

# THE NORTH STONINGTON QUARTERLY

## SUMMER 2021

### BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Happy Summer North Stonington! Indeed, we seem to be in for a much more normal summer, thankfully in 2021. While this is the case, we must start by saying we are not out of the woods with COVID-19. At the time of writing this, approximately 50% of our community is fully vaccinated, well short of the goal of 70% where herd immunity is to be achieved. With the new Delta variant of the disease emerging, it is more important than ever that everyone get vaccinated. For those who are hesitant, we would encourage you to inform yourselves about the pros and cons. The science tells us that the possible harm from contracting COVID-19 far outweighs any side effect from the vaccine itself. Please help us to keep the normalcy going and to protect our neighbors and families. Thanks to all for your kindness and cooperation during the past year. It has been one of the most challenging in modern times.

We have been quite busy in town and continue to be thankful for all of our local businesses that have remained creative in these unusual times. It is nice to see so many empty storefronts now occupied and we hope everyone will help support local business by spending some of your hard-earned money here in North Stonington.

This quarter has seen a couple of new commissions begin work in our Traffic Commission and our Sustainability Committee. The work of our Emergency Services Operations Committee is now winding down and completing their tasks and we look forward to their report in the coming months. As you may be aware, our Boards and Commissions didn't skip a beat during the pandemic and kept meeting all along via zoom. We have now resumed in person and in some cases "hybrid" meetings. Meetings are now taking place at the North Stonington Education Center in the media/voting room. Join us for a meeting sometime! Also, our new Tanker has arrived! It took a bit longer than expected, but will soon be put in service for our Volunteer Fire Company.

The town will shortly be receiving 1.5 million dollars in American Rescue Package funding to help with COVID relief and recovery efforts. We welcome anyone to attend one of our many Board of Selectmen meetings where this topic and many others will be discussed. We are excited to be able to help our community emerge stronger on the other side of the pandemic than we did when entering it.

We welcome our new tax collector, Donna Spelman, to the Town Hall team! She is happy to join us; her hours are 8am-1pm Monday-Friday and available in person, phone, or via email.

The budget process was a challenging one this year and we would like to thank all of the boards, commissions, and staff who contributed. At the time of writing this we do not know if we have an approved budget or not, since the referendum was to take place on June 28<sup>th</sup>. Since it is vitally important we get tax bills sent out on time to keep our town functioning, the Board of Selectmen set a mill rate so tax bills could be mailed out. Should the budget have failed, we would then make adjustments as needed and, if it passes, none would need to be made.

We also will have held a "State of the Town" event at the end of June, which along with the Town Meeting gives a nice summary of Town happenings. We would encourage everyone to watch the recordings of these events on the Town's YouTube channel. Links to all of these recordings can also be found at [www.northstoningtonct.gov](http://www.northstoningtonct.gov).

Finally, as we enter into election season we would like to encourage those who wish to serve our Town. Reach out to the town clerk to find out how to get involved. The signs coming into our town say "we appreciate our volunteers". In fact our community would not be able to function without them. Consider serving on a board or commission in town, if you are able. We thank everyone who continues to serve and give of themselves. We look forward to seeing you all at the North Stonington Fair in a couple of weeks!



MIKE URGO, NITA KINCAID & BOB CARLSON

[SELECTMEN@NORTHSTONINGTONCT.GOV](mailto:SELECTMEN@NORTHSTONINGTONCT.GOV)

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

The New Tanker is finally here! After years of design and planning, with subsequent Town funding, the new tanker arrived during the week of June 13, 2021.

The new 2021 engine/tank, designed on a Peterbuilt chassis, carries 3,000 gallons of water, has a 1,500 gpm pump, along with 1,000 ft. of 5" supply hose. It also has the necessary hose lines and other equipment to be "first due" if warranted. It replaces our 1993 tanker.

Once delivered, the new apparatus was put through various acceptance tests, including pumping at capacity for 4 hours. Once accepted, equipment will be transferred from the current tanker, and radios will be installed. Hopefully it will be placed in service before July 1.



We would like to take this opportunity to thank the residents and taxpayers of North Stonington for supporting us with the tools to serve them to the best of our ability.

CHARLES A. STEINHART V, FIRE CHIEF

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## **CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Holding ZOOM monthly meetings is terrible when we're trying to get things done, but every 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 6:00 pm we're plodding forward. Join in and let us know what conservation issues you're interested in.

Our two-year effort to create an access point along the Pawcatuck River for a kayak and canoe trail "put-in" may be close to being realized. Now that the bridge on Boombridge Road is completed, efforts to secure space along the down river side for entrance to the river, is close. We have been working with Westerly and Stonington to create a 4.5-mile-long "Tri-Town Trail" along this beautiful resource.

Midwinter work to create a Historic Hiking Trail is also close to completion. Although this does not entail cutting brush and clearing pathways, it will be a 2.5-mile hike from Town Hall, down Main Street, up through Hewitt Farm trails and back up Wyassup Road to the beginning. Historic homes, churches, cemeteries, trails including the bi-centennial trail will be featured. Did you know that a great granddaughter of one of the first settlers on the Mayflower, John Alden, has a memorial in our Old Plains Cemetery?

