

BOARDS OF EDUCATION, SELECTMEN AND FINANCE WORKING TOGETHER ON SCHOOL FACILITIES MODERNIZATION

Educational upgrades, facility improvements, building code compliance, security, maintenance, and energy efficiency – these are the many facets of the School Facilities Modernization effort. An effort being worked jointly between the Boards of Education, Selectmen and Finance to address the educational needs of the children and community needs of the Town. In an attempt at a new approach, the three Boards are meeting regularly in joint special “working” level meetings, utilizing a facilitator to develop solutions.

The next Joint Special Meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, March 28, 2015 at 9:00 am** in the North Stonington High School Media Center. An open house of the school science labs is planned as part of this month’s discussion about facility needs. The public is welcome to attend.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Here comes the Sun! Record cold and snowfalls may have slowed activities in Town this winter, but Spring promises the opportunity for renewed energy to be applied to infrastructure issues. Look for completion of the Hewitt dam repair. The metal bridge was in place before the heaviest of the snow hit, but work was suspended until warmer weather could allow the remaining stonework to be completed. And progress continues on the new Emergency Services Building. With authorization to proceed on developing the construction documents issued in February, bid documents should soon be ready for release.

April is high budget season for Connecticut towns and North Stonington is no exception. Check out the Town website (www.northstoningtonct.gov) for the Budget Homepage. There you will find the schedule of budget presentations and hearings as we move forward to the Annual Town Meeting where the final budget is decided – either at the meeting or recessed to a referendum. Either way, it is the purest example of democracy in our country.

Economic recovery is slow to come to New England, but, not unlike Spring, there are hints of renewal appearing in Town. As we continue to deploy the updated Plan of Conservation and Development, there are several areas which need citizen involvement to nurture those hints. If you would like an opportunity to participate in civic activities, whether it be working on economic development, affordable housing, conservation or, perhaps communications - consider volunteering! Please contact the First Selectman’s office to learn more about how you can help.



SELECTMEN 860-535-2877 Ext.10 SELECTMEN@NORTHSTONINGTONCT.GOV

NORTH STONINGTON LIONS CLUB

Our motto is 'We Serve' and spring is the time for service for the North Stonington Lions Club. In early April we will conduct vision screenings for many common childhood eye abnormalities for the Pre-K and Kindergarten at the North Stonington Elementary School.

On Saturday April 18th, in partnership with the Wheeler Library, we will hold a 'Shredding Day' from 9:00 am to Noon at the Wheeler Library. Members of the community are invited to bring their papers and confidential documents to be shredded. We will also have a food tent if you'd like to have something to eat as you watch your items get shredded.



The annual North Stonington Memorial Day Parade will be on Monday May 25th. This is the 49th year that the North Stonington Lions Club has sponsored and organized the parade and memorial service. The parade steps off at 10:00 a.m., marches through the downtown streets and ends at the Wheeler Middle School where we hold a short memorial ceremony honoring the men and women who have served and died for our country in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Our annual Town Solicitation is underway. Your financial gifts help us to continue to serve and support the many organizations in our community and across the globe.

TOM ADAMS northstoningtonlions@yahoo.com

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

The Planning and Zoning Commission is working diligently to complete the Zoning Regulation revisions, which should be finished by April 2015. Once the revisions are done they will be presented for public review and comments. This completes one of the highest priority needs, as identified in the Plan of Conservation and Development approved in December 2013. Juliet Hodge is working on a contract basis to complete the revisions as directed by the PZC. The Planning and Zoning Commission would like to recognize Juliet for the continued hard work that she has dedicated to the Town of North Stonington.

The new EMS facility on Rocky Hollow Road has commenced construction, but, as many projects, has been temporarily delayed due to the extreme weather.

Plans have been filed for recordation for the new wholesale distribution center at former Randall's Ordinary site. A building permit application should be forthcoming in the next few months.

Zoning Enforcement has also been affected by the inordinate amount of snow this season. You should expect normal enforcement patterns to continue after the first week in March. If you have any zoning enforcement concerns, please contact Tom Zanarini, SPZEO at 860-535-2877.

As always, the Planning and Zoning Commission meets on the 1st and 2nd Thursdays of the month at 7:00pm at the New Town Hall. All citizens of North Stonington are encouraged to attend.

LOU STEINBRECHER, CHAIRMAN

NORTH STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Central Administration has been working on the 2015-2016 budget, technically, since last July. Even as we develop next year's budget we have an eye already on 2016-2017. As Superintendent, I have been presenting my budget to the Board of Education. I began in February, at which time over a series of meetings they may accept it or amend it as they see fit. It will then be presented to the Board of Finance (BOF) for review prior to a town meeting. Last year, the BOF requested that our budget be level-funded from the previous year's budget, which it was. As early as last June, the BOF asked us to do the same for the 2015-2016 budget. It is the district's mission to accomplish that goal.

