

THE NORTH STONINGTON QUARTERLY

Summer 2015

AN UPDATE ON SCHOOL FACILITIES MODERNIZATION

During 2014 two referenda were brought to the town for a decision on whether plans for significant improvements to our three school buildings should be funded. In each instance (May 5th and June 23rd) the referendum did not pass.

At the beginning of 2015, the Boards of Selectmen, Finance, and Education agreed that work on the buildings was necessary and still needed to be addressed. The three groups recognized the importance of working together to identify the needs, to establish priorities and to consider funding options. The three Boards agreed that priorities in a modernization effort include improvements to the science classrooms/labs, relocation of the Elementary Administration office to the front of the school, locating Grade 6 back in the Elementary School facility and building code compliance issues.

Since the first “Joint Special Meeting” on January 29th, the three Boards have met regularly each month to clarify issues and identify possible solutions. These working level meetings have had thoughtful, active participation from the three Boards. The focus for each meeting is identified in advance and a facilitator keeps discussions on point. Building tours of the science labs, the classrooms and other shared areas have allowed all participants to view and learn more about the facilities.

The most recent May 28th Joint Special Meeting covered a hypothetical timeline of a possible modernization project, the NEASC school accreditation findings, recent security upgrades funded by grants, environmental concerns and communications to the community.

Work will continue to address the educational needs of the children and the community needs of the Town. The three Boards encourage more community involvement through attendance at the joint meetings and participation in committees being formed. A communication plan is also being developed in an effort to make sure the public is aware and included in this process.

NEXT JOINT SPECIAL MEETING

**Thursday, June 25, 2015 at 7:00 pm
Wheeler High School Media Center**

-  Ad Hoc Building Committee Status and Guidance
-  State Dep't of Education Presentation on Project Reimbursements
-  Implementation of Communications Plan
-  Support of Professional Services

The public is welcome to attend.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS DEPARTMENT

If you get a moment, please see the new features on the Town website, www.NorthStoningtonCT.gov. We have added the ability to pay taxes online. Go to the website for more details.

Is there a page on the website that you can't find or think should be added? Please post a comment by clicking the “Send Us Comments” on the left hand side of the website.

MARC TATE

IT@NORTHSTONINGTONCT.GOV

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

As the song goes: “Summertime – and the living is easy.” Which contrasts with the rough season our highway equipment experienced this past winter. But in spite of having to budget slightly more for equipment maintenance, the annual budget proposed less than a 1% increase from last year and passed on the first try.

Budget formulation and legislation are often likened to sausage making and you may not want to know what goes in them! But if you do, consider participating on a town board or commission – town committee caucuses will be held this summer for municipal office elections in November. To find out more information, contact the Town Clerk and she will be glad to direct you to the endorsing committee of your affiliation.

The Town continues to look for improved efficiency and cost savings opportunities, so the Selectmen have appointed a committee to meet and discuss with a similar committee from Preston. The committees are tasked with identifying instances where the towns can collaborate to our mutual benefit. Initial meetings have been held and proposals will be developed over the course of the year.

Summer also brings fairgoers, since North Stonington hosts the first agricultural fair of the State, early in the season. That, in conjunction with school dismissal, may increase the amount of foot traffic in the Village. The Board reminds residents to drive defensively and watch for pedestrians on Town roads. Have a safe Summer!

SELECTMEN

860-535-2877 EXT 10

SELECTMEN@NORTHSTONINGTONCT.GOV

NORTH STONINGTON COMMUNITY GRANGE #138

The Grange organization began with our roots in farming, and has evolved to have the emphasis on our community. North Stonington Community Grange #138 meets on the second and fourth Fridays at 8:00 pm each month except July, November and December when we have only one meeting. 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 in varying interests; committee programs, and Halloween and Christmas parties. **ALL are welcome to come.** We would love to have you join us!

We open our Grange Hall and grounds to Scouts, to the Juvenile Review Board, to the Memorial Day parade, and to other community events as requested and approved. And we team with the Volunteer Fire Department to host the first Agricultural Fair held each year in Connecticut.

Once a year we honor our long term members and we elect a person or couple in our community who are not Grange members but who embody the principles of the Grange in their contributions to our community (and beyond). This year we were pleased to honor Bill and Mary Ann Ricker on May 22nd for all they both have done since coming to our community “to retire”! We all enjoyed a fun evening of “This is Your Life”, complete with a short biography of their work.

