

THE NORTH STONINGTON QUARTERLY

Fall 2015

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Fall colors should be peaking now and the rural character of our Town will be on full display. Likewise on display will be signs of economic development, with work starting on the restoration of the former Randall's Ordinary on Route 2 near I-95. The Board is also expecting to receive State approval to bid out the water line extension in the Village. This will provide service to the Grange as well as to the new Emergency Services building, currently under construction.



It's municipal election season this year, too! In spite of candidates vying for seats on various Boards and Commissions, there will still be some openings – even after the election. If you would like to be more involved in helping to chart the future of the Town, consider participating on a Town Board or Commission.

To find out more information, contact the Town Clerk or First Selectman's office at Town Hall.

With Fall comes falling leaves and sometimes hazardous road conditions. The Board reminds residents to drive carefully and watch for children after school hours who may be walking on Town roads.

SELECTMEN

860-535-2877 EXT 10

SELECTMEN@NORTHSTONINGTONCT.GOV

AN UPDATE ON SCHOOL FACILITIES MODERNIZATION

The Tri-Boards hosted an information kiosk at the North Stonington Agricultural Fair last July in an effort to continue two-way communications between the Boards and citizens about evaluating the facility needs of the North Stonington schools. As part of that effort, the Boards conducted a survey regarding the preferred method of communication. Use of the North Stonington Quarterly ranked high in responses. Thanks to all who helped provide input.

In August, the Board of Selectmen appointed the following to the Ad Hoc School Modernization Committee: Michael Anderson, Brad Borden, Walt Mathwich, Michael Osborn, Jay Peterson, Pamela Potemri, Stephen Sadowski and Michael Urgo. Tyler DiBrino, a senior at Wheeler, is also appointed as an auxiliary member.

The new Ad Hoc Committee members attended the August Tri-Board meeting to become acquainted with Board members, receive a draft mission summary/guidelines, and determine their initial meeting schedule. The Tri-Boards requested they begin meeting, choose their committee officers, review current documentation about the previous school modernization efforts, develop feedback on the draft mission summary/guidelines, and report progress to the Tri-Boards at the November 5th meeting.

The next Joint Special Meeting of the Tri-Boards (Boards of Education, Selectmen, and Finance) will be held on Thursday, November 5th, 2015 at 7:00 pm in the Wheeler Band Room - Gymatorium. The agenda will include feedback from the Tri-Board's information kiosk at the Harvest Festival and a progress report from the new Ad Hoc School Modernization Committee. The public is welcome to attend.

NORTH STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

It was a very smooth opening for all North Stonington Public Schools. There was a lot done in preparation over the summer. In terms of faculty/personnel, we hired a math coach for the middle/high school and a new elementary teacher to replace a teacher who is retiring. We did a lot of work in building maintenance, especially in asset protection. We also made several improvements in security upgrades in all buildings.

Last year was an extremely successful year. The Board of Education asked that a complete independent audit be conducted of special education. That audit was conducted over several months. The results of that audit I have described several times as a grand slam!

These are some of the conclusions: Our identification rate has been between 8.8-10% which is lower than our District Reference Group (DRG). On average, 10-12% of our students are exited from special education each year. Last school year, 80% of our students mastered all goals and 19% made satisfactory progress. That's a success rate of 99%! Over the last 4 years, 100% of our students with disabilities have graduated Wheeler. In addition, our costs to educate are below and in some cases well below, all schools that we are compared to in our DRG. The complete report can be found on our website at www.northstonington.k12.ct.us under the BOE tab.

PETER NERO, SUPERINTENDENT

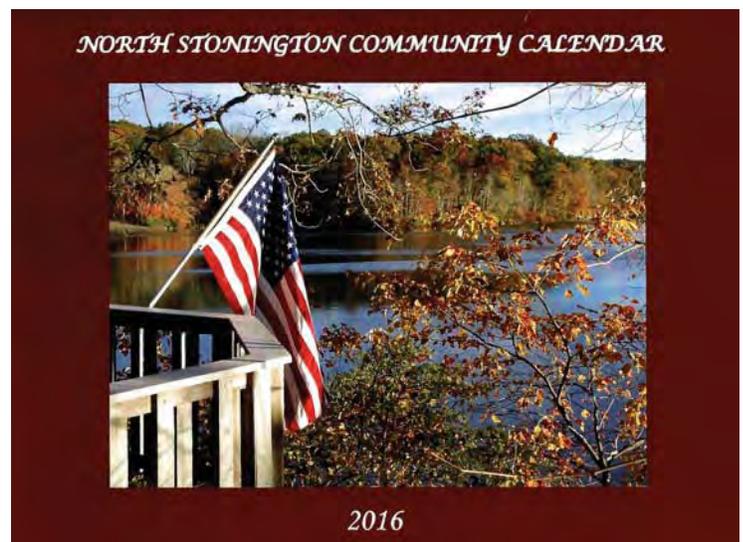
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

