

THE NORTH STONINGTON QUARTERLY

SPRING 2022

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

While writing this article, I realized that our new board has now been in office for 4 months. Although the budget process has occupied most of that time, we have been working on many other initiatives. We have been developing an RFP for the demolition of the old Middle School and hoping to use \$1,000,000 of the American Rescue Funds to help offset cost to minimize any negative impact on our taxpayers. There have been discussions with two possible tenants for the old High School that at this stage looks promising. The Planning and Zoning Commission has instituted a 6-month moratorium on cannabis businesses at our request to re-write Town Regulations. We have been working with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation on future business ventures as well as other business opportunities that would produce revenues for our Town. New businesses that complement the rural character of our Town while adding to our revenue line is the best way to hold or reduce the mill rate. Of course, another way is to keep a handle on our expenses which I feel that the BOS has done while we build a 2022-2023 budget.

As the 1st Selectman, I would also like to thank Selectwoman Nicole Porter for filling the role as the Town's representative to the Ledge Light Health District's Board of Directors. Also, Selectman Brett Mastroianni, for working with some of our neighbors to develop a local Farmer's Market that will be held at the Hewitt Farm during the summer.

In closing, please consider attending the public hearing for the 2022-2023 budget which has been tentatively scheduled for Monday, April 11th. Also stop by Town Hall to say hi and let me know if you have any questions or ideas on ways we can all make North Stonington the best that it can be.

BOB CARLSON, NICOLE PORTER & BRETT MASTROIANNI SELECTMEN@NORTHSTONINGTONCT.GOV

NORTH STONINGTON AGRICULTURAL FAIR

Welcome Spring...The Fair Committee is busy planning for the 2022 Fair to be held July 14th – 17th!! With warmer weather here, we will be busy on the grounds doing some maintenance and seeing new projects come to life. The website is being updated as events are being scheduled.

Be sure to check for updates at www.northstoningtonfair.org along with following us on Facebook. Four Day Passes will be available again this year. As the date gets closer, we will let you know where they can be purchased throughout town.

It's not too early to start thinking about your Home Arts & Crafts entries, whether it's garden vegetables, photos, baked goods, stitched items, jams, jellies, etc. All classes are listed on the website. A great experience for all the young ladies is to take part in the Jr. Princes, the Princess or the Queen Contests. Children ages 4-7 can participate in the Pedal Tractor Pull and 2 years and older should start getting their wagons, strollers, tractors etc. suitably decorated for the Kids Parade.



Nick Bosse will be there.

We welcome our newest members and look forward to having anyone wanting to share their time and/or ideas with us to attend our monthly meetings held the 2nd Tuesday of each month, 7pm at the Grange Hall (located on the fairgrounds). Thank you for all the support from our Town.

JODY WHIPPLE PINENEEDLHOMESTEAD@SBC GLOBAL.NET 860-599-8498

WHEELER HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL

The school year is flying by and beginning to look a lot more like it used to be! In the upcoming weeks, middle and high school students will take their annual standardized tests – SAT, SBAC, NGSS and AP to name a few. Our school will use this data to begin supporting students who need it. As we speak, our Wheeler seniors are starting to receive their acceptance notices from their chosen colleges and universities, and we have students completing their pipe-fitting certificate at the Westerly Education Center. Our teachers continue to provide robust programming for our students and students are beginning to schedule their courses for the 2022-2023 school year! This year we had six Voluntown students join our school community and next year we have 7 additional students from



Voluntown and/or Preston who will be joining us! On May 25th, we will be hosting a Health and Wellness Day across District. We are grateful for the support received from the community as we continue to plan for this amazing day.

This past month, Wheeler inducted its newest members into the National Honor Society. Spring sports are underway with no fan or covid restrictions! This past school year, Wheeler was proud to host the ECC Diversity Council, consisting of over 36 students from over 15 ECC schools, coming together to address the climate and culture of the ECC sporting arenas. Their work this year has been well-received, and beginning next year, this Diversity Council will be a regular addition to the ECC League. We are so proud of our Wheeler students who participated and to be the host to such amazing athletes from across the ECC!

KRISTEN ST. GERMAIN, PRINCIPAL

BOARD OF FINANCE

Happy budget season! The Board of Finance has received initial budget proposals from both the Board of Selectmen (BOS) and Board of Education (BOE) and are working closely together on finalizing funding for the two groups. Based on the collaborative nature of our sessions, we expect to maintain our planned schedule with finalizing the budget, town hearing, town meeting, and the referendum.

Wait there's more... We received great news from our Assessors office that our Grand List has grown! This growth will allow us to execute on a number of initiatives, such as, closing the previous year's budget gaps, and funding modest operational and capital growth for the BOS and BOE. We expect to have a BOF approved budget by early April for taxpayer review.

The public is invited to the Board of Finance meetings which are held on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. Please check the calendar dates for these meetings on the Town's website <https://www.northstoningtonct.gov/board-finance>. The Board of Finance meetings are anticipated to be available in a hybrid format. Additionally, these meetings will be available on YouTube.

PAUL SIMONDS CHAIRMAN BOARD OF FINANCE

PAWCATUCK NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

The Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center was the recipient of fresh bread, baked by award-winning SIFT bakery. The bread was delivered to the North Stonington Senior Center as part of our weekly delivery of food to North Stonington Seniors. Above, is a picture of North Stonington resident, and PNC volunteer, Andrea Sellins receiving the bread with Sue Carpenter and Geno Maiollo.



April is the beginning of the first quarter for classes which cost \$25.00 per quarter. Come try out Chair Yoga, Fit & Fabulous, Strength and Balance or Advanced Yoga.