SUE PIANKA, PROGRAM DIRECTOR



AVALONIA LAND CONSERVANCY

Avalonia Land Conservancy, the land trust preserving open space in 9 southeastern Connecticut towns, has 596 acres in North Stonington. Pick up trail maps for the properties with trails in North Stonington at the library. Trail maps for properties in all towns are available on the website www.avalonialandconservancy.org.

Avalonia is hosting its 2nd Annual Art Photo Show and Auction in October. Look for details and entry information on the website. AND - look for the Avalonia Land Conservancy booth at the September 26th Harvest Festival at Hewitt Farm. If you are not a member, consider joining. If you are a member, we'd like you on the Town Committee. For more information, call Pat Turner, 860-535-1541.

NORTH STONINGTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The North Stonington Education Foundation's Tenth Annual **"Runners and Walkers in Support of Education"** was a huge success. The 5K road race and two mile fitness walk were held Saturday May 23rd at the Grange Fairgrounds. There were also four "children fun runs" of varying distances based on age. 123 runners, sixteen walkers and 26 children participated.

This year we had two other groups participate in the event: 100 from the "Girls On The Run", who ran the 5K course prior to the normally scheduled race and 44 children from the North Stonington Elementary School "Lions Marathon Club", who completed their last mile during the children fun runs. Hence we had 118 children and 400 people overall participating.



Prizes were awarded to the top 3 overall winners (male and female) and the top 3 in each runner's category. This year's male winner was Mark Oliver of North Stonington with a pace of 5 minutes 24 seconds per mile, in second place was Jeff Walker of Westerly and third place was Chris Foster of Mystic. The top female was Karen Doble of North Stonington with a pace of 7 minutes eight seconds, in second place was Vanessa Cherenzia of New York City and in third place, Barbara Barnes of North Stonington. Of special note, our own Superintendent, Peter Nero, came in second in his division.

Race Director Bob Lohman, once again, did an outstanding job. The weather was sunny with temperatures in the 60's. Food for the after-race picnic was donated by Steak Loft and prepared by Grange volunteers. Major event sponsors were Olde Mistick Village, the McCarthys, Cherenzia Excavation and Charter Oak Federal Credit Union. Supporting sponsors were Schonning Insurance and Chelsea Groton Bank. North Stonington State Troopers and Fire Police volunteers provided traffic control at various intersections. Volunteers from the North Stonington Ambulance Association were on the Grange grounds to provide assistance as necessary.

BERNARD "BING" BARTICK 860-389-0264

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Given the horrendous winter and late spring, we finally have opened the Stewart Hill Preserve Trail off Wyassup Road on Town owned open space. On June 6th, CT Trails Day, the trail was inaugurated with several CT residents hiking. The property, which borders Pachaug Forest and North Stonington Citizens Land Alliance land, weaves through a heavy canopy of oak, hickory, black birch and a ground covering of Jack-In-The-Pulpit, numerous species of ferns, wild geranium, and trillium. Although open to hikers and horseback riders alike, note that three stone walls must be passed and there's one fairly steep grade for riders to consider.

We have finalized 2 additional conservation easements on private land bringing the total to 21, which are monitored by the commission yearly, as our resources permit.

Letters and brochures on "Conserving Your Land" have gone to two dozen land owners identified in our 2013 Plan of Conservation & Development as important to acquire to further develop a western, central and eastern greenway corridor in town. Folks interested in discussing conserving your land are welcome to discuss various means of doing so with us.

Now don't go buying a 2016 calendar till you see our 3rd year's edition. So many town's people fly the American flag at their homes, we have titled this edition "Flying The Flag". All pictures of homes and businesses that proudly fly the stars and stripes. They should be available by September.

BILL RICKER, CHAIRMAN

NORTH STONINGTON VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, INC.

During the months of March/April/May, your volunteers at the North Stonington Volunteer Fire Company (NSVFC) responded to a total of forty-six emergency calls for "help". Of these calls: eight were brush fires; five were assists to emergency medical personnel; twelve were fire, smoke and carbon monoxide alarms; nine were motor vehicle accidents (some with personal injuries); two were rescues; five were structure fires; one was a car fire; one involved a hazardous materials incident; three were service calls.

