber Company in Hamden, realized the advantages of relocating to New Haven. Today there are factories producing goods for the automobile, aerospace and electronics industries and foodstuffs, such as spaghetti sauce and breads.

Last visited December 11, 2014

FUTURE DESTINATIONS & EVENTS

Marsh Botanical Garden

227 Mansfield Street New Haven | 203 432 6320

Admission is free

HOURS: 8:30am-4:30pm, Mon-Fri

Sitting on eight acres, with six greenhouses comprising around a third of an acre under glass, Marsh Botanical Garden offers support for researchers, faculty and students at Yale, as well as an informative and eye-catching experience for visitors.

ACCESSIBILITY The steep hillside makes mobility difficult for those with special needs, but **newer greenhouses are handicapped accessible**, including restrooms. Please call ahead for more information and specific suggestions as to how to visit. Handicapped parking is also available in internal parking spaces, but advance notice is recommended.

To be visited; comments, experiences welcome

Music Haven

117 Whalley Avenue, New Haven, CT 06511 203/745-9030 info@musichavenct.org

Music Haven's mission is to build a vibrant urban community through performance and music education that empowers young people, their families, and professional musicians.

Contacted 11/9/2014, 2/10/2015 to confirm ADA accessibility of the facility.

Wednesday, November 11, 2015 at 12:30 PM

Music Haven Veterans' Day Concert

[VA Healthcare](#), Community Living Center, 950 Campbell Ave., West Haven, CT

Music Haven students and their teachers, the Haven String Quartet, perform a free lunchtime concert for residents in the VA Hospital's Community Living Center.

Admission: Free

CREATIVE ARTS WORKSHOP

80 Audubon Street New Haven, Connecticut 06510 203/562-4927

a nonprofit regional center for education in the visual arts serving the Greater New Haven area since 1961. Located in the heart of the award-winning Audubon Arts District, the Workshop offers a wide range of classes in the visual arts in its own three-story building with fully equipped studios and an active exhibition schedule in its well-known Hilles Gallery. More than 3,000 adults and young people enroll annually in the over 300 courses offered by Creative Arts Workshop, while thousands of visitors enjoy the exhibitions in both galleries throughout the year.

November 1 - December 24 - 46th Annual Celebration of American Crafts. The Celebration of American Crafts is a national juried exhibition and sale of the best in contemporary fine crafts by more than 300 craftspeople from across the country. Proceeds from the sale provide major support for Creative Arts Workshop.

Gallery Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:30 to 5:30

Saturday, 9:00 to 12 noon

During the Celebration of American Crafts, the gallery is open Daily 11-6, Thursdays 11-8, Sundays 1-5, and December 24, 11-2.

Contacted 11/9/2014 to request ADA accessibility of the facility. 11/11/2014: "The Celebration of American Crafts in the Creative Arts Workshop is accessible. We have a ramp at the entrance and an elevator. Some of the passages are a bit tight with craft stuff but navigable. Get in touch with me for more information . Kind regards, Kate Paranteau, Program Director"

New Haven Free Public Library

(AKA "Ives" (Main) Library)

133 Elm Street (corner of Temple St.), overlooking New Haven Green.

"There's something to interest everyone at NHFPL. It's the People's University!"

HOURS Mon 10-8 | Tue 10-8 | Wed 10-8 | Thu 10-8 | Fri 10-5 | Sat 10-5 | Sun Closed |

Telephone: Hours/Directory (automated) 203-946-8130

[Information and Reference](#) 203-946-8130 ext. 101

[CALENDAR for adult events](#)

ACCESSIBILITY The main library has a **ramp** off Temple St. to an outside elevator that goes to the main floor. There's also an **internal elevator** to reach other levels. The **stage** in the program room has a ramp to accommodate wheelchair users and other speakers and presenters.

LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAMS NHFPL supports learning at every stage of life, from infant through active maturity. Expand your horizons, learn, and participate in the life of New Haven County.

Collections include print and e-content that will assist visitors toward their self-education goals. Workshops and presentations will introduce visitors to experts in many and diverse fields of knowledge. Visitors can expand their knowledge with workshops including computer skills, making chocolates, and more. Other activities include Yoga, Tai Chi and other wellness offerings.

[CLICK HERE](#) for this month's Happenings Newsletter.

To be visited; comments, experiences welcome

Pardee Rose Garden

180 Park Road, Hamden CT **06517-3845** 203/946-8142

Pardee Rose Garden, Greenhouse and Center are located **180 Park Road, Hamden, CT 06517-3845**, at the intersection of Park Drive and Farm Road in Hamden. The Rose Garden, established in 1922, is 2 acres in size. The Gardens, Greenhouse and Center are part of New Haven's extensive East Rock Park and are maintained by the City of New Haven's Department of Parks, Recreation and Trees.

