

# THE NORTH STONINGTON QUARTERLY

WINTER 2019

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Happy Winter North Stonington! As a year ends and a new one begins it is quite interesting to reflect upon the accomplishments of not only the past quarter but throughout 2018. At town hall there have been a number of exciting accomplishments. We hired new staff including Town Clerk Antoinette Pancaro, Town Administration and Finance Director Christine Dias, Assistant Highway Foreman Joe Rubino, Tax Collector Karen Joyal and highway crew member Robert Chipman. Finally, former Selectman Mark Donahue was appointed as our Treasurer.

This year saw unprecedented activity in construction with our new Ambulance and Fire station opening in June of this year. Our school building project, which will bring our Pre-K-12<sup>th</sup> grade facilities up to the 21<sup>st</sup> century standards, broke ground in February. We sold an underutilized condominium in the Holly Green Plaza and moved our Recreation Director from there into the newly spruced-up Recreation Center (old firehouse).

We have been working hard on making sure our business community here in North Stonington knows how much they are appreciated. We are also working towards attraction of new businesses to our community with several positive business-friendly building and zoning changes taking place. Economic Development in North Stonington is on the rise as we continued for a 3<sup>rd</sup> straight year to achieve the highest ranking in Connecticut growth according to the Department of Labor's CT Town Economic Index.



We have contracted help to make our sewer and water requirements for our Economic Development Zones a reality in the near future. We completed a study looking at the feasibility of having a water tower here in town. A water line extension was finished and guard rails and line striping were completed throughout town.

Collaboration was the theme here in North Stonington in 2018. This year our three major boards (Boards of Finance, Education, & Selectmen) worked very closely together on financial planning and were happy to see this approach result in passage of our town budget on the very first vote. We also implemented a capital improvement workgroup, made up of our volunteer leaders, to help prioritize big ticket spending in a strategic approach. Additionally, we implemented “all boards and commissions” meetings for the leaders of our town committees on a quarterly basis. Finally we worked on some strategic planning which will summarize actions the town has taken related to our Plan of Conservation and Development. We look forward to presenting this at our next planned town meeting sometime in February.

Speaking of finances, this year we rolled out OpenGov software which will provide great transparency into the town's budgets and help us to be more efficient in future financial planning. Check out the town website [www.northstoningtonct.gov](http://www.northstoningtonct.gov) for details.

Over the past year we have seen the creation of North Stonington's social media presence in the #mynosto sites on Twitter, Instagram, & Facebook. As always, we welcome feedback and participation in town government. Consider coming to a meeting, sending us an email, or volunteering for one of our many groups in town.

We hope everyone has a great holiday season and a happy new year!

MIKE URGO, NITA KINCAID & BOB CARLSON

SELECTMEN@NORTHSTONINGTONCT.GOV

## WHEELER HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL

Our Wheeler teachers and students are busy wrapping up Quarter 2 and preparing for midterm exams taking place the week of January 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>! On December 5<sup>th</sup>, Wheeler celebrated our annual Give Back Day by hosting a shoe box drive for those less fortunate. For many weeks, students and staff members collected toiletry items, toys, clothes and other various gift items to create shoe box gifts. Overall, Wheeler donated over 185 filled shoe boxes to various shelters and community centers in the local area. It was certainly a team effort and our staff and students did an amazing job!



Our middle and high school chorus and band delivered outstanding holiday performances as usual, and our winter sports and spring drama production of *Rumors* are well underway. As we patiently wait for the completion of our new school, our winter sports teams will be playing on the road for all of their contests and would certainly welcome friendly North Stonington faces to cheer them on! Many of our fall athletes were named to ALL ECC teams and our Boys' Soccer Team, Girls' Cross Country Team and Girls' Volleyball Teams all won their ECC Division Four titles!

The Class of 2019 Safe Grad Party Committee is raising funds by selling personalized commemorative bricks that will be included in the landscaping of the New Wheeler High School/Middle School. If you or a relative are, or will be, a graduate of Wheeler, don't miss participating in this opportunity to be part of the school's history. You may order on-line at <http://www.brickmarkersusa.com>. Prices start at \$55 for a standard brick size. For more information email [wheeler2019safegrad@gmail.com](mailto:wheeler2019safegrad@gmail.com). Deadline is February 22, 2019.

Happy holidays everyone and thank you for supporting our school!

KRISTEN ST. GERMAIN, PRINCIPAL

---

## ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Happy New Year! With the coming of the new year, after the decorations have been put away, it is time to start saving all the tax statements that are beginning to arrive. This is important for everyone, including if you are recently retired, because the Town of North Stonington offers a program for lower income homeowners.

Homeowners who are at least 65 years old or older on January 1, 2019 can apply for the State of Connecticut Elderly Homeowner's Program starting February 1, 2019 thru May 15, 2019. Maximum income for a married couple is \$43,900, including both of your Social Security (SS) 1099 incomes. Single homeowner's maximum income is \$36,000 and also includes the income on your SS 1099 form. Homeowners who are required to file a federal tax return must wait until you complete the IRS 1040 form, and then bring a copy plus your SS 1099 form(s) to the Assessor's Office. If you are not required to file with the IRS, please bring all forms showing income for 2018, including your SS 1099.