At long last, the Stewart Hill Preserve Trail is complete. This beautiful 25 acre town-owned property near the crest of Stewart Hill on Wyassup Road has winding trails through a canopy of oak, black birch, hickory and hemlock trees. The trail is stony in places, but where in our namesake town is it not? The property borders Pachaug Forest and North Stonington Citizen Land Alliance property to the west with plans afoot to connect our trail to the State's Blue Trails System a short distance away. Parking is on the east side of the road. This completes trails on four town-owned open space properties the Conservation Commission has developed the past few years; Billings Lake Preserve, Assekongk Borderlands Trail, Hangman Hill Preserve, and on Stewart Hill.

Our Commission has produced the 3rd annual North Stonington Community Calendar. It's available at the Library, Town Hall and selected businesses. This year's theme is "Flying the Flag" with all pictures of homes, businesses and municipal buildings that proudly fly our flag. It's a great stocking stuffer, remembrance for college students and friends who have moved away, as well as keeping your appointments organized. Almost immediately, we will be working on next year's calendar as fall pictures are needed. Let me know if you have a recommendation for a theme for 2017.

Need I say volunteers are welcomed? If you have time for a day of trail work or a desire to give back to your town through conservation efforts on our commission, please contact me. We meet on the 4th Thursday @ 6:00pm in the Town Hall conference room.

BILL RICKER, CHAIRMAN



NORTH STONINGTON VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, INC.

During the months of May/June/July, your volunteers at the North Stonington Volunteer Fire Company (NSVFC) responded to a total of 57 emergency 911 calls for "help". Of these calls: 5 were brush fires; 4 were assists to emergency medical service personnel; 15 were fire alarms; 14 were motor vehicle accidents (fatalities involved); 1 involved an extrication from a crashed vehicle; 3 involved structure fires; 4 involved remediation of spilled hazardous materials into the environment; 1 was mutual aid given to a neighboring fire department; 7 were responses to downed power lines; one was a service call; 1 was a response to a C/O detector alarm; and 1 was a vehicle fire.

The average number of volunteers responding to these 57 emergency calls was 16. 28 of these calls occurred during the daytime hours and 29 occurred during the nighttime. Your volunteers at NSVFD accumulated a total of 775 man-hours responding to these 57 emergency calls.

Our members also conducted a total of six training drills, in order to maintain their proficiencies while handling emergencies. These drills consisted of: tanker operations; brush fires; search and rescue; compliance (hazardous materials, breathing apparatus); mutual aid. Your volunteer firefighters accumulated an additional 196 man-hours while engaged in training and drills.

Join us at the Firehouse for our October 24th "Steak Dinner" and for the December 6th Holiday Tree Sale Event.

CHARLES STEINHART V, CHIEF

GARY BARON, PRESIDENT



Saturday, October 24th at 5:00 PM

The North Stonington Volunteer Fire Company

will host their first **"Steak Dinner"**, a fund raising event at the firehouse.

Enjoy a deliciously tender **Rib-Eye Steak**, baked potato with sour cream and butter, hot corn on the cob & a crisp mixed salad. Bring along your own favorite beverage; water will also be available.

Tickets are \$20.

Contact the fire house ((860-535-0937) or a volunteer firefighter for tickets.

NORTH STONINGTON CITIZENS LAND ALLIANCE, INC.

Where Do You fit?

Just look at the names of the many groups in town listed in this newsletter. Just look at the number of events and meetings that are taking place.

Are you a groupie? Or do you prefer to go solo? Or not at all? Each of us is lucky; we make our own personal choices about how we take part in North Stonington affairs.

Maybe we choose to be part of a group, with all those meetings, talking, and crowds. Or maybe we choose not to, and prefer to focus at our own pace and behind the scenes. Maybe it makes sense simply to read about what's going on in the newspapers.

No matter what your style, join The North Stonington Citizens Land Alliance, and we will help you find your environmental niche. Contact us soon: 860-599-5517, landalliance@gmail.com, or PO Box 327, NS..

NORTH STONINGTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The North Stonington Education Foundation will hold its **Annual Celebration of Excellence Dinner Dance** on Friday, October 23, 2015. The event will be held at the Stonington Country Club from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. Music for the dance will be provided by *Atlantic Avenue*. Tickets may be reserved in North Stonington at the Chelsea Groton Savings Bank, the Central Office of North Stonington Public Schools, or via the web at www.nsedfoundation.org. Tickets are \$75.00 per person and must be reserved by October 16, 2015. The dinner is one of three major fundraising events for the foundation. The NSEF to date has given \$137,000 in grants for innovative education programs in North Stonington.

