

# THE NORTH STONINGTON QUARTERLY

FALL 2018

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Happy Fall North Stonington! We are certainly looking forward to the Autumn season after what was a very busy and successful summer for our town.

In August the Board of Selectmen hosted a town-owned properties workshop to evaluate the properties the town owns and what uses might be appropriate for them. We are thankful to the residents who came to the meeting and we will use this feedback to determine future action on these properties.

Our highway crew has worked hard all summer on a multitude of projects including tree work, repairs to drainage on Pinecrest, milling on Swantown, & chip sealing done on various roads throughout town including Anna Farm Roads and Main Street/Wyassup Road. Guard rails throughout town were replaced and are now much safer. The crew also completed painting and various tasks at our new Recreation building that is now beginning to be used for certain classes and by some 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations for meetings. In September the town worked with SE CT Regional Resource Recovery Authority to service nearly 400 customers on Hazardous Waste Collection Day. This was a 28% increase over last year's participation and a 46% increase over our 8 year average. We appreciate everyone who took this opportunity to recycle.



Hazardous Waste Collection Day

As hurricane season is now upon us we would like to encourage people to sign up for CT Alerts. In the event of a widespread disaster it may be the only way you can receive communications. Google CT alerts and sign up for State of Connecticut's Emergency Alerting and Notifications system so when disaster strikes you are well informed.

North Stonington joined 10 other towns in both Connecticut and Rhode Island throwing its support behind the Wild and Scenic River Act. This initiative will help preserve and protect our waterways.

"Keeping North Stonington Affordable" is a 501(c)(3) that has been established by a group of citizens committed to making sure quality affordable housing is developed here in town. Along with our own Affordable Housing Committee we look forward to working together to help spearhead projects that will benefit the community and keep both young and old here as residents in town.

We had our first meeting with the capital projects workgroup at the end of July. This group, comprised of employees, volunteers, and board members, will work collaboratively to develop the capital plan for the town. The goal is for everyone to work together as we prioritize large purchases for the town and to be strategic in both the short and long term. The group will likely meet quarterly and will be responsible for contributing to the budget process yearly regarding capital purchases.

We have worked hard with property owners to get some properties cleaned up throughout town including the old Gary's restaurant and the 95 House, as well as Green Gables at Hewitt Farm. We request all property owners in town to help keep North Stonington beautiful by keeping their lots clean and free of debris.

We will be holding a town meeting in the near future, so watch for the date. We will be discussing the approval of the sale of 123A and 119 Clarks Falls Road (old Baptist Church & old Schoolhouse), as well as an appropriation to put aside North Stonington's portion of funding for the reconstruction of the Boombridge Road bridge.

Keep updated on town news and events by using our [northstoningtonct.gov](http://northstoningtonct.gov) website, as well as our new @mynostoto sites on Twitter, Instagram, & Facebook. Have a great Fall!

MIKE URGO, NITA KINCAID & BOB CARLSON

[SELECTMEN@NORTHSTONINGTONCT.GOV](mailto:SELECTMEN@NORTHSTONINGTONCT.GOV)

## NORTH STONINGTON VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, INC.

As of the publishing of this fourth quarter newsletter, the North Stonington Volunteer Fire Company Inc. and the town are finishing up the final touches to the new Center for Emergency Services building. Members are glad to be working out of the new building.

With the arrival of colder weather comes the increased chance of emergencies related to heating and supplemental heating sources. Proper annual cleaning and maintenance of chimneys, wood stoves, and furnaces is important. Obstructed chimneys and stovepipes can pose both a fire and carbon monoxide emergency. Your first line of defense is having functional smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Without them, you jeopardize your ability to escape safely. Remember, carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless gas. Lethal levels of CO can be present without any visible evidence.

Early detection is critical for survival. Immediately notify 9-1-1 from a safe location if any of your detectors activate. If you have an alarm system which automatically summons emergency services, please confirm the alarm by calling 9-1-1 from a safe location and advise the dispatcher of the possible cause of the activation. A minimum of one Engine will respond to confirm all false or accidental activations. As always, test your alarms monthly and change your batteries every 6 six months.

During the past quarter, NSVFC volunteers have responded to a total of 65 emergency calls: 15 False Alarms, 3 Power Line Down Calls, 15 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 4 Mutual Aid Calls, 1 Motor Vehicle Fire, 1 Special Rescue, 5 Haz-mat Incidents, 20 R-1 Medical Calls and 1 Structure Fire. Total man hours were 330.5.

Our need for additional volunteers continues, especially during daytime hours. Without the replenishment of trained volunteers, the shortfall will necessitate the hiring of paid staff. We continue to request you seriously consider joining the Fire Company. Training is provided to ensure proficiency in the skills needed.

Have a safe fall and winter!