A reminder to veterans who have a service connected disability and are 65 years old. When you reach the age of 65 years old, your benefit increases to the maximum. Please call the Assessor's Office if you are 65 years old and let us know.

Other benefits that the town offers are a blind exemption (less than 20-200) and a social security disability benefit. Contact the Assessor's Office for more information.

The renters program begins April 1, 2019. More on that program in the next newsletter.

DARRYL L. DEL GROSSO, CCMA II

ASSESSOR

860-535-2877 ext. 23 or 24

## **NORTH STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

When the school year resumes after the winter vacation on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, there will be but one thing on everyone's mind at North Stonington Public Schools, which is "The Move".

**Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup> and Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup> will be early dismissal days** for all North Stonington Public Schools students, allowing staff time to pack and prepare for the move. The middle/high school will be released at 11:00 a.m. The elementary school will be released at noon.

The middle/high school vacation will be held during the first two weeks of March in order to prepare the school for classes to resume on March 18<sup>th</sup>. During the middle/high school vacation, the contents of the building at 298 Norwich-Westerly Rd. will be moved across the street to the new location, 297 Norwich-Westerly Rd.

The elementary school will be open the first week of March but closed for vacation the second and third weeks of the month. During that time period, the contents of the elementary school at 311 Norwich-Westerly Rd will be moved to 298 Norwich-Westerly Rd., the former middle/high school. Elementary school classes will resume on Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>.

The 2018-2019 school calendars are located on our website. Please note that there are two separate calendars, one for each school. Central Office will move from its present location at the middle school to the Main Office of the former middle/high school during the first two weeks in March.

As it has been since the gymnasium was vacated last March when construction began on the middle/high school, the school days have been without issue, and with everyone's patience we are hoping that the adjustments in March will be quite the same.

PETER NERO, SUPERINTENDENT

---

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

This year, 2019 will usher in the 74<sup>th</sup> year since the forming of the North Stonington Volunteer Fire Company, Incorporated. Plans are underway to celebrate our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary next year. Details will be released as the time approaches.

The Fire Company is endeavoring to reestablish the apparatus replacement cycle, which ensures a systematic modernization of equipment. A delay of even one year compresses that schedule and can place large purchases in back-to-back budgets.

While response levels have drastically increased over the last 20 years, the overall number of personnel has remained the same. As a bedroom community, the pool of people available during day hours to train and volunteer with the Fire Company has significantly dwindled. Specifically, the lack of sufficient daytime responders, despite repeated appeals for additional volunteers, has forced the need to budget for two per diem personnel, five days a week. This will ensure that a piece of apparatus will be able to respond in a timely manner.

As always, we are still looking for volunteers who are willing to train and assist the Fire Company. Consider being the 1% of the town. It will be the most rewarding job you ever had.

CHARLES STEINHART V, CHIEF

KYLE BERGEL, PRESIDENT



## TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

As we begin this new year, it is a good time to go over what the Town Clerk's Office does throughout the year. The office issues sporting licenses. The *2019 Hunting and Trapping Guide* and the *Migratory Bird Hunting Guide* (August 2018-March 2019) are currently available. The *2019 Angler's Guide* and *2019 Boater's Guide* will be arriving in the Spring. Sporting licenses can also be purchased online at [www.ct.gov/deep](http://www.ct.gov/deep).

The office issues certified copies of birth, marriage, and death certificates, as well as marriage licenses. If you plan on being married in North Stonington, a marriage license must be obtained from the Town Clerk's Office.

Dog license renewals occur during June. All dogs over the age of 6 months and new dogs to town must obtain a dog license from the Town Clerk's Office.

The Town Clerk's Office handles absentee ballots for all elections, primaries, and referendums. The date of the next regular election for Town offices is November 5, 2019. Please contact the office for any questions regarding absentee ballots and elections throughout the year.

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

ANTOINETTE PANCARO, CMC, CCTC

TOWN CLERK

---

## NORTH STONINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Your Historical Society has presentations, resources and events to highlight the history of our town and region. The Morgan A. Stewart Library is within the Stephen Main Homestead, in the middle of the village. Its treasure trove of genealogical material is available for your research, open on Tuesday afternoons or by arrangement. You may phone Gladys Chase at the Stephen Main Homestead, 860-535-9448 or email her at [gcase1@comcast.net](mailto:gcase1@comcast.net).



We have invited Christine Rockledge, author of the new book on the Norwich Mental Hospital, to present a program complete with many photographs at the Wheeler Library on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Look for announcements of new programs in our concert series and other programs, and like us on Facebook. For more information on the Society, membership or the library, phone 860-535-9448 or email William Douglass, President.

WILLIAM DOUGLASS, PRESIDENT

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

---

## NORTH STONINGTON SENIOR CENTER

The Senior Center, located behind Holly Green, is open Monday-Friday 9:30 am-2:00 pm, or by appointment. During inclement weather, the center is closed when local schools are closed.