The NSEF sponsors the Wheeler High School Distinguished Alumni Award. Nominations are now being accepted for 2016. The criteria for the award is that the candidate graduated ten or more years ago and has distinguished him or herself by making a positive contribution to society. Nomination forms may be obtained from Kristen St. Germain, Principal at Wheeler High School.

BERNARD "BING" BARTICK 860-389-0264 BBesail@aol.com

PLANNING AND ZONING OFFICIAL/LAND USE OFFICE

At the regular Planning and Zoning Commission meeting on September 10th, the Commission closed the public hearing in regards to the comprehensive Zoning Regulation revision. By direction of the Planning and Zoning Commission, Juliet Hodge, and attorney Mike Zizka, revised zoning regulations were presented for residential, commercial and industrial developments, simplifying the code language and conforming to the direction of the 2013 Plan of Conservation and Development. Many hours went into the revisions presented, both during regular meetings and in between. All of the Commissioners should be proud of the work they put into this extensive revision to serve the Town in an efficient and thoughtful manner.



A 2016 Calendar Picture

The Commission has also presented revised zoning map changes to correspond to the new zoning districts proposed within the zoning regulations, along with a proposed zoning border change that will correspond to property lot lines (as opposed to a certain distance from the centerline of the road). This change will eliminate lots with split zoning districts and, therefore, clarify any development and assessment issues.

The Commission will continue to meet on the 1st and 2nd Thursdays of the month. Consideration of the Zoning amendment and Zoning map changes will be entertained on Thursday October 8. No new information will be accepted as the public hearing is closed. The Proposed Zoning Regulations and Zoning Map are available for public view on the town's website (www.northstoningtonct.gov), at the Town Clerk's Office, and in the Land Use Department in the New Town Hall.

TOM ZANARINI, SENIOR PLANNING AND ZONING OFFICIAL

EMERGENCY SERVICES BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Emergency Services Building has evolved incredibly over the last few months. As most of you have probably seen, the phase 1 excavation portion of the project has been completed and the site is now ready to be built upon.

The committee went out to bid for the construction of the new facility in July with great response from vendors. Due to extenuating circumstances, some vendors were not able to arrive to the bid opening on time and we were unable to open their bids. It is because of this, and the committee's decision to add architectural upgrades to the building, that the original bids were rejected and the project will go back to bid in late September. At the opening of these bids, we hope to have all necessary information to be able to accurately acknowledge what the cost of construction of the new facility will be. The committee will keep the community informed as to our progress during this important time. We invite all to attend our meetings on Monday nights at 7:00pm at the firehouse.

MARK PERKINS JR., CHAIRMAN

HEWITT FARM

Fall is a wonderful time of year to enjoy the outdoors and the Hewitt Farm is a terrific place to do just that! In preparations for the September Harvest Festival at the farm, all hands worked together to spruce up this beautiful 100-acre town property. From the large "Green" across from the 1750 Farm House to the Community Garden area and all the trails, everything is in apple-pie order.

Plan to visit with your family, friends, dogs and/or horses. The picnic tables are still out, so you can enjoy a pleasant lunch near the pond or the gardens. Two new trails near the pond have been added to the 7 existing trails. The farm is open daily from dawn to dusk. Parking is available in two areas: just inside the Hewitt Road entrance off Route 2 or a quarter mile down Hewitt Road from Ryder Road, where there is a marked parking area. Trail maps are available at trailheads on the farm or on the town website (www.northstonington.gov). We hope to see you there.



NITA KINCAID, CO-CHAIR 860-235-1565 DICK COOPER, CO-CHAIR 860-535-0528

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Happy fall - Hunting, Trapping and Sport Fishing Licenses are valid for the calendar year, except pheasant tags, which are valid from October through February. Licenses and Permits to hunt, trap and fish are available online, at most town clerks offices, at some sporting goods stores, and DEEP offices. To buy licenses online, or for a listing of places that sell licenses, go to www.ct.gov/deep/hunting. Lost Licenses may be reprinted at the Town Clerk's Office or online. Fishing and trapping licenses are still issued free to residents 65 and older who meet hunter education requirements; these licenses must now be renewed annually.

The Municipal Election will be held on November 3, 2015 between the hours of 6:00 am to 8:00 pm in the New Town Hall Conference Room, 40 Main Street, North Stonington. A copy of the ballot is available in the Town Clerk's Office.

There are vacancies on some of the Boards and Commissions. If you are interested in volunteering to serve, contact the Town Clerks Office for information.