CHARLES STEINHART V, CHIEF

KYLE BERGEL, PRESIDENT



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## NORTH STONINGTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION

NSEF will have one of its three major fundraisers on November 9<sup>th</sup> at the Lake of Isles. The **Annual Celebration of Excellence and Dinner Dance** will be held from 6:00 to 11:00 p.m. The evening will consist of a social hour, dinner, the induction of Carly Buehler (Wheeler High School, Class of 2007) as a Distinguished Alumni for her extraordinary work with Chikumbuso, a basket raffle, and dancing. Tickets cost \$75.00 per person and can be purchased at Wheeler High School/Middle School at 298 Norwich-Westerly Road or by going to the Foundation's website, [nsedfoundation.org](http://nsedfoundation.org).

To date, the Foundation has given in excess of \$150,000 to foster education in the Town of North Stonington. The grants are given for educational activities that do not come under the purview of the Board of Education. Future events are to be a Trivia Contest in February 2019 and the Annual Road Race on Saturday, May 25, 2019.

Lastly, congratulations to Gracie Anderson and Samantha Castor who have been selected as student representatives to the Foundation for the present school year.

BERNARD "BING" BARTICK

860-389-0264

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## NORTH STONINGTON AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION



Over the summer, North Stonington Ambulance continued to develop its volunteer base by recruiting two new trainees and an established EMT who has been a long time resident of North Stonington. Construction has begun on our brand new 4x4 Ambulance (a first for our community) which should be delivered in time for us to put it in service for the winter. We have also ordered

two brand new Power Load Stretchers and Power Load Mounts that will reduce the strain on the backs of our EMTs and help provide a safer transport for our patients.

**Call If You Can. Text If You Can't.** We would like to raise awareness in our community, that you can now TEXT 911 for help. Connecticut has set up this new system in case you are unable to safely call or you are speech impaired.

SAMUEL BURDICK

EMS@NSAmbulance.org

860-535-1145

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## NORTH STONINGTON COMMUNITY GRANGE #138

North Stonington Community Grange #138 meets on the second and fourth Fridays at 8:00 pm with certain exceptions. Each meeting we discuss the needs of our community, and 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.

July was busy with Fair preparations, so we have one meeting, in which The CWA gave us food facts. August had our men presenting one program, and our women the other. September had Installation of Officers, and a program on Bi-Pedal motion. We will be distributing dictionaries to the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 26 is our annual Halloween party at 7:30 pm. With Thanksgiving in the month, we have only one meeting in November on the 9<sup>th</sup> and the topic is "Horsepower". We will have our annual Christmas party on December 14<sup>th</sup>, and then carol around town to our homebound members on December 21<sup>st</sup>. Come have some fun with us! **ALL are welcome!**

SUE PIANKA, PROGRAM DIRECTOR

860-599-4528

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## NORTH STONINGTON LIONS CLUB

Many thanks to the NOSTO Fest organizers for aiding our participation in the Town's recent annual outdoor event. The weather was excellent and everyone had a good time. The Lions and many others were saddened by the forced cancelation of our annual Dahlia Day event. We expect that next year's crop will be full and beautiful as usual and the event will proceed.

This holiday season, the Lions Club will be offering copies of the *Passport to Premier Dining in Westerly*. This booklet, now in preparation, will allow the holder a complimentary dinner entrée at several Westerly restaurants. These booklets will be excellent for holiday and birthday gifting and will be available only from Lions Club members.

Additionally, we will be doing Kid Sight Vision Screenings at local schools this fall and we will be supporting the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center's food distribution initiatives. Nationally, Lions are active in disaster relief efforts, and this year we expect to be called to respond to those displaced by hurricane Florence. The Lions are grateful for all charitable donations. Donations can be sent to North Stonington Lions Club, PO Box 100, No. Stonington, CT 06359.

JIM NESTOR, PRESIDENT

860-535-9966

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## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The 6<sup>th</sup> annual Community Calendar is now available at Wheeler Library and the Town Hall. This year's theme celebrates the numerous trails in town created by our Conservation Commission, Avalonia, North Stonington Citizens Land Alliance, and Pachaug Forest. They are not just for hiking, but biking and equestrian trails, cross country skiing and snow shoeing, and bird watching are among the numerous activities for you to enjoy. We even have a beginner's kayak/canoe trail on the Shunnock River in Hewitt Farm.

We have completed an interactive trail map as well. Children and their parents can identify our trails on a large town map by pushing a button of the property and see it's location light up on the map. Watch for it at the library. Teachers and organizations may borrow this 3' x 5' standing map to support any of their activities.

The over 2-year effort to identify the most notable trees of each species in town took a sad hit this year. The gypsy moth infestation, which stripped the leaves of so many of our trees for three straight years, killed the oldest and weakest of many notables: a beautiful slippery elm, massive white oak, and beautiful 250-year-old sugar maple among them.



WILLIAM RICKER

WILLIAMRICKER@COMCAST.NET

860-535-2426

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## WHEELER LIBRARY

The library's Annual Appeal letter will be arriving in your mailbox any day - please help us continue to be the center of North Stonington by making a gift. From art classes to the Friends' holiday book sale, kids' story times and our famous wreath workshop, we have many upcoming programs, all detailed on our website, [wheelerlibrary.org](http://wheelerlibrary.org). New books and movies arrive weekly, all available at no cost to you. If you're an e-book reader or audiobook listener, use our free Overdrive service to borrow materials.

