

THE NORTH STONINGTON QUARTERLY

FALL 2017

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

This Fall brings the well-known familiarity of changing seasons but also some uncertainty of new challenges. For the first time in decades, there will not be an incumbent Selectman re-elected to the Board. At a time when budgetary concerns are high, if not paramount, the new Board will need the Town's support to clearly set objectives and keep important infrastructure projects (such as the Center for Emergency Services and the School Modernization effort) on track. One area of support is to approve the addition of a Town administrative officer, a professionally capable resource, to provide continuity of experience to Town operations and improve their effectiveness. This position is included in the current budget proposal, which should be brought to the Town Meeting/Referendum for approval soon.

Days are getting shorter, so mornings and evenings have less light to see by than what we enjoyed during Summer. The Board reminds motorists to drive defensively and watch for pedestrians out around dawn and dusk.

SELECTMEN

860-535-2877 EXT 10

SELECTMEN@NORTHSTONINGTONCT.GOV

BOARD OF FINANCE

The Board of Finance has been waiting patiently for the State of Connecticut to approve a bipartisan budget for the current fiscal year. Unfortunately the budget, which was passed by both parties, was vetoed by Governor Malloy on Thursday, September 28th.

We have been using the numbers from the Governor's Proposed/Compromised 2017/2018 Budget of September 8, 2017, in order to try to have some solid numbers to work with in regards to the revenues that the Town of North Stonington expects to receive from the State. If anything new is approved by Saturday, September 30th, we will work with the newest numbers available and adjust our proposed budget accordingly.

Our plan moving forward is to have our regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 4th so that we can approve a budget, taking into consideration the State of the State at that point and the feedback that we received from the approximately 40 people who attended the budget hearing. The Budget would then be sent to the Board of Selectmen on October 10th to review and vote on. If the Selectmen do vote to send the budget forward for discussion at a Town Meeting, that meeting would be scheduled for October 23rd and would be followed on Monday, October 30th by the Referendum vote on the budget.

We have worked with the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education to come up with a proposed budget that we feel is fair and reasonable, taking all things into consideration. We appreciate the taxpayers who do attend our meetings and hearings on a regular basis in order to provide suggestions and feedback from their point of view. We hope, in spite of all of the unknowns, that this information is helpful in providing an explanation to the public of where we are at, where we are going, and why.

TIM MAIN, CHAIRMAN

NORTH STONINGTON MUNICIPAL ELECTION

NEW TOWN HALL

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH, 6 AM - 8 PM

Your vote is your voice. Be heard! Our local municipal election has a direct impact on our community and daily lives. A copy of the final 2017 North Stonington "Official Ballot" is on pages 8 and 9 of this issue.

EMERGENCY SERVICES BUILDING COMMITTEE

September 7, 2017: During the reporting period of June 2017 to August 2017, site preparation and structural concrete pours have been initiated to the Specifications, Drawings and approvals from Town and State agencies.

Enterprise Builders, Inc. from Newington, CT, along with qualified subcontractors, has developed the necessary Planning, Construction Compliance, and Budgetary (cost to complete) Status Reporting which is now under the supervision of CREC of Hartford, a company that specializes in Project Management and 'Clerk of the Works' Construction services.



The Project Manager is Mr. Michael Faenza in the employ of CREC. Mike has the responsibility of 'Clerk of the Works' and develops the Field Reports and verified budget status that is available with imbedded photographic evidence on the Town of North Stonington Web Site (www.northstoningtonct.gov/center-emergency-services-building-committee).

The public is invited to review the website for detailed information on the project but should be aware that, for the duration of this project, unauthorized entry onto the site is prohibited by contractual agreement.

PAUL KOWACK PE, COMMITTEE MEMBER PKOWACK30@COMCAST.NET 860-235-6771

WHEELER LIBRARY

We've got a full calendar of programs this fall, and we can only do it with your help. Our Annual Appeal letter will soon arrive in your mailbox, and we need your donations to keep the library open and available to all. We are not a town agency; our operating budget is met primarily by your gifts. Thank you for your help.

In October, we have programs on Mushroom Hunting; Creepy Creatures, just in time for Halloween; and we're screening the documentary Obit, about the New York Times obituary desk. One of the writers joins us for a Q and A afterwards. On October 21st, get your passport done or renewed at the library. In November, come hear Sam Ducharme speak about his Appalachian Trail Thru-Hike and author Gregory Maguire (*Wicked*) on his new book, *Hiddensee*. The Friends' Holiday Book Sale runs November 15th-18th and our annual Holiday Open House will be held on Sunday, December 3rd from 4:30-6 pm. Details on all our events can be found at wheelerlibrary.org.

Kids' Yoga, Story times, and monthly visits from the Elementary School are ongoing. We've always got high-speed internet throughout the building, faxing and scanning services, and we're happy to help with any information need.

