

THE NORTH STONINGTON QUARTERLY

SUMMER 2019

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Summer is finally here and a busy one is in store for North Stonington! We hope many of you will join us at Wheeler Library on Saturday, June 29th for the Town Budget Meeting. On Tuesday, July 9th we will hold the referendum on the budget between the hours of 6am-8pm at Town Hall. Absentee ballots are available for those who cannot make it in to vote that day, so please contact the Town Clerk should you need one. Please be sure to exercise your right to vote. The volunteer boards and commissions have been working hard putting a budget forth for voters' consideration and we need everyone to participate in this important process in our town.



This spring we paved a few roads including Rocky Hollow, Hollowell, & Milltown. Our highway crew has been busy mowing, tree trimming, and caring for our roads among other tasks. The crew has also been busy at the Transfer Station where we distributed new stickers, which authorize use of the facility for eligible residents and taxpayers. If you have not picked one up and plan to use the Transfer Station, please do so.

This past quarter the Shunock and Pawcatuck Rivers, along with 5 other rivers in Rhode Island, officially became designated Federal Wild and Scenic Rivers. It is a very exciting time for the local area and this designation will help ensure these rivers remain clean and protected for all to use in perpetuity. A committee had been working on this for many years and we must give a very special thanks to Madeline Jeffrey and Dick Seager, from North Stonington, for their hard work on the committee to make this happen. They will now both serve on the Stewardship Committee as we look to obtain federal funding for these important waterways.

As mentioned, this summer will indeed be busy. The town will have negotiated contracts with both town union groups. We also will be entering into our three-year agreement for the Resident Troopers Program. In addition, new land use software has been installed and our Planner, Building Official, and soon our Fire Marshall will all be able to work on this software to provide a more streamlined process for residents and developers. We have as well made a few updates to our website to help with navigation and user interface.

The solar projects we have already awarded will begin this summer with the Center for Emergency Services, followed by the schools. These projects will help our efforts to get all town buildings running on renewable energy. This is projected to not only save taxpayers approximately 40% of the cost of electricity, but will help us to continue toward our goals of being an eco-friendly sustainable town as laid out in our Plan of Conservation and Development.

Speaking of sustainability, keep your eyes peeled for an upcoming town meeting sometime in August focused on this topic. At this meeting we will be discussing implementation of a solar farm that people in town can subscribe to and get their electricity locally from a renewable source at a discounted rate. We also hope to be discussing sewers and an affordable housing project at this meeting and, finally, an ordinance for the Land Acquisition Fund.

Finally, we are planning a Community Conversation, "Our North Stonington Village Future"! We hope to get the community together to talk about their vision for the North Stonington village, which would include topics such as sidewalks, the old middle/high school, and historic property preservation among others. Mailed invitations to this event will go to those who live in the village and all in town will be invited to this event taking place on September 7th from 9-11am at a location to be determined.

MIKE URGO, NITA KINCAID & BOB CARLSON

SELECTMEN@NORTHSTONINGTONCT.GOV

TAX COLLECTOR

IMPORTANT: The Town of North Stonington does not currently have an approved budget for the 2019/2020 fiscal year. At this time it is anticipated that tax bills will be in mailboxes by August 1, 2019. The last day to pay under these circumstances, without interest being charged, will be Monday, September 2, 2019. According to State Statute Section 12-169, when the final day for payment falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, payment may be made without interest or penalty on the next business day.

Please do not mail or come into the Town Hall with your payments until the town has set a mill rate and tax bills have been mailed out. We are not able to apply payments for the 2018 Grand List to any accounts until a mill rate has been set. Any payments received by mail will be returned to you as the Tax Collector will not be responsible for holding payments.

The First Selectman weekly updates and the town website www.northstoningtonct.gov will keep you informed regarding the budget and tax bill information. Please feel free to also contact the tax office if you need an update regarding your tax bill. Tax Collector hours are as follows: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Tuesday and Thursday 8:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

KAREN JOYAL, TAX COLLECTOR 860-535-2877 EXT 20

WHEELER HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL

Congratulations to the Class of 2019! Happy Summer Vacation from Wheeler! We had another rewarding year at Wheeler for the 2018-2019 school year! Although it was a year of transition, we are overjoyed and grateful for the new facility we are already enjoying. On June 12th, we graduated another great group of seniors. Many are on their way to colleges, the military and the work force.

We are excited about the upcoming changes coming our way for the 2019-2020 school year. We will be starting with a new schedule as well as new hours of operation. Next year our school day will start at 7:45am and finish at 2:25pm. We also say goodbye to sixth graders at Wheeler as they head back to the Elementary School. As we continue to find our new 7-12 grade identity, we are excited about our Engineering and Business Pathways and the internship opportunities that are already available to our seniors through the Westerly Education Center. These opportunities will continue to grow as our Pathway Committee establishes relationships with local businesses that may be willing to host our student interns.

As always, thanks for all of your generous support throughout the school year! We couldn't do it without you!

KRISTEN ST. GERMAIN, PRINCIPAL



Westerly Ed Students & Principal St. Germain

NORTH STONINGTON SENIOR CENTER

The Senior Center, located behind the Holly Green Plaza, is open Monday-Friday from 9:30 to 2:00 pm. Director Teresa Pensis will begin taking applications for fuel assistance in August. Please call 860-535-8188 to make an appointment or for information on activities.

