

# THE NORTH STONINGTON QUARTERLY

SUMMER 2018

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Happy Summer everyone! Many things besides just the bees have been buzzing around North Stonington since we last wrote to you three months ago.

We are excited to report that our budget passed and we will begin the fiscal year 2018-2019 with a budget. We are happy to have worked closely with the Boards of Finance and Education to put together this fiscally responsible budget for the town. We also would like to thank Representative Diana Urban and State Senator Heather Sommers for helping to secure funding for our town, which helped us tremendously to keep the mil rate at a reasonable level with a very small tax increase necessary.

We are in the process of closing out and completing our new Center for Emergency Services project, while at the same time our school renovations ramp up. With these two major infrastructure improvements for the town we feel poised to be well situated for many years to come setting our emergency services personnel and teachers with state of the art facilities that meet the needs of our community.

Our highway crew has been busy as the grass grows fast and many projects are being completed. We have been working on road repairs throughout town and working to be sure our town continues to have the roads and grounds we can all be proud of.

You will soon see activity happening at the old firehouse that will be housing a new recreation center where we hope to have activities for all ages. We also will be working towards moving voting up to that building. We currently have listed the Holly Green condominium that had been used for our recreation director for sale and hope to have it sold in short order.



Joe Rubino

The Selectmen all marched together in our Memorial Day Parade and were honored to be a part of such a great North Stonington tradition. Thanks to the North Stonington Lions Club for coordinating this wonderful event.

We have added a few new members to our staff. Joe Rubino, a Sergeant in the Air National Guard with significant experience in civil engineering and equipment operation, has been hired as our new Assistant Highway Foreman. We have also brought on two seasonal part-time Highway Department employees, Richard Waldron & Michael Williamson. Christine Dias has joined the Town Hall team in the new position of Administration and Finance Officer. Christine brings a Master's degree in Public Administration, ten years of experience that includes budgeting, human resources and administration, as

well as a can-do approach. We are thrilled with Joe and Christine's efforts thus far and look forward to their help leading North Stonington into the future.

We hope everyone will stay tuned to our [www.northstoningtonct.gov](http://www.northstoningtonct.gov) website and the new @mynosto sites on twitter, Instagram, & Facebook.

MIKE URGO, NITA KINCAID & BOB CARLSON

SELECTMEN@NORTHSTONINGTONCT.GOV



Christine Dias

## SCHOOL MODERNIZATION BUILDING COMMITTEE



The official website of the North Stonington School Modernization Building Committee is live! This site is a real-time information resource as our community moves forward with the new construction and renovation of our educational facilities. Visit <http://www.buildingwheeler.com> for updates on the projects, timelines, and answers to frequently asked questions. Look for up-to-date details about the impact to student schedules and parking. Documents, including contracts and renderings, are also available. Questions are welcome, and can be submitted under the “Contact Us” tab. Again, we thank you for your interest and support during this exciting time of transition.

Site work in process includes the erection of the steel structure of the new middle/high school; ongoing foundational work at both locations; and changes to the footprint of the gymnasium including a redesign to the locker rooms and training areas, as well as a reconfiguration of the band and chorus area and the addition of a new guidance suite and nursing clinic. Work scheduled for this phase also involves the preliminary utility work for the fire protection, electrical, and heating, ventilation, and air handling systems. Work will also be underway on the other side of the street, as the new BOE location will have the roof replaced this summer!

With construction in full swing, parents may be wondering how this will impact both summer school and the summer program run by the Town’s Recreation Department. All summer programs, including both summer school and the summer rec program will be held at the Elementary School as planned. Any scheduled work that may potentially impact the Elementary School has been coordinated so there is no disruption to students. Additionally, we anticipate minimal impact to teachers having access to their classrooms. We understand that summer is an important time for teachers to prepare the learning environment for the new school year, and the committee is making every effort to ensure the construction schedule is coordinated with input from our teachers and the communication with school administration is on-going.

The committee is also working with the Board of Education to plan for the March 2019 extended vacation schedule. Although the move to the new middle/high school building will be an exciting time, families will be in a unique situation of having to arrange for childcare and activities for a two-week period. We thank the BOE for their initiative and collaboration to support our families through this process.

As mentioned in the previous update, the safety of our students and the school community is of highest priority, so we ask everyone to stay aware and informed throughout the building process for any posted signs, school communications, notifications, pavement markings, and fenced off areas. We thank the Town and our resident troopers for responding so quickly to the request for increased safety support during peak hours.

Please join the SMBC at any of our scheduled meetings and take advantage of the opportunity to provide our committee feedback, ask questions, and get the latest updates on our new website!

PAMELA POTE M RI, CHAIRMAN

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## THAMES VALLEY COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY ACTION, INC.

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), managed by TVCCA (Thames Valley Council for Community Action) has volunteer opportunities for people ages 55+. Some of the options would be visiting or shopping for someone who is elderly or disabled; helping in our Veterans Coffeehouse; and delivering meals on wheels. Share what you enjoy doing with older or disabled people in your community. Volunteer around your schedule and make a positive impact. For more information about volunteer opportunities and the Veterans Coffeehouse please contact Gina King, Program Coordinator at 860-425-6617 or [gking@tvcca.org](mailto:gking@tvcca.org).