Line Dancing, the Book Club, the Writers Club, and the Craft Club are free. Lunches for seniors are \$3.00 donation, served Monday through Friday at 11:00 a.m. Sign up at www.pawcatuckneighborhoodcenter.org.

On Saturday, May 14th the PNC will host a Care Giver Symposium given by the Mystic Geriatric Institute from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Medical doctors and lawyers will discuss the following: Medical Essentials for Caregivers, Home Preparation, Nutrition, Loneliness, Isolation, Spiritual Needs and Caring for the Caregiver; Transitions; Legal and Financial Issues. Sign up at mysticgeriatricinstitute.com. There is no charge. Lunch provided at no cost. Register in advance by calling 860-599-3285 ext. 101.

Unexpected Thrift Store and Food Pantry are open 9:00 to 3:30, Monday through Friday.

SUSAN SEDENSKY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TAX COLLECTOR

HAPPY SPRING! We anticipate tax bills will be mailed out at the end of June, pending budget approval. These bills will include both the July and January installment of taxes. This will be the **ONLY** bill you receive. You will **NOT** receive another bill for the January installment. If you do not pay both installments in July, please keep your tax bill in a safe place and put a reminder in your calendar to pay your January tax installment.

Please be reminded that failure to receive a tax bill does not invalidate the tax, interest, liens, and collection fees per Connecticut General Statutes 12-130 and 12-146. It is the taxpayer's responsibility to call the Tax Office if you did not receive a bill. Tax Collection office hours are Monday - Friday 8:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. A secure drop box is also available outside of Town Hall where payments can be left. Late payments are determined by official U.S. postmark. Payments postmarked or dropped off before 4pm on the due date do not accrue interest. Connecticut General Statutes do not allow us to go by the check date – postmark only!

The on-line tax website is full of helpful information (www.northstoningtonct.gov/payonline). Payments can be made which will include a service fee; search for payment amounts due or reprint a bill(s). There is also an option to view and print payment history that can be used for IRS tax purposes. All past-due Motor Vehicle and Personal Property accounts from Grand List 2005 to 2019 will be placed with a collection agency as prescribed by state statute regarding proceeding with collection enforcement measures. Once placed with the agency payments can no longer be accepted in the tax office and must be made with the outside agency.

DONNA L. SPELMAN, TAX COLLECTOR 860-535-2877 ext. 120 taxcollector@northstoningtonct.gov

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

The Assessor's Office is accepting applications until May 15th for the **State of Connecticut Homeowners Program**. This Program is for low-income homeowners who are 65 years old or older and/or a homeowner who has been awarded a disability classification. They can receive a reduction on their real estate taxes and the amount is based on your total income. Low income is defined as below \$46,400 for a married couple or \$38,100 for a single person. In addition, **a veteran who qualifies for the Homeowners program may also qualify for an increase in their town veteran benefits**. Veteran's new to North Stonington should file their DD 214 with the Town Clerk to receive a veteran's exemption. Veterans with a disability rating must provide proof of the rating for an increase in benefit.

Homeowners need to bring into the Assessor's Office their completed IRS Form 1040 and their 1099 Social Security income statements. If you did not need to file with the IRS, we will need to see statements of all income plus your Social Security income statements. Office personnel will help you complete the application.

The Assessor's Office will also administer the **Renters Program**. We need to see the same information as required for the Homeowners Program. The application period begins on April 1st and ends September 30th, 2022.

As a reminder, if you buy a new motor vehicle and use different plates, you need to prove that you traded or sold your old car for tax credit. Using the same plate, the credit is automatic, and you do not need to do anything.

The last reminder that I have is for those looking to apply for the **P.A. 490 Farm and Forestry Program**. Your application period is between September 1st and October 31, 2022. Forestry needs 25 acres. Farming has no acreage limits, but you need to attempt to make a profit in an agricultural business.

DARRYL L. GROSSO, CCMA II, ASSESSOR

860-535-3877 ext. 23 or 24

BOY SCOUTS TROOP 71

Boy Scout Troop 71 has kept busy, even in the winter! The troop just completed a cold weather camping trip (16°F as the overnight) at Cochegan Rock. Members of the troop have been participating in Scout Sunday and have attended worship at a place of their choosing. Troop 71 has many exciting events happening in the coming months. There is a campout at JNW Scout Camp to participate in the Maple Syrup Festival on March 18-20. The Spring Court of Honor is being held on March 31st. Scouts have been actively working on advancement and merit badges, so we are excited to recognize those who have earned awards.

In April and May, the troop will be working with the Rotary Club to assist with a Storybook Trail, and the Mystic Half Marathon. Scouts will be camping out on the Narragansett Bike Trail April 29-May 1. We will also be working on flag placement for Memorial Day weekend. Lastly, the troop is very excited for the opportunity to attend not one but two summer camps this year! Those interested in attending can head to JNW June 26-July 1 and Camp Sequassen from July 24-30. For more information related to Scouting and Troop 71, please contact Scoutmaster Ramsey Allen at mmpadi13d@gmail.com



JENN RICHTER TROOP 71 COMMITTEE MEMBER

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION



As we emerge out of another winter with our daily lives being changed due to COVID-19, the Economic Development Commission has been changing as well. Long-time Chair and EDC member Brett Mastroianni has left the Commission to serve as Selectman, and Sam Cherenzia has taken over as Chairman. Joining Sam as officers are newcomers Chris Anderson and Emily Lewis as Vice Chairman and Secretary respectively, with Will Mason serving as Treasurer. The Commission also welcomes new members Chris Friday and Mariah Pfiffner joining Stefan Grufstedt and Jen Anderson.