- \* Tai Chi is back! Class begins at 1:00 pm on Mondays. There is no fee. New students are always welcome!
- \* We also offer Chair Yoga on Wednesdays at 10 am, quilting on Thursdays at 1:00 pm, and painting instruction on Fridays. Call the center at 860-535-8188.
- \* Lunches are offered the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays. Lunch reservations must be made by the previous Friday.
- \* A registered nurse is available on the first Wednesdays at 11:30, followed by the monthly Golden Ager meeting.
- \* The AARP Safe Driving class will be held in March. Please call the center in February for the date and time.

The Director and Agent for the Elderly is Teresa Pensis.

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Hello everyone, and Season's Greetings! Well, we weren't greeted by a late season hurricane . . .but we were surprised with a rare Connecticut tornado; only the third in our recorded history.

At approximately 7:35 am on 28 October, an EF0 tornado/water funnel (65-85 mph winds) formed off the Atlantic Coast in the vicinity of Fisher's Island. It moved inland, initially striking North Anguilla Road and generally turned East on Route 184. It crossed through the rotary, generally continued down Route 184 and "hooked a left" at Route 49, stopping shortly before Babcock Road. Numerous downed trees and power lines were reported, with expected power outages for many.

This tornado was a complete surprise to everyone, and it hit without any forewarning from the various emergency weather services; only a "potential for strong storms" advisory had been issued.



I was contacted by the National Weather Service in New York, shortly after the tornado struck North Stonington. They were on their way to survey and analyze the damage. In the interim, the First Selectman and I inspected the tornado's path to assess the damage in our town. Our North Stonington Volunteer Fire Company, North Stonington Highway Department and CT State Police colleagues were quickly on scene, in order to block roads and divert traffic. Eversource crews also quickly responded with heavy equipment and manpower.

After spending several hours on-site analyzing the damage, the National Weather Service team concluded that this storm was officially designated a Class EF0 tornado. Fortunately, no loss of life or injuries were reported, though there were reports of damage to structures and vehicles; numerous news crews provided coverage.

These events are increasingly becoming more frequent and unpredictable. Are you ready for our next emergency?? Sign-up for "CTAlert" and always be prepared!

GARY BARON            DIRECTOR            860-912-0004

---

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

It is always amazing how quickly the year goes by! The Board of Education has been getting ready for the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the building modernization project to be completed. It is only 3 months away and we are expecting a smooth transition into our new Middle and High School. The elementary school is busy planning for their first of 2 moves and we are so appreciative of everyone's hard work and positive attitude towards making this transition a success.

Budget season is underway. The BOE has been working at evaluating past spending, as well as anticipating our district's future needs, in order to present the most efficient budget possible. We have also started work on the district's strategic plan and hope to complete this by the end of 2019. We will be reaching out to the community for input, as it is critical to a good plan.

If you are interested in getting involved, please let us know. We are always grateful for feedback from the community and parents and hope to continue to hear from you at our meetings. One other initiative we are researching is a healthier start time for our middle and high schoolers. The research on this is overwhelming that adolescents need a later start. More to come on this and again we will be looking to the community for input. Wishing you a safe and happy New Year!

CHRISTINE WAGNER, CHAIRMAN

wagnerc@northstonington.k12.ct.us

## WHEELER LIBRARY

Wheeler Library welcomes in 2019 with a variety of events. Our new **Cookbook Club** starts Thursday, January 10<sup>th</sup>. Details and copies of the first cookbook are available at the library now. As we begin to think about our gardens, Craig Floyd, Farm Manager at the Coogan Farm Giving Garden, will speak on Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. **Cabin Fever** (bluegrass) is here on Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. This event is free and open to all, sponsored by the Friends of Wheeler Library. On Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm, Dr. Kendra Becker will be here for an exciting class about being your own doctor and choosing your own path of care. Take a look at toxicity in our environment, foods that make us feel bad and life patterns that age us faster than necessary. Learn about diet changes that can improve health conditions like dementia, arthritis and cardiovascular conditions, and how we can remove or add simple solutions to our lifestyle for better health.

Our very popular **Irish Fest** returns on Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Irish music, dancers, and food are all part of this community event. For the March school break, we will offer special programs, including a **Teen Writing Workshop** on March 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> and **Riverside Reptiles** on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Our **Friends Book Sale** will run March 11<sup>th</sup> through 16<sup>th</sup>. The author of the new book **Norwich State Hospital**, Christine Rockledge, will be here on Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm for a talk.

It's not too late to give to the **Library's Annual Appeal**. We appreciate every gift, and your donations make up most of our operating budget. Show your library love with a gift at [www.wheelerlibrary.org/giving](http://www.wheelerlibrary.org/giving). Thank you.

Each week, we send out a **newsletter with upcoming events** at the library. If you would like to be added to our email list, please send a note to [amykennedy@wheelerlibrary.org](mailto:amykennedy@wheelerlibrary.org). For more details about events and activities visit our website at [www.wheelerlibrary.org](http://www.wheelerlibrary.org).

