

THE NORTH STONINGTON QUARTERLY

SUMMER 2017

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Big issues pending but no budget yet! This seems to be a recurring challenge for the Town, as well as the State. But significant progress is continuing in Town: Phase II of the Center for Emergency Services will break ground shortly, construction management services for the proposed school modernization have been selected, and the Selectmen have recommended the funding of a professional administrative officer position, which would provide continuity of town operations. This year's municipal election may see no incumbents seeking re-election to the Board, consequently having an official in place with background on town issues, who is not subject to re-election every two years, will provide more stability in town administration. The cost for the proposed position would be offset by staffing consolidations elsewhere.

The Boards will continue to work on the budget until the State finalizes the municipal grants picture. Residents and taxpayers are encouraged to attend public meetings and hearings to provide input on public needs and services. As always, if you are interested in participating on a town board or commission, contact the Town Clerk or First Selectman's office at Town Hall for more information.

Summertime is usually vacation and relaxation time – but don't relax your observation of safety precautions – stay safe and enjoy the Summer!

SELECTMEN

860-535-2877 EXT 10

SELECTMEN@NORTHSTONINGTONCT.GOV

NORTH STONINGTON AGRICULTURAL FAIR

It's hard to believe that July is here and that means it's time for the FAIR! Committee members and townspeople have been busy planning events, prepping the grounds, getting advertising out, and finalizing details. The fair will kick off on Thursday, July 13th and run until Sunday, July 16th.

There will be many different stage shows this year including Dirty Deeds, an AC/DC Tribute band!! Come on out and ROCK the fairgrounds! And, of course, there will be country music as well as roving shows for the family. The livestock pull and show rings and barns will be busy throughout the weekend. Thursday's dog show is always a great hit, and the mechanical pull ring will be roaring with engines all four days. New this year is an ATV/UTV Pull on Saturday, open to all!!! Don't forget to spend some time in the Arts and Crafts building where you can see many of our local gardeners, crafters, handiwork, bakers, etc. on display. Let's not forget, on Saturday evening is the annual Ham & Bean dinner held in the Grange Hall; and of course throughout the entire weekend you can enjoy the smells and tastes of all kinds of foods, desserts, cold drinks and specialty items. On Thursday and Sunday the amusement rides are offered at a discount price by purchasing a wristband. On Sunday we honor our active military; show your I.D. and admission is only \$5.00.

Be sure to visit the website at www.northstoningtonfair.org and "Like" us on Facebook. Share your fair photos from the weekend with us! Thank you for supporting the North Stonington Grange and North Stonington Fire Company as we celebrate the 53rd Annual Fair!

JODY WHIPPLE

PINENEEDLHOMESTEAD@SBCGLOBAL.NET

860-599-8498



WHEELER LIBRARY

It's all about Summer Reading during the next couple of months at Wheeler Library. More activities than we can list – stop in for a brochure or check our website at www.wheelerlibrary.org. From Farm Storytime to Henna, Family Science and Hula Hooping, along with drop-in activities, a family fun raffle each week, and great books to keep kids reading, we welcome everyone to spend some time at the library. A few of our programs are noted in the enclosed NSQ calendar.

On Saturday, September 16th, we partner with the Savoy Bookshop to bring Celeste Ng to Wheeler Library. Following her bestselling novel, *Everything I Never Told You*, her second book, *Little Fires Everywhere*, will be released on September 12th, and it's even better than the first. Books will be available for sale. Check the library website for more information.

AMY KENNEDY

860-535-0383



ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

The Renters Program for North Stonington renters runs until October 1st, so now is the time to apply. To qualify: one of the renters must be at least 65 years old; or renters must have qualified for social security disability payments and have a gross income of less than \$42,900 for a married couple or \$35,200 for a single person.

Veterans must have their DD 214 on file with the Town Clerk before October 1st to qualify for the veterans exemption on either their home or their motor vehicle. The basic exemption is \$6,000 off the assessment of the real estate or motor vehicle. Please note veterans with a disability who have reached the age of 65 must inform the assessor's office so their exemption will reflect the fact that you are over 65. Any disabled veteran that has had the disability rating increase must inform the assessor's office so that we can increase your exemption.

Personal Property Declaration Forms will be mailed on October 1st. Please complete the form as early as you can and return it to the assessor's office. Remember that there is a 25% penalty for failure to file before November 1st. The office is ready to assist you in completing the form so please ask if you need help.

Reminder: The department of motor vehicles does not inform the assessor's office when you sell a motor vehicle. If you transferred the license plate, the credit is automatic and you do not need to do anything, but if you return the plate, or do nothing with the plate, you will continue to be assessed for the motor vehicle that you sold or junked.

DARRYL L. DEL GROSSO, CCMA II

ASSESSOR

860-535-2877, ext. 23 or 24

NORTH STONINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Society will host a Sunday afternoon program on September 10th at 2:00 pm, at the Stephen Main Homestead in the village. George Champlin, Jr. will discuss the types of currencies used in southeastern Connecticut and especially in our town from 1750 through 1800.