## NORTH STONINGTON AGRICULTURAL FAIR

Thursday, July 12<sup>th</sup> kicks off the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual North Stonington Agricultural Fair! This year's fair will bring in some new events along with welcoming back some of our traditional events and entertainment. Thursday evening we will be holding our first **Costumed Goat Race!** We look forward to seeing how many goats and handlers will come out and show their talent and creativity. This event is open to the public, information is published on the website. If you are interested in racing your goat, make sure you have your health papers done and contact Mac Gray (860-599-3053) for more details. Sunday afternoon you can stop by the mechanical pull ring and see the new speed controlled **Farm Tractor Pull.** We are also pleased to be offering a **Baby Care Station** this year where parents/caretakers can relax inside to care for the needs of the little ones!



On Saturday, we are excited to be bringing back on our stage **Dirty Deeds**, AC/DC Tribute Band. You will also be able to enjoy some great country music in the afternoon on Saturday presented by North Stonington's **Nick Bosse.** Other local bands include **Southbound Band**, **Jay Dempsey Band**, and **Lenny Domina & Traditional Country** throughout the weekend. And of course there will be Karaoke on stage 2 where you can showcase your own talent.

From amusement rides, fried dough, cotton candy, seafood, roast beef sandwiches, ice cream, carnival games, livestock, arts and crafts, baked goods, blacksmith shop, animal pulls, horse shows, pie-eating contest, petting zoo and mechanical pulls. . . . There is sure to be something for everyone.

The Officers, Directors, and fair committee members would like to THANK all of the contributors who continue to make the fair a success. We are proud that our small town can continue this yearly tradition offering a family oriented venue full of fun, agriculture, food, and entertainment.

Visit our website at [www.northstoningtonfair.com](http://www.northstoningtonfair.com) for a full schedule of events from Thursday, July 12<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, the 15<sup>th</sup>!! We hope to see you there!

JODY WHIPPLE      PINENEEDLHOMESTEAD@SBCGLOBAL.NET

860-599-8498

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## TAX COLLECTOR

Tax bills will be mailed out at the end of June. These bills will include both the July and January installments of taxes. This will be the only bill you receive. You will not receive another bill for the January installment, so 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. The last day to pay the July tax installment without interest being charged is August 1, 2018.

For your convenience, payments may be made in the Tax Office at Town Hall. Office hours for the Tax Collector will be 9:00 to 4:00, Monday through Friday. The best way to avoid the crowds is to pay by 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](http://www.northstoningtonct.gov/payonline). Service fees for on-line payments are as follows; E-check \$2.00, Visa Debit \$3.95, all other debit or credit transactions 2.5% of payment amount. Credit card payments will NOT be accepted over the phone.

AMY SNELL      TAX COLLECTOR



## BOARD OF FINANCE

During the past quarter, the Board of Finance met weekly to finalize the proposed budget for financial year 2018-2019. A prudent approach was taken due to the uncertainty of inter-governmental revenue with the State of Connecticut remaining embodied in the development of its budget. In the end and just prior to the Town's budget referendum, an increase in these anticipated revenues was appropriated. This fact gave the Town the opportunity to provide a budget that meets its needs with a modest budget increase of 3.5%. The budget increase was met with the Board of Finance setting the mil rate for the upcoming year at 28.2, which was a modest upgrade from the current year's mil rate of 28.

In all, the budget represented a policy statement meeting the operational needs of the Town and goals accomplishment as defined by the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development while still assuring a strong fiscal profile. The Budget Referendum was held June 4, 2018 with the result of a passed budget: 485 Yes and 290 No. Thank you for all who participated in this important event.

The Board of Finance meets on Wednesdays at the New Town Hall at 7:00 pm. Check the calendar on the Town website for the dates of the scheduled meetings. We encourage the public to attend the Board of Finance Meetings.

DAN SPRING, CHAIRMAN

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## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The last three months have focused on finishing several initiatives. Wanting to extend a widely accepted "fracking ordinance", prohibiting waste from out-of-state fracking from being deposited in our town, your commissioners asked to extend this ordinance to include "contaminated and polluted waste". More work must be done to shore up legal wording before bringing this to the town for a vote.

A "conveyance fee" bill was put before a state legislative committee. Although this bill never made it out of committee, we attended and spoke before the legislature supporting a trial program that would have allowed the town to assess a small percentage fee on the sale of property over \$150,000.

At the halfway mark of our 10-year Plan of Conservation & Development, we continue the long process of identifying properties desirous of acquiring to provide connectivity to our eastern, central, and western wildlife greenway corridors. This work coincides with a second initiative of identifying and adding properties already acquired by private organizations to the total acreage preserved in town.

Following the spring storms we have removed much of the fallen trees and debris from our trails. We ask you to please do your part as you walk both our public and private trails to remove fallen brush and contact us for large impediments on town trails.

As more of you are getting out and enjoying the beauty of our woods, the 2019 Community Calendar will focus on our trails. Photos of the trail heads, the trails themselves, and many town folks using the trails will be offered.

We have met with our representatives on the Wood-Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic River Stewardship Plan committee, a plan that we wholeheartedly support. Although the majority of the drainage into the Wood-Pawcatuck is within Rhode Island, most of our rivers and their tributaries in North Stonington flow into the Wood-Pawcatuck as well. As the health of our water, land and air must be a concern for all of us, this initiative makes this all the more important.