AMY KENNEDY

860-535-0383



During January, February and March **the Library will have weekly activities for children:** every Tuesday morning beginning 1/8 **Story Time** 10:30 (NOT on 3/12); every Wednesday morning beginning 1/9 **Yoga for Children** at 10:30 (NOT on 3/13); every Wednesday morning beginning 1/9 **Lunch Bunch for Children** 11:30 (NOT on 3/13).

## SCHOOL MODERNIZATION BUILDING COMMITTEE

A lot has happened since the fall quarterly update that I am enthusiastic to share!

Even though it was an incredibly rainy season, we managed to maintain our construction schedule with minimal impact. The new Middle/High School building is rapidly progressing. The exterior of the new structure has been weatherized and interior work is now in full swing. Between walls being painted, furniture being ordered, and technology being installed, there are many changes in the course of a week. However, the topic of conversation lately has been about the “March move.”

Needless to say, the organization and implementation of a move this size requires planning, communication and cooperation. Our architecture firm (Quisenberry, Arcari and Malik, LLC) is working with the committee and school administration to develop a schedule of activities and prioritize items to be moved within our three-week timeframe. I was able to meet with the faculty at both the Middle/High School and Elementary School to share what to anticipate and how we are proceeding over the next two months.

In preparation for the move, we are planning walk-throughs for the teachers beginning in February. Walk-throughs for the community are also being planned, so please look forward to a schedule, which will be posted on the North Stonington town website in early spring. We can't wait for everyone to share in this exciting time, and as always, thank you for supporting this project and please join us at our monthly meetings!

PAMELA POTESMARI, CHAIRMAN

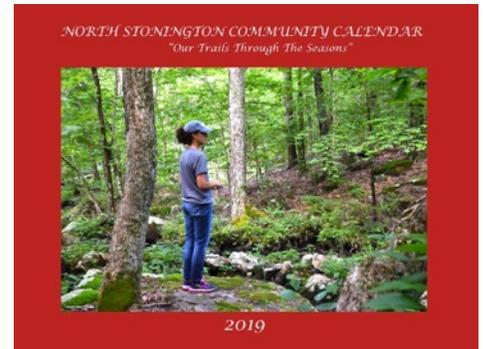
## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

As drilling companies are looking for places to dump their fracking waste, we are pleased with our initiative to have an ordinance passed preventing fracking waste from being deposited in our town. We have written the Stonington Conservation Commission offering our support to an initiative on their part to eliminate plastic bags from their major stores.

The interactive 3' x 5' map of all trails on the municipal, state and private land organizations is now permanently housed at Wheeler Library. It has been viewed at NOSTO Fest, the Town Hall, Chelsea-Groton Bank, the Historical Society and is available for use in the schools or for others wanting the exhibit for their groups' needs.

Half way through the 10-year cycle of the Plan of Conservation and Development, we completed a special report to the selectmen and Planning & Zoning on Open Space/Conservation Easement Regulations. Of interest to the public and folks looking to live in our town is the fact we have nearly 1/5 of our 35,200 acres in protected land. That includes 4,143 acres in the largest state forest in Connecticut, plus an additional 10,000 acres in Farm or Forest protection.

Don't forget the current availability of the 6th annual North Stonington Community Calendar, "The Trails of North Stonington". You may purchase your copy at the Town Hall, Wheeler Library or Village Hardware Store & Cafe.



This is a wonderful gift for children away at school, friends who have moved, or for your own notations of appointments, events and community activities.

WILLIAM RICKER

WILLIAMRICKER@COMCAST.NET 860-535-2426

---

## NORTH STONINGTON COMMUNITY GRANGE #138

The Grange organization meets on the second and fourth Fridays at 8:00 pm with certain exceptions. Each meeting we discuss the needs of our community, the needs of our grounds and upkeep and what we can do to help; then we have a program. Our overall theme this year is transportation.

On October 12<sup>th</sup>, our Legislative chair filled us in on the upcoming elections. On October 26<sup>th</sup>, we had our annual Halloween party and all had a "scary good time". Our November 9<sup>th</sup> program was on horsepower, and we learned just how little our pioneers could fit in a standard prairie schooner. December 14<sup>th</sup> was our Christmas program on "Air Travel, Reindeer Style" as we learned all about reindeer, with a visit from Santa Claus for all present.

We slow down for late fall and early winter due to holidays and potential weather. On January 11<sup>th</sup> (with a snow date of January 25<sup>th</sup>) our program will be "Pedal Power", learning about trikes, bikes, and motorbikes; February 8<sup>th</sup> (with a snow date of February 22<sup>nd</sup>) the Ag & Conservation Committee will fill us in on "Up & Down" – Dumbwaiters, escalators, elevators & lifts; and we will have our Talent and "A Number" contests. March picks back up with 2 meetings: On March 8<sup>th</sup>, we will have a short program on autos, and it will be our Officer Exchange and Ritual night – an excellent night to come learn all about the Grange. March 22<sup>nd</sup> is "Water Power", and our lecturer puts on her State Lecturer contest program; always a good show!