Presently, we are working on two new programs specifically designed to assist local businesses with the hardships of the pandemic. The first program has already been approved by the Board of Selectmen and presently available to the business community. “North Stonington Works” is funded by the American Rescue

Funds Act and will grant up to \$500 to a business in Town that has 50 or fewer employees that has experienced employee recruitment issues due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The “North Stonington Covid-19 Small Business Assistance Program” is also funded through the American Rescue Funds Act and will grant up to \$10,000 to a business in Town to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus pandemic. This program is in development and should be available to the business community in 2022.

In order to provide businesses and the community with more information about available programs, grants and upcoming EDC events, the EDC is in the process of evaluating and updating our master list of businesses in the Town and the information on the Town website.

Events have been canceled for the last couple of years due to the pandemic. This summer, the EDC will host a get together for members of all Town boards and commissions. It will give North Stonington’s dedicated volunteers a chance to get together, collaborate and celebrate their commitment to the Town of North Stonington.

Your new Economic Development Commission looks forward to assisting and building the business community of the Town of North Stonington in a challenging environment.



For more information, go to: www.northstoningtonct.gov/economic-development-commission.

CHRISTOPHER P. ANDERSON

VICE CHAIRMAN

BETTER TOGETHER CT, INC. FARM AND SANCTUARY

~Healing trauma. Building bridges. Bringing balance & sustainability to Veterans and the community, one person and one family at a time~

Now that Spring is here things will be getting much busier around the farm!



We had a very busy year last year. Together with the help of our volunteers, donations and a lot of hard work, we were able to erect a 90 x 30 high hoop house which we are now using for year-round growing of organic herbs, fruits and vegetables. We are already hard at work planting seedlings and will be selling fresh organic produce and CBD products at our Country Farm Store, the Dennison Farmer's Market in Stonington and the North Stonington Farmers Market.

In February, with a donation from Forester's Financial, we were able to put together care packages of fresh organic produce which were distributed by the North Stonington Senior Center to local families in need. A big Thank You to Tamarack Lodge for sponsoring a benefit dinner to "Thank a Vet" - It was a great success and enjoyed by all!

2022 will be our 4th season growing hemp. Last year we held our inaugural Hempstock Music Festival which was a lot of fun! This year Hempstock is scheduled for August 6th. We are very excited about all the opportunities regarding use of all of the hemp plant. Please save the date!



We also have a beautiful event space that is located at the Wellness Center, which is in the rear of the Holly Green Complex. All proceeds from rental of the event space benefit Better Together CT Inc. Farm & Sanctuary, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, which benefits veterans through agriculture, fellowship and the arts.

We appreciate the continued love and support we have received from the community and look forward to the 2023 growing season. Our mini-herd is available for equine therapy and they love to have visitors! Please feel free to call ahead at 860-389-2697 to make sure that the farm is open for visitors.

DR. STEFANA PECHER, DIRECTOR

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Happy Spring! It has been a busy winter for the Board of Education, and we have a lot of changes on the horizon. Mr. Nero will be retiring after 10 years as our Superintendent. He has seen North Stonington through so many milestones. He has been here from the beginning of our school building projects to the completion and full occupancy of our beautiful new facilities. Mr. Nero was our rock in getting us through COVID. He did an amazing job of keeping our children's education a priority while focusing on the health and well-being of our staff and students through an incredibly difficult time. I am sure these last 10 years were not at all what he was expecting when he chose to come to a quiet little town for the last years of his career, but we are thankful that he did and appreciate everything he has done for North Stonington. The Board worked with a search consultant to go through the process of hiring our next superintendent and after reviewing and interviewing several candidates, we have signed on a new Superintendent, Troy Hopkins, to start July 1. He comes to our district from Ashford, CT and has already had to opportunity to meet many of the staff, students, and community members. We hope you all have the chance to stop in and say hello this summer. Mr. Hopkins brings energy, vision, and experience from Kindergarten through High School and currently serves as a Principal and Assistant Superintendent. We also said goodbye to Sue Costa in February after so many years as an advocate for our children and welcome Alison Mullane as our new Special Education Director. She will be focusing primarily on our Special Education program while also assisting Mr. Cillino at the elementary school. It is exciting to change our focus away from the pandemic and start looking to the future of education for our students. We are currently working through our budget process and hope everyone takes the time to come out and vote. Spring sports have started, come see a game or catch one of our drama shows, our student's talents and hard work never fail to impress.

CHRISTINE WAGNER BOE CHAIRMAN

NORTH STONINGTON PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

Our Winter was pretty busy, but we managed to balance our workload without compromising our fun!

Some of our work included holding votes to pay off the balance of the playground installation and for sponsoring the registration fee for the CT Invention Convention. We held a Scholastic Book fair, which not only provided every teacher with books for their classrooms, but also provided over \$300 worth of books to our elementary school library. We were able to run a successful catalog fundraiser and we have spent countless hours working on updating our bylaws.

For fun, we loved seeing the children shop at our annual Holiday Sale! We had great feedback about the Teachers' Wish Lists! We've laughed a lot at our meetings, and we had an absolute BLAST creating an entry for the Holiday Light Parade!



We have a busy Spring planned and hope that if you have a student in our schools, that you will want to be a part of the work (and fun!) that helps enrich their academic experience. Our meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at 7pm and can be attended in person (in the elementary school cafeteria) or via Zoom. See you there!

