

# THE NORTH STONINGTON QUARTERLY

FALL 2019

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Happy Fall North Stonington! We hope everyone had an enjoyable summer - it certainly was a busy one! This quarter we have been working hard to finish up many community projects and initiatives.

We held a joint meeting with our Water Pollution Control Authority, Economic Development Commission, and Planning and Zoning to talk about the sewer needs in our economic development zones. There are certain areas that will need to connect to sewer to help with development, specifically around the route 95 Exit 92 area. We are working towards coming up with viable solutions collaboratively and are looking forward to talking more in upcoming meetings about this topic.

We recently had some great community dialog about the Main Street “village area”. We held a walking audit of the village to discuss potential improvements including aesthetics and safety. We also had a Community Conversation where we talked about residents’ ideas to improve, preserve, and maintain the character of our beautiful town’s center. We look forward to analyzing the data from these discussions and implementing some of these great ideas soon.



This summer we finished phase two of camera installations at town hall, which first started with installation at the Emergency Services Center. We also are well underway with the final phase of the Emergency Service Center 3-bay storage garage. School modernization efforts are on their final phase as we look to complete the elementary school.

Two new hires joined our team. Charles Cole joins the highway crew, filling the vacancy, as Chris Storey retired after 31 years of service. Chelsea Wheeler has been appointed as our Assistant Animal Control Officer, filling in when Karcher is not available.

In highway news, over the past year we have taken down nearly 400 dead or dying trees either by Eversource, town, or contract tree crews. This will prove pivotal in keeping power on and people safe as we begin preparing for hurricanes and winter storms. We have also done a great deal of paving improvements and much mowing throughout town. We expect our new over-the-rail mower that had been budgeted last year to be in service soon. Finally, we serviced a record 468 cars at the hazardous waste recycling collection on September 7<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to all who participated!

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual NOSTO Fest was a great success once again! It is such a wonderful example of our special community. Thanks so much to all vendors, volunteers, event organizers, and neighbors for joining in the fun!

I am incredibly happy to report on developments regarding local bridges. The bridge at 49/216 is now open to traffic once again. It will be complete soon. After 13 years and much work between a great many people at local, state, federal, and environmental agencies, the bridge on Boombridge Road is now advertised out for bid and will be completed by next spring!

We have a couple of reminders...

- The EEE mosquitoes will remain a serious concern until we get the first hard frost. We have participated in 6 conference calls with the State keeping a close eye on this. Please continue to be vigilant in taking precautions, specifically avoiding outdoor activity one hour prior to and after dawn and dusk.
- There will be a town meeting on October 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the new Wheeler Middle/High School cafeteria. There are 6 items on the call of the meeting and the full call can be found on our website. In our form of government, decisions are made at the town meeting and this meeting is no different; there will be 6 items to be voted on. Please consider attending and helping to remain informed and involved in your government.

MIKE URGO, NITA KINCAID & BOB CARLSON

SELECTMEN@NORTHSTONINGTONCT.GOV

## **TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**

Fall is upon us with its cool days and nights and its beautiful spectacular vistas. Our yearly election will soon be here to elect our Town officials and board and commission members. Every vote counts! Election Day is Tuesday, November 5, 2019. Voting will be held at the New Town Hall, 40 Main Street, North Stonington. The polls will be open from 6:00 AM until 8:00 PM. Please note that due to the election, Town Hall Offices will be closed on November 5th.



If you or someone you know will not be able to vote in person on Election Day, please contact the Town Clerk's Office to obtain an absentee ballot. Don't forget about college students, active-duty military personnel, people out of town on Election Day, and individuals who are ill or physically disabled. Absentee ballots will be available starting on Friday, October 4, 2019. There is information regarding the election on the Town web site, which includes an absentee ballot application and a sample ballot. If you have any questions regarding absentee ballots or the election, please come to the office during business hours or contact me via phone or e-mail.

Fall is also the beginning of hunting season! The Town Clerk's Office sells sporting licenses and provides detailed guides for information. Sporting licenses can also be purchased online at [www.ct.gov/deep](http://www.ct.gov/deep).

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

ANTOINETTE PANCARO, CMC, CCTC

TOWN CLERK

---

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Welcome to the 2019-2020 School year. We are excited to welcome the Wheeler High School and Middle School back to a full year in the new building and our Elementary School has comfortably settled into their temporary space for one more year.

The BOE is back to our regular meeting schedule. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month, at 7:00pm, in the media center at the Elementary School. We are continuing budget work and looking at our process overall to be sure we are using all of our resources effectively. Our district continues to lead our DRG in student success and performance. The recent SBAC results are in and we are again leaders not only in our region, but in the State as well. We have so much to be proud of. Our teachers and administrators continue to raise the bar and push our students to new heights and our students continue to show they are up to the challenge. We had open houses in the last few weeks and I would like to thank our teachers for all of their hard work and commitment. They go above and beyond every day to be sure every child has access to a quality education and an opportunity for success.

Our fall sports are off and running and we are excited to see our athletes embracing the new football co-op with Griswold. Check out all of our fall sports schedules on line and catch a game when you can. We are looking forward to another successful year and want to thank you for your continued support of our schools. Our email addresses are posted on the BOE website; feel free to reach out anytime.

CHRISTINE WAGNER, CHAIRMAN

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

## SCHOOL MODERNIZATION BUILDING COMMITTEE

It is hard to believe that in the next fall update, the SMBC will be welcoming our elementary students and teachers to their new space! When you drive by the future elementary school it may seem unlikely that we will remain on schedule, but what may not be visibly evident is that remediation is just about complete and work on the engineering, electrical and plumbing infrastructure is underway. Our goal throughout the remediation process was to eliminate and encapsulate all identified hazardous materials. This may sound straightforward, but what we are learning is that the process is extremely tedious and costly. Weekly team collaboration is essential to ensure the most cost-effective and creative solutions are implemented to address the issues that present on an almost daily basis. We extend a sincere thank you to Downes Construction, Quissenberry, Arcari and Malik, Eagle Environmental and Bestech for your commitment to keeping our project on time and on budget.



