

# THE NORTH STONINGTON QUARTERLY

## SUMMER 2016

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### **NORTH STONINGTON AGRICULTURAL FAIR**

School is out, summer is here, and it's time for the Annual North Stonington Agricultural Fair! This year's Fair will kick off on July 7<sup>th</sup> with opening ceremonies, followed by CT State Tractor Pullers, Nashville Entertainment, Fair Queen Contest, rides, food and dog demonstrations. There will be something for everyone.

There will be four fun-filled days of competitions, exhibits, awards, kids' activities and, of course, plenty of Fair food and rides to enjoy. Our stages will be busy with entertainers, pie eating contests and nail driving contests. Our pull rings will feature pony and mini pulling, oxen and horse pulling. Saturday's horse show will feature a Walk-Trot Gymkhana Division this year, followed by working steer. Sunday is a great opportunity to see the working farm draft horse show take place right alongside the horse pull.

Be sure to browse through the Rabbit, Poultry, Sheep, Goats, and Cattle barns. The Arts & Crafts buildings will be full of produce, crafts, collectibles, herbs, quilts, etc... Don't miss some new entertainment located in the Little League Field this year, sure to bring a smile to all.



This year's mechanical pull ring has taken on some changes; stop by and hear the roar of the engines as you watch CT State Tractor Pullers, Mass Mini Tractor Pullers, Middlesex County Tractor Pullers and, of course, many of our local competitors featured in the Truck and SUV Pulls on both Saturday and Sunday. Be sure to come out Saturday and enjoy the Ham and Bean Dinner prepared in the Grange Hall.

Fair admission is only \$9.00 per person, children under 12 free and parking is free! Senior Citizen day is Saturday. This year we honor all Active Military Personnel ~ Show your I.D. and Sunday admission is \$5.00. A Ride Bracelet Special sponsored by Rockwell Amusements will be available on Thursday afternoon and Sunday afternoon. For more details, visit us on Facebook at North Stonington Agricultural Fair, Inc. and our website at [northstoningtonfair.com](http://northstoningtonfair.com).

JODY WHIPPLE

PINENEEDLEHOMESTEAD@SBCGLOBAL.NET

860-599-8498

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### **BOARD OF FINANCE**

July 1<sup>st</sup> starts the fiscal year 2016/2017 budget. As I provide this information, we await the referendum on June 20<sup>th</sup>. A mill rate will be set on June 22<sup>nd</sup> to allow the 2016/2017 tax bills to be sent out prior to July 1<sup>st</sup>. If the budget passes the mill rate will be set as presented at the Annual Town Meeting. If the budget fails on June 20<sup>th</sup> the Board of Finance will have to set a mill rate and make adjustments to the mill rate to reflect the 2016/2017 approved budget. Copies of the current proposed budget are available at the Town Hall and can be viewed on the Town website, [www.northstonington.ct.gov](http://www.northstonington.ct.gov).

TIM MAIN, CHAIRMAN

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Graduation time for our resident scholars marks the midpoint of what may very well be a pivotal year for our Town. Major decisions have been made on significant infrastructure projects (Center for Emergency Services and the School Modernization Effort). Work continues on extending the water line through the Village and completing the Sewer Feasibility Study and Water Study in the I-95/Rotary area. Signs of other economic development are also appearing in commercial endeavors such as Jovial, off Route 2.

But an equally significant development has been the continued engagement of the Boards of Selectmen, Finance and Education. Through the joint Tri-Board forum, which has been held monthly for over a year, the Boards shared information, brainstormed ideas and otherwise evaluated a major endeavor for the Town. The forum has proven to be an effective vehicle to identify concerns and informational needs early and directly. Consequently the Boards benefit from all having the same information while assessing an issue. Following the approval of the School Modernization referendum, the Boards have agreed to continue this forum and turn their attention to financial policies and economic development options. This will be critical for successful strategic planning. Residents are encouraged to attend their meetings, usually the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Wheeler High School Media Center.

With school recessing for the summer vacation, the Board reminds motorists to drive defensively and watch for children at play near Town roadways. Have a Safe Summer!

SELECTMEN

860-535-2877 EXT 10

SELECTMEN@NORTHSTONINGTONCT.GOV

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## **NORTH STONINGTON VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, INC.**

During the months of March, April and May of 2016, your volunteers at the North Stonington Volunteer Fire Company responded to a total of 79 emergency 911 calls for “help”. Of these calls, 7 were brush fires, 13 were false alarms, 5 involved hazardous materials remediation, 4 were medical assists, 12 were medical first responses (one fatality), 3 were mutual aid rendered to neighboring towns, 16 were motor vehicle accidents (most involving injuries), 10 were service calls, 6 were structure fires, 1 involved a water rescue (one fatality) and 1 was a rescue involving a child locked inside a car.

