

THE NORTH STONINGTON QUARTERLY

FALL 2021

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The leaves are very slowly beginning to turn as we march into the autumn season here in North Stonington! What a busy summer it has been. We began the summer with the passage of our annual budget. Thanks to all of the Boards, Commissions, Volunteers, and Staff who contributed to the process. Thank you especially to all of those who took the time to vote and participate in the process.

In late June we held a vaccination clinic in North Stonington. We are so thankful to Ledge Light Health for their continued support of our community during this public health crisis and for all other ways they support our town.

We were thrilled to welcome back the North Stonington Agricultural Fair in 2021! We were so happy the fair was able to be held again this year after the absence due to COVID-19. Thanks so much to all of the volunteers who made this possible!

It's been a while since a hurricane has hit our area. We narrowly escaped another one this year but Tropical Storm Ida did pack a punch. Though we dealt with power outages and downed lines and wires, we escaped major damage. Continued attention to trees in our area by our highway crew, State crews, and Eversource helped us to keep long term outages to a minimum. We are thankful to our emergency responders and public works crews, along with Eversource, for their continued help during all storm events! Special thanks to Emergency Management Director Gary Baron for coordinating our response efforts in declared emergencies!

We are happy to report the bridge over Wyassup Brook was replaced. This marks the 3rd bridge replacement over the last 3 years in our community! Thanks to the DOT and all involved in this project. In addition, after three years of collaborating with neighbors in Stonington, Westerly, & Hopkinton we have officially "opened" a Kayak trail. After the Wood Pawcatuck was Federally designated a Wild and Scenic River, efforts spearheaded by Conservation Commission Chairman Bill Ricker were underway to help the community enjoy the waterway. This culminated in a journey down the river attended by residents from each town. Pick up a brochure about the Kayak Trail at Town Hall!

After many years of faithful service, Probate Judge Nick Kepple retired. We thank him for all he has done for our community. We are happy to welcome Beth Leamon as our new Probate Judge. This is a very important role in our community and Judge Leamon is excited to serve the public in this capacity! Her swearing-in took place in early September.

We also held our annual Hazardous Waste collection in September. A record number of people turned out to properly dispose of hazardous items. Thanks to Southeastern Connecticut Resource Recovery for hosting this event and the highway crew for supporting it.

This marks the final quarterly article to be written on behalf of our current Board of Selectmen. We would like to thank the public for your support over the last four years. We wish the next group of leadership the best of luck as we pass along the torch of leadership. North Stonington certainly is a special community and it has been an honor to serve you all in our current roles!

MIKE URGO, NITA KINCAID & BOB CARLSON

SELECTMEN@NORTHSTONINGTONCT.GOV



Bill Ricker and Selectman Mike Uργο with others ,
enjoying the new Kayak trail

WHEELER HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL

We are off to a great start to the 2021-2022 school year at Wheeler! We are excited to begin our new modified block schedule. Our teachers have spent time this past spring and summer preparing for this instructional shift and, as a school, we will continue to work hard to provide the best instruction possible in this new model. To support this model, all Wheeler 7-12 students received ChromeBooks so we can also continue to work with students who may be quarantined throughout the school year. Normalcy continues to return, and although we are following some safety guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID, we have been able to return to some of our normal school practices.

Our MS and HS Fall Sports programs are underway and clubs have started at Wheeler. This year we welcome our first Voluntown tuition students to the Class of 2025! We look forward to this ongoing collaboration with Voluntown and Wheeler will remain a School of Choice for their students as well as Preston students in the future. We are so proud of our 2021 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



WHEELER LIBRARY

In October, the Wheeler Library will join forces with a group of libraries that can offer our community a wider range of services. We look forward to introducing this to you - the consortium is called LION (Libraries Online), which we think is just perfect.

On Saturday, October 23rd, meet us on Zoom at 4pm for an engaging presentation about leaving cable for streaming services. "Cut the Cord" will provide the process, options and advantages to replacing cable TV and bundled services with lower-cost options. Find details at wheelerlibrary.org.

Ongoing events for adults include a Knitting Circle on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 and a Book Discussion Group, which meets monthly, on a Tuesday at 4pm. For more details, please see wheelerlibrary.org.

There's also a lot going on in the Children's Room. We are pleased to welcome back students in Grades K-2 for monthly library visits. Second graders will get their own library cards and borrow a book at each visit.

We have some upcoming activities planned including weekly Storytime, a Nutmeg Book Club, and a Teen Advisory Group.

Mark your calendar for a Halloween Outdoor Storytime on Saturday, October 30th (10:30) and keep an eye out for a new title for October on our Main Street Storywalk.

Stay tuned for more information on our website, in our email enews, and on our social media pages. If you aren't connected already, please find us at wheelerlibrary.org, on Facebook, and on Instagram, too.

AMY KENNEDY, DIRECTOR

860-535-0383

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Efforts to continue conservation initiatives have not been held back by the need to isolate and maintain social distancing during the pandemic. Meetings have been held monthly via ZOOM with much work being handled either by phone, email or in-person work sessions. Beginning in August we have resumed in-person meetings.

