

THE NORTH STONINGTON QUARTERLY

FALL 2022

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Hello North Stonington! If you read the last BOS entry to the Quarterly in July, it ended like this: “Now this isn’t to say that all is perfect. We do have ¾ of a mile of chatter strips on Denison Hill Rd. The Speed Humps that the Village asked for two years ago are still not installed, and the Old Middle School is still standing.”

I am pleased to report that since the July Quarterly was published, the Speed Humps in the Village HAVE been installed, and the Old Middle School demolition has begun. Also, the Town has applied for a STEAP grant that if awarded, we may have enough money to correct the chatter strip issue on Denison Hill Rd. There is also a new resident in the John Dean Gallup House at Hewitt Farm after 3 years of the house not being occupied, and in the late Fall, a new Early Learning Center will be occupying the lower part of the old High School. These last two developments provide income to our Town.



So, what’s next? Once the Middle School comes down, there will be opportunities for all citizens to weigh in on how the property should be used. The Board of Selectmen will schedule at least one or more Public Hearings or a Community Conversation in the Spring of 2023 to solicit as much feedback as possible from our residents. This is a very prominent and important space being both on Route 2 and part of our Historic Village. It is important to do it right as it will add to our Town’s landscape for years to come.

BOB CARLSON, NICOLE PORTER, BRETT MASTROIANNI

selectmen@northstoningtonct.gov

NORTH STONINGTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION



The North Stonington Education Foundation is a non-profit, charitable organization founded in 2004 to enhance education in the school system and other educational organizations by giving out major and micro-grants. To date, thanks to community support, the

Foundation has given out over \$175,000 for educational activities in North Stonington. The money is raised through various fundraising events and donations.

Our next fundraising event will be a Disc Golf Scramble-Fall 2022 on Saturday, November 5th.

The Board of Directors meet on the second Thursday of each month except during the summer and may consider anyone interested in becoming a director. For information, please visit our website at [HTTPS://nsefoundation.org](https://nsefoundation.org).

BERNARD “BING” BARTICK

bbesail@aol.com

860-389-0264

PAWCATUCK NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

The PNC food pantry is open to North Stonington residents from 9:00 to 3:30, Monday through Friday. A variety of food is available and includes vegetables from the PNC Garden, pictured here. Volunteers are essential to running our food pantry, thrift store and senior center programs.



All ages attend our Community Breakfast from 8:30 to 10:00, on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month and Veterans Coffee Hour at 9:00 on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays. Lunches for persons age 55+ are available for free, or a \$3.00 donation, Monday-Friday at 11:00 a.m.

Grief Support Group offered Tuesdays at 1:00 and Caregiver Support Group takes place Thursdays at 1:00. All are welcome.

Classes for persons age 55+ are held each weekday and included painting, Life Stories Writing, line dancing, yoga, balance & beyond, Fitness Bootcamp and Tai Chi. Free transportation provided to persons age 55+.

Holiday baskets and Christmas toys will be distributed in November and December, along with heating and utilities assistance.

Unexpected Treasures Thrift Store open to the public, offering low priced clothing, toys, books, games and household items, Monday-Friday, 9:00 to 3:30. Donations welcome.

Questions? Call (860) 599 – 3285 or visit www.pawcatuckneighborhoodcenter.org

SUSAN SEDENSKY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NORTH STONINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

At North Stonington Elementary School, we were so excited to open our doors on September 6th to welcome back our 410 students! It is so nice to start the year with no COVID restrictions and a renewed focus on not only learning, but also being together again. We have added some new members to our NoSto Family this year to replace our friends who have headed off into retirement.

This year we have added a new writing program to our resources and will also be focusing on creating a positive learning community where all our students can thrive. We are able to do this by way of the dedication, expertise, and creativity of all our staff here at NSES. We'd like to extend a huge THANK YOU to the families and community of North Stonington who continue to support our school and share their children with us. We are all looking forward to a great year!

ROBERT CILLINO PRINCIPAL

BOY SCOUTS TROOP 71



Happy Fall! Troop 71 has had a very busy summer! The Scouts participated in not one, but two week-long summer camps at JN Webster in Ashford, and Camp Sequassen in New Hartford. The Scouts have been hard at work earning merit badges, obtaining rank requirements, and planning out the 22-23 Scouting year. Weekly meetings have resumed and are held on Thursdays from 7-8:30pm at the old Fire station. For community service, Troop 71 will be doing their annual Scouting for Food drive. Be on the lookout for Scouts dropping off bags at the beginning of November.

This is a great opportunity to help those in need. Troop 71 is proud to announce that they donated \$500 to the Public Library of New London that was spent on a Juneteenth celebration at the Hempstead House in New London.

We look forward to a wonderful year in Scouting with many campouts, community service opportunities, and continued advancement and growth of our Scouts. If you know someone who is interested in Scouting, please contact Scoutmaster Ramsey Allen at mmpadi13d@gmail.com.

JENN RICHTER COMMITTEE MEMBER

KEEPING NORTH STONINGTON AFFORDABLE



North Stonington has been singled out for its “paltry 1.2 percent” of affordable housing in The Day newspaper’s editorial Sunday, Aug. 21. North Stonington again is cited in another article as having the lowest percentage of affordable housing in New London and Windom counties. As Paul Choinere, former editorial writer of The Day says “People need a place to live. That should be the priority.”

North Stonington has long prided itself in being a “working class” town, but lack of affordable housing has made that a false perception. Because we lack housing, we deprive our town of the vitality and diversity that makes a town livable. We are talking of housing for teachers, municipal workers, librarians, nurses, essential workers, and seniors. Many young adults, who grew up here, would like to remain in North Stonington but find that housing is not affordable and have to move elsewhere.