We have contacted over 14-property owners identified in the 2013 Plan of Conservation and Development that have property worthy of adding to our greenway corridors. Information from the state as to how to protect their land was included.

Our 2021 calendar sold out and the theme for the 2022 calendar is Farmers and Their Animals. We hope to feature over a dozen farms that grace our community, so stay tuned.

With spring comes a migration of salamanders, frogs and turtles to mate and lay eggs. Please drive carefully.

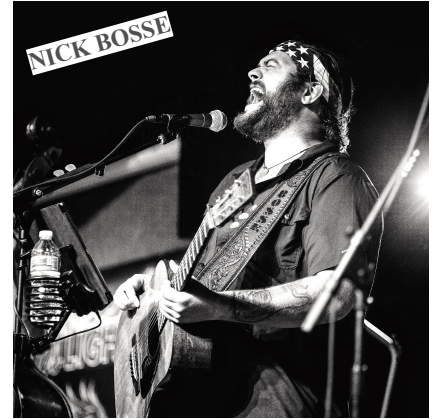
WILLIAM RICKER, CHAIRMAN

WILLIAMRICKER@COMCAST.NET

860-535-2426

## **NORTH STONINGTON AGRICULTURAL FAIR**

The North Stonington Fair is set to open its gates July 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>!!! The committee is very grateful to each of you who have come forward to ensure that our 2021 Fair is the best. Our work parties have been a great success and we thank each of you for your time and efforts and we welcome some of our newest members. We are looking forward to bringing a brand new show to the grounds, Real Shoot Wrestling; one show on Friday evening and 2 shows on Saturday. The main stage will feature some of the very best local entertainment including Alter Ego, Nick Bosse & Northern Roots, and Wild Fire. Each of these bands includes local roots and we are honored to showcase them on our stage. Feel free to bring your lawn chairs but you'll be sure to find yourself on your feet dancing the night away.



We would like to recognize Cathy Lewis as she has passed the torch down after many years of service to the Home Arts and Crafts department and we welcome our new committee members to continue on the traditions. Thank you, Cathy, for your years of dedication to the department and the Fair.

We hope each of you will support our town's annual event as the proceeds benefit both the Community Grange and the Fire Company. From amusement rides, cotton candy, livestock shows & pulls, to fried dough, carnival games, ham & bean dinner, stage entertainment, ice-cream, motorized sports and many new vendors; there is something for everyone! We are looking forward to four days of sunshine, smiles, laughter and memories. For a full schedule of events visit our website [www.northstoningtonfair.com](http://www.northstoningtonfair.com) and like us on Facebook @ North Stonington Agricultural Fair.

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

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## **NORTH STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

As Superintendent of Schools, I am thrilled that the district will be putting the 2020-21 school year behind us and looking forward to the new school year!

Our expectation will be getting back to normal and finally enjoying both our new schools. It is also long overdue that everyone will have the opportunity to walk through the North Stonington Elementary School now that we can. We are hoping to have an Open House after the school year opens in September for everyone in North Stonington. Further information and the date for the Open House will be forthcoming.

We will have summer school for those who qualify. Information on summer school will be disseminated from the administrators.

As is the case every summer, many staff will be taking summer courses and attending professional development workshops. Our principals will be working with their data teams studying the scores from the state tests administered in the spring. What is especially important this year is the evaluation of learning lost due to the pandemic.

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

Have a great summer!

PETER NERO, SUPERINTENDANT

## PAWCATUCK NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER



Do you need help finding housing, paying bills or finding employment? Starting on June 15<sup>th</sup>, a Pawcatuck Neighborhood (PNC) staff member will be available to answer these types of questions, every Tuesday, from 9:00am to 4:00pm at the North Stonington Town Hall, located at 40 Main Street.

Residents can meet privately and confidentially with a PNC employee who can explain programs that help with utility or fuel payments, rental assistance, SNAP and WIC benefits, childcare assistance and other state and federal programs. The employee will also help residents sign up for these programs or make referrals to appropriate agencies. No appointment is necessary.

**Residents can also call 860 599 – 3285, ext. 101 to talk directly to a case worker.**

The PNC, located at 27 Chase Street, Pawcatuck, remains open to residents who need help with food, toiletries, cleaning products, diapers and pet food. The Senior Center is starting classes, congregate lunches and veterans' coffee hour in July. Door-to-door transportation is available at no cost for persons age 55 and over. Program details can be found at [www.pawcatuckneighborhoodcenter.org](http://www.pawcatuckneighborhoodcenter.org) or by calling 860 599-3285.

SUSAN SEDENSKY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Happy summer! We continue to ask the residents of North Stonington to shop local and support town businesses and services as much as possible. Now that everything is open to full capacity, please stop in and visit our new food service businesses, Tin Peddler and Little Man's Bakery, for delicious culinary meals and treats.

North Stonington Economic Development Commission would like to take this opportunity to thank Juliet Hodge, our Planning, Development & Zoning Official, who will be leaving us shortly to continue her career and growth in Ledyard.

