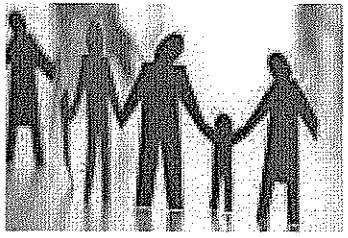
VINTON HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK OF 10/14-10/18/2013

- Inside Special Education Newsletter, September, 2013
- Candy Corn Festival at UCONN

PLEASE SEE TAKE HOME NOTICES BELOW



September 2013

Inside Special Education

a newsletter published regularly by Directors of Special Education in Tolland, Mansfield and Willington, with the goal of providing direction, guidance, information and support to parents and families of students with special education needs.

Welcome School Year 2013-14

I would like to welcome all students back to school. I hope that everyone had a fun filled summer. We have been busy in the Central Office preparing for the new school year. Summer school, Teacher Evaluation training, Connecticut State Department of Education Data (CDSE) reporting and training, and search committees have kept us busy. I am looking forward to a successful and rewarding year.

Preparing for Your Child's PPT Meeting

Walking into a Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meeting for your child can be somewhat overwhelming; however, there are steps parents and guardians can take before a PPT to feel more comfortable and less anxious during a PPT. It is important to attend the PPT with as much background knowledge as possible. Communicate with your child's teacher(s) and case manager beforehand to learn about his/her current functioning in the classroom. Ask your child about how he/she feels about school and what he/she likes and dislikes most. If assessment was recently conducted, it is your right to request a copy of the results prior to PPT. Assessment reports should be read so if you have questions about the results they can be asked and answered! If evaluations or reports were completed outside the school, find them so you can bring them to share. If your child has an Individual Education Plan (IEP), this document should be reviewed prior to PPT. You may bring questions about current goals, objectives, services and/or accommodations and modifications to PPT. Before the PPT, gain a complete understanding of your child's disability. Do you have enough information about the disability? If not, you can ask your child's case manager for resources. Finally, review your PPT meeting invitation! It lists the reason(s) for the meeting as well as the participants. You are likely to feel more comfortable attending the PPT when you know exactly who will be on your team. Parents and guardians are vital members of the PPT and preparing prior to will insure productive PPT meetings!

CSDE Accountabilities

We live in an age of accountability and data collection, no matter the domain. That said, each school district is responsible to the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) for a variety of data collections throughout and at the close of each school year. The first one addressed here is the Evaluation Timelines Data (EVT). During the summer, the district is responsible to

report each student who was referred to a Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meeting in consideration of special education evaluation and potential eligibility for services. Child Find is the actual process that requires districts to locate, evaluate and identify any child who may be in need of special education. A specific timeline is imposed to ensure that the district evaluates any child deemed in need of such in a timely manner. The federal government requires that a child be evaluated and eligibility determined no later than 60 calendar days after the parent has provided signed consent. The CSDE further imposes that districts must evaluate and implement an Individual Education Plan (IEP), if appropriate, by no later than 45 days from the date of initial referral. Thus, the system can become complicated. Through our IEP Direct online data collection system, the district completes a process log that tracks all timelines for a given school year. No later than August 15th of each year, the district must upload all eligibility decisions to be considered "timely". By August 30th, the district must ensure that data has been cleaned and is "accurate". The goal is 100% compliance with the imposed deadlines. Inferred are the importance of PPT members working collaboratively and the accuracy of data entered into IEP Direct. The benefits to this data collection process are that it ensures timely decisions and implementation of services to students as deemed appropriate.

Dear Readers,

Ide (pronounced "EE-duh") is looking forward to answering your special education related questions! The Dear Ide A. column will respond to parent questions and comments in each newsletter beginning with the next issue. Please email your questions to: ctdearidecolumn@gmail.com

Dear Ide A

ctdearidecolumn@gmail.com

LINKS:

CT State Department of Education Bureau of Special Education

Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center

State Education Resource Center

Autism Society of America

Connecticut Birth to Three

Success SEPTO

Residential Life, Residene Hall Association and West Area Council
at the University of Connecticut
Presents the 11th Annual