The library's new Arts Corridor is in full swing with monthly exhibits, and this fall we'll be featuring local artists Constance Kilgore, Jeanette Vertenes, and Bethany Browne.

AMY KENNEDY

860-535-0383

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## NORTH STONINGTON SENIOR CENTER

The Senior Center, located behind Holly Green, is open Monday-Friday 9:30 am-2:00 pm, or by appointment. During inclement weather, the center is closed when local schools are closed. We offer chair yoga, a weekly lunch, and painting and quilting instruction. Call for information.

Teresa Pensis, Director and Agent for the Elderly, provides help with fuel assistance, senior health insurance changes and other areas of concern. Call 860-535-8188 for an appointment. A registered nurse is available on the first Wednesdays from 11:30 - 12:00 pm, followed by the monthly Golden Ager meeting.

Our bus is handicapped accessible with a wheelchair lift. Bring a personal aid and expand your horizons! We are always open to day trip suggestions, more restaurants to visit and new friends to join us!

## **TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**

Fall has finally arrived with cool, comfortable weather and the green leaves of summer replaced with a spectacular autumn landscape! Hunting season has also arrived, so don't forget to come to the Town Clerk's Office to purchase your hunting license and deer, turkey, and waterfowl stamps and permits. The Town Clerk's Office has Hunting and Trapping Guides and the August 2018 to March 2019 Migratory Bird Hunting Guides. Sporting licenses can also be purchased online at [www.ct.gov/deep](http://www.ct.gov/deep).

The months of September and October are very busy times for weddings. If you plan on being married in North Stonington, a marriage license must be obtained from the Town Clerk's Office.

There will be a State Election on November 6, 2018. We will be voting for the offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, United States Senator, Representative in Congress, State Senator, State Representative, Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller, Attorney General, Judge of Probate, and Registrars of Voters. 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 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**

Our September presentation in the lecture series was given by National Park Ranger John McNiff. His talk on Roger William was extremely engaging. On November 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm Howard Veisz will present "Gerda" at the Wheeler Library. The boat, Gerda III, is now at the Mystic Seaport. During World War II, she and other boats secretly slipped Jews out of Denmark just ahead of a Gestapo roundup.



The Society is embarking on a comprehensive look at all historic properties in town. Green Gables is gone, but North Stonington is rich with buildings and remnants that tell a story. We and the Selectmen recently sponsored a gathering with the Southeastern Cultural Coalition at Jonathan Edwards Winery that was aimed at promoting our arts, culture and history. Look for notices of future musical performances and interesting talks and discussions.

At the Homestead, the A. Morgan Stewart Library is available for your genealogical research on Tuesdays, 2-4pm, and by appointment. You may phone Gladys Chase at the Stephen Main Homestead, 860-535-9448 or [gchase1@comcast.net](mailto:gchase1@comcast.net).

WILLIAM DOUGLASS

PRESIDENT

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

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## **NORTH STONINGTON AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE**

Our committee for Affordable Housing has been pleased with the wonderful support we have received from the community. We have enjoyed speaking with you over the last few months at Primary Day Pie and Coffee, the Lunch and Learn with the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, and NOSTO Fest. We look forward to seeing prospective homebuyers at our free spaghetti dinner at the North Stonington Congregational Church on October 27<sup>th</sup> from 5-9pm.

For housing to be considered affordable, one must be spending no more than 30% of their net income on their housing expenses. That means if your household is making \$65,000 a year and presumably taking home \$45,000, your mortgage, homeowners insurance, mortgage insurance, and utilities need to be less than \$1,125 per month to be considered affordable.

We need and appreciate all of the passion and continued support to create affordable housing in North Stonington.

MARGARET LEONARD, CHAIR (860) 235-4834

[affordablehousing@northstoningtonct.gov](mailto:affordablehousing@northstoningtonct.gov)

## PLANNING AND ZONING OFFICIAL/LAND USE OFFICE

The Planning and Zoning Commission approved a recent application to expand the existing Village Preservation Overlay Area slightly to include all the parcels identified in the inventory of places submitted to the National Register of Historic Places many years ago.

As part of an ongoing effort to diversify housing types and increase the percentage of affordable housing in Town, the Commission had consultants from the Eastern CT Housing Opportunities organization prepare development pro-formas for several housing development scenarios envisioned for a portion of the town-owned parcels off Wintechog Hill Rd.

You may notice as you drive through town that a few more blighted properties have been cleaned up. The former 95 House and the former Gary's Restaurant buildings have been demolished. We look forward to the next chapter in the life of these two parcels.

To date this year, 76 Land Use applications and 286 Building Permits were processed.