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

SUE PIANKA, PROGRAM DIRECTOR

860-599-4528

## BOARD OF FINANCE

This quarter the process has begun in developing the budget for fiscal year 2019-2020 and it will continue into the next quarter. The Board of Finance was also presented the audit review for the fiscal year 2017-2018. Again, the audit demonstrated prudent budget execution while continuing to strengthen the Town's fiscal profile. The latter, which has been pursued by the Board of Finance's planning, has allowed capital investments to be made to benefit the Town. Most notables have been the new Emergency Management Center and the construction of a state of the art middle/high school with improvements to the elementary school to follow. It is important to note that debt management of these projects is part of the Town's budgets.

Financing of these projects is with the USDA at an annual interest rate of 2.75%. This low rate was made possible by timing and the fiscal stability of the Town. This rate, which applies to both capital projects, was initially proposed at 3.3% on the Emergency Management Center Project and 3.5% for the School Modernization Project. The savings to the Town, due to the low rate of financing for these projects, is estimated to be a savings of \$3 million in interest. The Board of Finance continues to be prudent in its planning and in maintaining a high quality fiscal profile for the Town of North Stonington.

We welcome the public to attend our meetings that are held at the New Town Hall on Wednesdays at 7pm. Check the calendar at the Town's website, [www.northstoningtonct.gov](http://www.northstoningtonct.gov).

DAN SPRING, CHAIRMAN

---

## AVALONIA LAND CONSERVANCY



Avalonia, along with others, is conserving open space- forest, streams, meadows, and ledge in North Stonington. Winter is a great time to get out for a walk in nature. You can see far into the woods, and a coating of snow can enhance the experience. There are 8 preserves with trails in North Stonington. A good place to start exploring might be the Babcock Ridge and Erisman Woodlands preserves. There are parking areas on Reutemann Road (1/4 mile west of Hangman Hill Road) and Babcock Road (about 3/4 miles from either end).

Trail maps and directions can be found on the website [www.avalonialandconservancy.org](http://www.avalonialandconservancy.org). There you will find information on membership and the interactive activity Hike and Seek.

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

---

## BOY SCOUT TROOP 71

Troop 71 would like to shout out a big Thank You to all those who contributed to Scouting for Food. Over 1,400 various items were collected and donated to the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center. In December, the scouts participated in the community tree lighting as well as putting out the luminaria. There was also a group ski trip to Wachusett Mountain. From the experienced to the first time skier, all the boys had a great time.

Save the Date!! February 24<sup>th</sup> there will be a pancake breakfast sponsored by the troop. The breakfast will be held at the North Stonington Grange from 7-11am. Tickets are \$8.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children or seniors, and may be purchased from a scout, or at the door.

If you would like more information about Troop 71, please contact Scout Master Doug Spracklin at [sprack1@comcast.net](mailto:sprack1@comcast.net).

KIYA LAMPHERE

TROOP 71 COMMITTEE MEMBER

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The EDC hosted 2 events this fall. The first was a networking event for local Real Estate Agents and Developers and the second was a municipal training on Economic Development hosted by The CT Economic Resource Center. Both were very well attended.

North Stonington welcomes the Dollar General on Clarks Falls Road: their CO was issued last month. Two familiar restaurants have changed hands and re-opened along Rte. 2 near the Village: The Green Onion has reopened as The Red Onion and Goodies is now



Jake's Restaurant. Quinlan Enterprises on Frontage Rd. has completed the construction of a new

27,000sf warehouse which will house the Barton & Gray Mariners Club (Boat Storage) and Faria Beede has begun to move into the existing space in the main building.

According to the 2017 Connecticut Town Economic Indexes, which the state Department of Labor recently released, North Stonington ranked the highest of all 169 cities and towns in the state for economic growth for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row! The index for each town is a score based on number of businesses, annual average wages, employment, and the unemployment rate.



JULIET HODGE, PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT & ZONING OFFICIAL

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

---

## PLANNING AND ZONING OFFICIAL/LAND USE OFFICE

To date in 2018, the Land Use Department has reviewed 103 Planning/Zoning Permits and 373 Building Permits (includes Demolition, Electrical, Mechanical and Gas Permits). Five new Single Family Residences were approved in 2018.

The Planning and Zoning Commission approved an amendment to the Village Preservation Overlay Map to better align with the map associated with the National Register of Historic Places Inventory. The Commission is currently reviewing an application for a small assisted living facility on Wyassup Rd. and is reviewing, defining and updating the classification of all the different types of roads in town.

The Town Planner has been actively working with the 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman, Finance Administrator, and Chairman of the Board of Finance on a Strategic Plan and will have a draft available for presentation at the next Town Meeting.

We are pleased to welcome Edward Diamond as the Town's recently hired Building Official and sincerely thank Lou DiCesare for filling in over the past couple of months!!

The WPCA is working with the Towns of Westerly and Stonington to possibly extend water and sewer lines into the Industrial Zone and portions of the Economic Development District. The 2014 Sewer Study has been reviewed and new proposed flows calculated. The hydraulic testing has also been completed for the water line extension.

JULIET HODGE

PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT & ZONING OFFICIAL

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

## TAX COLLECTOR

As a reminder, the second half installments of your tax bills are due in January. The last day to pay without interest is February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. If you are paying by mail and would like a receipt, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. You may also find out how much you owe and make payments online by going to [northstoningtonct.gov/payonline](http://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 are NOT accepted over the phone.

