

THE NORTH STONINGTON QUARTERLY

FALL 2020

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Each day that goes by there seems to be new information, so it is prudent to let everyone know that this is being written the third week of September. Things certainly can change between now and when this reaches your mailbox.

Right now, we are facing a few challenges. The most concerning is the public safety crisis that COVID-19 is presenting. While we have been fortunate here in North Stonington thus far, all data points to an uptick in cases coming forth as we head into fall/winter. The science tells us our best protection is to wear a mask or keep distance from others. We are seeing spikes when people are returning to the area after traveling to “hot spots” or having gatherings with friends and families. We don’t want to sound alarm bells, but we do want people to remain vigilant. The last thing we want to see is any of our neighbors affected by this deadly virus. Please take care and wear a mask. It is the best protection.

The second challenge is the drought conditions. New London County was the latest to experience State 2 Drought Conditions, which could potentially impact water supplies, agriculture, or ecosystems. Please reduce outdoor irrigation and non-essential uses of water. Postpone planting new vegetation. Minimize water usage by fixing leaking fixtures and follow all guidance from public authorities on water conservation so we are able to have this important resource for our most important needs.

The last challenge is voting in a pandemic world. As you may be aware, the Governor has allowed anyone to vote absentee for this upcoming election due to COVID-19. Also locally we have found a way to hold referendums and are working on holding town meetings should the need arise. Everyone should have the utmost confidence that, should they choose to vote absentee, we have strong systems in place that have been in place for many years. The addition of the secured drop box outside town hall makes it even easier now so you can hand-deliver your ballot during any time of day and place it in this box for the Town Clerk. The drop box is under video surveillance at all times. You also will be able to vote in person like normal at our new and improved polling center at 298 Norwich Westerly Road (the North Stonington Education Center- formerly the middle high school).



With all of these major challenges we’ve had some great happenings around town and more soon to come as well.



A unifying conversation about equality and inclusion in our community took place last month. We held summer camp through our recreation department to keep our little ones entertained in this unusual summer; much fun was had by all ☺! A new elementary school playground was built with fundraising dollars through terrific efforts of the PTO. A record turnout took place at our hazardous collection day, taking many harmful chemicals out of basements and yards and recycling them properly. Meadow Wood Drive and Pond Drive were re-paved and line striping of roads in town took place. A major pipe replacement project was completed on Babcock Road. We even managed during this time to hold a rabies clinic in September and submit for “Silver Certification” through the Sustainable CT initiative.

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Our schools certainly were hard at work this summer as well. Our Board of Education worked tirelessly with the reopening task force to put a strong plan together for the reopening of schools, which has worked out very well for everyone thus far. Our old middle school now will be partially occupied by a new tenant which will breathe new life into this facility. We are currently negotiating the terms of the lease and the new occupant will be making improvements to the building at their cost. Finally, in school news we had a very special (though different) ribbon cutting of our newly renovated Elementary School.

Elementary School Ribbon Cutting



As we enter the fall, we will miss traditions like 2020 NoStoFest. We look forward to its return next year, but we can get excited about some new traditions such as the “Hocus Pocus decorating Challenge” hosted by the North Stonington PTO and the first annual Halloween Light Parade! Details of these events and much more are within this quarterly.

In closing, as we enter what is to be one of the more difficult election seasons in recent memory, let’s remember we are all neighbors and to be respectful of one another regardless of opinions or political affiliation. After all, we are all one community in the beautiful town of North Stonington!

MIKE URGO, NITA KINCAID & BOB CARLSON

SELECTMEN@NORTHSTONINGTONCT.GOV

HEWITT FARM

The Hewitt Farm has become increasingly popular during this pandemic. Visitors enjoy the numerous trails, the well-tended community garden and the large open Green. The pavilion on the back side of the Green provides a spot to rest after walking some of the 104 acres or perhaps to just enjoy a picnic. There are many ‘regulars’, often with their dogs.

Recently the Hewitt Farm Committee has been working on improvements to the 1732 John Dean Gallup historical house. A number of renovations have been made to freshen up the interior. This summer a grant request was approved by the Connecticut Historic Preservation Office, so that we may learn more about any necessary structural improvements, as well as possible alternate uses for the building.

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

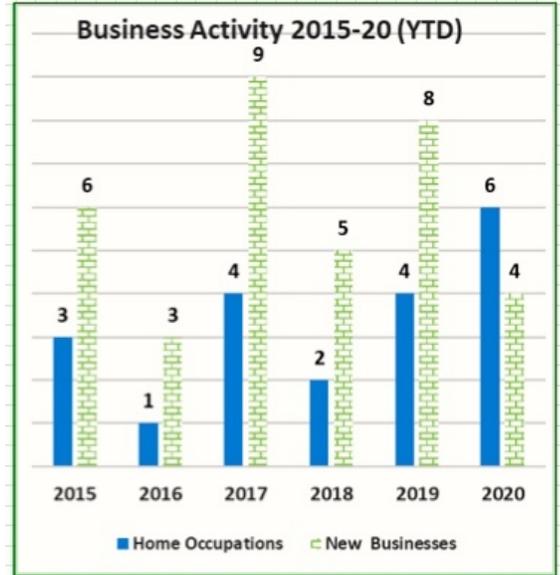
ED HARASIMOWITZ, CHAIRMAN

860-245-5305

LAND USE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Despite the challenges caused by the pandemic, we have continued to approve many new businesses: all indicators of growth! Some of the activity this summer and now fall has been: a new deck on the Brewery – now open for business; Kady’s Farm Stand has expanded; the Wild Briar’s farm stand on Pendleton Hill Rd. is open and wildly popular; a new event venue is planned at the new vineyard on the former Crider Farm and another on the existing Tree Farm off Fowler Rd.; a new craft/antique store opened on Grindstone Hill; and several new landscaping businesses and other home occupations have been approved.