The Southeastern CT Council of Governments would like your input on the state of bicycling and walking in the region. This information will help planners make transportation recommendations aimed at improving quality of life, mobility, access, healthy opportunities, and economic vitality. Residents who fill out the survey will be entered into a raffle for a \$25 Amazon Gift card. Go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SCCOGBikePedSurvey>.

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



Gary's Restaurant  
Intersection of  
Routes 184 & 49

## ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

The North Stonington Assessor's office will be sending out **Personal Property Declarations** to every business located in town around October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018. 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 10/5/18.

Personal property declarations for horses that live in North Stonington no longer need to be declared. The North Stonington Board of Selectmen voted to exempt all horses and ponies. As a reminder, farm tools still must be declared. If you have farm tools used to care for your horses or ponies, you must declare them. There is still the \$500 exemption in place. You must file to receive the exemption on farm tools. Your **Farm Machinery Exemption** forms must be filed on or before October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018.

Farmers, remember if you have either \$15,000 of income or expenses you must file for the **Farm Building Exemption** offered by North Stonington. The deadline is October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018.

**Disabled Veterans:** if your percentage disability rating has changed or you have reached the age of 65 you must contact this office. Your benefit may increase. We need to have a copy of the letter with your percentage disability ratings on file. Only changes need to be filed.

The application period for Farm and/or Forest land ends October 31<sup>st</sup>. If you wish to have your land classified as farm land or forest land, now is the time to act. Forest land must be certified by a state forester to qualify. See [www.cfba.org](http://www.cfba.org). The website has additional information and a list of certified state foresters.

DARRYL L. DEL GROSSO, CCMA II ASSESSOR 860-535-2877 ext. 23 or 24

## BOARD OF FINANCE

The first quarter of the new fiscal year 2018-2019 for the Board of Finance has been in waiting for the close out of the fiscal year 2017-2018. Having had a successful budget referendum for the current year's budget with a mil rate set at 28.2, the day-to-day operations of the Town are being met, as well as the fiscal management of capital projects.

The new Emergency Management Services Center proudly began serving the residents of the Town in June and the School Modernization Project is on schedule. The new middle-high school has come into full view giving the Town a perspective of the School District's future campus.

The fiscal profile of the Town presents a strong base for the Town to pursue initiatives benefitting the residents. The audit for fiscal year 2017-2018 will be reviewed and available in the coming quarter. In response to gaining a view of North Stonington's mil rate versus other towns similar in size, a comparative chart for 2017 is presented here. It demonstrates that North Stonington has a current mil rate below the 28.96 average of our town and 14 similar towns.

All are welcome to the public meetings of the Board of Finance held on Wednesdays at New Town Hall, commencing at 7:00 pm. Please check the dates on the North Stonington web site meetings calendar.

DAN SPRING, CHAIRMAN

TOWN	POPULATION	AREA IN SQ MILES	2017 GRAND LIST MILL RATE
<b>NORTH STONINGTON</b>	5,297	54.31	28.0
Thomaston	7,887	12.01	35.79
Ashford	4,100	38.79	34.767
Andover	3,303	15.46	33.95
Salem	4,151	28.95	32.2
Barkhamsted	3,610	36.22	29.86
Columbia	5,485	21.36	29.33
Voluntown	2,603	38.92	28.92
Griswold	11,951	34.95	27.95
Bozrah	2,627	19.97	27.5
Chester	3,994	16.8	27.11
Canterbury	5,132	39.9	26.2
Preston	4,726	30.9	26.03
Bethlehem	3,607	19.36	24.15
Lisbon	4,338	16.26	22.5

## HEWITT FARM

Fall is a beautiful time at Hewitt Farm. Everywhere you walk, on the trails or the open land, you will see a variety of trees turning color. The farm is open to the public and all are invited to use this special North Stonington setting for family and community events. The "Green" across from the 1750 Farm House now has a concrete foundation where a pavilion will be added in the future. The final design is being considered and fund raising is ongoing.



The Hewitt Farm Community Garden had another successful year and will be hosting a Fall Potluck at the garden on Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup> from 3-5 pm featuring the Mystic Garland Dancers. The public is invited. Bring a dish and enjoy the festivities. In case of rain, the potluck will be held at the Senior Center at 691 Norwich/Westerly Road (behind Holly Green on Rte.2).

The committee greatly appreciated the work at the farm that was done by Troop 71 Scout Nathan Cherenzia. He was awarded Eagle Scout status in August for his project that designed and constructed a substantial bridge on Hewitt Farm.

Trail maps are available at all entrances or online from the town website. Dogs and horses are also welcome. Parking is provided 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!

ED HARASIMOWITZ

CHAIRMAN

860-204-7439

## 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.*



If you haven't discovered the many trails on Avalonia properties in town or haven't been on the newest preserve or are interested in a guided nature hike, contact Bruce Fellman (860-599-4867) to join him at the 409-acre TriTown Forest on Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. We will explore its rugged trails for migrating birds, insects, amphibians, late-blooming wildflowers, early fall foliage, and stone walls. This event is part of the Last Green Valley Walktober.