Responding to these calls required 1,038 man-hours from volunteers; an average of 15 volunteers responded to each call. Of the 79 emergency calls, 30 occurred during the daytime and 49 occurred during the after-hours time frame.



Your volunteers at the North Stonington Fire Company also expended a total of 349 additional hours involving training drills, in order to improve their proficiencies in life-saving skills. Of these drills, training involved basic pump operation, confined space rescue, tanker operations, collapsed trench rescue, hand tools, driver instructor certification, live burn trailer, chimney fires, and infection and blood-borne diseases and prevention.

Total taxpayer monies our town was saved by the North Stonington Volunteer Fire Company for one year is \$2,192,000. For this quarter alone, the savings to our taxpayers were \$548,000. The current annual budget for your volunteer fire department is \$264,105.44.

CHARLES STEINHART V, CHIEF

GARY BARON, PRESIDENT

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## **PLANNING AND ZONING OFFICIAL/LAND USE OFFICE**

The Planning & Zoning Commission has been busy refining the newly revised Zoning Regulations over the last few months. As time settles, we've noticed some language that needs to be corrected or clarified to better suit the needs of the community. One major change was adopting the new FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) Requirements in Chapter 3 of the Zoning Ordinance. We worked directly with FEMA to update our SFHA to current standards that better protect North Stonington residents, homeowners, and business owners to mitigate the effects of flood damage. Other changes in the works include making it easier to have a free lot split with an interior lot and requiring Excavation activities to have a Special Permit review as opposed to a Site Plan review.

The Commission is also studying the possibility of expanding the Economic Development Zoning District to include an area along Route 2 between Wintechog Hill Road and Swantown Hill Road. A preliminary area has been identified and the Commission will reach out to the neighborhood in a few months to gauge and gather more information and interest.

The Commission meets every 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month. Please check [www.northstoningtonct.gov](http://www.northstoningtonct.gov) for the agenda.

TOM ZANARINI      SENIOR PLANNING AND ZONING OFFICIAL

## **NORTH STONINGTON CENTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES**

On March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 a majority of those North Stonington taxpayers who voted on the Referendum chose to adhere to the previously approved budget of \$6.3M for the design and construction of the North Stonington Center for Emergency Services (NSCES). The Board of Selectmen reorganized the NSCES Building Committee, which will be responsible for moving the project forward on the already prepared site. Members of the committee are Brian Elias (Chairman), S. Burdick, Paul Kowack, Bob Shabunia, and Charles Steinhart V.

The committee has focused on the re-design and size reduction of the building, working with professional input from the architectural firm of Silver Petrucelli. The current scope of the project is a 12,000 square foot building with a medium endurance life (through the 20 year life of the loan) and capable of future expansion. Some spaces in the previous building design have been deleted or reduced in size in order to meet the \$6.3M budget

The Committee's plan is to have a new design completed and approved through Planning & Zoning by late summer and to have a shovel in the ground for construction by late fall.

The NSCES Building Committee encourages all members of the community to attend meetings to give input to the project or just to stay informed of current status. We meet at the North Stonington Volunteer Fire Company most Monday nights at 7 PM in the hall.

BRIAN ELIAS, NSCES BUILDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

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## **NORTH STONINGTON SENIOR CENTER**

The Senior Center is located at 391 Norwich-Westerly Rd. (behind Holly Green) and is open Monday – Friday, 9:30-2:30. The Center has many offerings: classes in painting, quilting and yoga; scheduled trips; Breakfast Club on the first Tuesday of each month at various restaurants; a monthly luncheon trip to different restaurants; and luncheons at the Center on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month (reservations must be made by the prior Friday, no lunches in August). A registered nurse visits the center from 11:30-12:00 on the first Wednesday of each month.

The North Stonington Golden Agers meet at the Center on the first Wednesday of each month at 12:30 p.m. Membership is \$10 a year. The group offers several social events and a yearly scholarship. The scholarship is available to North Stonington residents and the descendants of N.S. Golden Ager members. Applicants must be interested in an aspect of the medical field and have financial need. Call Corinne Bacchiocchi, 860-599-1396 for more information.

Do you need help with rides or fuel assistance? Call Teresa Pensis, Agent for the Elderly and Senior Center Coordinator at 860-535-8188 for an appointment.