To be visited; comments, experiences welcome

Friendly's Restaurant



140 Universal Drive North

North Haven, CT 06473 203/729-6394

This is a brand-new Friendly's with accessible tables and ADA-compliant aisle widths enabling wheelchair travel between tables and chairs. Restrooms are fully compliant. The public entrance could use an electrically operated door opener or at least a doorbell. Without these, you will need to wait for customers leaving or arriving to open doors for you. On my exit staff was alert and opened doors for me.

Visited October 24, 2015

Katz's Deli



1658 Litchfield Turnpike Woodbridge CT 06525 203/389-5301

Katz's is open 7 days a week, Monday—Sunday from 10am to 8pm.



Famous for New York City style corned beef sandwiches, chicken matzo ball soup, and more, Katz's Deli is accessible from the parking lot—if you know where to look. A “ramp” (that does not comply with ADA standards) is located in front of The Better Beagle Company.



On my visit, tables were wheelchair accessible; aisles were wide enough to maneuver through. The restrooms were ADA accessible.

Visited September 14, 2018

Connecticut Valley Towns & Cities

Downtown Shopping & Visitor Attractions

..... This section is in development

Comments or objections about opinions expressed here are welcome.

BEFORE YOU VISIT any Valley municipality, check out this section to learn which Valley “downtown districts” actually have accessible sidewalks, crosswalks, curbscuts, shops, theaters, post offices, restaurants, visitor attractions, parks, and government buildings *that have complied* with the ADA enacted 28 years ago! **Let’s begin with my home town . . . Seymour.**

DOWNTOWN Seymour In a nutshell: Is downtown Seymour acceptable?

☐ For independent living⁶ (Aging in Place)?

It is **not acceptable**. A neighborhood grocery store, general store, or deli where senior/disabled residents can buy needs of daily living is absent. In winter, the senior/disabled who are active and use scooters, powerchairs, or other mobility devices will find sidewalks **blocked by snow** that should have been removed as required by Ordinance 14-6. Some sidewalks are dangerously tilted toward the gutter. The type of senior/disabled person who may be satisfied living downtown has a car to escape to accessible out-of-town places. Or, senior/disabled persons may be satisfied living downtown if they are content remaining indoors and receiving support services of a companion/homemaker live-in aide who occasionally may provide transport to out-of-town places for entertainment or shopping at malls (where every place is ADA accessible).

☐ As a tourist, dining, or shopping destination?

Most downtown shops are inaccessible. Aisles inside some shops are too narrow for wheelchairs. At the time of this Guide version, **the following places are “ADA accessible”**: Seymour Town Hall, Tickled Pink, Haroula’s Coffee shop. The Uncommon Peacock, The Artful Eye, Boxcar 145 restaurant, all businesses at First Street (AutoZone) Plaza, and Zois Pizza Palace. Also, Stop & Shop is a 3,700-foot “walk” across the Naugatuck River, then over the Bank Street Bridge, and then the long sidewalk along Franklin Street.

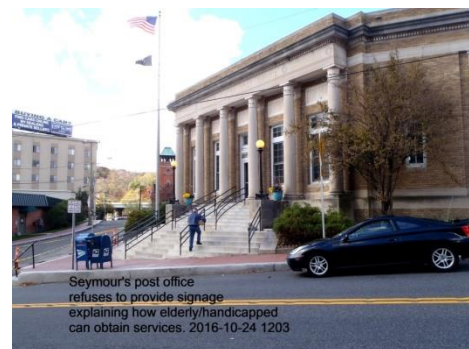
Accessibility of Businesses & Post Office

Seymour’s post office, still inaccessible and claiming exemption because it was built before ADA 1990, refuses to provide access at its “handicapped” ramp in the rear of the building.

No instructions have been published or posted explaining what postal customers with disabilities must do to obtain service.

HERE’S HOW TO OBTAIN POSTAL SERVICES: (Do not try to use the “handicapped” ramp at the rear. The postmaster closed it for use by customers with disabilities.)

Instead, (1) buy and learn how to use a cellphone; (2) travel



⁶ Means living at home and receiving support services—rather than living in a nursing home. Support services include those provided by visiting nurses, personal care assistants, and aides who provide companionship and homemaker tasks.

to the foot of the mountainous steps at the public entrance; (3) call the postmaster (203/888-3830); (4) ask for sidewalk service. Then wait. Wait. And wait.