At a recent meeting I was asked how we will accomplish that task and provide a quality education. To summarize, I answered in the following manner:

When developing my budget, I base it on a form of a "zero-based" budget. Quite simply, I ask my administrators and department heads to provide a budget that includes essentially everything necessary to make our teachers and students successful and to keep our buildings and grounds in good condition. You may ask how can you do that and still have a net increase of 0%. We have done it in a few ways. We are fortunate that our teachers, administrators and non-certified staff recognized the difficult economic conditions and agreed to changes in healthcare with the agreement to move to a High Deductible Health Plan. That reduced the cost of each plan by several thousand dollars. In addition, the district became part of a healthcare consortium two years ago. Instead of purchasing healthcare alone, we are part of a group of nearly 1,000 members which gives us greater purchasing power and lower healthcare insurance rates.

Finally, we have been vigilant in obtaining grant funds within the last year and a half. We have received grants totaling \$222 thousand, of which the state has reimbursed the district 42% for computers and upgrades to our security system. Most recently, we submitted another grant request for \$93 thousand to install new fiber-optic cables which will allow us to bifurcate our present system, separating administrative computer operations from instructional operations. As always, my door is open to anyone who has a question regarding the budget.

PETER NERO, SUPERINTENDENT



RESIDENT STATE TROOPERS



The Connecticut State Police utilize the Resident State Troopers Program in the town of North Stonington. This program allows municipalities to contract with the state for police services. The Resident State Police provide the town with all of the services the Connecticut State Police have, including the Criminal Investigative Unit, Canine Unit and Emergency Service Unit. The 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 North Stonington Resident Troopers are Trooper First Class David Abely, Trooper First Class David Greene and Trooper First Class Timothy Donahue.

The North Stonington Resident State Troopers conduct criminal investigations, motor vehicle accident investigations and administrative services for the community. They run several DUI spot checks throughout the year and also participate in several town and school events.

The statistics for the three-month period of October, November and December 2014 for North Stonington are as follows: Troopers had 2666 calls for service, including 42 motor vehicle accidents and 4 DUI arrests. There were 50 criminal cases investigated, which included: Burglaries, Larcenies, Stolen motor vehicles, Criminal Mischief, Breach of Peace and Drug arrest. Troopers wrote 635 tickets on town and state roads during the period.

The Connecticut State Police and the Resident Troopers would like to remind everyone that, during inclement weather, drive slow and use caution. We would also like to remind everyone in town to lock your doors and windows when you are not at home; leave a light on and report any suspicious activity that you may witness.

The contact numbers for town residents are as follows: to report an emergency call 911, for all other calls dial 860-848-6500 and then number 7 to reach Troop E dispatch. The Resident Troopers' office is located at 40 Main St. on the second floor of the Town Hall

NORTH STONINGTON PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

It's hard to believe the school year is almost over and that the summer months will soon be here. Before they are, the NSPTO still has lots happening, including two exciting events. On Friday, April 24th we will host our first *Glow in the Night - A Family Dance Party*. On Saturday, May 2nd, our Spring Festival will take place at the Elementary School. More information will be available closer to the events.

We would like to take this time to thank our countless volunteers that make all of these events possible and to invite you to be part of our group. For more information please contact Emily Lewis at emily.lewis41@gmail.com.

EMILY LEWIS, NSPTO PRESIDENT

NORTH STONINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

North Stonington Elementary School continues to provide enrichment opportunities for our students. On February 26th, the fourth annual Family Science Night was held with the theme, Mixing It Up with Chemistry. Hundreds of students and their families had fun with science with the many hands-on experiments in the Candy Shop, as well as making slime, solving mysteries, working with magnets, measuring and much, much more! Thank you to the student, parent and teacher volunteers who spent the evening providing exciting opportunities with science and to the NSPTO and Pfizer for their financial support. The entire school community is so grateful to Jen Raggon for organizing and planning the event. We have many future scientists thanks to our Family Science Nights!

Our second trimester ended and report cards were sent home on March 18th. Parent/Teacher conferences were held on March 19th and 20th. A strong partnership between the school and home will lead to student confidence and success. We always look forward to seeing all of our families at the conferences.

In May, students in grades 3 – 5 will be taking the Smarter Balanced Assessment in Language Arts and Math. Instruction is now based on the CT Core Standards which is supporting our students' readiness for the assessment.