Are you hosting a function and need a pleasant space? The Senior Center facility is available for rent (\$50 plus a security deposit) - contact Teresa for more information.



## NORTH STONINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

While the monthly programs halt for the summer, the Morgan A. Stewart Library in the Stephen Main Homestead in the Village, with its trove of genealogical information, is still open Tuesday afternoons.

The parlor concerts, performed by Aymeric Dupré La Tour, were completely sold out. The Historical Society has planned another series of Sunday afternoon concerts with Aymeric playing the restored 1857 A. H. Gale square grand piano. These are scheduled for 4:00 pm and 6:30 pm on September 18<sup>th</sup>, October 30<sup>th</sup>, and November 20<sup>th</sup>. This is an opportunity to listen to some great music in an intimate setting. For reservations, phone 860-599-3608.



The Dye House, representing the major industry in North Stonington in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, will have an Open House on Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. Your family can watch and participate in activities of the dying and weaving of cloth. This summer, checkout the dye garden next to the Dye House. You will find a selection of plants used to make natural dyes.

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## ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

◆**Veterans:** Active duty veterans, who are residents of Connecticut, have until December 31<sup>st</sup> to apply for an exemption on their motor vehicle (one only). The Assessor's Office has the form that needs to be filed.

Veterans whose legal residence is outside of Connecticut and are here on orders, need to file the Soldiers and Sailors form for an exemption on their motor vehicles. Please remember that we do not know if you are still in the military. Former members of the military who wish to receive a Veteran's Exemption must file their DD-214 with the Town Clerk before October 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 to receive their exemption for Grand List year 2016. Veterans, with a military disability who are 65 years old should receive a disability exemption of \$12,000 and an additional \$6,000. If you qualify, please check to see if your exemption is correct.

◆**Social Security Disability:** If you have qualified for Social Security disability payments, you must file before October 1<sup>st</sup> to receive your Social Security disability exemption from the town. This also will make you eligible for the Homeowner's or Renter's Program.

◆**Renters:** Renters living in North Stonington, who are 65 years and older or are disabled, have until September 30<sup>th</sup> to file for the State Renters Program. You need a copy of your rent payments, electric bills, and heating bills for calendar year 2015. We also need your calendar year 2015 income IRS 1040 form and Social Security form 1099. To qualify, the total income you could earn for 2015 was \$35,200 for a single person or \$42,900 for a married couple. The benefit depends on income. The Assessor's Office will help you file.

◆**Personal Property:** Declaration Forms will be mailed the last week of September for all owners of taxable personal property. Please complete the forms and return them to the Assessor's Office before November 1<sup>st</sup>. If you have any questions regarding the forms, call the Assessor's Office. We will be happy to help you complete the required forms. Remember, the Farm Building Exemption form must be returned by October 31<sup>st</sup>. Call if you do not receive a form by October 3, 2016.

◆**Farm And Forestry:** For property owners who wish to apply for a Farm or Forestry Exemption, the application time period is between September 1<sup>st</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup>. See the web site [www.cfba.org](http://www.cfba.org) for more information. Remember, a Forest Application must contain a report from a certified forester.

DARRYL L. DEL GROSSO

860-535-2877, ext. 23 or 24

## WHEELER LIBRARY

As we look back at two of our favorite events - the Country Market and the Town-wide Tag Sale - we thank all who participated. The Market is a major fundraiser for the library, and we appreciate the donations of great local goods from farmers, bakers, weavers, cooks, and other artisans. Thank you to all who gave and to our amazing volunteers. Great weather on Tag Sale Day brought hundreds of treasure seekers out in search of a bargain or special find.

Our Seed Lending Library is thriving. In addition to providing a variety of vegetable, herb and flower seeds, we hold a monthly program on a gardening topic. The July program (Wednesday, the 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm) will be on "Summer in the Garden - sustainable methods for managing the summer garden in times of heat or drought, or when the gardener is away". Please check [wheelerlibrary.org](http://wheelerlibrary.org) for future programs.

Wheeler Library's Summer Reading Program, which includes a variety of family activities, is now in full swing. Join us for two Camp Read S'mores, drive-in movies, mini-golf, and more. We've got Grab and Go themed story bags, summer reading titles, a weekly family fun raffle, and drop-in activities, too. A full calendar is available at [wheelerlibrary.org](http://wheelerlibrary.org).