We completed the Wintechog Hill Preserve trail off Wrights Road, adding to the 5 other hiking trails in town. There has been considerable use of the trails during the past year for folks to get out while still isolating.

Seeing the heavy use of our forest trails during the winter, we did extensive research in developing a “Historic Hiking Trail”. This 6th trail includes walking from Trolley Lane down our Main Street, identifying the many historic buildings and features, up through Hewitt Farm and the 1750 Gallup House, the Bicentennial trail & Old Plains Cemetery, out to “Devil’s Foot Rock” and back to town center. Brochure maps, complete with extensive information by way of a QR code on your phone of all our trails, are available at the Library, Town Hall and Chelsea-Groton Bank.

One of our missions is to educate the public in conservation efforts. We produced and had printed the 10th annual “North Stonington Community Calendar”. As with every year of its production, nearly all the money for printing has been returned to the town’s general fund. The theme for the 2022 calendar is “Farmers and their Animals or Products”. Twelve (12) randomly selected farms and their owners are highlighted. Buy a copy at the Library or Town Hall and support locally grown products.

A major initiative to develop a “Quad-Town Kayak/Canoe Trail” with Stonington, Westerly and Hopkinton opened September 19th. Our thanks go out to the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation who has granted North Stonington access for a launch site, 50-yards down river, for Boombridge Road Bridge. The 4.5-mile paddle will extend from Potter Hill Dam in Hopkinton to Boombridge, to Westerly sites and on to Donahue Park in Stonington. The map of this, our 7th trail, is also available at the Library and Town Hall.

The Pocket Park continues to be improved and maintained. Over 100 new perennial flowers were planted last fall showing a new array of colors this spring and summer. Two vehicles have lost control coming north on Rte. 49 and plowed through the park, necessitating ongoing maintenance and repair. We have received phone calls and letters of appreciation from the public thanking us for our work. One letter reads: “Every spring we wait for the flowers to bloom as we pass the area daily. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts”.

Lastly, our full complement of 5 regular and 2 alternate commissioners have been together now for several years working tirelessly to improve the lifestyle you, the public, asked of the Town through the Plan of Conservation & Development.



WILLIAM RICKER, CHAIRMAN

WILLIAMRICKER@COMCAST.NET

860-535-2426

NORTH STONINGTON AGRICULTURAL FAIR

The 2021 North Stonington Fair will be one that we will remember for quite some time! The Fair committee did a great job of overcoming some obstacles after not having held a fair in 2020 and having several long-time committee members pass their torch. However, it is the community here in North Stonington, and surrounding towns, that made our event a great success! Despite the rain on Thursday evening, our gates were busy showing us just how anxious people were to get out and enjoy some entertainment and the company of others. Due to the heavy rains that fell overnight Thursday and into morning, our gates were not open on Friday. The North Stonington Volunteer Fire Company and fair staff worked diligently Friday to remove water from the grounds and prepare for opening on Saturday morning. As with most events that get canceled, it was difficult to get the word out to everyone and several families still made the drive to the fairgrounds in hopes of gaining entry. Members of the fair did a great job of diverting those that had arrived to other local businesses and venues throughout town.



The remainder of the weekend brought clear skies and heavy gate volume...a perfect combination to create a successful event! Many "Thanks" go to all of the individuals who contributed to make the fair happen. Thank you to those who came forward and filled some vacant committees, our new members for bringing energy and new ideas, our Town for the continued support year after year, and most importantly, thank you to each and every person who attended!!

The committee members will be diligently working this fall and next spring on some improvements and maintenance. We continue to meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month (excluding Dec.) at 7pm and we welcome new members to attend. Mark your calendars for 2022 ~ July 14th -17th!! Have a safe and enjoyable fall!

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

NORTH STONINGTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The North Stonington Education Foundation has been meeting and is excited to be working with the schools to bring student learning outside! We will be donating a large tent to provide protection from the sun while students work on their studies. We are also planning many events for 2022. You can look forward to the Dinner Dance in February, an online Trivia Event in March, Disk Golf in April, a Drive-In Movie at the Grange, and the return of the NSEF 5K to Memorial Day Weekend.

Please make sure to check the NSEF website at <https://nsedfoundation.org/> for information on how you or your community group can apply for a grant to help fund education projects. Finally, the NSEF is looking for a few new members to assist with our work. If you are interested in joining our Board, please contact Marc Tardiff at tardiffm@northstonington.k12.ct.us for more information.

MARC TARDIFF PRESIDENT 203-530-5632

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Happy Fall! The Economic Development Commission would like to welcome Nathan Reichert as North Stonington's new Planning, Development and Zoning Officer. We are happy to have him on our team! Our commission has been working diligently throughout the pandemic to help maintain and grow the businesses in North Stonington. We are excited to be currently working on two grant projects for local businesses, funded through the American Rescue Plan Act. These initiatives will help local businesses secure their employees and monies for other operational expenses needed to help our businesses survive and grow in this challenging, small business climate.