Forcing up housing cost are restrictive zoning laws which site homes on large lots which are environmentally destructive (urban sprawl has cost CT. 13 acres of farmland per day for the last 25 years!). This makes the cost of building housing more expensive.

Let’s make our town proud and progressive, by showing support for housing choices that are affordable, not being the “paltry” 1. 2 percenters.

MARY ANN RICKER, PRESIDENT

North Stonington Agricultural Fair

Happy Fall! On behalf of the fair officers, directors, and committees we would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way, big or small in making our largest town event a success. We were fortunate to have clear skies and mild temps before the heat of summer kicked in. Congratulations to all our exhibitors and competitors on your accomplishments. New for 2022 was the Child Sensory Room located next to our Baby Care Station. Thank you to



Mrs. Cote for bringing forward the need for such a space and making it happen. It was rewarding to see the room enjoyed throughout the four days.

Thank you to our Town Officials, Fire Department, Grange, Ambulance, church groups, scouts, clubs, and anyone else who continues to support and make the fair happen. Countless hours are given by so many. Plans are underway for the 2023 fair, and we welcome your input.

Our monthly meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month (excluding December) at 7pm in the Grange Hall. **VISIT** our website at www.northstoningtonfair.org, **LIKE** us on Facebook at North Stonington Agricultural Fair, **FOLLOW** us on Instagram at northstoningtonfair.

Visit www.ctagfairs.com for a full listing of all fairs still to come in CT

JODY WHIPPLE PINENEEDLHOMESTEAD@SBCGLOBAL.NET 860-599-8498

BOARD OF EDUCATION

It's that time of year again... School is back in session, fall sports are in full swing and we are again so grateful for our students, staff, and teachers. This really is a great place to be, and we couldn't be more excited about our future.

We have a completely new Central Office staff, and they are working hard through the transition. Mr. Hopkins kicked off the school year with a very inspirational convocation and the energy was undeniable. Our staff has been working hard on learning about Restorative practices and Social and Emotional Learning and we have recently had a forum to explain these ongoing Practices. I encourage you to watch the video on our web page to learn more about these great tools.

We are wrapping up the fiscal year's budget and want to welcome our new Business Director, William Merrill, Mr. Hopkins Executive Assistant, Irma Wilhelm and our new bookkeeper, Alycia Clemons. The BOE is taking part in a retreat on October 15th and we will be revisiting our Strategic Plan and setting our goals for the upcoming year. We are focusing on communication with the community as well as what is needed to ensure student success.

We meet every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month and love to see the community there. Feel free to reach out any time. Have a great fall, hope to see you at a game or one of the many other school events happening at the school.

CHRISTINE WAGNER CHAIRMAN

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The Economic Development Commission is excited to announce the approval of the first grants from our North Stonington Covid-19 Small Business Assistance Program. This grant program, funded through the American Rescue Funds Act, seeks to help North Stonington businesses which have been directly affected by the COVID pandemic. Businesses are eligible to up to \$10,000 in grant money based on losses sustained from 2020 to present. We had four applicants, and each showed a direct impact of COVID on their business. The EDC is happy to have funding to help these local businesses. We encourage North Stonington businesses financially affected by the pandemic to apply for this program.

The plan for the coming year is to assess and improve our website, assess additional applicants for the North Stonington Covid-19 Small Business Assistance Program and assist the committee drafting the current Plan of Conservation and Development regarding the economic development component to the document. We are also revising the Economic Development Action Plan last adopted in 2012.

Finally, the EDC is looking for additional community members to join the commission. We meet on the first Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. If interested, please contact Town Hall.

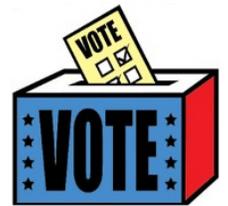
CHRISTOPHER P. ANDERSON

VICE CHAIRMAN

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

The November 8th, 2022, State Election will soon be upon us to elect State and Federal officials and the Town's Registrars of Voters, and to vote on a proposed amendment to the State of Connecticut Constitution.

Absentee ballots are available beginning on October 7th, 2022. Applications are available in the Town Clerk's Office, on the Town website, and via mail by contacting the office. Individuals can also come to the Town Clerk's Office to obtain an absentee ballot in person, beginning on October 7th, up until the day before the election. Absentee ballots can be returned by mail, by dropping off in the Official Ballot Drop Box in front of New Town Hall, or by bringing in person to the Town Clerk's Office during normal business hours.



There will be in-person voting on November 8th at the North Stonington Education Center, the old Wheeler Middle-High School, 298 Norwich-Westerly Road from 6:00 AM until 8:00 PM.

If you have any questions regarding absentee ballots and the election, please do not hesitate to contact the Town Clerk. **Remember that every vote counts and every vote is important!**

The Town Clerk's Office is open on Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM, except on legal holidays. Please call 535-2877 Ext. 121 or e-mail townclerk@northstoningtonct.gov.

ANTOINETTE PANCARO, MMC, MCTC, CCMO

TOWN CLERK

BETTER TOGETHER CT INC. FARM & SANCTUARY

We have had a busy Summer at Better Together CT Inc. Farm & Sanctuary. Our Farm Store has reopened! Stop by and see us at North Stonington Artisan Farm Market at Hewitt Farm

- **Field Days 2022** - Our volunteers have been busy helping with weeding/trimming and harvesting of vegetables. If you would like to volunteer, please reach out! We would love to teach you about regenerative/sustainable farming techniques. We will be hosting a BBQ at the farm at the end of the season to thank all our volunteers who have helped throughout the year.
- **HEMPSTOCK 2022** was a big success! We had great music! Everyone had a great time! We want to thank all our volunteers, vendors, educators, sponsors & especially the musicians! This year was the first year that the event was completely volunteer. Funds raised will enable us to continue to do a lot of good for Veterans, First Responders & the community.
- **Farm to Table Dinners - Coming Soon!** We are working on regular farm to table dinners with acoustic music. Dates and times to be announced.
- **Holiday Market - Save the date- On Saturday, December 3rd** we will be hosting our Holiday Market with local vendors and artisans. Please check our website or follow us on Facebook for updates.