CANDY CORN CARNIVAL

Saturday October 26th, from 11am-2 pm

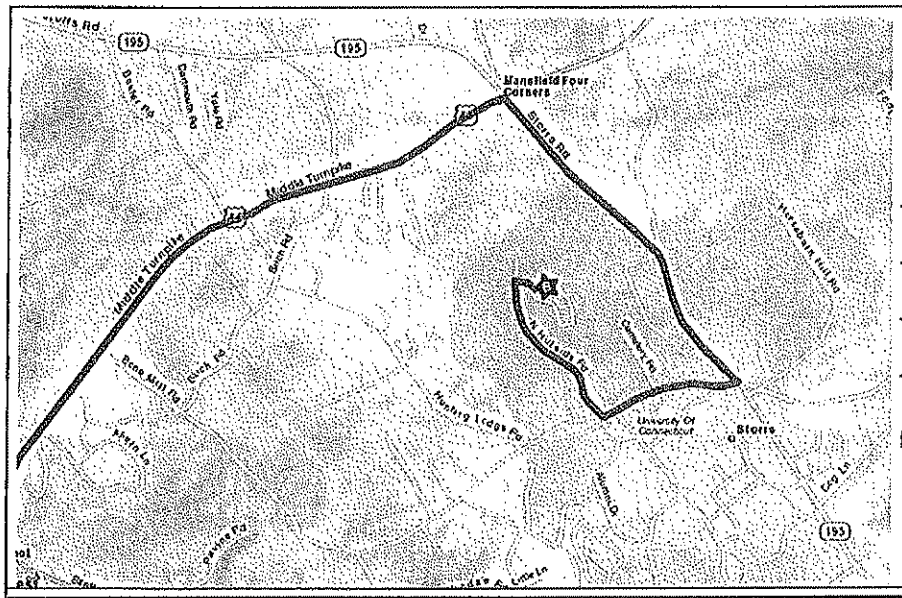
Children (K-8) & Families are invited!

- *Safe Trick-or-Treating*
- *Arts & Crafts*
- *Haunted House*
- *Face Painting*
- *Hay Rides*
- *Food & Refreshments!*

FREE EVENT!

See Map on back for location information
Contact us at: charteroakra@gmail.com
or call Hannah Skarin 860-486-2639

Charter Oak Apartments is located at 916 Tower Court, Storrs, CT 06269



From Route 44 East:

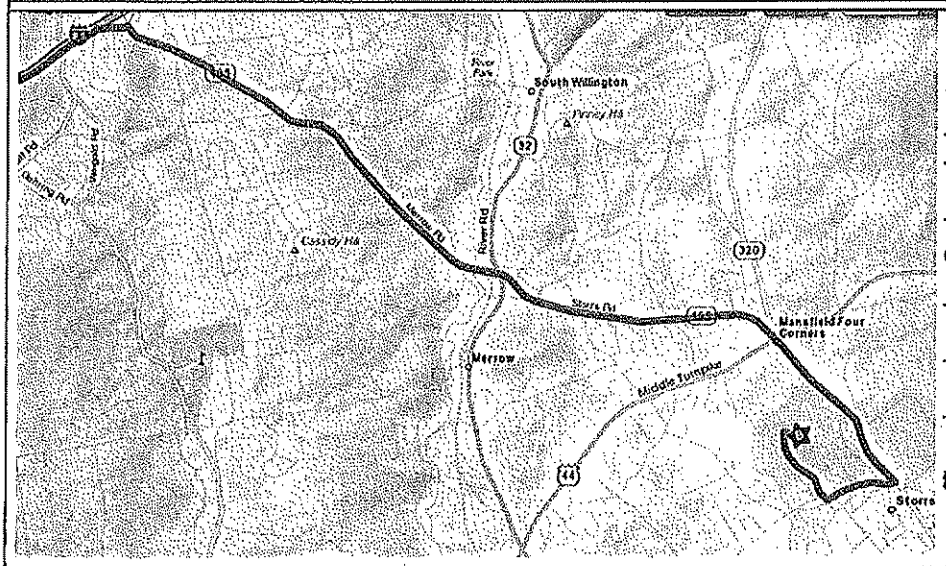
Turn Right on Storrs Road/CT-195

Turn Right onto North Eagleville Road

Turn Right onto North Hillside Road

Turn Right onto Tower Court Road

Park anywhere in the parking lot.