BILL RICKER, CHAIRMAN

WILLIAMRICKER@COMCAST.NET

860-535-2426



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

As of the publishing of this Quarterly, the North Stonington Volunteer Fire Company Inc. along with the North Stonington Ambulance Association have relocated all emergency response and administrative operations into the new facility at 25 Rocky Hollow Road. Organizing, sorting, and placement of items are still ongoing. The Fire Company and Town have mutually entered into one-year leases for the use of both entities' buildings by the other. The goal of all parties is to agree to fifteen-year leases within the next year.

We recently received a new piece of apparatus, which now combines forestry, medical response, and added fire capabilities in a single vehicle. This will allow more flexibility in responses and manpower deployment.

The Fire Company has begun the planning for our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, which will occur in the year 2020. While the tactics, equipment, and names have changed over the years, the heart of the Volunteer has remained constant. We all owe a debt of gratitude to those residents who banded together in 1945 to organize fire protection for the Town.

With summer time comes the increased chance of fires related to outside cooking, camp fires, and power equipment. A few helpful tips:

1. Never place a hot mower or other device under or in a combustible enclosure. This includes portable generators.
2. Use all grills a safe distance from combustible buildings and overhangs.
3. Never use outside cooking appliances inside; carbon monoxide build-up can occur.
4. Always have an extinguisher on hand in the event of an emergency, but make sure to call 9-1-1 first. Never let a fire block your exit.

We continue to need volunteers to help augment our emergency response numbers, especially during daytime hours. As personnel either age, leave Town, or find the hours needed for training conflict with other obligations, it is imperative that others step forward to help protect their fellow citizens. Without the continual replenishment of trained volunteers, the burden increases on those remaining, and at some point will necessitate the hiring of paid staff. We request you seriously consider joining the Fire Company. As always, training is provided to ensure proficiency in the skills needed. Have a safe summer!

CHARLES STEINHART V, CHIEF

KYLE BERGEL, PRESIDENT



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## **AVALONIA LAND CONSERVANCY**

*Celebrating 50 years of preserving natural habitats in Southeastern Connecticut, by acquiring and protecting lands and by communicating the value of these irreplaceable resources.*



Join us on July 14th when the Connecticut Land Conservation Council and others gather for a hike and Regional Conservation Conversation at Avalonia's newly acquired 400+ acre property on Miller Road, known as the Tri-Town Ridgeline Forest. You will be surprised at this beautifully diverse property in our town. For more info on the hike, go to [www.avalonialandconservancy.org/events](http://www.avalonialandconservancy.org/events). Questions and RSVP call Sue Sutherland at 860-245-0568.

Avalonia owns eight properties with trails in North Stonington and more in other towns. You can find trail maps at the Wheeler Library or Avalonia's website, [www.avalonialandconservancy.org](http://www.avalonialandconservancy.org). You'll also find information on membership, guided hikes, and the interactive scavenger hunt, Hike & Seek. Like us on Facebook! We always welcome new members. If you are interested in helping with trails or being on the town committee for Avalonia, contact Pat Turner at 860-535-1541.

## **NORTH STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

While it will be a well-deserved summer vacation for the district's staff and students, there is still a lot of activity happening in our buildings. Summer school will begin on July 9<sup>th</sup> and end on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. That will take place along with the summer recreation program at the elementary school. Mr. Ryan Chaney serves as the summer school principal. Many staff will be taking summer courses and attending professional development workshops. As in the past, our principals will be working with their data teams in order to adjust curriculum and prepare for next year's instruction.

Central Administration is open during the summer months. As a reminder, we are located in the Wheeler Middle School. If you have any questions regarding the upcoming school year, we ask that you contact your child's school first. Please be sure that your child has all the required immunizations before the start of the school year.

The 2018-2019 school year will begin on Wednesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> for all students. **Important:** There are two separate calendars for the new school year and they can be found on our website ([www.northstonington.k12.ct.us/calendars](http://www.northstonington.k12.ct.us/calendars)). We ask that you carefully review the month of March 2019, especially if you are making vacation plans.



Wishing everyone an enjoyable summer season!

PETER NERO, SUPERINTENDENT

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## **EMERGENCY SERVICES BUILDING COMMITTEE**

During the reporting period from March 2018 to June 2018, building service systems (Power, Plumbing, Heating, Lighting and Communications) have been installed and tested to drawing specifications along with compliance requirements of Town and State agencies.

Paul M. Drummey, Project Manager Construction Services along with qualified subcontractors have maintained progress to Planning, Construction Compliance and Budgetary (cost to complete) Status Reports. System training of responsible personnel has been initiated with appropriate documentation of operating procedures.

CREC of Hartford, a company that specializes in Project Management and 'Clerk of the Works' Construction services has maintained a supervisory role in these efforts. As completion of the Emergency Services Project was near, the public was invited to attend a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Center for Emergency Services.

Field Reports and verified budgetary status have been maintained with imbedded photographic evidence of progress archived at the Town of North Stonington town hall. At this stage of completion and in consideration of open commitments, the budgetary goal of \$6.3M is being maintained.

As of the end of May, key activities remaining for this reporting period were the following:

- Discussion involving final details of the External Storage Building (for which concrete/power have been completed)
- Building Systems training of responsible Emergency Personnel (Initiated)
- Gable Louver: Adjustment to Centerline
- Energy Update: Process receipt of \$12,479 rebate for Energy Efficiencies
- Secure Permit from State authority for Oil-Water Separator

The time impact of Winter/Spring weather events is being analyzed and will be described in the next Quarterly Report or sooner as a discussion item at the Weekly Meeting of the NSES Committee (open to the public).