We can't thank our volunteers and the community enough for all their continued love and support! At Better Together CT Inc. we aim to address the root cause of suicide and opioid epidemic in combat veterans, first responders and the community at large. We love that we can help those in need by meeting them where they are. Our programs are custom tailored to the needs of each participant and their family. We are truly better together!

DR. STEFANA PECHER, DIRECTOR

CAROLYN HOWELL, SECRETARY

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Public Act 490: A reminder to owners who wish to classify their land as farmland under P.A. 490. The time to file has arrived. You have until October 31, 2022, to file. The definition of a farm is land on which you attempt to make a profit in a farming business or land that you lease to someone who uses the land to grow something or pasture farm animals. Land classified as farmland must be owned for a least 10 years to avoid a penalty.

Farm & Forest Land: Forest land classification is for a minimum of 25 acres. To classify your land as forest land, you must have a state forester inspect and approve the land. You must also retain ownership for 10 years and continue to allow the trees to grow to avoid any penalties. Selective cutting under a state forester is allowed.

Both programs allow you to save money by lowering the assessment on the land classified in either the farming or forestry program.

Personal Property Declarations were mailed on October 1st. All businesses located in the Town of North Stonington or owning taxable personal property located in town are required to file a declaration before November 1st to avoid the 25% penalty for not filing or filing late.

DARRYL DEL GRASSO

ASSESSOR

860-535-2877 EXT 12

HEWITT FARM

The Hewitt Farm has property of 104 acres that attracts much to enjoy. The clean air, upcoming foliage changes and hiking trails are very popular, and we are happy to see visitors of all ages!

This year the farm has hosted four Artisan Farm Markets this summer. The events were a complete success with up to 24 vendors participating. An additional Farm Markets will be held on October 16th.

The John Dean Gallup House has been rented. New windows have been purchased and awaiting installation. The new windows will provide increased heating efficiency for the tenant.

The Hewitt Farm pavilion can now be reserved on-line through the Recreation Department web site.

Hewitt Farm is open daily from dawn to dusk. It's free, easy to get to, right near the village and Holly Green. Park just inside the Hewitt Road entrance off Route 2 or at the parking area down Hewitt Road from Ryder Road. Download the Hewitt Farm Trail Map from the town website (www.northstoningtonct.gov) or pick one up at the parking area trailheads.

ED HARASIMOWITZ CHAIRMAN 860-245-5305

NORTH STONINGTON GARDEN CLUB

Over the course of the summer, NSGC has been able to resume a more normal schedule of club events, programs, and garden visits. Unlike many other garden clubs, we are active year-round and have seasonally appropriate programs scheduled through the end of the year. If you would like to consider membership, or just to sample a program or workshop, please feel free to contact us at info@nsgardenclub.org. Prospective members and guests are always welcome.

NSGC continues its support of the Town's Pollinator Pathway Project. Additional pollinator-friendly plantings have been installed at the Village Green, the Town Hall and Clock gardens, and in the grounds at the Congregational Church. A grant from the CT Master Gardener Association will help fund plantings at the Stephen Main Homestead, and planting is currently underway there, using purchased as well as donated plants. Site preparation has been completed for the planned Children's Garden at Wheeler Library, and the kids will start planting in October. Stop by at one of these gardens, or at the garden at the Grange, for ideas about how you can incorporate pollinator-friendly native flora into your own home grounds. Alternatively, you can contact us at info@nsgardenclub.org with any questions.



For more information about NSGC events and activities, visit our website at nsgardenclub.org, or follow us on Facebook.

JANICE PARKER ON BEHALF OF the NSGC COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

NORTH STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

With pride, I am announcing a successful beginning of the 2022-2023 school year! The dedicated staff in our district were ready to serve the students and families of North Stonington. No matter what role each staff member plays, including contracted employees, everyone is part of our team which works to ensure optimal student learning. The students came into a safe, nurturing environment in which they will grow exponentially this school year. We hope that day after day, every child comes to school with enthusiasm, generated from a desire to interact with their classmates and teachers and to be successful.

At our staff convocation, I emphasized the goal that every child and adult should feel safe, valued, and have a sense of belonging. This is how we will create an environment in which people take risks, grow, and learn their best. Students will build stronger foundations in math, reading, and writing while being encouraged to be innovative and develop transferable skills that will facilitate their success now and in the future. Articulated in the school district's portrait of a graduate, some of these skills are analytical thinking, collaboration, literacy, communication, lifelong learners, and being resilient, respectful and responsible.

The involvement of family and community are essential to the education of all our students. Working together, we can support each child in learning about the world, forming ideas, and building skills. We appreciate these collaborative partnerships which contribute to an outstanding education for all North Stonington's students.

TROY C. HOPKINS SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS hopkinst@northstonington.k12.ct.us

WHEELER HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL

Although we are off to a later start this school year, it has truly been a great start to the 2022-2023 school year! Our students are exploring the many opportunities that Wheeler has to offer with Business and Engineer students completing senior year internships, and others busy completing work study opportunities with their academic studies.

This year we welcome an exchange student from Italy into our senior class, as well as 12 new Voluntown and Preston students joining the Class of 2026 and other classes at Wheeler! This brings our tuition student enrollment to 18 students to date! We look forward to this ongoing collaboration with both towns and hope to remain a *School of Choice* for their students for years to come.