NORMA J HOLLIDAY, TOWN CLERK

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Well, here we are again; the beginning of another great year for the North Stonington school system. Why wouldn't it be a great year? Our track record shows that we operate at a high level and this is what the BOE has come to expect. Just look at last year's results: another Wheeler graduate is attending the Naval Academy this year. That makes a total of THREE at the Academy now (if you are counting and we are). Our NEASC visit went very well, as Wheeler received 105 commendations. We just received test results from last year's elementary SBAC exams and found that North Stonington Elementary School ranked #1 amongst comparison schools for grades 3 & 4. Our 10th graders at Wheeler had the highest test scores in science of all the schools to which we are compared and, most significantly, the 4th highest test scores for the entire state of Connecticut. This is further testament to our strong and dedicated faculty and staff at all of our schools. So, what's up for 2015-2016?

The Tri-Board continues to meet once a month and seems to be making progress. A new Ad Hoc School Building Committee has been appointed by the Board of Selectmen and has already started to meet. (They meet on the 2nd & 4th Mondays at the New Town Hall.) Our new security equipment is in place and working well, thanks to a security grant applied for and obtained by Superintendent Nero.

We have a beautifully refinished gym floor at the Gymnasium. The classrooms are spotless and repainted due to our custodians' hard work this summer. All systems are a go for a wonderful school year. So let the teachers teach, the thinkers think, and the athletes compete. Let the band play on and the chorus sing. HERE WE GO! Are you excited? I know the Board of Ed is.

BOB CARLSON, CHAIRMAN



NORTH STONINGTON PARENT TEACHERS ORGANIZATION

The NSPTO is in full swing with the start of the school year. We are busy getting ready for our first major event which will be our Fall Festival to be held at the Elementary School on Friday, October 30th from 5:30-9:30. It will be an exciting night with games, hay rides, food, live music, vendors, and so much more. Sponsors, vendors, pumpkin carvers, and baking contest entries are still needed for the event; please contact us if you would like to be involved.

Thanks to all of you who support the NSPTO, we are already funding some great programs at the school this year including BRAINPOP subscription, reptile programs, a new teacher fund, weekly reader subscriptions, and the third grade residency program.

Save the date for Thursday, November 19th for an important parent informational meeting about empowering smart online choices, with Scott Driscoll. The event is free and open to all at the Wheeler High School from 7:00-8:30. We will keep it going with the help from you!!!!

EMILY LEWIS, NSPTO PRESIDENT

EMILY.LEWIS41@GMAIL.COM

NORTH STONINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

CT adopted the Common Core Standards in 2010 and, since then, the North Stonington Elementary School faculty have been working to align the curriculum and enhance instructional models. Now known as the CT Core Standards (CCS), the implementation has led to success in learning and achievement. Our last year's 3rd graders have received instruction based on the CCS since kindergarten, the 4th graders since grade one, and our 5th graders began CCS instruction in grade 4. Due to the efforts of the entire school community, great success was demonstrated by our students on the first Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium (SBAC). See the table below.

Grade	# of Students	English/Language Arts Students at goal or above	Math Students at goal or above
3	51	88.2%	92.2%
4	62	85.5%	91.9%
5	60	73.3%	53.3%

Students in grades 3 and 4 demonstrated the highest scores in the state for math.

We ask the community to support our school by registering 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 November 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

The trees are beginning to turn and it's time to put gardens to bed for winter. NSGC members will be meeting in October for the Annual Dinner where we will celebrate accomplishments during 2015. At this event we'll recognize those who have worked hard on garden club projects, such as maintenance of the Village Green and Town Hall gardens; another successful annual plant sale that supports our many programs and donations; and our involvement in organizing the Harvest Festival at the Hewitt Farm this year.

We are looking forward to our Christmas wreath-making at the very beginning of December. Decorating wreaths for all the town buildings is one of our most popular activities. Be sure to drive through the village on the first weekend in December to enjoy the results!

We are an active group of hands-on gardeners. If you'd like to learn more about joining the club, please contact us.

NITA KINCAID, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

860-535-1416



State of Connecticut
Official Ballot



North Stonington, Connecticut

Municipal
Election

November 3, 2015

District
1

TURN BALLOT OVER AND VOTE BOTH SIDES

Be sure to read instructions to vote.

OFFICE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
PARTY	1A	2A	3A	4A	5A	6A	7A	8A	9A	10A	11A
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	1B	2B	3B	4B	5B	6B	7B	8B	9B	10B	11B
REPUBLICAN PARTY	1C	2C	3C	4C	5C	6C	7C	8C	9C	10C	11C
PETITIONING CANDIDATE	1D	2D	3D	4D	5D	6D	7D	8D	9D	10D	11D
WRITE-IN VOTES											

State of Connecticut
Official Ballot

North Stonington, Connecticut

November 3, 2015

District
1

Municipal
Election



TURN BALLOT OVER AND VOTE BOTH SIDES

Be sure to read instructions to vote.