The first program, rolling out in the beginning of October, will be "North Stonington Works". This program was established to provide a limited, one-time direct financial hiring bonus to eligible North Stonington small businesses that employ fifty or fewer employees, and in which employee recruitment has been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Program is funded through monies from the United States American Rescue Plan Act and administered by the Town of North Stonington's Economic Development Commission, in cooperation with Southeastern CT Enterprise Region (seCTer). The Program is intended to help North Stonington businesses recruit and compete for the employees needed to help maintain and grow their businesses. We will also have a North Stonington Employment Listings as a component of this program. Please be on the lookout for more information on this program, as well as our program for Operational and Capital Improvements Grants, coming soon.

BRETT MASTROIANNI, CHAIRMAN

PAWCATUCK NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

Senior Activities Resume At The Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center



More than 60 seniors signed up for activities when the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center Senior Center re-opened in August. Residents who are 55 and over are encouraged to participate in painting, yoga, exercise and writing classes, and book club. Lunches are available Monday through Wednesday, with Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas parties scheduled.

Foot clinics are provided by the Visiting Nurses Association. Find schedules on-line, at www.pawcatuckneighborhoodcenter.org or by calling (860) 599 – 3285, ext. 102 to have a newsletter mailed to your home. Persons of any age are welcome to Nutrition Class, offered by Wood River Health on Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.

Volunteers are needed to work in the thrift store and food pantry. Thanksgiving and Christmas turkey baskets and Christmas toys will be available during the holidays. If you would like to help children at Christmas by becoming a Donor Angel, email Susan Sedensky at executivedirector@thepnc.org. Donations of non-perishable food, diapers, pet food and gently used clothing are always needed. The PNC thrift store is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 to 3:00. If you need any of the above items, or heating/utilities assistance, stop by or mail executivedirector@thepnc.org.

We are here to help!

SUSAN SEDENSKY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Hello, everyone! North Stonington fared relatively well during our last two seasonal storms: Henri and Ida. But, there were still power outages and tree issues to deal with. Our North Stonington Emergency Operations Center was activated, and all hands were on deck.

Special thanks goes out to our Highway Department, Fire and Ambulance services, State Police and Eversource (job well done!). NSVFC had at least 15 calls during the storm “Henri”, within a very short period of time. A huge thank you and appreciation to our NSVFC volunteers - they’re always there for our North Stonington residents.

But the hurricane season is far from over, which doesn’t officially end until November 30th. Please don’t let your guard down! Stay prepared and always keep the “essentials” on hand.

Everyone is encouraged to sign-up for “CTAlert,” so that you can receive emergency notices; it is a free State benefit. It’s the best way for us to reach you!

GARY BARON, DIRECTOR

860-912-0004



Gary Baron and First Selectman Urgo
at the Emergency Operations Center

LAND USE DEVELOPMENT

The Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) wants to thank our Planning, Development and Land Use Officer Juliet Hodge for her outstanding work and dedication to the Town as she moves on to a new position in another town. In her 10 years of service to the Town, Juliet has rewritten and updated our Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), Zoning regulations, and other land use documents. This has prepared the Land Use Office to meet current and future demands on land use in the Town. Juliet is also instrumental in achieving many of the goals and objectives of the POCD, and her thorough reviews of proposed developments provided PZC members with detailed information that aided the commission in evaluating and making decisions. We wish Juliet all the best in her new position.

Nathan Reichert, a North Stonington resident, is our new Planning, Development and Land Use Officer as of the beginning of September. Nathan previously was a Zoning Official for the Town of Westerly. Nathan has experience updating zoning regulations, reviewing and approving zoning applications and permits, and working on comprehensive plans of development. The PCZ looks forward to working with Nathan, especially as we make changes to our regulations based on recently passed state legislation and also commencing on state-mandated updates to our POCD.

LOU STEINBRECHER

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

The North Stonington Assessor's office will be sending out personal property declarations to every business located in town before October 1st, 2021. Please note, if you closed your business you must inform us in writing. If you have any questions regarding the personal property declaration you can call the Assessor's office for the answer. Call our office at 860 535 2877 x 124 if you did not receive your declaration before 10/10/2021.

Personal property declarations for horses that live in North Stonington do not need to be declared any longer. The North Stonington Board of Selectmen have voted to exempt all horses and ponies. As a reminder, farm tools still must be declared. If you have farm tools used to care for your horses or ponies you must declare them. The \$500 exemption for tools used for farming is still in place. You must file to receive the exemption on farm tools. Your farm machinery exemption forms must be filed on/before November 1st, 2021.

Farmers, remember if you have either \$15,000 of income or expenses you can file for the Farm Building Exemption offered by North Stonington. The deadline is November 1st, 2021.

Veterans' that have moved to North Stonington, you may be entitled to a military exemption. To qualify, you must have your DD 214 on file before September 30th. The basic exemption is a \$6,000 reduction on your assessment. Disabled veterans, if your % disability rating has changed or you have reached the age of 65 you must contact this office. Your benefit may increase. We need to have a copy of the letter with your % disability ratings on file. Only changes need to be filed.

Persons with Social Security disability awarded this year must file before September 30th to qualify for their exemption. Filing may make you eligible for the homeowner's program or the state renter's program. You must have filed for your social security disability in order to qualify for either program if you are under age 65. The Homeowners Program and the Renters Program are income related. The State of Connecticut will set the income guidelines before the first of the year.