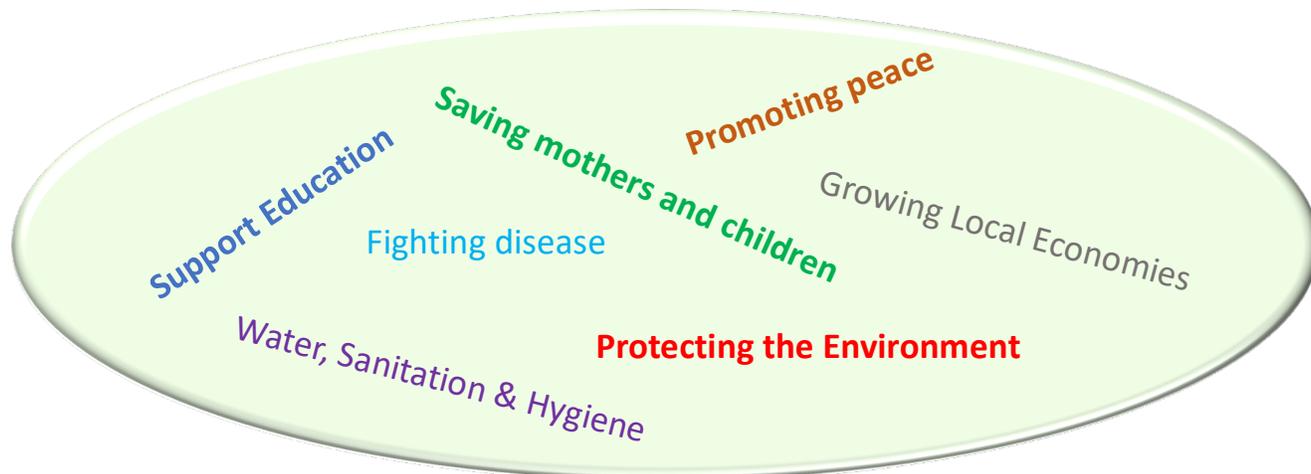


Wheeler continues to be recognized for its outstanding achievement in US News and World Report and our middle and high school students outranked many of our surrounding districts in ELA, Math and Science! Our MS and HS Fall Sports programs are underway, and students are beginning to sign up for extra-curricular clubs and opportunities. Our fall sports programs include a football co-op with Griswold, as well as boy's and girls' soccer, girls' volleyball and boy's and girl's cross country. We are looking forward to a great school year and welcome our community to take part in the many activities happening after school.

KRISTEN ST. GERMAIN PRINCIPAL WHEELER HIGH SCHOOL/ WHEELER MIDDLE SCHOOL

ROTARY OF THE STONINGTONS

We are a small but mighty club, and so excited to be back in action with our “Service Above Self” motto this upcoming Fall 2022 season! Our busy club strives to fulfill the Rotary International mission to alleviate poverty and improve health, education, and the environment. We contribute annually to both global and local organizations aimed at bettering the lives of people and their communities.



This past summer our informative meetings included these speakers and events:

- Troy Hopkins, the new superintendent of schools in North Stonington who spoke to us about his new initiative to institute a restorative practice concept to seek better conflict resolution for the students and community. He will also strive for a more holistic approach using the faculty and the students working together on many new projects and programs
- Jason Hine, The Ditty Bag owner. He introduced us to his new store in Mystic and ran an enlightening conversation on living a zero-waste lifestyle, interesting reusable products, and current recycling trends in our area.
- Sabrina Buehler with updates on our funding for the Chikumbuso Women and Orphans Project in Zambia.
- Our amazing recent scholarship recipients from local Stonington high schools and homeschool.
- Our annual Stonington Point gathering to remember Josh Piver and those lost 21 years ago in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Our anticipated Fall programming will include our previous president’s report on the Rotary Service trip to Kenya and Uganda that a group took in July. And her report on her future trip in October to Chikumbuso, Lusaka, Zambia.

Our many regular activities include twice monthly volunteer work at the New London Community Meal Center, our annual sponsorship of the third-grade field trips to the Stonington Free Library, including distributing a free book to each third grader! We also successfully completed our 500-pound Plastic Collection Challenge to receive a Trex park bench in Billie Ward’s honor - a beloved member of Rotary, and the entire Pawcatuck community. And as always, providing cash donations to more than a dozen local community programs and service organizations.

Find out more about becoming a member of the Rotary of the Stoningtons! We are a breakfast club, regularly meet every Friday at 7am at the North Stonington Senior Center, where the members are very relaxed, and enjoy excellent fellowship. President: Donna Scherer, dscherer373@gmail.com.

The Rotary Club of the Stoningtons, P.O. Box 304, Stonington, CT 06378. For more program information visit our club page at: <https://www.facebook.com/havingfuninservice>.

NORTH STONINGTON COMMUNITY GRANGE #138

When North Stonington Community Grange #138 meets (on 2nd & 4th Fridays, with some exceptions) we discuss and act upon not only our Grange needs, but also the needs of our community. We are pleased to say that with all of us vaccinated we are back to meeting in person on a regular basis. The summer finished our “That’s Entertainment” series of meetings with a lovely ballet routine by Julia Watrous as a part of our “Dance” program.

This year’s theme is loosely based on Games but can be anything that relates to the title. September 9 was “Clue”, and Sept 23 is “Monopoly”, in which we will learn about a lot of different “opolies”. October 14 is the Legislative program, and October 28 will be our Halloween party. On Nov 11th, the program will be “Life” hosted by Cheree Miner, and Dec. 9th will be our Christmas program. We hope to be able to carol around town to our shut-in members on Dec. 16.