AMY KENNEDY 860-535-0383

NORTH STONINGTON CITIZENS LAND ALLIANCE

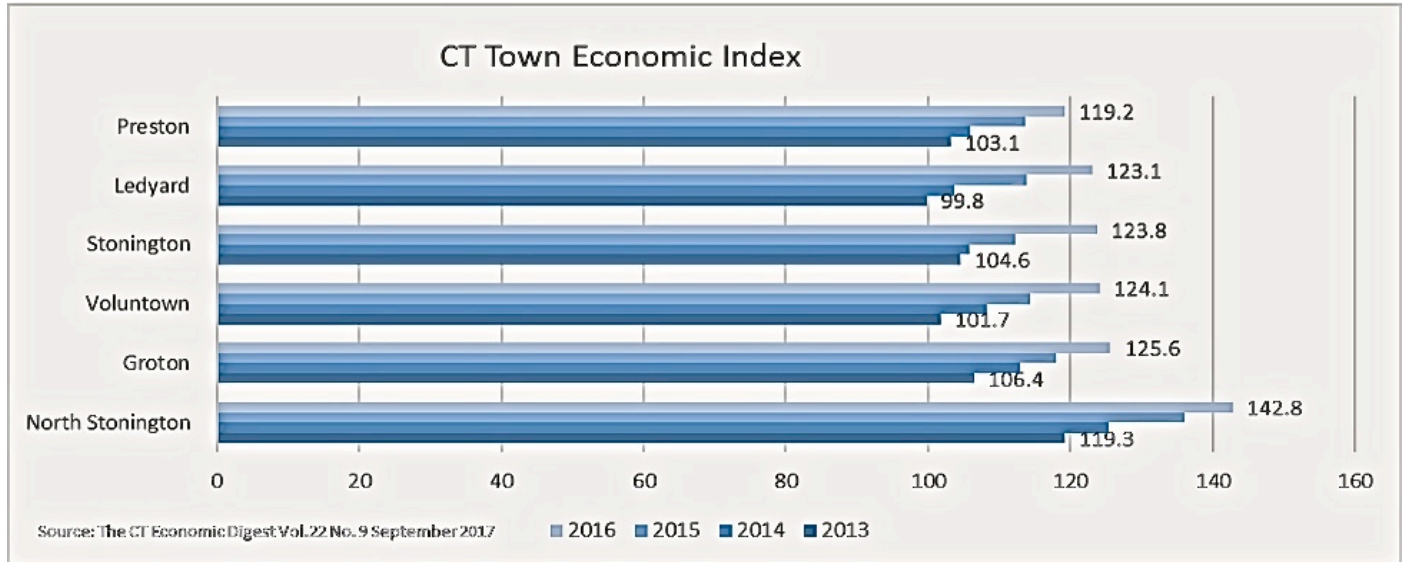
The Land Alliance welcomes all residents and friends to come out and visit the new Samuel Cote Preserve right here in North Stonington at 32 Clarks Falls Road, very near the junction of Clarks Falls and Pendleton Hill Road. This is an unusual and serene 31 acres of hay and corn fields, pine forest with paths of pine needles underfoot, and an old River Road with openings along Spalding Pond, which then flows into Green Fall River.

We also invite you to walk our Fowler Grindstone Preserve on Fowler Road, just off Grindstone Hill Road. There are several remarkable glacial erratics and other important stone work sites within the 75 acres and the confluence of Hetchel Swamp and Pendleton Hill Brooks. It is a joy to be in these woods.

We look forward to hearing from you: 860-599-5517 landallianceinc@gmail.com

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Congratulations to North Stonington for having the highest CT Town Economic Index “score” in 2014 and 2015 and the second highest in 2016. The 2016 score was 142.8, which is 20 points above CT’s overall score. This index measures the overall economic health of each town or city.



Since the last Quarterly newsletter 29,204 sq ft of new commercial and 19,896 sq ft of new residential construction have been approved. The bulk of the commercial development was approved at 75 Frontage Rd. where Quinlan Enterprise owns the multi-use manufacturing/commercial facility. Plans to construct a new 27,000 sq ft warehouse for houseboats was approved in September. The remaining new commercial construction is for a proposed new lawn care business in the Economic Development District, likely to receive final approval in October.

The residential construction includes 10 new single-family residences, which seems to support the most recent census data that shows a .73% increase in population in North Stonington. Both are positive indicators of growth. The EDC hopes to see the trend of new investment continue and supports the Planning and Zoning Commission’s efforts to rezone the Western End of Rte. 2 to facilitate this investment.

We would like to thank Bernard Bartick and Andrea Sadowski for their 4 years of volunteer service on the Economic Development Commission!

BRETT MASTROIANNI, CHAIRMAN

NORTH STONINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Society has interesting programs, free for all, coming up on the second Sundays at the Society’s Stephen Main Homestead in the center of the Village.

- * October 8th at 2:00pm: Dr. Bruce Gillie’s talk, “A Brief History of Milk Safety in the Early Twentieth Century” will give us insight into infections and the inventions of “Papa” Charles E. North, MD and Anna North Coit.
- * November 12th at 2:00pm: hear reports of the return of the native mountain lions in Eastern Connecticut, presented by Bill Betty.

Find more material on the history and background of our town by becoming a member and receiving the regular newsletter. Remember, the library at the Homestead contains a trove of genealogical material and is open on Tuesdays, from 2-4pm, and by appointment. Like us on Facebook.

NORTH STONINGTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The North Stonington Education Foundation starts its eleventh year with some changes in the Board of Directors officers. The NSEF President is now Chris Anderson, and the new Vice President is Marc Tardiff. Mustapha Ratib continues as Treasurer as does Jenna Rogers as Secretary.

