

THE NORTH STONINGTON QUARTERLY

FALL 2016

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Happy Autumn! As the seasons change, the Board of Selectmen likewise are considering change to bring more effective operations to the Town's general government. The Board has appointed a Town Government Structure Committee to conduct studies and provide recommendations regarding alternate forms of town governance and/or management and the benefits such recommendations would provide. Some aspects to be assessed might include staff changes such as an addition of a finance director or a town manager. The Committee has been requested to complete their assessment and provide recommendations in six months.

On a related note of improving operations, August saw the resumption of Tri-Board meetings with the Boards of Selectmen, Finance and Education. Members discussed potential topics for exploring strategic planning such as economic development efforts, cost reduction ideas and continued execution of the Plan of Conservation and Development. Residents are encouraged to attend their meetings, usually the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Wheeler High School Media Center.

With school back in session, the Board reminds motorists to drive defensively and watch for school buses boarding and dropping off children.

SELECTMEN

860-535-2877 EXT 10

SELECTMEN@NORTHSTONINGTONCT.GOV

An Invitation to NOSTOFEST 2016



The graphic is a rectangular invitation for NOSTOFEST 2016. At the top center, the word "NOSTO" is written in large, bold, black letters, with "FEST 16" underneath it in smaller letters. To the right of the text is a silhouette of a rooster. Below the main title, a grey box contains the text "EVERYONE IS INVITED" and "MUSIC ◦ FOOD ◦ FUN". In the center, a white oval contains the date "September 24th" and the time "Noon until 4pm". At the bottom, a grey box contains the text "ON MAIN STREET, NORTH STONINGTON". On the left side, there are two black boxes: the top one says "Live Music featuring local artists" and the bottom one says "Food Vendors featuring local restaurants". On the right side, there is a black box that says "Activities for All" followed by a list: "Fairy Village", "Hayrides", "Car Show", "Gardening Demo", "Face Painting", "Kids Games & more".

An exciting community event, "NoStoFest 2016", will be held on Main Street in our historic North Stonington Village on **Saturday, September 24th from noon to 4pm**. Everyone is invited to enjoy the many wonderful things that our town offers. Admission and most activities are free!

The event will be held at various locations along Main Street. The portion of Main Street between Route 2 (at the Shell Station stoplight) to the intersection of Wyassup will be closed to traffic during the four hours of the event. Parking will be available at Wheeler High School and the Baptist Church.

Local musicians, restaurants, food vendors, farmers, and craftspeople will be set up along the street, as well as at Wheeler Library, the Congregational Church, the Village Green, the

Town Hall parking areas, and the Historical Society. Many spots will offer special activities for children and adults. Hayrides, drawn by an antique tractor, will run throughout the afternoon.

Sadly, the weather cannot be guaranteed, but any decision to cancel will be made by noon on Friday, September 23rd and posted on the town website at northstoningtonct.gov. For any questions, please contact 860-235-1565.

BOARD OF FINANCE

The Board of Finance believes that the revised budget presented to the people of the Town of North Stonington, with amounts cut as presented, represented the best budget that we could have proposed under the current State and local economic circumstances.

The proposed budget is fiscally responsible and it keeps all services intact. It keeps money in programs related to social services, public services, education, sports programs and after school activities, recreation departments, as well as public safety. It also keeps the Town moving in a forward direction, investing in our future and setting us up to be in a good financial situation, in spite of the debt that we will have to repay over the next 20 or so years.

The Highway Dept., Town and School employees all received their contractual pay increases. Where other towns are eliminating jobs to balance their budgets, we believe that reductions in spending can be just as effective, without having to effect services.

We hope that by the time the people of North Stonington are reading this Quarterly edition, we will already have a budget in place and can begin to work and focus on other important issues and responsibilities. We are nearing the end of this year of challenge and change.

We are determined to continue to work together, with each other and the other Boards and Department Heads, in order to keep the lines of communication open and continue to find ways to work together to achieve the will of the people in the most cost effective manner possible.

Our meeting agendas & minutes are posted on the Town Website. We encourage the taxpayers to attend our meetings, participate in the discussions that we have and to bring forward ideas and suggestions that can potentially benefit us all.

TIM MAIN, CHAIRMAN

NORTH STONINGTON SENIOR CENTER

The Senior Center, located behind Holly Green, has many offerings. We offer classes in painting, sewing and yoga, scheduled trips, Breakfast Club at various restaurants, monthly luncheon trips, and luncheons at the Center on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Wednesdays of each month. Center luncheon participation is limited to 50 and reservations must be made by the prior Friday. **A registered nurse visits the center from 11:30-12:00 on the first Wednesday of the month, and will be offering a clinic for Flu Shots on Monday, September 26th from 10am-12pm.**

The North Stonington Golden Agers meet at the Center on first Wednesday of each month at 12:30pm. Membership is \$10.00 a year. The group offers several social events and scholarships for residents and descendants of members who are pursuing an aspect of the medical field and have financial need. Plans are currently in progress for a Christmas party to be held, on a date to be determined, in December. Call Corinne Bacchiocchi at 860-599-1396 for more information.