We continue to receive positive feedback from the Middle/High School students, teachers and parents on their new space. We also continue to address any suggestions that are brought to our attention as the scope of work concludes and the close-out process begins. The Committee continues to meet on a regular basis, and we welcome everyone to hear about our progress, ask questions, and provide suggestions along the way. We appreciate everyone's feedback and thank you for your on-going support. We are committed to a collaborative and thoughtful process to ensure we meet project milestones, work within our budget, and keep everyone informed and involved.

In reading about how other school building projects are progressing, we are grateful that we continue to highlight what has been accomplished in such a short timeframe and within a conservative (but responsible) budget. In fact, we are excited to announce that our project, entitled **“Navigating the Challenges of Transforming Facilities for 21st-century Learning in a Small School District”**, was selected to present to districts throughout the state at the Annual CABA/CAPSS Convention at the Mystic Marriott on Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to proudly representing our town and the spirit of community that continues to define North Stonington!

PAMELA POTEPMRI, CHAIRMAN

---

## KEEPING NORTH STONINGTON AFFORDABLE, INC.

KNSA has been offered a generous gift of land on which to build a home for a working family. Some legal issues have to be resolved to make the land accessible. To this end, we are launching a fundraising campaign, “A Legacy of Generosity”, in honor of the donor, to meet those expenses. Taking the cost of land out of development expense and KNSA's ability to partner with a non-profit developer to access federal, state and private grants will make the dream of home ownership a reality for an income qualified family.



Citizens of our town will also have an opportunity to increase housing choices when the vote to sell town-owned land to a non-profit developer for a mixed income development on land given to the town comes before them at our next town meeting. As an aging community, many seniors are downsizing and want smaller homes that require less maintenance and cost, while young people starting out need homes they can afford. This development could help to provide this choice, as well as add income to the town from property taxes. At this time the land does neither. KNSA is in a position to partner with a nonprofit builder to provide a “hometown solution” to affordable, appropriate development and urges you to vote ‘yes’ to this sale.

MARY ANN RICKER, PRESIDENT

## NORTH STONINGTON GARDEN CLUB



Members of the North Stonington Garden Club were pleased to share their enthusiasm for gardening at NOSTO Fest on September 21<sup>st</sup>. This year's display featured ground covers and information about attracting monarch butterflies!

When the proceeds of our annual Plant Sale permit, the Garden Club awards grants to other non-profit organizations for community and civic improvement projects relating to gardening and conservation. This year the club was excited to award grants toward installation of a children's cognitive garden at UConn's Avery Point campus, a Monarch Way Station at Moriarty Environmental Sciences Magnet School, a community garden at Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center, landscaping at Buckingham House, the historic Norwich home of CT Governor, Senator, and Mayor William Buckingham, and toward the ongoing efforts of the

Eastern Connecticut Community Gardens Association to encourage and support community gardens.

The Garden Club is actively seeking new members! In addition to our monthly meetings, club members participate in garden visits, hikes, and various workshops. If you wish to learn more, or would like to join us for a meeting, please contact us at [info@nsgardenclub.org](mailto:info@nsgardenclub.org). Check us out on Facebook or visit our web site at [nsgardenclub.org](http://nsgardenclub.org) to learn more.

Happy Gardening!

ELLEN SPRING NSGC MEMBER

---

## NORTH STONINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Though the elementary school is still located at the former Wheeler MS/HS, it was a wonderful start to the school year for our students! It was a new adventure to have the 6<sup>th</sup> grade as part of the elementary school. We welcome, Ms. Adams., Ms. Barbour, Mr. Costanza, Mrs. Piper and Mrs. Williams as new members of our staff and, of course, the sixth graders to our school. Our school has definitely grown with our student population growing from 374 students to 426! We are working hard to ensure a safe, supportive 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 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, North Stonington school district was rated 15<sup>th</sup> in the state and North Stonington Elementary School is ranked 28 out of 522 schools in CT based on <https://schooldigger.com/go/CT/schoolrank.aspx>. Congratulations to our students, the teaching staff as well as the parents for their continued support!

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

## **NORTH STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

After one of the smoothest openings of schools in the last few years, the district is now focused on a very busy fall. Our students were excited to get back to school, especially for the opening of the first full year at the new Wheeler. North Stonington Elementary School has again acclimated to its temporary location and, while the renovation-as-new continues across the street and is expected to be completed in March, it won't be until the summer that the move will take place.

It is great to see our fall athletes on the athletic fields which are in great shape now, and to walk into the gymnasium and see our volleyball team back practicing and playing their games there. On any day that you see our boys and girls soccer or cross country teams having a game or meet, or, if you know our volleyball team has a game in the gymnasium, take advantage of watching our Lions compete.

As Superintendent of Schools, I can tell you that our students and staff are glowing with the latest ratings released by SchoolDigger. SchoolDigger test score ratings "measure schools on proficiency, using performance (the percentage of students scoring at or above proficiency) on state assessments across grades and subjects, compared to other schools in the state, to produce a 1-10 rating for each school".

Here is how our schools rank: North Stonington Elementary School ranks 28<sup>th</sup> out of 522 schools; Wheeler Middle School ranks 29<sup>th</sup> out of 259; Wheeler High School ranks 19<sup>th</sup> out of 121 schools; Overall, our district ranks 15<sup>th</sup> out of 153 Connecticut school districts. Our district ranks in the top 9% of all Connecticut school districts!

We are grateful for the continued, tremendous support provided by the residents and taxpayers of the town.