BOARD OF FINANCE

This past quarter had the Board of Finance busy reviewing budget inputs from Boards and Commissions. The outcome of this activity, after multiple iterations, was a budget presented back to the Board of Selectman for a Town Meeting. A budget representing a 2.73% increase over the current budget went to referendum. The subsequent vote resulted in a failed budget.

Contributors to the budget were requested to assess and review their inputs with a focus on further savings while still meeting the needs of the Town. The result was an amended budget that represents a 1.73% increase over the current year's budget. This budget was approved by the Board of Finance and presented back to the Board of Selectman for a call of a Town Meeting dated June 29th (Saturday) at 9AM to be held at the Wheeler Library.

We encourage all residents to attend this important Town Meeting so as to be informed and move the budget forward to a successful referendum on Tuesday, July 9th.

DAN SPRING, CHAIRMAN

SCHOOL MODERNIZATION BUILDING COMMITTEE

Happy summer everyone. Things have been moving quickly on the school modernization front. Our landscaping is in at the middle high school and soon final paving and site work will be completed. We are currently working on final punch list items in the Middle/High school now that school is out.

The bulk of the work is now focused on the "renovate as new" project at the Elementary School. Throughout the summer we will focus on removal of the hazardous materials within the building such as the PCB's within the paint. Once that is done we will begin the reconstruction. We remain on time and on budget.

Please feel free to attend any of our meetings for updates or to ask questions. We generally meet two Mondays per month. I would like to thank everyone for their continued patience throughout the course of the project.

PAMELA POTE MRI, CHAIRMAN

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Trail education and maintenance has been the direction our work has taken this spring. All town trails have been cleared of downed trees and branches and replacing trail signage continues. Should any hiker see issues we need to address, please contact us. We have worked with the Economic Development Commission to include all our trails in their forthcoming brochure, highlighting North Stonington for prospective businesses. Also, Chelsea-Groton Bank said our interactive trail map was such a great success in their lobby last year that they asked for it to be returned this spring.



Stop in to the bank. Check out the map. Choose a trail and spend a family outing enjoying our woodlands. Time commitments range from an hour after supper for a short hike this summer to an afternoon for a longer trek.

Our initiative to create a kayak/canoe trail on the newly designated Wood-Pawcatuck Wild & Scenic River is on hold until the two states sign the contract to begin work on the Boombridge Road bridge. One of two possible "put-in" locations is adjacent to the bridge and we don't want any side work to forestall that bridge any longer. We've been in touch with Westerly conservation folks who have already created their end of the trail. Our portion will double the water trail to approximately 4 miles.

WILLIAM RICKER

CHAIRMAN

WILLIAMRICKER@COMCAST.NET 860-535-2426

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Summer is finally here with the wonderful yearly Agricultural Fair just around the corner! With all of the outdoor activities in the area, don't forget to come to the Town Clerk's Office to purchase your fishing and hunting licenses on our new and improved online sporting license portal. If you are a legal resident of the State of Connecticut and have reached the age of 65, you are entitled to a free fishing license at the Town Clerk's Office. The Town Clerk's Office provides Angler's, Hunting and Trapping, and Boater's Guides for detailed information. Sporting licenses can also be purchased online at www.ct.gov/deep.

Summer is also a very busy time for marriage licenses. If you plan on being married in North Stonington, a marriage license must be obtained from the Town Clerk's Office.

It is not too early to think about the November 5, 2019 Town Election to elect Town officials and many board and commission members. Absentee ballots will be available starting on October 4, 2019. The Town Clerk's Office is open on Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM, except on legal holidays. If you have any questions, please call (860) 535-2877 Ext. 21 or e-mail townclerk@northstoningtonct.gov.

ANTOINETTE PANCARO, CMC, CCTC

TOWN CLERK

NORTH STONINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Your historical society has presentations, resources, and events to highlight the history of our town and region. The Mogan A. Stewart Library is within the Stephen Main Homestead in the middle of the village. It is open on Tuesday afternoons or by arrangement. You may phone Gladys Chase at the Stephen Main Homestead, 860-535-9448 or gchase1@comcast.net.



On September 18th Jerry Roberts will be coming to talk to us at Wheeler Library about the British raid on Essex during the war of 1812. Also, we are excited to announce that on Saturday October 5th from 9am-4pm we will be hosting the 5th Connecticut Regiment for a Revolutionary War encampment on our grounds. This will be a great community and family day with events for children and adults to enjoy. Our Stephen Main Homestead will be open to view and learn about our collections and genealogy research library along with our restored historic dye house. Admission will be \$5.00 per person - children under 6 are free.

For more information on the society, membership, or the library contact
William Douglass, President at whdouglass@comcast.net.

NORTH STONINGTON LAND ALLIANCE

Roads and Land: This article hopes to bring a fresh, caring attention to the town roads we drive everyday as it also extols the wonders of walking North Stonington's paths and trails along woods and front yards. The connectedness of these narrow, hilly roads with their equally hilly surroundings is assumed, taken as a matter of fact. We do count on them. Just stop at one of the many corners, like Northwest Corner and Swantown, or like Pine Woods and Denison Hill: they are unique and unassuming; places like these can be found all around town. Here is a worry. They are being left out, it seems inadvertently, of too much of our collective historic, social, and environmental attention. They are a huge part of the town's heritage which many of us hope can to be acknowledged and protected.