DAWN GORALEWICZ, PRESIDENT PRESIDENT@NORTHSTONINGTONPTO.COM

NORTH STONINGTON GARDEN CLUB

After a two-year hiatus necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the North Stonington Garden Club Plant Sale returns!! It will be held, rain or shine, on Saturday, May 7 from 9am to noon, at Wheeler Elementary School, 311 Norwich-Westerly Road (Route 2). In addition to a wide selection of perennials dug from the gardens of Club members, offerings will include annuals, vegetable seedlings, herbs, hanging baskets, a great rummage table, as well as a Master Gardener table where customers can get expert advice. URI soil testers will be on-site to test soil texture and pH for customers who bring a soil sample. Major credit cards will be accepted for purchases over \$30 (3% fee applied). Also, the “Painted Rock Treasure Hunt” is back with ten rocks hidden in North Stonington to be found and redeemed for a plant prize on the day of the Sale. Check our Facebook page, or website <http://www.nsgardenclub.org/plant-sale/> for clues, starting April 7, 2022.



The Club continues to support the town’s Pollinator Pathway Project. The initial path through the village will follow Main Street from Rocky Hollow past Wheeler Library to Route 2. You can help with supplying pollinator-friendly plants for public areas along this path by contributing to the crowd funding appeal. If you prefer, you can send a donation to ‘North Stonington Pollinators’ at the Town Hall, 40 Main Street. Donations made prior to April 30, 2022 will be eligible for matching funds through the Sustainable CT Community Match Fund. If you prefer to make a more hands-on contribution, consider planting your own property to host and feed pollinating insects. You will see the benefits, not only in flowers and butterflies, but perhaps also in improved yields in your vegetable garden. To support your efforts, the Club will be featuring an expanded selection of pollinator-friendly plants at our Plant Sale. Need to know more? Email No.Sto.Pollinators@gmail.com.

JANICE PARKER

NORTH STONINGTON GARDEN CLUB COMMUNICATIONS

KEEPING NORTH STONINGTON AFFORDABLE (KNSA)

We are in the process of converting the old Clark Falls School into an affordable home. In addition, we are building on a second lot that was recently acquired in the town. Both projects will increase the number of affordable homes required by the state in every town in Connecticut.

KNSA has planned a *Gala event Friday, April 8th from 5:30 to 7:30 at Jonathan Edwards Winery* to support these projects. Scores of items will be offered in a tea-cup raffle, others in a silent auction and still more in a live auction. You may be the winner of a weekend on Martha’s Vineyard, a candlelight brunch for 6, or a cocktail party for 20. Numerous gift certificates will be offered at our local businesses. You may bid on artwork from prominent artists, including the work of Robert Batemen, who painted Canada’s gift to Prince Charles and Diana’s wedding, or Sue Starr’s magnificent work.



Don’t worry about supper; included in your ticket will be gourmet hors d’oeuvres and a glass of Jonathan Edwards wine. Tickets may be purchased at the door or on-line at knsainc.org or knsa.president1@gmail.com.

Join your neighbors at a fun early evening and support our town’s need for homes that are affordable for our seniors, our young first homeowners and our middle-income home buyers.

MARY ANN RICKER, PRESIDENT

NORTH STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Hopefully, March comes “in like a lion and out like a lamb.” It was an excellent start to the month with the mask wearing mandate ending. It is awesome to see smiling faces again!

The end of the school year also brings the busiest time for the Board of Education (BOE) and Central Office. A focus is on the budgetary process as the BOE has passed its budget and is in the hands of the Board of Finance prior to going to the town. We are thankful to the town’s residents for their continued support of our schools, and we are all proud of our district’s academic success. Success speaks for itself, as Wheeler will open next school year in its second year as a *School of Choice*, as we have students from Voluntown and Preston attending Wheeler next fall on a tuition basis.

The athletic department is presently gearing up for a full-spring schedule. If you pass by the athletic fields and see baseball, softball or lacrosse games taking place, please stop by and cheer on the Wheeler Lions!

We will be having a number of award and promotion ceremonies this spring. While the date for graduation will not be set until April, the traditional Wheeler graduation will take place on the Wheeler Library lawn, which is open to the public.

As a matter of personal indulgence, I want to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve as Superintendent of North Stonington Public Schools for the last ten years. As I retire, I would like to think that I am leaving the district in a better place than when I arrived. I am proud of the work that we did together to build a new Wheeler and completely renovate the North Stonington Elementary School. Most importantly, both of our schools have been recognized by the state as a “*School of Distinction*”, in the top 10% of Connecticut schools. I would also like to acknowledge the retirement of Mrs. Roberta “Robbie” McCarthy, Administrative assistant, for 33-years of dedicated service to the district. Robbie, a 1977 graduate of Wheeler, will be honored on April 9th as a “*High School Alumni of Distinction*”.

Finally, I want to wish the new Superintendent of North Stonington Public Schools, Mr. Troy Hopkins, best wishes as he begins his tenure starting on July 1st.

PETER L. NERO SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

NORTH STONINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The North Stonington Historical Society has been very active, but public presentations on COVID were kept on hold.

A new parking lot is now open. The grounds are getting a big lift; they are being landscaped with native plants by a committee headed by Vilma Gregoropoulos and partnering with the Pollinator Pathway Project.

The Morgan A. Stuart Library within the homestead is open on Tuesday afternoons or by appointment.

The Society hopes you are enjoying the newsletter that is published from September to June. If you don’t have a membership, you may contact Robin at denishawnr@gmail.com. We are also looking for the interesting stories that you have saved or unearthed about our town or characters. For more information, please contact Tobias Goodman at 69noywk@gmail.com.

For all your genealogical research needs you may contact Gladys Chase at 860-599-3608.