The application period for Farmland and/or Forestland classification ends November 1st. If you wish to have your land classified as farm land or forest land now is the time to act. Forest land must be certified by a state forester to qualify. See www.cfba.org. The website has additional information and a list of certified state foresters.

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



Our Town's first large scale solar project off Ella Wheeler Road



Fall in New England - what better time to get out in the woods and enjoy the preserves. The site www.Avalonia.org will help you find the ten preserves in North Stonington that have trails and are open to everyone. There you can find trail descriptions, maps and more.



Check out the activities: **Hide & Seek** for families or the **Great Avalonia Trail Trek**.

This member-driven organization is interested in you. Membership information is on the website or contact Pat Turner.

PAT TURNER jmt.pst@gmail.com

NORTH STONINGTON LIONS CLUB

Hello, fellow residents. We hope that you had a very pleasant summer, enjoying activities with family and friends. It was so nice to have a little bit of normalcy return by welcoming back the North Stonington Agricultural Fair. The North Stonington Lions were happy to help by greeting fair-goers and assisting them in the parking of their cars. It was so nice to see such a large flow of cars come in.

After a few weeks off for summer, we are excited to be able to get together again and begin meeting as a group to start planning activities. With Covid-19 still looming, there are still some restrictions and a fear among people to gather in large groups. This makes our fundraising events a little challenging, but we hope to be able to get back to participating in some local events as soon as possible. We look forward to continuing to serve and support the causes which help our communities and Lions International.

Unfortunately, our popular Dahlia Day event will not take place this year. Mother Nature was not kind to the dahlias, with about only half of our beautiful flowers blooming. We will, however, be selling dahlias at some of the businesses throughout town; please be on the look-out. If you are a local business owner, and would be willing to display and sell dahlias to benefit our club, please give us a call and we will be happy to provide you with some bouquets.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their generous support throughout the year. Without your support, we would not be able to provide services to our local communities. If you would like to make a donation, please mail it to North Stonington Lions Club, P.O. Box 100, North Stonington, CT. 06359. Also, if you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Terry Byassee. We would love to have you join our group.

TERRY BYASSEE, PRESIDENT

860-850-4645

NORTH STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

We are pleased to report that the opening of the 2021-2022 school year was very smooth. After 2 days of professional development for our staff, we welcomed our students and Wheeler, as a school of choice, also welcomed students from Voluntown Public Schools! I can tell you that we all are grateful to be doing what we do best, which is teaching children. The principals will provide the details of the Wheeler Middle/High School and the North Stonington Elementary School openings and fall events.

While the pandemic still has an effect on education, this year certainly looks a lot like it did prior to when school was closed in March, 2020. As an example, we have athletics back in full swing, including middle school athletics. Mrs. Turner, Athletic Director, has been quite active scheduling events as well as scheduling transportation for our athletes. Regarding fan participation, for volleyball which is held indoors, only family members of students can attend and, as we did for graduation in June, we ask that they sit together. For all outdoor sporting events, anyone can attend. With the high school students and most of the middle school students eligible to be vaccinated, Wheeler is looking more and more like what it used to look like pre-pandemic.

We are continuing to offer free breakfast and lunch every day to ALL students. We kindly ask that if you are eligible for free and reduced lunch to fill out an application. Having your application is important to us and the success of our food service program. Our application can be found online or at your child's school. You can also email our Business Manager, Mrs. Deb Martin, at martind@northstonington.k12.ct.us, or phone her at 860-535-2800 ext. 3.

PETER NERO, SUPERINTENDANT

KEEPING NORTH STONINGTON AFFORDABLE, INC.

A long process, started in October 2018, came to an end as the town of North Stonington transferred ownership of the 1840 schoolhouse on Clarks Falls Road to KNSA, on September 15th. KNSA will rehabilitate this historic building into a deed restricted affordable home and sell to an income eligible working family. The charitable intent of the original deed will be satisfied and the building preserved with historic architectural features intact.

KNSA, the Town and the North Stonington Historical Society, are celebrating with a gathering at the Hewitt Farm Pavilion on **October 16th, 1-3 pm**. Displays of the building's former life as a school will be provided by the Historical Society and remarks by our Selectpersons and KNSA will tell how we accomplished this transfer. Schematics will show what this historic building will become, once rehabilitated. A map to 119 Clarks Falls Road will be provided so that attendees can view the building on their own. **Plan on balloons, refreshments and period games for the kids.**



Our Mealbox fundraising offering for October will be **Festive Fall**, featuring Chicken Sausage Orzotto with mozzarella, zucchini, and tomatoes. Orders are due October 8th. Pick up at Wheeler Library on Oct. 17th, 9:30-11:30am. The food is healthy, locally sourced, and supports our local farmers. Through your support of our fundraising, we were able to pay for the legal costs to assume ownership of this property. Thank you.

MARY ANN RICKER, PRESIDENT

State of Connecticut
Official Ballot



North Stonington, Connecticut	Municipal Election	November 2, 2021	District 1
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TURN BALLOT OVER AND VOTE BOTH SIDES

Be sure to read instructions to vote.