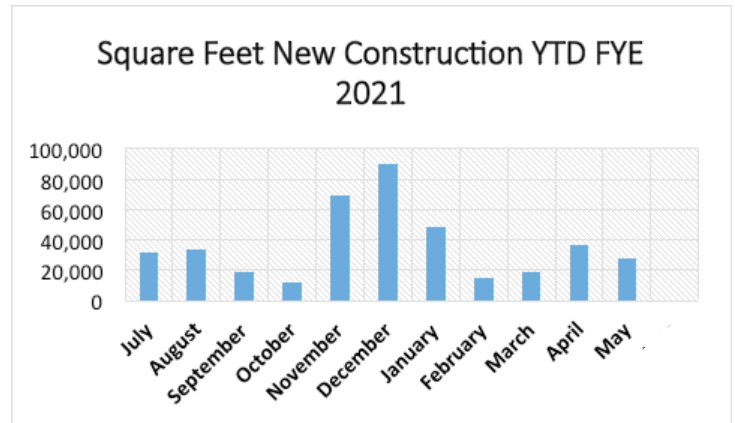
Juliet has dedicated many years to helping North Stonington achieve responsible growth and streamlining the permitting process while maintaining our rural character. We thank Juliet for making suggestions, implementing, and reworking our zoning regulations to be consistent and up to date to allow residents and businesses to understand the town's expectations and create a pathway for success. We wish Juliet the best in all her future endeavors!

BRETT MASTROIANNI, CHAIRMAN



## LAND USE DEVELOPMENT

As we close out the fiscal year, I am happy to report that the Pandemic didn't slow this department or development in town one bit! As of 6/24/21, we processed 426 Building (all trades) permits and 122 Zoning permits. 15 new houses were approved and 9 have been completed with another 3 close to completion. This year has brought new commercial construction and many vacant buildings have been repurposed. The commission approved Recreational Uses in the Highway Commercial Zone and soon we hope to see a new Luxury RV Park on a long vacant parcel on the RI border. We are far beyond last year's totals with respect to square footage and value of new construction approved and fees collected. Two solar projects boosted these totals, as well as all the houses being constructed. We will actually end the year in the black for the first time in my time here.



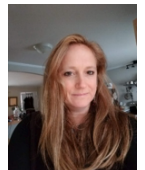
	Square Feet	Construction Cost	Total Building Fees	Total Land Use Fees
YTD FYE 2021	400,692	\$25,089,562.35	\$225,107.48	\$14,513.00
FYE 2020	142,164	\$9,004,960.07	\$72,165.66	\$13,250.00

It is on this good note that I am resigning my position with the town. After much consideration, I have accepted a Director of Land Use position in a neighboring town. It has been an absolute privilege to serve as your Town Planner over the past 10+ years. So many of the plans we have created together have been implemented and I am proud of all that the Land Use Boards and Commissions have accomplished. All our efforts have resulted in new investment, leaner budgets, and have brought us deserving recognition such as the CEDAS Award for Best Practices in Land Use and Economic Development and a consistent spot at the top of the CT Town Economic Index, which measures the Town's overall economic health. We have also been recognized for our efforts to increase Sustainability and Affordable Housing.

The foundation for continued investment and growth has been firmly established and the town's commitment to preserving its character remains strong. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be a part of it all and for trusting me with your beautiful town. A special thank you to the incredible team at Town Hall – particularly Cheryl! I will miss you all.

JULIET HODGE

PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE OFFICER



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## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Currently our beginning of summer weather is quite enjoyable! Nonetheless, we still must remember that the 2021 hurricane season is near. This year's season is projected to be "above normal". Remember that we will be watching the weather. Stay informed by checking our website: [northstoningtonct.gov](http://northstoningtonct.gov). Also, sign up for CT Alert, a CT communication database that automatically keeps you advised of emergency, by texts, emails, cell phone and landline, and it's free and easy!

Stay tuned and still stay prepared for any emergency event that may confront us. Think positive!

GARY BARON, DIRECTOR

860-912-0004

## NORTH STONINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

We have made it through a most crazy year and are now ready to enjoy summer. The students, families, and staff of North Stonington Elementary School have all worked together to create a wonderful end of the year experience for everyone. We were able to have a promotion for our 6<sup>th</sup> graders right out in front of our beautiful school. Mrs. Wilkison was able to come back and celebrate with us and we had a wonderful turnout of family members on hand to enjoy.

Our Unified Arts teachers also collaborated to create a modified field day for the students. It involved taking part in a field day activity each day in the last week of school and was really enjoyed by the children. Finally, we started a new tradition here at NSES on the last day of school called Step Up. It allows students the chance to meet their next year's teacher and classmates on the last day and to hear a little about what they can expect next year. We will be having summer school this year as we have done in years past. It will run the month of July.

I'd like to personally thank the families and staff of NSES for an incredible year and I wish everyone a joyous summer!

ROBERT CILLINO, PRINCIPAL

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## NORTH STONINGTON LIONS CLUB

In anticipation of the better times ahead, the NS Lions have been busy preparing for Dahlia Day in September. This annual event takes place each Fall at the North Stonington home of Lions Jane and Steve Morrone. Dahlias, native to Central America and the national flower of Mexico, are large, showy multicolored flowers with long lasting blooms, great for bouquets of cut flowers. In Connecticut, dahlias must be started each year from the previous year's tubers which have been carefully preserved over the winter. Each and every tuber must then be individually re-planted and tended to. Much labor is exerted to make this miracle happen. This miracle is demonstrated in these before-and-after photos from previous seasons.



