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\$25M for bad foundations approved

By Eric Bedner
STAFF WRITER

HARTFORD — The State Bond Commission approved the most recent allocation of \$25 million to fix crumbling foundations on Thursday, but

the head of the captive insurance company replacing foundations says roughly \$160 million more than what is already coming is needed to fix all affected homes in Connecticut.

The General Assembly had already approved another \$25 million in state

bonding, as well as a \$12 surcharge on certain homeowner insurance policies that collects roughly \$11 million per year through fiscal year 2030.

But more state funding is needed, Crumbling Foundations Solutions
Foundations continues on 5

'Ripped me apart'

School worker describes how he learned 9 family members died in Fla.

By Brian Lockhart
STAFF WRITER

BRIDGEPORT — Around 4:30 a.m. Tuesday Lloyd Hall was awakened by a phone call from a relative.

"The person was talking to me telling me, 'Brace yourself. I've got this bad news,'" Hall recalled in an interview at his home Thursday.

His ex-wife, daughter, two grandchildren, and five other members of his large family, all visiting Florida to celebrate another relative's 80th birthday, had been killed around 7:30 p.m. the night before when the sport utility vehicle they

Deaths continues on 6

Not as far to run



Jim Michaud/Hearst Connecticut Media file photo

The start of the 87th annual Manchester Road Race, with close to 10,000 runners last Nov. 23.

Historic Manchester Road Race course has gotten shorter with age, new measurement reveals

By Joseph Villanova
STAFF WRITER

MANCHESTER — Organizers have discovered that the famous 4.748-mile "turkey trot" around downtown Manchester, while still famous, is no longer 4.748 miles.

Manchester Road Race committee officials announced Thursday that a new measurement for

the historic course came out to 4.737 miles, just 59 feet and 11 7/16 inches shorter. The measurement was commission by the group as part of efforts to have the race certified by USA Track & Field, the national governing body for events in a variety of disciplines.

Dani Kennedy, a member of the Manchester Road Race Committee, said the actual length of the
Race course continues on 4

FARMINGTON 'GATEWAY' DONATED TO LAND TRUST

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COAST GUARD PERSONNEL TELL OF TOXIC ENVIRONMENT

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Judge weighs case that could keep RFK Jr. off N.Y. ballot

By Michael Hills
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALBANY, N.Y. — A judge is expected to decide soon whether Robert F. Kennedy Jr. falsely claimed to live in New York as the independent presidential candidate fights to get on the state ballot in November.

A non-jury trial in Albany over whether Kennedy's New York nominating petitions should be invalidated ended Thursday without Justice Christina Ryba issuing an immediate decision. Any ruling by the trial judge is expected to be appealed.

A voters' lawsuit backed by a Democrat-aligned PAC claims Kennedy's state nominating petition falsely listed a residence in New York City's tony northern suburbs, while he actually has lived in the Los Angeles area since 2014, when he married "Curb Your Enthusiasm" actor Cheryl Hines.

If Kennedy's petition were to be ruled invalid, the New York Board of Elections would remove him from the 2024 ballot, a spokeswoman for the board said. Getting knocked off the ballot in New York also could lead to lawsuits in other states where his campaign listed the same address.

Kennedy, 70, has testified that his move to California a decade ago was only temporary and that he intends to move back to New York, where he has lived since he was 10 years old. He told reporters after the trial ended that people who signed his petitions deserve a chance to vote for him.

"Those Americans want to see me on the ballot. They want to have a choice," he said.

Kennedy says he rents room in a friend's home in Katonah, about 40 miles north of midtown Manhattan. However, he testified that he has only slept



Hans Pennink/Associated Press

Independent presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. leaves after giving testimony Wednesday in Albany, N.Y.

FOUNDATIONS

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Indemnity Co. Superintendent Michael Maglaras said this week.

As of Tuesday, CFSIC has replaced 961 foundations that were deteriorating from the presence of the iron-sulfide mineral pyrrhotite, but more than 1,000 families would be left behind without more funding, Maglaras said.

To that end, he is seeking another \$100 million in bonding, as well as extending the \$12 surcharge through fiscal year 2035.

If the funding were approved, "we wipe the crisis out. It's all over. It's done with," Maglaras said. "We've assembled the data that will prove our point. That point is that I can see the end of the crumbling foundations crisis right now. I can see the light at the end of the tunnel. It's coming."

CFSIC is expected to reach another milestone before the end of September — putting 1,000 families back in safe and valuable homes — Maglaras said.

"We are keeping people in their homes who would otherwise have to sell at a significant loss," he said, and many newer

claimants are older residents, including many in their 90s. "Increasingly, we are helping the elderly, the folks for whom this is the last investment they will make."

Aside from the personal benefit to homeowners with crumbling foundations, municipalities are also benefiting as homes are returned to their full assessed tax value once a foundation is replaced.

"What we think we're doing, and we have pretty good data that supports that, is we're helping rebuild the economies in towns in the areas of question," Maglaras said.

Additionally, since CFSIC launched in January of 2019, 224 full-time and part-time jobs have been created in the construction industry in northeastern Connecticut, he said.

"Despite our inability to get the commercial insurance market to accept these claims, in our own small way we are adding to the economy, keeping people in their homes, and restoring the tax base," Maglaras said.

While the cost of replacing foundations may have plateaued somewhat with increased labor and supply costs, the price tag for replacing a foundation has dropped significantly thanks to competition

among contractors.

The cost of replacing a foundation at a standalone home is capped at \$190,000, but the average cost as of Tuesday was just shy of \$164,000, Maglaras said. "There is significant competition for the work that is done."

He credits homeowners for doing their homework and seeking the best price from contractors approved by the Capitol Region Council of Governments.

Tuesday's approval of the most recent round of \$25 million is being praised by state lawmakers representing the affected region of the state.

"For nearly a decade now, the disaster of crumbling home foundations has had a heavy impact on so many homeowners across northern and north-central Connecticut," Sen. M. Saud Anwar, D-South Windsor, said. "I'm glad the state is continuing to provide this vital funding to support our residents who are continually impacted."

Sen. MD Rahman, D-Manchester, noted the "catastrophic impacts" on what is typically someone's most valuable investment — their homes — adding that "it is critical that we continue to help these homeowners."

in that room once, citing contestant campaign travel.

In closing arguments, attorney John Quinn said evidence

clearly shows Kennedy lives in Los Angeles and that efforts to establish him as a New York resident were "a sham."

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