OFFICE ↓ PARTY	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	First Selectman Vote for One	Selectman Vote for Up to Two	Selectman Vote for Up to Two	Town Treasurer Vote for One	Board of Finance Full Term Vote for One	Board of Finance To Fill Vacancy for Four Years Vote for One	Board of Finance Alternate Vote for One	Board of Education Full Term Vote for Up to Two	Board of Education To Fill Vacancy for Two Years Vote for One	Board of Assessment Appeals Vote for One	Economic Development Commission Vote for Up to Two		
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	1A <input type="radio"/>	2A <input type="radio"/> K. Nicole Porter	3A <input type="radio"/> Toulia Balestracci	4A <input type="radio"/> Mustapha Ratib	5A <input type="radio"/> Sarah Nelson	6A <input type="radio"/>	7A <input type="radio"/> Winona Berdine	8A <input type="radio"/> Stanley "Chef" Stefanowicz	9A <input type="radio"/> Jamie Towle-Weickel	10A <input type="radio"/> Jennifer M. Welborn	11A <input type="radio"/>	12A <input type="radio"/> Christopher J. Friday	13A <input type="radio"/>
REPUBLICAN PARTY	1B <input type="radio"/> Bob Carlson	2B <input type="radio"/> Brett Mastroianni	3B <input type="radio"/>	4B <input type="radio"/> Shawn P. Murphy	5B <input type="radio"/> Gary Annino	6B <input type="radio"/> Carl R. Johnston, Jr.	7B <input type="radio"/> Amy Friend	8B <input type="radio"/> Lisa Mazzella	9B <input type="radio"/> Christine Wagner	10B <input type="radio"/>	11B <input type="radio"/> Lisa Mazzella	12B <input type="radio"/> Salvatore E. Cherenza, IV	13B <input type="radio"/> Stefan Grufstedt
WRITE-IN VOTES	1C <input type="radio"/>	2C <input type="radio"/>	3C <input type="radio"/>	4C <input type="radio"/>	5C <input type="radio"/>	6C <input type="radio"/>	7C <input type="radio"/>	8C <input type="radio"/>	9C <input type="radio"/>	10C <input type="radio"/>	11C <input type="radio"/>	12C <input type="radio"/>	13C <input type="radio"/>

State of Connecticut
Official Ballot



North Stonington, Connecticut	Municipal Election	November 2, 2021	District 1
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TURN BALLOT OVER AND VOTE BOTH SIDES

Be sure to read instructions to vote.

OFFICE → PARTY	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Economic Development Commission Alternate Vote for One	Planning and Zoning Commission Vote for Up to Two	Planning and Zoning Commission Vote for Up to Two	Planning and Zoning Commission Alternate Vote for Up to Two	Planning and Zoning Commission Alternate Vote for Up to Two	Zoning Board of Appeals Vote for One	Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate Vote for Up to Three	Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate Vote for Up to Three	Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate Vote for Up to Three
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	14A	15A Anthony Mazzella	16A	17A	18A	19A	20A	21A	22A
REPUBLICAN PARTY	14B Emily Lewis	15B Wayne M. Wilkinson	16B Priscilla Lewis	17B Robert Mazzella	18B Robert Kappes	19B Mark S. Perkins, Jr.	20B Amy Friend	21B Daniel Smith	22B William Mason
WRITE-IN VOTES	14C	15C	16C	17C	18C	19C	20C	21C	22C

TAX COLLECTOR

Please Note: the Tax Collector now maintains the following in person hours, Monday through Friday 8:00 am – 1:00 pm. Tax Bills are now delinquent for any payments made or received after August 2, 2021. 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. 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. Thank you and Happy Fall.

DONNA L. SPELMAN, TAX COLLECTOR 860-535-2877 ext. 120 taxcollector@northstoningtonct.gov

BOARD OF FINANCE

The primary focus of the Board of Finance this past quarter has been the closeout of the fiscal year, 2020-2021. The audit review commences this September with a final report presented in the November - December time frame.

During the summer months, the Board's meeting schedule has been light, but was active in reviewing policies relative to the responsibilities of the Board. Moreover, the board lent oversight to the utilization of the Rescue Plan Funds generated to the town due to the pandemic with recommendations made by the Board of Selectmen.

Please refer to the Board of Finance's schedule of meetings on the Town's website. It is encouraged that the public attend these meetings physically or by ZOOM tele-conferencing.

DANIEL SPRING, CHAIRMAN

NORTH STONINGTON GARDEN CLUB

The 2021 recipient of the NSGC Anna Coit Memorial Scholarship is Nakhi Snyder of Stonington High School, who will be attending the University of Rhode Island. Nahki plans to major in Plant Science.

The Garden Club continues its active support of the Town's participation in the Pollinator Pathway Project, a movement in communities nationwide to utilize public and private land in ways that support the survival and healthy proliferation of the pollinators that are essential to our crops. Garden Club contributions include education initiatives as well as the donation of native plants. To learn more, contact us at info@nsgardenclub.org.

After a hiatus of more than a year, the Garden Club is starting to resume in-person meetings, while observing all appropriate infection guidance. Details of upcoming programs are available on our website: nsgardenclub.org/programs. If you would be interested in participating, as a guest or prospective member, please contact us at info@nsgardenclub.org.