During NOSTOFEST on September 23rd, the Dye House at Stephen Main Homestead will be open. Stop by and find out how textiles ran the commerce of the town in times past.

Remember the library at the Homestead contains a trove of genealogical material and is open Tuesdays, 2-4 pm and by appointment. Look for notices of programs and concerts: go to www.nostonhistoricalsociety.homestead.com. Like us on Facebook.

NORTH STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

While the summer means a time for rest and recreation for the North Stonington Public Schools' faculty and staff, there will also be a bevy of activity taking place in preparation for the new school year. Last school year, North Stonington Public Schools received statewide recognition. Of the 1,148 schools in 200 Connecticut school districts, Governor Malloy recognized 116 schools as "Schools of Distinction," and North Stonington Elementary School and Wheeler High School were both recognized. The school district is not resting on its laurels. In preparation for the new school year, many of our staff will be taking advanced coursework or participating in professional development. Our principals will be working with their data teams in order to prepare for next year's instruction.

Central Administration is open during the summer months. If you have any questions regarding the upcoming school year, we ask that you contact your child's school first.

The 2017-2018 school year will begin on Wednesday, August 30th as a half day for grades 1-12, with faculty and staff present the two days prior to the opening. Pre-K and Kindergarten will begin on Friday, September 1st. School will be closed the following Monday in observance of Labor Day. Building principals will be communicating directly with families regarding summer events. Parents will receive a packet prior to the opening of school that will contain vital information, including important information about our food services program.

PETER NERO, SUPERINTENDENT



NORTH STONINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

We are so proud to share that all of our 376 students have grown both academically and socially this school year. We are grateful to the parents and guardians for the 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, the N.S. Garden Club, 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 Authors' Day, the Band and Chorus Concerts, the Annual NSES Art Show, PBIS June Jubilee, Field Day and much more. We are confident they will continue to be determined students and exceptional young people at Wheeler.

We wish all a restful, healthy, and fun summer. We ask all families to make reading together part of their daily routine. 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! Happy Summer!

VERONICA WILKISON, PRINCIPAL

NORTH STONINGTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Summer is finally here! The NSEF held their annual Road Race and Fitness Walk on Saturday, May 27, and we are proud to say it was our biggest turnout yet. 215 runners ran the 5K race (last year, there were 208 runners). Congrats to Teddy N. for coming in second place overall. Teddy is one of the two students from Zambia currently studying at Wheeler High School, and the board recently voted to grant more funds for their stay here in the United States. The road race also had 40 kids run in the Children's Fun Run.



The NSEF wishes to extend the biggest thanks to the North Stonington Grange for letting us use the fairgrounds and for serving food on race day. We also want to thank the North Stonington Fire Co. and the state troopers in town for keeping all of the participants safe during the race. Most importantly, thank you to all who participated in and sponsored this year's race. We hope to see you all at next year's Road Race and Fitness Walk on May 26!

JAMES PATTON, JR., PRESIDENT

860-535-2617

jhpattton@concentric.net

EMERGENCY SERVICES BUILDING COMMITTEE

During the January to March reporting period, final Specifications and Drawings for the Emergency Services Building were completed and reflected the re-engineered cost containment designs. These designs were modifications formulated to bring final construction costs in line with the town-approved \$6.3 Million budget. The bidding process was then initiated with these approved Drawings and Specifications.

The Town of North Stonington received eight bid submissions from general contractors and these were opened publicly on March 22, 2017 at 1pm. In reviewing the bid submissions, it was determined that Enterprise Builders, Inc. from Newington, CT is the lowest responsible and qualified bidder.

A meeting was held with representatives from Enterprise on March 30th in the offices of CREC in Hartford, CT. Enterprise provided both a detailed schedule and estimate and explained which potential subcontractors were being considered for award of the subcontracts for the work. The contractor demonstrated an in-depth understanding of the scope of work and phasing required to complete the project, based on the duration they provided on the bid form.

The contractor's pre-qualification and contracting status with the State of Connecticut was verified. The Town obtained performance reviews from the State of CT Department of Administrative Services. These were analyzed by Town Officials who made the determination that Enterprise Builders was the lowest responsible and qualified bidder. Based on the town's reviews of the bid submission, scope review meetings with CREC and the town, and the town's review of their qualifications, Enterprise Builders was recommended for the project.

Planning, Construction Compliance and Budgetary (cost to complete) Status Reporting is now under the supervision of CREC of Hartford, a company that specializes in Project Management and 'Clerk of the Works' Construction services. The Project Manager will be Mr. Michael Faenza in the employ of CREC. Mr. Faenza, an engineer with the CREC company has been affiliated with several successful projects in the area including the Police Building in Ledyard.