	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
OFFICE →	Economic Development Commission Full Term Vote for Any Two		Economic Development Commission To Fill Vacancy for Two Years Vote for One	Economic Development Commission Alternates Vote for One	Planning and Zoning Commission Full Term Vote for Any Two	Planning and Zoning Commission Alternate Full Term Vote for One	Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals Full Term Vote for One	Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate Vote for Any Three			
PARTY →	12A David C. Isom	13A Brett Louis Mastroianni	14A	15A George M. Tattersall	16A Wayne M. Wilkinson	17A Ann C. Brown	18A Priscilla A. Lewis	19A James Edward Lord	20A Anne M. Nelson	21A Amy Jean Kimball	22A
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
REPUBLICAN PARTY	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
PETITIONING CANDIDATE	12C	13C	14C	15C	16C	17C	18C	19C	20C	21C	22C
WRITE-IN VOTES	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

WHEELER HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL

We are off to another promising year at Wheeler! Students are hard at work in their classes and in their extracurricular activities, participating in a variety of new clubs and programs. We are continuing to expand our Farm and Garden program, and this year our high school tech students are hard at work designing and building a chicken coop so we can begin to hatch and study chicks in our middle school science classes. Our high school Forestry students are also busy creating hydroponic lettuce towers in our greenhouse which will be fertilized by tilapia. Our Science programs continue to expose our students to real life science and math application, which in turn has given our school some of the best CAPT scores in the state.



In an effort to tighten up security at Wheeler, all of our students now carry security badges to allow them access between our existing buildings, and with the help of our generous PTO, we will be offering a social media presentation for our parents on November 19th at 7pm.

Finally, our drama department will be performing *A Christmas Carol* beginning Friday, December 18th through Sunday, December 21st. Come get into the holiday spirit - Wheeler style!

Our parent teacher conferences will take place on Wednesday, November 4th and Thursday, November 5th.

KRISTEN ST. GERMAIN, PRINCIPAL

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, and the needs of our grounds and upkeep, and then we have a program. Often we have guest speakers on varying interests, as well as committee programs.

We have had a busy summer as we awarded a scholarship to a high school senior, made bat houses for the Hewitt Farm property, and co-sponsored the Annual Agricultural Fair with the Volunteer Fire Company. We provided food booth services for the 4-H fair and the dog show. We are currently ordering dictionaries for each of the children in the various 3rd grades in North Stonington.

ALL are welcome to come. Our upcoming schedule has our Legislative Chair providing our October 9th meeting at 8:00; October 25th is our Halloween party, with costume parades and games for a scary good time, beginning at 7:30 pm; November 13th, Sherri Boldt will bring her therapy dog for us to meet at 8:00; and December 11th is our annual Christmas party and program at 7:30. If you come, bring a gift for each child for Santa's sack!