Town roads have stories to tell, just as houses and barns do. Names like Princess Lane, Hangman Hill, Kingswood, Grindstone Hill, and Wintechog are keys to the past. Each is an actual place as we drive along and holds us to both past and present.

The Village, as our hub, rightfully grabs its place at center stage as our seat of government, education, and historical title. Let's wear our heart on our sleeve here for a moment and look for ways to heap more accolades and tributes in deeds and words to North Stonington's many other corners as well. They, like the Village, deserve both the care, the protection, the attention, and that welcoming acknowledgement of their importance.

MADELINE JEFFERY landallianceinc@gmail.com

NORTH STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

While it will be a well-deserved summer vacation for the district's staff and students, there is still a lot of activity happening in our buildings. The district's Strategic Plan Steering Committee will meet once more this summer before breaking for the vacation. The district hopes to have the Strategic Plan completed this fall. Summer School will begin on July 8th and end on August 1st. That will take place along with the Summer Recreation Program at the Elementary school. Mr. Ryan Chaney serves as the summer school principal.

Many staff will be taking summer courses and attending professional development workshops. As in the past, our principals will be working with their data teams studying the standardized test score results administered in the spring. They will be performing their analytics in order to adjust curriculum and prepare for next year's instruction.

The summer also gives custodial and maintenance staff time to make repairs, thoroughly clean classrooms, and spruce-up the buildings in preparation for the new school year. Central Administration is open during the summer months at 298 Norwich-Westerly Rd. If you have any questions regarding the upcoming school year, we ask that you contact your child's school first. Finally, please be sure that your child has all the required immunizations before the start of the school year.

The 2019-2020 school year will begin on Wednesday, August 28th for all students.

Wishing everyone, an enjoyable summer season!

PETER NERO, SUPERINTENDENT

NORTH STONINGTON AGRICULTURAL FAIR

The Annual North Stonington Fair kicks off on July 11th with the Eastern CT Farm Tractor Pull and Nick Bosse & Northern Roots Band! Back by popular demand is the Goat Races. This year will include a demonstration of Goat Yoga and an obstacle course. St. Hubert's Dog Breed Demo will also be entertaining us with dancing dogs! Be sure to get a seat in front of the Grange Hall and see who will be crowned the 2019 Fair Queen, Princess and Jr. Princess. The CT State Tractor Pull has been moved to Friday night and if you'd like to join the party with a bit of disco, funk, hip-hop, soul and R&B all rolled in to one, local band SUGAR will take the stage. Saturday will be a full day of exhibits, animal shows, tractor and truck pulls and local country artist Katie Perkins! The popular Ham & Bean dinner will be held from 5-7 in the Grange Hall. The Middlesex County Tractor Pullers will compete on Sunday along with the Carriage Driving Horse Show and Draft Horse Pull. See the full schedule of events at www.northstoningtonfair.com or pick up a pamphlet or brochure at local businesses. throughout town.



All four days will feature exhibits, animals, arts & crafts, amusement rides, food, vendors, games, roving acts, antique engines and much more!! Four packs of tickets are available for pre-purchase (a \$10 savings) at Jake's, Village Hardware, Wheeler Library and the Town Hall. Admission is \$10, free parking and under 12 free!

The Fair Committee would like to thank the many volunteers that have come forward to help in any way to ensure that this family fun event remains active in our Town. Our proceeds each year are distributed to the Grange and the Fire Company, along with several other local non-profit organizations that contribute to our success. All Fair workers/volunteers are invited to a Pot Luck Dinner on August 13th at 6pm with hot dogs and hamburgers provided. Our membership is open to all and we welcome new members to join us at our monthly meetings held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7pm (either at the Grange or the Fire Co.). **ENJOY THE FAIR!!**

JODY WHIPPLE PINENEEDLHOMESTEAD@SBCGLOBAL.NET

860-599-8498

NORTH STONINGTON GIRL SCOUT TROOPS

Happy Summer everyone!!

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

Don't have a Kindergartener? It's never too late to sign your girl up to become a Girl Scout. There are established Troops and many Individual girls already started. Throughout the whole year, Troops and Girls are doing so many special activities, such as performing community service and learning to be good leaders in their community - and of course, having tons of fun!! Behind the scenes in Girl Scouts, a lot goes into planning and making sure our girls are having fun, are engaged and learning throughout the year. Summer is a great time for trips, fun outdoor activities and camping!!



Often, the jobs of our volunteers go unnoticed and I'd like to take a moment to say 'THANK YOU' to all of our Town's Girl & Boy Scout Leaders & Volunteers. Your hard work and dedication means so much to these kids and you are appreciated.

For more information on Girl Scouting, and to join now, please visit GSofCT.org or, to receive more information about starting your daughter's Kindergarten troop, please contact me at: jenefer81@hotmail.com

We look forward to another fun filled Summer!!

JEN PETERSON TOWN ORGANIZER & JULIETTE MEMBERSHIP MANAGER

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Hello, everyone!