In September, we'll have a program on creating habitat for the New England cottontail (Wednesday, the 14th at 7pm) and a talk from architect/photographer George Fellner on the Goodspeed Opera House (Monday, the 26th at 7pm). In addition, Chelsea Groton Bank will sponsor a free Shredding Day at the library on Saturday, September 24th from 9am to noon. In conjunction with this event, the bank will do a program on Identity Theft at the library (Wednesday, the 21st at 7pm). Our programs are free and open to all.

AMY KENNEDY 860-535-0383



Bruce Fellman

## NORTH STONINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The 2015-2016 school year has gone so quickly and all of our 367 students have grown so much, both academically and socially. We are grateful to the parents and guardians for their continued support with homework, attending conferences, reading nightly, and being a valuable part of our students' success. Thank you to our many volunteers, the NSPTO, the N.S. Education Foundation and the citizens of North Stonington for all you do for our students and school. You truly enrich our school programs. 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. Don't forget to practice your math facts, too! We wish all a restful, healthy, and fun summer.

VERONICA WILKISON, PRINCIPAL

## **NORTH STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

I have always made the analogy that school years are like chapters of a good book. Each June we close one chapter and in late August we begin a new one. To close the chapter of the 2015-2016 school year in June, we enjoyed all the student honors celebrations, district chorus and band concerts, grade promotions, the DARE graduation, dances and proms. Lastly, we celebrated the successful graduation of the Wheeler High School class of 2016. On August 31<sup>st</sup>, as I drive into the parking lot of the Gymnasium, a new chapter, the 2016-2017 school year will begin for all of us in North Stonington Public Schools.

Over the summer, the custodians and maintenance staff will work diligently to make repairs and get the buildings ship-shape. As we do every year education will continue for some students with our summer school program at the Elementary School. Education will also continue for many staff, as some will attend various professional development opportunities as well as some who are continuing with advanced degrees. Of course, the School Modernization Project will be priority next year as the Building Committee lays the groundwork and as the grant application is reviewed by the Connecticut Department of Education.

On behalf of North Stonington Public Schools, we wish everyone a happy and safe summer!

PETER NERO, SUPERINTENDENT

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## **WHEELER HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL**



Congratulations to the Class of 2016! Happy Summer Vacation from Wheeler High School. We had another rewarding school year at Wheeler in 2015-2016!

Students have all been sent home with summer reading lists to help keep their skills sharp while they enjoy their summer vacation! Our Farm and Garden program continues to grow. We have 15 chickens out back now that will be producing eggs by the end of August. All year, students have raised and cared for these animals. In fact, our students built the coop where they are all housed! We are excited to see the business plan that our Wheeler business students will be creating for this program in the fall. As defending champions in the Apprentice Challenge again this year, we know we will have nothing but the best as they design our tagline and sales pitch!

Wheeler continues to work on our two-year plan for our NEASC report. We have done extensive work with our Core Values and are excited to be able to share with our families

how our students are doing with these academic and social/civic expectations. As always, thanks for all of your generous support throughout the school year! We couldn't do it without you!

KRISTEN ST. GERMAIN, PRINCIPAL

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

WOW! "SCHOOL'S OUT FOR SUMMER" (Alice Cooper 1972). What an eventful and fast-paced year. I guess a busy year flies by and, boy, was it a busy one for the Board of Education. Members of the BOE attended the Tri-Board meeting, monthly, as well as our own two meetings per month. There were Ad Hoc Building Committee meetings, budget meetings, Town meetings, School Modernization hearings, and a referendum to name a few. But, it was all worth it. We have a new building plan that has been approved and construction could start as early as July 2017.

This year's Freshman class could be the 1<sup>st</sup> graduating class from the new building if all goes as planned, but a lot has to happen between now and then. The new School Building Committee was just seated. Education Specs need to be approved by the BOE. Our application for state reimbursement has to be submitted by June 30<sup>th</sup>, and then approved by the state, before any construction can commence. Fortunately, the town has many very capable people working to get things done on time and correctly.

The fun really began on the week of June 6<sup>th</sup>: Awards nights, Senior banquet, Class Night, Middle School Graduation, and High School Graduation. Let's have a great & safe summer and we will see you all but the seniors in September. As for the seniors, best wishes from the BOE and good luck next year. Remember, WE ARE WHEELER!

BOB CARLSON, CHAIRMAN

[carlsonb@northstonington.k12.ct.us](mailto:carlsonb@northstonington.k12.ct.us)



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## PAWCATUCK NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, the PNC Social Service Department renews all of its clients. We do this every year. Any one individual or family making under \$50,000 may be eligible for the following services: Emergency Food Pantry (once a month); Daily Living Supplies (once every other month); Keeping Babies Warm & Well (every week or as needed) and Clothes Closet (every week). We also extend our Weekender Backpack Food Program for Children to 7 days per week over the summer. This program provides food for children enrolled in the Federal Free & Reduced Lunch Program in their school.