The Inn at Lower Farm has a new owner and will open as a B&B once again. Several vacant buildings are also about to get new life and will be home to a manufacturing facility, retail/grocery selling prepared foods and home goods, and a possible restaurant. The renovations of the Village Green cottages near the Rotary are almost complete, and look fantastic! Our local restaurants have transformed their outdoor spaces this summer to accommodate customers. The EDC will be announcing a Buy Local campaign next month to encourage the continued support of all our local businesses, especially during these challenging times!



The Planning and Zoning Commission approved a 6-lot affordable housing subdivision that will add 2 qualified affordable homes once built, and the Affordable Housing Commission received a grant to finish the new Housing Plan. The WPCA continues to assist private property owners as they explore the possibility of extending utilities to their parcels in the Commercial and Industrial Zones off Exit 92.

A special thanks to the Land Use/Building Department Staff for their dedication to safely assisting residents with their projects during the past few months and for not missing a beat!

JULIET HODGE, PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT & ZONING OFFICIAL

jhodge@northstoningtonct.gov

NORTH STONINGTON AGRICULTURAL FAIR

Fall is here and the North Stonington Fair Committee has resumed meetings to begin planning for the 2021 Fair! Mark your calendars for July 8th-11th, 2021! Although this summer certainly brought many cancellations and uncertainty into our lives, we are hoping that next year the fair season will be in full operation. As our state re-opens and guidelines are set, the committee will do all it can to ensure that our fair will open its gates and provide a safe venue for family and friends to gather. Please continue to check out our Facebook page and website at northstoningtonfair.org and, as always, we welcome new members to join us as we prepare our 2021 event. Have a safe and healthy fall season.

JODY WHIPPLE PINENEEDLHOMESTEAD@SBCGLOBAL.NET 860-599-8498

WHEELER LIBRARY

Wheeler Library is a gem. Just a short distance from your house, you'll find a curated collection of recently published books, along with games, puzzles, movies, computers (and seeds!) all available for free. We count on your donation to our Annual Appeal to ensure that the library can continue to serve the community now and into the future. Please make a gift in any amount to support this town treasure.

The library is open! As of this writing, our hours are 10 to 4 on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, we are open by appointment - helpful if you need a change of scene as you work from home. If you prefer to visit the children's room on a Tuesday or Thursday, we can do a story hour and craft with your family group. We continue to do curbside pickup and home delivery every weekday.

Kids' yoga is back - sign up for this outside activity held on Wednesday afternoons at 3pm. Geared towards children aged pre-K through Grade 2 with a caregiver. Siblings welcome.

AMY KENNEDY

860-535-0383



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Greetings, everyone! Well, we're all still here! Can't keep a good town down! Thus far, we have managed to avert hurricanes, tropical storms and depressions, to deal with severe drought, and manage major disruptions to our daily lives, caused by COVID19. You should all be commended! But, as we all know, these issues will continue to demand our focused attention.

This year witnessed the busiest hurricane storm season on recent record. We are about to exhaust the names assigned to hurricanes, with "Wilfred" being the next and last; then, we start using the Greek alphabet. Remember that the 2020 hurricane season doesn't officially end until November 30th, so stay prepared! Sign-up for "CTAlert", watch local weather reports and keep needed supplies on hand.

As most of us are aware, we are approaching a severe drought condition. Please be very careful with any outside fire that can quickly spread out of control. Fireworks are illegal in the State of Connecticut. Their use can cause extreme stress on wildlife, pets and people who might be suffering from PTSD. The use of fireworks that cause a fire or explosion is considered to be "intentional", which is a Class C felony. Use of fireworks in North Stonington should immediately be reported to the Connecticut State Police.

Please continue to follow COVID19 guidelines regarding social distancing and the wearing of face masks. A second COVID19 wave is possible this fall, which unfortunately could coincide with the upcoming flu season.

Last, but not least...let's all have patience with one another during these unprecedented challenging times. This is how we develop our inner strength and community strength. "When the going gets tough, the tough get going."

GARY BARON, DIRECTOR

860-912-0004

NORTH STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The opening of the 2020-2021 school year is like no other that I've experienced in my very long career as a public educator. If I could sum-up how it feels to be back since we closed in March, it would be grateful! I can tell you that all of us are grateful to be doing what we do best, which is teaching children.