From Route 84 East

Take EXIT 68, CT-195, toward Tolland/Mansfield

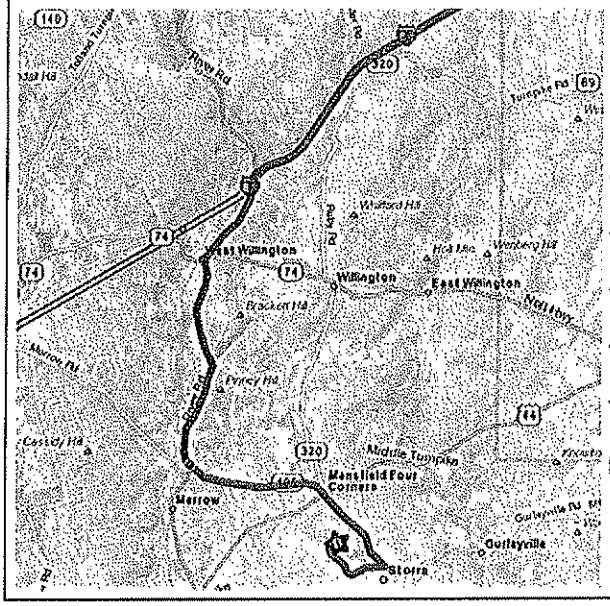
Turn Right onto CT-195, continue on CT-195 for approximately 7 miles

Turn Right onto North Eagleville Road

Turn Right onto North Hillside Road

Turn Right onto Tower Court Road

Park anywhere in the parking lot



From Route 84 West

Take EXIT 70, CT-32 toward Willington/Willimantic

Turn Left onto CT-195, continue on CT-195 for approximately 4 miles

Turn Right onto North Eagleville Road

Turn Right onto North Hillside Road

Turn Right onto Tower Court Road

Park anywhere in the parking lot

La Universidad de Connecticut
Les Presenta la Undecima Edicion de

CANDY CORN CARNIVAL

Sábado, 26 de Octubre de 11am-2pm

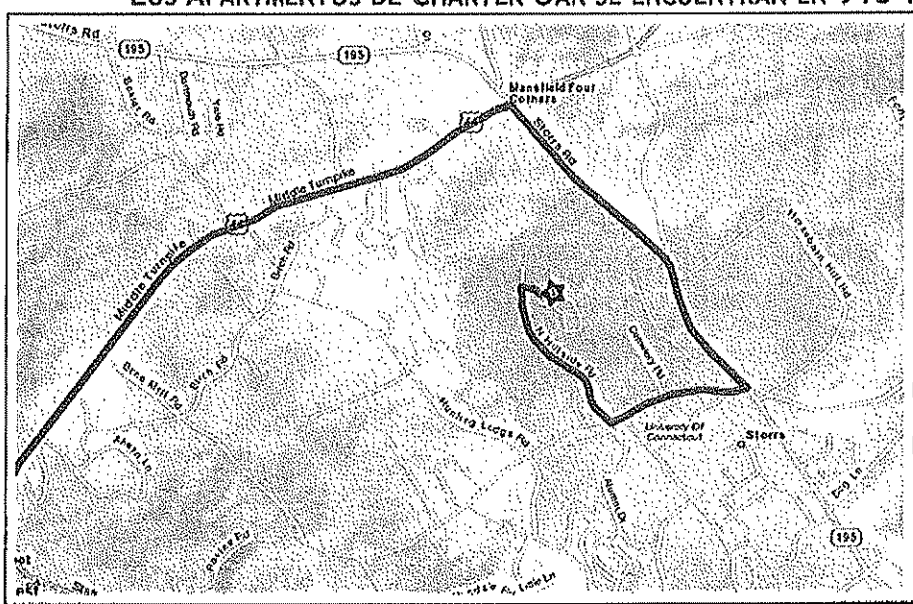
¡Niños (K-8) y sus familias estan invitados!