At this time every year, all of our thoughts should be focused upon the 2019 hurricane season, which runs from June 1st through November 30th. Are you prepared to shelter in place, potentially for at least three days, or longer?

El Niño and warmer-than-average Atlantic temperatures help shape this season's storm intensity. This outlook reflects competing climate factors. The ongoing El Niño is expected to persist and suppress the intensity of the hurricane season. Countering El Niño, is the expected combination of warmer-than-average sea-surface temperatures in the tropical Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea, and enhanced west African hurricane activity.

NOAA's Climate Prediction Center is forecasting that a near-normal Atlantic hurricane season is most likely this year. This outlook forecasts a 40% chance of a near normal season, and a 30% chance of an above normal season. This hurricane season's forecast predicts a likely range of 9 to 15 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), of which 4 to 8 could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including 2 to 4 major hurricanes (category 3, 4, or 5; with winds of 111 mph or higher). But, what will their travel pattern be? At this point, it's anyone's guess. (NOAA's outlook is for overall seasonal activity and is not a landfall forecast.) NOAA provides these ranges with a 70% confidence level. An average hurricane season produces 12 named storms, of which 6 become hurricanes, including 3 major hurricanes.

Hurricane preparedness is critically important for the 2019 hurricane season, just as it is every year. Are you ready? Have you registered with "CTAlert"? It's the best way to be informed during weather emergencies. It's easy and free.

Thank you, and have a wonderful summer!

GARY BARON DIRECTOR 860-912-0004

NORTH STONINGTON GARDEN CLUB

The North Stonington Garden Club announces Heather Watkins-Shepherd of Pawcatuck and a graduate of Stonington High School as this year's winner of the \$1,500 Anna Coit Memorial Scholarship. Heather is currently involved in creating a butterfly waystation at Hewitt Farm to sustain monarchs during their arduous migration. This fall, Heather will continue her studies in environmental science at Simmons University in Boston. Formal presentation of the award will take place at the North Stonington Garden Club's July 16th General Meeting.



2019 Annual Plant Sale

The Garden Club also would like to announce that it is accepting applications for its Community Grants. Organizations applying should be involved in: programs that educate about gardening and/or conservation; community/civic improvement projects related to conservation and/or gardening; or support of conservation/environmental activities. Interested parties should contact the club at info@nsgardenclub.org. Information about past awards is available at the club's website www.nsgardenclub.org.

Lastly, North Stonington Garden Club wishes to extend a hearty "thank you" to its many loyal customers who helped make this year's plant sale a resounding success.

BETTY RUSS **VICE PRESIDENT**

WOOD-PAWCATUCK WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

We have just learned that a national artistic tribute has been awarded to America's National Wild and Scenic Rivers System! The U.S. Post Office has issued a set of 12 'Forever' stamps, each of a different Wild and Scenic U.S. River in full color. The best part of this is it that 5 of the stamps, taken mostly along the West Coast, were photographed by Mystic photographer, Michael Melford. The N.S. Post Office presently has the Wild and Scenic Stamps for sale.

North Stonington's 2 rivers, the Shunock and Green Fall, deserve their own accolades. They are East Coast, New England rivers, small and mighty. They have undergone the same research, the same scrutiny, and the same study as the larger Western rivers. For instance, the grand Mercer in California would have passed the same stringent tests as the Shunock had to right here in North Stonington.

Using the Park Service's nomenclature, a river can be recreational, scenic, or wild. These 3 designations have their own Park Service definitions and meanings. The Shunock has been designated "recreational," which means that the river is complicated by multiple road accesses over and along its river banks. The Green Fall River has been designated in part as "scenic" because it is approximately 90% undeveloped from its Voluntown headwaters to its Ashaway River confluence, and then "recreational" from there to the Pawcatuck because of multiple roadways in and along its embankments.

The new Wood Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic Council held its first meeting in May 2019 with over 25 representatives from each of the 12 towns taking part.

Present plans indicate monthly meetings will continue, with the addition of sub groups, ad hoc groups, and special committees beginning to take shape. We welcome your questions and thoughts.



MADLINE JEFFERY

mjeffery211@gmail.com

RICHARD SEAGER

dickseager@comcast.net

NORTH STONINGTON COMMUNITY GRANGE #138

When North Stonington Community Grange #138 meets on the 2nd & 4th 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.

This year's theme being "transportation", in March we had our state Lecturer's contest "It Happened in the USA" in which we presented vignettes of "Manifest Destiny" and river travel. And then we "traveled the world" learning about the history of ships and world exploration. In May we honored Mark & Sue Starr as our Community Citizens of the year for their combined work keeping the history of our town and providing beauty for our students and town via the school and library, and we held our Memorial program to honor all our military people lost in war, as well as those Grangers who have passed away. June had our Election of Officers, and our annual picnic.

This summer, July 19's topic is "Off We Go, Into the Wild Blue Yonder" (bi-planes to jets). August 9th, the men have the program "All-aboard!" on the topic of trains, and on August 23rd the ladies have "To Infinity and Beyond" on rocket ships and space shuttles. Come have some fun with us!

SUE PIANKA, PROGRAM DIRECTOR

860-599-4528

HEWITT FARM

It has been a busy Spring at Hewitt Farm. The 1750 Farm House has just had a roof repair and other renovations are being considered. On the lovely Green across from the house, there is a concrete foundation waiting for the arrival of a pavilion very soon. This will provide a place for visitors to enjoy picnics, relaxation after a trail walk and cover when there is bad weather.