The contract for the North Stonington Emergency Services Building has been fully executed by the Town Selectmen, the Contractor and the USDA. In the coming days work will commence on setting up the Pre-Construction Conference with the USDA, which will mark the start of the Project. The reporting of status will be posted in the Town Hall corridor as well as in the Committee Meeting Minutes on a monthly frequency. Residents should be witnessing construction activity in the mid to late summer of this year.

PAUL KOWACK PE, COMMITTEE MEMBER

PKOWACK30@COMCAST.NET

860-235-6771

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Happy summer! This time of year is very busy in the Town Clerk's Office. Dog registrations were due in June. The fee was \$8.00 for a neutered or spayed dog and \$19.00 for those that are not. If you have not yet registered, please do; late fees increase by \$1 per month. 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, 2017. The license fee is \$25.00 and it's in effect from July 1st, 2017 to June 30th, 2018.

On August 12th, 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 that date through the DEEP online sportsmen licensing system. Have a safe and joyful summer!

NORMA J. HOLLIDAY, TOWN CLERK

HEWITT FARM

2017 has already been a very busy and productive time at Hewitt Farm! We are especially excited this year by all the improvement projects that have been completed or are underway:

- This spring Troop 71 Eagle Scout candidate Jason Miner designed and built an attractive, safe bridge on a trail near the hayfields. He replaced a plank crossing, which was off farm property and harmful to an old apple tree. His project was very well executed.
- The North Stonington Garden Club completed a Letterboxing Discovery Trail for children. Maps are at the Dam bridge and the rear entrance off Hewitt Rd.
- Three other Troop 71 Eagle Scout candidates have presented their plans for projects that will be started this year: a bridge along the Dew Drop Inn Trail, a bulletin board information sign, and a series of plant/tree descriptive signs.
- The Community Garden Association has expanded its footprint and added 6 more plots so that more members of the community can participate.
- Volunteers will soon begin clearing an area along That Dam Trail to create a picnic grove overlooking the pond.



This spring we were fortunate to be able to hire local contractor, Gene Anderson who has the knowledge and experience needed for restoration and repairs of historic buildings like the 1750 Farm House. It is a part of our town's history that has architectural significance and is recognized by the State Historical Preservation Office. Replacement of weak structural beams in one area of the basement and repairs to the entrance facing the Green have now been completed. Next, we are looking forward to a Town Meeting to hear the Historical Society's proposal for the deteriorating Greene Gables building, so that voters may determine whether to save or demolish it.

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 (www.northstoningtonct.gov). Don't forget, 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 Rd. when you enter from Ryder Rd.

NTA KINCAID, CO-CHAIR 860-235-1565

DICK COOPER, CO-CHAIR

860-535-0528

BOARD OF FINANCE

The Board of Finance has been working on the 2017/2018 Town Budget since March of this year. Currently the Board of Selectman have set the mill rate at 27 mills to pay day-to-day bills, but the current budget will not be covered by the 27 mills, and only the first half of the 2017/2018 tax bills are being sent out. The taxpayers could see increases in their tax rate, which would be affected by the State of Connecticut's cuts to the Town's revenues; this would be reflected in their January 2018 tax bill.

The Board of Finance has approved a budget to send to a Town Hearing to be held sometime in July. The budget that is being put forward to the Town Hearing will total \$18,631,256.00, which is an increase of \$260,905.00 from the 2016/2017 budget. The proposed mill rate will be 30 mills; that breaks down to an increase of 3 mills, with a .5 mill increase to current 2017/2018 budgets (split between Education and Town Government); 1mill for the approved School Modernization Project; and 1.5 mills to cover half of the State of Connecticut Governor's budget, which could be a loss of 2.2 Million dollars to the Town of North Stonington. The current State legislation session has ended with no budget and no foreseeable timetable on when there will be an approved budget.

The members of the Board of Finance have struggled over what is the most appropriate way to proceed, and after much deliberation and discussion, we feel that presenting a budget as proposed is the most fiscally responsible way to proceed, due to the knowns and unknowns. We hope that the tides change in our favor; however, all things taken into consideration, we feel that this is the most appropriate and responsible way to continue to provide the level of services that the people of the Town of North Stonington have come to expect and appreciate, along with the long term building projects which have been approved and go along with the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development.

TIM MAIN, CHAIRMAN

NORTH STONINGTON AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE



Ferry Crossing, Old Saybrook

The North Stonington Affordable Housing Committee hosted a successful bus tour, highlighting affordable housing developments in June. We visited Spruce Meadows in Pawcatuck and Ferry Crossing in Old Saybrook. Spruce Meadows has 43 apartments; 22 of which are affordable. Ferry Crossing has 16 rental units, 100% affordable. It is inspiring to think that North Stonington could provide such a choice in housing.

We may get a chance to see what could be done here in North Stonington as the Board of Selectmen has approved the development of a conceptual plan for affordable/mixed housing on a portion of Town property on Wintechog Hill. Watch for it.

Federal funding of the Community Development Block Grant, which funded the \$400,000 rehabilitation grant in North Stonington, is not certain at this point. This grant provided no interest loans to 16 income-qualified homeowners in North Stonington to repair their homes. The Town has fulfilled all training requirements to reapply for another round of funding should they choose to do so.