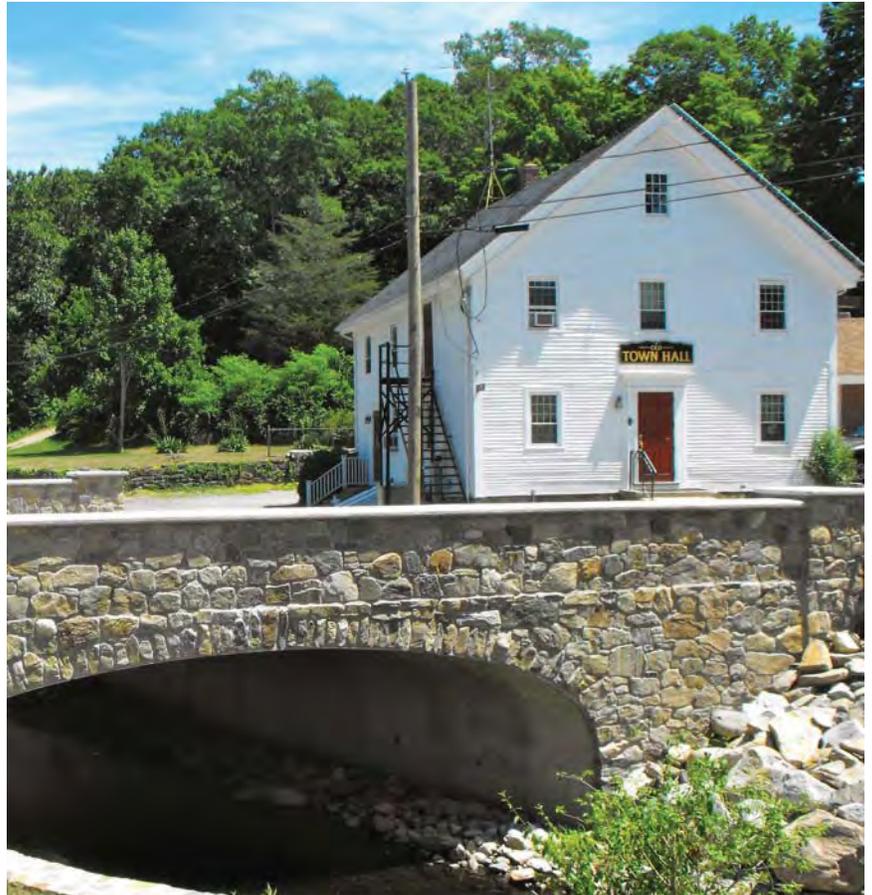
SUE PIANKA, PROGRAM DIRECTOR



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The Economic Development Commission held a successful open house to officially open the Economic Development Coordinator's office; future EDC meetings are expected to be held there. The redesign of the EDC website is nearly complete. The new design is intended to provide current information about doing business in North Stonington, including a list of available commercial sites, in an up-to-date format. Along with the website, the Commission has created a Facebook page to highlight business news and local events; the direct link to the page is www.facebook.com/nostoedc.

The EDC Coordinator regularly fields inquiries from prospective business owners considering relocation to the town. Other ongoing development activity includes the groundbreaking ceremony for Jovial Foods at the Randall's Ordinary property. Quinlan Enterprises (the former Fisher Controls facility) is preparing for a new tenant in October; some manufacturing and office space is still available.



BRETT MASTROIANNI, CHAIRMAN

SAM EISENBEISER, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

BOARD OF FINANCE

July 1st started the fiscal year 2015-2016 budget. Copies of the current budget are available at the Town Hall and can be viewed on the Town website, www.northstonington.ct.gov. The 2014-2015 budget year had its final closeout presented to the Board of Finance, by the Selectman, during the August 26 meeting of the Board of Finance.

During the month of October the Town's auditor will be auditing the 2014-2015 fiscal year budget. They will present their final report to the Board of Finance during an upcoming Board of Finance meeting in the October - November timeframe.

The role of the Board of Finance is to act as an oversight body to maintain fiscal discipline. The fiscal stability of the Town is paramount to meeting current obligations, to be prepared for the unforeseen, and to position the Town for future opportunities benefiting the community. The Board's meeting schedule is posted on the Town website; meetings are held at the New Town Hall. The public is encouraged to attend these meetings and to become apprised of the Board's proceedings in meeting its obligations to the Town.

TIM MAIN, ACTING CHAIRMAN

NORTH STONINGTON AGRICULTURAL FAIR

Thank you to all of the hard working Volunteers who made the 2015 North Stonington Agriculture Fair a success! With this year's event behind us, we are already in the planning stages for the 2016 Fair. Although the fair is sponsored by the Grange and Fire Company, its membership is open to all interested individuals and families.

Now is a great time to join our meetings and see what it takes to organize such a great community event. We are always looking for community members to assist in many aspects of the fair; from setting up the grounds, advertising, marketing, new ideas and events, parking, grounds maintenance and any other interest you may have.

We welcome you to attend our meetings, held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month (7pm) at the Grange Hall on the fairgrounds. We look forward to planning next year's Fair and hope to see the great support of our Community. Have a safe and warm winter.

Contact us at pineneedlhomestead@sbcglobal.net if you would like any further information on becoming a member, or how you may be able to help our fair.



JODY WHIPPLE

PINENEEDLHOMESTEAD@SBCGLOBAL.NET

860-599-8498

NORTH STONINGTON AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE

The Affordable Housing Committee continues to work toward increasing the number of affordable (workforce) housing in our town. What is affordability? The US Department of Housing and Urban Development defines affordability as the monthly housing cost being no more than 30% of the gross monthly household income. HUD has determined the Area Median Income (AMI) in our area as \$84,600. The NS Affordable Housing Committee is aiming to make housing affordable for families with a household income from 80%-120% of AMI. That means a family of four earning between \$63,900 (80% level) and \$94,752 (120% level) would qualify for deed restricted affordable housing. These are our working neighbors.

The committee is working toward a town ordinance that would have property tax levied at the selling price of deed restricted property rather than the assessed value; this is essential to keep the housing cost within the 30% gross monthly household income guideline. With an ordinance in place, each deeded affordable property would not have to go to the Assessment Board of Appeals to get the tax adjustment; the assessor would make the adjustment pursuant to the authority granted in section 8-215 of the Ct. General Statutes.