In the early Fall of this year, the Lions will again invite everyone in town, and those nearby, to visit, to take some flowers home, to schmooze with friends and neighbors, to enjoy some food and perhaps some music, and to have an excellent experience in a beautiful setting. You will find all of these at the Morrone's on Chester Main and also at the Wild Briars Family Farm on Pendleton Hill. We hope to welcome you once again during Dahlia Day!

JIM NESTOR, CLUB PRESIDENT

860-850-4645

P.O. Box 100, North Stonington, CT 06359

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**AVALONIA LAND CONSERVANCY**

Get out and enjoy the trails in Avalonia's preserves in town!

New on our website [www.avalonia.org](http://www.avalonia.org), is **TRAIL FINDER** that gives you a description of each property and its trails before you go. On the website, check-out **HIKE & SEEK**; on most properties your phone will guide your family through a scavenger hunt, encouraging observations and sharing discoveries.

Your membership is always welcome and if you can volunteer to monitor a property or help to keep trails clear, please contact us.

PAT TURNER

[jmt.pst@gmail.com](mailto:jmt.pst@gmail.com)



## NORTH STONINGTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The past few months have been very busy for the North Stonington Education Foundation. We hosted two new and exciting events this spring. In April, thirty-six people participated in our first ever Disc Golf Scramble which was held at the Chikumbuso Disc Golf Course on Cossaduck Hill Road. In May, we presented “E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial”, at our first ever Drive-In Movie Night at the Grange. We anticipate holding both of these events again in 2021-2022. Finally, over the Memorial Day weekend, we held our annual “Runners in Support of Education” 5K Road Race. While it was virtual this year, we look forward to next year’s race being in-person.



Zichichi family after playing Disc Golf Scramble

The NSEF is excited to announce that it has elected a new president and vice president for the upcoming year. Marc Tardiff has been selected as president, replacing Chris Anderson, who had served as president for the past four years. Chris Nelson will become vice president, succeeding Marc Tardiff, who has also held the position for the past four years.

We look forward to hosting our events in-person next fall starting with our Dinner Dance on Friday, November 5th, when we will honor the next Wheeler Distinguished Alumni. Please check out our website at [www.nsedfoundation.org](http://www.nsedfoundation.org), and follow us on Facebook and Instagram to get information on our latest events.

MARC TARDIFF      PRESIDENT      203-530-5632      TardiffM@northstonington.k12.ct.us

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## KEEPING NORTH STONINGTON AFFORDABLE, INC.

KNSA is proud and honored to take possession of property gifted to us by Long Island Trinity Trust, and Regina McGowan, trustee. The property is gifted in the memory of William (Bill) Hescok to honor the contributions he made to the Town of North Stonington as a life-long resident. We will be having a celebration at the property; watch for the announcement.

Our lawyer has filed to represent us in Superior Court to have the deed restriction lifted on the 1840 schoolhouse on 119 Clark Falls Road and given to KNSA for affordable housing. The filing of these papers indicates the court wishes to move forward quickly in this case.

In anticipation of property on which to build or renovate, KNSA has interviewed and hired a consultant who will be writing and submitting grants on our behalf. We welcome Dave Berto, President of Housing Enterprises, Inc., to our team.

Our popular monthly Mealbox fundraising initiative continues with July’s **Celebrate Summer** themed meal of a focaccia pizza with caramelized onions and ricotta cheese and summer greens. August theme: **Delicious Dog Days of Summer** - with southwestern chicken, pasta salad with corn, beans and fresh vegetables, green salad, and fresh bread. Food is locally sourced. See our FB page or website: [www.knsainc.org](http://www.knsainc.org) for info on ordering. Don’t miss out.

MARY ANN RICKER, PRESIDENT





## WHEELER HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL

Congratulations to the Class of 2021! Happy Summer Vacation from Wheeler! This was certainly another year to remember! Although it was an incredibly stressful year on so many levels, we made it through - together, and have many successes to celebrate. Our seniors just wrapped up an amazing senior week that allowed them all those traditions that we proudly look forward to at Wheeler. On June 11<sup>th</sup>, we graduated another great group of seniors. Many are on their way to colleges and universities, the military and the work force.

This summer we are proud to announce that we have five Wheeler students participating in the Westerly Education Center Sheet Metal class. We also celebrated some pretty special 8<sup>th</sup> graders, promoting to high school. We are happy to announce that many are staying with us and next year, for the first time, we have accepted five students into the Class of 2025 from Voluntown! They will join our freshmen class and we hope this partnership with Voluntown will continue long into the future.



As always, thanks for all of your generous support throughout the school year, especially this one! We could not have done it without you and we are certainly looking forward to a normal year in August!

KRISTEN ST. GERMAIN, PRINCIPAL

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## ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

As we enter tax collection season, please remember that the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles does not inform the North Stonington Assessor's Office of the fact that you sold your old car. You must provide proof of sale on your old car in order to receive a pro rate on the assessment. The plate receipt, which is issued when you cancel the registration, is proof of sale. If you transferred the plates to your new vehicle, the credit is automatically applied to your bill on the new vehicle. You must pay the tax bill on the old vehicle in full.