- *Trick-or-Treat*
- *Casa de Espanto*
- *Artes Manuales*
- *Pinta tu Cara!*
- *Paseos en heno*
- *Refrescos y Aperitivos*

Evento es Gratis

Presentado en el Centro Communitario de los apartamentos de Charter Oak
Localizado en 619 Towers Court Road, Storrs, CT
al final de North Hillside Road
Para informacion: charteroakra@gmail.com o llame al 860-486-2639

Los Apartmentos de Charter Oak se encuentran en 916 Tower Court, Storrs, CT



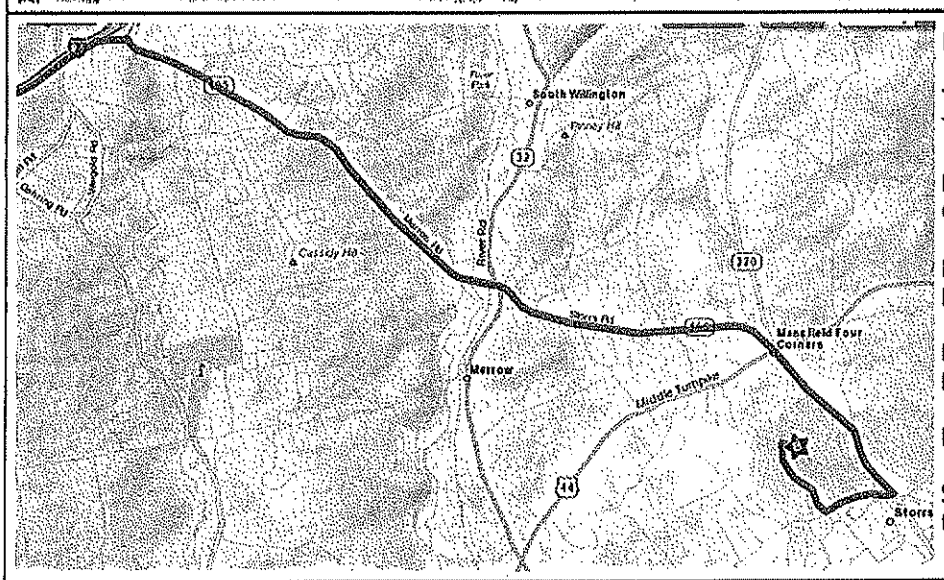
De la Ruta 44 Este:

Doble a la DERECHA a Storrs Road/ CT-195

Doble a la DERECHA a North Eagleville Road

Doble a la DERECHA a North Hillside Road

Doble a la DERECHA a Tower Court Road



De la Ruta 84 Este:

Toma la SALIDA 68, CT-195, hacia Tolland/Mansfield

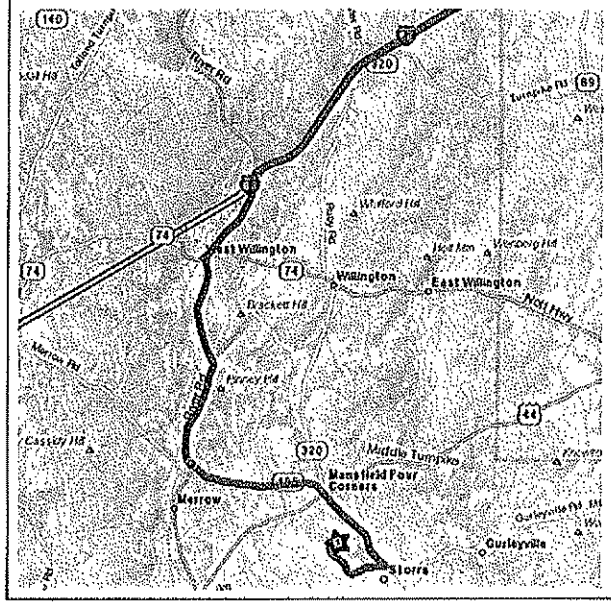
Doble a la DERECHA a CT-195, sigue en CT-195 por aproximadamente 7 millas

Doble a la DERECHA a North Eagleville Road

Doble a la DERECHA a North Hillside Road

Doble a la DERECHA a Tower Court Road

Se puede estacionar en el estacionamiento.



De la Ruta 84 Oeste:

Toma la SALIDA 70, CT-32 hacia Willington/Willimantic

Doble a la IZQUIERDA a CT-195, sigue en CT-195 por aproximadamente 4 millas

Doble a la DERECHA a North Eagleville Road

Doble a la DERECHA a North Hillside Road

Doble a la DERECHA a Tower Court Road

Se puede estacionar en el estacionamiento.