The Housing Rehabilitation Small Cities Grant to our town still has money available for needed home repairs for income-qualified homeowners. One neighbor who is taking advantage of the program said "This is too good to be true". It is true: - 0% loans that need not be repaid until the home changes title (is sold). Interested? Call Tom Zanarini at 860-535-2877 ex. 26, or Lisa Low and Associates at 203-888-5624. For applications on-line, visit the Town website at www.northstoningtonct.gov.

MARY ANN RICKER, CO-CHAIR

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Personal Property Declarations

A reminder: by November 2, 2015, all personal property declarations are due back to the Assessor's Office by 4:00 pm. There is a 25% penalty for failure to file, including filing for horses. Horses have a \$1,000 exemption ONLY if you file the declaration form. If you do not file, you do not receive the exemption.

Farmers must file for their exemption on buildings and equipment before October 31st. Note the earlier date.

Revaluation

The revaluation of all real estate is progressing. Notice of your new assessment should be in the mail before December 1st. The company, Vision Government Solutions, will be holding hearings for all homeowners who wish to discuss their assessments. Remember you must file before February 20th, 2016 if you wish to have a hearing by the Board of Assessment Appeals. Hearings by the Board of Assessment Appeals will be held in the month of March, 2016.

Farm and Forestry Applications

New farm and forestry applications must be filed before December 31st for the October 1, 2015 Grand List. Since this is a revaluation year, you have this extra time to file. Next year the deadline for filing reverts back to November 1st.

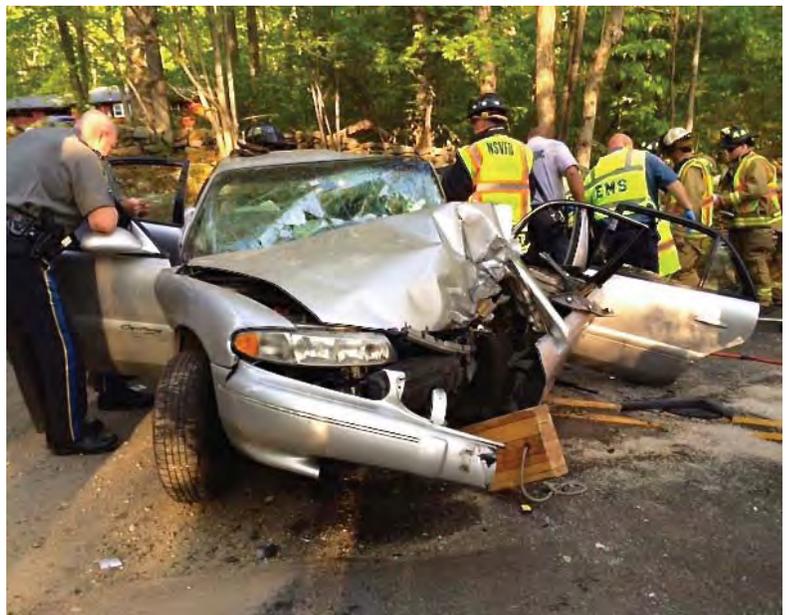
DARRYL L. DEL GROSSO (860-535-2877 ext.23 or 24)

RESIDENT STATE TROOPERS

The Connecticut State Police Resident State Troopers, along with Troopers from Troop-E in Montville, patrol the fifty-five square miles and eighty plus roads in the town of North Stonington.

The statistics for a three month period for June, July and August, 2015 for the town of North Stonington are as follows: Troopers had 1738 calls for service, including 39 motor vehicle accidents, 1 fatal motor vehicle accident, 1 DUI arrest and 9 narcotic arrests. Troopers investigated 39 criminal cases, to include: Burglaries, Larcenies, Assaults, Domestics, Criminal Mischief and Breach of Peace. Troopers wrote 640 tickets on town and state roads during this period.

The Connecticut State Police would like to remind everyone that school is in session and to drive slow and use caution. Resident State Troopers will be taking finger prints at the Old Town Hall, from the parents of the children who attend North Stonington Public and Private Schools. The schedule is as follows: 10/13 (9am-12pm), 10/15 (5pm-8pm), 11/12 (5pm-8pm), and 11/16 (9am-12pm).



The Resident State Trooper's office is located at 40 Main St. on the second floor of the Old Town Hall. The contact number for an emergency call (911); for all other calls dial (860-848-6500) and the number (7) to reach Troop E dispatch

WHEELER LIBRARY

Join us this fall for kids' fun including yoga, paint 'n play, and story time. We've also got new book clubs, and a series of great talks presented by the Friends: New England: Outdoors. On Thursday, October 8th at 7pm Karrie (McGowan) Schwab, a North Stonington native, will talk about her work for the US Fish and Wildlife Service. She is currently working at the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge in Maine.