Fifteen occurred during the daytime period and thirty-one occurred during the nighttime and weekend periods. Your volunteers at NSVFC contributed a total of six-hundred and ninety-four man hours while responding to the forty-six calls.

Our members also conducted eight training drills, in order to maintain their required proficiencies to handle a wide variety of emergencies. These drills covered: infection control; traffic incident management; ropes and stokes basket operations; rope rescue; live fire operations; tanker shuttle drill; tanker operations; brush fires. Your volunteer firefighters contributed an additional two-hundred and thirty-two working man hours while involved in training scenarios.

CHARLES STEINHART V, CHIEF

GARY BARON, PRESIDENT



Bruce Fellman

HEWITT FARM

Why not spend some time this summer at the Hewitt Farm? Enjoy the many trails, visit the Community Garden, try fishing or bring friends and family for a picnic near the pond. Dogs and horses are welcome, too.

The farm is open daily from dawn to dusk. Parking is available in two areas at the farm: 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.

NITA KINCAID, CO-CHAIR 860-235-1565

DICK COOPER, CO-CHAIR 860-535-0528

PAWCATUCK NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

Are you 60 and no longer able to drive? The Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center provides a Transportation service to seniors no longer able to drive. To learn more, call the PNC Senior Services Coordinator, Barbara Carrier, at 860-559-3285 x15. You will be sent an application form and have all of your questions answered. Upon acceptance of your application and a home visit, please call Barbara 2 days (48 hours) in advance to schedule a ride to a doctor's appointment, physical therapy, the grocery store, bank, pharmacy or hairdressers.

On Monday, July 13, the CT Department of Social Services Bus (office on wheels) will be at the PNC. They can help with SNAP (food stamps), Affordable Healthcare (health insurance) and other social service questions. Please call 860-599-3285 x23 to make an appointment.

VICKI ANDERSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 860-599-3285

BOARD OF EDUCATION

As I write this article for the North Stonington Quarterly we are in our awards season. Not awards for the Board of Education members, but for many of the fine students attending our elementary school and our middle/high school.

I have just arrived home from attending the High School Underclassman Awards Ceremony. While there, I found myself leaning over to my wife and whispering "what a good kid" as each student walked up to the presenter to receive his/her award. We have so many wonderful children attending our schools. Later this week the awards ceremony for Spring Sports will take place. Next week we have graduation for both 8th grade students and high school seniors. The elementary school has also held their award ceremonies.

When attending these events, I feel great pride thinking about our schools and our town. I realize that this is MY reward for being a Board of Education member.

BOB CARLSON, VICE CHAIRMAN

NORTH STONINGTON CITIZENS LAND ALLIANCE, INC.

“All around town there are places both large and small for us to enjoy and take care of.”

Here are 2 Alliance stories, one about saving apples and one about saving a river.

Story 1: Apples. We have signed up to participate in the Student Heirloom Apple Project at Yale School of Forestry and Environment. The study plans to rediscover CT heritage apple trees on farms, land trust lands, orchards, family lands, roadsides, to find our state's disappearing old apple trees and to identify and recover apple diversity through data collecting and in the field through pruning, pollination, collecting scion wood, grafting and planting. We hope to add to NS's rural pomological history. Let us hear from you.

Story 2: A River. 3 cheers for what is hoped for the entire Pawcatuck River and its 14 CT/RI towns. NS is one of those towns. The Pawcatuck flows between us and Westerly at Boombridge Road. The plans - some already in the works - include certain dam razing, fish ladder additions, herring and shad migration stocking, a flood resiliency plan, and a 3-year National Park Service study for possible Wild and Scenic River status. WPWA, RI DEM, CT DEEP, TNC and other groups are hard at work. Land Alliance continues to encourage, as we find where we fit. Let us hear from you: 860-599-5517, landallianceinc@gmail.com, www.landalliance.org, or PO Box 327, NS.

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Happy summer - it has been a long time coming! This time of year is very busy in the Town Clerk's Office. Dog registration began on June 1. The fee is \$8.00 for a neutered or spayed dog and \$19.00 for ones that are not; late fees occur a \$1 per month charge. If you no longer have your dog, please contact us to let us know.

July is the month to renew food service licenses. To operate a food service establishment, food catering service or a traveling food vending business, you must obtain a valid license issued by the Town. All establishments are required to file a new application or renew a current license with the Town Clerk's Office no later than July 30th, 2015. The license fee is \$25.00 and is in effect from July 1st, 2015 to June 30th, 2016.