When you visit the farm be sure to walk on "That Dam Trail" right beside the bridge and the pond. In 2017 members of the Doble and Gannotti families (sons Ben, Nathaniel, Josh, Sam and their fathers) approached the Hewitt Farm Committee, offering to create a special part of the trail near the water (now known as Picnic Point). This was heavy, hard work but the results were wonderful. They even put together a picnic table for the space! The boys came back this spring and did a fabulous clean-up to make Picnic Point look better than ever. Be sure to walk this trail!

Most of the Community Garden has been planted and the nearby area, where Greene Gables was removed last fall, is now providing a nice entry with grass beginning to grow. The field beyond the garden is becoming an attractive meadow. Jim Cowen, a soil and wetlands scientist and Heather Watkins-Shepherd, a recent Stonington High School graduate are moving forward successfully on both creating a Monarch butterfly waystation and eradicating invasive plants in certain appropriate areas at the farm,



Hewitt Farm is open daily from dawn to dusk. It's free, easy to get to and right near the village and Holly Green. Park just inside the Hewitt Road entrance off Route 2 or at the parking area 1/4 mile down Hewitt Road from Ryder Road. Download the Hewitt Farm Trail Map from the town website (www.northstoningtonct.gov) or pick one up at any of the trailheads.

NITA KINCAID

MEMBER

860-235-1565

LAND USE OFFICE

This past Quarter, the Land Use Department processed 98 Building Permits and 21 Zoning Permits as of mid-June. The total construction cost associated with the Building permits was \$1,629,150. Three new homes were approved.

The Planning and Zoning Commission approved an application for a new Gas Station Convenience Store on Rte. 2, and approved (pending a Town Meeting) two proposals involving the use, and possible sale, of a portion of Town-owned parcels brought to them by the Board of Selectmen, as required by statute, for a possible Community Solar Project and a Community-Driven Housing Development. Both of these would be on the Town-owned parcel off Wintechog Hill Rd. and they are still in the planning stages. In July, the Commission will be considering an application for the conversion of two commercially-used parcels just outside the Village from the R-60 (Residential) Zone to a new Village Commercial Zone classification. The Text Amendment Application, proposing that Accessory Farm Breweries require a Special Permit, was denied.

The new Permit Tracking Software was installed and we are working out the kinks. In the future, we hope to add the ability for residents/developers to use an on-line portal to fill out applications and make payments to further streamline the process.

The Staff will attend the upcoming bimonthly SE CT Planners Meeting where 4Ward Planning will present the completed Fiscal Impact Analysis models that have been developed for each municipality for us to use when considering the impact of possible projects during the planning and application approval process.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

Work continues with engineering consultants Weston and Sampson on the possible tie-in with Westerly water and Stonington waste-water to service select parcels in the Industrial Zone. The Southeastern CT Council of Governments just completed a draft of the Regional Wastewater Management Plan, and it is available on their website at seccog.org.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The EDC has been working on a mapping project and a brochure, both for marketing purposes. Miranda Creative hopes to finish the brochure by July 1st, which will highlight the theme of North Stonington being the “Heart of Southeastern CT”. Look for the new brochure this Summer!

The Commission has committed to starting a Business Visitation Program and Business Beautification Program this fiscal year. If you own a business in town, including a home-based business, no need to wait for a visit; let us know how we can help make your business a success.

Staff continues to work with area towns and the regional Economic Development Organization seCTer on the CEDS plan implementation and how to address Electric Boat’s urgent housing, employment and supply chain needs that impact all municipalities.

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

AVALONIA LAND CONSERVANCY

Avalonia Land Conservancy, along with others, is conserving open space- forest, streams, meadows, ledge in North Stonington. Explore trails on preserves in North Stonington and nearby towns, BUT don’t overlook tick and mosquito defense. Trail maps and directions can be found on the website avalonialandconservancy.org. There you will find information on membership and the interactive activity Hike and Seek. On the website calendar, look for hikes posted for July, August and September.

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



BOARD OF EDUCATION

As you read this, we will have just completed the graduation for the class of 2019! As always, it was a beautiful and emotional night. I am so proud of our students and faculty for all of their successes. This has been a whirlwind of a year... we opened the new Wheeler Middle/High School in March, moved both schools, and relocated the Elementary School, all in 3 weeks.

The Elementary School has found their wings in their new space and it is so fun to see our younger students in their new environment. The construction on the Elementary School continues at a fast pace and we will be finalizing the Middle and High School this summer. We are still awaiting the passing of a budget which leads to much uncertainty, but are hopeful to have this soon. Please know that your voice really matters and we appreciate your getting out to vote. If we have a budget by the time this hits your mailbox, then please accept my optimistic thank you! We are going to be doing continued budget work this summer in preparation for the upcoming year and are hopeful we will be able to continue to offer the amazing programs and course that make the North Stonington School District so successful.

Have a great summer!