The next fundraiser for the NSEF is the increasingly popular Annual Dinner Dance - this year at the Lake of Isles Golf Club on Friday, November 3rd. As pleasant as the Stonington Golf Club had been for this event, the attendance at the affair had outgrown their facilities, and we did not want to turn people away from what has become the premier North Stonington social gathering.

Reservation forms are available in the North Stonington Public Schools Central Office and at Chelsea Groton Bank in North Stonington. Tickets are \$75.00 and must be purchased in advance. For further information, contact Jim Patton.

The Wheeler High School Distinguished Alumni Committee has selected Terry Bishop, a 1984 graduate and decorated analyst for the Central Intelligence Agency. Terry passed away in May of this year after a 5-year battle with brain cancer. His selection as one of our Distinguished Alumni will be celebrated at the annual Dinner Dance.

The NSEF continues to fund grants for projects that enhance our students' educational experiences, but would likely never be funded by a town budget. More than \$150,000 has been so distributed, and although most has gone to teachers, anyone is eligible to submit a grant request. A summary of grants funded and instruction on how to request a grant are available at the NSEF website, nsedfoundation.org.

JAMES H. PATTON, JR.

860-535-2617

JHPATTON@CONCENTRIC.NET



ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

The North Stonington Assessor's office will be sending out **Personal Property Declarations** to every business located in town around October 1st, 2017. Please note, if you closed your business you must inform us in writing. If you have any questions regarding the personal property declaration you can call the Assessor's office for the answer. Call our office if you did not receive your declaration before 10/16/17.

Veterans who have moved to North Stonington: you may be entitled to a military exemption. To qualify, you must have your DD 214 on file before October 1st. The basic exemption is \$6,000 off your assessment.

Disabled Veterans: if your award has changed or you have reached the age of 65 you must contact this office. Your benefit may increase.

If you wish to have your land classified as farm land or forest land, now is the time to act. The application period for Farms and/or Forest land ends October 31st.

Persons with Social Security disability awarded this year must file before October 1st to qualify for their exemption. Filing may make you eligible for the homeowner's program. You must have filed for your Social Security disability in order to qualify for the homeowner's program if you are under age 65. The homeowner's program is income related. The State of Connecticut will set the guidelines before the first of the year.

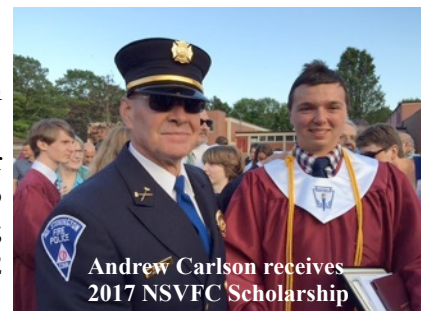
DARRYL L. DEL GROSSO, CCMA II

ASSESSOR

860-535-2877, ext. 23 or 24

NORTH STONINGTON VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, INC.

During the months of June, July and August 2017, the volunteers at the North Stonington Volunteer Fire Company responded to a total of 85 emergency 911 calls for help. Of these calls 23 were medical response calls by volunteer firefighter EMTs; 2 involved lightning strikes; 1 involved downed power lines; 3 were service-related calls; 5 were brush fires; 2 were search and rescue operations; 3 were vehicle fires; 13 were motor vehicle accidents; 4 were structure fires; 2 involved hazardous materials; 2 were water rescues; and 25 were false alarms.



Responding to these calls required 780 man hours of volunteers' personal time donated while responding to our town's emergencies; an average of 12 volunteers responded to all calls. There were 50 emergency calls during the daytime and 35 emergency calls during the after-hours timeframe.

Your volunteers at NSVFC also contributed an additional total of 103 man hours involving training and drills, in order to maintain and improve their proficiencies in life-saving skills. These drills included water rescue operations, new product demonstrations, mandated compliance training, vehicle extrication and stabilization, farm-related emergencies, drowning and brush fires.

CHARLES STEINHART V, CHIEF

GARY BARON, PRESIDENT

NORTH STONINGTON AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

The North Stonington Ambulance Association District Board will be holding their quarterly meeting during the first week of October to vote in active members to fill vacated chairs for the newly created administrative positions. The Association is always looking for new volunteers to help around the building or to become Emergency Medical Technicians. We are invested in our youth and would be honored to help High School students interested in the medical field gain skills and knowledge. In the coming months, we will be hosting an open house to welcome our new District board and to recruit new members. Your set of skills could be an asset to helping the association move forward into the future as we are breaking ground on a new ambulance building.

During the months of June, July and August NSAA responded to 188 calls, of which 121 were transports. During this time, we have had four new members join as volunteers and one new hire. The goal is to recruit new members and reduce the number of calls sent to mutual aid services. For information on how to become a volunteer, you can email the volunteer committee at EMS@nsambulance.org or visit www.nsambulance.org to apply.

ASHLEY MAGNANT, NSAA TRUSTEE

SCHOOL MODERNIZATION BUILDING COMMITTEE

Happy Fall everyone! At the time this is being written, the School Modernization Building Committee is currently waiting for bids to come back for all contractors that wish to construct the schools. We had a walk-through in early September, where more than 50 trade contractors walked the site and the buildings to help gain information to put their bids together. Bids are due back on October 3rd. Once they are received, our construction manager (Downes, LLC) will review them and determine who the lowest qualified bidders are. Bids will be awarded once funding is approved by the state.