If you are interested in getting money for needed repairs, and qualify, inquire at the Planner's office for a letter of intent. That will help the Town be prepared to submit their application again to the CT Department of Housing for this grant.

MARY ANN RICKER, CHAIRMAN

marykricker@comcast.net

TAX COLLECTOR

Due to the fact that the Town of North Stonington does not currently have an approved budget for the 2017/2018 fiscal year, the July bills will reflect the **First Installment only**, based on last year's tax rate of 27.00 mills. Once a budget is approved, you will receive the **Adjusted Second Installment**, which will reflect the Board of Finance approved mill rate, with a due date of January 1, 2018.

First Installment tax bills will be mailed out at the end of June. The last day to pay without interest being charged is August 1, 2017. For your convenience, payments may be made in the Tax Office in Town Hall. Office hours for the Tax Collector will be 9am to 4pm, Monday through Friday. The best way to avoid the crowds is to pay by mail. 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. 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.

AMY SNELL TAX COLLECTOR

WHEELER HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL

It was another successful year at Wheeler! Thank you to our local community for your support to make that possible. Whether you were a mentor to any of our seniors for a senior project or a parent, guardian or grandparent who came to watch our students perform on stage or in an athletic arena of some sort, your involvement in our school is deeply appreciated.

We continue to keep our **#weareWHEELER** campaign going strong. This past month, Wheeler hosted a forum with the help of Community Speaks Out to begin raising awareness of the opioid epidemic in our area. With an evening forum as well as several student forums, we were able to begin an important dialogue that can hopefully provide resources to those who need them.

Academically we continue to reflect on what our school can provide to our students. We are beginning discussions about restructuring our graduation path, by adding an additional pathway or two to our Program of Studies. This would allow students to participate in local internship opportunities that will continue to strengthen the relationship between our school and the Town of North Stonington. We welcome and encourage North Stonington residents to come in and visit our many programs to see how Wheeler is preparing our young adults for the future. Thank you for your role in helping our students to thrive. We couldn't do it without your partnership.

KRISTEN ST. GERMAIN, PRINCIPAL

NORTH STONINGTON GARDEN CLUB

This spring NSGC created a new website. We encourage you to visit us at www.nsgardenclub.org to learn more about our meetings, garden visits, workshops, conservation walks and community projects. We are a group of hands-on gardeners who offer the chance to learn, get involved and share the love of gardening!

Now, as we enter the summer months, we are looking forward to monthly meetings with programs presented by gardening specialists: *"Foundation Gardens That Say Welcome Home" (July 18 at 6pm), *"Pollinators for the Garden" (August 15 at 6pm) and *"Fall's Herbal Delights" (September 19 at 12 noon). We'd love to have you join us; non-members are welcome at our meetings. If you see an event that interests you, and you would like to attend and to learn more about our activities, please contact Nita Kincaid for details, including locations.

NITA KINCAID, MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIR

860-235-1565

windstonenita@sbcglobal.net



**Not Your
Grandma's
Garden Club!**

SCHOOL MODERNIZATION BUILDING COMMITTEE

Time is flying and things are proceeding quite well with the School Modernization initiative. Since our last article in the Quarterly, the committee has spent quite a bit of time fine-tuning our budgets and design for the schools. We have just completed our "CD", construction design documents that will be presented to the State for final approval on June 22, 2017. A week or two after this meeting, we anticipate getting the "green light" to go out to bid with our design. Even with this "green light", we are still awaiting confirmation of funding from the State of CT to award any contracts. If you remember, the Town voted last May to approve the project pending State approval of funding. Once we receive confirmation of our funding from the State (which could be late June or into July), we will begin securing our construction partners and aim to put a shovel in the ground in mid to late August. We are still anticipating having our 2018-2019 Middle/High school students in the new building to start that year and the Elementary students beginning the 2019 year.



Keep an eye on the new town website for updates and always feel free to attend our meetings. Our committee meets most Monday evenings at 7pm at The New Town Hall. Above is an image that gives you a conceptual feel for the new buildings.

MIKE URGO, CHAIRMAN

JUVENILE REVIEW BOARD

North Stonington has had a Juvenile Review Board since 1998. The Juvenile Review Board is a community-based program designed to act as an advisory board to assist the North Stonington Resident Troopers in the specific cases involving police/juvenile contact. The goal of the Review Board is to make effective recommendations to assist individual youths to avoid a repeated pattern of criminal behavior.

In October, 1997 a letter was sent to the Connecticut Supreme Court requesting the formation of a juvenile review board for North Stonington. The Board of Selectmen finalized the original make-up of the Board in May, 1998, with the appointment of seven members. The Review Board held its first meeting May 8, 1998, and disposed its first case that same month.