The **Elderly Renter's Program** has begun. Applications are available from the Assessor's Office. For anyone that is a renter and is over the age of 65, with income that is less than \$37,600 for a single person or \$45,800 for a married couple, should contact the Assessor's Office for additional information on the program.

**New North Stonington residents who are veterans** must file their DD 214 with the Town Clerk before September 30, 2021 to qualify for a veteran's exemption. The basic veteran exemption is worth \$6,000 off your current assessment.

**Residents who qualify for a social security disability** payment must present their award letter to the Assessor's Office to receive their exemption. Please file before September 30, 2021.

**The Town of North Stonington also offers an exemption for anyone who has vision of less than 20/200 in the better eye with correcting lenses.** Proof is in the form of a letter from a qualified medical practitioner.

**Any resident of North Stonington here on military orders and whose permanent residence is a state other than Connecticut, may file for an exemption on their motor vehicles.** Contact the Assessor's Office for the correct form.

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



## **TAX COLLECTOR**

We anticipate tax bills will be mailed out at the end of June pending budget approval. These bills will include both the July and January installment of taxes. If you do not pay both installments in July, please keep your tax bill in a safe place and put a reminder in your calendar to pay your January tax installment.

Please be reminded that failure to receive a tax bill does not invalidate the tax, interest, liens, and collection fees per Connecticut General Statutes 12-130 and 12-146. It is the taxpayer's responsibility to call the tax office, if you did not receive a bill.

Tax Collection office hours are Monday - Friday 8:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. A secure drop-box is also available outside of Town Hall where payments can be left. Late payments are determined by official U.S. postmark. Payments postmarked or dropped off before 4:00 P.M. on the due date do not accrue interest. Connecticut General Statutes do not allow us to go by the check date – postmark only!

The on-line tax website is full of helpful information. [www.northstoningtonct.gov/payonline](http://www.northstoningtonct.gov/payonline). Payments can be made online, which will include a service fee; search for payment amounts due or reprint a bill(s). There is also an option to view and print payment history that can be used for IRS tax purposes.

All past due Motor Vehicle and Personal Property accounts from Grand List 2005- 2018 will be placed with a collection agency as prescribed by state statute regarding proceeding with collection enforcement measures. Once placed with the agency, payments can no longer be accepted in the Tax Office and must be made with the outside agency.

DONNA L. SPELMAN, TAX COLLECTOR      860-535-2877 ext. 120   [taxcollector@northstoningtonct.gov](mailto:taxcollector@northstoningtonct.gov)

## **NORTH STONINGTON GARDEN CLUB**

Sadly, it was once again necessary to cancel our popular Annual Plant Sale. While pandemic restrictions were starting to ease by May, and the Town was willing to let us proceed, after much deliberation the Club decided that it would not be prudent to attempt to offer our usual Sale, given the multiple issues that would need to be addressed to ensure the health and safety, both of our customers and our member-volunteers. We plan to be back in 2022. Thank you for your understanding.

As mentioned in the last issue, the Club will be actively supporting the Town's Pollinator Pathway Project, a goal of Sustainable Connecticut this year. A kick-off event took place at Wheeler Library on June 5<sup>th</sup>, at which Club members provided information and answered questions about the project, as well as distributing free seeds and seedlings. Additional volunteers from the community are needed to plan and implement future activities. Please contact us if you are interested.



Now that pandemic mitigation restrictions are lifting and more people are fully vaccinated, the Club is gradually returning to normal operations, starting with outdoor events and garden visits. New members are always welcome. For more information, check out our website [www.nsgardenclub.org](http://www.nsgardenclub.org), or follow us on Facebook. Feel free to send specific questions to us by email at [info@nsgardenclub.org](mailto:info@nsgardenclub.org).

JANICE PARKER, COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR

## NORTH STONINGTON CEMETERY COMMISSION

Since our last report, the Commission has had a busy Spring! Flags were placed throughout the town's many burial grounds and cemeteries to honor our veterans. The historical periods represented by these veterans range from the French & Indian Wars to present-day conflicts. We try to ensure that each soldier is thus honored. The wonderful Boy Scout Troop 71 under Doug Spracklin's leadership once again placed all the flags at Union Cemetery. Our thanks to those young men!

As you may be aware, there are many burial grounds within our town. Our yearly budget is barely enough to pay for the basic groundskeeping and the Memorial Day flags. Thus, volunteers are invaluable. The Commission would like to acknowledge the following families for their much appreciated help by maintaining our Historic and Veteran's cemeteries located on or near their properties: The Lewis Family, Danny & Elaine Malchman, Greg Howell, Nick Mullane, Don & Karen Slawski, Mrs. Grimshaw, Erik Campagna & Sarah Buehler, David McCord, Peggy Meric & Brad Lion, Jessica Dudda & Marc Jaffan & their family, Mike Bartolucci, Ken Fowler, Debbie Appleton, Sam Appleton, Noah Appleton, Jim McCutcheon, Steve Ahern, the Eugene Anderson family, and Eric Howard. We salute your willingness to help maintain these sacred grounds!

With the help of Rediscovering History, a volunteer group, headed by Michael Carroll, some of the broken grave stones at the Brown-Randall cemetery have been repaired. This is an ongoing project, and will hopefully be followed by repairs in other areas. to be re erected.