All of this work continues as we await the state to approve a budget and then bonding. Our project is approved through the Office of School Construction Grants. We are ready to put a shovel in the ground once the state approves funding. The Committee looks forward to the school modernization project becoming a reality.

MIKE URGO, CHAIRMAN

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Happy Fall from the Town Clerk's Office! Hunting, Trapping and Sport Fishing Licenses are valid for the calendar year, except pheasant tags, which are valid from October through February. Licenses and Permits to hunt, trap and fish are available online, at most Town Clerks offices, and at some sporting goods stores and DEEP offices. To buy licenses online, or for a listing of places that sell licenses, go to www.ct.gov/deep/hunting. Lost Licenses may be reprinted at the Town Clerk's office or online. Fishing and trapping licenses are still issued free to residents 65 and older who meet hunter education requirements, but these licenses must now be renewed annually.

The Municipal Election will be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2017 between the hours of 6:00 am to 8:00 pm in the New Town Hall Conference Room, 40 Main Street, North Stonington, CT. A copy of the ballot is available in the Town Clerk's office.

There are vacancies on some of the Boards and Commissions. If you are interested in volunteering to serve, contact the Town Clerks Office for information.

NORMA J. HOLLIDAY, TOWN CLERK

HEWITT FARM

Fall is always a beautiful time at Hewitt Farm, particularly after a summer with decent amounts of rain. Everywhere you walk, on the trails or the open land, you will see a variety of trees turning color.

Residents and local organizations are invited to use this special North Stonington setting for family and community events. The "Green" across from the 1750 House can be scheduled for group activities by using a request form that is available on the Hewitt Farm page of the Town Website (www.northstoningtonct.gov).

This summer two North Stonington families volunteered to clear and develop a picnic area overlooking the pond on That 'Dam' Trail. This well-chosen, peaceful spot is perfect for a leisurely snack or a little rest after a long walk on one or more of the trails. Trail maps are handy at all entrances or online from the town website.



Dogs and horses are also welcome. Parking is available inside our Route 2 entrance or at the parking area near the end of Hewitt Rd. when you enter from Ryder Rd. We hope you will visit!

NITA KINCAID, CO-CHAIR 860-235-1565

DICK COOPER, CO-CHAIR

860-535-0528

NORTH STONINGTON AGRICULTURAL FAIR

We hope everyone had a wonderful summer! Despite a rough start to the opening of the 2017 North Stonington Agricultural Fair, we had a fun-filled and successful weekend. All the planning we do can't control the weather; and the clouds more than opened on us Thursday afternoon causing the gates to remain closed until Friday afternoon. Thank you to everyone who attended the fair; your support directly benefits the North Stonington Fire Company and the North Stonington Grange along with several other local groups in our town/area.

Congratulations to Andrew Carlson and Rebecca Collins, our two scholarship recipients this year. We wish you the best on this next step in your journey and appreciate the dedication and volunteer work to the fair over the years.

Plans are already underway for the 2018 Fair, save the dates – July 12-15, 2018! We welcome any new members to join our meetings held the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the North Stonington Fire Company at 7pm.

JODY WHIPPLE PINENEEDLHOMESTEAD@SBCGLOBAL.NET

860-599-8498

NORTH STONINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Though the elementary school had some challenges before opening and we began school three days late, it was a wonderful start to the school year for our students! At this point the faculty and staff are working hard to ensure a safe school so our students can learn to their best potential.

North Stonington Elementary School continues to excel in meeting the needs of all students, which has been demonstrated by the daily progress of our students and the results on two recent standardized tests. Great success was again demonstrated by our students on the third Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) and the fifth grade science CMTs.

To support our school we ask the community to register your Stop and Shop card at www.stopandshop.com/aplus. **Our school ID code is 06254.** The money earned supports school-wide initiatives, as well as all types of student and teacher enrichment materials for the classroom. It will truly help us this year.

Our goal is to provide every child with an educational program that meets their individual needs in a safe, secure environment, and more importantly a program that makes them excited to come to school each day. We look forward to a wonderful school year and thank the entire North Stonington community for your support of our school.

VERONICA WILKISON, PRINCIPAL

AVALONIA

Enjoy a hike on any of the eight traileed preserves of Avalonia Land Conservancy in North Stonington. You will find directions, descriptions, and trail maps on the website WWW.AVALONIALANDCONSERVANCY.COM, or let the website start your family on a scavenger hunt as you explore these preserves. Check out HIKE AND SEEK.

Do you live near an Avalonia property or visit one frequently? The land trust is looking for volunteers to keep trails clear and to report any problems or issues. If you can help, contact Pat Turner at macturn@sbcglobal.net.

NORTH STONINGTON COMMUNITY GRANGE #138

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

July was busy with Fair preparations, so we had one meeting in which Aaron and Teddy came to speak about their experiences with Chikumbuso and Wheeler High School. August had our men presenting one program, and our women the other. September had games and then Installation of Officers. We have also distributed dictionaries to the 3rd graders in town, through our "Words for Thirds" program. We are looking forward to a busier time as the fall programs come along.