The Lions Club of Pawcatuck provides a free, cooked on- site breakfast for the public on the **last Friday of every month**. It starts at 8:30 a.m. There will also be a **No Cost Lunch on Friday, July 15 from 11:30 a.m.** - until the food is gone. Come join us!

If you're having trouble paying an electric or gas bill, please call Abby (860-599-3285, ext. 23) for an appointment. It's better to receive help paying your bill than to receive a shut-off notice that no one can help with.

The TVCCA RSVP program is beginning a **Veteran's Coffeehouse** for veterans of all wars, past and ongoing. The first one is scheduled for Thursday, July 14<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-10:30am and will be held at the **Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center**. It will be an opportunity to be connected to services, as well as have questions answered by those in Benefits administration. It will also be a place for Veterans to meet people who've had similar experiences. Please spread the word.

If you know of any Senior, aged 62 and older, who doesn't drive anymore (or shouldn't drive anymore) and needs transportation to the grocery store, the bank, the pharmacy or to medical appointments, please call Barbara at ext. 15 to sign up. Let the PNC do the driving for you. Some restriction may apply.

We have a full range of Senior activities: Zumba, Tai Chi, Yoga, Stretch & Balance, Creative Writing Class, Multi-Medium Art Class, and guest speakers on a variety of topics. There are also 2 Senior Trips scheduled this summer for local lunches. Coach bus trips are being planned.

VICKI ANDERSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 860-599-3285

[www.thepnc.org](http://www.thepnc.org)

## NORTH STONINGTON AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE

One of the goals of the North Stonington 2013 Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) was to ‘Expand Housing choices to accommodate the needs of residents of all ages and incomes.’ The North Stonington Affordable Housing Committee applauds the Planning and Zoning Committee for approving Incentive Housing Zone Regulations to comply with this goal. These regulations, which are now being forwarded in an application to the CT Department of Housing for verification of their alignment with the State regulations, provide an incentive to build affordable housing by increasing the density of housing within approved zones.

The Town received a \$20,000 Phase I Pre-Development Grant from HOME Connecticut for legal/planning expenses for drafting/adoption of Incentive Housing Zone regulations (IHZ); feasibility studies for septic; and other infrastructure studies on the Town-owned land on Wintechog Hill. Two areas on this property have been identified as feasible IHZ areas. Development of an IHZ on this property would give evidence that the Town is moving forward to fulfill our Town POCD Housing goal as well as the State mandate that 10% of housing be deed restricted affordable. Preliminary efforts have been made to apply for Phase II Pre-Development funds. Stay tuned.

MARY ANN RICKER, CHAIRMAN

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## HEWITT FARM

Hewitt Farm has something for all ages!



On May 18<sup>th</sup>, the three North Stonington First Grade classes enjoyed a field trip to the farm. Their teachers and family members accompanied the 55 students. It was a perfect spring day and volunteer Jen Raggon, who develops many interesting school and Wheeler Library programs, had planned a series of activities for the morning. The students participated in water testing; a hike led by Hewitt Farm Committee Co-chair Dick Cooper on a newly developed trail next to the pond; a stop at the Community Garden to plant a few marigolds; and a break for a fortifying snack. It was truly a well-behaved, enthusiastic group of visitors; many had not been to the farm before and promised to return!

This spring, there has been much work going on at the two gardens on the farm. Girl Scout Troop 63813 has adopted and re-planted the Butterfly Garden, across from the 1750 Farm House and overlooking the pond. With the help of Master Gardener Beth Varas, this lovely area (originally created by Scout Karin Leiper as her Gold Award project) is now prepared to welcome Monarch and other colorful butterflies, as well as visitors to the farm who stop to use the picnic tables. This year, the nearby Community Garden plots were all rented quickly and are now growing all sorts of healthy edibles. Be sure to stop by and see gardeners at work – they are happy to answer any questions about their methods and produce.

As always, the many Hewitt Farm trails are in good shape for a pleasant hike, with trail maps handy at all entrances or online from the town website ([northstoningtonct.gov](http://northstoningtonct.gov)). Don't forget that dogs and horses are also welcome at the farm. Parking is available inside our Route 2 entrance or at the parking area near the end of Hewitt Road when you enter from Ryder Road.