PETER NERO, SUPERINTENDENT

---

## **NORTH STONINGTON AGRICULTURAL FAIR**

Despite some warm temps, the 55<sup>th</sup> annual North Stonington Fair was a great success! On behalf of the Fair Committee, we would like to thank all of the dedicated volunteers, townspeople, vendors, exhibitors, sponsors, attendees and many more who contribute to make this event possible. We are very proud and honored to be able to continue this yearly tradition in our town. Early in the season we put out a notice that we were in need of additional help and we are extremely grateful for all of you who stepped forward and offered your time, ideas, creativity etc... #ittakesavillage.

Congratulations to Savannah Galluci, the winner of the annual scholarship; we wish you well in your academic studies.

Our monthly meetings continue throughout the winter: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, 7pm at the North Stonington Fire Company on Rocky Hollow Rd. If you and/or your family members are interested in joining the Fair Committee, please join our meeting!

JODY WHIPPLE      PINENEEDLHOMESTEAD@SBCGLOBAL.NET

860-599-8498



**Carriage Driving Show: Costume Class**

## LAND USE OFFICE

Quarter 2 Applications	
Accessory Structures/Uses	11
Single-Family Houses	3
Text Amendment (New VC Zone)	1
8-24 Reviews (Wintechog Property)	2
Site Plan Review (Withdrawn)	1
Free-Split/Lot Line Adjustment	1
Zoning Permit/Wetlands	4
<b>Total of nearly 12K SF of Construction.            98 Building Permits were submitted for review            in Q2, totaling over \$1.6M in Construction Cost.</b>	

A small new Commercial Zone was created just outside of the Village that encompasses the existing gas station and Kady's Farm Stand. This will allow these currently legally existing, non-conforming businesses to update their buildings and in the case of the farm stand, slightly expand the use.

The Planning and Zoning Commission reviewed two requests from the Board of Selectmen to consider the sale of a 10-acre portion of the larger town-owned parcel off Wintechog Hill and Wrights Roads for an affordable housing development (based on conceptual plans and pro-forma completed), pending approval at a Town Meeting. The second project incorporated a slightly larger portion of this same parcel for a Community-driven Solar Energy Facility. Three new homes were approved this quarter, bringing the

total to 10 year to date! The Commission will be acting on an application for a 5-acre Solar Energy Facility and for an Event Barn accessory to a Farm in the coming months.

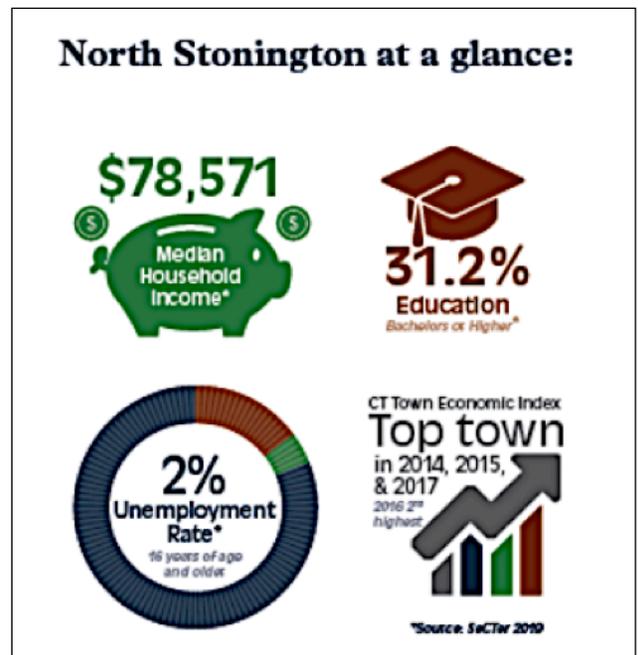
On September 7<sup>th</sup>, close to 40 people attended the Community Conversation to discuss ideas for improving, preserving and maintaining the village area. A summary of this meeting will soon be provided on the town website.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

We welcome El Torillo Mexican Grill to North Stonington. The owners also plan to open a Coffee Shop next to Farmers Insurance and the Red Onion. The Country Wellness Center is open in the Holly Green Plaza to help you relax and optimize your wellness. Renovations are underway for an October grand opening of the Shunock River Brewery in the Village Café. Please help support our wonderful local businesses!

The new marketing brochure is finished and will be given to various local and regional organizations for distribution. Staff submitted an application on behalf of the town for the Connecticut Economic Development Association (CEDAS) certification program which is intended to drive communities to pursue excellence in land use and economic development practices and to recognize the communities that have established best practices. The Town will be recognized at the annual CEDAS meeting this fall.

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



## BOY SCOUT TROOP 71

Troop 71 is up and running without missing a beat with the start of the school year. The boys had an active summer with a week of camp at JN Webster, a high adventure camp in New Mexico and a weekend high adventure in Maine. The great things scouting has to offer!

You may have seen individual scouts earning their community service hours volunteering at the NOSTO Fest, helping with various activities. On October 26<sup>th</sup>, scouting for food bags will be distributed and then picked up on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. December 8<sup>th</sup> the scouts will be helping with the luminaria at the North Stonington Tree Lighting. Troop 71 has an upcoming Court of Honor, where the hard work and dedication of the scouts will be acknowledged with the badges that they have earned.



For more information on what Scouting has to offer, please contact Scout Master Doug Spracklin at [sprack1@comcast.net](mailto:sprack1@comcast.net).

KIYA LAMPHERE

TROOP 71 COMMITTEE MEMBER

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### Be Prepared for Possible 2019 Hurricanes

The current Atlantic hurricane season forecast is expected to be above normal, with 10-17 named storms, including 5-9 hurricanes, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Two to four of those hurricanes are forecast to be Category 3 or stronger, with winds greater than 110 mph.



Why the projected increase? The El Niño weather pattern has dissipated completely, and transitioned into a neutral stage, where sea surface temperatures are normal. Typically, El Niño suppresses Atlantic hurricane activity, but now that it's gone, we could see a busier season ahead.