PAUL KOWACK PE, COMMITTEE MEMBER      [pkowack30@comcast.net](mailto:pkowack30@comcast.net)      860-235-6771



## NORTH STONINGTON GIRL SCOUT TROOPS

Happy Summer everyone! Behind the scenes in Girl Scouts, lots goes into planning and making sure our girls are having fun, are engaged and learning throughout the year. Summer is a great time for trips, fun outdoor activities and camping!!

Every year, Girl Scouts is in need of new parent volunteers. Each new Kindergarten class brings the potential for you and your child to become involved in such a great program. We need kindergarten parents to volunteer for Leader, Co-leader and Troop Volunteer roles each year to start their child's own troop!

Don't have a kindergartner? It's never too late to sign your girl up to become a Girl Scout; there are established Troops and many individual Girls already started. Throughout the whole year, Troops and Girls are doing so many special activities, performing community service & learning to be good leaders in their community and, of course, having tons of fun!!

Often, the jobs of our volunteers go unnoticed and I'd like to take a moment to say THANK YOU to all of our Town's Girl & Boy Scout Leaders & Volunteers. Your hard work and dedication means so much to these kids & you are appreciated. For more information on Girl Scouting and to join now please visit [GSofCT.org](http://GSofCT.org) or, to receive more information about starting your daughter's Kindergarten troop, please contact me at [jenefer81@hotmail.com](mailto:jenefer81@hotmail.com). We look forward to another fun filled Summer!!



JEN PETERSON TOWN ORGANIZER/SERVICE UNIT RECRUITER/JULIETTE MEMBERSHIP MANAGER

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## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Our collective focus for this time of year is always on the hurricane season, which runs from June 1<sup>st</sup> to the end of November (August & September being the most active months). This year's hurricane season is forecast by NOAA to be at or above 2017's hurricane season of 10-16 named storms, with 1 - 4 becoming major hurricanes. These numbers will greatly be influenced by the warming/cooling of ocean waters.

The North Stonington "Emergency Operations Center" (EOC) is now officially positioned within the North Stonington Center for Emergency Services (CES) municipal building, where it will be activated during all Town emergencies. The EOC membership consists of representatives from our town's collective emergency response infrastructure, which is organized, managed and directed by the Emergency Management Director (EMD) during declared emergencies.

I held our first Connecticut Statewide hurricane EMD exercise in the new EOC on June 16<sup>th</sup>. We were very fortunate to coordinate the timing of this state-mandated exercise, to coincide with the official opening of the CES Building - at the official beginning of hurricane season. Timing was perfect, and I'm happy to report that everything ran smoothly!

NOW is the time for all of us to be thinking about how to prepare - before a hurricane event or a crisis confronts us. An important first step is to sign up for "CTALERT," a Connecticut communication database that keeps you advised of emergency alerts by text, email, cell phone and landline (it's free and easy!). Go to the Emergency Management page on the Town website ([www.northstoningtonct.gov](http://www.northstoningtonct.gov)) to learn more about the importance of advance preparedness and steps to take.

GARY BARON DIRECTOR 860-912-0004

## NORTH STONINGTON AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE

One of the functions of the North Stonington Affordable Housing Committee (NSAHC) is to lead community-wide conversations about housing goals and to advance changes. With that function in mind, the Committee has voted to lead at least four gatherings to have conversations in various places and times before the year is out. Be looking for those dates and locations on our Town web page and through our Communications Committee postings.

According to North Stonington's Housing Data Profile published by the Partnership for Strong Communities ([www.pschoosing.org](http://www.pschoosing.org)), 39% of renters spend more than 30% of their income on housing, while 31% of homeowners do the same. Households that spend more than 30% of their income on housing may have little left over for necessities, such as transportation, health care, food, etc.

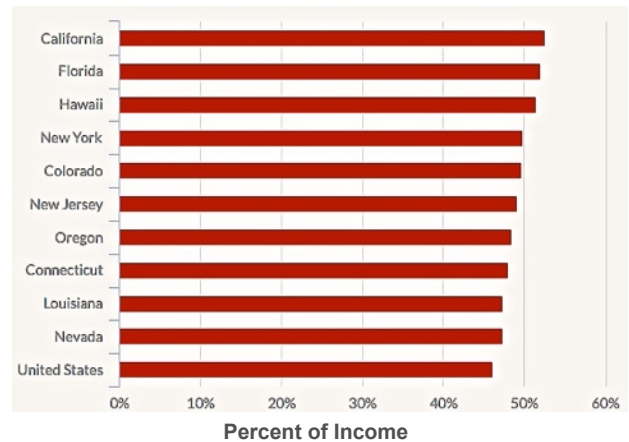
With only 252 rental units in Town, and median rents in North Stonington at \$1,417, household income would have to be between \$50-75,000 for units to be considered affordable. Currently the median income for renter households is \$34,730. All households with a mortgage have average income of \$99,718 and the median monthly owner cost is \$2,044. Thirty-one percent of these households pay more than 30% of their income on housing costs.

For current residents and for those who wish to come or return to North Stonington, we have to look for solutions to our housing needs and costs. We'll see you at our community conversations; look for them.

MARY ANN RICKER, CHAIRMAN

[marykriker@comcast.net](mailto:marykriker@comcast.net)

Top 10 States for Rent Burden, 2016  
Renters spend the largest portion of income on rent.



## ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Greetings from the Assessor's Office - July is the start of the town's tax year.

