State to raise fee to fish in salt water

By JAMES WALKER
Hour Staff Writer

NORWALK — It’s very sad that a ruckus isn’t raised when the state increases its fees on a hobby that affects hundreds of thousands of people.

The cost to fish in the waters of Connecticut is expected to rise under a new proposed schedule by the Department of Environmental Protection for 2008 that adds an additional fee to fish in salt waters.

There are anywhere from 200,000 to 300,000 people in the state that are salt-water fishermen. Another 100,000 are fresh-water anglers, said David Molnar, a fisheries biologist with the DEP.

The new salt-water license will cost fishermen $15 annually. The combination of a fresh-water salt-water license will be $25. There is no cost for minors under the age of 18.

See DEPARTMENT, A9

Leaders press for public housing sustainability fund

Resolution could mean $28M in emergency repairs

By HAROLD F. CORIN
Hour Correspondent

NORWALK — Getting the state to fund repairs and maintenance of its public housing developments dominates discussion Saturday at a meeting of the Public Housing Resident Network.

With about 21 members in attendance from across the state, speakers urged passage of state House resolution 6642, which would establish a fund to address the capital needs of state housing developments, including an estimated $28 million in emergency repairs.

Unlike federal housing projects, explained Jeffrey Peter Bauer, executive director of the Connecticut Housing Coalition, after the state builds a development, a local housing authority is responsible for maintaining it.

See LAWMAKERS, A7

United Way chapters unite to boost funds

By JILL BODACH
Hour Staff Writer

NORWALK — The future of United Ways may be to make individual agencies more united.

In late-February, the United Way chapters in Stamford, Norwalk and Darien banded together to boost their fundraising efforts. This new conglomerate — with a name of United Way of Western Connecticut — will open in Darien in July.

Since last summer, David Kennedy, executive director of the United Way of Norwalk & Wilton, has considered restructuring his agency. Joining the others was a logical step.

See CHAPTERS, A10

House fire kills dog, displaces local family

By JAMES WALKER
Hour Staff Writer

NORWALK — A Norwalk family was left homeless and their dog was killed when a fire erupted inside a condominium complex on Saturday evening.

The Norwalk Fire Department responded to the blaze at 21 Van Buren Ave., in apartment Ld at 5:35 p.m., said Deputy Fire Chief Stephen Shay.

The fire in the Robert Blackwell household start...