There is a very cool app with Avalonia trail mapping: load ArcGIS Explorer from the ESRI App, then search Avalonia. The Conservancy owns 8 other properties with trails in North Stonington and more in other towns. You can also find trail maps at the library or on the website [avalonialandconservancy.org](http://avalonialandconservancy.org). You'll find information on membership, events, and the interactive activity Hike & Seek Scavenger Hunt. Like us on Facebook! We always welcome new members, and if you are interested in helping with trails or the town committee for Avalonia, contact Pat Turner, 860-535-1541.

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## NORTH STONINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Though the elementary school again had some challenges before opening, it was a wonderful start to the school year for our students! We 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. This has been demonstrated by the daily progress of our students and the results on the recent standardized tests. Great success was again demonstrated by our students on the latest Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC). Based on the State Department of Education, the North Stonington school district was rated 19<sup>th</sup> in the state.

To support our school we ask the community to register your Stop and Shop card at [www.stopandshop.com/aplus](http://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

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## BOARD OF EDUCATION

'Welcome back to school' has been the theme over the last few weeks. We are excited to have everyone back and school is running smoothly. A big thank you to our administrators and teachers for putting in the extra work to make sure we got off to a good start. The BOE is thrilled to see the building project moving along and we are now able to refocus our efforts on regular BOE business.

We are in the process of setting some short and long-term goals for the district and we are continuing to develop our vision for North Stonington Schools. Part of that process is to put together a Strategic plan and work has started there as well. We welcome your input and would love to see you at our meetings. Please keep your eye on our website as we are beginning the early stages of looking at school start times and will be putting out a survey soon. We are also working diligently to make sure our policies are up to date. We are starting budget work now to be ready for the spring budget season. There is so much excitement around North Stonington Schools we hope you can be a part of it and come to one of the many events to show your community spirit.

CHRISTINE WAGNER, CHAIRMAN

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

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Another very active hurricane season presents itself; this will run from August through the end of November. I'm hoping that all residents will use the following guidelines and prepare now. Remember..."It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark!"

Sign-up for **"CTALERT"** for free, emergency alerts by text, email, cell phone or landline and monitor weather channels for updates. It's important to gather needed supplies BEFORE the storm becomes imminent; if you wait too long, supplies will be depleted. Good items to purchase are non-perishable food (baby/pet?), water to last at least three days, sufficient medications to last through the emergency, personal hygiene/sanitation items (five gallon bucket and trash bags for use as a toilet), a first aid kit and a tool kit, batteries for flashlight, radio, etc and candles and matches. Filling your bathtub as an additional water source is a good idea. Consider purchasing storable freeze dried food and water self purification bottles with decades-long shelf lives.

Other important steps include keeping cell phones charged, filling vehicles with gasoline and filling gas and propane for generators, grills and stoves (NEVER use a generator, gasoline-powered equipment, grill, camp stove inside your house; keep these devices outside and at least twenty feet from doors, windows, and vents to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning). Since ATMs and credit card machines may not function, have cash on hand.

ASSUME that there will be extended power outages and consider that emergency services vehicles and personnel may not be able to reach you. If instructed to evacuate, be prepared to leave! Gather important documents to take with you and bring sleeping gear (cots, blankets, etc.).

If you remain at home, stay indoors and go to a windowless room on the lowest level that is not likely to flood; do not take shelter in the attic; stay away from all power lines. Bring animals indoors. Please, do not attempt to drive through flooded areas; six inches of flowing water can float a car; do not wade through flooded areas that may be contaminated by dead animals, sewage, oil, debris, etc.

### PLEASE PREPARE NOW!

GARY BARON      DIRECTOR      860-912-0004

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## CUB SCOUT PACK 71

Pack 71 has had a busy year so far! The Pack had two exciting adventures this summer. In July the dens met at Fort Griswold in the City of Groton to climb the monument, explore the fort and listen to a talk about the Battle of Fort Griswold. August brought the 1st annual Fishing Derby at the Zichichi Farm where prizes were awarded for the largest and the smallest fish caught. This September we've kicked off the year with an action-packed joining night gathering at the Rec Field followed by a tour of the Town's new Emergency Services facility across the road.

We're excited about the number of returning scouts as well as the new ones who have joined! Lots of exciting things are planned for the fall including a fall campout at the Grange, a Wolfpack Hockey game, hikes at area preserves, a visit to the Up/Down Sawmill in Ledyard, volunteer work at the Giving Garden at Coogan Farm, a canned food drive, and of course, exciting den meetings! Please be on the lookout for the scouts at local venues and please support our Troop and we'll thank you with some delicious Cub Scout popcorn! We even have purple popping corn for sale this year, which is proving to be a big hit!



BETH GREENLEAF      TIGER DEN LEADER & ASSISTANT CUB MASTER      [bethgreenleaf@gmail.com](mailto:bethgreenleaf@gmail.com)

## **NORTH STONINGTON GARDEN CLUB**

The North Stonington Garden Club was excited to participate in NOSTO Fest again this year! We want to help invite more hummingbirds, butterflies and bees to your garden, so on September 22<sup>nd</sup> we were giving out special plants and a variety of seeds that will encourage pollinators to visit your gardens!