Our new Boys Book Club (grades 3 to 5) meets monthly, after school, beginning October 22nd. This fall, we're reading Where the Red Fern Grows and designing a walking stick and mobile/chime. Sign up and borrow the book from the library.

The Mother/Daughter Book Club meets monthly on Thursday evenings, and we're beginning a Cookbook Club which will meet once a month on Monday nights to enjoy recipes from a different cookbook each month. Kylie Garcia's Girl Scout Gold Award Project "Crafting Connections", which brings seniors and young students together after school, also begins this month and continues all year.

Details on all our events can be found at wheelerlibrary.org.

Please look for our Annual Appeal letter in your mailbox.

We need your help to meet our operating budget and keep the Wheeler Library a thriving center for the whole community to enjoy; books are just the beginning of what the library means to the town of North Stonington.

AMY KENNEDY 860-535-0383



ANIMAL CONTROL

Hello everyone! This summer has certainly flown by and Karcher and I hope that everyone had a safe and happy one. We have been keeping quite busy with calls and have very much enjoyed meeting and working with members of the community with their animal control needs.

For those of you who don't know, we created a facebook page early in the summer, which has been extremely helpful these past few months in reuniting pets with their owners as well as finding good homes for animals in need. It is also a great way to keep the community aware of any concerns or announcements regarding Animal Control. We could not have been so successful without the help of our facebook friends sharing and networking. We want to send out a great big thank you for taking time out of your busy days to do so. If you have not already done so, we invite and encourage you to like the North Stonington Animal Control facebook page. Just a reminder to please not use this page to file complaints or concerns. Please call us at 860-287-2197 with any reports or questions you may have and we would be happy to address them for you.

Also a quick reminder for those of you who have recently gotten a dog, or for residents who have not renewed their dog licenses this past June, please come down to the town hall with a current rabies certificate and we will issue a current license. This helps us to contact you if we find your lost dog and also to make sure your pets are current on their rabies vaccines. Our primary goal is to increase compliance, not to enforce it. Thank you for all your support.

KRYSTIN MAINE & KARCHER DESHEFY

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS

FALL EVENTS



October					
8	THURSDAY	7 pm	Wheeler Library	New England Outdoors: National Wildlife Refuge	Page 14
23	FRIDAY	7 - 11 pm	Stonington Country Club	NSEF Annual Celebration of Excellence Dinner Dance	Page 4
24	SATURDAY	5 pm	NS Firehouse	NSVFC Steak Dinner	Page 3
25	SUNDAY	7:30 pm	NS Grange	Halloween Party	Page 10
26	MONDAY	7 pm	Wheeler Library	New England Outdoors: Mark Starr, The Last Trap Fisherman in RI	Page 14
30	FRIDAY	5:30-9:30 pm	Elementary School	NSPTO Fall Festival	Page 6
November					
2	MONDAY	6 pm	Elementary School	NSPTO Movie Night	Page 6
3	TUESDAY	6 am-8 pm	New Town Hall	Municipal Election	Page 5
10	TUESDAY	8:30 am	Elementary School	Veteran's Day Breakfast & Assembly	Page 7
13	FRIDAY	8 pm	NS Grange	Sherri Boldt & Her Therapy Dog	Page 10
19	THURSDAY	7-8:30 pm	Wheeler High Media Center.	Social Media Presentation for Parents	Page 10
18-21	WEDS.-SAT.	Times vary daily	Wheeler Library	Friends Book Sale	Page 14
December					
4	FRIDAY	5:30-8:30 pm	Elementary School	NSPTO Holiday Carnival	Page 7
5	SATURDAY	9am-6pm	NS Firehouse	Holiday Tree Sale Event	Page 3
6	SUNDAY	4:30-6pm	Wheeler Library	Holiday Open House	Page 14
6	SUNDAY	6 pm	Village Green	Town Tree Lighting & Caroling	
18-20	FRI.-SUN.	2 & 7 pm-SAT. 7 pm-FRI & SUN	Wheeler Gymatorium	Wheeler Drama Department A Christmas Carol	Page 10

NOVEMBER 3RD IS AN IMPORTANT DAY!

Your vote is your voice. Be heard!

Our Municipal Election will be held at the New Town Hall on Tuesday, November 3rd (6 am – 8: pm). There is no election that has a more direct impact on our community and daily lives than our local municipal election. The seats we elect to fill on the various Boards and Commissions guide the direction of our town. Consider what direction you would like to see our town go and choose which candidates you feel will help bring us there. We have included the final copy of the 2015 North Stonington “Official Ballot” on pages 8 & 9.

Nita Kincaid & Lisa Mazzella, Quarterly Editors

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Wheeler High School print shop.**

**Their support makes it possible for us to
produce The North Stonington Quarterly.**

Town Of North Stonington
40 Main Street
North Stonington, CT 06359

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