Access & mobility rights of persons with disabilities are not respected in Downtown Seymour

The most glaring deficiency about downtown Seymour is that, mysteriously, town authorities do not enforce its own ordinances that ensure mobility rights of persons with disabilities. Though I report vehicles blocking sidewalks, Seymour PD seems disinterested in enforcing parking regulations—even when vehicles block access to the ADA walkway at the Fishway bypass channel.

In every one of the seven winters I've lived downtown, **property owners defied the “snow” ordinance** (§14-6) requiring timely removal of snow from sidewalks. Worse, Seymour PD defies Ordinance §1-9—mandating that offenders be fined (\$100 a day for each offense).



Result: Seniors and persons with disabilities are marooned at home, prevented from access to groceries, pharmacy, banking, and more.

SEE https://www.facebook.com/5FingersPianomanJoe/media_set?set=a.1518960174815556.1073741929.100001047636306&type=3

- **Letter to the Editor: Town needs to make up mind on downtown**, by Joseph Luciano, Seymour. *New Haven Register*, 2016-11-02. <http://www.nhregister.com/opinion/20161102/letter-to-the-editor-town-needs-to-make-up-mind-on-downtown>

Recent sidewalk improvements now enable persons with disabilities to travel between their downtown residences and downtown destinations. But, town hall seems uninterested in ensuring that brand-new sidewalks, curbcuts, and crosswalks are kept clear of mobility barriers—**especially snow** (that should have been removed) and ice (that should have been sanded).

- **Editorial: City officials must enforce its snow removal ordinance**, *New Haven Register*, 2017-02-19 <http://www.nhregister.com/opinion/20170218/editorial-city-officials-must-enforce-its-snow-removal-ordinance>
- **Letter to the Editor: Seymour seniors ‘snowed-in’ — again**, by Joe Luciano, Seymour. *New Haven Register*, 2017-02-17 http://www.nhregister.com/opinion/20170217/letter-to-the-editor-seymour-seniors-snowed-in-again#disqus_thread

► What about Seymour's **SENIOR CENTER**?

It is not fully ADA compliant. Absent is ADA-required signage pointing the way to the handicapped entrance. Warning: The doorbell at the handicapped entrance does not work; no one will respond to unlock and open the door for you. If you cellphone the senior center office, it's unlikely a human will answer; instead you are asked to “leave a message.” TIP: A real person may answer if you call 203/888-0406 and press 4. Ignore instruction to “press 1 for the senior center.”

Other Valley Towns, Cities to Be Visited

commercial retail developments include:

(The following list was kindly provided by Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce, 203/925-4981, 10 Progress Drive, FLR 2, Shelton CT 06484):

Shelton

- HUNTINGTON GREEN, Shelton (Common Bond Market, Wellington's Restaurant, Pagliaro's Luncheonette, Sassafras Restaurant and Bank of America are among tenants)
- SHELTON SQUARE Shopping Center, Shelton (Stop & Shop, Bed, Bath & Beyond and The Edge are anchor tenants)
- BIG Y SHOPPING CENTER (Now under construction on Bridgeport Avenue).
- Shops on Howe Avenue, Downtown Shelton
- ☺ [Walmart, 465 Bridgeport Avenue, Shelton](#) 203/929-1110 **VISITED 2016-12-19** via VTD. Outdoor and indoor areas including restrooms were ADA accessible. All merchandise aisles are accessible, which reflects management and employee training in ADA standards. Employees were willing to obtain merchandise beyond reach of persons using mobility devices. This is a welcoming place. Even employees of the in-store Subway sandwich shop will carry your purchases to a table for you.
VISITED 2016-12-19 via VTD.

Ansonia

- MAIN STREET (Spector Furniture, Lewis Jewelers and Seccombe's Men's Shop are among the long-term Merchants. Copper City Bar & Grille and Crave Restaurant on North Main Street)
- DIVISION STREET Shopping Center
- (Stop & Shop and a variety of small retailers)

Derby

- PERSHING DRIVE (The former Valley Bowl site has been transformed into a shopping destination with Panera Bread, Aldi's Supermarket and PhysicianOne Urgent Care at 78 Pershing Drive)
- WALMART PLAZA (now undergoing a change with the recent closing of Wal-Mart and Adam's Supermarket)

Coming Soon!

Evaluation of Hartford attractions/destinations will begin in 2019. Destinations include the [Connecticut Science Center](#) and the [Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art](#).

Stay tuned!

###