Did you know that the NSGC maintains gardens and plantings at the Village Green, the Town Hall, the Clock Garden, and at the Grange? The club holds workshops throughout the year to keep these gardens beautiful for everyone in the town to enjoy!

The Garden Club also purchases and decorates evergreen wreaths to enhance public buildings and locations in North Stonington each year. Look for them at Town Hall, Wheeler Library, and many other special places in town this holiday season.

When discretionary funds are available, we award grants to other non-profit organizations for community and civic improvement projects relating to gardening and conservation. Several grants will be awarded this year at our annual meeting in October.

The North Stonington Garden Club is an active group of enthusiastic members. In addition to our monthly meetings, club members participate in garden visits, hikes, and workshops. If you wish to learn more, or would like to join us for a meeting, please contact Nita Kincaid at [windstonenita@sbcglobal.net](mailto:windstonenita@sbcglobal.net). Happy Gardening!

ELLEN SPRING

NSGC COMMUNICATIONS

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## **PAWCATUCK NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER**

### **Keeping our Children Warm at Night**

Do you remember when you were a child and had brand new pajamas to wear to bed? One North Stonington resident wants to share that special treat with the children in our community.



Doreen Garish, known by some as “Grammy Jammie” collects brand new pajamas that are distributed at the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center. The program started at the First Baptist Church of North Stonington and Doreen continued the tradition when the first organizer moved away.

Last Christmas, she invited two additional churches to join her and was overwhelmed by the number of pajamas that they collected. It seems that there are many adults who remember how special it is to have nice, clean pajamas. Doreen starts the program during the first week of October and collects the pajamas until the end of November. Then they are ready for distribution at Christmas.

The PNC Christmas Angel program collects Christmas toy wish lists from its clients, which are matched with anonymous, community donor angels. Pajamas, coats, hats and mittens are collected with the toys. The PNC Pantry joins in the festivities by distributing turkey dinners. Pet food is included for our furry friends.

If you would like to donate pajamas, toys or food contact Susan Sedensky, Executive Director at (860) 599- 3285 or [susan@thepnc.org](mailto:susan@thepnc.org).

SUSAN SEDENSKY, J.D., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## SCHOOL MODERNIZATION BUILDING COMMITTEE

As I drove by the construction site this morning, I stopped to appreciate how much work transpired this summer. It was 5:45, the sun was not yet up, and in the darkness, the lights inside illuminated what were simply renditions of our new school not too long ago. When you meet to discuss the project as often as we do and focus on the small details involved in the building process, it is easy to lose focus on the significant progress being made. It is hard to believe that it will only be a short six months before we begin the transition to the new building and focus on the elementary school!

In addition to what you can see from Route 2, it is important to share what is happening behind the scenes that contribute to the overall progress of the project. For example, the roof on the old middle/high school is just about complete. Upon completion, Downes Construction will begin the inspection process to ensure that all warrantee and bid requirements are met. It is important for our fellow taxpayers to know that no job is signed off as “complete” without this process being followed and the committee is assured of the quality of work.

Overall, the SMBC is happy to report that the project is progressing as planned, thanks to the countless hours and tireless efforts of everyone involved. We remain on time and within budget. Please join us at our monthly meetings where we discuss ongoing planning decisions, update our financial status, and welcome input from the community regarding how the project is managed. Our website is currently in the process of being updated, so feel free to email any member of the committee with questions or concerns in the meantime.

Thank you for your continued patience and support as we look forward to the successful end of phase one and our upcoming transitional move in the month of March.

PAMELA POTE MRI, CHAIRMAN

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## BOY SCOUT TROOP 71

The boys from Troop 71 had a very productive summer. 24 Scouts attended summer camp at JN Webster in Ashford, where a total of 85 merit badges were earned. There was also a September tubing trip down the Farmington River. Scouts have had a busy fall calendar with more ahead of them. They earned community service hours volunteering at NOSTO Fest and are experienced an adventurous camping/hiking trip to Mt. Monadnock, NH on Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>. There is a District Fall Camporee Oct 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> at JN Webster with the theme of “Highland Games”.

Scouting for Food bags will be distributed on Oct 27<sup>th</sup> with pickup on Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>. Contributions of non-perishable food items will help those in need in our community. If you would like to donate, but don’t receive a bag, please contact the Scoutmaster. In November, the Scout Feast and Campout takes place; the Scouts make an amazing Thanksgiving feast outdoors over fire and coals. Look for Scouts also at the Tree Lighting/Luminaria on Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Congratulations to Ethan Wiggins who has successfully completed the requirements for his Eagle Scout award. His Court of Honor will be Oct 6<sup>th</sup>. For more information on the great things Scouting has to offer, please contact Doug Spracklin at sprack1@comcast.net.