Thank you to all for the continued support of our students and school.

VERONICA WILKISON, PRINCIPAL

SPRING AT HEWITT FARM

After our record-breaking winter, it's now time to enjoy the many pleasures of spring. Come to Hewitt Farm for a leisurely walk or brisk hike on any of the six trails. Explore the forests, fields, wetlands and streams. Keep your eyes open for the many birds that are returning to our area at this time of year and watch for the lovely spring wildflowers, too. From April onward, don't miss stopping by the Community Garden plots to see the new plantings in progress. And, on Sunday, June 7th at 1:00 pm, why not join us at the end of Hewitt Road for a special Bicentennial Trail Walk during the CT Trails Day Weekend!

The Hewitt Farm Committee is particularly excited this year about the long-awaited Hewitt Dam restoration. It is nearing completion, so be sure to visit that area to view the finishing touches being applied. Plans are already underway to celebrate this with a 2015 North Stonington Harvest Festival at the farm on Saturday, September 26th. All are invited, so please mark your calendar now and we'll provide details in the next NSQ.

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 ¼ mile down Hewitt Road from Ryder Road. Download the Hewitt Farm Trail Map from the town website (www.northstoningtonct.gov) or pick one up at any of the trailheads.



CO-CHAIRS: DICK COOPER (860-535-0528) & NITA KINCAID (windstonenita@sbcglobal.net)

BOARD OF EDUCATION

As the superintendent stated in his article, the Board of Education will again be working with a level-funded budget. While looking at areas where we may be able to reduce our expenses, we also want to support all of the grants that we were so fortunate to obtain.

I am excited to report that we have started to have discussions with the town of Preston to develop a list of shared services. The sharing of services would help both towns in managing expenses. We also are hoping that a byproduct of these meetings will result in the naming of Wheeler as a school of choice for Preston students. This action would help reverse the recent trend of declining enrollment without adding expense to our district. The additional students would also produce a new revenue stream to our town.

The Board of Education meets on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month in the band room at the Gymnasium. Please stop by for addition information on any of the above topics.

BOB CARLSON, ACTING CHAIRMAN

EMERGENCY SERVICES BUILDING COMMITTEE

Much has happened since our last submission on the new building. As I'm sure most of you are aware, we have begun the clearing and excavation portion of the project. There is an estimated 50,000 cubic yards of material to be excavated off the site; the process is expected to take until June.

The Board of Selectmen has given our committee permission to proceed to construction documents, which will allow us to go out to bid for the construction of the new building by mid July. The committee is actively finalizing floor plans and detailed specifics of the building, which needs to be included in the construction documents. Our hope is to begin construction of the new facility by late summer.

As always, we invite the public to attend our meetings. With your help, we can build a building that will take our emergency services into the distant future. Meetings are held every Monday at 7pm at the Firehouse.

MARK PERKINS JR., CHAIRMAN

NORTH STONINGTON SENIOR CENTER

We are open Monday through Friday, from 9:30am-2:30pm. On the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Wednesday of each month, lunch is served at 12:00. The cost for lunch is \$4. Please call by the prior Friday for a reservation.

The AARP 55 Alive driving class will be held on Wednesday, April 8th. Please call if you wish to sign up for this.

The Senior Center offers many activities: Mondays at 10am, Wii Bowling and from 1pm-2pm, Tai chi; Tuesdays from 10am-3pm, Quilting; Thursdays at 10am, Gentle Chair Yoga and at 1pm, Quilting; Fridays at 9:30am, Art class. In addition, on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 11:30am, the Visiting Nurse will take your blood pressure.