We continue to update our reopening plan as the administrators and teachers find better ways of teaching and learning in the hybrid plan. If there is an update to our plan, it will be uploaded to the state and posted online at the end of each week. In addition to teaching and learning, the administrators and staff are doing their very best to monitor mask wearing and social distancing in the classrooms, hallways, cafeteria, and high school athletics. It is not an easy task; however, our students are fully cooperating. Looking back on your own education, I am sure that you try to put yourself in your child's place and quickly realize the effects of limiting social interaction placed on them to keep them safe. I am sure that it is most difficult to do that at home as well.

We are also grateful for the support of our families and the North Stonington Public Schools community during this most difficult time and we look forward to a full return.

PETER NERO, SUPERINTENDENT

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

COVID-19 did not slow your Conservation Commission members down this summer. Although we met virtually via ZOOM for our meetings, we moved forward in person on several fronts. The 8th annual North Stonington Community calendar for 2021 was completed, published and is now available at Wheeler Library, Shunock Brewery, and the Town Hall. The theme is "The Stone Walls of North Stonington".

The 85-acre property off Wintechog Hill Road, which was donated to the Town, is open and available for hiking. Old wagon roads and overgrown old pathways have been cleared of downed trees, reopened and blazed for your enjoyment. Nearly 3-miles of trails connect with the Narragansett Blue Trail and surrounding private trails. There is a 2-car parking area and trailhead map are located off Wrights Road.

The trail map brochure has been extremely popular during this pandemic. It is available simply for the asking at the Town Hall, Library and Chelsea-Groton Bank, and identifies all the State, municipal and private organization trails in town.

Progress is being made toward opening a section of the Pawcatuck River for a kayak/canoe trail. Our Conservation Commission has taken the initiative to coordinate the departments in Westerly and Stonington to clear and open this 4.5-mile trail down to Donahue Park in Stonington and beyond. We await the completion of the bridge on Boombridge Road to allow us an access point for launching.

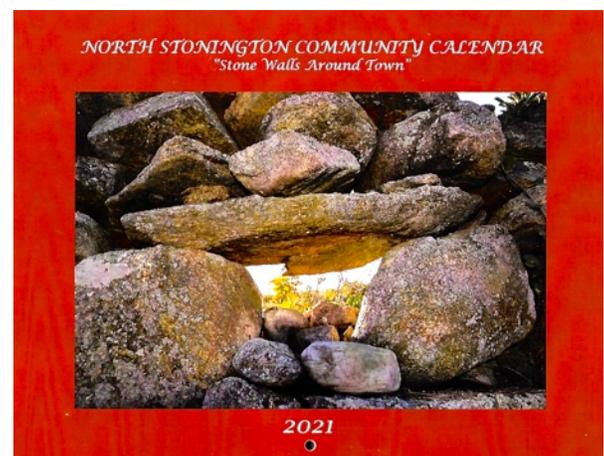
The Pocket Park at the intersection of Rtes 49 & 184, which was developed by your Conservation Commission totally from donations and grants, continues to be maintained by us. We have added perennial flowers this fall to add color to the now established trees.

Though we love moss, we try not to let it grow under our feet (an old saying).

WILLIAM RICKER, CHAIRMAN

WILLIAMRICKER@COMCAST.NET

860-535-2426



NORTH STONINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Students have been very excited being back, especially in our new school! They love all the new spaces but our giant gym is their favorite new space. Many parents have shared how happy the students are to be back at school. We think the small classroom sizes are a great way to start the year and get to know our students. I am so proud of our students that they are all wearing masks and practicing social distancing. School is different but students are adjusting to our new ways.

I am grateful to the teachers that are working so hard to teach online and to the students in the classroom at the same time. It makes teaching even more complicated and we appreciate that both the students and parents recognize it. We have begun the use of Google Classroom and Google Meets with our students who are home. Unlike last spring, it is our goal that all students and parents are secure in using these platforms.

We have many parent drop-offs in the morning and lots and lots of parent pick-ups in the afternoon. Thank you to the parents for their patience with the updated plans and support for a safe arrival and dismissal. Each day is an adventure!

We are so pleased to welcome our new teachers, Miss Costa in 6th grade, Miss Lawson as a special education teacher and Miss King in the library. They have so quickly become a part of our school. Welcome also to the new paraprofessional, Cynthia Benfield and new per diem subs, Carla Gorman and Kathryn Madera. We are so happy they all have joined our school community.

I just want to express my sincere appreciation to the entire staff of NSES who go above and beyond to make our school the best for our students with moving into a new school building, starting a new school year and dealing with COVID-19, and the hybrid and full distance learning plan all at the same time! Thank you also to the parents who are helping to make our students successful online learners.

VERONICA WILKISON, PRINCIPAL

A Man with a Vision

On a June afternoon in 2019, Rob White was moving dirt at the new Wheeler Middle/High School building project. Rob was on his backhoe working for the Gerber Construction Co. that had been hired as the excavator. While digging up rocks Rob spotted a rather uniquely shaped bolder. As he stood it up he had a vision. He moved the rock to an island between the new Middle/High School and the North Stonington Elementary School, which was being renovated. He next went to a company in Bradford that Rob knew could do engraving. They came up with three renditions of the vision that Rob had imagined.