Do you need assistance with rides, food stamps, medical insurance, information on available food banks or fuel assistance? Fuel assistance is available for those using all kinds of heating material, including wood pellets and wood. Call Teresa Pensis, Center Director and Agent for the Elderly, for an appointment at 860-535-8188. Our hours of operation are 9:30-2:30, Monday-Friday.

Are you hosting a function and need a pleasant space? The Center facility is available for rent at a fee of \$50.00 plus security. Call Teresa for information.



NORTH STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

It was an extremely smooth opening to the 2016-2017 school year. As always, there was a lot of activity in our buildings over the summer. The busiest departments were the technology and custodial/maintenance staffs. Over the last couple of years, through grants and the generosity of the town, our technology has become state-of-the-art at all grade levels. That means the summer is a very busy time to do the necessary replacements, updates and repairs. Most importantly, the technology department continues to upgrade our security systems every summer. Maintenance did a great deal of repairs and our staff and students came back to spotless halls and classrooms thanks to our custodial staff.

The fall is always a very busy time when students and staff are adjusting to a new school year. Academically, over the last few weeks, we have received some excellent news regarding our mandated state standardized tests. Our students' achievement is measured using the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) assessment results, the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT), and the CMT/CAPT science assessment. The principals will better inform you on their respective school's results in their Quarterly remarks.

While our test scores are excellent, they only tell part of the story of our student and teacher success. Our test scores do not demonstrate the high quality teaching and learning in art, music, world languages, technology education and health/physical education.

Central Administration wishes everyone a successful school year!

PETER NERO, SUPERINTENDENT



WHEELER HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL

As we welcomed back our students for the 2016-2017 school year, we did so with lots of celebrations over accomplishments they should all feel proud about! First, our current seniors did a phenomenal job with their SATs, ranking second among the surrounding high schools in our area. Our high school students also scored much higher than the state and national norms on their AP exams last spring. Our accountability index remains high as many of our students are proving that they are ready to enter a competitive world when they leave us. Our Middle School students continue to gain ground in math and reading as they adjust to the CT Core standards and as they transition to these new ideals.

Wheeler is also proud to boast that we continue to work on developing 21st Century Skills among all our students 6-12 , including: reading, writing, problem-solving, critical-thinking, communication, collaboration and technology. These same skills will ensure their success long after they leave our school and enter the highly competitive world that we now live in. Our students are being accepted into prestigious schools such as UCONN, UPENN, SUNY at Stony Brook and New England Tech to name a few. We are looking forward to another great year at Wheeler.

KRISTEN ST. GERMAIN, PRINCIPAL

EMERGENCY SERVICES BUILDING COMMITTEE

As reported in the Summer submittal for the Center for Emergency Services project, initial bids for the construction phase of the building fell beyond the approved budget of \$6.3 Million. Consequently, the committee was chartered to focus on a design reduction with Architectural firm Silver-Petrucci that would yield a facility that did not exceed the approved budget of \$6.3 Million. With input from the Operations personnel from the Ambulance and Fire-Rescue teams, as well as Architectural input from Silver-Petrucci, Schematic drawings have been developed. These satisfy the operational needs of the Fire/Ambulance, as well as present the best opportunity to maintain budget. This goal can only be realized from the returns of the Bid Process.

Moving ahead, the milestone dates that have been developed to get to the Bid Process with the best information available are as follows:

•Design Development	8/19	Complete
•Owner Review and Approval	8/29	Complete
•Land Use Re-Approval	9/30	In Process
•Construction Documents and Specification	9/26	In Process/Silver Petrucci
•US Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) Approval to Bid	10/3	USDA, Lender
•Bid Process to yield Firm Fixed Prices	11/7	
•North Stonington / USDA Bid Award	11/21	

The Emergency Services Building Committee encourages members of the North Stonington community to attend its meetings which are posted on the Town's web-site and are generally held at the North Stonington Fire House Meeting Room at 6PM every Monday or unless otherwise posted.

PAUL KOWACK PE COMMITTEE MEMBER

Pkowack30@comcast.net

860-235-6771

NORTH STONINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Be a part of North Stonington history by becoming a member of the North Stonington Historical Society. Participate in social activities and make new friends; enjoy Parlor Concerts; you will find the Society to be historical, genealogical and educational. Join now. All are welcome. Email us at GChase1@comcast.net and receive a complimentary newsletter or call 860-535-9448.