If you sold your **motor vehicle** between October 1<sup>st</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup>, and you submitted proof to the assessor's office your bill should show credit. If you have not submitted proof of the sale of your motor vehicle, please provide the information on the sale to the assessor's office before you pay the tax bill. We will adjust the amount you owe.

**Veterans** new to North Stonington are reminded to file your original or certified copy of your DD214 before October 1<sup>st</sup> in order to receive your veteran's exemption on your property. Veterans with a disability and who also qualify as low-income have until October 1<sup>st</sup> to file an application for an additional benefit. Also, if you have recently received a disability-rating letter you must place it on file with the assessor's office.

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

**Farm and forest applications** are due before October 31<sup>st</sup> to qualify for an exemption. In April 2018 the Board of Selectmen voted to exempt horses from taxation in North Stonington. **Horse owners** will no longer need to file for a horse exemption.

Personal property declarations will be going out October 1<sup>st</sup>.

DARRYL L. DEL GROSSO, CCMA II

ASSESSOR

860-535-2877 ext. 23 or 24



## TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Summer is finally here with warm breezes, tons of outdoor activities, and the town's wonderful yearly agricultural fair. Fishing season is in high gear, so don't forget to come to the Town Clerk's Office to purchase sporting licenses. There is also now a trout and salmon stamp that is needed for trout and salmon fishing in places stocked by the State of Connecticut. The Town Clerk's Office provides Angler's, Hunting and Trapping, and Boater's Guides for detailed information. Sporting licenses can also be purchased online at [www.ct.gov/deep](http://www.ct.gov/deep). Summer is also a very busy time for marriage licenses. If you plan on being married in North Stonington, a marriage license must be obtained from the Town Clerk's Office.

There will be Democratic and Republican Primaries on August 14, 2018. Absentee ballots will be available starting on July 24, 2018. Also, it is not too early to think about the November 6, 2018 State Election. Absentee ballots will be available starting on October 5, 2018. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding absentee ballots.

The Town Clerk's Office is open on Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM, except on legal holidays. Please call (860) 535-2877 Ext. 21 or e-mail [townclerk@northstoningtonct.gov](mailto:townclerk@northstoningtonct.gov).

ANTOINETTE PANCARO, CMC, CCTC

TOWN CLERK

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## NORTH STONINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Parlor Concert Series has been a thrill for many. The last program was at Wheeler Library with Aymeric Dupré la Tour playing the Federalist piano and Lavinia Pavlish on a very special violin. They amazed a full house. Look forward to a fall schedule or email [parlorconcertseries@gmail.com](mailto:parlorconcertseries@gmail.com) to be notified.



Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, John McNiff, head Park Ranger at the Roger Williams National Memorial, will give an engaging talk about Roger Williams. He will also provide information about New England before English colonization, what were the special circumstances of the English coming here, and what's it to us. Join us at Wheeler Library, the co-sponsors of this event. Look for more events posted in our members' newsletter or at the library.

And remember that the Morgan A. Stewart Library with its trove of genealogical material is open on Tuesday afternoons or by appointment. You can find the North Stonington Historical Society on Facebook. For more information on the society, contact Frank Eppinger, President at 860-535-1541.

FRANK EPPINGER

PRESIDENT

[epping@aol.com](mailto:epping@aol.com)

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## NORTH STONINGTON LIONS CLUB

We will be taking a few weeks off during the summer, but will return in September for NOSTO Fest on September 22nd in the Village and Dahlia Day on September 29th at the home of Dr. Steven and Mrs. Jane Morrone, 68 Chester Main Road, 11:00 -3:30PM. Please mark your calendar!

Additionally, we would like to congratulate our two scholarship award recipients, Anjub Shaikh (Connecticut College) and Cody Johnson (University of Connecticut). We wish you both much success with your studies and future careers!

Finally, the North Stonington Lions Club would like to thank everyone for their generous support throughout the year. Without your donations we would not be able to help people in our community and across the horizon. If you would like to send a donation, please mail it to North Stonington Lions Club, P.O. Box 100, North Stonington, CT 06359. Checks can be made payable to North Stonington Lions Charities. We can accept matching contributions from employers as well.

DENISE MURPHY CLUB PRESIDENT

860-625-7363

[northstoningtonlions@gmail.com](mailto:northstoningtonlions@gmail.com)

## **NORTH STONINGTON AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION**

We would like to greatly thank the residents of North Stonington for supporting and seeing through the construction of our new facility at 25 Rocky Hollow Rd. Our volunteers and duty crew greatly appreciate the support.

North Stonington Ambulance responded to 200 Calls for service and transported 151 persons from March 1<sup>st</sup>-May 31<sup>st</sup>. In May, during National EMS Week, we also held community events to share how we do our work.

As always, we ask community members who have an interest in helping others to look into joining as a volunteer at [www.nsambulance.org](http://www.nsambulance.org) or to stop in at the building to pick up an application.