Members of the Review Board consist of a resident state trooper, a school representative, the town's youth recreation director, juvenile court probation officer, three at-large members and one alternate-at-large member appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

The Resident Troopers may refer cases to the Board in lieu of Juvenile Court. The Troopers will present the Juvenile Review Board alternative to the youth and his/her family. If the youth and the family agree, the Board will convene a hearing at their next meeting.

The Review Board will meet every month, unless agreed by the entire Board. Cases will be presented by the Resident Troopers, including recommendations made by the investigating officer. The case is then open for discussion. The Board then decides upon a recommendation that will be offered as an alternative to Juvenile Court. The purpose of the Board was expanded to also provide an option for juveniles who have violated the school truancy policies of North Stonington Public Schools.

JOE GROSS, CHAIRPERSON

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS DEPARTMENT

Over the past 3 months I have been working with Virtual Towns and Schools on a re-design of our town website. I am pleased to announce that on June 7th, 2017 the re-designed website went live!

Homepage Of The Re-designed Site



Over the course of the next few weeks we will be making changes to the site as we update information and necessary changes to make the website the best it can be. Each department and commission page is being checked for up-to-date information so there will be changes happening there as well.

This is an exciting time and will make it easier for town residents to find information on a more user friendly and responsive site. Also, if you have not signed up yet to receive News updates from the town you can do so by clicking on the “Sign Up for News” button in the Citizen Action Center. This is a great way to make sure you are receiving the latest news from the town.

JIM RUSSELL

IT/GIS MANAGER

www.northstoningtonct.gov

NORTH STONINGTON LIONS CLUB

Save the Date: Dahlia Day is on September 16th, from 11:00 – 3:30 pm at 68 Chester Main Road. Come and walk through hundreds of dahlias while enjoying good food, beautiful scenery and great company. You will even have an opportunity to create your own unique bouquet. Vases are provided or bring your own.

Come visit us at NOSTO Fest on September 23rd from 12:00 -4:00 pm. We will have delicious baked goods and other assorted food items available for your enjoyment. Find and like us on Facebook for further upcoming events.

Also, we would like to express our gratitude to those who have sent in donations for our ongoing Town Solicitation fundraiser. Your contributions help us help others in need in our community, as well as nationally and beyond. If you would like to send a donation, you can mail it to North Stonington Lions Club, P.O. Box 100, North Stonington, CT 06359.

Interested in becoming a Lion? See what great things Lions Clubs are doing at www.lionsclubs.org or contact us by phone or email.

DENISE MURPHY, CLUB PRESIDENT

860-625-7363

northstoningtonlions@gmail.com

NORTH STONINGTON CITIZENS LAND ALLIANCE

Thank you for your queries and interest in NS land conservation issues. We, as volunteers, have been in the land conservation business since 1987 and try to keep up with being both environmental activists and preservationists. We have learned to pick and choose carefully and have done some really good work.

Land Alliance is proud to tell you that our new **Samuel Cote Preserve** on Clarks Falls Road has an opening date of Sunday, September 24th at 1:00 pm. The preserve is located on Spalding Pond, with paths along the pond through a pine forest and along hay fields and corn fields. There is a serenity to these 31 acres; a contrast from our other preserves of wooded, rocky trails. It is a special place.

Also, please visit our **Fowler-Grindstone Preserve** on Fowler just off Grindstone Hill Road. Here you will find the confluence of Pendleton Hill and Hetchel Swamp Brooks, several outstanding glacial erratics, and 75 acres of green trails, birds and wild life. The paths have been used well and often: it is a joy to be in these woods.

Please email landalliance@gmail.com or phone 860-599-5517 to be put on our contact list and to learn more about us and what we do. We value your continued support. A new email contact plan is almost complete.

PAWCATUCK NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

As of July 1st, PNC Social Services Department will renew all of its clients. Eligible clients may use the following programs and services: Emergency Food Pantry; Weekender Backpack Food Program for Children (year-round); SNAP Outreach (by appointment); Daily Living Supplies (household supplies and personal care items); Keep Babies Warm and Well (diapers, food and formula); Pet Shoppe (food, supplies, veterinary services for cats and dogs); Energy Assistance applications (beginning August 1st); Clothing Closet (free clothing, shoes and household linens); Job Search Assistance (job lists, computer station, individual resume assistance); Back to School Supplies (August); and Client Assessment and Referral.

We offer a full range of senior activities: Exercise, fitness, social and creative classes; TVCCA lunches and Bingo; Group trips to Theater and other attractions. Transportation is offered for registered residents, age 60 years and older, by wheelchair-lift buses, van or car for medical appointments, banking, groceries, pharmacy, PNC Senior meals, and social events within North Stonington, Stonington and in Westerly, RI. Please contact our Senior Services & Transportation Coordinator, Barbara Currier, at 860-599-3285 ext.15 for more information.



An outreach worker for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) from TVCCA will be at the PNC on the following Wednesdays: July 5th and 19th, August 2nd, 16th and 30th. Get answers to your questions and apply for SNAP benefits. Call Abby at 860-599-3285 ext. 23 for an appointment.