JANICE PARKER

ON BEHALF OF THE NSGC COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

NORTH STONINGTON CEMETERY COMMISSION

The Commission wishes to commend our partners within the Town who have continued to provide help in the maintenance of the historical cemeteries. In addition to those named in our last submission, we would like to add to the list the Belz Family, Jeff Sirois, Ken Syren and Dave Syren.

The work being undertaken to restore the Brown-Randall Cemetery by the Rediscovering History Group, headed by Michael Carroll, is a continuing process. The photos accompanying this update shows the re-erecting and repairs to four of the Brown Family stones. Michael is also straightening another stone so that it stands more erect, putting less stress on this antique monument.

Our Treasurer, David Fede, is constantly active in the upkeep of many of the burial grounds. He coordinates the volunteers who have taken on the tasks needed to keep them trimmed and cleared. David is ordering signage for our cemeteries and we hope to have them in place by next spring.

If there are others in North Stonington who can volunteer their time or skills to preserve our history, please feel free to call me at 860-599-1832 or text 860-961-2580.

DIANE PRESTON, PRESIDENT 860-599-1832 or
djdpreston16@gmail.com

DAVID FEDE, TREASURER 860-535-0009



NORTH STONINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

At the Stephen Main Homestead, in the center of the village, the Morgan A. Stewart Genealogical Library is now available for in-person research. It is open Tuesdays from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. For questions, email Gladys Chase at gchase1@comcast.net; just put "library research" in the subject.

Even though lecture programs have not yet restarted post Covid, there is a lot going on. By the time you read this, a new sign should be installed in front of the Stephen Main Homestead. A new parking lot is available behind the Dye House for you to use while visiting the homestead. At the town's Hewitt Farm nearby, Bill Ricker and Dick Seager, who have been working for a while, are just finishing the restoration of the unique fence around the John Dean Gallup House that is part of Hewitt Farm.

Let us all hope that new programs will be able to be scheduled soon. For information on membership, including a subscription to the Historical Society newsletter, you may email Robin Rice at deshawnr@gmail.com. Put "Historical Society" in the subject.



TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

The November 2, 2021 Town Election will soon be upon us to elect our Town officials and board and commission members. Pursuant to House Bill 1202 of the June Special Session 2021, all voters are able to obtain an absentee ballot due to COVID-19. If you need an absentee ballot application, please check the Town website, come to the office, or contact the Town Clerk.



The absentee ballot application can be mailed, brought to the office, or dropped off in the Official Ballot Drop Box in front of New Town Hall. Absentee ballots are available beginning on October 1, 2021 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 in person to the Town Clerk's Office during normal business hours.

There will be in-person voting on November 2nd at the North Stonington Education Center (the old Wheeler Middle-High School), 298 Norwich-Westerly Road from 6:00 AM until 8:00 PM. All safety precautions will be taken for the protection of voters and election workers.

If you have any questions regarding absentee ballots and the 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 call 535-2877 Ext. 121 or e-mail townclerk@northstoningtonct.gov.

ANTOINETTE PANCARO, CMC, CCTC

TOWN CLERK

ROTARY OF THE STONINGTONS

Our club is thrilled to finally be meeting in person again – three Fridays each month at the North Stonington Senior Center at 7:00am, and in the evening on the third Thursday of the month. Zoom options are also available.

In July, we held our annual club picnic, to induct new club officers, and are thrilled to have Marti Bradshaw and Sabrina Buehler serving as co-presidents this year. We were also truly honored to have Shannon DePerry and family members at our picnic, and to present her with a Paul Harris/Nancy Young Award in recognition of her selfless work with Operation Fresh Start, supporting local kids, teens and families in need. In August, we hosted a fun and successful Disc Golf Tournament at the Chikumbuso Disc Golf course, followed by a benefit concert for Chikumbuso.

We're gearing up for an active fall season with interesting speakers and projects and hope to increase our visibility in the Stonington and North Stonington area with road clean-up projects and mobile food pantry assistance. We continue to volunteer at the New London Community Meal Center on the 2nd Monday of each month and welcome anyone in the community (15 years and older) to join us. Please contact Donna Scherer at dscherer.rotary@gmail.com if you'd like to help. Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/havingfuninservice>.



DONNA SCHERER, COMMUNITY OUTREACH CHAIR

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. We are pleased to say that with all of us vaccinated we are back to meeting in person on a regular basis. Face masks, social distancing, no refreshments, and a shortened program are now the norm.

We follow all Connecticut rules for Covid-19, so our meetings are being somewhat curtailed. At October's first meeting we will install our officers. October 29 will have the Halloween party, with some restrictions due to Covid 19 (as was done last year). Hopefully things will be better in 2022. On November 12th, the program will be National Parks, led by Debbie Barnes, and December 10th will be our Christmas program. We hope to be able to carol around town to our shut-in members on December 17th.

We look forward to meeting you when you are comfortable visiting. In the mean time, wear your masks, limit your gatherings, maintain your distance when you do go out, and VOTE – one way or another.

SUE PIANKA, PROGRAM DIRECTOR

BOY SCOUTS TROOP 71

Troop 71 has been very busy! The scouts recently participated in a local High Adventure Campout, where they tested their skills at Fields of Fire, hiked Barn Island, and took an 8 mile canoe trip, all while camping at Camp Quequatuck in Westerly. Weekly meetings have resumed, and the troop is busy planning a variety of campouts and events for the year ahead.