On June 21st and August 15th the State of Connecticut is offering to anyone, resident or non-resident, a free one-day fishing license, good for fishing in the inland and marine districts. These licenses will be available three weeks prior to each date through the DEEP online sportsmen licensing system. Have a safe and joyful summer!

NORMA J HOLLIDAY, TOWN CLERK

NORTH STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

As we come to the close of the school year, much has been done regarding school safety and security in preparation for the 2015-2016 school year. Through a security grant, we were able to install over \$103 thousand dollars of the latest safety and security equipment with a reimbursement rate of 42% of the total cost. The district has installed automatic, magnetic/key-carded door locking systems; Raptor ® School Visitor Management Systems have been installed in all buildings and enhancements to our video camera system include the installation of additional cameras on the interior and exterior of all buildings. Also, all door locks at the elementary school have been replaced. Important to note is that all software systems purchased through the grant meld with our present software such as PowerSchool. It also allows us for expansion when upgrading for future safety and security needs.

The new security systems will be fully operational at the opening of school in late August. While at the beginning, it may come as a slight inconvenience to parents, families and community members, I can assure you that the new enhancements meet all up-to-date security recommendations. Families will receive more information on safety and security prior to the opening of school.

PETER NERO, SUPERINTENDENT

NORTH STONINGTON LIONS CLUB

The North Stonington Lions Club invites you to our Dahlia Day at the home of Dr. Steve and Jane Morrone, 68 Chester Main Road, North Stonington on Saturday, September 19 from 11:00am to 4:30pm. Rain or Shine!!! Please make plans to stop by to take in the beauty of hundreds of gorgeous dahlias in full bloom. Free Admission, delicious food will be available! Cut your own bouquet for \$1 per stem. We will furnish the vase or jar. Proceeds from sales will support the service projects of the North Stonington Lions Club.

TOM ADAMS

NORTHSTONINGTONLIONS@YAHOO.COM

Mario Gualtieri



NORTH STONINGTON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Communication is a problem during many disaster events. Irene, Sandy and the winter storm have all caused interruptions to power and communications. During a disaster the town utilizes website, E-mail, information points and reverse calls to communicate with residents.

Website postings are on the home page of the town website www.NorthStoningtonCT.gov. From the town website you can subscribe to town E-mails by clicking the "Subscribe to News" option on the left hand side.

During a large scale incident, emergency information points are identifiable as large blue signs with the text "PUBLIC EMERGENCY INFORMATION POINT". The locations are the entrances to Kingswood/Meadow wood, entrances to Cedar Ridge, Route 201 by Northwest Corner Road, the Highway Garage at 11 Wyassup Road, Route 49 by Grindstone Road and the intersection of route 49 and 184. Additionally the information is available at the Town Hall, Wheeler Library and North Stonington Fire Company.

Reverse calls utilize a state database of phone numbers and is used only for emergency notification. If you would like to register go to www.ctalert.gov and select "Register for Alerts".

If you have question or concern, please contact the Director of Emergency Management at EOC@NorthStoningtonCT.Gov.

MARC TATE, DIRECTOR

*** Update on Black Bear Sightings***

There have been several reports of Black Bears in the Wyassup Lake and Pendleton Hill Area. If you see a bear, remember to stay away and do not feed them. More information is available on the town website. You can also report a sighting to the State Wildlife Division, at (860) 675-8130.

RESIDENT STATE TROOPERS

The Connecticut State Police utilize the Resident State Troopers program in the town of North Stonington. 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 Calvin Brown.

Below are the statistics for the three month period of March, April and May 2015 for the town of North Stonington. Troopers had 1-900 calls for service including 23 motor vehicle accidents and 7 DUI arrests. Troopers also investigated 47 criminal cases, to include: Burglaries, Larcenies, Assaults, Domestics, Criminal Mischief, Breach of Peace and Drug arrest. Troopers wrote 627 tickets on town and state roads during this period.

The Connecticut State Police and the Resident Troopers would like to remind everyone that schools are out and to drive slow and use caution. We would advise North Stonington residents we will be conducting speed enforcement, on the rural roads, throughout the summer. We would also like to remind everyone in town to lock 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 the town residents to report an emergency call (911), for all other calls dial (860-848-6500) and the 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.