**The photos here illustrate the clearing of this burial ground, and a before-and-after of one stone in particular.**

**Edward Brown's grave stone is the first, but not the last.**

DIANE PRESTON, PRESIDENT 860-599-1832 or [djdpreston16@gmail.com](mailto:djdpreston16@gmail.com)  
DAVID FEDE, TREASURER 860-535-0009



## TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Summer is finally here with beautiful weather and with the wonderful annual Agricultural Fair back this year, which is just around the corner! With all of the outdoor activities to enjoy in the area, don't forget to come to the Town Clerk's Office to purchase your fishing and hunting licenses. If you are a legal resident of Connecticut and have reached the age of 65, you are entitled to a free fishing license at the Town Clerk's Office. The Town Clerk's Office also provides Angler's, Hunting and Trapping, and Boater's Guides. Sporting licenses can also be purchased online at [www.ct.gov/deep](http://www.ct.gov/deep).



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

Last but not least, it is not too early to think about the November 2, 2021 Town Election to elect Town officials and many board and commission members. Absentee ballots will be available starting on October 1, 2021. Please call the Town Clerk with any questions about elections and absentee ballots.

The Town Clerk's Office is open on Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM, except on legal holidays. Please feel free to stop in or call (860) 535-2877 Ext. 121 or e-mail [townclerk@northstoningtonct.gov](mailto:townclerk@northstoningtonct.gov).

ANTOINETTE PANCARO, CMC, CCTC

TOWN CLERK

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## NORTH STONINGTON COMMUNITY GRANGE #138

North Stonington Community Grange #138 is pleased to say that with all of us vaccinated we are back to meeting in person on a regular basis. We have also presented Dictionaries to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders in town, and selected a recipient for the Gene Bromley Scholarship ....Congratulations to Grace Armstrong. We wish her well in her future studies

You are welcome to come meet us informally on June 25, which begins at 6:30 in the pavilion, and more formally at our meeting on July 16 that will "Celebrate America", August 13, which the ladies will present "Sleep under the Stars Tonight" and August 27 in which the men will present "Be A Little Mysterious". July and August meetings are 8:00 pm. We will hold our Installation of Officers on September 10<sup>th</sup>. The fall schedule is not developed yet, but the overall theme for the year is "That's Entertainment" .... stay tuned.

**You are welcome to join us at any time.** Please contact Lecturer Sue Pianka at 860-599-4528 or Secretary Nancy Weissmuller at 860-535-2703 for the latest on meeting status.

SUE PIANKA, PROGRAM DIRECTOR

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## NORTH STONINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Your Historical Society works to promote awareness and understanding of the sociological, economic, political, cultural, and natural history of our town. As we all begin to resume activities, the Society is planning new programs for the fall. And, we are developing a new parking area for our members and guests at the Stephen Main Homestead in the center of the village. The genealogical library is once again accessible, and we can help you find what you are looking for. For questions, contact Gladys Chase at 860-599-3608.



A current project is recording the stories of how our families came to this town, whether in the 1700s, 1900s, or recently— from where? Why? Our recent newsletter featured our first story. If you don't feel you are a writer, we can work with you. Contact Robin Rice at [denishawnr@gmail.com](mailto:denishawnr@gmail.com). You may also contact Robin for membership, including a subscription to the newsletter.

## NORTH STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Summer is here at last and after a long school year we are welcoming the reprieve that comes with the longer warmer days. The Board of Education is hopeful to have a budget in place by the time you are reading this and we are so grateful to be getting back to normal.

We will be resuming our meetings in person and will continue to offer public attendance by ZOOM if you prefer. We have had a lot of participation at our meetings and we hope that continues. Our summer will be busy with policy work and prioritizing our strategic plan initiatives.

We are also looking to the fall and are expecting to get back to school as normal. Please take this summer to relax and appreciate all that life has to offer. I am hoping this summer rekindles kindness and respect for others and that we continue to listen to each other and understand that while we all come from different places, all opinions matter and it is these differences that make us unique. We can learn from each other if we come from a place of respect and understanding. Please stay kind, smile often and HAVE FUN! It is a summer to celebrate for sure.

CHRISTINE WAGNER, CHAIRMAN      [wagnerc@northstonington.k12.ct.us](mailto:wagnerc@northstonington.k12.ct.us)

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## BOY SCOUTS TROOP 71

These scouts are unstoppable!! While Covid-19 is not gone, the state has opened to allow so many more activities, and our scouts are taking advantage. The scouts camped at Camp Quequatuck on the Pawcatuck River in Westerly and explored the river via canoe. Monthly camping trips have resumed, and even a Gaga Pit was built. The scouts participated in the NSEF Disc Golf Scramble and then followed with a campout at the Miner's Farm.

For community service, flags were placed at Union Cemetery for Memorial Day and the scouts will be parking cars at the North Stonington Fair on Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup>. Summer camp at JN Webster Scout Camp in Ashford is happening this year!!! Scouts will work on and earn merit badges; they will meet fellow scouts, gain independence and most importantly, have FUN! An adventure camp is in the works for August.