KIYA LAMPHERE

TROOP 71 COMMITTEE MEMBER



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

We are off to a great start to the 2018-2019 school year at Wheeler, welcoming 12 new students to our building! We have had a busy summer with construction and, as you all know, our new school is beginning to take shape! This school year certainly promises to be a milestone for all of us at Wheeler since we will be moving into this new school in March.

As a staff, we continue to raise the bar of excellence and assess the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills among all our students in the areas of Literacy, Communication, Collaboration and Analysis. These skills will ensure our students' success long after they leave our school and enter a highly competitive world. We are busy planning for the development of two pathways in the area of business and engineering and next year, our new schedule will allow students choices for how they wish to fulfill our newly revised graduation requirements. Our SBAC, SAT, and AP scores are in and we are actively using these results to drive our curriculum and instruction forward.

We are proud of our seniors who graduated and entered the work force, and of those on a new path to higher education at some of the strongest colleges and universities in the country.

KRISTEN ST. GERMAIN, PRINCIPAL



## **NORTH STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

This fall will be quite busy. After a very hot and humid opening of school, we welcome the fall with open arms. Believe it or not, once we get past the opening of school, the fall is the least active of all the school seasons for Central Administration. While we are only three months into the school year, we are already developing the 2019-2020 budget.

The School Modernization Project requires a lot of time and effort and we are thrilled with our active involvement. The construction company has already developed a mock classroom on the first floor of the new school. We have been there and have planned the placement for technology and classroom furniture. I'm sure as you peruse the Quarterly, the First Selectman and the Building Committee will keep you abreast of the finer points of the project. We have been told that, by November, the exterior will very much resemble the completed school and the focus will be on completing the interior and the classrooms for March! We thank the entire North Stonington Public School community for your patience and flexibility during the construction.

Finally, in the past, late fall has brought on some significant wind storms and wintery conditions that has forced the cancellation and early dismissal from school. I will be communicating with our families in late November regarding our school cancellation protocol.

PETER NERO, SUPERINTENDENT

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

We are thrilled to welcome Trillium Farm & Brewery to North Stonington! The owners plan to operate the Farm Brewery in addition to their other facilities in Boston and Canton MA. Stay tuned for more details! You may also have heard Electric Boat is going to be occupying space in “Eagle Park” which is owned and had been occupied by the Mashantucket Tribal Nation. This move of some designers and engineers at EB will bring about 400 employees to the area. We welcome these folks to town and look forward to helping serve their needs.



The Economic Development Commission is working on several initiatives. The Commission will be announcing its Business Beautification program shortly and plans to host two events this fall. The first is a networking event on Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> for local commercial real estate agents and developers to learn more about recent changes to the Zoning Regulations and potential development opportunities in town. The second event is an Economic Development Training Seminar for all boards and commissions in town on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) has been re-activated and will be working with the engineering firm Weston & Sampson to complete the Sewer Study started in 2014 and to update the Town’s Sewer Plan. This firm will assist us with ongoing negotiations with the Town of Stonington to tie into their existing sewer line to service select parcels in the Industrial and Economic Development Zones.

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

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## THAMES VALLEY COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY ACTION, INC.

Senior Corps volunteers have worked in our communities for many years through the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and Thames Council for Community Action (TVCCA). Lives are being changed significantly by volunteers offering a small amount of time, commitment, and effort. Numerous studies point to the benefits that volunteers receive by volunteering in addition to the impact on the community. Children feel additional support in their classrooms; seniors are hospitalized less; families feel less stress when their elderly parent is being checked on regularly; Veterans and their families access information that improves their lives.

RSVP Volunteers assist community members with in-home visiting, grocery shopping and Meals on Wheels delivery. They help school children through tutoring and winter boot/school supply drives. They run Veterans’ Coffeehouses that provide information sharing and comradery. They work with many non-profit groups to help them meet their volunteer needs.

Time commitment can range from an hour per month to several hours per week. Volunteers are matched with duties according to their interests and availability. Most of the volunteers schedule their own service time each week. Some share a duty with another volunteer, alternating weeks or covering for each other when the other is busy. Currently volunteers are needed in Stonington, North Stonington and Groton. RSVP staff is available to speak to groups or meet to discuss interest or ideas. We hope to hear from you!

GINA KING, PROGRAM COORDINATOR	860-425-661	<a href="mailto:gking@tvcca.org">gking@tvcca.org</a>
JENNIFER JOHNSON, DIRECTOR	860-425-6615	<a href="mailto:jjohnson@tvcca.org">jjohnson@tvcca.org</a>

## KEEPING NORTH STONINGTON AFFORDABLE, INC.

Keeping North Stonington Affordable, Inc. (KNSA) was granted tax exempt status in June, 2018, to become a 501(c)(3) corporation. KNSA's mission is to ensure that the people of North Stonington, and those wishing to live here, can find housing within their budgets. By using available private and public funding, we will provide affordable options for first-time homebuyers, seniors, and those who otherwise cannot afford to live in North Stonington. We will do so in a manner which enhances our community while retaining the rural character of our town. KNSA is now working towards raising grant money to build rental apartments, condominiums, single family and duplex accommodations, as well as units that can be purchased. Because of its nonprofit status, KNSA is able to access grant monies not available to the town. We need people with energy, talent, idealism and perseverance to see these ambitions become a reality. Contact: [knsa.president1@gmail.com](mailto:knsa.president1@gmail.com).