In the beginning of June, we held our annual elections and would like to welcome the new Board of Directors:

President: Samuel Burdick

Vice President of Admin: Cody Morgan

Vice President of Operations: James Tuttle

Captain: Jacob Dennis

Treasurer: Deb Magnant

Secretary: Rebecca Collins

Trustee: Zachary Brayman

Trustee: Stephen Sadowski

SAMUEL BURDICK

[EMS@NSAmbulance.org](mailto:EMS@NSAmbulance.org)

860-535-1145



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## **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Congratulations to the class of 2018, we wish you the very best in the next chapter of your lives. As the school year comes to an end the BOE would like to thank everyone for their continued support of our schools. We are really excited to have a budget in place as we plan for the upcoming school year. We are spending the summer working on our goals and vision and the district is preparing to put together it's strategic plan this fall. Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

CHRISTINE WAGNER, CHAIRMAN

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

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## **BOY SCOUT TROOP 71**

Welcome to North Stonington Boy Scout Troop 71. As we began to close out this year, here are some of the great things that the boys have been doing. On Memorial Day weekend, Scouts placed flags at Union Cemetery on Stillman Rd, as well as marched in the Memorial Day Parade. Also in May, scouts assisted in providing meals at the warming shelter in Westerly. In June, an eventful canoe trip was had on Wyassup Lake, scouts had a great time whether upright or tipped over! On June 7<sup>th</sup>, a Court of Honor was held for those who were advancing. One advanced to the rank of Tenderfoot and two advanced to Life. Congratulations to Nathan Cherenzia on making Eagle Scout.

Over 20 Scouts will be participating in Scout Camp at JN Webster Boy Scouts Reservation in Ashford the last week of June. Scouts will participate in a variety of activities like swimming, kayaking, climbing and biking. This is a fantastic opportunity for scouts to earn advancement, learn new skills, and make new friends. Best of Luck to Ethan Smith, Ethan Wiggins and Jason Minor as they head to college in the fall.

Look for Troop 71 at the opening ceremonies at the North Stonington Fair, as well as parking cars. If you would like more information about Troop 71, please contact Doug Spracklin at [sprack1@comcast.net](mailto:sprack1@comcast.net)

KIYA LAMPHERE

TROOP 71 COMMITTEE MEMBER

## WHEELER LIBRARY

Summer at Wheeler Library is about great activities and materials for all, especially kids. Check out one of our Grab and Go Bags, Museum Passes, or a batch of movies. Stop in for a brochure or check our website at [www.wheelerlibrary.org](http://www.wheelerlibrary.org) for a detailed calendar of events. From Farm Storytime to Henna, and Frisbee to Yoga to Llamas, 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. While at the library, stop to see our first Art Exhibit in the renovated corridor heading upstairs. Charcoal drawings by Sue Starr will grace that space through August."

New this summer is a Teen Writing Workshop – join Sarah Starr-Murphy for four evening sessions at 6:30 pm starting on July 31<sup>st</sup> and continuing on August 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. We'll also be offering Farm Storytime at Terra Firma Farm on Rte. 2 at 10:30 am on July 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, then August 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Consider coming to the library for a Nature Class with Leah Allen at 10:30 am on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Last, but certainly not least, Miss Kim will provide Yoga for ages 2-5 at 10:30 am on July 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Siblings are welcome, too!

On Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, we welcome Start Fresh of New London for a dinner prepared by recently resettled refugees, showcasing the culinary traditions of their home countries.

Mark your calendar now for September 29<sup>th</sup> - North Stonington's Fifth Annual Townwide Tag Sale - coordinated by Wheeler Library as a community event. Sell from your home or business or set up some tables at the library. There's a registration form at the library or on our website - your fee (\$20) gets you on the map with details about your sale, and we'll publicize the event in print and on social media.

AMY KENNEDY

860-535-0383

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## NORTH STONINGTON GARDEN CLUB



Summer is finally here, and the gardens of North Stonington are in full bloom, thanks in part to the many plants that were sold at the club's annual plant sale on May 12<sup>th</sup>. It might have been a wet, rainy morning, but that didn't keep the crowds away or dampen the spirits of this dedicated group!

The Annual Plant Sale is a major fundraiser for the Garden Club, and this year raised over \$11,000 to support club activities, programs and workshops including children's education programs. In May the Club held a Pressed Flower Workshop at Wheeler Library attended by 17 children, ages 4-14. On Thursday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 a.m. children ages three to five were invited to Story Time at Wheeler Library where members of the North Stonington Garden Club read aloud and guided children in a planting activity.

Funds from the Annual Plant Sale also support the Anna Coit Memorial Scholarship. In June, club members reviewed four scholarship applications and selected Hannah Welch of North Stonington as the recipient of this year's \$1,500 scholarship. A formal presentation of the award will take place at our July 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The North Stonington Garden Club is an active group of enthusiastic members. In addition to our monthly meetings, club members participated in the town's Party with the Parties, the Memorial Day Parade and numerous garden visits, hikes, and workshops. If you wish to learn more or are interested in joining, contact Membership Co-chair Nita Kincaid ([windstonenita@sbcglobal.net](mailto:windstonenita@sbcglobal.net) or 860-235-1565). Happy Gardening!

ELLEN SPRING

NSGC COMMUNICATIONS



## WHEELER HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL



On Thursday, June 21st, Wheeler High School celebrated its 62<sup>nd</sup> Graduation Ceremony on the Wheeler Library Lawn. It was a beautiful night and a reminder of the community support that has been displayed to our staff and students this past year.

This year, Wheeler began a new collaboration with the Westerly Education Center and sent one of our students to a full training session in Sheet Metal, which will give him the opportunity to interview at Electric Boat. We are excited about the opportunity that the Westerly Education Center can provide to our students as we look to build an internship program at Wheeler in the future.