Please join us for a Free Community Breakfast on the last Friday of each month.

NORTH STONINGTON VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, INC

During the months of March, April and May of 2017, your volunteers at the North Stonington Volunteer Fire Company responded to a total of 81 emergency 911 calls. Of these calls 32 were medical response calls by volunteer firefighter EMTs; 3 were water emergencies; 4 were vehicle fires; 1 was a structure fire; 15 were motor vehicle accidents (some involved fatalities); 5 were mutual aid calls to assist surrounding townships; 2 were automobile lock-outs; 4 were hazardous material incidents; 1 was a chimney fire; 3 were brush fires; and 11 were false alarms.

Responding to these calls required 434 man hours of volunteers' personal time donated to responding to our town's emergencies; an average of 11 volunteers responded to all calls. Excluding the 32 medical response calls, there were 30 emergency calls during the daytime and 19 emergency calls during the after-hours timeframe.

Your volunteers at NSVFC also contributed an additional total of 249 man hours involving training and drills, in order to improve their proficiencies in life-saving skills. These drills included infection and bio hazard controls, CPR and AED training/refresher, RIT Operations (firefighter rescue), water flow, tanker shuttle involving several mutual aid fire departments, confined space rescue operations, and ladders.

CHARLES STEINHART V, CHIEF

GARY BARON, PRESIDENT



AVALONIA

Avalonia invites all residents to come out and enjoy our properties. Our most recent acquisition is the Benedict Bengt Benson Preserve on Swantown Hill Road, which is approximately 90 acres. Enjoy the loop trail on the west side of the road.

Note the historic Parke Pond on Babcock Road just out of the village. You can hike from the Erisman Woodlands on Reutemann Road (¼ mile west of Hangman Hill Road) through Babcock Ridge and then onto the Donald R Henne Preserve (by walking 100 ft. west along Babcock Road) and continue through the Henne, all the way to Surrey Lane and Rt. 184.

Another excellent hiking location is the Reed-Mitchel property. Its entrance is on N.W. Corner Rd. Look for a green and white "visitor parking" sign on the south side of the road at a sharp bend between the two Anna Farm Rd. entrances. There are several well-marked trails through this wooded property. The Yannatos property, in the center of Clarks Falls, has a shorter loop trail and a display on the history of the former mill there.

Maps for these properties are available at the library and are posted on our web site www.avalonialandconservancy.org.

NORTH STONINGTON SENIOR CENTER

The Senior Center, located at 391 Norwich/Westerly Rd. (behind Holly Green) is open Monday through Friday from 9:30-2:00. Lunches are available Wednesdays, except in August. Reservations are necessary by the Friday prior to lunch. The Golden Agers meet on the first Mondays at 12:30 with an RN available 11:30 - 12:30 to take blood pressures.

There are a number of upcoming Day Trips: a Lighthouse cruise on Narragansett Bay with lunch first on July 31st; guided tour of the New Bedford Whaling Museum and lunch at a restaurant featuring a Portuguese menu on August 17th; an excursion in September to Federal Hill in Providence, featuring an Italian bakery, at a date to be determined. This also includes free time to explore the Hill and choose lunch at a place of your choice. The Center has a bus that is handicapped accessible, but seating is limited, so reserve early!

If you need fuel assistance, Teresa begins the application process in mid-August. Call 860-535-8188 for an appointment.

PLANNING AND ZONING OFFICIAL/ LAND USE OFFICE

Join us this year! There are a few spots opening up on the Commission this November and we would love to have new members on board to help implement our Plan of Conservation and Development and facilitate investment in town – whether new construction or preservation of land. No experience is necessary, and we will be glad to help you get acclimated to your new role. This is an elected position, so if interested, the first step is to contact the Democratic or Republican Town Committee Chairperson.

The Planning and Zoning Commission identified its top priorities with respect to implementation of the 2013 Plan of Conservation and Development. We will focus on re-zoning the western end of Rte. 2 from Residential to Resort Commercial to attract investment to the under-utilized and undeveloped parcels that are suitable for development and to facilitate coordinated development that complements existing development in the area immediately surrounding Foxwoods Resort Casino, which includes parcels in Ledyard and Preston.

Second, with the help of the Affordable Housing Committee and Milone and MacBroom, we will complete a conceptual plan for a possible affordable housing development on a small portion of the town-owned parcels off Wintechog Hill, preserving over 70% as open space for passive recreation. This is a continuation of work started several years ago.

Small changes have been made to the Agricultural Regulations and others are being contemplated to establish a minimum size for an accessory apartment.

A Note on Zoning Enforcement: Just a reminder that Accessory Apartments, pools, and sheds, no matter how small, all require zoning permits. The process is quick and painless. Please come by the office and I would be happy to walk you through the entire process! For the business owners in town, please remember that banner signs of any kind are not permitted in an effort to maintain the character of our small rural town.