We invite you to attend the Oct. 27 free spaghetti dinner hosted by the North Stonington Congregational Church and sponsored by KNSA and the North Stonington Affordable Housing Committee to discover what affordable housing is/is not and programs available to first time homebuyers. Presentations will be made by Chelsea Groton Bank, Liberty Bank, Dime Bank and People's Bank as well as the Southeastern Connecticut Housing Authority. The time is 5-7:30. Child care is provided.

MARY ANN RICKER, PRESIDENT

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## NORTH STONINGTON AGRICULTURAL FAIR



Happy Fall! It's hard to believe that summer has ended and fall is upon us. The Fair season in Connecticut is winding down with just a few remaining. The North Stonington Fair was a great success this year and we sincerely thank each and every one who volunteered in any way and/or came out and supported the fair.

We had a couple of new events this year that were a hit! Thank you Mac Gray for putting together the new Goat Races. Mac came to the fair committee with a vision, worked diligently and had great success. We expect to have the event each year and look forward to it growing. Marvin Shaw expanded the schedule in the motorized pulling ring this year to include a new tractor pull and that was a success as well.

Our sympathies go out to the Reissner Family, Joe Reissner was our weighmaster on the grounds for many, many years and his presence will be greatly missed.

The committee has begun plans for 2019 and as always, we welcome new members/ideas/suggestions etc... The fair meetings are held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7pm. We wish you a safe and healthy season as winter approaches.

JODY WHIPPLE      PINENEEDLHOMESTEAD@SBCGLOBAL.NET

860-599-8498

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*Visit our local farm stands  
and enjoy  
the bounties of Autumn!*



# FALL EVENTS



## October

7	SUNDAY	10 am - 1 pm	Miller Road	Avalonia Hike at TriTown Forest Preserve with Bruce Fellman	Page 8
13	SATURDAY	10:30 am - 12 pm	Wheeler Library	Family Mask Workshop Register Online	Page 4
16	TUESDAY	6:30 pm	Wheeler Library	Book Discussion: <i>Little Bee</i> by Chris Cleaves	Page 4
17	WEDNESDAY	7 pm	Wheeler Library	Bill Lucey, Soundkeeper for Long Island Sound	Page 4
26	FRIDAY	5:30 - 8:30 pm	Wheeler HS/MS	NSPTO Halloween Extravaganza	
26	FRIDAY	7 pm	Wheeler Library	<i>Charlie Brayton: Life at Sea</i> Documentary by Mark Starr	Page 4

## November

2	FRIDAY	6:30 pm	Wheeler Library	Brian Nurnberger, Founder of Simple Smiles	Page 4
6	TUESDAY	6 am - 8 pm	New Town Hall	Voting Day for State Election	
7	WEDNESDAY	7 pm	Wheeler Library	NS Historical Society: Howard Veisz A Talk about Gerda III	Page 4
8 & 15	THURSDAYS	6 - 7:30 pm	Wheeler Library	Sculpting with Paper Clay Register Online	Page 4
9	FRIDAY	6 pm	Lake of Isles Golf Club	NSEF Annual Dinner Dance	Page 2
9	FRIDAY	7pm	Wheeler Library	Mark Starr Presents Films on Traditional Fishermen	Page 4
14-17	WED-SAT	Library Hours	Wheeler Library	Friends Holiday Book Sale	Page 4
30	FRIDAY	6 pm	Wheeler Library	Wreath Workshop - Register Online	Page 4

## December

1	SATURDAY	11:30 am	NS Congregational Church	Christmas Bazaar Luncheon	
2	SUNDAY	4:30 pm - 6 pm	Wheeler Library	Open House	Page 4
2	SUNDAY	6:15 pm	Village Green	Town Tree Lighting, Caroling & Santa	

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

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

This year's Annual NOSTO Fest was a beautiful sunny day, filled with music, food, vendors, activities and hayrides for children and their families.

Everywhere you looked, up and down Main St. from the School to the General Store, friends and neighbors were enjoying all the wonderful things our town has to offer!

Thank you to the Wheeler Band and Chorus, Justin Gigliello, Abby Primmatt, Steve Christian, TOMB, Living Weary and the Clark Falls Gang for the topnotch musical entertainment and to John Laabs for organizing it!

A sincere thank you to all volunteers, vendors, local businesses and non-profit groups for all you did to make this day the success that it was.

**IT REALLY DOES TAKE A VILLAGE!**

*Nita Kincaid & Lisa Mazzella, NSQ Editors*

**Special thanks to the Wheeler High School Print Shop!**