Here are several considerations for you to take action on, **before a crisis hits**:

- \* Sign up for "CTALERT," a Connecticut communication database that is free and keeps you advised of emergency alerts by text, email, cell phone and landline. Go to [ctalert.gov](http://ctalert.gov).
- \* Gather needed supplies for at least three days, BEFORE the storm becomes imminent: food, water, medications, a first aid kit and sanitation items. Keep batteries, candles and matches on hand or possibly, buy a generator.
- \* Collect important documents and keep cash on hand.
- \* Fill your car's gas tank, keep your cell phone charged and, if instructed to evacuate, be prepared to leave! Do not attempt to drive or wade through flooded areas.
- \* If you remain, stay indoors and go to a windowless room on the lowest level that is not likely to flood. Bring your animals indoors, too!

PREPARE NOW!!

Visit North Stonington's website ([northstoningtonct.gov](http://northstoningtonct.gov)) for even more detailed information. Remember: "It wasn't raining when Noah built his arc!" Stay Safe.

GARY BARON

DIRECTOR

860-912-0004

## NORTH STONINGTON VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, INC.

This year continues to be the busiest year we have seen to date. At the current rate, we appear to be closing in on 300+ responses. Despite the continued increase in responses over the years, the number of volunteers has not changed. **We urgently need new members who are willing to be trained and respond to emergencies.**

Fire Prevention Week is October 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> this year. The national theme is *“Not Every Hero Wears a Cape. Plan and Practice Your Escape”*. Planning your escape from a fire and practicing it is a critical component in survivability. As always, having working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors will give you the most time to initiate an escape.

The Fire Company is hosting an “Open House” of the CES on Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, from noon – 4PM. Displays, information, and demonstrations will be available.

With the onset of the heating season brings an increase in emergency responses. Having your furnace professionally serviced, along with chimneys inspected and cleaned, will increase efficiency and safety. Likewise, proper use of holiday decorations is important. Utilizing battery operated candles are much safer than traditional types. Follow manufacturer’s recommendations when using electric lighting, including extension cords. Never place extension cords under rugs, or where they may be damaged. If live decorations are used, including trees, proper placement and watering are critical in preventing a fire.

The Fire Company will be celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2020. While we were formed in 1945, the State Legislature authorized the formation of the “Village Fire Engine Company” in the village of Milltown, North Stonington in May of 1845. We are trying to locate any records, diaries, or photos which may shed light on the one hundred years between 1845 to 1945, including what the original Company’s equipment may have looked like and when it ceased to exist.



Finally, having functional smoke and carbon monoxide detectors is your first line of defense during an emergency. They can provide you early warning and more time to escape, along with allowing you more time to report the emergency to 9-1-1.

You can follow upcoming Fire Company events and news by checking out our Face Book page.

CHARLES STEINHART V, CHIEF

KYLE BERGEL, PRESIDENT

---

## NORTH STONINGTON LIONS CLUB

The Lions Club has begun its new year with two annual fall events in late September - the NOSTO Fest and Dahlia Day. While both of these events will have taken place just prior to this publication, we offer thanks to those who may have participated and those who may have made a contribution. This year’s crop of dahlias was judged to be spectacular. If you missed this event, you will have another chance next September.

Throughout the balance of this year and the next, the Lions will be focused on raising funds that will support local programs and activities which enrich the quality of life in North Stonington and which provide crucial services to individuals and families in need. For example, we will soon be linking up with the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center, as we have often done in the past, to provide meal packages for seniors and disadvantaged families for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. We encourage North Stonington residents to participate with us by making a donation directed toward this effort. You can donate by (1) contacting me or any other Lion, (2) enter GoFundMe.com and search for North Stonington Lions, or (3) send a check to P.O. Box 100, North Stonington.

JIM NESTOR, CLUB PRESIDENT 860-535-9966 P.O. BOX 100, NORTH STONINGTON, CT 06359

## ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

The North Stonington Assessor's office is taking applications for a farm and/or forest land classification. The classification runs for a minimum of 10 years. There is a financial penalty for less than 10 years in the programs. Forest land must be 25 acres or more. A certified state forester must inspect the land and determine if the land meets the Connecticut guidelines for forest land. A classification of farm land is determined by the Assessor. The land must be engaged in an agricultural business or the land must be leased to a farmer who engages the land in his agricultural business. There is no minimum acreage for a farm. A farm attempts to make a profit in an agricultural business. A garden for home use is not a farm. The application period ends on October 31, 2019. Once your land is classified under PA 490, you do not need to reapply. More information can be found at [www.cfba.org](http://www.cfba.org).

Personal property forms will be out by September 30, 2019. Call the Assessor's office at 860 535 2877 x 24 if you did not receive your declaration form. Anyone who has a business in North Stonington is required to file a personal property declaration before November 1, 2019. Machinery and equipment used in farming may be exempt if you file for the exemption. The exemption is NOT automatic. Buildings used in your farming operation also may be exempt, but you must apply for the exemption. To repeat, the exemption is NOT automatic. You must file the proper forms for the exemption. The forms may be found in the Assessor's office.

The Town of North Stonington is again in the process of a revaluation of all real estate within the town. The company doing the revaluation is eQuality Valuation Services from Waterbury, Connecticut. The job is to be completed by late next year, 2020. I will have more on the revaluation as time goes on. I ask that all citizens of North Stonington cooperate with the revaluation project.

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

---

## PAWCATUCK NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

### *Unexpected Treasures Found at the PNC*

Unexpected treasures are found in the thrift store that opened last month at the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center. The second floor has been transformed to a boutique-like space that boasts jewelry, handbags, artwork, household items and toys. Clothes are available for people of all ages and sizes – from newborns to XXXL.

Clothing costs approximately \$1.00 to \$5.00 per item, offering clean, like-new apparel at a low price to everyone in our community. Novelty items like gowns and costumes may be slightly higher priced, but everything is marked below market value.