Piano News: 22 “keys” remain for contributors to the continued maintenance of our 1857 Gale Piano. Black keys are \$35 and white keys are \$60. Your name, or the name of someone you would like to dedicate it to, will appear on our life-size keyboard for your donation.

Concert Series 2016: On September 18th, Aymeric Dupré La Tour, piano & Alison Holt, Viola performed Shumann & Brahms. The October 30th and November 20th programs

will be announced. Both concerts will have a 4pm and a 6:30pm seating. Please call 860-535-3608 or 860-245-5322 for reservations. Seating is limited and tickets are \$20 per person.

Historical Magic: Come and be amazed by our favorite magician!!! Join us Sunday, October 9th at 2pm. Tickets are \$5 at the door.

NORTH STONINGTON LIONS CLUB

This year we will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary. The club was founded in March of 1967, and began with 35 charter members. One of the Club's first projects was to co-sponsor the Memorial Day Parade which has since become an annual NS Lions Event. This past Memorial Day, the parade celebrated its 50th anniversary at the North Stonington Grange.

The Club begins this year with Dahlia Day and NoStoFest in September as two early fundraisers. Our fundraisers support local, state, national, and international causes. Locally, we support the Cub Scouts, college scholarships, Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center, NS Senior Center, Little League, Fire and Ambulance Departments, Wheeler Library, High School Grad Night, and Pediavision eye screenings, just to name a few. On the larger scope, we support eye research, diabetes, measles, disaster relief, Fidelco, Low Vision, CRIS Radio and various other campaigns.

The term "We Serve" is what Lions are all about. Our club meets the 4th Wednesday of the month, with the exception of November and December. If you are interested in becoming a Lion, please come and see what we are all about. Contact us at: denise.murphy@comcast.com or Northstoningtonlions@yahoo.com.

DENISE MURPHY, CLUB PRESIDENT

860-625-7363

NORTH STONINGTON GIRL SCOUT TROOPS

Back to school means back to Girl Scouts! Scouting is a fun and exciting way for girls to connect with one another and their communities. Girl Scouts offers programming that meets the needs and reflects the interests of today's girls. There are valuable lessons, fun projects & exciting events throughout the year! It all began more than 100 years ago & we continue to build girls of courage, confidence, and character! In Girl Scouts, we believe that there's a chance for every girl to do something amazing.

At the beginning of each school year, we will be looking to start a new Kindergarten Daisy troop & fill spots that need girls and adults. Please contact me at any time for more information!

I'm excited to begin my journey as the new Girl Scout Town Organizer. I have some big shoes to fill, taking over for Julie Evans who proudly served our community for over 30 years. I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to her for her dedication to Girl Scouting in North Stonington.

JEN PETERSON, GIRL SCOUT TOWN ORGANIZER

jenef81@hotmail.com



AVALONIA

The land trust has just acquired 94 acres on Swantown Hill Road, the Benedict Benson Preserve. This parcel was generously donated by Mimi and Brad Borden. We plan to construct a one loop trail for hiking and birding. It is mostly forested with streams and some rugged terrain. The property is a nesting area for some rare warblers.

One of the most interesting Avalonia walks in North Stonington is on the Donald Henne Preserve on Babcock Road. Its large beaver meadow has become a popular nesting area for ospreys and great blue herons. At least two osprey and nine herons successfully fledged from the nests. Please visit our other preserves and look for news of guided walks. We invite you to visit our website at www.avalonialandconservancy.org.

NORTH STONINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

North Stonington Elementary School continues to excel in meeting the needs of all students which has been demonstrated by the daily progress of our students and the results on two recent standardized tests. Great success was demonstrated by our students on the second Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium (SBAC).

SBAC 2016

Grade	English Language Arts 2015	English Language Arts 2016	Math 2015	Math 2016
	% of Goal or Advanced	% of Goal or Advanced	% of Goal or Advanced	% of Goal or Advanced
3	88%	88.5%	92%	98.4%
4	85%	83%	92%	91.5%
5	73%	94.6%	53%	87.5%

In March of 2016 our fifth graders took the CT Mastery Test in science.

55 Students Assessed	Advanced	Goal	Proficient	Basic	Below Basic
% Students at each level	58%	35%	7%	0%	0%

Though the scores are an indication of our success, our mission continues to be meeting the individual needs of every student who walks through our doors. It is the efforts of the entire school community, along with our families, to work closely together and find the best instruction or behavioral plan to meet the needs of every North Stonington child.

To support our school we ask the community to register your Stop and Shop card at www.stopandshop.com/aplus. Our school ID code is 06254. The money earned supports school-wide initiatives, as well as all types of student and teacher enrichment materials for the classroom.