For community service, Troop 71 will be doing their annual Scouting for Food drive. Be on the lookout for Scouts dropping off bags at the end of October. Scouts will also be participating in the Town Wide Tag Sale on October 2nd.

The Scout House (old fire station) will be a location on the map this year. Stop by for some interesting demonstrations, items for sale, hands on activities, and for information on Scouting.

We would like to congratulate Ian Spracklin on his Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Justin and Jadon McCormack will have their Eagle Scout Court of Honor on September 26th. Congratulations on a job well done!

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



JENN RICHTER COMMITTEE MEMBER

NORTH STONINGTON CITIZENS LAND ALLIANCE

The End of Summer. Time to Button Up the Garden. It's Also a Time of Fantastic Weather!

Low humidity, blue skies and cooler temperatures are perfect for a walk in the woods. Why not do both? The end of season tomato crop is a great opportunity for a post-hike treat. What's better after a walk on the Land Alliance Cote Preserve or Fowler Grindstone Preserve? Use nslandalliance.org for direction.

ROASTED TOMATOES:

Tomatoes - cherry or whole cut in pieces
Onion – red or yellow, sliced
Garlic-chopped
Peppers (optional)
Olive Oil
Salt, Pepper
Herbs - parsley, oregano, basil



Cut the larger tomatoes to uniform size. Place on a cookie sheet. Add the sliced onions. Then peppers, too, if you have some. Sprinkle chopped garlic and herbs over the vegetables. Drizzle with olive oil. Season with salt and pepper. **Roast at 375° about 20-30 minutes.**

When done:

- 1.) Serve immediately over hot pasta with shaved parmesan cheese
- 2.) Serve on toasted crusty Italian bread such as bruschetta with cheese
- 3.) Cool, put in freezer bag. Place flat on a plate until frozen for stacking.
- 4.) Puree with tomato paste for a delicious pasta sauce.

Enjoy the hike. Enjoy the tomatoes!

BETTY PERKOWSKI

LAND ALLIANCE BOARD MEMBER

NORTH STONINGTON HALLOWEEN LIGHT PARADE

I am very excited to announce that the North Stonington Halloween Light Parade is returning for the second year in a row! The parade will be held on Friday, October 22 (rain date October 24), beginning at 6 o'clock in the evening. As of the print deadline, a few details regarding route and start location are still being ironed out, so please visit us on Facebook (facebook.com/NSLightParade) for the most up-to-date information.

We can confidently say that this year's parade will be bigger than last year! Keifer's Kettle Korn and Mama Emily's Ice Cream Truck will be set up along Main Street, so make sure to stop by and grab a snack! We are also still accepting parade participants. If you would like to decorate a vehicle or build a float, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us – the more the merrier! Thank you so much for the support for this new town tradition; we can't wait to see you October 22!

JEN STRUNK, PARADE ORGANIZER

NSLightParade@gmail.com

THE NORTH STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

The school year is off to a great start and we are so excited to welcome everyone back to school full time. We welcomed 5 new students from Voluntown to our Wheeler family this fall, and our elementary school is growing quickly. The BOE has recently had our grant plan approved for the investment of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief II Funding by the Connecticut State Department of Education and we have submitted our plans for additional funding to help address loss among students due to the pandemic learning.

We are working with the elementary school to provide an outdoor classroom for our students, which can be used well beyond the COVID pandemic. Thank you to the North Stonington Education Foundation for approving the purchase of a tent that will provide additional outdoor space and we would also like to thank the Fair Committee for providing picnic tables. These outdoor spaces will give our students a place to stretch out and learn in an open air environment and provide them with additional opportunities for mask breaks.

The BOE has begun the work of searching for a new Superintendent as Mr. Nero will be retiring in June of 2022 after 10 years of service. His shoes will be hard to fill for sure, and this will be a priority for the BOE for the upcoming months. We have just completed a workshop on hiring strategies for this position and will begin the hiring process soon. We are currently meeting virtually by ZOOM; please join us on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 6:30. Have a great fall!

CHRISTINE WAGNER, CHAIRMAN

wagnerc@northstonington.k12.ct.us

NORTH STONINGTON PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

Oh my! Is it just us or did this summer fly by? We hope you all had a happy, healthy one and that you were able to gather again with family and friends. Although we are still dealing with uncertainties, we've worked hard this summer to plan a school year filled with enrichment, enhancements, and FUN! We are beyond excited to be bringing back our annual Fall Fest (October 29th) after a two year hiatus due to EEE (2019) and Covid-19 (2020)! We are also excited to be introducing new Free Family Fun Nights. We hope to see you there!



Our meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Please follow us on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/nostopto> for details, or reach out to us at board@northstoningtonpto.com. We'd also like to invite you to choose the North Stonington Parent Teacher Organization as your charity of choice when shopping through Amazon Smile! Just another way to show your support - we know we can't do what we do without you!