North Stonington parents whose child receives a free/reduced school lunch are encouraged to join the Weekender Backpack Program, which provides a variety of food and milk for the weekend.

A PNC baby shower will be held for PNC clients on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. Pregnant women and families with small children should sign up by emailing [susan@thepnc.org](mailto:susan@thepnc.org). All are welcome.

Volunteers are needed to box and distribute holiday food that will be given to more than 300 families at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Persons seeking to donate toys as a Donor Angel, or receive toys at Christmas, should email [susan@thepnc.org](mailto:susan@thepnc.org) for information.

SUSAN SEDENSKY, J.D., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR      860-599-3285



State of Connecticut  
Official Ballot



North Stonington, Connecticut

Municipal  
Election

November 5, 2019

District  
1

TURN BALLOT OVER AND VOTE BOTH SIDES

Be sure to read instructions to vote.

OFFICE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
PARTY	First Selectman Vote for One	Selectman Vote for One	Town Treasurer Vote for One	Board of Finance Vote for One	Board of Finance Alternate Vote for One	Board of Education Vote for Any Two	Board of Assessment Appeals Vote for One	Board of Economic Development Commission Full Term Vote for Any Two	Economic Development Commission To Fill Vacancy for Two Years Vote for One	Economic Development Commission Alternate Vote for One	Economic Development Commission Vote for One	Economic Development Commission Vote for One
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	1A Michael Uργο	2A Nita B. Kincaid	3A Mark S. Donahue	4A Carolyn Howell	5A Connie Berardi	6A Stephanie Mastroianni	7A Darren Robert	8A Paula Woodward	9A Jennifer Anderson	10A Nicole Porter	11A	12A Anthony Mazzella
REPUBLICAN PARTY	1B Brett L. Mastroianni	2B Robert A. Carlson	3B William A. Mason	4B Daniel J. Smith	5B Anne Akin	6B Alex Karpinski	7B Philip Mendolia	8B Candy Palmer	9B Brett L. Mastroianni	10B William A. Mason	11B Stefan Grufstedt	12B Jennifer Strunk
INDEPENDENT PARTY	1C Michael Uργο	2C	3C	4C	5C	6C	7C	8C	9C	10C	11C	12C
WRITE-IN VOTES	1D	2D	3D	4D	5D	6D	7D	8D	9D	10D	11D	12D

State of Connecticut  
Official Ballot



North Stonington, Connecticut

Municipal  
Election

November 5, 2019

District  
1

TURN BALLOT OVER AND VOTE BOTH SIDES

Be sure to read instructions to vote.

	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<b>OFFICE</b>	Planning and Zoning Commission Full Term Vote for Any Two	Planning and Zoning Commission Full Term Vote for Any Two	Planning and Zoning Commission To Fill Vacancy for Four Years 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 Full Term Vote for Any Two	Zoning Board of Appeals To Fill Vacancy for Four Years Vote for One	Zoning Board of Appeals To Fill Vacancy for Four Years Vote for One	Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate Vote for Any Three	Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate Vote for Any Three
<b>PARTY</b>										
<b>DEMOCRATIC PARTY</b>	13A Jenn Pensa	14A Connie Berardi	15A Mark Leonard	16A Dick Seager	17A Breeze Floyd	18A Breeze Floyd	19A Joan Kepler	20A John Varas, Jr.	21A	22A
<b>REPUBLICAN PARTY</b>	13B Edward C. Learned	14B Louis Steinbrecher	15B Asa Palmer	16B Robert Kappes	17B Bruce Smith	18B Shawn P. Murphy	19B	20B Colleen Thompson	21B	22B
<b>INDEPENDENT PARTY</b>	13C	14C	15C	16C	17C	18C	19C	20C	21C	22C
<b>WRITE-IN VOTES</b>	13D	14D	15D	16D	17D	18D	19D	20D	21D	22D

## BOARD OF FINANCE

Since the last quarterly report, the budget referendum passed resulting in a 29 mil tax rate being levied for the fiscal year 2019-2020. Tax bills were distributed thirty days later than usual, due to the timing of the referendum. Moreover, the closeout of the past fiscal year of 2018-2019 is being reviewed. The Town's contracted audit team, in the coming weeks, will be preparing the draft Audit Report for the Town of North Stonington. This report will be presented to the Board of Finance in late November or early December. Copies of this report will be made available to the public once it is accepted by the Board of Finance.

The upcoming months will provide the members of the BOF an opportunity to review and amend policies and begin preparing the budget for fiscal year 2020-2021. Meeting dates of the Board of Finance are posted on the Town's website. The meetings are held at the New Town Hall at 7:00pm. The public is encouraged to attend.

DAN SPRING, CHAIRMAN

---

## WHEELER LIBRARY

Each year, Wheeler Library sends out an Annual Appeal letter to everyone in North Stonington. We truly do rely on your donations to continue to provide everything from kids' yoga and farm story time, to e-books, scanning services and a welcoming community space. The town of North Stonington has provided \$30,000 for this year, and our operating budget approaches \$200,000. Thank you for helping us to close the gap.

Be a part of writing the library's next chapter. What kind of library do you want? How can the library best support you, your family, and the town? Join us Friday, November 15th from 6pm - 8pm for a community conversation. Space is limited, so please email amykennedy@wheelerlibrary for more details. We will provide food and babysitting.

Writing classes for teens and adults start up again in October. See our website or give us a call for details on the Saturday Morning Writing Group for Teens, The First Draft Project class for adults and our Supportive Writer's Workshop.

Turning 65 and need help navigating the Medicare system? Or just want to check during the Open Enrollment Period (10/15 to 12/7) to make sure your Medicare Part D plan is still the best choice? We now have a CHOICES counselor available by appointment at Wheeler Library to help with these and other Medicare issues. Call the library at 535-0383 for more information.