CHRISTINE WAGNER, CHAIRMAN

wagnerc@northstonington.k12.ct.us



BOY SCOUT TROOP 71

As the weekly meetings for Troop 71 have come to a close until fall, the exciting summer season of scouting is in full swing! The first week of July, Scouts will be attending JN Webster camp in Abington. This is always a great time to earn merit badges, challenge yourself on new adventures and meet other scouts. Several members of Troop 71 will be attending a high adventure trip to Philmont in New Mexico. In addition to providing an unforgettable adventure in backpacking across miles of rugged, rocky trails, Philmont Scout Ranch offers programs that feature the best of the Old West, horseback riding, burrow packing, gold panning, chuck wagon dinners, and interpretive history, with exciting challenges for today, such as rock climbing, mountain biking, and sport shooting. It's an unbeatable recipe for fast-paced fun in the outdoors.

Memorial Day Parade



Look for Scouts performing their community service commitment at the North Stonington Agricultural Fair; they love to park cars!

In August, Scouts once again will be partaking in another high adventure camp in Maine. Scouts will be rock climbing, rope climbing and also white water rafting. This is a four day weekend that I am sure will not disappoint!

For more information on what Scouting has to offer, please contact Scout Master Doug Spracklin at sprack1@comcast.net.

KIYA LAMPHERE

TROOP 71 COMMITTEE MEMBER

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

The RFP (request for proposals) for the 2020 revaluation has been issued. The Town is looking for a qualified company to conduct its next revaluation. This is a state mandated revaluation of all real estate located in the Town. The process takes about 1 year to complete. More information will be posted on the Town's web site when the contract is awarded.

The Renter's Program is underway and applications are available in the Assessor's Office. Maximum income this year is \$36,000 for a single person or \$43,900 for a married couple. Applications must be submitted by October 1, 2019. For more information, call the Assessor's Office at 860 535 2877 x 24.

Veterans or the surviving spouse who qualify using the income above may be entitled to an additional exemption amount. The assessor's office has applications available. The deadline for filing is October 1, 2019.

Personal property declaration forms will be out by November 1st. Businesses who did not receive a form should contact the assessor's office. Farm exemptions on machinery and buildings that qualify must be filed before the end of October. Failure to file will result in the loss of this benefit.

Active duty Connecticut resident veterans must file for an exemption on one vehicle before the end of the year. Fail to file and the benefit goes away.

Lastly, The Department of Motor Vehicles does NOT inform the Assessor's Office when you sell or junk your motor vehicle and turn in your license plates. In order to get credit for the sale of the vehicle on your motor vehicle taxes, you must bring in proof of sale to the Assessor's Office. If you transfer the plate to a new vehicle, the credit is automatic. You do not need to do anything. Only if you sell the vehicle and cancel the license plate do you need to show proof of the sale to the Assessor.

DARRYL L. DEL GROSSO, CCMA II

ASSESSOR

860-535-2877 ext. 23 or 24

NORTH STONINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

We are so proud to share that all of our 372 students have grown both academically and socially this school year. Though this has been a challenging year for our school community with issues at the Elementary School and then the big move to the former Wheeler MS/HS, thanks to the planning and efforts of all faculty and staff, our students are meeting with great success at our new home. We are grateful to all of the parents and guardians for their continued support with homework, attending conferences, reading nightly, and being a valuable part of our students' success. Thank you to our many volunteers, the NSPTO, the N.S. Education Foundation, the N.S. Garden Club, and the citizens of North Stonington for all you do for our students and school. You truly enrich our school programs. Thank you, we could not be successful without you.

We are proud that our students continue to achieve in all areas. The year concluded with many student celebrations including the Band and Fifth Grade Chorus Concerts, the annual Field Day, and Flag Day Celebration. Fifty-eight fifth graders celebrated their DARE Graduation with family and friends. We are proud of their success.

We wish all a restful, healthy, and fun summer. We ask all families to make reading together a part of their daily routine. There is no better way to spend a hot summer day than reading under a shady tree, visiting Wheeler Library, or exploring a great book together on a beach blanket. Don't forget to practice your math facts and have fun with math, too!

VERONICA WILKISON, PRINCIPAL



NORTH STONINGTON LIONS CLUB

The North Stonington Lions have been blessed this year by the generosity and the kind intentions of the residents of the town. Your response to our town solicitation letter was exceptional. We are profoundly grateful for that. The bulk of those donations will be directly funneled to worthy causes in the area. We will provide aid and assistance to our schools and our schoolchildren, our library, our first responders, our scouts, our little league, our elderly, our hungry, our homeless, and our afflicted. The people of the Town make this happen. Thanks to you.

We are further inspired by the participation of our fellow townspeople in our recent *Cinco de Mayo Pancake Breakfast* at the Grange. This was so successful that we expect to make it a regular event in town. And, of course, the annual *Memorial Day Parade*, which the Lions have organized and sponsored for 53 consecutive years, was also a great success.

On September 21st, the Lions will take part in our customary *NOSTO Fest* celebration of the Town. We will be offering food - burgers, dogs, soft drinks, soups and salads, snacks and treats. Please stop by. Also on September 28th, the Lions will put forth our premier event of the year - *Dahlia Day, 2019*. A full field of glorious natural color. You can take some home.

JIM NESTOR, CLUB PRESIDENT

860-535-9966

PAWCATUCK NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

The North Stonington Lions Club has been named as a **2019 Good Neighbor by the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center**. The Lions Club has been a friend to the Agency since the PNC was incorporated in 1985.