If you purchased a vehicle and transferred license plates from the old car to the new, credit for the payment on the old car is shown on this tax bill. You MUST pay the second half payment on the old vehicle to earn the credit. Please DO NOT disregard the second half payment on the old vehicle.

Thank you to all North Stonington residents who have stopped in to say hello and welcome me to my new position as Tax Collector. Please note the Tax Collector now maintains the following hours at the New Town Hall: 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

---

## NORTH STONINGTON AGRICULTURAL FAIR

Happy New Year! After taking a break for the month of December, the Fair Committee is once again busy planning for the 2019 Fair. The next several months will be busy with election of officers, contract renewals, entertainment bookings, insurance renewals, vendor contracts and putting together the premium book, etc... we will be busy!

Congratulations to our exhibitors that represented the Fair at the Annual Association of CT Fairs awards night and banquet. We had both apple pie and adult baking contest winners that went on to the state level; great job! Our winter meetings (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, 7pm) are being held at the Center for Emergency Services (firehouse) and are open to all to join. March 12<sup>th</sup> will be the pot luck dinner. Bring a dish and enjoy the evening. Wishing you a warm, safe and healthy winter!



JODY WHIPPLE                      PINENEEDLHOMESTEAD@SBCGLOBAL.NET

860-599-8498

---

## NORTH STONINGTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The annual North Stonington Education Foundation Dinner Dance on November 8<sup>th</sup> was a fantastic success. President Chris Anderson, on behalf of the Foundation, would like to thank all of the community members that showed such great support.

The next major Fundraiser will be the Trivia Contest on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019, which will be held at the Pawcatuck VFW. There will be a social hour from 6:00-6:45 p.m. The contest will begin at 7:00 p.m. Registration forms may be picked up at Wheeler High School, Wheeler Library, or on the web at [nsedfoundation.org](http://nsedfoundation.org). The due date for registration is February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. For questions, please email [jenna-moore@comcast.net](mailto:jenna-moore@comcast.net).



The Foundation will hold its annual Road Race on May 25, 2019. To date the Foundation has funded educational programs totaling more than \$160,000.

BERNARD "BING" BARTICK                      860-389-0264                      BBesail@aol.com

## NORTH STONINGTON GARDEN CLUB

“Tis the season” when North Stonington Garden Club members gather to decorate wreaths to adorn our public buildings, memorials and other special places in town. This is one of the Club’s most popular activities, which means that many of the wreaths that you see around town represent the singular artistic expression of an individual member. We hope that you enjoy them, every one!

Cold as it has been, we are already working toward our 2019 Plant Sale by digging and potting perennials. Come spring, these hardy plants will be well-prepared to thrive once transplanted, and will be available for your purchase, Saturday, May 11, 2019, at a new location at Wheeler High School.

Proceeds from our 2018 Plant Sale enabled us to fund grants for gardening and conservation projects to Avalonia Land Conservancy, Friends of Chikumbuso, GOSA, and the New London Homeless Hospitality Center



Shelley Dziezic

Club members were happy to hear that they have been recognized by the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, for their contributions to Civic Development (our ongoing care of the Village Green, Clock Garden, and other public spaces in town), Environmental Concerns and Conservation (e.g. the Hewitt Farm Nature Trail), and Youth Programs (our Schools Programs, which have since been expanded to community programs at Wheeler Library and elsewhere). The award for Youth Excellence, a silver plate, is on display at Wheeler Library, together with the certificate of recognition.

We welcome guests and prospective members at all of our meetings. Details of the programs offered are available at our website: [www.nsgardenclub.org/programs](http://www.nsgardenclub.org/programs). If you are interested in membership, please contact us at [nsgardenclub.org](http://nsgardenclub.org).

JANICE PARKER, PRESIDENT

---

## KEEPING NORTH STONINGTON AFFORDABLE, INC.

Keeping North Stonington Affordable, Inc. has good news to share. In June of this year, we were granted the 501(c)(3) non-profit status by the IRS, which will allow KNSA to access State, federal, and foundation grants to begin building affordable housing in North Stonington. In October, we reached an agreement with Eastern CT. Housing Opportunities, (ECHO) to serve as our partner in moving forward toward our goal. In November the Town of North Stonington approved our bid on 119 Clarks Falls Road to allow KNSA to rehabilitate that property as a two bedroom, one bath deed-restricted affordable home.

Please join us in celebrating our progress, at a fund-raising gala January 20<sup>th</sup>, at the Wheeler Library, 2-4pm, underwritten by our friends at Liberty Bank. You will meet the people behind the organizations that are working with us to fulfill our mission. We aim to put *fun* into fund raising with games, prizes, music, food and drink.

KNSA’s immediate need is for start- up costs. Thanks to our IRS 501(c)(3) status, all donations are tax deductible. If you work with a corporate entity that matches donations, you can multiply your donation with a partial or matching amount.

Please come, celebrate with us, and help our community make the goal of affordable housing a reality.