On Nov. 10th, we will be holding our annual Veterans Day breakfast and assembly. It is our aim to recognize all who have served and help our students appreciate the role of veterans in our country. All North Stonington veterans are invited to attend. Please call 860-535-2805 for more information.

Our goal is to provide every child with an educational program that meets their individual needs in a safe, secure environment and more importantly a program that makes them excited to come to school each day. We look forward to a wonderful school year and thank the entire North Stonington community for your support of our schools.

VERONICA WILKISON, PRINCIPAL

NORTH STONINGTON GARDEN CLUB

Nature made gardening a challenge this year, thanks to a drought-ridden summer combined with gypsy moths and even tent worms in some of our gardens. Thankfully, as we enter fall we've enjoyed a few meaningful rain events. Everything from brown lawns and drooping perennials are really coming back to life before our eyes! We certainly all value our hardy perennials, which have earned the name that means "lasting or existing for a long or apparently infinite time".



If you are interested in learning more about gardening, consider joining the club. We are a very active hands-on group. We welcome guests at our meetings. If you'd like more information about the North Stonington Garden Club, please contact Nita Kincaid.

NITA KINCAID, MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIR

860-235-1565

windstonenita@sbcglobal.net

NORTH STONINGTON VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, INC.

During the months of June, July and August of 2016, your volunteers at the North Stonington Volunteer Fire Company responded to a total of 77 emergency 911 calls. Of these calls 1 was electrical related; 1 was a CO2 detector alarm; 10 were brush fires; 5 were R1 medical emergencies; 1 was an automobile lock-out; 2 were water rescues (both fatalities); 3 were vehicle fires; 2 were search and rescues; 4 were trees/power lines down/on fire; 15 were motor vehicle and motorcycle accidents (some with serious personal injuries; two fatalities); 6 were mutual aid rendered to neighboring towns; 6 were medical calls; 3 were hazardous material responses; and 17 were false alarms.



Responding to these calls required 785 man-hours of volunteers' personal time; an average of 10 volunteers responded to these calls. There were 41 emergency calls during the daytime and 36 during the after-hours timeframe.

Your volunteers at the North Stonington Volunteer Fire Company also expended a total of 140 additional hours involving drills and training, in order to improve their proficiencies in life-saving skills. These drills included compliance issues, boat rescue operations, brush fires, SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) and tanker shuttle operations.

CHARLES STEINHART V, CHIEF

GARY BARON, PRESIDENT

WHEELER LIBRARY



We hope you have had a chance to swing by Wheeler Library to see the gorgeous windows. We restored many and replaced others, all while maintaining the building's beauty and achieving additional energy efficiency. Projects like this are possible only through the generosity of our community – please look for our Annual Appeal letter in your mailbox and make a gift to keep your local library a great resource for North Stonington.

This fall, we'll have story times for toddlers, yoga, movies, book clubs, and other programs for all ages. Our Seed Lending Project is in full swing -- join anytime -- we provide free seeds, advice, and monthly programs with other gardeners.

Evening book discussions are held monthly at the library on Tuesdays at 6:30pm. Join us for any or all of these upcoming titles: The Little Paris Bookshop by Nina George (10/16); Stoner by John Williams (12/6); and I'll Take You There by Wally Lamb (1/24/17). Copies of the book group titles are available at the library about a month before the discussion date.

More details on library programs are available at wheelerlibrary.org. All events are held at Wheeler Library, are free and open to all.

AMY KENNEDY

860-535-0383

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

❖**Personal Property Declarations:** Personal Property Declarations will be sent out by October 1st 2016 to all businesses located within the Town. If you do not receive a Personal Property Declaration Form by October 4th, please call the Assessor's Office at 860 535 2877 x 24. We will replace the form.

Please note: Personal Property also includes horses and UNREGISTERED motor vehicles. Horses have a \$1,000 exemption per animal ONLY if you file the declaration form. If you do not file, you do not receive the exemption.

All Personal Property Declaration Forms are due back to the Assessor's Office before November 1st at 4:00 pm. There is a 25% penalty for failure to file your personal property declaration on time. If you need an extension of time, you may call the Assessor's Office before October 15th and request an extension.

❖**Farm and Forestry:** Farmers must file for their exemption of up to \$100,000 on buildings and equipment before October 31st. Note the earlier date for your personal property declaration.

New farm and forestry applications must be filed before November 1st, for the October 1, 2016 Grand List. Forestry applications must have a State Forester review the land before the application is submitted.

❖**Veterans:** New residents who are veterans must file their DD 214 form with the Town Clerk before October 1st in order to receive their exemption. Social Security Disability recipients must file their award letter before October 1st in order to receive their exemption and to be eligible for the Homeowner's Program.