In October, we get into the spirit of Halloween with a talk by The Atlantic Paranormal Society (TAPS), made famous by television's *Ghost Hunters*. TAPS has been helping clients in New England and researching the paranormal for more than a generation. Using tried and true techniques, as well as cutting edge equipment, TAPS has been able to repeatedly and successfully cross the veil and document the world of the dead. Join Lead Investigator Traci Boiselle and Technical Expert Cody DesBiens on Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup> at 7pm for a program recommended for adults and students ages 16 and older.

Our Friends Holiday Book Sale runs November 20<sup>th</sup>– 23<sup>rd</sup>, during library hours. Treasures and bargains abound. Ongoing Children's Programs include Storytime at 10:30 on Tuesdays; Yoga at 10:30 on Wednesdays; and Lunch Bunch at 11:30 on Wednesdays. Claire Silva will present a FREE breast cancer awareness workshop on October 28<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. As a survivor of triple negative breast cancer, Claire will share her story from diagnosis to recovery.

AMY KENNEDY

860-535-0383



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

We are off to a great start to the 2019-2020 school year at Wheeler, welcoming many new students to our building! Over the course of the summer, our staff worked hard to make our school inviting for all of our students. We have a lot of change this year at Wheeler, including a new schedule and start time for our students. We are also thrilled to announce our Wheeler/Griswold Football co-op, which is also keeping some of our students in district! All and all the transition into the new year



has been seamless and we are excited about what is to come. 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 also continue to work on our students' social/emotional development and have built our advisory program around our Social/Civic Expectations: Respect, Responsibility and Resiliency.

Our SBAC, SAT, and AP scores are in and we are actively using these results to drive our curriculum and instruction forward; our students are showing tremendous growth and achievement in English and Math. We are so proud of our 2019 graduates who have moved on and entered the work force, as well as 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 EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

The North Stonington Education Foundation (NSEF), entering its 15<sup>th</sup> year as a 501(c)(3) entity, is hitting the 2019-2020 school year running. Over the past couple of years we have created a new logo and website and have attracted new members to our dedicated, hard-working Board of Directors. This year, we will be in the community to promote the work we do supporting education. We are also working on a new fundraiser planned for the Spring of 2020. Stay tuned! Adding this fundraiser to our already successful Dinner Dance, Trivia Contest and Road Race events will allow us to fund more grants benefitting our children and community.

Our biggest fundraiser is right around the corner on Friday, October 25, 2019, from 6 to 11 at Lake of Isles. The Dinner Dance has been a flagship event for our Foundation, as we spend a night celebrating what we have accomplished and recognizing this year's Wheeler High School: Distinguished Alumni honoree, Ms. Wanda Breidinger (Wheeler High School, Class of 1977). It's a beautiful location, with a great band and a wonderful sense of community. Come with a table of friends, or come alone, you are sure to have a good time. There are also sponsorship opportunities. You may register to attend the event or be a sponsor at Central Office or at our website: [nsedfoundation.org](http://nsedfoundation.org).

Lastly, we'd like to congratulate Samantha Caster and Molly Butremovic who have been selected as student representatives to the NSEF for the present school year. These students provide an invaluable perspective to our Board concerning the school system we seek to support.

We look forward to seeing you out in the community and at the Dinner Dance on October 25, 2019!

CHRISTOPHER P. ANDERSON 860-608-4549 [cpa@andersontriallawyers.com](mailto:cpa@andersontriallawyers.com)

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Your Commission has been working with Avalonia to consider their request for financial support in purchasing 85+ acres adjacent to the Green Falls River. This is acreage in our Plan of Conservation and Development that the town supported as important to acquire for our eastern greenway. Although we have extensively researched ordinances in some 30 towns across the state finding that most work closely with private conservation groups to add open space in their communities, it is ultimately up to our voters to decide. By the time of this reading, we likely will have that answer.

This request brought to our attention the need for an ordinance spelling out how our Land Acquisition Fund can and should be utilized. We have again researched these same towns, getting a feel for the wording in their ordinances before working with the Board of Selectmen in developing our own.

The proposed kayak/canoe trail, from the Boombridge Road bridge to Donahue Park in Stonington, is on hold till spring. Work is to begin reconstructing the bridge shortly and we do not want to impede that progress.

Our interactive trail map is located at Chelsea-Groton Bank, with them asking to have it remain as it gets considerable attention from their patrons. We will be creating a trail brochure shortly, identifying all the town, state and private organization trails in town.

We gave out 100 fir trees to children at NOSTO Fest, helping them to appreciate how trees contribute to the health of our environment through absorbing carbon dioxide and giving off oxygen.

WILLIAM RICKER                      CHAIRMAN                      WILLIAMRICKER@COMCAST.NET    860-535-2426

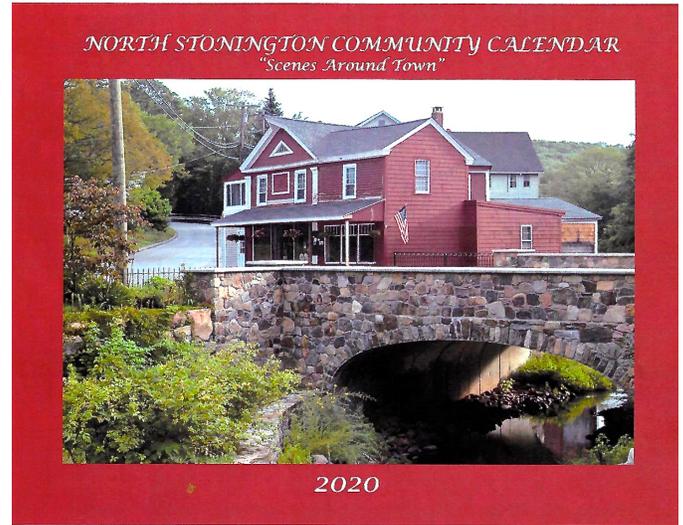
## NORTH STONINGTON COMMUNITY GRANGE #138

When North Stonington Community Grange #138 meets (on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays) we discuss and act upon not only our Grange needs, but also the needs of our community. We also have an informational program. **All are welcome** to come and have some fun with us, and your input as to our community needs would be greatly appreciated.