We look forward to meeting you when you are comfortable visiting. Covid is better, but not gone, so please still take appropriate measures when you do go out. Don’t forget to VOTE and have a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas.

SUE PIANKA

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

860-599-4528

NORTH STONINGTON PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

Fall means back to school, and back to school means back to doing what we love best – helping to enrich and enhance our students’ learning experience and having fun while getting it done!

The highlight of the summer was installing a flagpole at Wheeler Middle/High School in honor of our former Superintendent, Mr. Peter Nero. It was the first time an American Flag was raised in front of our newly constructed school. Special thanks to our First Selectman, Bob Carlson, for reaching out to Representative Greg Howard who was able to obtain a flag that once flew over our State Capital. We would also like to thank North Stonington Troop 71 for performing the ceremony. We were honored to have our new Superintendent, Mr. Troy Hopkins, and our Town Selectmen present for the ceremony.



Another thing we would like to raise is PTO awareness! Our meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm, in the Elementary School Cafeteria.

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/nostopto. Email us any time at board@northstoningtonpto.com. You can also designate the North Stonington Parent Teacher Organization as your charity of choice when shopping on www.amazon.smile. There are so many ways to help, and we appreciate all of them, big and small!

DAWN GORALEWICZ

PRESIDENT

LAND USE DEVELOPMENT

Online Permitting is here! NoStoers will now be able to apply, pay for and receive approval for Building, Wetlands and Zoning Permits. The Land Use Office has been working with IT and our software vendors to bring forward an online permit process that allows residents and their contractors the ability to electronically file and track permits. Permits will now be filed and stored electronically, eliminating the old paper-based system. Applicants who do not have access to a computer may still come to Town Hall and file electronically via the Land Use reception desk computer. Payments may be made online via credit card or in person via check. If you seek to file your online permit, go to <https://www.northstoningtonct.gov/land-use-department> or follow the provided QR code.



Year over year Land Use Permit activity remains stable to slightly increasing. The first two months of FY 23 eclipsed last year's totals. FY 22 narrowly edged out FY 21 for non-large solar permits. Building activity remains strong in North Stonington with a lot of work in the pipeline.

LAND USE OFFICE	Square Feet	Construction Cost	Total Building Fees	Total Land Use Fees
FY 23: 7-1-2022 to 9-15-2022	59,558	\$2,891,695.56	\$28,420.00	\$3,020.00
FY 22: 7-1-2021 to 9-15-2021	121,049	\$1,717,368.72	\$16,440.16	\$4,875.00
FY 22 – Annual Total	457,766	\$13,317,417.29	\$129,601.80	\$16,570.00
FY 21 – Annual Total (no large solar)	464,025	\$14,681,625.58	\$126,778.22	\$15,903.00

NATHAN REICHERT PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND ZONING COMMISSION

860-535-2877 EXT. 127

NORTH STONINGTON CITIZENS LAND ALLIANCE

Land Alliance thinks that THIS IS A GOOD TIME TO SAY “**THANK YOU**” to **Nita Kincaid and Lisa Mazzella** for publishing this crisp, black, and white NS Quarterly 4 times each year, no matter what! The Nita-Lisa team returns our calls, they remind, they answer our questions, and have come to our rescue many times, that is for sure. They get the news out!

We townspeople are nurtured by the paper’s sense of constancy, its familiarity with our local names and places, and its unassuming North Stonington pride. Nita and Lisa have helped us feel, have helped us know, that we are all a part of what is taking place in town. They have helped to keep us educated and involved. We wish them many more months of Quarterlies to come!

For conservation issues, thoughts, or ideas you want to talk over, contact us via email at landallianceinc@gmail.com, telephone 860-599-5517, or mail to P.O. Box 327, North Stonington CT, 06359

MADELINE JEFFERY

860-599-5517

CEMETARY COMMISSION

For some of us, the summer months are rather quiet, but our treasurer, David Fede, has maintained his busy schedule of contracting for the maintenance of the cemeteries. He also completed, at least for now, the placing of signs which give the name and Hale number of each site. David is lining up the work schedule for next Spring.

The Abigail Hinman Chapter of the DAR, which represents Stonington, has volunteered to aid us on October 16, 2022, at a cemetery of our choosing. We will take advantage of this generous offer at Brown, Hale # 313-71.



The Westerly Ward, Phoebe Greene, may also attend. We plan to trim around the graves, and carefully clean the stones. We are attempting to schedule the Boy Scouts to do similar service at Union Cemetery this year prior to Veterans Day, or next Spring before Memorial Day.

October 21, we hope to have one of our members, Mike Dibble, do a presentation concerning the historical cemeteries. This will be in conjunction with the “Frights and Lights” event. Place and time to be determined.

Perhaps the Town residents would like to be a part of a “Day of Service” next year? Feedback is appreciated. Please email me - djdpreston16@gmail.com

DIANE PRESTON 860-599-1832 (home: leave old style message) or text 860-961-2580

THAMES VALLEY COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY ACTION, INC.



Now, more than ever, community support is so important and impactful! The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) offers the support someone needs to remain living at home either with grocery shopping needs, visiting, phone reassurance or local medical rides. If you are 55+ contact us to hear how your help may improve the quality of life of an elderly or disabled person by volunteering around your schedule to help a neighbor in your community. We are here to engage, enlighten, and inspire each other.

Visit our website at www.tvcca.org or [Facebook.com/TVCCARSVP/](https://www.facebook.com/TVCCARSVP/). **Contact: Gina King, Director of Senior Volunteer Services at 860-425-6617 or at gkings@tvcca.org.**

Connect with veterans! TVCCA hosts monthly veteran coffeehouses to meet and socialize with other veterans and their spouses and receive information about veteran benefits and services.