REMINDER:

The Department of Motor Vehicles does not inform the Assessor's Office when you sell a motor vehicle and do NOT use the same plate on the replacement vehicle. Also, if you move out of State, we are not informed by DMV. Therefore, if you sell, junk, or move out of State with your motor vehicle, you must show us what happened to the car to get credit on your tax bill. Examples of what you need to prorate your motor vehicle tax bill are the plate receipt, which shows what happened to the car; junk receipt from the dealer; Bill of Sale; or new State registration.

DARRYL L. DEL GROSSO 860-535-2877, ext. 23 or 24

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSON

The EDC is meeting with commercial property holders in Town to identify their intentions and ideas for their vacant properties. In addition, we are focused on increasing the awareness about North Stonington throughout the New England business community.

There are many new businesses coming to Town: Jovial Foods; Terra Firma Farm; The Village General Store, Hardware & Cafe (now preparing to open on weekends), Farm to Gold Properties; and a family-owned retail propane company. We are excited about new business in North Stonington and want to build upon that.

We have been working to fill the Economic Development Coordinator position and are in the final stages of interviewing. Regular monthly meetings are held in the Town Offices in Holly Green Plaza, at 5:15pm, on the third Thursday of each month.

BRETT MASTROIANNI, CHAIRMAN



TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Fall is in the air, the children are all nestled back into their school routines and summer is but a memory. Just a little reminder to all of the local hunters that licenses and permits are available in the Town Clerk's Office and also on line. Information regarding the new Bird Stamps and discontinuing the Super Sport Licenses is on-line at www.ct.gov/deep.

Last, but not least, we're all gearing up for the Presidential Election on November 8th, 2016. Voting will take place in the New Town Hall Conference Room, on 40 Main Street, between the hours of 6am to 8pm. If you are unable to be present to vote in person, contact the Town Clerk's Office regarding an Absentee Ballot. If you are unable to come in but want to vote in person, curbside voting is also available. If you would like more information regarding this, contact the Registrar of Voters at 860-535-2877 ext 13. If you are unsure of your voter registration status you can check the link on the Town's website at www.northstoningtonct.gov for verification.

Have a safe and happy fall season!

NORMA J HOLLIDAY, TOWN CLERK



NORTH STONINGTON COMMUNITY GRANGE #138

The Grange organization meets on the second and fourth Fridays at 8:00 pm with certain exceptions. At each meeting we discuss the events we will be participating in, the needs of our community, the needs of our grounds and upkeep, and then we have a program. Often we have guest speakers in varying interests, as well as committee programs.

This summer we awarded a scholarship to a high school senior and we are currently ordering dictionaries for each of the children in the various 3rd grades in North Stonington.

In July, we sponsored the Annual Agricultural Fair along with the Volunteer Fire Company. In August, the Mystic Blues Festival was held here; the proceeds of this aid several worthy causes. We provided food booth services for the 4-H Fair and the Dog Show.

ALL are welcome to come to our meetings. Our upcoming schedule has Genevieve Nutall from Osprey Nation presenting a program Sept. 23rd; our Legislative Chair providing our Oct. 14th meeting at 8:00; Oct. 28th is our Halloween party, with costume parades and games for a scary good time, beginning at 7:30 pm. November 11th is tentative with a WWII re-enactor here to answer questions; and Dec 9th is our annual Christmas party and program, also at 7:30. If you come, bring a gift for each child for Santa's sack!

SUE PIANKA, PROGRAM DIRECTOR

860-599-4528

THE NORTH STONINGTON CITIZENS LAND ALLIANCE

THE LAND ALLIANCE CONGRATULATES VALLEY VIEW DAIRY!

We are pleased to share the following article written by Tim and Ben's mother, Belinda Learned, Land Alliance Board member.

Valley View Dairy, LLC, of 58 E Clarks Falls Road, has been named a **2017 Dairy Farmers of America Member of Distinction**. This award is given annually to only seven farms (one from each of DFA's seven Areas) from nearly 8,500 DFA member farms nationwide.

This program was created to celebrate the co-op's diversity and to recognize DFA members for their vision and innovation in the dairy industry, and to ensure success in dairying while setting a positive example for the rest of the DFA membership.



Ben and Tim Learned, operators, have been milking since 2009. They recently completed renovations to their existing dairy facility to contain a walk-through foot bath, feed bunk extension, and increased the barn capacity with 14 new stalls. They currently milk 60 head of cows, utilize the services of Dairy Herd Improvement Association., and installed an activity monitor allowing them to track herd activity.

They will be a guest of honor at the DFA Annual Meeting in March, 2017, in Kansas City, MO.

N.S. CITIZENS LAND ALLIANCE 860-599-5517 landallianceinc@gmail.com



NORTH STONINGTON AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE

The Affordable Housing Committee has approved an effort that is being made by a group of residents to form a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Their goal is to add to the diversity of housing serving Town residents, future residents and Town employees.