WHEELER LIBRARY

Activities this summer at Wheeler Library include a Mini-Golf Night on July 22nd (free and open to all, 6-8pm); Pajama Story Times; and two Reading Nights on the Library Lawn. Students can keep track of their reading online at wheelerlibrary.org/summer.

Borrow a pass from the library and visit a local treasure this summer. The Friends of Wheeler Library fund our pass program, which provides free or discounted admission to: Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center; Florence Griswold Museum; Lyman Allyn Art Museum; Mystic Aquarium; Roger Williams Park Zoo; CT State Parks; and Wadsworth Atheneum. More details are available at wheelerlibrary.org

In September, we welcome three speakers: Steve Fagin on hiking (9/16 at 7pm); Robert Tougias on birding (9/24 at 7pm); and Brooks Kuhn on Monday, September 27th (7pm) for a talk on Race Rock Light.

AMY KENNEDY 860-535-0383

NORTH STONINGTON PARENT TEACHERS ORGANIZATION

It seems like we say it every year, but this school year has flown by and the NSPTO had a successful year. We were able to fund countless important projects within the schools and are already looking forward to next year. Of course none of this could have been possible without the numerous volunteers that gave many hours supporting events and fundraising efforts. We hope you have an enjoyable, relaxing summer and we'll see you as we start the new school year.

Please mark your calendars and join us at our first event of the new school year, "Popsicles and Pals at the Playground" on Thursday, August 20th from 5:00-7:00 at the Elementary School playground.

EMILY LEWIS, NSPTO PRESIDENT

EMILY.LEWIS41@GMAIL.COM

NORTH STONINGTON GARDEN CLUB

NSGC's annual plant sale on May 9th benefited from a good spring day and over 200 customers waiting in line for the 9 am opening. Home-grown perennials, heritage tomatoes, colorful annuals, herbs and many decorative garden items were quickly scooped up. By the 1pm closing time, the elementary school site was virtually empty and members knew that their hands-on, hard work had produced another successful sale.



Bruce Fellman

During the remainder of 2015, members will enjoy speakers on the history and cultivation of peonies; the growing requirements and diversity of hydrangeas; and the habits of owls. Garden visits, horticulture workshops and conservation walks fill the calendar into October. If you would like to learn more about the garden club, contact our membership chair (see below) or visit our website www.nsgardenclub.org.

NSGC, working with the Hewitt Farm Committee and the Community Garden Association, will be sponsoring the **North Stonington Harvest Festival** at Hewitt Farm, 11am to 4pm on Saturday, September 26th (rain date, Sunday). Please mark your calendar now, so you won't miss the fun: games and activities for all ages, wagon rides, animals, antique tractors, trail walks, great food, displays by local groups and much more!

NITA KINCAID MEMBERSHIP CHAIR 860-535-1416

NORTH STONINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The 2014–2015 school year has been successful for all of our 387 students and the entire NSES community. Thank you to our parents and guardians for the continued support with homework, attending conferences, reading nightly, and being a valuable part of our student's success. Thank you also to all who support our school community including our many volunteers, the NSPTO, the N.S. Education Foundation and the citizens of North Stonington. You truly enrich our school program. Thank you, we could not be successful without you.

We are proud that our students continue to achieve in all areas. The year concluded with many student celebrations including Student Author's Day, the Band and Chorus Concerts, the Annual NSES Art Show, PBIS June Jubilee, Field Day and much more. Our fifth graders were celebrated at the Fifth Grade Promotion Ceremony and the DARE Graduation. We are confident they will continue to be determined students and exceptional young people at Wheeler.

We encourage all families to enjoy reading together. There is no better way to spend a hot summer day than reading under a shady tree, visiting Wheeler Library, or exploring a great book together on a beach blanket. We wish all a restful, healthy and fun summer.

VERONICA WILKISON, PRINCIPAL

TAX COLLECTOR

Tax bills will be mailed out at the end of June. The last day to pay without interest being charged is August 3, 2015. For your convenience, payments may be made at the Chelsea Groton Bank (North Stonington Branch) as long as Back Taxes are not owed. Payments may also be made in the Tax Office in Town Hall. Office hours for the Tax Collector will be 9:00 to 4:00, Monday through Friday. The best way to avoid the crowds is to pay by mailing. If you would like a receipt, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. Also, we now accept Credit Cards as payment in the Tax Office and on-line at northstoningtonct.gov. Credit card payments will NOT be accepted over the phone. There is a fee of 2.5% (\$2.00 minimum) for all credit card transactions.