We would like to congratulate the following Scouts on their high school graduation: Mitchell Ashton, Sean Bolt, Tyler Dean, Jake Neddeau and Magnus Smith. We believe they will all move on to do great things and live out the Scout Oath and Law.

An additional shout out to our newest Eagle Scout - Magnus Smith! For his service project, Magnus led a team to build a bridge over a low-lying trail at Hewitt Farm.

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

KIYA LAMPHERE, TROOP 71      COMMITTEE MEMBER





## BOARD OF FINANCE

The Board of Finance, this last quarter, continued to develop the proposed budget for fiscal year 2021-2022. It culminated with a budget representing a 2.08% increase over the previous fiscal year being approved by the Board. This budget was sent back to the Board of Selectmen to be forwarded to a referendum. The referendum held in May failed by a small margin with a low voter turnout. In response the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education reconvened to amend their budgets while still meeting both objectives and expectations to continue the efficient operation of the Town.

A resulting budget, overseen by the Board of Finance, saw additional expenditure decreases as well as utilization of the undesignated fund to balance the budget. The outcome was a budget that demonstrated a 1.59% increase over the 2020-2021 budget to be supported by a proposed mill rate of 28.6. This budget was presented at the Town Meeting on June 15, 2021 and moves to referendum on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 6AM to 8PM.

As The fiscal year of 2020-2021 comes to a close at the end of June, it is important that an approved budget be in place. To this point, the tax rate of 28.6 will be levied with tax bills being sent to residents as of July 1<sup>st</sup>. Please mark your calendars to make a point of going to the polls and vote on this budget. Note that if you were unable to attend the last Town Meeting, a copy of the proposed budget with details is available at the Old Town Hall and is posted on the Town website.

DANIEL SPRING, CHAIRMAN

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## HEWITT FARM

The Hewitt Farm with its open space continues to draw folks. The clean air and the many trails are very popular and we are very glad to see visitors of all ages and interests! This past quarter we had 3 events on site: a May Lions Club Meeting, a June bridal shower and an employee appreciation event. Our new pavilion has drawn these happenings. To learn more about enjoying events and projects on-site, go to the Town Website: <https://www.northstoningtonct.gov/hewitt-farm-committee>.

Perhaps you have seen the John Dean Gallup House fence is in the process of being restored by some dedicated volunteers. One section (the front right side of the fence) has already been installed and has enhanced the appearance of the house. The original pieces are being repaired and some new pieces had to be made that were beyond repair.

We hope to begin working soon on the house, using two other grants from the State of Historic Preservation Office in Hartford. These grants will be focused on "Historic Restoration".

Hewitt Farm is open daily from dawn to dusk. It's free, easy to get to, right near the village and Holly Green. Park just inside the Hewitt Road entrance off Route 2 or at the parking area down Hewitt Road from Ryder Road.

Download the Hewitt Farm Trail Map from the town website ([www.northstoningtonct.gov](http://www.northstoningtonct.gov)) or pick one up at any of the trailheads.

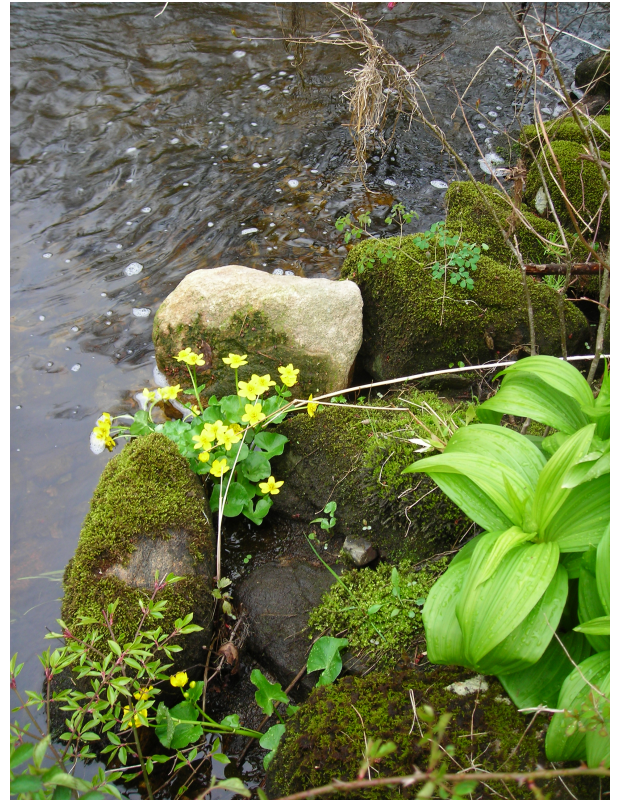
ED HARASIMOWITZ, CHAIRMAN



## NORTH STONINGTON CITIZENS LAND ALLIANCE

Adding a bench along our narrow Spalding Pond pathway within our 31-acre Samuel Cote Preserve has caught the imagination. Friends have called to say thank you and to encourage us to do more of the same.

Stretches of Wyassup Brook, Pendleton Hill Brook, and Yawbucs Brook run through several of our other preserves. Perhaps this is a good time to consider a very narrow foot path in several new places, plus a bench, for a fresh forest, brook-side experience. And with as little invasiveness as possible!