The vision put forth in North Stonington's Housing Plan ("...to be a community comprised of people of all ages and income groups...") needs to be more directly implemented than can be done within the framework and charge of our Committee. Our scope of work as an advisory committee includes: education; documentation of affordable housing needs; work with Home Connecticut; and consensus building. While successful, our work is limiting. The Town needs to have a strong, independent entity that can directly interact with the Town, developers and land owners. The corporation, being a non-profit entity, could access grant and Department of Housing money directly to assist in the goal of affordable housing development, receive property suitable for development, and issue Request for Proposals to non-profit or other developers. The work of the North Stonington Affordable Housing Committee would continue hand in hand with the proposed non-profit.

Visit our table at the NO STO Fest Sept. 24th!

MARY ANN RICKER, CHAIRMAN

marykricer@comcast.net

BOARD OF EDUCATION

The school year has just started. Exciting times! We are on the doorstep of the biggest improvements to our school buildings in 20+ years. The Architect has been chosen and the appointment of a Construction Manager is just days away. Once our project is approved by the state for reimbursement, a shovel will go into the ground. A target date should be around June of 2017. The School Building Committee has been putting in many hours to insure that these events stay on schedule.

Once construction starts and all systems are go, the BOE will be rolling out a new marketing plan for our High School. Some people have described Wheeler High School as "a place to get a private education at public school pricing". However you want to describe it, I can in one word: "SPECIAL". Our Elementary School and Middle/High School have the highest test scores in the region, thanks to our wonderful administrators and teachers. The relationships between our teachers and students are unique and the feeling around our schools is one of "family". I think we need to make others aware of what we have here in North Stonington. Area 8th graders have many choices on where to further their education. We will soon be letting them know why we feel Wheeler High School is the best choice.

BOB CARLSON, CHAIRMAN

carlsonb@northstonington.k12.ct.us

PAWCATUCK NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

The PNC is dedicated to serving the needs of residents of all ages living in the communities we serve. We offer many programs and services for individuals and families. For many, fall means back to school! If your child is on the Free and Reduced Lunch program at school, they are automatically eligible for our Weekender Backpack Food Program for children. We invite eligible parents to come to the PNC every Friday, year round, to receive fresh, cold milk, a loaf of sliced bread, and enough food and snacks for the 6 meals over the entire weekend (per child). In addition, we maintain a Clothing Closet for the entire family, which includes coats, shoes and boots. Also available are Daily Living Supplies and Infant Essentials. Please call Abby, PNC Social Services Representative, at 860-599-3285 ext 23 to make an appointment. Our hours of operation are 8:30-4:00 pm, Monday-Friday.

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 16th at Jonathan Edwards Winery with an evening of food and music. Members will receive invitations, but others are welcome too. If you are interested in attending, please contact Rachel Seery-Hersant at 860-599-3285 ext 10.



VICKI ANDERSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 860-599-3285

www.thepnc.org

SCHOOL MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE

Hello neighbors! Believe it or not, much progress has been happening with the School Modernization Committee. As you may remember, the Town approved the referendum for School Modernization contingent upon state funding with the ability for us to spend up to 1.59 million dollars in preparation of the project. Although very little of the monies have been spent, the committee has been working extremely hard this summer; in fact meeting 16 times since June to make sure we are completely prepared and ready when funding is approved.

The committee is made up of a very diverse and talented group of residents including a lawyer, construction professionals, financial managers, an educator, a building supply specialist, engineers and individuals with many years of project management experience.

Accomplishments this summer include application to the State Office of School Construction Grants for state reimbursement, application and initial approval from the US Department of Agriculture for a loan with an interest rate locked in at 2.75% (a lower rate than was quoted when the referendum passed), creation of a fair and detailed ranking system, which will be used to select our construction partners, and selection of the highly qualified Architectural Firm of Quisenberry/Arcari to put final plans together for the school.

In September, we will be using our rankings matrix to select a Construction Management firm, which will oversee the project from start to finish. We also will look to meet with educators and administrators to get additional feedback on our design. Additionally, we will have a pre-construction meeting with the State of Connecticut's Office of Construction Grants to make sure we are completing all tasks necessary for a smooth process.

We hope to see our Middle School/High School students in the new facility by the 2018 school year and Elementary students in their new school by the 2019 school year, if not sooner.

Anyone is welcome to attend our meetings that take place most Monday evenings at the New Town Hall at 7:30pm. We welcome public feedback and input. Thank you for your continued support of this exciting upgrade to our town!