TERESA A. PENSIS, SENIOR CENTER COORDINATOR

860-535-8188

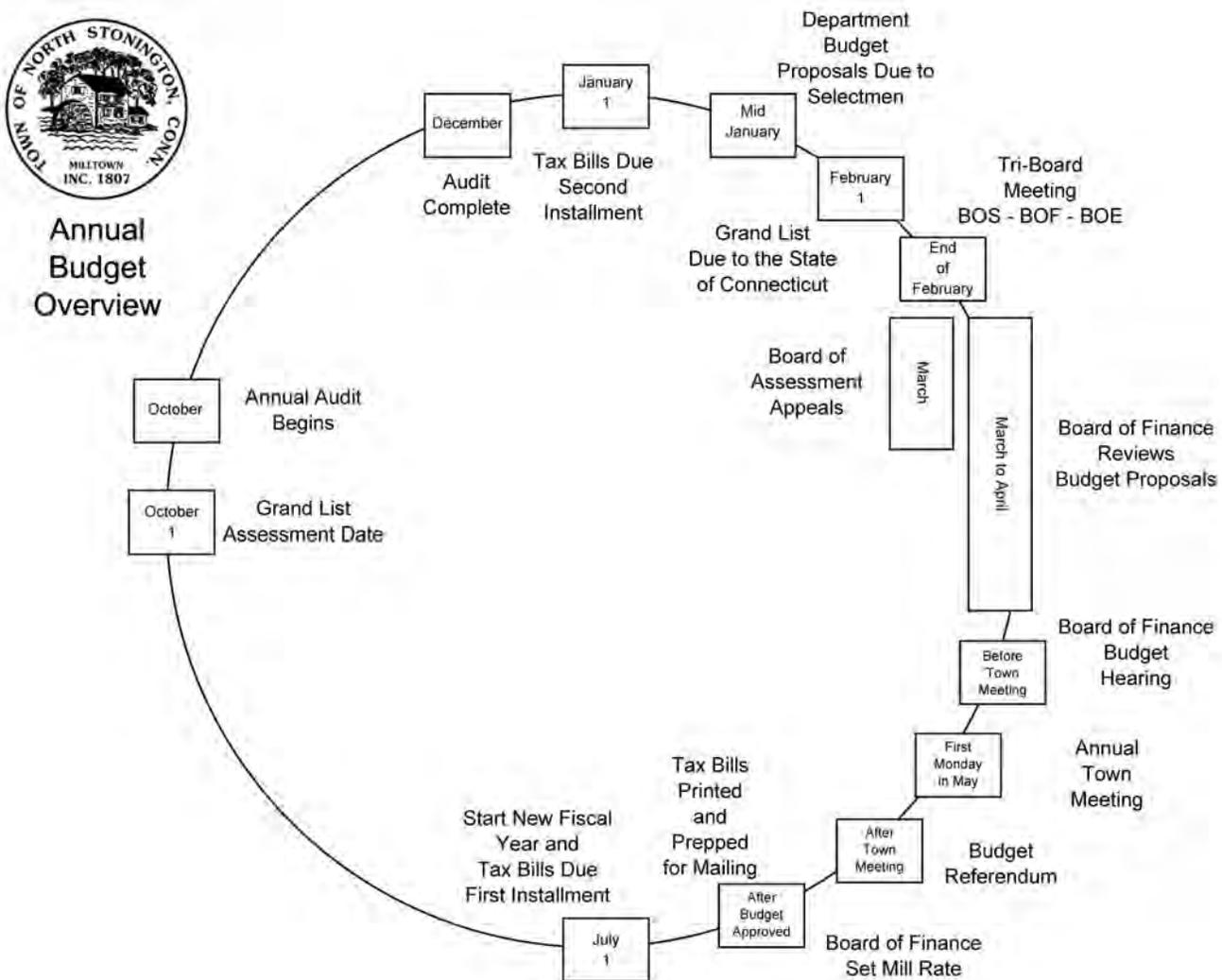


BOARD OF FINANCE

With the onset of March 2015, the Board of Finance is in full swing in preparing the budget proposal for the Town of North Stonington, fiscal year 2015-2016. For the next couple of months, the Board of Finance will be meeting every Wednesday evening at the New Town Hall at 7:30pm.

At each meeting, issues will be debated, requests vetted, estimates reviewed and presentations made by boards, commissions and committees. The first of these that has happened was the submission of the Town Assessor, as to the status of the Town's Grand List. The Grand List demonstrated a modest gain over the previous year. The Board of Selectman will follow with their presentation and after them the Board of Education. The work of the Board of Finance ultimately will be brought to the Town in the late April and early May timeframe. These meetings are open to the public.

DAN SPRING, CHAIRMAN



NORTH STONINGTON VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, INC



During the months of December and January, your volunteers at the North Stonington Volunteer Fire Company (NSVFC) responded to 36 emergency 911 calls for help. Of these calls, 5 were alarm activations; 3 were brush fires; 1 was a car fire; 5 were assists to North Stonington ambulance crews; 2 were hazardous material situations; 10 were motor vehicle accidents (some with personal injuries); 1 was a rescue; 2 were service calls; 3 were structure fire-type responses and 4 were mutual aid assistance responses to the fire departments of Old Mystic, Wequetquock, Pawcatuck and Dunn's Corner.

Your volunteers expended a total of 435 man-hours while handling these 36 emergency calls; an average of 16 volunteers responded. Of the 36 emergency calls, 15 occurred during the daytime and 21 occurred during the nighttime.