Besides our graduation ceremonies, we celebrated a lot of wonderful achievements this past month. Our Underclassmen Awards, Senior Night and Scholarship Nights were well attended and certainly show that our students are among the best and brightest in Southeastern Connecticut, but more importantly, that our students are so supported by family and community members. Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students celebrated their promotion to high school

and 98% of our Middle School students qualified for PRIDE this year, showcasing excellence in academics and in our social/civic expectations.

Thank you for a fantastic year. We are beyond grateful to see such progress happening on the School Modernization Project. It takes a village and we are grateful for ours.

KRISTEN ST. GERMAIN, PRINCIPAL

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## PLANNING AND ZONING OFFICIAL/ LAND USE OFFICE

The Planning and Zoning Commission adopted Micro-assisted Living Facility regulations to provide opportunities for seniors needing a little assistance to remain in town in a small group setting. This regulation change is in keeping with one of the housing goals in the POCD and Housing Plan. The Commission is continuing to work on the design for the possible Affordable Housing project on the town-owned land off Wintechog Hill Rd. The Commission also cleaned up some errors/omissions found in the Zoning Regulations and Town Ordinances. In addition to the Regulation changes, the Commission approved the proposed 1,650sf garage at the Center for Emergency Services Building. There were 26 administrative Land Use Permits approved to date this quarter, and 1 Excavation permit pending approval.

Quality Propane received their Certificate of Zoning Compliance and is now open for business.

Most of the zoning enforcement over the last year has focused on blight and resolving some long-standing enforcement cases. 5 new enforcement cases were opened this past quarter, 3 of which involved junk and debris and unregistered/inoperable vehicles. I would like to remind everyone that only 2 unregistered and/or inoperable vehicles may be stored on a property, and only for a total of 6 months unless they are stored in a fully enclosed garage. Help me help keep North Stonington beautiful! On that note, it is anticipated that two of North Stonington's most blighted buildings will be demolished in the coming month.

Summer is the season for sheds, pools, decks, and home renovations. Just a friendly reminder that all such work requires permits. Stop by the Land Use Office and Cheryl and I would be happy to help you through the entire process!

JULIET HODGE PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT & ZONING OFFICIAL [jhodge@northstoningtonct.gov](mailto:jhodge@northstoningtonct.gov)

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The EDC has developed a Business Enhancement Grant Program that will begin this fiscal year. This new matching grant program is being offered to assist local businesses in funding cosmetic and site beautification elements, often delayed due to budget prioritization. By providing funding for business enhancements, the EDC hopes to facilitate renewed investment in key commercial properties resulting in an overall improvement in appearance and value. The EDC is also in the preliminary planning stages to create a not-for-profit year-round farmers market that would provide a place for the community to gather, provide more opportunities for farmers to sell their products, and consumers to buy local directly from farmers. The hope is to make the North Stonington market a destination for the broader region as a preferred market.



Other initiatives include creating a map of the town that highlights local businesses and our unique assets; hosting a series of “Business- After-Hours” events, and hosting an event with local commercial realtors to discuss the potential uses for the available commercial properties in town.

JULIET HODGE, PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT & ZONING OFFICIAL      [jhodge@northstoningtonct.gov](mailto:jhodge@northstoningtonct.gov)

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## HEWITT FARM

Early in June a special event (“A Party with the Parties”) was held by the Democratic and Republican Town Committees at Hewitt Farm to kick off a campaign to raise funds to add a pavilion at the farm. Kayaking, hayrides, children’s games and free food were enjoyed by all on a beautiful day.

Residents and local businesses donated a variety of goods to a silent auction that was set up for the day. As a result of the auction, approximately \$2400 was raised – this will serve as the first contribution to the Hewitt Farm Pavilion Fund. Work by the committee is now moving forward to secure grants for the pavilion. When completed, the pavilion will provide shelter from rain and sun and increase use of the property for community events.

Summer is always a very active time at the farm. 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](http://www.northstoningtonct.gov). Picnic tables are set out at various locations on the property, particularly near the pond. The Community Garden is in full swing and members working on their plots are always willing to answer questions. Don’t forget, dogs and horses are welcome at the farm. Parking is available inside the Route 2 entrance or at the parking area near the end of Hewitt Rd. when you enter from Ryder Rd.

ED HARASIMOWITZ                      CHAIRMAN                      860-204-7439

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## NORTH STONINGTON CITIZENS LAND ALLIANCE

**This is an exciting time** for Land Alliance, an opportunity. We have chosen to begin a year-long assessment of how the Land Alliance can update itself, can bring a freshness to our mission, to our Board and membership, and to the 501(c)(3) possibilities within the land conservation communities of town, state, and country of which we are a part. There are possibilities galore. We welcome your thoughts.

And in between, consider:

**A walk** along the forest-cool and silent paths of our Fowler-Grindstone Preserve on Fowler Rd, just off Grindstone Hill Rd. Glacial erratics, a foot bridge across the confluence of Hetchel Swamp and Pendleton Hill Brooks, easy walking. No dogs.

**A walk** at our Samuel Cote Preserve, entrance at 32 Clarks Falls Road, a serene 31 acres across hay and corn fields, pine forest with pine needles underfoot, an old River Road along Spalding Pond, a Green Fall River tributary. Easy walking; yes, to leashed dogs.