ROTARY OF THE STONINGTONS

We are ready to spring back into action to fulfill our “Service Above Self” motto. On April 9th, we are partnering with the Wheeler Interact Club to carry out a Rotary Day of Service. We will be helping the Interact Club to install a storybook trail at the track behind the Elementary School. We will also be working with Avalonia trail-hands to build bog bridges on trails at the TriTown Forest and the newest local Avalonia preserve, Green Falls River Glen, located off of Puttker Road. We invite interested community members to work with us on these projects.

Details can be found on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/havingfuninservice or you can contact Donna Scherer at dscherer.rotary@gmail.com to sign up!



In addition, our club also has other projects:

- It is scholarship season, and North Stonington seniors (students at Wheeler, other area schools, or homeschoolers) are invited to contact the guidance office for an application and criteria for our annual financial awards.
- We recently raised funds to purchase 10 new computers for a new library at Chikumbuso.
- Our club was named March volunteers of the month at the New London Community Meal Center, an organization we've been supporting for 2 years.
- We are looking forward to our annual fundraiser on May 26th, a golf tournament on Fishers Island, where we raise money to support the projects described above, and many more.

DONNA SCHERER, COMMUNITY OUTREACH CHAIR

NORTH STONINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Happy Spring to all our North Stonington Families! As the season changes, we are moving into our third and final trimester. Here at the Elementary School this is the time when we do our Spring Conferences, following distribution of our second trimester report cards. This spring we are also finally able to take our school pictures. We had to reschedule twice due to COVID, but things have finally calmed down for us.

We have been able to do some fun things again with our break from the pandemic. Over the past couple of weeks, we held both the Invention Convention and our Annual Spelling Bee. Our inventors this year were: Cody Kim, Brian Hoitt, Lily White, Brie Oelsner, Miles Kirmmse, Peter Kirmmse, Trinity Johnson, Hayden Miner Dylan Christmas, Ryan Rose, Rece Rose, and Elliot Hayes. The Spelling Bee Champion from our school was Elsie Charles! She will be moving on to compete at the state level.

We are also looking forward to our Drama Club's performance of The Wizard of Oz. The cast has been working very hard under the direction of Ms. Gonzalez and this is certain to be an amazing show. We are looking forward to an enjoyable final trimester for the '21-'22 school year.

ROBERT CILLINI PRINCIPAL

WHEELER LIBRARY



In-person programming is back at Wheeler Library. Join us this spring for three gardening talks with Emma Sutphen, owner of North Stonington's Adesa Farm. All programs (April 20th, April 27th and May 18th) begin at 6:30pm. Free and open to all

The library is looking for the right person to find and manage great programs for the community - please see our website for more information on this part-time programming and publicity position.

Our popular fundraiser, the Heirloom Tomato Plants Sale, is back this year. By pre-order only, the library will offer a limited quantity of organically grown plants. Please watch Instagram, Facebook, and our website for updates. The seed library drawers are filled with a wide range of vegetable and flower varieties. Browsing is open to all.

Students in grades K-3 will continue to visit us for read alouds, activities and to browse the children's library once a month through June. It's exciting to have the energy of children's voices in the library regularly.

In the Children's Library, we have started in-person programming once again and are currently offering 3 classes for children:

- Toddler Storytime for children up to age 3 on Tuesdays at 10:30,
- Lil' Yogis with Miss Kim on Wednesdays at 10:30, and a
- Preschool Storytime for ages 3-5 on Thursdays at 11:00.

A new Storywalk will be ready in April along Main Street and on Saturday, April 30th we will offer a program for children and families given by a Denison Pequot Nature Center educator on pollinators. This will help us kick off our plans to build a small garden to attract pollinators and will add Wheeler Library to the Pollinator Pathway, with the help and collaboration of the NS Garden Club.

Visit us to browse and borrow from our growing collection of books for all ages, Discovery Kits, Grab and Go Bags, monthly Take & Makes, Playaways and more! Summer Reading begins June 12th - more details to come.

Visit Wheeler Library at the North Stonington Artisan Farmers Market where we will have a kids' activity table, books for sale, and library card sign-ups.

AMY KENNEDY, DIRECTOR

860-535-0383



LAND USE DEVELOPMENT

Welcome Spring! With the recent spring equinox, the melting of the last snow and the daffodils popping up, our thoughts can turn to outside work once again. Spring signals the beginning of outdoor work and improvement projects and initiates the deck, shed and pool season here at Town Hall. The Land Use Office would like to remind you and our fellow NoStoites that permits for construction work are required for building projects. The addition of a deck, shed or pool will require both zoning and building permits. Additionally, siding, window replacement, re-roofing, adding a generator and similar construction projects will require a building permit. As you plan your spring work, please check with the Land Use Office to see if permits and inspections will be required before you start your project.

The Planning and Zoning Commission and the Water Pollution Control Authority have been working on new policy initiatives. P & Z has placed a six-month moratorium on establishing various cannabis uses pursuant to the new recreational cannabis law passed by the State Legislature. WPCA is working to update the Water Pollution Control – Sewer Avoidance Plan. The WPCA's plan aims is to ensure that North Stonington's public health and water resources are protected.

Permit activity in remains consistent, yet, slightly behind pace with the record setting FY21. With the Spring building season, we may yet see FY 22 close the gap.

Projects	Square Feet	Construction Cost	Total Building Fees	Total Land Use Fees
FY 22 YTD	243,374.00	\$8,622,128.11	\$83,791.80	\$10,620.00
FY 21 Total – No Solar	464,025.00	\$14,681,625.58	\$126,778.22	\$15,903.00
FY 21 - Large Solar Permits		\$15,168,873.30	\$140,096.26	

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Community Calendar sold out for 2022, we wish we had printed more. We hope you look forward to the 2023 calendar when we plan to highlight all 15 district old schoolhouses and where they are today.