MARY ANN RICKER, PRESIDENT



## NORTH STONINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

January has arrived so quickly and the North Stonington Elementary School students have been busy learning in all areas. We are also getting ready for the move to Wheeler in March.

On December 11<sup>th</sup>, the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus & 2<sup>nd</sup> Year 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Holiday Concert was held. The students performed a concert for the school in the morning and an evening concert for the families. It was a day of song and cheer to start the holiday season.



We ended 2018 with two special events. Our PBIS celebration of Movies and Popcorn was held on Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> to recognize all students for their positive behavior throughout the year. We are proud to say that our students daily demonstrate the expectations of being respectful, responsible, honest, and safe. On the 21<sup>st</sup>, our annual Holiday Sing-A-Long was held with each grade level singing special songs to put us in the holiday spirit.

During this winter season, we encourage the development of reading with our students every day. Holidays and the cold months ahead are special times to share the love of reading. It will make such a difference when you cuddle up to read a book no matter what age. It is also a great way to get your child “settled for a long winter's nap”, too!

On behalf of the faculty and staff, I would like to thank the community for the support you give to our students and school. We wish each North Stonington family the very best in 2019!

VERONICA WILKISON, PRINCIPAL

---

## NORTH STONINGTON LAND ALLIANCE

**Take a walk.** Walk our Samuel Cote Preserve on Clarks Falls Rd near Pendleton Hill Rd/ Clarks Falls Junction. This is not hiking on trails, nor climbing steep, rocky hills. It is part of a flood plain, fertile and level along Spalding Pond. A narrow path along the pond enters into a pine-needled old river road. The walk can take about ½ hour, and after it, you may understand a bit better just what community planners are talking about when they say that nobody should live further away than a ten minute walk from the nearest green place to feel better in so many ways.

Both Pendleton Hill and Wyassup brooks feed into Spalding Pond with its two dams, stocked yearly with fish by the state, before it reaches nearby Green Fall River. Land Alliance has both funded and monitored many of the town's brooks, ponds, and rivers over many years through URI's Watershed Watch. Spalding is one of them.

**Looking for:** person(s) to monitor Spalding for 1-year, tri-season.

**Looking for:** person(s) to help design/enlarge scope of 31-acre preserve's forest and agricultural uses; grant funding, for 1-year. Please email to [landalliance@gmail.com](mailto:landalliance@gmail.com) or leave a message at 860-599-5517.



## HEWITT FARM

Winter is a peaceful, quiet time at Hewitt Farm. The trails offer panoramic views that are hidden during the summer months. While wandering through, visitors will notice that the Green Gables site is now empty; work to improve the area will be done in the spring. The nearby Community Garden is hibernating for the winter.

The 1750 Farm House on the other side of the dam will be evaluated soon to identify any necessary maintenance work and to consider additional uses of this historic building. Across the field from the house is a recently completed 20 ft. x 40 ft. foundation for a pavilion that would be used for summer activities. The Democratic and Republican Town Committees collaborated together to have a silent auction and a raffle, raising \$3500 towards the construction of the pavilion. We also thank Chelsea Groton Bank, which has donated \$1,500 towards the pavilion.



The committee is pleased to add two new members this year, Deirdre Tavares and Tim Chokas. Sadly, however, the committee saw the passing of one of its original members, Dick Cooper, in June. Dick was a dedicated steward of the farm who worked tirelessly to bring the facility to its present state. Coming to Hewitt Farm and enjoying its beauty and peaceful character is the best way to honor the memory of this member of our community. Trail maps are available at all entrances or online from the town website. Dogs and horses are also welcome. Parking is provided inside our Route 2 entrance or at the parking area near the end of Hewitt Rd. when you enter from Ryder Rd.

ED HARASIMOWITZ

CHAIRMAN

860-204-7439

---

## NORTH STONINGTON GIRL SCOUT TROOPS

Happy New Year, everyone!!

With the Holiday Season wrapped up, Girl Scouts have a new season upon us . . . COOKIE SEASON!



Cookies are an important time of year for Girl Scouts, as their sales fund everything for the year from crafts to troop trips, summer camps to community projects. When girls participate in the Girl Scout Cookie Program, they get more than fun, experiences and adventure. They also develop essential life skills, such as goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills, and business ethics!

There are 8 different mouth-watering flavors to choose from including Gluten Free Toffee Tastic and everyone's favorite, Thin Mint, which is actually Vegan!! (Nutritional and product information is available online at [GSofCT.org](http://GSofCT.org)). Cookies are available for initial purchase from January 7<sup>th</sup> until February 5<sup>th</sup>. Initial orders are delivered early in March. Miss the dates? Don't fret- you may find you're able to order with some Girls or Troops until April via Digital Online orders or Cookie Booths!! You may also choose to donate boxes to the Military or another organization chosen by a Troop.

If you would like to purchase or donate cookies, please contact me, [jenefer81@hotmail.com](mailto:jenefer81@hotmail.com), to be set up with a Girl or Troop in your immediate area! Thank you all for supporting your local Girl Scout Troops!