MIKE URGO, CHAIRMAN

NORTH STONINGTON AGRICULTURAL FAIR

The North Stonington Agricultural Fair Committee would like to thank everyone who made the 2016 Fair another successful event! The many hours of planning and hard work are very rewarding when we see our Town come together for four days of fun-filled activities. Thank you to everyone who participates in any way. From our volunteers, to our vendors, to our participants and exhibitors, each one of you play an important role.

Plans are already underway for next year's fair. Save the date for July 13th-16th, 2017. Monthly meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month (excluding December) at 7pm and we welcome new members!! The annual fair is sponsored by the North Stonington Volunteer Fire Company and the North Stonington Grange; however you need not be a member of either organization to attend meetings. Join the committee and bring new thoughts.



JODY WHIPPLE

PINENEEDLEHOMESTEAD@SBCGLOBAL.NET

860-599-8498

NORTH STONINGTON PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

The school year is in full swing! We were happy to welcome back the entire staff at our annual luncheon and are ready to get going with this year's events. Up first is the annual Halloween Extravaganza held on Friday, October 28th on the grounds of the Elementary School from 5:30-8:30pm. The music, rock wall, mini golf, pony rides, and activities are all set, but we are still seeking craft and food vendors, sponsors, and participants for Trunk or Treat. Interested community members should contact Emily Lewis at emily.lewis41@gmail.com.

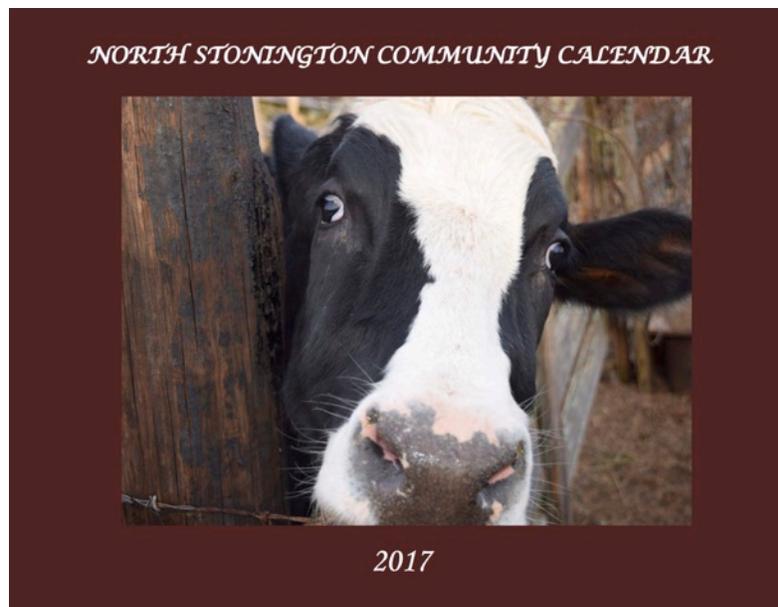
We hope to see many of you there . . . costumes are welcome! As always, thank you for your support of NSPTO so that we can provide much needed supplies, programs, and enrichment to our schools.

EMILY LEWIS, PRESIDENT EMILY.LEWIS41@GMAIL.COM

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

With the heat of the summer behind us, I can tell you we did not do the amount of trail development we had hoped. Our petition to the state to cut a “spur” trail from newly opened Stewart Hill Preserve to the Narragansett “Blue” Trail was approved. Work should be completed by the publishing of this newsletter, with signage showing the hiker the trail still to be finalized by the State DEEP. This spur will allow hikers along the Blue Trail to exit through our trails to Wyassup Road and our hikers to enter their trail from our preserve. Work along the Bridle Trail is difficult, but our volunteer commissioners have made good progress.

The fourth annual Community Calendar has gone to press and should be available for purchase at the Town Hall or Wheeler Library. Given our agricultural community our theme this year is the farms, the farmers, and their animals or products. We sold out the 2016 calendar so buy 2107 calendars early for gifts for this holiday season.



Our Notable Tree campaign has been awakened from a two-year sleep. The commissioners have been identifying and measuring over 30 trees of significant size. Are they the largest of their species? Maybe not, but this will be a start for some of you to say “Wait a minute... I know a bigger one than that.” Then call us and let us know.

BILL RICKER, CHAIRMAN

WILLIAM RICKER@COMCAST.NET

HEWITT FARM

Visit Hewitt Farm this fall to explore and enjoy this wonderful 100-acre property, purchased by our town in 2008. Bring family, friends or your dog. Hike any of the eight well-marked trails located throughout the farm. Or, you might choose to walk or ride your horse on the mowed paths around the hayfields. Please keep off the hayfields to protect the hay. Perhaps plan a picnic at pond-side or near the kayak launch – both areas have picnic tables waiting for you.