The program on October 13th is under our Legislative Committee's purview, and we expect to learn about the current state of affairs in the town as well as the candidates. October 27th is our annual Halloween party at 7:30 pm. With Thanksgiving in the month, we have one meeting in November on November 10th; we hope to have a guest speaker, and there will be a collection of non-perishable foods to support PNC for Thanksgiving. In December we will have our annual Christmas party on Dec. 8th, and carol around town to our homebound members on Dec. 15th.

Come have some fun with us! **ALL are welcome.**

SUE PIANKA, PROGRAM DIRECTOR

860-599-4528

State of Connecticut
Official Ballot



North Stonington, Connecticut

Municipal
Election

November 7, 2017

District
1

TURN BALLOT OVER AND VOTE BOTH SIDES

Be sure to read instructions to vote.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
OFFICE	First Selectman Vote for One	Selectman Vote for One	Town Treasurer Vote for One	Board of Finance Full Term Vote for One	Board of Finance To Fill Vacancy for Four Years Vote for One	Board of Finance Alternate To Fill Vacancy for Two Years Vote for One	Board of Education Vote for Any Two	Board of Education Vote for Any Two	Board of Assessment Appeals Vote for One	Economic Development Commission Full Term Vote for Any Two	
PARTY											
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 1A Michael A. Urgo	<input type="radio"/> 2A	<input type="radio"/> 3A Mark Donahue	<input type="radio"/> 4A Michael L. Anderson	<input type="radio"/> 5A	<input type="radio"/> 6A	<input type="radio"/> 7A David McCord	<input type="radio"/> 8A Jen Welborn	<input type="radio"/> 9A Julie Lanier	<input type="radio"/> 10A Toula Balestracci	<input type="radio"/> 11A Lisa Wood
REPUBLICAN PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 1B Asa C. Palmer	<input type="radio"/> 2B Robert A. Carlson	<input type="radio"/> 3B Robin D. Roohr	<input type="radio"/> 4B Paul A. Simonds	<input type="radio"/> 5B Daniel S. Spring	<input type="radio"/> 6B Candis Banks	<input type="radio"/> 7B Christine Wagner	<input type="radio"/> 8B Pamela Potemri	<input type="radio"/> 9B Lisa Mazzella	<input type="radio"/> 10B Paul A. Simonds	<input type="radio"/> 11B Salvatore Cherenzia IV
INDEPENDENT PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 1C Michael A. Urgo	<input type="radio"/> 2C	<input type="radio"/> 3C	<input type="radio"/> 4C	<input type="radio"/> 5C	<input type="radio"/> 6C	<input type="radio"/> 7C	<input type="radio"/> 8C	<input type="radio"/> 9C	<input type="radio"/> 10C	<input type="radio"/> 11C
PETITIONING CANDIDATE	<input type="radio"/> 1D	<input type="radio"/> 2D Nita B. Kincaid	<input type="radio"/> 3D	<input type="radio"/> 4D	<input type="radio"/> 5D	<input type="radio"/> 6D	<input type="radio"/> 7D	<input type="radio"/> 8D	<input type="radio"/> 9D	<input type="radio"/> 10D	<input type="radio"/> 11D
WRITE-IN VOTES	<input type="radio"/> 1E	<input type="radio"/> 2E	<input type="radio"/> 3E	<input type="radio"/> 4E	<input type="radio"/> 5E	<input type="radio"/> 6E	<input type="radio"/> 7E	<input type="radio"/> 8E	<input type="radio"/> 9E	<input type="radio"/> 10E	<input type="radio"/> 11E

State of Connecticut
Official Ballot



North Stonington, Connecticut
Municipal Election
November 7, 2017
District 1

TURN BALLOT OVER AND VOTE BOTH SIDES

Be sure to read instructions to vote.

	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
OFFICE →	Economic Development Commission To Fill Vacancy for Two Years Vote for One	Economic Development Commission Alternate Vote for One	Planning and Zoning Commission Vote for One	Planning and Zoning Commission Alternate Vote for One	Zoning Board of Appeals Full Term Vote for Any Two	Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate Vote for Any Three			
PARTY →									
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	12A	13A	<input type="radio"/> 14A Lisa Wood	15A	16A	17A	18A	19A	20A
REPUBLICAN PARTY	12B	13B	<input type="radio"/> 14B Keith R. Bressette	15B	<input type="radio"/> 16B Candy Palmer	17B	18B	19B	20B
INDEPENDENT PARTY	12C	13C	14C	15C	16C	17C	18C	19C	20C
PETITIONING CANDIDATE	12D	13D	14D	15D	16D	17D	18D	19D	20D
WRITE-IN VOTES	<input type="radio"/> 12E	<input type="radio"/> 13E	<input type="radio"/> 14E	<input type="radio"/> 15E	<input type="radio"/> 16E	<input type="radio"/> 17E	<input type="radio"/> 18E	<input type="radio"/> 19E	<input type="radio"/> 20E

PAWCATUCK NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

Five days each week Curtis Ralls, an employee at the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center, delivers food donated from local supermarkets to the PNC food pantry and local senior centers. On Tuesdays, he delivers to the North Stonington Senior Center. On a typical week Curtis collects 380 pounds of food, which means that he delivers more than 19,000 pounds of food in a year!