- 1st and 3rd Thursday: Mystic Masonicare, 45 Clara Dr.
- 2nd and 4th Thursday: Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center, 27 Chase St.
- Meeting times are 9-11am and free baked goods and coffee will be served.



JAMES HODGE Veterans Coffeehouse Coordinator 860-425-6615 jhodge@tvcca.org

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Hello, everyone! I hope everyone is doing well. Well, hurricane season officially started on 1 June. This year's hurricane forecast is expected to be even more active than 2021, so get ready now.

Establish a family communication plan and be prepared to leave. If instructed to evacuate, head away from the threat's direction. If you choose to stay, you may experience extended power outages, property damage or injury.

- We recommend that you gather **Needed Supplies**, for at least three days including non-perishable food, medications (insulin, oxygen, etc.); an emergency medical kit; hygiene/sanitation items (a 5-gallon bucket and a box of trash bags for use as a toilet); water (1 gallon person, per day); a water sanitation straw; batteries; bees wax candles (no soot or smoke) and matches; and gas for your generator.
- Other recommended items include a radio with multiple power options (hand generator crank, batteries or solar); sleeping bags and blanket; and a tarp and nylon rope available for constructing a lean-to shelter.
- Have cash on hand (in a power outage nothing works, you made need to make cash purchases).
- Fill your gas tank and propane tanks. Never use a generator, gasoline powered equipment, a grill or camp stove within 20 feet from doors, windows, vents, to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Keep your cell phone and laptop charged. Stay away from ALL power, cable, and telephone lines.
- If you remain, stay indoors, and go to a windowless room on the lowest level that is unlikely to flood. Do not take shelter in the attic.
- Do not drive through flooded areas; (6 inches of flowing water can float a car) and do not wade through flooded areas (water can be contaminated by sewage, dead animals, oil, gas, debris, etc.).
- Bring animals indoors.

Put Together Your Survival Kit Now!! Remember ... it wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

GARY BARON, DIRECTOR

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



AVALONIA LAND CONSERVANCY

Have you hike the new preserve on Puttker Road, the Herman E Sheets Forest Preserve? This 87-acre preserve has a beautiful trail system with diverse topography along the Green Falls River. There is ample parking on Puttker Road and Loin hill Road. You can find descriptions of trails on all preserves on the website www.Avalonia.org. As the leaves fall, you will find longer views from the top of Babcock Ridge and other preserves.



Be informed. These are coming to destroy crops and forests. If you see one, photograph if you can. Kill it. Report it at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1faipqlsdx1mzkbwmpa2abhfy_illmt1nrssmvvzih39_d4kaydsvicg/viewform.

Can you join a work party, one of the preserves? Contact Toby at tglaza@avalonial

NORTH STONINGTON LIONS CLUB

Happy Fall Everyone! It sure has been a very hot summer; the cool fall temperatures will be a welcome relief as the kids head back to school. We wish everyone a great school year.

The North Stonington Lions took much of the summer off. We did, however, sell food at the Artisan Farm Market and parked cars at the North Stonington Agricultural Fair in July.

Beginning in September, we will be back to holding our monthly meetings and raising money for the many charities and community organizations we support. On Saturday October 1st, we will be holding our very popular Dahlia Day at the home of Jane and Steve Morrone, on 68 Chester Maine Road. We will be selling a variety of beautiful dahlias in many vibrant colors. We will also have our grill on site, cooking up hamburgers, hot dogs, and other food items, as well as homemade desserts. On the same day and same location, we will also be participating in the North Stonington Town Wide Tag Sale. We hope you will plan on joining us for these events.



You may have noticed that we have a new clothing shed in town. It is being run by the N.S. Lions and is located at the far corner of the old high school parking lot. We will be collecting new and gently used clothing for those in need. The items will be collected once a week. We hope you will consider dropping off clothing as you clean out your closets. Winter coats, gloves and hats would be very much appreciated when the temperatures start to drop. We also continue to collect your plastic film at both the Wheeler Library and the North Stonington Senior Center. Thank you to all that saved your plastic and helped us receive a Trex bench for the library. We hope to earn a second bench to be donated to another location in town.

In November we would like to invite our fellow residents to join us for a spaghetti supper. Please look for signs throughout town and check our Facebook page for more details.

If you are interested in joining the North Stonington Lions Club, please contact me. Our meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

TERRY BYASSE, PRESIDENT TWBYASSE@GMAIL.COM 860-535-4380

TAX COLLECTOR

Please note the Tax Collector now maintains the following in person hours, Monday and Thursday 8:30am – 4:00pm.

Tax Bills are now delinquent for any payments made or received after August 1, 2022. Interest is calculated at 1.5% per month or 18% per year from the due date July 1, Connecticut State Statue Sec. 12-146. If you are unaware of the amount you owe or would like to make a payment online, please visit www.mytaxbill.net/northstonington. Service fees for on-line payments are as follows; E-check \$2.00, Visa Debit \$3.95, all other debit, or credit transactions 2.5% of payment amount. Credit card payments will NOT be accepted over the phone. A secure drop box is available for off hours outside of Town Hall where payments can be left and processed the next business day.

All delinquent motor vehicle taxes are reported to the State of Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles. This will prevent you from renewing your registration. All delinquent taxes on all motor vehicles under your name must be paid in full before a DMV clearance can be given from the town. Thank you and Happy Fall.

DONNA L. SPELMAN TAX COLLECTOR 860-535-2877 EXT. 120 taxcollector@northstoningtonct.gov

WHEELER LIBRARY

Wheeler Library's Farm to Table Dinner returns Saturday, October 22nd. With local foods prepared by A Thyme to Cook, wines from Jonathan Edwards, and a silent auction of original art by local artists, it promises to be a special North Stonington evening at the library. Tickets and event sponsorships are available at wheelerlibrary.org.