AMY SNELL, TAX COLLECTOR

NORTH STONINGTON AGRICULTURAL FAIR

The 51st North Stonington Agricultural Fair kicks off on July 9th at 5pm. Four days of family fun featuring amusement rides, food concessions, dog demos, animal exhibits, stage shows, motorized sports, ham & bean dinner, horse shows, ox pulls, antique engines, tractors and much more!

Live music all four days with artists Lexi James, Branded, Kevin Bond and featuring local Nashville recording artist Billy Gilman on stage Friday evening. Come out and show your talent on Stage 2 with Karaoke all four days.

The 4x4 Truck & SUV pull has been expanded to include both Saturday and Sunday. This is open to all registered & insured vehicles - bring yours to the Fair and give it a try! July 7th is the deadline for applications to be submitted for our Princess, Junior Miss & Queen contests. Applications are available at the Town Hall.



Admission is just \$8.00 per day (children under 12 free). Four Day Passes (\$25.00) can be purchased in advance; they are available at the Town Hall, Wheeler Library and Goodies. Visit the website at www.northstoningtonfair.com to see daily programs and download entry forms & applications. What better way to show your support to your local Fire Company and Grange. See you at the FAIR!!!!

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

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Motor Vehicle Taxes

The Department of Motor Vehicles does NOT notify the assessor's office when you sell your car. Please remember to keep a copy of your bill of sale when you sell your car. If you junk your car, keep a copy of the bill of sale from the junk dealer. You will need to submit a copy of the bill of sale and the plate receipt to get a prorate on your motor vehicle taxes. Better still, use the same plate. If you use the same plate from your old car to your new car, the credit process is automatic and you will receive credit on your tax bill for your new car. You must pay the second installment on your old car to earn the credit.

Personal Property Taxes

Please note that the declaration of personal property form will be mailed to all businesses in the Town of North Stonington on October 1st. New businesses must notify the Assessor's Office and declare the business equipment before November 1st. Farming operations must file for their exemption before October 30st. Contact the North Stonington Assessor for additional information.

Revaluation

The Town of North Stonington is conducting the state mandated revaluation of all real estate. Interior inspections will be made of selected properties as well as all property with an active building permit. In the late fall, you will be notified of your new assessment. Vision Government Solutions is assisting the Assessor's Office in completing this mandated revaluation. Additional news of the revaluation will be posted on the town's website www.northstoningtonct.gov.

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Recently, we opened a new office for use by Sam Eisenbeiser, part-time Economic Development Coordinator. The office is in Holly Green Plaza on the second floor; the access is located to the right of Press On Sandwich Crafters. Sam is sharing the space with John Hines, NS Recreation Director. The office also features a conference area available for meetings with current and prospective business owners. Sam is typically available Tuesday through Thursday, but also by appointment.

The Economic Development Commission invites you
to an **Open House**
Thursday, July 16 from 5:30-7:30 PM
Town Office at Holly Green Plaza, Unit 2H

In other news, the former Randall's Ordinary property has a new owner. Carla and Rodolfo Bartolucci, owners of Jovial Foods and Bionaturae, purchased the property in March. In the upcoming year they expect to remodel the existing log cabin and construct a new warehouse and administrative building to serve as their company headquarters as part of their relocation from North Franklin, CT.

Eventually, the company plans to renovate the former inn to host guests for culinary getaways as well as convert the small barn in the back into a small craft brewery. Their long-term ambition is to restore the 1685 John Randall homestead to its former beauty where they will offer seasonal pop-up dinners and other farm-to-table events.

BRETT MASTROIANNI, CHAIRMAN

NORTH STONINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

What is happening to the Stephen Main Homestead, you ask? We are finally able to move forward with a significant repair of the eastern wall. The sill (beam along the bottom) and plate (beam across the top) needed repair or replacement, along with some other details. A temporary wall to the inside protects the interior while this work is being done.