The PNC is able to provide meals to the food insecure in our community, because it utilizes more than 70 volunteers on a regular basis. The vast majority of these volunteers are seniors over the age of 60. Many take part in the PNC Senior Center social, educational and recreational activities, and then volunteer a few hours each week to share the PNC's mission of "neighbors helping neighbors."

If you are over age 60, looking for a way to enrich your life and to reach out to those in need, consider stopping by the PNC to learn about trips, lunches, games, classes, dancing or volunteering.



Employees Ray Pietrowski and Curtis Ralls enjoy the Lions Club monthly Community Breakfast at the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center

SUSAN SEDENSKY, J.D., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

860-599-3285

www.thepnc.org

THAMES VALLEY COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY ACTION, INC.

Bring a Smile to Someone's Face! The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is looking for volunteers (ages 55+) to make a difference in your community. There are many opportunities to visit or shop for older or disabled individuals. Volunteer based on your schedule and make a positive impact! Contact Gina King at 860-425-6617 for more information.

The RSVP Veterans Coffeehouse, sponsored by TVCCA, PNC and the Corporation for National and Community Service, provides a comfortable location for all veterans, both men and women of any age, to meet, socialize, communicate and receive information regarding veterans benefits and services through state and federal agencies and programs. Please join us on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month, from 8:30-10:30am at the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center and on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at the Masonicare Mystic.

GINA KING, TVCCA PROGRAM COORDINATOR

gking@tvcca.org

NORTH STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

This Fall will be quite busy. While the state has not passed a budget, which impacts on the town budget, believe it or not, we are already focusing on the 2018-2019 budget. We should have most of our budget figures prepared by the New Year. Budget deliberations will begin at the Board of Education level in January.

The obvious focus this year is the School Modernization Project. As someone who has been involved in small and large building projects during my tenure as a public educator, the key word that I am stressing to everyone is *flexibility*. If you have ever had a major renovation done to your home, you know that you need to be flexible as you work along with the contractor as you cook, sleep and live in your home every day. Now, amplify that by our new construction, as well as major renovations to three buildings. At the same time, nearly 900 students and staff will be teaching and learning daily. Not to mention providing lunch services and transportation. While construction is taking place, we will also be developing alternate transportation routes to accommodate the construction at the sites.

We are all focused on the fact that at the completion of the projects, we will service the needs of the town's children for many years into the future.

PETER NERO, SUPERINTENDENT

NORTH STONINGTON AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE

The Affordable Housing Committee reviewed the progress made on the tax-foreclosed 101a Anthony Road property, which has been rehabilitated and is on the market as a deed restricted affordable home. With the completion of a septic system, final landscaping will be done, completing the total rehabilitation of this proud 1878 home. Thanks go to Neighborworks, the non-profit developer, and to the Town of North Stonington, which sold this property to them for \$1, for making this happen. This has been a boon to the town and the neighborhood and will be appreciated by the family that moves into this 3 bedroom 2 ½ bath home.

The Town has moved closer to a decision on creating affordable housing on the town-owned land on Wintechog Hill with the completion of a conceptual plan of what housing might look like on that site. The Planning and Zoning Commission has yet to consider this design, but it was created with their comments and thoughts in mind. No doubt many alterations to the plan will be forthcoming, but the first steps have been taken. Our citizens need to let the commissioners know their needs for more housing choices. P&Z meetings and agendas are listed on the Town website: plan to attend when this topic is being considered.

MARY ANN RICKER, CHAIRMAN

marykricker@comcast.net

NORTH STONINGTON SENIOR CENTER

The Senior Center, located behind Holly Green, is open Monday - Friday from 9:30am-2:30pm. Lunches are available the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Wednesday of each month; reservations must be made by the Friday prior to lunch. The Golden Agers meet on the first Wednesdays at 12:30pm, with a registered nurse available from 11:30-12:30 to take blood pressures.

Teresa Pensis, Director and Agent for the Elderly, provides help with fuel, food and rides. Beginning October 20th and continuing through December 7th, counseling will be provided for those needing to choose health and prescription plans, or wishing to change the plan they are enrolled in. Call **860-535-8188** for an appointment.

The excursion to Federal Hill in Providence will be held in October. Federal Hill is a restored historic area featuring Italian culture. Its restaurants are considered some of the top culinary destinations in the country. A tour of a bakery offering authentic breads and sweets will be given, and free time will be available to explore the Hill and have lunch at the restaurant of your choice. The Center has a handicapped-accessible bus, but seating is limited, so reserve your seat early!

NORTH STONINGTON GIRL SCOUT TROOPS

Happy Fall everyone!! Kids are back in school, some of us are getting back into our routines and we're preparing to kick off a new Girl Scout year!! A lot goes into planning and making sure our girls are having fun, are engaged and learning throughout the year. The core basics at Girl Scouts means we are building girls of Courage, Confidence and Character. Often the job of our volunteers goes unnoticed and I'd like to take a moment to say "THANK YOU" to all our town's Girl & Boy Scout Leaders. Your hard work and dedication mean so much to these kids & you are appreciated.



Throughout the whole year, Troops and Girls are doing so many special activities, performing community service and learning to be good leaders in their community - and, of course, selling cookies!! As parents, you too can make a difference by signing up to volunteer. There are many different things you can choose to help out with and the support of our parents truly makes a huge difference. Supporting your Troop leader will ensure the success of a Troop.