In September of that same year Rob asked me to meet him at the new school to discuss a few things. He asked while I was there would I mind looking at the rock with him and discuss an idea that he had. He showed me the three drawings and I thought that they all exhibited Wheeler Lion Pride. I asked him to get pricing and I would do what I could to help him. Maybe do a fundraiser on Facebook?

That November just after the election Rob brought the drawings and pricing to Mike Urgo. Mike told him he would work on getting it done maybe with help from the BOE. Rob reached out to Mike again this summer. Mike mentioned that the landscape architect agreed to pay for it. The rock was

completed just in time for the opening ceremony at the newly renovated North Stonington Elementary School. Now everyone can enjoy Rob's vision. A wonderful addition to the town's beautiful new campus.

BOB CARLSON SELECTMAN

WHEELER HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL

We are off to a great start to the 2020-2021 school year at Wheeler in our hybrid model, with half our students attending in-person learning, at a time on two days each week. They are learning virtually the other three days and so far, it is going surprisingly well. We have a lot of changes this year at Wheeler, including a new schedule that affords longer instructional blocks, with less hallway transitioning due to COVID restrictions. Our students and staff are adjusting to these changes well and so far we have had a terrific start to the year. We are trying to make the school experience as “typical” as possible, with sports still happening, but under the close guidelines of the Department of Health and the CIAC.

We are proud to share that our staff, with the help of our IT Department, has created a Google Classroom climate that allows our students at home to connect with our students in school each and every day. We are making the best of an unprecedented situation and we cannot thank our parents, students and staff enough for their positive attitude and for their support.

We are so proud of our 2020 graduates who have moved on and entered the work force, as well as those on a new path to higher education at some of the strongest colleges and universities in the country.

KRISTEN ST. GERMAIN, PRINCIPAL

KEEPING NORTH STONINGTON AFFORDABLE, INC.

Keeping North Stonington Affordable, Inc. looks forward in the near future to taking possession of land donated to us for the purpose of building affordable housing. With the cost of land subtracted from building costs, homes can be offered at an affordable price for a working family. We hope to add others to our ‘Legacy of Generosity’ land donation roster. All gifts are tax deductible as we are a 501(c)(3) corporation.



United Way of Southeastern **CT** has released the ‘ALICE’ (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) report for 2020. The Survival Budget, documented therein, for a family of 4 (two adults, an infant and a 4 year old) was \$90,660. That includes child care, food, transportation, health care, technology, 10% contingency fund and taxes. It does not include non-essentials. For a single adult, the survival budget was \$28,908. For a senior, the Survival Budget was \$31,752. The hourly wages to support these budgets were: \$14.45 for single adult, \$15.88 for the senior, and \$45.33 for the family. The median hourly wage for the most common occupation in CT., cashier, was \$11.49 . . . not enough to support any of the ALICE budgets.

These figures underscore the need for affordable housing for the working families in our community. To see the details of each budget, visit <http://ALICE.CTUnitedWay.org>.

MARY ANN RICKER, PRESIDENT

NORTH STONINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Society’s programs are still in hiatus because of the COVID threat, and sadly that includes access to our genealogical library. We are busy with plans and with preserving the records of North Stonington.



Do you have World War II information that you would like to share? We have enlistment records for some of the 135 men and women from North Stonington who served in WWII, but we would like to get more detailed and personal information... and pictures! Sadly, our WWII veterans have been overlooked in the past and most of them are no longer here. We would like to gather and share information before their children (the baby boomers) are also gone. If you have anything to share, please get in touch with Cindy Anderson at yellowcat1057@gmail.com.

For more information on the Historical Society, contact Tobias Goodman, president at 69noywk@gmail.com.

NORTH STONINGTON COMMUNITY GRANGE #138

When North Stonington Community Grange #138 meets (on 2nd & 4th Fridays, with some exceptions) we discuss and act upon not only our Grange needs, but also the needs of our community. Covid-19 has changed those meetings, but we did resume in person meetings in late July. Face masks, social distancing, no refreshments, and a shortened program are now the norm. Business still needs to be attended to and important events from our missed meetings need to be caught up on.

In July we held our Memorial Program, remembering our departed Grange members AND our fallen military members; and this year, those on the front lines of the Covid-19 pandemic. In August, we honored our long-term members, the sum of their years with us being 640 years of service. We also held our State Grange Lecturer's Contest, the theme this year being "It Happened in America: Women's Suffrage and the Right to Vote".

We follow all Connecticut rules for Covid-19, so our meetings are being somewhat curtailed. At October's first meeting we will have a look at the ballot. October 30th will have the Halloween theme, but due to gathering size limitations, it may not be our usual party. Hopefully things will be better in 2021. On Nov 13th, the program will be Pilgrims and Veterans, and Dec. 11th, will be our Christmas Program. We hope to be able to carol around town to our shut-in members on Dec. 18th.

We look forward to meeting you when things return to some semblance of normalcy.

In the meantime, wear your masks, limit your gatherings, maintain your distance when you do go out, and VOTE – one way or another.