NSVFC members also conducted a total of 5 training drills in order to maintain their proficiencies when handling emergencies. These drills consisted of: hazardous materials, ropes/rigging and confined spaces, breathing apparatus, measuring dangerous gasses and highway safety. Members expended an additional 315 man-hours while engaged in drills and training.

GARY BARON, PRESIDENT

AVALONIA LAND CONSERVANCY

Avalonia Land Conservancy, the land trust preserving open space in 9 southeastern Connecticut towns, has 596 acres in North Stonington. There are 7 properties in town with trails available to the public. Trail maps are available at the library or at www.avalonialandconservancy.org. Also, at the library, you will find the booklet for CT Trails Day Weekend. North Stonington has multiple activities listed, including an Avalonia guided walk on Saturday, June 6th, 10am at the Teffitweald property on Grindstone Hill Road.

On April 18, at 10:00 am, all are welcome to join us for a memorial to Adele Erisman, who donated the 62 acre Erisman Woodlands in North Stonington. We will meet at this Avalonia property on Reutemann Road and will honor Adele with a walk and work party, as was her wish.

Avalonia re-instituted its annual potluck dinner on March 14. Put it on your calendar for next year.

Interested in Avalonia's North Stonington Town Committee? Call Pat Turner, 860-535-1541.



Bruce Fellman

WHEELER HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL

During these cold winter months, teachers at Wheeler have remained hard at work preparing their budgets for the 2015-2016 school year. Faculty members met with grade level colleagues and department members to ensure budget decisions were made cohesively and efficiently. They are also continuing curriculum work as we transition to the Core Standards.

Middle and high school students will participate in statewide standardized testing over the next few months. CMT and CAPT tests will be administered in the content area of Science in grades 6, 8 and 10. Smarter Balanced testing will be given to all middle school students in grades 6-8 and grade 11 in the areas of Mathematics and English Language Arts.

Course descriptions, class placements and scheduling for high school next year are underway. During this collaborative process, students are given ample time to meet with guidance counselors and teachers to ensure proper course choices and placements.

In the Wheeler athletic department, both the high school boys' and girls' basketball teams will compete in the Class S state tournament this year! A huge shout out to Jacob Raggon, who eclipsed the 1,000-point mark this year as a senior. Jake was also named ECC Player of the Month for January! Congratulations to our middle school boys' basketball team who won their conference title too!

KRISTEN ST. GERMAIN, PRINCIPAL

NORTH STONINGTON GARDEN CLUB

Don't miss the North Stonington Garden Club's annual plant sale, which will be held on Saturday, May 9th from 9am to 1pm at the Elementary School on Route 2, rain or shine. The Sale is well known for its home-dug perennials from members' gardens. This year the work of digging and potting began early, when some members decided to dig and pot several hundred perennials in the fall, burying them in mulch to over-winter. This should provide good additions to our many hardy perennial choices.

During the challenging winter, a number of our talented members worked on special items for your garden. They built birdhouses of found materials – aged painted boards and shingles, used copper or aluminum edging, decorated with old hardware. At workshops members designed Fairy Houses of twigs, moss and other natural materials that will add whimsy to a corner of your garden and they also made tufa troughs, planted with rock garden flowers and herbs.

As always, the Sale will offer hanging baskets for Mother's Day, Heirloom tomatoes, annuals, herbs, and a garden-related Rummage Sale.

Bring your garden questions and half a cup of soil to the Master Gardeners' Soil Testing booth. Don't forget your own wagon for easier shopping.

More information about the Sale and the club is available at www.nsgardenclub.org.



Mario Gualtieri

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Please note: The Town of North Stonington has started its 2015 revaluation of all real estate within the town. Vision Government Solutions is the contractor who will be assisting the assessor in completing this program. All personnel will carry identification and, any question you may have, you can call town hall.

Do Any Of The Following Tax Programs Benefit You?

*The State of Connecticut has a program to help income-qualified homeowners with the town taxes on their primary home. For a married couple, the amount of taxes saved can be up to 50% of your taxes or \$1,250, whichever is less. Single homeowners can receive as much as 40% or \$1,000, whichever is less. The money does not have to be repaid to the state.

*The Elderly Homeowners Program is for homeowners who are at least 65 years old on January 1, 2015. To qualify for this program, a single person must earn less than \$34,600; a married couple must earn less than \$42,200. The income calculation includes social security, interest income, dividends, pensions, wages and any other income you may have earned. The deadline for filing is May 15, 2015 and the benefit will be credited on your July tax bill.