NITA KINCAID, CO-CHAIR

860-535-1416

DICK COOPER, CO-CHAIR

860-535-0528

## **NORTH STONINGTON LIONS CLUB**

Our last regular meeting of the year was June 22nd when we installed the new officers for the 2016-2017 year. In July, as a service project, you will see us parking cars at the North Stonington Agricultural Fair on Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup>.

On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 1:00am to 3:30pm, the Lions will host 'Dahlia Day' at the home of Dr. Steve and Jane Morrone, 68 Chester Main Road, North Stonington. Please make plans to stop by to take in the beauty of hundreds of gorgeous dahlias in full bloom. All dahlias in the garden will be available for cutting! Admission is free and there will be delicious food and cider available for purchase. For more information email [northstoningtonlions@yahoo.com](mailto:northstoningtonlions@yahoo.com).

TOM ADAMS



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## **NORTH STONINGTON PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION**

It's hard to believe another school year has come and gone and that we are already in the planning stages for the next school year. We sincerely thank the staff and community of the North Stonington Public Schools for their help this year. Most of all we would like to thank our parents that gave their support to countless events and fundraisers, allowing us to give back over \$20,000 to the students of our school system. We wish everyone a safe and happy summer break and look forward to continuing our school support next year.

Please join us the first Thursday of the month at the Elementary School for PTO meetings and mark your calendar for Friday, October 28<sup>TH</sup> for our Annual Halloween Extravaganza...we already have lots of cool things planned.

EMILY LEWIS, PRESIDENT

[EMILY.LEWIS41@GMAIL.COM](mailto:EMILY.LEWIS41@GMAIL.COM)

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## **AVALONIA**

Avalonia owns six properties with trails in North Stonington. This summer is a great time to discover the woodlands, beaver meadows, millponds, and ridges in our town. You can find trail maps on the website [avalonialandconservancy.org](http://avalonialandconservancy.org) or at the Wheeler Library. On our Facebook page you will find activities and more. Avalonia also has properties in seven other towns in Southeastern Connecticut.



**Bruce Fellman**

## NORTH STONINGTON RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The North Stonington Rec would like to remind everyone that the summertime activities will be starting soon, so visit our new website [www.northstoningtonrec.com](http://www.northstoningtonrec.com) for details on how to create an account and register for any of the programs. Our Summer Brochure also provides information about the upcoming summer activities/programs and can be picked up at the Recreation office (Holly Green Plaza), the Wheeler Library, or at the Town Hall.



A variety of upcoming events are being planned by the North Stonington Rec, which include Family Movie Night (July 15, 2016) at the Recreation Field; New York City Bus Trip (October 10, 2016) and a Halloween Candy Hunt (October 29, 2016) at the Recreation Field.

THOMAS FABIAN, NORTH STONINGTON RECREATION DIRECTOR

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## THE NORTH STONINGTON CITIZENS LAND ALLIANCE

It is a privilege for Land Alliance colleagues, friends, and members to be advocates for North Stonington's great green and blue places, whether large or small. Land Alliance encourages a spectrum of conservation possibilities: land, water courses, clean air and dark skies, wild life, bird life, plant life, scenic town and state roads, clean energy sources, town land use regulations, the POCD, and others.

### **Question - someone just asked what is it we do and how can they help out?**

Here is a partial look at a typical month's agenda: Land Alliance is putting together brand new paths within 45 acres near Wyassup Lake with surveys, mapping, and field work; searching for an additional path along Hetchel Swamp or Pendleton Hill Brook within Fowler Grindstone Preserve; working with URI Watershed Watch to perform tri-season testing at Blue and Wyassup Lakes (lost Billings Lake volunteer at the last minute, if anyone is interested, give a call); working on a new WEB Site; hoping to find land for permanent protection, encouraged with the addition of The Edgerton Fund to our existing land fund; writing recent letters and emails to express Alliance views on The Great Thicket Refuge, on SL 36 CT State Amendment to Protect State/Public Lands from sale or trade, (it did not pass!) and on the search for a 300-acre CT State Police Training Facility in SE CT, by both letter and meeting attendance, presently avoiding Voluntown right on our town line but maybe into Griswold. And on it goes.

Remember, Land Alliance earned its 501(c)(3) charitable organization way back in 1987 and continues to be, by choice, solely a North Stonington all-volunteer land conservation group. We try to be that independent, thoughtful voice.