July was busy with Fair preparations, so we had one meeting, in which The CWA gave us food facts. In August the men presented a program on trains, and the women a program on rocket ships and space travel. Our Grange “year” is from September 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>. Other than specific nights, the coming year’s theme follows the song “Let me tell you ‘bout...”, so in September we learned about “the birds” on the 13<sup>th</sup>, and “the bees” on the 27<sup>th</sup>. 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 25<sup>th</sup> is our annual Halloween party at 7:30 pm. On Nov 8<sup>th</sup>, our meeting will be about “the flowers”, with November 22<sup>nd</sup> “the trees”. “On a night like this” is our annual Christmas party on Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>, and then caroling around town to our homebound members on Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>. Come have some fun with us! **We look forward to meeting you.**

SUE PIANKA, PROGRAM DIRECTOR                      860-599-4528



## TAX COLLECTOR

Please note the Tax Collector now maintains the following hours for the months of October – December 2019: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9:00am to 2:00pm; Wednesday and Friday CLOSED. Regular hours will resume at the end of December to accommodate for tax bills that are due January, 2020.

Tax Bills are now delinquent for any payments made after September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019. If you are unaware of the amount you owe, or would like to make a payment online, please visit [www.northstoningtonct.gov/payonline](http://www.northstoningtonct.gov/payonline). Service fees for on-line payments are as follows: E-check \$2.00; Visa Debit \$3.95; all other debit or credit transactions, 2.5% of payment amount. Credit card payments will NOT be accepted over the phone. These fees also apply for credit or debit cards used in the office to make payments.

A drop box is available for off hours between 8:00am to 4:00pm where payments can be left and processed the next business day.

KAREN JOYAL, TAX COLLECTOR 860-535-2877 EXT 20      [taxcollector@northstoningtonct.gov](mailto:taxcollector@northstoningtonct.gov)

---

## NORTH STONINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Your historical society works to promote awareness and understanding of the sociological, economic, cultural, and natural history of our town. We strive to nurture and preserve an evolving collection of land records, genealogical materials and other historical artifacts within the headquarters, the 18<sup>th</sup> century Stephen Main Homestead in the center of the village. The Society supports the study of local history in the schools. It encourages identification and stewardship of historical sites and structures, including houses, cemeteries, old roads, and stone walls.



The A. Morgan Stewart Memorial Library, housed in the homestead, is a great resource for your genealogical searches. It is open Tuesdays from 2-4 pm or by appointment. For questions or membership, phone 860-535-9448 or 599-3608 or go to [nostonhistoricalsociety.homestead.com](http://nostonhistoricalsociety.homestead.com). New members are welcome at any time.

The society sponsors events and talks throughout the year and publishes an informative and enjoyable newsletter. Our annual Christmas gathering and pot luck will be at the Homestead on December 2, 6:30 PM. Join us for the holiday!

WILLIAM DOUGLASS, PRESIDENT      [whdouglass@comcast.net](mailto:whdouglass@comcast.net)

---

## THAMES VALLEY COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY ACTION, INC.

TVCCA's Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is conducting its **24<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Boot Drive** to provide children in the region with a pair of warm winter boots in time for the holidays. Thanks to donors like you, last year we delivered boots to 1,500 low-income children ranging from preschool through middle school.

We are looking for donations of new winter boots or monetary donations with which our volunteers will purchase the boots. If you would like to help children in your community get outside and enjoy the winter with their classmates and friends, please contact: RSVP Program Coordinator, Georgia L. James (860-425-6608), [gjames@tvcca.org](mailto:gjames@tvcca.org) or RSVP Director, Gina King (860-425-6617), [gking@tvcca.org](mailto:gking@tvcca.org).

## NORTH STONINGTON LAND ALLIANCE

It is important to have a plan! This one begins in May 2020! We hope that you will decide to bundle up your kayak, small canoe, or dingy atop your car or pick-up and join us as a 2020 NS Water Monitoring Volunteer in The Watershed Watch program out of University of Rhode Island (URI).

The Land Alliance has been taking yearly water samples from selected North Stonington rivers, lakes, ponds, and brooks for many years. We have funded the laboratory fees of approximately \$350.00 for each tri-season site. We have counted on volunteers who paddle out to the deepest part of the watercourse by kayak or canoe three times each year (May, July, October) and perform learned technical tests to learn about water clarity for Secchi depth transparency, water temperature, algal bacteria, dissolved oxygen, pH and alkalinity. The volunteers drive their collected water samples to URI'S Watershed Watch Lab in Kingston, RI, where lab people test the samples. Test results of many sites from years past can be found and compared on different web sites, including a newly begun Land Alliance site.



Bill Hixon sampling Blue Lake

Let us know if you can help with this innovative and compelling program. Remember, the Shunuck and Green Fall Rivers and their tributaries are now part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

MADELINE JEFFERY landallianceinc@gmail.com or Mail: NS Land Alliance, Inc., P.O. Box 327, NS, CT 06359

---

## HEWITT FARM

The Hewitt Farm Committee completed construction of a pavilion at the farm and it is now ready for community enjoyment. The first event will be the Hewitt Farm Pavilion Festival & Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Sunday afternoon, October 6<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 3:00 PM. All are welcome! This is sponsored by the Recreation Commission and the Hewitt Farm Committee. There will be snacks, music and fun activities. The pavilion is on the Green across from the 1750 Farm House and can be easily reached from the Rte. 2 entrance, where parking is available.

We are looking forward to groups enjoying this handsome pavilion for parties and special events. Reservations can be made by filling out and submitting an event application form to the Hewitt Farm Committee. This form can be found on the town web site.