SUE PIANKA, PROGRAM DIRECTOR

860-599-4528

NORTH STONINGTON GARDEN CLUB

The COVID-19 pandemic has curtailed North Stonington Garden Club activities, as it has for so many others. Nevertheless, the club continues to maintain the Village Green and other spaces around town for the enjoyment of our neighbors. Feel free to honk or wave your appreciation as you pass members toiling at the Village Green or Town Hall.

The Club is now in the final year of a 3-year Monarch Butterfly conservation project. In 2018, we established a monarch way station at the Grange and club members planted varieties of *Asclepias* in their own yards to support monarch caterpillars, and other native plant species to provide nectar to monarch and other pollinators. Visit the Grange garden, or contact us at info@nsgardenclub.org, for ideas about what to plant in your own yard to support monarchs and other pollinators. In 2019, we extended these efforts and in addition, funded through our program of community grants, a third-grade project to establish a monarch way station at Moriarty Environmental Magnet School in Norwich. In 2020, we are seeking other locations within the town to establish native habitats. Please let us know if you have suggestions.



While current circumstances limit our opportunities to gather, we still welcome new members. Planning is underway for a schedule of activities for 2021 that will incorporate virtual programs and prudently-distanced events. Once finalized, these will be listed on our website www.nsgardenclub.org/programs.

JANICE PARKER, COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR

TAX COLLECTOR

Please note the Tax Collector now maintains the following in-person hours for the months of September – December 2020: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9:00am - 2:00pm. Wednesday CLOSED. Regular hours will resume at the end of December to accommodate for tax bills that are due January 2021.

Tax Bills are now delinquent for any payments made or received after August 3, 2020. Interest is calculated at 1.5% per month or 18% per year from the due date July 1, Connecticut State Statute Sec. 12-146.

If you are unaware of the amount you owe or would like to make a payment online, please visit www.mytaxbill.net/northstonington. Service fees for on-line payments are as follows; E-check \$2.00; Visa Debit \$3.95; all other debit or credit transactions 2.5% of payment amount. Credit card payments will NOT be accepted over the phone. These fees also apply for Credit or Debit Cards used in the office to make payments. A secure drop box is available for off-hours outside of Town Hall where payments can be left and processed the next business day.

All delinquent motor vehicle taxes are reported to the State of Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles. This will prevent you from renewing your registration. All delinquent taxes on all motor vehicles under your name must be paid in full before a DMV clearance can be given from the town.

KAREN JOYAL, TAX COLLECTOR 860-535-2877 EXT 20 taxcollector@northstoningtonct.gov

BOY SCOUTS TROOP 71

Troop 71 is up and running without missing a beat, despite dealing with Covid-19. While the typical highlight of summer, Boy Scout Camp at JN Webster, could not occur, the scouts made the best of their summer. While maintaining social distancing, the scouts went hiking at Hewett Farm, biking at Pachaug forest and canoeing on Billings Lake. Scouts, leaders and parents also volunteered their time at the New London soup kitchen.

There were two major service projects for Eagle Scout that took place this summer. Ian Spracklin built four sitting benches for Horses Healing Humans' Therapeutic Riding Barn. Jake Neddeau built a new patio for the North Stonington Volunteer Fire Company, which is also our chartering organization. Upcoming, the scouts are planning a Columbus Day weekend camping trip with canoeing on the Pawcatuck and Mystic Rivers.



Jake Neddeau

Troop 71 meets every Thursday evening at the old firehouse at 6pm. 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

NORTH STONINGTON LIONS CLUB



As I write, the NS Lions are preparing to host our annual Dahlia Day event at the magnificent country home of Doctor Steve and Jane Marrone. As you read this, the event will have concluded. Having clear, fond memories of past Dahlia Days, I can describe the likely scene with some confidence. It was a lovely early autumn day, and folks came from our town and from all around in order to wander among the flowers, select bouquets of their own making to take home, meet friends and neighbors, have lunch and support the Lions. It will have been a fine event, appropriate for the season and the setting. The photos here represent what you would have seen had you been there. Perhaps you were. You may anticipate the next Dahlia Day one year hence.



We hope to see you then.

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

NORTH STONINGTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION



Like many organizations navigating in this COVID-19 environment, the North Stonington Education Foundation (NSEF) has had to pivot due to the changing landscape. With restrictions on large gatherings, and in the interest of safety for those in our community, we have had to cancel two of our main fundraisers. The annual road race in May and Dinner Dance in November have both been canceled. These two events account for 75% of our fundraising in any given year. As a result, the NSEF is looking to new, different ideas to raise money in order to fund grants for our community. Be on the lookout for a possible family-friendly event in Town in October. We remain committed to funding innovative grants and donations to worthy causes during the pandemic. This summer, we funded grants to the Wheeler Library and the Middle Ground Book Club and donated to the North Stonington Elementary School playground project. What a wonderful display of community coming together at a difficult time to benefit the children of North Stonington.

Coming up in February 2021, we hope to have our popular Trivia Contest at the Pawcatuck VFW, depending on restrictions due to COVID-19. We have also re-booked a date for our annual Dinner Dance with Lake of Isles for 2021, and promise to make next year's event the best yet!