MADLINE JEFFREY                      [landallianceinc@gmail.com](mailto:landallianceinc@gmail.com)                      860-599-5517

## **NORTH STONINGTON COMMUNITY GRANGE #138**

North Stonington Community Grange #138 meets on the second and fourth Fridays at 8:00 pm with certain exceptions. Each meeting we discuss the needs of our community, the needs of our grounds and upkeep and what we can do to help, and then we have a program, sometimes internally created, sometimes with guest speakers of varying interests.

Spring is a busy time for us. In March we had our state Lecturer's contest "Looking Through the Rear View Mirror" that related the building of the Grange with the building of a car, as Johnny Cash said "One Piece at a Time". We also honored Steve Holliday as our Community Citizen of the year for all his work at the town garage and helping others throughout the town. In May we held 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 Fathers' Day, and our annual picnic. Our summer schedule is a bit more relaxing. Our CWA committee has the program on July 21<sup>st</sup>, the ladies will provide a musical program August 10<sup>th</sup>, with the men putting on their program August 24<sup>th</sup>. Come have some fun with us! **ALL are welcome.**



**Steve Holliday**

SUE PIANKA, PROGRAM DIRECTOR

860-599-4528

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## **NORTH STONINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

We are so proud to share that all of our 391 students have grown both academically and socially this school year. Thank you to all of the parents and guardians for your continued support with homework, attending conferences, reading nightly, and being a valuable part of our student's 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 the Band and Fifth Grade Chorus Concerts, the Annual NSES Art Show, PBIS June Jubilee, Field Day and much more. Our fifth graders were celebrated at the Promotion Ceremony and the DARE Graduation. 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!

VERONICA WILKISON, PRINCIPAL

### **3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL NOSTO FEST**

**Mark your calendar - planning is underway!**

**This family-fun event will take place on Saturday, September 22nd from noon-4pm.**

**Please join us in the Village to celebrate all things North Stonington!**

**If you would like to be a Vendor or Participant, or are willing to help as a Volunteer, please contact us at [nostofest@gmail.com](mailto:nostofest@gmail.com).**

*Enjoy a happy, healthy summer,*

*Nita Kincaid & Lisa Mazzella, NSQ Editors*



# SUMMER EVENTS



## July

3	TUESDAY	10:30 am	Wheeler Library	Magic Show	Page 11
5	THURSDAY	6:30 pm	Wheeler Library	Read to Phantom the Therapy Dog	Page 11
10	TUESDAY	10:30 am	Wheeler Library	Silly Song Sing Along with Ed Leonard	Page 11
12	THURSDAY	10:30 am	Wheeler Library	Creature Teachers	Page 11
14	SATURDAY	9 am-10 am	91 Miller Rd.	Tri-Town Ridgeline Forest Hike	Page 5
12-15	THURS-SUN	Hours very daily	NS Community Grange	North Stonington Agricultural Fair	Page 3
17	TUESDAY	10:30 am	Wheeler Library	Horizon Wings Program on Owls	Page 11
19	THURSDAY	6:30 pm	Wheeler Library	Teens World Class Frisbee	Page 11
24	TUESDAY	6:30 pm	Wheeler Library	Henna for Teens	Page 11
26	THURSDAY	7 pm	Wheeler Library	Llama at the Library	Page 11
31	TUESDAY	10:30 am	Wheeler Library	Every Day is Earth Day Story Time	Page 11

## August

2	THURSDAY	6:30 pm	Wheeler Library	Read to Phantom the Therapy Dog	Page 11
7	TUESDAY	9 am-1 pm	Wheeler Library	Life in a Rock Wall --About Animals	Page 11
14	TUESDAY	6 am - 8:00 pm	New Town Hall	Democrat & Republican Primaries	Page 9

## September

12	WEDNESDAY	7 pm	Wheeler Library & NS Historical Society	Park Ranger John McNiff speaking about Roger Williams	Page 9
15	SATURDAY	6 pm	Wheeler Library	Start Fresh Dinner	Page 11
22	SATURDAY	Noon-4 pm	Main St. in the Village	NOSTO Fest	Page 14
29	SATURDAY	11 am-3:30 pm	Morrone's Home 68 Chester Main Rd.	Lions Club Dahlia Day	Page 9
29	SATURDAY	All Day	Wheeler Library	Town Wide Tag Sale	Page 11

**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**

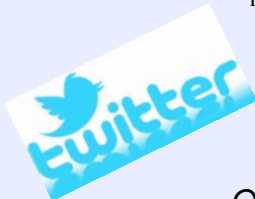
## News from the North Stonington Communications Committee



The Town of North Stonington now has a social media presence. The Communications Committee recently launched accounts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram as a means to connect local government leaders directly with the public. Our goal is to increase awareness and participation in town-wide issues, meetings and events. Each account was branded “MyNoSto” to bring personal ownership and a sense of community to the sites. The information shared will focus on town government news and updates as well as issues and information affecting our community. The committee has also started ‘live streaming’ town meetings on Facebook.

Social Media is just one part of our communication strategy, which also includes mailings and printed flyers. We are currently in the process of acquiring all-weather bulletin boards that can house important, timely information for residents and will serve as a critical information outlet during town emergency

situations, such as widespread power outages. Residents are encouraged to visit the town website at [northstoningtonct.gov](http://northstoningtonct.gov) and sign up for News and Announcements. These alerts can be targeted to specific areas of town business.



Questions or suggestions for the committee should be directed to [communications@northstoningtonct.gov](mailto:communications@northstoningtonct.gov)

And, don't forget to like us on Facebook, twitter and Instagram @MyNoSto.