



# THE OBSERVER

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FREE

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### Jump, jump for a good cause



LYNN ALLEN

St Anthony School held a Hop A Thon on Valentine's Day Friday to raise money for those who cannot hop. Children from Pre-K to second grade participated in a fun and educational program to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

## Alternatives to rising energy costs sought

By ELIO GUGLIOTTI  
STAFF WRITER

As energy costs continue to rise, the city is looking into alternative energy sources to see what, if any, potential benefits lie within them.

"We're all experiencing the burden of spiraling energy costs," said Mayor Art Ward.

City Purchasing Agent Roger Rousseau estimated the city spends about \$2 million a year for electricity alone, which doesn't include electricity costs for the Board of Education. Rousseau said the city has been able to lock in lower rates for electricity and natural gas through agreements with the

Connecticut Conference of Municipalities and the Capital Region Council of Governments.

Despite locked in rates for electricity, Rousseau said the city is still subject to the same distribution charges as the average consumer. As for other sources of energy, including oil and gas, Rousseau said these costs are more problematic, because the market is driven by national and international factors.

With the energy issues facing the city, Ward said he plans to investigate the potential for applying alternative energy sources in the city. Ward said alternative energy could allow for more efficient delivery

of energy in the city, as well as offer potential costs savings.

"We're looking into all sources of alternative energy that might benefit the community," Ward said.

Ward said he was scheduled to meet with representatives from OPEL, Inc.

The Shelton-based OPEL, Inc. focuses on the design and manufacturing of solar concentrating products for generating power. Mike McCoy, chief financial officer for OPEL, said the company has been in the solar power business for the past two years, and does commercial work.

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## West End focus of study for revitalization

By ELIO GUGLIOTTI  
STAFF WRITER

The city has begun a study of the West End as a means to formulate a blueprint for the future growth of the neighborhood.

"The West End has always been a vibrant factor in the history of Bristol and should retain that sig-

nificance in the future," said Mayor Art Ward in a prepared statement announcing the launch of the study last week. "The West End Neighborhood Study will seek out and identify the means for revitalization of this area."

The Capstan Group, a New Haven-based consult-

ant firm that specializes in economic and community development, in partnership with the Yale Urban Design Workshop, a community design center based at the Yale School of Architecture, were awarded a \$80,000 contract to per-

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