It's never too late to sign your girl up to become a Girl Scout; there are established Troops and many Juliettes (individual girls) already started. For more information on Girl Scouting and to join now, please contact me at jenefer81@hotmail.com. We look forward to another fun-filled year!!

JEN PETERSON

TOWN ORGANIZER & JULIETTE MEMBERSHIP MANAGER

NORTH STONINGTON GARDEN CLUB

Fall is here and that means tidying up our gardens and doing quite a bit of dividing and potting plants in preparation for our 2018 annual spring plant sale. As October proceeds, we'll turn our attention to ordering the wreaths for our Christmas wreath-making workshop at the end of November. This event is one of the club's most popular activities. Members enjoy bringing special greens, dried pods, pinecones and other natural ingredients to decorate twenty-eight wreaths of all sizes for our town buildings, memorials and the Village Green.

If you are interested in learning more about gardening and all NSGC's many activities throughout the year, visit our new website (nsgardenclub.org). We are a very active, hands-on group and we welcome guests to our meetings. If you'd like to dig in the dirt, appreciate nature and make new friends, contact Nita Kincaid for more information.

NITA KINCAID, MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIR

860-235-1565

windstonenita@sbcglobal.net

NORTH STONINGTON LIONS CLUB

We started our year with two of our favorite fundraisers, Dahlia Day and NOSTO FEST. Thank you all for your support and generosity! It is very much appreciated.

Moving forward, we will be doing Kid Sight Vision Screenings at local schools this fall and will be planning various fundraisers to support the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center and the Humanitarian Relief efforts to help those impacted from the catastrophic damage caused by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Jose and Maria.

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

Interested in becoming a Lion? See what great things Lions Clubs are doing at: <http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/index.php> or contact us by phone, email or Facebook.

DENISE MURPHY, CLUB PRESIDENT

860-625-7363

northstoningtonlions@gmail.com

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The 2018 Community Calendar is here and available at the New Town Hall and the Library. The theme this year is "Then & Now" showing 50 to 100 year old photos and a current photo of the same location, same angle, *but different people* today. A great deal of time and effort goes into these hometown yearly calendars. We hope you enjoy them.

Work this year has been the creation of a simple, but attractive "Pocket Park" at the intersection of routes 49 and 184. The POCD identified this site as one which could be improved and your conservation commissioners leapt into making it happen. This major crossroad directs folks into our town from the east and south, but getting approvals from all the CT-DOT departments to beautify this state property has been a challenge. Planting should be in progress this fall. As with the calendar, no town money has been required, with sales or donations being the prime revenue sources.



BILL RICKER, CHAIRMAN

WILLIAMRICKER@COMCAST.NET

860-535-2426

BOARD OF EDUCATION

I am sorry to say that this will be my last entry (at least for now) to the North Stonington Quarterly. I will be leaving the BOE in November to take a position as a Selectman. I have enjoyed my four years on the BOE and the last 3½ years as its chairman. I am happy to report, however, that the Board of Education will be in great shape for the next four years. There are six returning board members with at least four years experience led by Vice Chairperson Christine Wagner. There will also be two fantastic additions to the Board with new board members Pam Potemri and Jen Welborn. This should be one of the strongest boards in town and the tax payers should feel confident that the school district, led by the BOE and Superintendent Peter Nero, will be in good hands.

Our school district is one of distinction. We have magnificent administrators, wonderful teachers & staff and great students. It was my pleasure to serve on the BOE over the last four years. Thank you for your support.

BOB CARLSON, CHAIRMAN

carlsonb@northstonington.k12.ct.us

NORTH STONINGTON PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

Now that school is back into full swing, so is the NSPTO. We started the school year with a successful staff luncheon and have a busy year planned. One of our main events is the Halloween Extravaganza, taking place Friday, October 27th from 5:30 to 8:30 on the grounds of the Elementary School. Live music will be provided by The Fake Experience. We will have a rock wall, pony rides, games, a haunted house, amazing vendors and food. To be a sponsor of the event, or to take part as a vendor, please contact Emily Lewis at Emily.lewis41@gmail.com. These fundraising events are so crucial to be able to fund important programs and to purchase necessary equipment and supplies for both the Elementary and Middle/High School.

We always welcome new faces and volunteers to get involved; visit the NSPTO Facebook page or attend a meeting on the first Thursday of every month. Meetings are held in the High School Media Center, starting at 6:00pm. Thank you for supporting the NSPTO.

EMILY LEWIS, PRESIDENT

EMILY.LEWIS@GMAIL.COM

PLANNING AND ZONING OFFICIAL/ LAND USE OFFICE

The Commission's primary focus this summer has been the proposed Zone Change along the western end of Route 2 affecting approximately 368 acres of residentially zoned land. The Commission will be discussing the concerns expressed at the public hearing about the potential negative impact some of proposed uses would have, and determining the best solution to attract quality investment without compromising the character of the western gateway into town.

Between January and mid-September, there have been 90 Land Use applications processed. With the exception of 2 pending applications all have been approved and will result in 53,184 sq ft of new residential construction which includes 10 new houses and one accessory apartment; 3 new home-based businesses; 6 new businesses occupying 54,802 sq ft of existing vacant commercial/industrial space; and 29,204 sq ft of new construction to house 1 existing and 1 new businesses.