DAWN GORALEWICZ, PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT@NORTHSTONINGTONPTO.COM

NORTH STONINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

At North Stonington Elementary School we were so excited to welcome back 437 children to full-time, in-person learning! Our custodial staff worked very hard over the summer to get our beautiful school ready for another fun year of learning and growing. We are hopeful that this year will feel a little more “back to normal” and our staff is prepared to do whatever is needed to assist any of our learners who are struggling because of the effects of the pandemic. We have all of our safety protocols in place and have made some adjustments to ensure our teachers have the time and the resources available to provide extra support for all of our students in need. Thanks to grant funding, we were even able to add some new staff members to assist us in this task.

We are equally excited that we will again be able to offer our after-school homework club as well as some enrichment opportunities for students in art and physical education. I'd like to thank the staff of NSES for their continued commitment and dedication to all of the children of our school community, as well as the NSES families for their support. It is what makes this school the absolute best!

ROBERT CILLINO, PRINCIPAL

HEWITT FARM

Hewitt Farm has continued to attract many visitors this summer, both local and out-of-towners. With 104 acres of trails, hay fields, the Community Garden, the pond and open land, folks choose their interests. For example, many locals come regularly with their children or dogs, others enjoy the trails and even help to keep them in-shape. Thanks to all of you!

The new pavilion has enticed a number of small and large groups this year. Everything from town meetings, parties for all ages and Boy Scouts activities and awards have been on the calendar this year. To learn more about events and projects on site, please go to the Town Website: <http://www.northstoningtonct.gov/hewitt-farm-committee>.



Across from the Pavilion, dedicated volunteers have been restoring the fencing of the historic John Dean Gallup House and it is almost finished. We hope to start soon on other restoration improvements.

Hewitt Farm is open daily, 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 Rte. 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 any of the trailheads.

NITA KINCAID

MEMBER OF THE HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE



NORTH STONINGTON VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, INC.



With this being the last Quarterly before 2022,
there are several topics the Fire Company wants to hit upon:

1. Thanks to the support of the townspeople at a recent Town Meeting, the ARP funds given to the Fire Company have been designated for use to staff a second per diem firefighter weekdays.
2. **October 3rd to 9th, 2021 is Fire Prevention Week: “Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety”** is this year’s national theme. The number of disabled detectors noticed shows a need for the relaying of some basic detector principles.
 - a. When a smoke or carbon monoxide (CO) detector sounds, immediately evacuate the premises and notify 9-1-1. Do not reenter until the Fire Department has checked the area to ensure a safe environment.
 - b. Most smoke alarms emit a series of three (3) beeps with a small gap between series, while a CO detector emits a series of four (4) beeps.
 - c. If your alarm begins to “chirp”, it may indicate that the batteries need replacing. If the chirping continues after battery replacement, or if the detector is over 10 years old, it is time to replace that detector.
 - d. Test all smoke and CO detectors monthly by pressing the test button. If the alarm doesn’t sound with the test button depressed, and the batteries are new, the detector needs to be replaced.
3. **The Fire Company will be hosting an Open House on Sunday, October 10, 2021 from 10AM – 1PM at the facility at 25 Rocky Hollow Rd.** Membership information, building tours, and equipment demonstrations, along with light refreshments will be provided.
4. **Winter Precautions:** With the arrival of the winter season comes the use of wood stoves, fire places, or space heaters. Each comes with its own inherent fire/safety risk. Some basic tips:
 - a. Always follow the Manufacturer’s recommendations for use, including extension cord restrictions.
 - b. Ensure that there are an adequate number of working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors present. Early warning is critical in an emergency.
 - c. Ensure that combustibles are at least 3’ from heating appliances.
 - d. Always have a working fire extinguisher readily available. Understand HOW to use it before an emergency occurs.
 - e. Should a fire occur, no matter how small, call 9-1-1 BEFORE attempting any extinguishment effort. Never let the fire block your escape route.
 - f. Once you evacuate, remain outside until help arrives.

**The members and families of the North Stonington Volunteer Fire Company
wish all a safe, joyful Christmas and New Year.**

CHARLES A. STEINHART V, FIRE CHIEF

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

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

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



October

FALL EVENTS

10	SUNDAY	10 am - 1 pm	Center for Emergency Services	Open House, Hosted by Fire Company	Page 19
16	SATURDAY	1-3 pm	Hewitt Farm Pavilion	1840 School House Celebration	Page 18
16	SATURDAY	8pm	Pawcatuck VFW	Franco's Comedy for a Cause, Wheeler Class 2023. Call 860-859-7091 for Info	
22	FRIDAY	6 pm	Main Street	Halloween Light Parade	Page 16
23	SATURDAY	4 pm	Wheeler Library Via Zoom	"Cut the Cord", a presentation about leaving cable for streaming services	Page 2
29	FRIDAY	5-8 pm	Elementary School	NSPTO Fall Fest	Page 14
30	SATURDAY	10:30 am	Wheeler Library	Halloween Outdoor Storytime	Page 2

November

2	TUESDAY	6 am- 8 pm	NA Education Center	Municipal Election	Page 10
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December

5	SUNDAY	4-6:30 pm	Wheeler Library	Open House	Page 2
5	SUNDAY	6 pm	Village Green	Town Tree Lighting and Caroling	
11	SATURDAY	9-2 pm	NS Congregational Church	Christmas Bazaar	