*You may qualify for the same homeowners program if you are disabled (as determined by Social Security), in which case you do not need to be 65 years old. The above income limits apply.

*Veterans who qualify for the homeowners program can earn an extra benefit. Please inform the Assessor's Office that you or your spouse is a veteran. We'll be glad to assist you with more information about this program.

*Veterans who have a disability, and reach the age of 65 also can qualify for an additional benefit. If you are a disabled veteran and are now over 65, please check with our office to see if you are receiving the correct benefit.

*Any person with a 100% disability, as determined by Social Security, can qualify for a \$1000 assessment credit. You must file before October 1st each year.

*A person may qualify for a Blind Exemption, if his or her vision is less than 20/200. The exemption is a \$3000 credit on your motor vehicle or your house assessment. Contact the Assessor's Office for details.

*Renters 65 and over can qualify for a rebate on the rent paid if they qualify. Income limits for a single person is \$34,600 and \$42,200 for a married couple. The application period starts on April 1st and runs until October 1st. Call the assessor's office for the additional information you will need to provide to complete the application.

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

NORTH STONINGTON AGRICULTURAL FAIR

The North Stonington Agricultural Fair will be held July 9-12, 2015 and plans are well underway for this year's event. Fair meetings are held at 7pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Grange Hall located on the Fairgrounds. We encourage new members to join us and are always looking for new ideas.

The fair is a great way to bring our Town together while enjoying entertainment, education and family fun. For more information, visit the fair's website at www.northstoningtonfair.com and like us on Facebook.

JODY WHIPPLE pineneedlhomestead@sbcglobal.net

860-599-8498



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The Economic Development Commission is excited to announce that the town has hired a part-time Economic Development Coordinator. The commission has selected Sam Eisenbeiser to fill this important position.

Sam is a professional community planner with over a dozen years in the industry. His broad range of experience includes land use planning, downtown revitalization, community outreach, geographic data mapping and transportation planning as well as economic development and market analysis. A former officer in the U.S. Coast Guard, Sam is married with two children and has lived in Groton for 15 years. He enjoys traveling and coaching his son's soccer team.

Please join me in welcoming Sam to the North Stonington community.

BRETT MASTROIANNI, CHAIRMAN



NORTH STONINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Historical Society was excited to present its new publication *Out of the Attic: Images of Fred Stewart Greene* at a signing with the author, Tobias M. Goodman, in March. Copies of this beautiful book of photographs and paintings by F. Stewart Greene are available at the society's Stephen Main Homestead and the Wheeler Library. The former owner of Greene Gables on the Town's Hewitt Farm and the Stephen Main Homestead, he was a painter and photographer of note, a teacher, and a World's Fair medal winner. Take a fascinating look at our area 100 years ago.

The Society is partnering with Friends of Wheeler Library for two presentations this spring. Pierce Rafferty will return on Monday, April 20, with the "History of Race Rock Lighthouse". Join us at the library at 7 pm. On Monday, May 11, 7 pm. Virginia Wolf will perform "Mary Rowlandson, Indian Captive" at the library.

For memberships and the newsletter or for any questions, you may phone 860-535-9448 or 599-3608 or go to <http://nostonhistoricalsociety.homestead.com>

PLANNING AND ZONING OFFICIAL/LAND USE OFFICE

Greetings Town of North Stonington,

I am pleased to return to New England and the Southeastern Connecticut area as the new Senior Planner/Zoning Official for the Town of North Stonington. I have received a wonderful welcome from all members of the Town staff and Commissions and am looking forward to continuing on with the excellent work Juliet Hodge performed during her tenure with North Stonington.

The Town of North Stonington offers plenty of land use and development challenges, but is in a great place to move forward with implementation of the new Plan of Conservation and Development. I will also continue to staff the Affordable Housing Committee and perform the Code Enforcement duties of the Zoning Official. The Economic Development Commission will be staffed by the new part-time Economic Development Coordinator Sam Eisenbeiser, to allow greater focus and energy to be spent on their specific goals.

If you have any questions regarding any land use issues, please feel free to contact me at the Planning Office in the New Town Hall, by phone at 860-535-2877, email at tzanarini@northstoningtonct.org or you can reference our web page at http://www.northstoningtonct.gov/Pages/NStoningtonCT_BC/PZ/index

TOM ZANARINI, SENIOR PLANNING AND ZONING OFFICIAL

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The budget for the Conservation Commission has included several hundred dollars to produce the Community Calendar for the past two years. Through sales of the calendars at Wheeler Library, Goodies, and Town Hall, this budgeted item continues to be paid back in full. The pictures are a wonderful daily reminder of the beauty of our town as you jot down appointments and activities in your life.