With elections on the horizon, the Commission would like to thank Elaine Boissevain for her 12 years of volunteer service on the Planning and Zoning Commission! Elaine also served on the Regional Planning Commission and was always a willing participant in planning workshops and focus groups and contributed greatly to the development of our town's Comprehensive Plan. Thank you so much for your dedicated service to the town!!!

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

WHEELER HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL

We are off to a great start to the 2017-2018 school year at Wheeler, welcoming 19 new students to our building! We kicked off our first week with a school-wide *Wheeler Speaks Out* awareness day- wearing our shirts to represent the acceptance and tolerance of all! We will raise awareness to a variety of issues this year as we know the importance of our students being aware of the world and current events surrounding them!

We continue to raise the bar to assess the 21st Century Skills among all our students in the areas of Literacy, Communication, Collaboration and Analysis. These skills will ensure their success long after they leave our school and enter a highly competitive world. Our SAT, ACT, and AP results boast that our school is truly preparing our students for the next phase in their lives whether it is a career or college path. We are proud of our seniors who graduated and entered the work force or a new path to higher education. Last year our students were accepted into many prestigious schools such as The Air Force Academy, Wentworth, UCONN, Northeastern, and Virginia Tech to name a few.

KRISTEN ST. GERMAIN, PRINCIPAL

NOSTO FEST 2017



In the words of the Wheeler Bands, "Sweet Caroline Bah, Bah, Bah!!! Good times never felt so good as the Wheeler High School Band kicked off NOSTO FEST 2017!!!" It was a beautiful day for our community to come together and celebrate all things North Stonington! Folks of all ages came out to enjoy and appreciate the creativity, talent and energy that exists in our town - what more could we ask for?

Thanks go to all the volunteers, vendors, civic groups, schools and town businesses for all they provided, including the activities, food and fun. Our Committee would like to give a very special "Thank You" to the Wheeler Bands and Chorus and the local musicians who all donated their time and talent to make this special event even better.

NOSTO FEST Planning Committee nostofest@gmail.com

~ NOSTO FEST 2018 will be held on Saturday, September 22nd. Save the date! ~



FALL EVENTS

October

8	SUNDAY	2 pm	NS Historical Society Stephen Main Homestead	Dr. Bruce Gillie: "A Brief History of Milk Safety in the Early 20 th Century"	Page 3
11	WEDNESDAY	7 pm	Wheeler Library	Mushroom Hunting	Page 2
20	FRIDAY	7 pm	Wheeler Library	OBIT Documentary	Page 2
21	SATURDAY	10 am-2 pm	Wheeler Library	Passport on Wheels	Page 2
27	FRIDAY	5:30-8:30pm	NS Elementary School	NSPTO Halloween Extravaganza	Page 13
27	FRIDAY	7:30 pm	NS Community Grange	Halloween Party	Page 7
28	SATURDAY	10:15 am	Wheeler Library	Spooktacular Animals	Page 2

November

3	FRIDAY	6 pm	Lake of Isles Golf Club	NSEF Annual Dinner Dance	Page 4
7	TUESDAY	6 am - 8 pm	New Town Hall	Voting Day: Municipal Election	Page 6
12	SUNDAY	2 pm	NS Historical Society Stephen Main Homestead	Bill Betty on the return of Native Mountain Lions in Eastern CT	Page 3
17	FRIDAY	6:30 pm	Wheeler Library	Thru-Hiking the Appalachian Trail	Page 2
19	SUNDAY	2 pm	Wheeler Library	Author Gregory Maguire on his new book <i>Hiddensee</i>	Page 2
15-18	WED.-SAT.	Library hours	Wheeler Library	Holiday Book Sale	Page 2

December

2	SATURDAY	9 am-2 pm	Congregational Church	Christmas Bazaar	
3	SUNDAY	4:30 -6 pm	Wheeler Library	Open House	Page 2
3	SUNDAY	6:15 pm	Village Green	Town Tree Lighting, Caroling & Santa's Visit	
8	FRIDAY	7:30 pm	NS Community Grange	Christmas Party	Page 7

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


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

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

**An Important Message from Gary Baron,
Director of Emergency Management for North Stonington**

Are you well-prepared for an emergency?

The CT Alert Emergency Notification System (ENS) uses the state's enhanced 911 database for location-based notifications to the public for emergencies. But this 911 database **includes only traditional wire-line telephone numbers** in the state, and may **NOT** include the contact number of your current communications provider.



CT Alert Sign-Up allows you to add other means of communication to the CT Alert ENS, in addition to your current phone "land line." **By signing-up with CT Alert, you can greatly enhance the chances that you will be contacted in the event of an emergency affecting residents of North Stonington.**

Sign-up is easy and quick to do:

"Google" CT Alert and follow the simple instructions!

That's it! You're covered and will be notified of emergencies (and updates) via telephone, cell phone, text and computer, according to your order of preference.

This Fall 2017 edition marks the beginning of our 5th year producing the North Stonington Quarterly.

Thank you to all our contributors who continue to fill each issue with interesting, thoughtful articles that provide residents and businesses up-to-date information. A special THANKS goes to Noel Devine and the students in the Wheeler High School Print Shop. Without their support, this publication would not be possible.