JULIET HODGE PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT & ZONING OFFICIAL jhodge@northstoningtonct.com



NORTH STONINGTON COMMUNITY GRANGE #138

The Grange organization meets on the second and fourth Fridays at 8:00 pm with certain exceptions. Each meeting we discuss the needs of our community, the needs of our grounds and upkeep and what we can do to help; then we have a program, sometimes internally created or sometimes with guest speakers of varying interests.

Spring is a busy time for us. In April we had our State Lecturer's contest "Looking Through the Rear View Mirror", in which we compared the stages of life with our Grange, realizing that the circle of life is bringing us to new beginnings. We also honored Mike Riley as our Community Citizen of the year for all his work at the fire house and especially as Chairman of the Agricultural Fair. May brought Chris Cleland, from American Senior Benefits, to speak on Medicare and Social Security. We had our program to honor all our military people lost in war, as well as those Grangers who have passed away. June had our Election of Officers, with a short program recognizing Father's Day, and our annual picnic.

Our summer schedule is a bit more relaxing. We have the Wheeler students from Chikumbuso, Aaron and Teddy, coming to speak on July 21st, the men regaling us on August 11th with "Curiosity Killed the Cat, and the women replying "And Satisfaction Brought Him Back" on August 25th. Come have some fun with us! **ALL are welcome.**

SUE PIANKA, PROGRAM DIRECTOR

860-599-4528

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The EDC is looking for new members! We meet once a month and would love to hear your ideas about ways to attract development and increase our tax base.

There has been a lot of activity in town this Spring. **We welcome the following businesses to North Stonington!**

- ★ **Earth to Acre** – small-scale producers of Ghee and the office of Farm to Gold LLC. A small café and retail component to the business were also approved for the property.
- ★ **Farmers Insurance** - next door to Green Onion Pizza on Rte.2, offering industry-leading auto, home, life, commercial, & renters insurance plus many other products at affordable rates.
- ★ **The North Stonington Liquor Store** - next to Goodies Family Restaurant, has opened under new management.
- ★ **Reclaiming our Roots Community Herbalism** – A new Naturopathic Clinic and Integrative Healing Center in Circle Park II.
- ★ **B&M Landscaping** - a full service landscaping company for commercial and residential properties has a new Lawn & Garden Center next to the Subway Restaurant on Clarks Falls Road selling Annuals, Perennials, fertilizer, mulch, garden tools and much more.
- ★ Special thanks to **Quinlan Enterprises** for the work they have done to bring the property on Frontage Road to life with a great mix of businesses.



BRETT MASTROIANNI, CHAIRMAN

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

As we regularly review the Plan of Conservation and Recreation Lands and the POCD as a whole, we were intrigued with the idea presented of beautifying the intersection of Pendleton Hill Road and Providence-New London Turnpike. This intersection introduces drivers from two directions to our town and is the beginning of a State designated 10.7 mile scenic highway.

Our goal is simple: to turn a trash strewn pull-off into an attractive corner with wildlife loving, non-invasive trees, bushes and grass area, without asking the town for a dime. All our work will be volunteers and the \$2500 estimated cost will be from donations. We'd welcome \$50 for a bush or \$100 for a tree to support the monies already donated from North Stonington Citizen Land Alliance and over a dozen local folks wanting to support our efforts. Just call.

We are still awaiting the Conn College arboretum people to post our listing of notable trees on their web site. Keep sending us trees you've identified as possible additions to the list and we'll go measure them for you-and for us.

Our annual Community Calendar theme for next year is "Then and Now". We plan pictures of identifiable locations in town from 50-100 years ago and a shot from that same location today. Have a picture in your archives? Call me for possible inclusion in the 2018 edition.

We welcome the addition of Dr. Jason Mancini to our commission, filling our hard working group with quality residents wanting to preserve and protect our environment.

BILL RICKER, CHAIRMAN

WILLIAMRICKER@COMCAST.NET

860-535-2426

BOARD OF EDUCATION

As another school year comes to a close, it feels like a large family event is coming to an end and soon everyone will be going their own way. Yes, another long recess for the family in town known as the North Stonington Schools. In a town where large prominent families are the norm (Lewis, Coats, McGowan, Main), add our schools to that list. In a school system like the one we have here in town, you can't hide. Everyone knows who you are. They know what you like/dislike, what you are good at and not so good at. They know what your special interests are and what you bring to the table as a student, classmate and friend. There is a feeling of respect for one another within our ranks. This familiarity with each other, which grows with every grade level, creates a feeling of family. We are a close-knit group that stays that way, even years after graduation. The bond that gets created with each incoming kindergarten class and carries through grade 12 is amazing. I look forward to our next family reunion in September.

BOB CARLSON, CHAIRMAN

carlsonb@northstonington.k12.ct.us



November 2017 is a time when seats on our town's boards and commissions need to be filled by residents who want to have an active role in our town's future. **July is a particularly important month for anyone interested in running for an office.**

There are necessary steps to take **as soon as possible** to become a candidate for one of the open positions in our town government. The steps vary depending on whether you are a Republican, Democratic or Unaffiliated voter.