Are you aware that each of the above mentioned brooks, and all of the other brooks and rivers within our watershed, are part of The National Park Service's Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic Rivers Partnership?

If you have an idea, if you are interested in helping to design some possible plan, please let us know!

MADELINE JEFFERY

[landallianceinc@gmail.com](mailto:landallianceinc@gmail.com)

*As we were working on this Summer Quarterly,  
we recognized what a special place  
that we live in and enjoy.*

*Lisa & Nita*

## **SUMMER FUN FOR ALL AGES**

### **WHEELER LIBRARY**



Wheeler Library's Summer Reading Program is in full swing. Registration information and a full calendar of events are available at [wheelerlibrary.org](http://wheelerlibrary.org). Activities include yoga, an outdoor movie night, a visit from Scott Pion of Honey and Beeyond, and weekly crafts. Below are some of the 'Exciting Offerings'.

**Kids' Yoga: Wednesdays thru July 28<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am**

**Storytimes: Tuesday, July 27<sup>th</sup> and Thursdays July 8<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am**

**Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center (DPNC) Guided Hike: Hewitt Farm- Saturday, July 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Outdoor Family Movie: Friday, July 30<sup>th</sup> (time and title TBD)**

**\*Please register for the above programs**

**And, the Townwide Tag Sale is back and will be held on Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>!!**

**Forms for sellers are available at the Library!**

**AMY KENNEDY      860-535-0383**

## **THE NORTH STONINGTON RECREATION COMMISSION**

Wonderful Activities:

**Summer Playground Camp: seven week morning camp starting June 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Adult Golf Lessons: next session is September 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Youth Soccer Academy: Saturday afternoons starting June 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Summer Drama Camp: week of July 19<sup>th</sup> (6<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade)**

**Summer Archery Camp: week of July 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Summer Youth Soccer Camps: week of July 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Summer Youth Tennis: Saturday mornings June 5<sup>th</sup> thru July 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Beach Volleyball Clinic: August 2<sup>nd</sup> thru August 13<sup>th</sup> (Mon/Wed/Fri)**

**Lady Lions Conditioning: TBD (July?)**

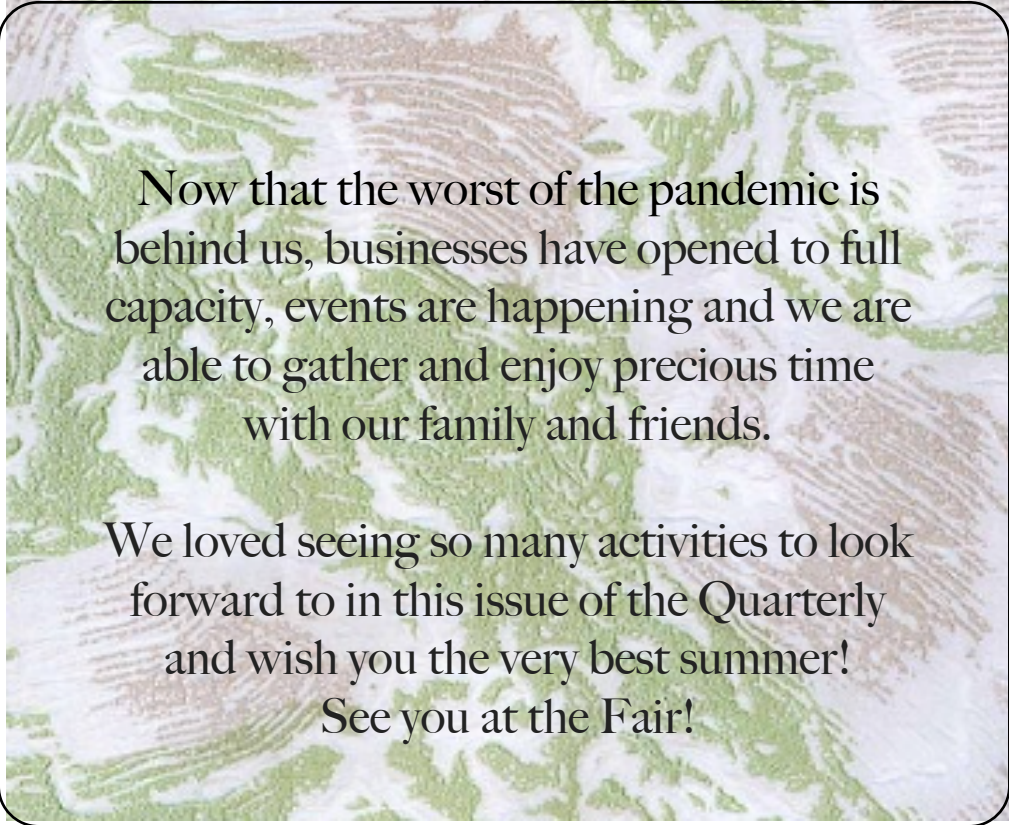
**Please visit [northstoningtonrec.com](http://northstoningtonrec.com) for specific details about these programs**



**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**



Now that the worst of the pandemic is behind us, businesses have opened to full capacity, events are happening and we are able to gather and enjoy precious time with our family and friends.

We loved seeing so many activities to look forward to in this issue of the Quarterly and wish you the very best summer!  
See you at the Fair!