We have been hampered in opening the Stewart Hill Preserve Trail by winter weather. The trail WILL be open for our family hike, which is planned for CT Trails Day, June 6th @ 10 am. This gorgeous, Town owned open space zig-zags from the trail head at the crest of Stewart Hill (on Wyassup Road) and gently slopes down through open oak, black birch, and hickory woodlands. The property borders Pachaug Forest and N.S. Citizen Land Alliance property, where the headwaters of Yawbux Brook begin, making it an important protected, accessible wildlife addition for our town.

Our winter work has focused on reaching out to many of the 26 land owners identified in the Plan of Conservation & Recreation Lands within the POCD. Your CC has asked these folks to consider protecting their land in some manner in the continuance of our creating eastern, central and western greenway wildlife corridors.

As we consider and support the protection of important land in town, we have never established any criteria for what lands the town should accept for having a conservation easement (CE) placed on it. In the past, any land owner or developer who has offered to place a portion of their property in a CE has had that brought to a Town Meeting to have it approved. Standards for the acceptance of CE's are being considered for the future. Each acceptance must weigh the benefits of wildlife protection while placing the Town in the position of yearly monitoring these private properties in perpetuity.

BILL RICKER, CHAIRMAN



WELCOME TO SPRING AT THE WHEELER LIBRARY

We are working hard on two favorite community events: the Country Store Sale and Rug Bazaar (weekend of May 16th) and the Town-wide Tag Sale (May 30th).

We will kick off the Country Store Sale with a lecture on Persian rugs by Paul Murray. Beautiful antique and newer rugs in many patterns, styles and sizes will be offered for sale all weekend, with a portion of the proceeds benefitting the library. The Country Store Sale on Saturday (9am to 2pm) will feature fresh baked goods, heirloom tomatoes, as well as local produce and products.

On May 30th, sell or shop at the 2nd annual Town-wide Tag Sale. Forms for registering your sale are available at wheelerlibrary.org and at the library. Set up your sale at home or rent booth space on the library lawn (limited availability).

Other events at the library this season include Shredding Day on April 18th (with the North Stonington Lions Club); Dog listener Pat Wright on April 22nd; and a drone demonstration and program (date TBD). Please see the newsletter calendar for a full list. Details at wheelerlibrary.org

And don't forget, we have a great selection of current movies, books, and audio for all!

AMY KENNEDY 860-535-0383



NORTH STONINGTON AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE

The Town is still accepting applications for the Housing Rehabilitation Small Cities Grant from which we received \$400,000. Need home repairs? Roof? Furnace? Windows? Septic? If you are income qualified, this grant can help with 0% loans for these and other code compliant improvements that need not be repaid until the home changes title. If you are interested in participating in the program, please call Tom Zonarini at 860-535-2877 or Lisa Low & Associates at 203-888-5624. Applications are also available on line on the Town website.

In the planning stage is a workshop for first time home buyers to learn about assistance programs that may be available. (If you have not owned a home in the past three years, you fall in that category.) The Affordable Housing Committee will partner with local realtors and the Chelsea-Groton Bank for a mid-May evening event. Watch for the date.

The Town has approved a flow chart showing that, when a property becomes owned by the Town through Tax Foreclosure, the Affordable Housing Committee will be notified to recommend, or not recommend, its conversion to deed restricted affordable housing. We are working with the town on one such property now.

We are pleased to add Robert Maynes to the committee and Tom Zonarini, the Town Planner, as our staff assistant. Both will help us in the goal of providing housing that is affordable to the people of the Town.

MARY ANN RICKER, CO-CHAIR marykricer@comcast.net

NORTH STONINGTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The NSEF Trivia Contest was a tremendous success with fifteen teams competing. Larry St. Claire, as always, did an excellent job running the affair. For the second year in a row, the Italian Stallions were the victors. The team consisted of: Joe Cherenzia, Mike Costanza, Sal Costanza, Tom Dinoto, Erik Gynther, Tom Liguori, Peter Nero, and Cres Secchiaroli. Congratulations to our local geniuses!

Our next major fundraiser is our road race, *Runners and Walkers in Support of Education*, on Saturday, May 23, 2015. The walk will start at the North Stonington Grange at 8:30 am. Please visit our website at nsedfoundation.org for more information.

The foundation sponsors the Wheeler Distinguished Alumni Program in conjunction with Wheeler High School. Nominations are due by April 15th. Recipients are honored at the Foundation's Annual Dinner in the fall. Please contact Kristin St. Germain at Wheeler High School or Bing Bartick, for further information.