We have worked with the Town and Avalonia for parking areas for their newly acquired Sheets Preserve alongside Green Falls River on Putker Road. If you haven't hiked it yet, this spring would be a wonderful time. This property adds significantly to the Eastern Wildlife corridor and is available to anglers as well.

Following the completion of the Historic Trail through town center and around through Hewitt Farm, we have guided secondary school classes down the Main Street section identifying the historic homes, churches, library and town buildings. Maps are available at the Library, Town Hall and Chelsea-Groton Bank. Use the QR on your phone for detailed information on most buildings along the route.

Presently, we are working on a bicycle trail map. As there are so many bikers riding our roads, this map will identify mountain biking trails, paved road trails, some of our gravel roads for hybrid bike trail riding and Enduro trails through Pachaug Forest.

Work toward the 10-year Plan of Conservation & Development due in 2023 has begun. More to come.

BILL RICKER, CHAIRMAN

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Hello, I hope everyone is doing well during these tumultuous times. This season, in terms of storms and power outages, I believe that North Stonington has fared well once again (thus far). I have attended several meetings hosted by Eversource regarding possible unplanned power outages and received intelligence briefings about the potential for cyber threat actors and the dangers they pose to us, especially during the current Ukraine and Russia conflict. During February, “active shooter” drills were conducted within our old school building during a two day period, and attended by several surrounding area law enforcement agencies. Approximately 80-90 officers participated in this valuable training exercise. Special thanks to our own North Stonington Resident Troopers for making it happen. Multiple required fire and lock-down drills



were conducted within our schools, and they were well executed. The staff and students did a great job. I give much and continued appreciation to all our Town’s services (NSVFC, NSAA, Highway Department, ACO and Resident Troopers) for their untiring dedication and support to our residents.

Lastly, but not least, is the great honor bestowed by Connecticut’s Attorney General William Tong, of the “Citizen Hero Award” to resident Cheryl Haase, Trooper Jason McCarthy, and First Selectman Bob Carlson for the outreach support to help a “down and out” retired U.S. Marine Corps veteran. You can read more about this issue in both The New London Day and Westerly Sun. Well done! This is what makes North Stonington and its residents so special!

GARY BARON, DIRECTOR

HEWITT FARM

The Hewitt Farm has become increasingly popular as a place for recreation and enjoyment. There is a lot you can do on 104 acres! The new pavilion on the Green provides a good spot to relax after a long trail walk. These days there are many folks putting together parties or events at the farm. The Hewitt Farm Committee encourages and helps administrate these events. The nearby Community Garden has already filled all of their plots, but there is still work to do and members are very helpful when others come to visit and learn more about gardening.

We believe that the very special John Dean Gallup House will soon be open. Much work on the inside has been completed. The Committee is hopeful to find a suitable use/or tenant this summer.

Hewitt Farm is open daily from dawn to dusk. It’s free, easy to get to, right near the village and Holly Green. Park just inside the Hewitt Road entrance off Route 2 or at the parking area down Hewitt Road from Ryder Road. Download the Hewitt Farm Trail Map from the town website (www.northstonington.ct.gov) or pick one up at the trailheads.

NITA KINCAID HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE 860-235-1565

NORTH STONINGTON SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Have you heard of the Town of North Stonington's Sustainability Committee? Started in June 2021, our mission is to support the cultural fabric of the community and the local economy while promoting the health and well-being of current and future residents and respecting the finite capacity of the natural environment.

We are small (but mighty!) and are looking for new members who are interested in sustainability: anything from supporting local economies and sustainable agriculture, to preserving natural resources and promoting renewable energy. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm and are eager to welcome new members for engaging discussion, idea generation and action. Last year, we successfully achieved the recertification of North Stonington by Sustainable CT at the Bronze level, which gives the Town access to a matching grant program for projects up to \$50,000.

This year, we will be striving for the Silver certification level, as well as working on initiatives which include: the Pollinator Pathway project, Energy Audit awareness, an Earth Day celebration, composting and plastic waste reduction, textiles recycling, canoe/kayak trail trash cleanup and more! Check out our website, Sustainable North Stonington to learn more: <https://www.northstoningtonct.gov/home/pages/sustainable-north-stonington> or visit our Facebook page: [Facebook.com/sustainablenosto](https://www.facebook.com/sustainablenosto).

ALEXIS KAHN CHAIRMAN

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

As I am writing this article, it is snowing outside, but I know that Spring warmth and flowers are just around the corner! With that said, fishing season will soon be here. Come to the office to get your fishing and other sporting licenses, as well as the regulation guides. Sporting licenses can also be purchased online at www.ct.gov/deep.



The Spring season also brings an increase in marriage licenses. If you plan on being married in North Stonington, a marriage license must be obtained from the Town Clerk's Office. Please call the office with any questions.

The new dog licensing year will begin on June 1st. A Rabies Clinic is being held on Saturday, June 4, 2022, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon at the Town Hall. The fee is \$15.00 cash only. The Town Clerk's Office will also be open to provide dog licenses for dogs belonging to North Stonington residents.

Finally, the Town Clerk's Office is the place to obtain an absentee ballot for all town referendums, primaries, and elections. There will be a Budget referendum in May. Primary Day is on August 9, 2022, and the State Election is on November 8, 2022.

The Town Clerk's Office is open on Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM, except on legal holidays. Please contact me at (860) 535-2877 Ext. 121 and at townclerk@northstoningtonct.gov.