We hope that everyone in Town is staying safe and healthy. We are lucky to live in such a small, supportive community in times like these. We look forward to things getting back to normal and seeing you out in the community as soon as possible.

CHRISTOPHER P. ANDERSON 860-608-4549 cpa@andersontriallawyers.com

PAWCATUCK NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

Sign-up Now for Senior Transportation and Holiday Food & Toys

- *The Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center's food pantry is open for curbside pick-up from 10:00 to 3:00, Monday through Friday. The Weekender Backpack Food program is open for children, ages 3 to 17 each Friday throughout the year.
- *The Neighborhood Center is committed to providing a healthy balance of food with each visit. Special thanks to members of the Butter and Beef 4H Club for delivering fruit and dairy products from local farmers and dairies.
- *Thanksgiving baskets will be distributed the week of November 23rd and Christmas turkey baskets will be distributed the week of December 21st.
- *The Neighborhood Center is currently signing up children who would like to receive Christmas toys.
- *Persons over age 65 who are in need of a ride to the Neighborhood Center, shopping or a medical appointment are eligible to participate in the Senior Transportation Program. This door-to-door service is available at no cost.
- *Residents who need help with utilities or heating payments should contact our social services representative at socialservices@thepnc.org or (860) 599-3285, extension 103.



Email executivedirector@thepnc.org, call (860)-599 3285, or stop by the Neighborhood Center, 27 Chase Street, Pawcatuck to sign up for any of the above-named programs. We are here to help.

SUSAN SEDENSKY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR <http://www.pawcatuckneighborhoodcenter.org>

BOARD OF FINANCE

During the past quarter and start of the new fiscal year, the BOF had fewer meetings than the previous quarter but began the review of policies relevant to its charter. The Board also awaited the closeout of the fiscal year 2019-2020.

The Covid-19 pandemic that has affected many aspects of the Town and its residents resulted in the use of the Town's Unassigned Reserves to mitigate taxes levied for the fiscal year 2020-2021. The impact of the pandemic, however, curtailed a number of fiscal commitments in the budget for the last fiscal year. This, coupled with an unusually mild winter, resulted in an unaudited surplus. The favorable outcome of a surplus has allowed the draw-down of these assets to be refurbished.

The long awaited closeout of the Emergency Management Center was submitted, demonstrating a project that was completed under budget. And, the project was financed at a historically favorable rate of 2.75% at USDA. It is notable that the debt management of this project resulted with a significant portion of the debt having been paid down. This contributed to only 76% of the cost of the project being financed.

Preparation for auditing of the previous 2019-2020 fiscal year is well underway and is being remotely administered due to the pandemic restrictions. Presentation of the audit results is anticipated to be in the November-December timeframe.

The Board of Finance meetings are open to the public. The schedule of these meetings is available on the Town website. It is noted that ZOOM conferencing of these meetings will continue to be available.

DAN SPRING, CHAIRMAN

THANK YOU TO OUR HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT FOR ALL THAT THEY DO -

It was a very busy, productive summer!





AVALONIA LAND CONSERVANCY

Fall is a great time to get outside. We are all concerned about gathering in groups and socializing. Avalonia's organized hikes and explorations are still on hold, but the trails are still there. Trail maps and descriptions are easy to find on our website at www.avalonia.org and you can download the navigation tool Explorer for ArcGIS and search Avalonia Online Map. You can be part of the Avalonia Great Trail Trek, a fun way to discover new trails this month. You'll find details on the website.



- Sound Finances
- Ethical Conduct
- Responsible Governance
- Lasting Stewardship

Look for news on a potential preserve in town. Avalonia hopes to acquire a large and beautiful parcel in Laurel Glen along the Green Fall River, part of the newly Federally designated Wood Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic River system.

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.

THAMES VALLEY COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY ACTION, INC

Can you imagine not having warm boots during our harsh New England winters? Now imagine being a child without those boots, unable to play outside with your friends. Doesn't sound right, does it?



At TVCCA, we agree and think that every child deserves to have the proper clothing they need to get outside, even in the winter! But we need your help to make sure that is a reality for kids in Eastern Connecticut. TVCCA's Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is conducting its **25th Annual Winter Boot Drive** to provide children in the region with a pair of warm winter boots in time for the holidays. Thanks to donors like you, last year we delivered boots to 1,100 low-income children ranging from preschool through elementary school. Requests for boots from schools, childcare centers, and town social service departments grow every year. Thanks to your support, we have been able to meet those requests and are counting on you again this year!

Donations of NEW BOOTS or CHECKS will be accepted through mid-December. Please make checks payable to TVCCA RSVP and mail to 83 Huntington St., New London, CT 06320. For more information please contact: RSVP Coordinator Georgia James at 860-425-6608 or gjames@tvcca.org.

NORTH STONINGTON HALLOWEEN LIGHT PARADE

The first, hopefully annual, Halloween Light Parade is scheduled to step off at 6pm on Friday, October 30th! We are looking for groups, businesses, or individuals who would like to decorate their vehicles or create a Halloween-themed float with LOTS of lights, and then parade with us!