The historical society is bustling with several projects and activities. The new publication, *Out of the Attic: Images of Fred Stewart Greene*, authored by Tobias M. Goodman, is available at the society's Stephen Main Homestead, the Wheeler Library and other outlets. The former owner of Greene Gables on the Town's Hewitt Farm and the Stephen Main Homestead, F. S. Greene 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 beautiful Gale square piano spent the spring away from the homestead for a thorough restoration. We are planning Sunday parlor concerts with renowned musicians to take advantage of this fine instrument and to have it enjoyed by many. Consider buying a "piano key" to help fund this project.

We will see you at the Harvest Festival at Hewitt Farm. Look for notices of programs, as we continue to partner with Friends of Wheeler Library. For memberships and the newsletter or for any questions, you may phone 860-535-9448 or 599-3608 or visit <http://nostonhistoricalsociety.homestead.com>

WHEELER HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL

Happy Summer Vacation from Wheeler High School! We had another rewarding year at Wheeler for the 2014-2015 school year. Students have all been sent home with summer reading lists to help keep their skills sharp while they enjoy their summer vacations.

We are excited to announce that our greenhouse initiative was a huge success. Our end-of-the-year plant sale yielded over \$700 in revenue for our club. We have already begun Phase II of our project. Our Materials Processing students will be building a custom built chicken coop this fall and our 7th grade science students will be hatching and raising chicks in January, as we begin the next phase of our Farm and Garden Club!

We are also busy working on our two year NEASC plan. Although we received our accreditation, we are now hard at work beginning the school improvement process, which includes continuing our curriculum initiative as well as working to build an assessment for our social/civic and academic expectations.

We are excited to continue to bring the district and the outside community together via our new website which is coming soon. Thanks for all of your generous support throughout the school year!

KRISTEN ST. GERMAIN, PRINCIPAL



BOARD OF FINANCE

June started with the successful referendum on the proposed fiscal 2015-2016 budget. Copies of the new budget are available at the Town Hall and can be viewed on the Town website, www.northstonington.ct.gov. The mill rate for the upcoming year has been set at 26.10, which represents less than a 1 percent increase over the current year.

With a new fiscal year beginning on July 1st, the fiscal year 2014-2015 comes to a close. The Board of Finance continues to monitor the execution of the current budget with a focus on its close and pre-audit review. The final audit report for 2014-2015 will be available 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.

DAN SPRING, CHAIRMAN

ANIMAL CONTROL

Hello, my name is Krystin Maine. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce my partner, Karcher Deshefy, and myself as your new Animal Control Officers. We also thank Selectman Mullane for giving us the opportunity to serve the community with its animal control concerns.

Both Karcher and I have been Veterinary Assistants and have experience in the handling and restraint of animals. We stress to pet owners the importance of vaccinating for the prevention of rabies. It is not only the law, but provides for the safety and well being of your family. Recently we have had a confirmed rabid raccoon attack of a gentleman in his own back yard. We are currently developing a Facebook page to keep residents informed, in a timely manner, of such incidents and other animal control information.

June is dog license month, so please send in your renewal or stop at Town Hall with a current rabies certificate to receive your new dog license. Please contact us with any concerns regarding Animal Control at 860-287-2197.

SUMMER EVENTS

July					
9-12	THURSDAY - SUNDAY (Times vary)		Grange Fairgrounds	North Stonington Agricultural Fair	Page 9
16	THURSDAY	5:30 - 7:30 PM	Unit 2H, Town Office Holly Green	Economic Development Commission Open House	Page 10
22	WEDNESDAY	6 - 8 pm	Wheeler Library	Mini-Golf Night	Page 7
August					
20	THURSDAY	5 - 7 pm	Elementary School	Popsicles & Pals at the Playground	Page 7
September					
16	WEDNESDAY	7 pm	Wheeler Library	Steve Fagin on Hiking	Page 7
17	THURSDAY	5:30 - 8 pm	The Inn at Mystic	30th Anniversary of Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center	
19	SATURDAY	11: am - 4:30 pm	Morrone's Home 68 Chester Main Rd	Dahlia Day	Page 6
24	THURSDAY	7 pm	Wheeler Library	Robert Tougias on Birding	Page 7
26	SATURDAY If rain: Sunday	11 am - 4 pm	Hewitt Farm	North Stonington Harvest Festival	Page 4
28	MONDAY	7 PM	Wheeler Library	Brooks Kuhn on Race Rock Light	Page 7

Town Of North Stonington
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