MADELINE JEFFERY      N.S. CITIZENS LAND ALLIANCE      860-599-5517      [landallianceinc@gmail.com](mailto:landallianceinc@gmail.com)

## TAX COLLECTOR

Tax bills will be mailed out at the end of June. The last day to pay without interest being charged is August 1, 2016. Payments may be made in the Tax Office in Town Hall. Office hours for the Tax Collector are 9:00am to 4:00pm, 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. You may also find out how much you owe and make payments online by going to [www.northstoningtonct.gov/payonline](http://www.northstoningtonct.gov/payonline). Service fees for on-line payments are as follows; E-check \$2.00, Visa Debit \$3.95, all other debit or credit transactions 2.5% of payment amount. Credit card payments will NOT be accepted over the phone.

### ~ Important Notice About Motor Vehicle Tax Bills From CT DMV ~

The CT DMV, and municipalities across the state, are working to resolve some inconsistencies among residents' mailing addresses and domicile (town in which vehicle is garaged) addresses. **If you receive a tax bill from a town that you did not reside in or garage your vehicle as of October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015**, contact the Tax Assessor in the town issuing the bill to request a transfer to the correct town of residency as of October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015. Working together to correct these discrepancies will help to eliminate, or at least decrease, the wait time at DMV offices.

If your registration is due to expire within 60 days (or has already expired) and you have not received a renewal notification, you must contact the DMV. If you are being reported with a tax (or other) compliance in a town you never lived in, you should contact the town reporting the compliance.

Check out the DMV website at [www.ct.gov/dmv/online](http://www.ct.gov/dmv/online) for renewing a registration, cancelling plates, verifying your renewal status after payment of delinquent taxes, and much more.

AMY SNELL

TAX COLLECTOR

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## NORTH STONINGTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The North Stonington Education Foundation's 11<sup>th</sup> annual "Runners and Walkers in Support of Education" held on May 28, 2016, was a huge success. A record four hundred individuals competed in one of the various races or walks. Our new Race Director, Marc Tardiff, and our outgoing Race Director, Robert Lohmann, did a superb job in putting on the race. Also, the Foundation would like to give a special thank you to the many volunteers who made the race possible. The overall male winner was David Einsiedel, and the female winner was Emily Lewison. Next year's race will be at the Grange on May 27, 2017. Please consider participating.



The NSEF Celebration of Excellence Dinner and Dance Gala will be held on October 21, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. at the Stonington Country Club. Please save the date.

BERNARD "BING" BARTICK

860-389-0264

BBesail@aol.com

## SCHOOL MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE

Happy summer to all! At the time we are writing this, we are already hard at work on the school modernization efforts. By the time you read this, the applications for the State reimbursement grant and for USDA funding for the project will likely have been submitted. We are currently working on going out to bid for the architect. Selecting a construction manager who will help us manage the project will follow this.

Our volunteer committee members are Michael Anderson, Sam Cherenzia IV, Walter Mathwich, Michael Osborn, Mark Perkins Jr., Vice Chairman Jay Peterson, Secretary Pamela Potemri, David Sellins, Dan Spring, & Committee Chairman Michael Urgo. We will meet most Monday evenings at the Town Hall at 7pm. Please check the town website for our agendas and feel free to come to our meetings anytime.

We would like to assure everyone that we will work tirelessly to do our best to bring this project within and hopefully under budget. We understand the concerns of our fellow residents and want to do our part to lessen the tax burden as much as possible. We are thankful this project passed as the committee truly felt this was the most affordable way of modernizing our schools.

We are looking forward to providing the community with a state-of-the-art, high-efficiency school that will meet the needs of our students for years to come! We thank everyone who supported the project and believe that this modernization initiative will be something that brings our community together.

MIKE URGO, CHAIRMAN

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## NORTH STONINGTON COMMUNITY GRANGE #138

North Stonington Community Grange #138 meets on the second and fourth Fridays at 8:00 pm with certain exceptions. Each meeting has business (the events we participate in, and community needs) followed by a program. We often have guest speakers in varying interests as well as committee programs. Activities at the Grange are many and varied in the summer, especially with the Fair being the first Agricultural Fair in Connecticut. If you weren't at recent meetings, you missed an excellent presentation by Physical Therapist Wally Neuberger on prepping our bodies for all our summer outdoor activities, and our celebration of this year's Community Citizen of the year, Nita Kincaid. Nita is so involved in our town that it was a pleasure to honor her. Our Memorial Day program was also well received.

**You are welcome to join us at any time**, and summer is a good time to meet with us in a more social atmosphere. Because of the fair activities, there is only one meeting in July, on the 15<sup>th</sup>, with our CWA committee presenting the program. On August 12<sup>th</sup> the Ladies will present the program, and on August 26<sup>th</sup>, the men will (a friendly competition!). September 9<sup>th</sup> is installation of officers and the beginning of our new year, with the September 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting topic yet to be determined.