ANTOINETTE PANCARO, MMC, MCTC, CCMO TOWN CLERK

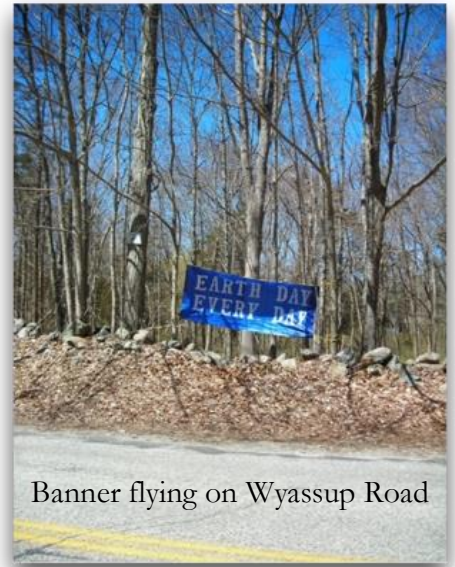
NORTH STONINGTON CITIZENS LAND ALLIANCE

EARTH DAY EVERY DAY

Congratulations! Earth Day is celebrating its 52nd year on April 22nd, having begun as a National Day for Earth in 1970! Many of us recognize its significance than ever before. It is time to kick up one's heels and revel in being outdoors, especially after the pandemic and months of winter.

With more of us walking, running, and biking, North Stonington's rural town roads and wooded inner preserves, here are a few Earth Day thoughts:

- Use the roadsides or land trails gently. Clean up after your pet, carry home food leftovers. No trash.
- Blaze up to be noticed. A red shirt or yellow socks is just not enough brightness for a driver or hunter. Walk during the daylight hours; let someone know about your itinerary.
- Care, even if the land appears unused. Be considerate of each parcel you walk, whether in a park or meadow; each of us is a guest.



Banner flying on Wyassup Road

MADELINE JEFFERY LANDALLIANCEINC@GMAIL.COM 860-599-5517

NORTH STONINGTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The North Stonington Education Foundation has three upcoming fun and fundraising events this spring. On Saturday, April 9th at the Lake of Isles, the Foundation will present, “NOSTO UNLEASHED: An Evening with Sugar.” This is our annual dinner and Distinguished Alumni Induction (Roberta “Robbie” McCarthy, Wheeler Class of 1977). On Saturday, May 21, the Foundation will hold a Family Drive-In Movie Night at the Grange. Lastly, on Saturday, May 28, the annual “Memorial Day Weekend, Runners and Walkers in Support of Education,” 5K Road Race will be held.

On another note, the Foundation is introducing a Micro-Grant for educators and community members to apply for. This is a fast-track grant for sums under \$500.00. To date, thanks to community support the Foundation has given out \$170,000 for support of educational activities in North Stonington.

For further information please visit: [HTTPS://nsefoundation.org](https://nsefoundation.org)

BERNARD “BING” BARTICK. BBESAIL@AOL.COM 860-389-0264

NORTH STONINGTON LIONS CLUB

The North Stonington Lions have been hard at work raising money for several causes in our community, in our country and across the globe. At our Christmas party in December our members donated gift cards which were given to the North Stonington Schools' Food Pantry and the North Stonington Senior Center to help local families with expenses during the holidays.



In February we collected household items and monetary donations for victims of the deadly tornadoes that occurred in Kentucky in November 2021. We are grateful to the residents of Stonington and North Stonington who answered the call through the towns' Facebook pages. Thanks to your generosity, the Lions from our district sent two 25-foot box trucks of supplies to 300 displaced families.

As I write this, we are working on a Soup Potluck Supper with the proceeds being sent to Lions Club International Foundation, to be donated to The Refugees and Displaced

Persons Fund for the Conflict in Ukraine. We are inspired by and fully support the Ukrainian people, who have suffered much pain and devastation in their fight to remain free.

As you may have heard, the North Stonington Lions have accepted an environmental challenge. We are collecting 500 pounds of plastic film and bags in a 6-month period. If our goal is met, we will receive a Trex bench for our town. Please join us in completing this challenge by placing your plastic in our bins located at the Wheeler Library, the North Stonington Senior Center and the Ditty Bag in Mystic. Our deadline for reaching our goal is May 15th.

Please join us in congratulating Amy Kennedy, Director at the Wheeler Library. She was named our 2021 Humanitarian of the Year for her outstanding generosity and community service to the Town of North Stonington.

Lastly, if you are interested in helping others in need, please join us for an evening of fellowship and discover what the Lions are all about. Our meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month. If you might be interested, please send me an email at twbyassee@gmail.com.

Wishing all our fellow residents a Very Happy Spring! We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the North Stonington Memorial Day Parade, being held on May 30th, 2020.

TERRY BYASSEE, CLUB PRESIDENT



Trail! Spring birds! Blossoms! Vernal pools awakening! Spring is a wonderful time to explore the trails on several preserves. Maps, tips, membership, and volunteering information are available at Avalonia.org. On the website you'll find the family participation activity, **Hike-and-Seek**.

Avalonia is excited about the **First Annual 7 Rivers Festival**, celebrating the Wild & Scenic status on the Wood-Pawcatuck Waterways June 25 & 26. The new acquisition, Sheets Family Forest on Puttker Road borders the Green Fall River, a part of the Wood-Pawcatuck River system. Look for details to come and join us.



Contact: Pat Turner at jmt.pst@gmail.com or
Toby Glaza at tglaza@avalonialc.org

NORTH STONINGTON COMMUNITY GRANGE #138

When North Stonington Community Grange #138 meets we discuss and act upon not only our Grange needs, but also the needs of our community. We also have an informational program. **All are welcome** to come and have some fun with us, and your input as to our community needs would be greatly appreciated.