North Stonington Lions at work

In 2019, the Lions helped in a very special way. Their volunteers allowed the PNC to increase its hours from Monday through Friday, 8:30 until 4:00, to include Saturdays, from 9:00 until 1:00.

The increase especially helps working parents, who receive food from the Backpack Program. Kids who receive free lunches often struggle with food insecurity during the summer months, when that meal is eliminated. The Weekender Backpack Program provides 45 pounds of food per child – fresh fruit and vegetables, milk from a local dairy, protein, bread, cereal and snacks. This year-round program helps local children who might not have enough food.

In addition to the Backpack Program, the PNC Food Pantry provided food to more than 1,400 local people.

The Agency distributed 433,648 pounds of food, valued at \$750, 211.00. If you would like to receive food from these programs, stop by 27 Chase Street, Pawcatuck during the hours stated above.

SUSAN SEDENSKY, J.D., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

860-599-3285

THAMES VALLEY COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY ACTION, INC.

The Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), managed by Thames Valley Council for Community Action (TVCCA) has volunteer opportunities for people ages 55+ to either visit or shop for elderly or disabled individuals; volunteering at our veteran's coffeehouses; and meals on wheels delivery. Share interest & friendship with older or disabled seniors in your community. Volunteer around your schedule and make a positive impact!. For more information, please contact Georgia James at 860-425-6608.

KEEPING NORTH STONINGTON AFFORDABLE, INC.

On June 13th, the North Stonington Planning and Zoning Commission took action to pass the possible sale of 11 acres of the 100+ acres of town-owned land on Wintechog Hill Road. This property was given to the town in 2008 with the stated wish that it be used as a site for affordable housing. If the sale is approved at a town meeting by the citizens, the Board of Selectmen could request bids for a development that would include affordable homes. North Stonington's goal in its 2019 Housing Plan is to have a total of 4% affordable units (92) in 5 years, which would qualify it for a 4 year moratorium on predatory development (developments that do not have to conform to the town's zoning regulations).



On June 4th Michael Santoro, Acting Director of CT State Dept. of Housing, visited North Stonington to present information about affordable housing. He stressed that rural towns have the land on which to build and should view this land as their investment in filling the need for housing within their communities. The percentages of cost-burdened owner-occupied households in North Stonington (paying more than 30% of income in housing costs) is 29.6% and of renter occupied households is 38.4% and this shows the need.

He also stressed that North Stonington is in the enviable position of having a strong affordable housing committee, a local non-profit (Keeping North Stonington Affordable, Inc.) that can access private, state, and federal funds for development. Now, land on which to build is within reach.

MARY ANN RICKER, PRESIDENT

The KNSA, a nonprofit organization, works closely with the NS Affordable Housing Committee. Their mission is to ensure that the people of North Stonington, and those wishing to live here, can find housing within their budgets.

NORTH STONINGTON AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE

We would like to thank everyone who came out in June to hear Mike Santoro, acting director for the Department of Housing, speak to North Stonington in "plain English" about affordable housing. "Affordable housing" refers to any housing, which is affordable to those families and individuals who earn the area median income or less, and they pay no more than 30% of their household income for their housing costs. For a rental property to be deemed affordable, it is rent plus utilities. In homeownership it's principle, interest, taxes, plus insurance.

Our current area median income is \$94,500 for a household of 4. To calculate other household sizes, subtract 10% for every person fewer than four and add 8% for every person greater than four. A family of four at 80% of median income earns about \$75,000. That represents our municipal workers, our teachers, and most who work retail.

It's important to understand that this can include you, me and our neighbors. As Mr. Santoro stated, "It's not someone coming in from the city who has no income, 15 kids and no foreseeable future."

In 2007, we almost fell victim to a predatory developer and could not deter them. However, due to an economic downturn, they backed out at the last minute. We have made great strides since then but we haven't done enough. North Stonington continues to rank the lowest for affordable housing inventory in the area and therefore remains extremely attractive to predatory developers, leaving the town vulnerable.

108 acres were donated to the town with the suggestion of affordable housing. After years of planning and engineering we are ready to get to work. The committee has made the recommendation for 11 of the 108 acres to be developed for affordable housing on our terms. There will be a vote at an upcoming town meeting to release this land for developers to present proposals. This is a great opportunity for us to have the most control over the building of moderate-income housing in North Stonington. If we don't do it, someone else can and will.

MARGARET LEONARD, CHAIR

affordablehousing@northstoningtonct.gov

WHEELER LIBRARY

Did you know that Wheeler Library is not a town agency? We rely primarily on your donations to maintain the beautiful building, and keep it humming with people and activities all year long. Our Annual Appeal will land in your mailbox later this summer. Please think about all the library offers to the community, from great new fiction for everyone to lectures and workshops, monthly art exhibits, meeting spaces, kids' yoga, and faxing/scanning/computer services. E-books and audio are available 24/7 via our Overdrive service.

Summer at the library includes many programs for children, and in July and August, we are adding creative writing classes for students entering grades 7 through 12. Check the library website for details on everything happening at Wheeler Library.

Come September, we welcome author Emma Donoghue (*Room, Frog Music*) and her new book *Akin*. On Saturday, September 28th, it's Townwide Tag Sale Day, managed by the Wheeler Library as a community event. Come by the library, or check our website, for more details on these special events.