DEMOCRATS: Contact the Chair of the North Stonington Democratic Town Committee (NSDTC), Mark Donahue, by email (donahuems@comcast.net) or cell phone (860-334-9204) to express interest. The NSDTC's purpose is to select and endorse candidates, as well as fund and run election campaigns. It is the sole body that interviews Democratic-endorsed candidates for municipal office.

Per its bylaws, NSDTC will call a meeting on July 18th at 5:00 pm for the purpose of selecting the party-endorsed candidates for each municipal office available. A majority vote of the NSDTC members who are present to vote will determine the candidates.

REPUBLICANS: Contact the Chair of the North Stonington Republican Town Committee (NSRTC), Brett Mastroianni, by email (brett@pawncr.com) or cell phone (401-954-7242) to express interest. The NSRTC's purpose is to seek out and recommend to the Republican caucus at least one qualified Republican for each office vacancy and to organize and direct general election campaigns.

A Caucus of enrolled NS Republicans will select the Republican Party-endorsed candidates, who must be registered NS Republican voters on the current Registrar's list. Their 2017 meeting to vote for Republican Party-endorsed candidates will be held at the Senior Center on July 24th at 6:30 pm.

UNAFFILIATES: An unaffiliated voter has two options: (1) to seek endorsement by the Democratic Town Committee (see Democrats above) or (2) to petition to be placed on the November ballot by obtaining an Application for Nominating Petition by contacting the Secretary of State. The petition must be filed with the Town Clerk by August 9th at 4:00 pm. More information is available from Norma Holliday, Town Clerk at 860-535-2877 ext. 21.

The following are the positions that will be on the ballot:

First Selectman, 2 Selectmen, Treasurer, 3 Board of Finance, 4 Board of Education,
1 Board of Assessment Appeals, 7 Economic Development Committee,
2 Planning and Zoning Commission and 5 Zoning Board of Appeals.

SUMMER EVENTS



July

7	FRIDAY	10:30 am	Wheeler Library	Nature Center Program on Beavers	Page 2
13	THURSDAY	10:30 am	Wheeler Library	NoSto Rocks: Painted rocks program	Page 2
13-16	THURS-SUN	Hours vary daily	NS Community Grange	North Stonington Agricultural Fair	Page 1
18	TUESDAY	6:30 pm	Wheeler Library	NoSto Rocks: Painted rocks program	Page 2
19	WEDNESDAY	6:30 pm	Wheeler Library	Fun with Rhythm	Page 2
20	THURSDAY	10:30 am	Wheeler Library	Family Science with Mrs. Raggon	Page 2
21 & 28	THURSDAY	10:30 am	Wheeler Library	Yoga for ages 2-5 with Miss Kim Siblings welcome, too	Page 2

August

1	TUESDAY	6:30 pm	Wheeler Library	Hula Hooping Returns!	Page 2
4 & 11	FRIDAY	10:30 am	Wheeler Library	Yoga for ages 2-5 with Miss Kim Siblings welcome, too	Page 2
8	TUESDAY	10:30 am	Wheeler Library	Creature Teachers	Page 2
17	THURSDAY	6:30 pm	Wheeler Library	Frisbee Champ Todd Brodeur	Page 2
26	SATURDAY	4-6 pm	First Baptist Church of NS	34 th Annual Chicken Barbecue rain or shine	
30	WEDNESDAY	Shortened day	NS Schools	First day of school	Page 3

September

10	SUNDAY	2 pm	NS Historical Society Stephen Main Homestead	George Champlin Jr. on currencies used from 1750-1800	Page 2
10	SATURDAY	1 pm	Wheeler Library	Author Celeste Ng on <i>Little Fires Everywhere</i>	Page 2
16	SATURDAY	11- 3:30 pm	Morrone's home 68 Chester MainRd.	Lion's Club Dahlia Day	Page 9
21	THURSDAY	6:30 pm	Wheeler Library	NS Garden Club Program: Role of Local Land Trusts in Conservation	Page 2
23	SATURDAY	12-4 pm	Main Street, Village	NOSTO FEST 17	Page 16
24	SUNDAY	1 pm	Spalding Pond, off Clarks Falls Rd	NS Citizens Land Alliance opening of Samuel Cote Preserve	Page 10

**Town of North Stonington
40 Main Street
North Stonington, CT 06359**

**PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM-Retail**

**Local
Postal Customer
North Stonington, CT 06359**

NOSTO FEST

Saturday, September 23rd

Noon until 4 pm



Planning is underway for this
2nd Annual Hometown Happening!

Join us . . .

- ✓ Be a participant in the event, if you are a local vendor or non-profit
- ✓ Volunteer to help for a few hours at the event on that Saturday

Contact us at nostofest@gmail.com or call 860-235-1565

Celebrate Everything North Stonington!
MUSIC ~ FOOD ~ FUN



On Main Street, North Stonington