

Veterans coffeehouse to open

DANIELSON — Military veterans of all ages are invited to the new Veterans Coffeehouse scheduled to open April 14 at the Killingly Community Center. The coffeehouse is sponsored by the RSVP program of Thames Valley Council for Community Action.

Initially, the coffeehouse will be open twice monthly, on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, from 9 a.m. to noon. The coffeehouse will use the cafeteria and kitchen at KCC, 185 Broad St.

“The Veterans Coffeehouse will be a place where vets can enjoy a ‘cup of joe,’ connect with one another and build camaraderie, while discussing common issues and needs,” said Greg Kline, RSVP coordinator. “Developing a project that serves the needs of military veterans is a priority of our (RSVP’s) Work Plan,” he said.

The coffeehouse project will be run by a small cadre of RSVP volunteers. Another goal of the project is to serve as a clearinghouse for information on resources available to veterans, their families and their caregivers. By providing this service, RSVP hopes to help meet TVCCA’s objective of facilitating measures that help seniors age in place.

RSVP is enlisting the support of veterans representatives (AmVets; American Legion; VFW; and Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund), municipal leaders, state and federal officials, and others to spread the word among local veterans. News of the coffeehouse concept has been warmly welcomed throughout northeast Connecticut, Kline said.

To help promote the coffeehouse, RSVP is hosting a special presentation on the Flying Tigers— the pilots and crews of the American Volunteer Group of the Chinese Air Force during 1941-1942, before the U.S. entered WWII. The program, prepared and delivered by RSVP volunteer and former Army Green Beret Tom Pandolfi of Woodstock, is expected to draw a large audience to the KCC theatre at 10 a.m. March 24. It is free and open to the public.

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