The Monarch butterfly waystation and butterfly meadow enhancement project has been successful this spring and summer. Butterflies and caterpillars have been seen on the flora that was planted to attract the Monarchs.

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

ED HARASIMOWITZ, CHAIRMAN

860-245-5305



## AVALONIA LAND CONSERVANCY

In its 50 years, the land trust has established fifteen preserves in town, protecting sensitive areas for wildlife and for you to enjoy. All are always open to the public, and nine of them have trails for you to enjoy. Discover a new-to-you trail today!

Many hikes and activities are regularly planned for your family to enjoy in all seasons of the year. On October 19, Bruce Fellman will lead a family friendly excursion at Tefftweald at Bircheturn Preserve on 280 Grindstone Hill Road. The former Girl Scout camp, is a 77-acre treasure of upland forest, meadows, wetlands, old graveyards and cellar holes, and the wonderfully photogenic Wyassup Brook. We'll explore the woodland trails at a pace moderate enough to give the preserve a close read and capture the experience in whatever form, from pen and ink on paper to digital drawings, photos, and text entered on a smart device, your journaling takes. Meet at 12:30 at the parking area, down the private drive.

Visit [avalonialandconservancy.org](http://avalonialandconservancy.org) for trail maps and notice of future guided walks and of activities in other towns. Not a member? We'd love to have you. Contact Pat Turner at 860-535-1541.



# NOSTO FEST 19

NOSTO FEST 19 was a day for making wonderful memories with family, friends and neighbors; a day filled with laughter, sunshine and community! Main Street was packed with fun activities, food, vendors, and toe-tappin' music as we celebrated all things North Stonington.

A special thank you to Mike Noonan for being our M.C., to Carolyn Bennett and the Wheeler Chorus and Band for their spectacular performance, and to Abby Primmitt, TOMB, Living Weary, the Clark Falls Gang for fantastic musical entertainment, to Kevin Knowles handling sound and the system, and to John Laabs for organizing all of this



Carolyn Bennett, Choral Director  
Chili Cook-off Winner

**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. This could not have happened without you; it truly does take a village!**



# FALL EVENTS

## October

3	THURSDAY	6 pm	Wheeler Library	Cookbook Club: Plenty More, by Ottolenghi	Page 12
5	SATURDAY	10 - 11 am	Wheeler Library	Teen Writing Workshop	Page 12
6	SUNDAY	Noon - 4pm	Center for Emergency Services	Volunteer Fire Company Open House	Page 8
6	SUNDAY	1-3 pm	Hewitt Farm	Hewitt Farm Pavilion Festival & Ribbon Cutting Ceremony	Page 16
8	TUESDAY	7 pm	Wheeler Middle/High School	Town Meeting to Vote on Six Questions	Page 1
8, 15, 22, 28	TUESDAYS	6 - 8 pm	Wheeler Library	Writing Class for Adults	Page 12
15	TUESDAY	6:30 pm	Wheeler Library	Book Discussion: <i>Let's Take the Long Way Home</i> , by Caldwell	Page 12
19	SATURDAY	12:30 pm	Grindstone Hill Rd.	Avalonia Walk at Bircheturn Preserve	Page 17
21	MONDAY	7 pm	Wheeler Library	Selectmen Debate	Page 12
25	FRIDAY	6 pm	Lake of Isles Golf Club	NSEF Annual Dinner Dance	Page 13
28	MONDAY	7 pm	Wheeler Library	Everything You Need to Know About Cancer	Page 12
30	WEDNESDAY	7 pm	Wheeler Library	Atlantic Paranormal Society Program	Page 12

## November

2	SATURDAY	10 - 11 am	Wheeler Library	Teen Writing Workshop	Page 12
5	TUESDAY	6 am - 8 pm	New Town Hall	Municipal Election	Page 2
7	THURSDAY	6 pm	Wheeler Library	Cookbook Club: Craving Hungry for More, by Teigen	Page 12

# FALL EVENTS



## November (continued)

12	TUESDAY	6:30 pm	Wheeler Library	Meet Author Laura Lee Huttenbach (The Boy is Gone: Conversations with a Mau Mau General)	Page 12
15	FRIDAY	6 - 8	Wheeler Library	Community Conversation (Space is Limited)	Page 12
20-23	WED-SAT	Library Hours	Wheeler Library	Friends Holiday Book Sale	Page 12
26 & 27	TUES, WEDS	10 am - 2 pm	NS Congregational Church	Pie Fest - 860-535-0379 for Orders	

## December

2	MONDAY	6:30 pm	NS Historical Society	Christmas Gathering - Pot Luck	Page 15
7	SATURDAY	10 - 11 am	Wheeler Library	Family Gingerbread House Decorating	Page 12
7	SATURDAY	10 - 11 am	Wheeler Library	Teen Writing Workshop	Page 12
7	SATURDAY	11:30 am	NS Congregational Church	Christmas Bazaar Luncheon	
8	SUNDAY	4:30 - 6 pm	Wheeler Library	Open House	Page 12
8	SUNDAY	6:15 pm	Village Green	Town Tree Lighting, Caroling & Santa	



VOTE ON NOVEMBER 5<sup>th</sup>

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

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

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

### **Just a Little History . . . .**

This is the 25<sup>th</sup> issue of the North Stonington Quarterly! Our town's quarterly newsletter was born from a Community Conversation held back in April of 2013. Participants of this important discussion identified the need for better communication of information so residents may become more informed of significant issues and events in town.

The Board of Selectmen approved funding for our first edition, which was in the mailbox of every resident and business in town on October 1<sup>st</sup> of 2013. Six years later, each and every issue continues to be filled with informative, thoughtful articles provided by our town's Boards, Commissions, Schools and non-profit organizations.

Thank you to each and every one of our contributors for keeping us informed! A very special thank you to Noel Devine and the students at the Wheeler Print Shop! Without your support and dedication, the NSQ could not happen!

Nita Kincaid & Lisa Mazzella, NSQ Editors