Our winter schedule is slower, with a lot of fun to ease the "winter blues". This year's theme is "That's Entertainment" and, in January, we learned about events in January from the last 100 years. In February we made valentines for a local nursing home. The first meeting in March taught us Grange history via a "Jeopardy" game. As I write this, our second meeting in March will be our Lecturer's contest entry "The Grange of the Future".

Our upcoming schedule on April 8th will be a game night. On April 22nd we will honor our long-term members and a Community Citizen. May 13th is titled "Read-Support your Local Library". Our Memorial program is on May 27. June 10th is our election of officers for the new year, with a short program on "Mysteries". June 24th is our Annual Potluck picnic and games. All meetings are at 8:00 pm except the picnic, which begins at 6:30 pm. Come enjoy.

SUE PIANKA, PROGRAM DIRECTOR

THE FIRST ANNUAL '7 RIVERS' FESTIVAL

Call for North Stonington residents & organizations

Plan a 7 Rivers Festival Event!

The Wood-Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic Rivers Stewardship Council (Stewardship Council) presents the 1st annual 7 Rivers Festival, June 25th and 26th, 2022. It celebrates the Wild and Scenic Rivers Status of 7 rivers in the region prestigiously designated as unique on a regional and national scale.

We are encouraging individuals and groups in the communities of Charlestown, Exeter, Hopkinton, North Kingstown, Richmond, South Kingstown, West Greenwich and Westerly, RI & Stonington, North Stonington, Sterling and Voluntown, CT to join us.

All community members are encouraged to plan **free events** - whether family friendly, recreational, or restorative, including ecological, educational, musical, artistic, historical activities as well as hiking, cycling, canoe and kayak outings along with picnics and social gatherings. Whether on a riverbank, the water, in your community or your own backyard, your events will highlight the special rivers in your communities. Let's celebrate this June for National Rivers Month!

For more information on the 7 Rivers Festival go to <https://wpwildrivers.org/7-rivers-festival/> or to schedule an event, call 401-539-9017 or email wildevents@wpwa.org

The deadline for event entries is May 7th, 2022.

THE NORTH STONINGTON RECREATION COMMISSION

Fun Spring Activities

Family and Friends Paint Night:	Saturday April 2nd "Easter Bunny" themed
Adult Golf Lessons:	Multiple offerings starting in April
Youth Golf Lessons: S	Saturday mornings 11:00 - 12:00pm starting April 16th
Spring Drama Camp for Kids:	April Vacation Drama Camp (April 18th - 22nd)
Youth Tennis Clinics:	Saturday mornings starting April 23rd
Family& Friends Painting:	Saturday morning April 30th "Bugs arts & crafts"

Women Only Golf Lessons:	Multiple offerings starting in May
Family & Friends Paint Night:	Saturday May 14th "Spring Flowers / Bugs" themed
CPR/First Aid Certification:	Sunday May 15th (1:00 - 6:00pm)
Summer Playground Camp:	Seven week morning camp is available for registration
Youth Soccer Clinic:	TBA....

Please visit www.northstoningtonrec.com for specific details about these programs

SPRING EVENTS

April

8	FRIDAY	5:30-7:30 pm	Jonathan Edwards Winery	Gala Event to benefit KNSA \$50/ticket	Page 8
9	SATURDAY	6 pm – 11 pm	Lake of Isles	NSEF: Celebration of Excellence Dinner and Dance	Page 15
20	WEDNESDAY	6:30 pm	Wheeler Library	Gardening talk with Emma Sutphen, “An introduction to Regenerative Soil Management and No-Till Farming”	Page 11
26	TUESDAY	4:00 pm	Wheeler Library	Book Discussion- The Good Earth by Pearl Buck	Page 11
27	WEDNESDAY	6:30 pm	Wheeler Library	Gardening talk with Emma Sutphen, “Maximizing Garden Production: Interplanting, Cover Cropping, and Companion Planting”	Page 11
29	FRIDAY	5:30 PM	Wheeler HS/MS	NSPTO Basket Raffle	Page 7

May

7	SATURDAY	9 am - noon	NS Elementary School	NS Garden Club Annual Plant Sale	Page 8
18	WEDNESDAY	6:30 pm	Wheeler Library	Gardening talk with Emma Sutphen: Organic Garden Pest Management	Page 11
21	SATURDAY	7:00 pm	Grange	NSEF Family Drive-In Movie Night	Page 15
24	TUESDAY	6:30	Wheeler Library	Book Discussion: The Bonesetter’s Daughter, by Amy Tan	Page 11
28	SATURDAY	8:00 am		Annual NSEF 5k Road Race	Page 15
29	SUNDAY	12:30-7:30 pm	Tamarack Lodge	Country Music Fest to benefit Better Together	Page 6
30	MONDAY		NS Village	Memorial Day Parade	

June

4	SATURDAY	10 am - noon	Town Hall	Rabies Clinic (\$15 cash only)	
24	FRIDAY	6:30 pm	NS Grange	Annual Potluck Picnic. All Welcome	Page 17

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

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

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

**The Budget is coming! The Budget is coming!
Your Vote is your Voice.**

Voting is the best way to support the efforts of our town officials and to have a say in how we spend our money.

Please plan to attend the upcoming Public Hearing and Annual Meeting - then vote at the Referendum.

(Dates TBD)

Go to the town website at www.northstoningtonct.gov and sign up for News and Announcements to stay informed.

Enjoy Spring!
Nita Kincaid & Lisa Mazzella