SUE PIANKA, PROGRAM DIRECTOR  
860-599-4528



## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Trail maps have been completed of all state, private and municipal trails in town and are available at the Town Hall. The last trail on our open space properties to be developed will be the Chester Maine Bridle Trail. It is also the most difficult as it crosses a meandering stream, muddy areas, choked briar bushes, invasive species and a steep boulder strewn slope. If and when completed, we hope to have a hiking and equestrian trail from the top of Chester Maine Road, crossing Wyassup and Ryder roads, into the Hewitt Farm trail system.

New guidelines have been developed by our commission and approved by Planning & Zoning for considering proposed conservation easements prior to recommendations for acceptance or rejection by the Town. Of prime consideration are properties close to or bordering our growing three wildlife Greenway Corridors.

We have resurrected our sleepy Notable Tree Campaign started 3 years ago. We hope to identify the largest known tree of each species in town. We have an abundance of White and Red Oaks, many Tulip trees, but do you know we have a Dwarf Redwood? If anyone has a tree of significant size, or of an unusual species, please contact us (860-535-2426) for our measurement and consideration.

There's an Alternate position on our commission. Care to join us? We meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 6:00pm in the Town Hall conference room.

BILL RICKER, CHAIRMAN

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## NORTH STONINGTON GARDEN CLUB

On Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> North Stonington Garden Club members and a very long line of faithful, plant-loving customers ignored the rainy start to the Annual Plant Sale. Perennials, shrubs, annuals, tomatoes, garden decorations, all were scooped up. The sun appeared and more folks arrived right up to the end of the morning, clearing the grounds and making it another very successful sale.

This event is the club's annual fundraiser and the proceeds support our many community activities. We were very happy this June to award a 2016 scholarship of \$1500 to a Wheeler High School graduate, Henry Smith, who plans to study civil and environmental engineering.



Mario Gualtieri

For the remainder of the summer, our monthly club meetings offer some terrific programs for those interested in gardening and the environment: "Creating Successful Rock Gardens" (July 19<sup>th</sup> at 6pm), "The Fascinating World Of Mushrooms" (August 16<sup>th</sup> at 6pm) and "My Love Affair with Daffodils" (September 20<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon). We welcome guests who would like to learn more about gardening and the club. If you wish to attend one of the upcoming meetings, please contact Nita Kincaid for details, including locations.

NITA KINCAID, MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIR

860-535-1416

[windstonenita@sbcglobal.net](mailto:windstonenita@sbcglobal.net)



July					
7-10	THURS.-SUN.	Hours vary daily	NS Community Grange	North Stonington Agricultural Fair	Page 1
14	THURSDAY	8:30-10:30 am	Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center	Veteran's Coffeehouse	Page 8
15	FRIDAY	8 pm	NS Recreation Field	Family Movie Night	Page 11
20	WEDNESDAY	7 pm	Wheeler Library	Summer in the Garden	Page 6
August					
12-14	FRI.-SUN.	Hours vary daily	NS Community Grange	Mystic Blues Festival 2016 (mysticbluesfestival.com)	
31	WEDNESDAY	Short day	NS Schools	First Day of School	Page 7
September					
3	SATURDAY	11-3:30 pm	Morrone's home 68 Chester Main Rd	Lion's Club Dahlia Day	Page 10
14	WEDNESDAY	7 pm	Wheeler Library	Creating Habitat for the New England Cottontail	Page 6
18	SUNDAY	4 pm & 6:30 pm	NS Historical Society Stephen Main Homestead	Aymeric Dupré La Tour Piano Concert	Page 5
21	WEDNESDAY	7 pm	Wheeler Library	Chelsea Groton Bank Program on Identity Theft	Page 6
24	SATURDAY	9-12 noon	Wheeler Library	Shredding Day	Page 6
26	MONDAY	7 pm	Wheeler Library	George Fellner: The Goodspeed Opera House	Page 6

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

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### *Welcome Summer!*

Early July kicks everything off with our fabulous 4-day North Stonington Fair, which offers something for everyone. So many of our residents work hard to make this big event happen!

Check out the Events Calendar and a number of the NSQ articles. You will find many ways to enjoy Summer 2016 right here in North Stonington, thanks to our terrific, creative volunteer organizations.

Wishing you a happy, safe summer,

*Nita Kincaid & Lisa Mazzella, NSQ Editors*