We are pleased to have approved a grant sponsoring the Farm and Garden Club at Wheeler High School/Middle School. Students at Wheeler HS/MS wrote this grant. We also granted funds to Wheeler High School Science Teacher Colleen Hawrylik to purchase a MiniOne System, a DNA testing device which will help enhance students' understanding of the biotechnology technique in a safer, eco-friendly way.

Congratulations to Preston Hensley who was recently elected to our Board of Directors.

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

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING ?



The following is a list of current openings on our town's boards and commissions: Affordable Housing, 1 regular member; Conservation, 1 alternate member; Permanent School Building, 4 regular members; Water Pollution Control Authority, 2 regular members; Recreation, 1 regular member. For more information, please contact the First Selectman's office at 860-535-2877 ext.10.

BE AN INFORMED CITIZEN

Residents of North Stonington enjoy living in a pleasant, rural town, which offers a good quality of life and a school system that sets a high standard of learning for our children, our future leaders.

One reason that our small town is able to provide many effective services is the commitment of more than 100 volunteers who serve on our town's boards, commissions and fire department. These dedicated residents work hard to ensure our way of life continues and that our community remains vital.

Each year, our town goes through the Budget Process. The various boards, commissions and town departments must justify their needs regarding their piece of the budget. They work hard to be fiscally responsible, and go through each line item, one at a time. The Board of Finance (all volunteers) reviews all budget proposals and then holds a Budget Hearing, so that the public may question and comment on the budget. The budget is finalized, presented at the Annual Town Meeting and then put to a Referendum for our vote.

The best way for all of us to support the efforts and hard work of our Town officials and volunteers, is to stay informed during this process and then vote. In this manner, we can make educated decisions, as a community, regarding the issues that affect our Town and our way of life.

NITA KINCAID & LISA MAZZELLA, QUARTERLY EDITORS quarterly@informedcitizensofns.com

SPRING EVENTS



APRIL

18	SATURDAY	9 am - Noon	Wheeler Library	Lions Club "Shredding Day"	Page 2
18	SATURDAY	10 am	Reutemann Rd.	Avalonia: Memorial Walk at Erisman Woodlands	Page 8
20	MONDAY	7 pm	Wheeler Library	Historical Society: Pierce Rafferty on "History of Race Rock Lighthouse"	Page 11
22	WEDNESDAY	6:30 pm	Wheeler Library	An Evening with a Dog Listener, Pat Wright	Page 13
24	FRIDAY	TBA	Elementary School	NSPTO: "Glow in the Night - A Family Dance Party"	Page 4

MAY

2	SATURDAY	TBA	TBA	NSPTO Spring Festival	Page 4
9	SATURDAY	9 am - 1 pm	Elementary School	No. Stonington Garden Club Plant Sale	Page 9
11	MONDAY	7 pm	Wheeler Library	Historical Society: Virginia Wolf as "Mary Rowlandson, Indian Captive"	Page 11
16	SATURDAY	9 am - 2 pm	Wheeler Library	Country Store Sale & Rug Bazaar	Page 13
17	SUNDAY	10 am - 1 pm	Wheeler Library	Rug Bazaar	Page 13
23	SATURDAY	8:30 am	NS Grange	NSEF Road Race: "Runners & Walkers in Support of Education"	Page 14
25	MONDAY	10 am	NS Village	Lions Club: 49 th Annual Memorial Day Parade	Page 2
30	SATURDAY	8 am - 2 pm	Wheeler Library	Town-Wide Tag Sale	Page 13

JUNE

6	SATURDAY	10 am	282 Grindstone Hill Rd.	CT Trails Day Walk/Avalonia: Tefftweald at Bircheturn Preserve	Page 8
6	SATURDAY	12 Noon	Wyassup Rd,	CT Trails Day Walk/Conservation Commission: Stewart Hill Preserve	Page 12
7	SUNDAY	1 pm	Hewitt Farm/Ryder Rd. Entrance	CT Trails Day Walk/Bicentennial Trail	Page 5

A touch of humor provided by
"Author Unknown".

THAT'S NOT MY JOB

This is a story about four people named **Everybody**, **Somebody**, **Anybody** and **Nobody**.
There was an important job to be done and **Everybody** was sure that **Somebody** would do it.

Anybody could have done it, but **Nobody** did.

Somebody got angry about that, because it was **Everybody's** job.

Everybody thought **Anybody** could do it, but **Nobody** realized that **Everybody** wouldn't do it.

It ended up that **Everybody** blamed **Somebody** when **Nobody** did what **Anybody** could have.

Town Of North Stonington
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