JEN PETERSON TOWN ORGANIZER & JULIETTE MEMBERSHIP MANAGER

## **NORTH STONINGTON AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE**

Our committee for Affordable Housing has been pleased with the continued support we have received from the community. We were encouraged by the turnout at a successful spaghetti dinner, which was generously hosted by the Congregational Church and co-sponsored by People's Bank.

The committee received an award in November from the Connecticut Mortgage Bankers Association (CMBA) at their annual awards banquet. It was an honor for a small, volunteer-run committee, to be recognized along with HDF, The Housing Development Fund, Inc. and The Waterbury Housing Trust.

For housing to be considered affordable, one must be spending no more than 30% of their net income on their total housing expenses. We need to make sure there is housing available to those making less than our median income of approximately \$84,000. Additionally, a huge opportunity for North Stonington is rentals and the infrastructure that supports it.

Thank you for all of the passion and continued support to create affordable housing in North Stonington.

MARGARET LEONARD, CHAIR (860) 235-4834

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



## **PAWCATUCK NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER**



The Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center will extend its hours and offer new programs in January. It will remain open from 8:30 until 4:00, Monday through Friday, but remain open until 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, and open on Saturday from 9:00 until 1:00. North Stonington residents who need food, clothing, pet food, daily hygiene items or heating assistance will have more opportunity to receive assistance. Donations are always welcome!

The Neighborhood Center will begin a partnership with Safe Futures, which will offer workshops on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays at 11:00. Topics include self-care, healthy relationships and winter blues. The Yellow Farm House will offer free cooking classes.

North Stonington seniors should find something of interest at the Senior Center – lunches, speakers, volunteer opportunities, BINGO, creative writing, painting, Zumba, yoga, Tai Chi and more. Handicap accessible vans provide free transportation to the PNC, shopping and medical appointments.

You don't have to be a senior to utilize free tax preparation services sponsored by the TVCCA, VITA program on Thursday evenings. Veterans of all ages participate in the TVCCA Veterans Coffee Hour, held on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays. There is a Free Community Breakfast on the last Friday of each month. All welcome!

SUSAN SEDENSKY, J.D., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



# WINTER EVENTS



## January

8	TUESDAY	6:30 pm	Wheeler Library	Book Discussion: <i>A Spot of Bother</i>	Page 6
10	THURSDAY	6:30 pm	Wheeler Library	Cookbook Club: <i>Against All Grain</i>	Page 6
12	SATURDAY	11 am - 12 pm	Wheeler Library	Read to a Therapy Dog	Page 6
16	WEDNESDAY	7 pm	Wheeler Library	Craig Floyd: Coogan Farm Giving Garden	Page 6
19	SATURDAY	7 pm	Wheeler Library	<i>Cabin Fever</i> , Blue Grass Band Free and Open to All	Page 6
20	SUNDAY	2 - 4 pm	Wheeler Library	Keeping North Stonington Affordable Fund-Raising Gala	Page 6
30	WEDNESDAY	6:30 pm	Wheeler Library	Dr. Kendra Becker: A Class on Being Your Own Doctor & Choosing Your Path of Care	Page 6

## February

7	THURSDAY	6:30 pm	Wheeler Library	Cookbook Club: Book TBD	Page 6
7	THURSDAY	6 - 7:30 pm	Wheeler Middle School Cafeteria	Wheeler Music Boosters: Taco Dinner, \$10 for Adults, \$5 Students Register Online	
9	SATURDAY	11 am - 12 pm	Wheeler Library	Read to a Therapy Dog	Page 6
15	FRIDAY	6 pm	Pawcatuck VFW	NSEF Trivia Event	Page 10
24	SUNDAY	7-11 am	NS Grange	Pancake Breakfast - \$8 Adult, \$6 Child/Senior	Page 8

## March

2	SATURDAY	6 pm	Wheeler Library	Irish Fest - Tickets available in February	Page 6
4 & 5	MONDAY & TUESDAY	2 - 4 pm	Wheeler Library	Teen Writing Workshop - Registration Required	Page 6
9	SATURDAY	11 am - 12 pm	Wheeler Library	Read to a Therapy Dog	Page 6
11	MONDAY	6 - 8 pm	Wheeler Library	NEW: Book Sale Preview Night - \$5 Cost	Page 6
12-16	TUES.-SAT.	Library Hours	Wheeler Library	Friends of Wheeler Book Sale	Page 6
12	TUESDAY	10:30 am	Wheeler Library	Family Event- Riverside Reptiles	Page 6
20	WEDNESDAY	7 pm	Wheeler Library	Author Christine Rockledge: <i>Norwich State Hospital</i>	Page 6

**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**

*A Message from the Board of Selectmen*

All residents are encouraged to take our year end satisfaction survey.  
Please go to [www.northstoningtonct.gov](http://www.northstoningtonct.gov) and click on the survey link.  
It is only 4 questions and will help to guide future actions for your town.  
Paper copies are also available at the Wheeler Library and Town Hall.

*Thank you and best wishes for 2019!*



Many thanks to our faithful contributors  
who fill the Quarterly with excellent information. We are also very  
grateful to the Wheeler print shop for their support.  
Nita Kincaid & Lisa Mazzella, NSQ Editors