Mystical Gardens Flower Farm helped our summer readers make flower crowns.

A full slate of fun in the kids' room this fall, with scavenger hunts, great new books, crafts and more. Programming includes Storytimes on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and Kids Yoga with Miss Kim on Fridays. One of our favorite collaborations, monthly visits from elementary school classes, will start up again soon. Our very popular Craft Supply Swap returns in late October. Bring your unused yarn, fabric, drawing, painting, scrapbooking materials, etc. during the week of October 24th. All are welcome to come in the week of November 1st to "shop".

This year's Community Palette Project begins November 7th. Buy a palette or two, decorate them and return them for display through December.

Look for a new Pollinator Pathway Garden to be established at the library this fall, thanks to members of the NS Garden Club and the Pollinator Pathway Project.

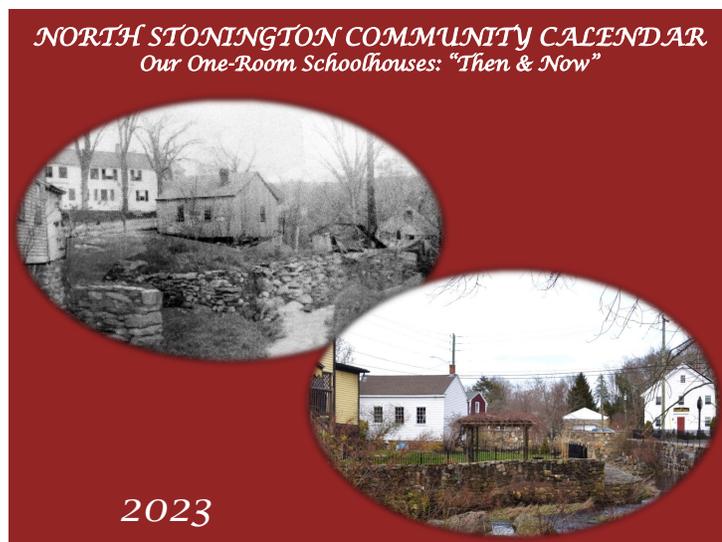
We mourn the passing of a friend, colleague, and library supporter, Deb Burnside, who passed away in August. Her compassion for all living things, her generosity, and her kind and gentle manner will stay with us.

More details, more programs, more to learn at wheelerlibrary.org.

AMY KENNEDY

DIRECTOR

CONSERVATION COMMISSION



The 10th annual Community Calendar has been printed and is available for purchase. Our theme is “Our One-Room School Houses; Then & Now”. Included is a nostalgic look at all the schools as they existed before 1950 when they were “decommissioned” and what many look like today. We ran out of last year’s calendar so be sure to buy yours early at the Town Hall, Shunock Brewery or Wheeler Library.

We have been continuing our 2-year effort to add a biking trail map to our series of hiking and kayak trail maps. This map will list several looping trails complete with distances, elevations, and levels of difficulty. We are not cutting any new trails through the forest but identifying existing trails for bikers to enjoy.

We joined the Wild & Scenic Rivers Association’s celebration with a successful hike at Hewitt Farm in June and near the end of the school year we guided Middle & High School students along the Historic Hiking Trail.

The 2023 Plan of Conservation & Development is closing in on us with the coming year being devoted to updating that state required POCD. In anticipation of that major initiative, we have been improving our chapter; the Plan of Conservation and Recreation Lands.

BILL RICKER CHAIR

THE WOOD-PAWCATUCK WILD & SCENIC RIVERS ASSOCIATION

The Wood-Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic Rivers Stewardship Council held our first big celebration in June: The 7 Rivers Festival. Many events took place in North Stonington. Milltown Arts hosted en plein air painters, the North Stonington Conservation Commission hiked along the Shunock River, Avalonia Land Conservancy celebrated newly preserved land, Wheeler Library presented a book display and Mystic Aquarium caught and surveyed amphibians! Many people enjoyed these festivities along with 25 additional events which took place across the 12 towns in the watershed.



In November 2022, we will post a job opening for an event planner and publicist to support next year’s version of the 7 Rivers Festival. Please check WPWildRivers.org or email Kassi Donnelly, kassi@wpwa.org for updates. ALSO... \$4,000 Wild and Scenic Community Grants will be available soon! For details and updates, communicate with North Stonington appointed Town Representatives Madeline Jeffery (mjeffery211@gmail.com) or Elaine Caldarone (ecaldarone@yahoo.com) or visit wpwildrivers.org.

NORTH STONINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY



The Society is very busy this fall. The Homestead and the A Morgan Stewart Genealogical library are open for your inspection and research Tuesdays from 2:00 – 4:00 PM, or by appointment by contacting Gladys Chase at 860-599-3608. You may also phone Gladys for memberships and the newsletter.

The renovation of the dye garden and a major pollinator habitat project is underway. If you'd like to learn or to help, a group is there most Wednesday mornings. Have fun learning and working together. For further information, contact Vilma at 860-389-057.

The Society welcomes Marilyn T. Harris who will present "The Importance of the Colonial Press in the Struggle for Independence". Newspapers were absolutely pivotal in the formation of America; just as mass media affects how we see the world and therefore how we respond today. What started as debate over taxation eventually ended in a struggle for independence. During those long years of war, the press nurtured a sense of unity and loyalty to the cause. Ms. Harris will be at Wheeler Library Wednesday, October 26, 6:30 PM.