We will line up in the center of town, and parade through the Meadowood/Kingswood neighborhood, before heading down Main Street, up Rocky Hollow, and into the Cedar Ridge neighborhood.

If you have Facebook, please visit us at www.facebook.com/NSLightParade - we will be posting the exact parade route, great spots to view the parade, safety tips, and more. If you would like more information or are interested in participating, please email us at NSLightParade@gmail.com for details and an entry form. We are hoping for a great turnout for this inaugural event – see you on October 30th!

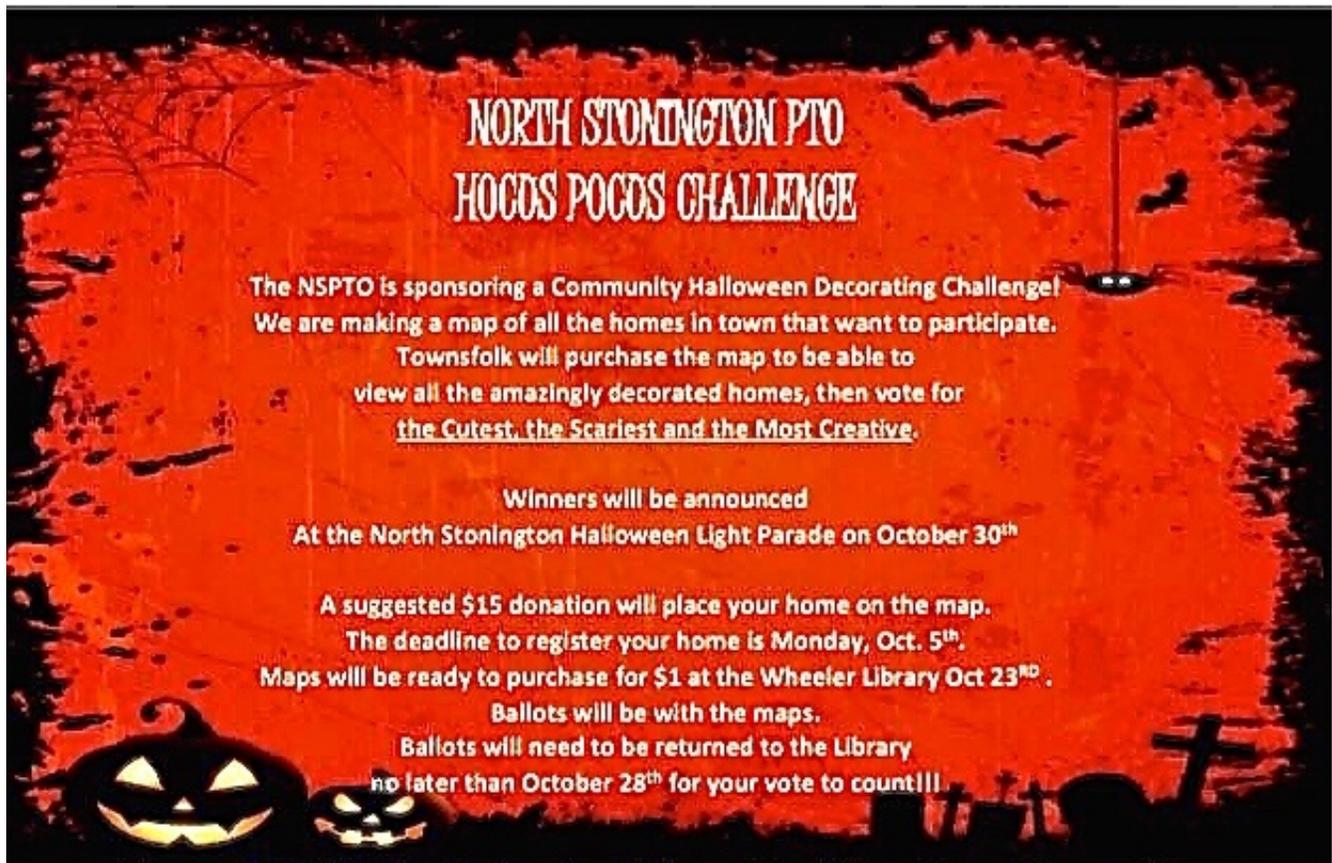
JEN AND JOSH STRUNK, COORDINATORS

Fall Fun for All Ages

~-Programs offered by the North Stonington Recreation Commission~-

- ❖ **Youth Tennis Clinics:** Co-ed ages 7 thru 17, Saturday mornings, September 12th to October 17th
- ❖ **Kids' Soccer Clinic:** Co-ed ages 3 thru 6, held on Sunday afternoons for six weeks, September 27th to November 1st
- ❖ **Mountain Biking Clinic:** Co-ed ages 10 to 16, Wednesdays - 4:45-6:00, starting September 30th for 6 weeks
- ❖ **Dance:** Three (3) classes after school (4pm - 7pm), Tuesdays, beginning October 13th
- ❖ **Adult Pickleball:** Monday/Thursday mornings 8:00 – 10:00 am and Wednesday evenings 5:00 -7:00 pm, September and October

Please feel free to contact North Stonington Recreation (860-535-2162 or email: nsrecplay@northstoningtonct.gov) with ideas for programs or activities that you might be interested in coordinating or instructing



TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

The November 3, 2020 Election will soon be upon us! The offices to be voted on at this election are Electors for President and Vice-President, Representative in Congress, State Senator, State Representative, Registrar of Voters, and Judge of Probate To Fill Vacancy. Due to Public Act 20-3 July Special Session, all voters are able to obtain an absentee ballot due to COVID-19, and all Connecticut registered voters were mailed an absentee ballot application in mid-September. If you did not receive an application and need an absentee ballot, please contact the Town Clerk.