AMY KENNEDY 860-535-0383

In addition to the Library activities on the Event Calendar: all Wednesdays in July will have Farm Storytime at 10:30am for ages 3-5 at Terra Firma Farm (if it rains it will be held at the Library).

Every Friday at the Library in July at 10:30am, Lil' Yogis will be offered for ages 2-5.

Stem Classes for grades 3-6 will be held Thursdays at 10:30 on July 11, 18, 25 and August 1. Registration is required for Stem.

NORTH STONINGTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION

In February, the annual winter "Trivia Contest" at the Stonington VFW hall was bigger and better than the year before. Due to an error on my part it was not reported correctly in the Spring NS Quarterly, so I am including it here. More than one hundred people at thirteen tables vied for honors, as the Master of Ceremonies, our own North Stonington School Superintendent, Peter Nero, with the assistance of Jenna Rogers, provided 100 questions over 10 sessions. For the first time ever, there was a tie for first place when "The Wingnuts" and "The Italian Stallions", shown here, had the same score at the end of the evening.



The 14th Annual NSEF Road Race was held at the North Stonington Grange on Saturday, May 25th with 179 runners participating. This event gets bigger and better with each passing year, and is viewed by area runners as one of the best in the state.

The NSEF is proud to announce two new members - Ellen Spring and Stephanie Barber - elected to its diverse Board of Directors. The NSEF continues to turn around revenues gained through sponsored events in the form of grants, primarily to teachers in the school system, for projects that benefit the students that would never be considered in any formal School Board budget. To date these grants have exceeded \$160,000. Please check out our revised website at nsedfoundation.org.

JIM PATTON

JHPATTON@CONCENTRIC.NET

NOSTO FEST 2019

Music, Food, Fun

Free Admission & Activities

Contact us at nostofest@gmail.com

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST

NOON UNTIL 4 PM

Please join us on Main Street for this 4th annual event!

- Be a Participant - a local vendor, school class/group or non-profit
- Volunteer to help during the event
- Add to our Fairy Garden Display or enter the Chili Cook-off

LET'S CELEBRATE ALL THINGS NORTH STONINGTON!

SUMMER EVENTS



July

2	TUESDAY	10:30 am	Wheeler Library	Magic Show	Page 14
9	TUESDAY	10:30 am	Wheeler Library	Touch a Truck	Page 14
9 & 23	TUESDAY	6:30 pm	Wheeler Library	Creative Writing Class with Sarah Starr Murphy. Students in grade 7-12. Call for details	Page 14
11-14	THURS-SUN	Hours vary daily	NS Grange	North Stonington Agricultural Fair	Page 5
23	TUESDAY	10:30 am	Wheeler Library	Roli Poli Guacamole Concert	Page 14
30	TUESDAY	2:30 pm	Wheeler Library	Animal Architects Registration required	Page 14

August

2	FRIDAY	10:30 am	Wheeler Library	Art Workshop - Registration required	Page 14
6 & 20	TUESDAY	6:30 pm	Wheeler Library	Creative Writing Class with Sarah Starr Murphy. Students in grade 7-12. Call for details	Page 14
13	TUESDAY	6 pm	NS Fairgrounds	Pot Luck Dinner for Fair volunteers & workers	Page 5
28	WEDNESDAY	Shortened day	NS Schools	First day of school	Page 5

September

7	SATURDAY	9-11 am	TBD	"Our North Stonington Village Future" A Community Conversation	Page 1
15	SUNDAY	2 pm	Wheeler Library	Author Emma Donoghue with her new book <i>Akin</i>	Page 14
18	WEDNESDAY	7 pm	Wheeler Library	NS Historical Society: The British Raid on Essex in the War of 1812	Page 4
21	SATURDAY	12-4 pm	Main Street	NOSTO Fest	Page 14
28	SATURDAY	All Day	Wheeler Library & Town	Town-wide Tag Sale	Page 14
28	SATURDAY	11 am-3:30 pm	Morrone's Home 68 Chester Main Rd.	Lions Club Dahlia Day	Page 12

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

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

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



Election Day will be Tuesday, November 5th.

Would you like to have an active role in our town's future?

July is an important month for anyone interested in running for an office.

- ★ The North Stonington Democratic Town Committee will call a meeting on Tuesday, July 16th at 7pm at the Senior Center for the purpose of selecting the party-endorsed candidates for each municipal office available. Contact Chairperson Toula Balestracci by email (nostodem@gmail.com) or cell phone (860-514-2929) to express interest.
- ★ The North Stonington Republican Town Committee will hold a Caucus of enrolled NS Republicans on Wednesday, July 17th, at 6:00 pm, at the Senior Center for the purpose of selecting Republican Party-endorsed candidates for each office vacancy. Contact Brett Mastroianni by email at NStoningtonRTC@gmail.com to express interest.
- ★ Unaffiliated candidates may seek endorsement from either Party or petition to be placed on the November ballot by obtaining an Application for Nominating Petition by contacting the Secretary of State. The petition must be filed with the Town Clerk by Wednesday, August 7th. For more information, contact Antoinette Pancaro, Town Clerk at 860-535-2877 ext. 21.