DICK SEAGER PRESIDENT dickseager@comcast.net

BOARD OF FINANCE

We ended the last fiscal year with only minor transfers within your approved budget due to the fine stewardship on the BOS, BOE and most importantly our Town Financial Lead Christine Dias and Bookkeeper Sue Pike. As we come to the end of a wonderful warm summer it's time for those you elected to start thinking about the next budget cycle.

To begin preparations and thanks to our First Selectman's request, we will have a Tri-board meeting to broach some topics. This will be a round table meeting with BOS, BOE and BOF and we're very hopeful for productive discussions to guide us in running the town in the most fiscally conservative manner.

Thank you all for your trust.

PAUL SIMONDS CHAIRMAN NORTH STONINGTON BOARD OF FINANCE

NORTH STONINGTON HALLOWEEN LIGHT PARADE

Our annual event is right around the corner! Please join us for “Frights & Lights” on October 21! Beginning at 5:30pm, Main Street is closed to traffic so head down to socialize with neighbors and enjoy food, vendors, and music. This is our first pre-parade block party, and we’re really excited about it. Bear with us as we grow! (Remember, the rain date is October 23.)



At 6:30pm, the light parade begins! We will visit the Meadow Wood/Kingswood neighborhood before traveling to Main Street. The parade vehicles will stop along the length of the street, and we invite children to come trick-or-treating at the different floats and cars. Costumes are welcome! FYI, the trick-or-treat portion is only along Main Street, and the parade will not be stopping in the residential neighborhood. We are still accepting vendors and parade participants and would love more North Stonington businesses to be involved. Join us! For more information, email NSLightParade@gmail.com.

More details, such as the exact parade route, a Main Street map, parking information, and more specific timing will be released on the event Facebook & Instagram accounts - [@NSLightParade](https://www.instagram.com/NSLightParade). Please follow along!

As always, I thank our town officials for their support and NS residents for your enthusiasm!

JEN STRUNK

NSLightParade@gmail.com

FALL 2022 RECREATION PROGRAMS

ONGOING:

Youth Tennis Clinics

Adult Tennis Clinic

Youth Golf Lessons

Adult Golf Lesson

Woman Only Golf Lessons: multiple offerings starting in September

Kids Fall Soccer Academy: for ages 3 thru 6 starts September 13th (Tuesday afternoons)

Progression Youth Basketball Clinics: Saturday mornings starts September 17th (3 Divisions)

NoSto Dance: for kids ages 2 thru 12 (starts Tuesday, September 20th / Thursday Sept. 22nd)

Yoga / Pilates: three sessions for adults start October 4, 5, 6 and ends in mid-December

Family Movie Night: Friday, October 14th at dusk (Rocky Hollow Recreation area)

Halloween Family Paint Night: Saturday October 15th (5:00pm - 7:00pm)

Fall Youth Soccer: for kids ages 7 thru 14 is still taking late registrations

Periodically check the recreation website: northstoningtonrec.com for newly added programs / activities.

FALL EVENTS

October

1	Saturday	8:00am	Multiple Locations	Townwide Tag Sale
1	Saturday	8:00am-3:30pm	68 Chester Main Road	Dahlia day
3 -4	Monday & Tuesday	Library Hours	Wheeler Library	Arts Corridor Exhibit by Photographer Margaret Leonard
4 &13	Tuesday & Thursday	6:30pm	Wheeler Library	Two-Part Art Workshop - Pinch Pottery Pumpkins with Haley Smith - (Teens and Adults)
6	Thursday	6:30pm	Wheeler Library	Parent Support Talk, Coping with Back-To-School Challenges with Dr. Ellen Flannery-Schroeder & Dr. Chelsea Tucker
12	Wednesday	6:30pm	Wheeler Library	Docu-Series Showing "Fantastic Fungi"
22	Saturday		Wheeler Library	Farm to Table Dinner and Art Auction (advance ticket sales only)
24-29	Monday to Saturday	Library Hours	Wheeler Library	Intake for Craft Supply Swap
26	Wednesday	6:30pm	Wheeler Library	The Colonial Press in the Struggle for Independence
31	Monday	Library Hours	Wheeler Library	"Shop" for Craft Supplies at the library
All Month		Library Hours	Wheeler Library	Costume Swap - Bring and take what you need for Halloween fun.

November

1-5	Tuesday to Saturday	Library Hours	Wheeler Library	"Shop" for Craft Supplies at the library
7 to Dec 4		Library Hours	Wheeler Library	Arts Corridor Exhibit by Helen Marsh
10	Thursday	6:30pm	Wheeler Library	Organic Tea Blending Workshop with Sara Holliday of Thyme for Tea
Nov & Dec		Library Hours	Wheeler Library	The Community Palette Project returns.

December

4	Sunday	4:30 to 6pm	Wheeler Library	Library Open House
4	Sunday	6:15pm	Village Green	Town Tree Lighting & Caroling

**Town of North Stonington
40 Main Street
North Stonington, CT 06359**

**PRSRT STD
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ELECTION DAY

Election Day is taking place on Tuesday, November 8th at the North Stonington Education Center (298 Norwich-Westerly Road). Polls open at 6:00am and close at 8:00pm.

In order to vote, you must be registered. You can register in person at the Town Hall, Monday-Friday from 8:00-4:00pm, or online at www.voterregistration.ct.gov.

A BIG thank you to the poll workers who assisted with this past primary. Poll workers are always needed and appreciated. If this is something of interest to you, please contact us at nsregistrar@northstoningtonct.gov.

Let your voice be heard. Contact the Registrars with any questions at 860-535-2877 ext.113.

CONNIE BERARDI & EMILY LEWIS

REGISTRARS

**The North Stonington Quarterly is now available on-line at
northstoningtonct.gov. ENJOY!**