If you're interested in learning more about the outdoors, you won't want to miss a very special walk at the farm that is being sponsored by the Friends of Wheeler Library. Maggie Jones, Executive Director of the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center, will lead a Mushroom Walk on Sunday, October 2nd at 2:30. Join her to search for interesting specimens.

Hewitt Farm is open daily from dawn to dusk. Parking is available in two areas: just inside the Hewitt Road entrance off Route 2 or at the end of Hewitt Road when you enter from Ryder Road. Trail maps are available at trailheads on the farm or on the town website (www.northstonington.gov). Any questions, contact Nita Kincaid or Dick Cooper).

NITA KINCAID, CO-CHAIR

860-535-1416

DICK COOPER, CO-CHAIR

860-535-0528



NORTH STONINGTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The NSEF will hold its **Thirteenth Annual Celebration of Excellence Dinner Dance** on Friday, October 21, 2016 at the Stonington Country Club from 6-10 pm. The Dinner Dance is one of the Foundation's largest fundraisers. To date, the Foundation has donated over \$140,000 in support of education in North Stonington.

At this event, Linda Costanza, who has distinguished herself as a social worker in the North Stonington School System and as a community volunteer in our town, will be honored as the 2016 recipient of the Wheeler High School Distinguished Alumni Award. Linda was a graduate of the Wheeler High School class of 1966.

Reservation forms will be available on the Foundation's website, www.nsedfoundation.org, in the North Stonington Public Schools Central Office, and at Chelsea Bank in North Stonington. Tickets are \$75.00 and must be reserved by October 17, 2016. For further information, contact Bing Bartick.

Please look for future fundraising events such as the Foundation's Trivia Contest and Road Race.

BERNARD "BING" BARTICK

860-389-0264

BBesail@aol.com

This edition marks the beginning of our 4th year producing The North Stonington Quarterly!

We continue to appreciate the partnership we share with our Town's boards, commissions, non-profit organizations and the Wheeler High School Print Shop. Together, we have worked to fill each issue with current, accurate information. Each contributor has helped make the NSQ what it is today; a publication which keeps our residents informed on what's happening in our town and important Town news.

We would like to give an extra special thank you to the students and their teacher, Noel Devine, at the Wheeler High School Print Shop. The NSQ would not be possible without their hard work and support.

Lisa Mazzella & Nita Kincaid, NSQ Editors

FALL EVENTS

October

2	SUNDAY	2:30 pm	Hewitt Farm Dam	Friends of Wheeler Library: Mushroom Walk with Maggie Jones	Page 7
9	SUNDAY	2 pm	NS Historical Society Stephen Main Homestead	Historical Magician	Page 4
19	WEDNESDAY	7 pm	Wheeler Library	Tod Bausch: Expedition to 16,050' Vinson Massif, Antarctica	Page 7
21	FRIDAY	6 pm	Stonington County Cub	NSEF 13th Annual Celebration of Excellence Dinner Dance	Page 14
24	MONDAY	7 pm	Wheeler Library	Emery Gluck: Pine Pitch Industry in Colonial New England	Page 7
28	FRIDAY	5:30-8:30 pm	Elementary School	NSPTO Halloween Extravaganza	Page 13
28	FRIDAY	7:30 pm	NS Community Grange	Halloween Party & Costume Parade	Page 9
30	SUNDAY	4 & 6:30 pm	NS Historical Society Stephen Main Homestead	Aymeric Dupré La Tour Piano Concert	Page 4

November

8	TUESDAY	6 am-8 pm	New Town Hall	Presidential Election	Page 9
16--19	WED-SAT	Library hours	Wheeler Library	Holiday Book Sale	Page 7
18	FRIDAY	7 pm	Wheeler Library	Movie Night :”Love and Friendship”	Page 7
20	SUNDAY	4 & 6:30 pm	NS Historical Society Stephen Main Homestead	Aymeric Dupré La Tour Piano Concert	Page 4
28	MONDAY	7 pm	Wheeler Library	Mathew & Jen Bartlett: Female spies during the Civil War	Page 7

December

2	FRIDAY	TBD	Wheeler Library	Wreath Making Workshop (supplies fee TBD)	Page 7
9	FRIDAY	7:30 pm	NS Community Grange	Annual Christmas Party	Page 9
11	SUNDAY	4 & 6:30 pm	Wheeler Library	Open House	Page 7
11	SUNDAY	6 pm	Village Green	Town Christmas Tree Lighting	
15	THURSDAY	7 pm	Wheeler Library	Show & Tell on Clothing of Regency England in Jane Austen’s fiction	Page 7

**Town of North Stonington
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North Stonington, CT 06359**

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The Presidential Election is coming!

Don't forget to VOTE on Tuesday, November 8th.
The polls will be open at the New Town Hall from 6am - 8pm.

Please see the Town Clerk's article on page 9
for important information regarding Absentee Ballots.