The absentee ballot application can be mailed to the town office or dropped off in the Official Ballot Drop Box in front of New Town Hall. Absentee ballots are available beginning on October 2, 2020. Individuals can also come to the Town Clerk's Office to obtain an absentee ballot in person, beginning on October 2, up until the day before the election. Absentee ballots can be returned by mail, by dropping off in the Official Ballot Drop Box, or by bringing it in person to the Town Clerk's Office during normal business hours.

Please note that there will be in-person voting on November 3 at the new polling location, which is at the North Stonington Education Center (the old Wheeler Middle-High School), 298 Norwich-Westerly Road. All safety precautions will be taken for the protection of election workers and voters.

If you have any questions regarding the November 3rd Election, please do not hesitate to contact the Town Clerk. Remember that every vote counts and every vote is important! The Town Clerk's Office is open on Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM, except on legal holidays. Please contact me at (860) 535-2877 Ext. 121 and at townclerk@northstoningtonct.gov.



ANTOINETTE PANCARO, CMC, CCTC

TOWN CLERK

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Revaluation: The Town of North Stonington is completing the revaluation of all real estate within the town for the Grand List of October 2020. The company doing the revaluation is eQuality Valuation Services from Waterbury, Connecticut. All homeowners should have received a data mailer form. I request that everyone review the form and return it in the postage free envelope provided. Your new valuation notice will be mailed to you around the middle of November. Your notice will include a web site so you can view the information on your field card and information on how to discuss and review your valuation. A phone number is included for those who wish not to use the computer. I ask that all citizens of North Stonington cooperate with the State mandated revaluation project.

The North Stonington Assessor's office is taking applications for a new farm and/or forest land classification. The classification runs for a minimum of 10 years. There is a financial penalty for less than 10 years of property ownership. A forest land classification must include 25 acres or more. A certified state forester must inspect the land and determine if the land meets the Connecticut guidelines for forest land.

A classification of farm land is determined by the assessor. The land must be engaged in an agricultural business or the land must be leased to a farmer who engages the land in his agricultural business. There is no minimum acreage for a farm. A farm attempts to make a profit in an agricultural business. A garden for home use is not a farm. The application period ends on December 31, 2020. Once your land is classified under PA 490, you do not need to reapply. More information can be found at www.cfba.org.

Personal property forms will be out by September 30, 2020. Call the Assessor's Office at 860 535 2877 x 124 if you did not receive your declaration form. Anyone who has a business in North Stonington is required to file a personal property declaration before November 2, 2020. Machinery and equipment used in farming may be exempt if you file for the exemption. The exemption is NOT automatic. Buildings used in your farming operation also may be exempt, but you must apply for that exemption. To repeat, the exemptions are NOT automatic. You must file the proper forms for the exemption. The forms may be obtained in the Assessor's Office.

DARRYL L. DEL GROSSO, CCMA II

ASSESSOR

860-535-2877 ext. 23 or 24

State of Connecticut
Official Ballot

North Stonington, Connecticut

State Election

November 3, 2020

Congressional District 2
Senatorial District 18
Assembly District 43
Voting District 1

Be sure to read the instructions on the reverse side of this ballot, it will help you in voting.

OFFICE ↓	PARTY ←					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	1A Biden and Harris	2A Joe Courtney	3A Bob Statchen	4A Kate Rotella	5A Constance Berardi	6A Beth Ladwig Leamon
REPUBLICAN PARTY	1B Trump and Pence	2B Justin Anderson	3B Heather Somers	4B Greg Howard	5B Amy French	6B Salvatore Ritacco
INDEPENDENT PARTY	1C	2C	3C Bob Statchen	4C Greg Howard	5C	6C
WORKING FAMILIES PARTY	1D	2D Joe Courtney	3D Bob Statchen	4D	5D	6D
LIBERTARIAN PARTY	1E Jorgensen and Cohen	2E Dantei Reale	3E	4E	5E	6E
GREEN PARTY	1F Hawkins and Walker	2F Cassandra Martineau	3F	4F	5F	6F
WRITE-IN VOTES →	1G	2G	3G	4G	5G	6G

**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**

**The Presidential Election will be held on
Tuesday, November 3rd**

Your vote is your voice. BE HEARD!

Due to COVID-19, all registered voters have the option to vote using an absentee ballot. Absentee ballots are available beginning on October 2nd up until November 2nd. Please see the Town Clerk's article on page 14 and the ballot on page 15 for more information.

Please take care,
Nita Kincaid & Lisa Mazzella