

SELECTMAN'S CORNER

Winter again came in with a bang... first with record-setting flooding and then with a series of snow storms, ice, rain, wind, etc. I guess that goes with being a true New England town! Thanks to the Public Works Dept. for heroic ongoing efforts to keep the roads safe and passable, and thanks to all residents for their patience.

Our new sticker program for the Transfer facility is proceeding well, with more than 500 given out so far. Thanks to the Town Clerk's office for handling and recording all those sticker transactions. A fresh start registering users of the station will give us an accurate count for planning purposes, and help assure that taxpayers' money used to fund the station's operation is not being expended on non-paying out of Town users.

In the midst of the world/nation/state/local financial upheaval, we're doing our best to analyze and control costs while maintaining Town services. We're also aggressively pursuing outside incentive revenues and grant funds. Thank you for your patience and support in this ongoing effort.

Please feel free to contribute your ideas on this or other matters to the Selectmen's office.

Brian Sear

First Selectman

TOWN CLERK AND TAX COLLECTOR

There have been some changes made by the current administration regarding the use of the Transfer Station. I have agreed to issue new transfer station stickers from the Town Clerk's Office. We have already issued close to 600 new stickers. All residents must have a new sticker on their vehicle by January 15 in order to use the transfer station. In order to accommodate ONLY those needing new stickers, I will be in the office on Saturday, January 10 from 9:00 to 1:00 pm. We are not ordinarily open on Saturdays, and there will be no other business being transacted from the office that day.

The DEP has developed a new system for issuing sportsman's licenses. You may continue to purchase all licenses from our office, along with permits and tags. You may also purchase licenses on-line at www.dep.state.ct.us. We now have only one monitor that we can issue licenses from, so we ask that you allow for extra time when getting your license and be patient since we no longer can access your information from our old system.

The second installment of your Real Estate tax is due January 1, 2009 and you will have until February 2, 2009 to pay without interest. Supplemental motor vehicle tax bills have been sent out as well and you have until February 2, 2009 to pay without interest.

If you need tax payment information for filing your 2008 income taxes, please submit your request in writing along with a self-addressed stamped envelope, and we will mail the report to you. Please plan ahead. We would prefer that you do not call us when you are in your accountant's office and need a

breakdown of taxes paid.

We wish you all a safe and Happy New Year!

Natalie, Beth and Joy

THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Revaluation Information

The Town of Canterbury has contracted with Vision Appraisal Technology to complete our town-wide revaluation for the 2009 Grand List year. The last revaluation was completed in 2004 and current state laws require towns to revalue every five years. The first phase of this revaluation is the data collection, where an employee of Vision Appraisal will be inspecting each property in Canterbury throughout the next several months. If you have any questions about the revaluation process, please contact the Assessor's Office at 546-6035.

Elderly & Totally Disabled Tax Credit Program

If you turned 65 in 2008, or you are totally disabled, you could be eligible for our Homeowner's tax credit program if your income is within certain guidelines set by the State of Connecticut. The maximum income allowed for a married couple is \$37,300 and for a single person the maximum income is \$30,500. Proof of income is required. The filing period is from February 1 through May 15. Please call the Assessor's Office for more information about this program.

Additional Veteran's & Local Option Veterans Exemption

These programs are designed to provide property tax exemptions for veterans whose income is within certain limits. To receive these exemptions, an application must be filed between February 1 and October 1 for the 2009 Grand List. Proof of income is required. Check with the Assessor's Office for the income limits.

Please note that all of these programs require a biennial filing. If you last filed in 2007, another application needs to be completed in 2009 in order to continue receiving the benefit.

Call the Assessor's Office (546-6035) if you have any questions about these exemptions or if you want to make an appointment to file an application for these programs.

CANTERBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent

Happy New Year!

As I begin my second year as the Superintendent of the Canterbury Public Schools, I reflect on the welcome and the warmth that the community has shown me since my arrival in the district. I am humbled by your support and proud of the work we have accomplished over the past twelve months. I look forward to working with you on future endeavors.

As with every school district at this time of the year, the CPS is developing its 2009 – 2010 budget. The proposed budget

will be presented to the Board of Education at their regularly-scheduled business meeting on January 13, 7:00, in the Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School library. I encourage you to attend. You will find the presentation informative and you will receive a copy of the proposed budget. The budget book reflects a revised format, which is reader-friendly and includes added details and information. BOE Budget Workshops, to review and delve into the requested amounts, will take place on subsequent Tuesday evenings in January.

As you read on, you will find information about the schools and the Special Education Department. I encourage you to visit the schools, participate in the various activities, and become a presence in the lives of our children. You are most welcome and, by working together, we can make them successful, productive citizens.

Janet M. Tyler

CANTERBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A. Catherine Ferguson, Principal

Our first conferences of the year were held on December 10 and 11. One of the highlights was discussing what support is needed at home in partnering with parents in the education of their children which is critical for their success.

Our staff continues to work on their SMART Goals for the present school year. Teachers continue their work within their professional learning communities analyzing data in reading, writing and/or math. Strategies put into place are evaluated as to their effectiveness based on assessment data. New strategies are developed as needed based on this data, as well as through, collegial dialogue. We continue to focus on enhancing teaching and learning related to primary areas of need with regard to Reading (making reader/text connections and examining context and structure), Writing (composing and revising), and Math (estimating solutions).

Students in grades 3 and 4 at CES have been participating in a pilot for the CT State Department of Education with regard to Benchmarks Assessments, in other words, what students need to know and be able to demonstrate. The purpose of the pilot is to provide a resource to aid in increasing student achievement in Math and Reading Comprehension by providing assessments based on the state's model curricula and comprehension pacing guides using items that are keyed into the CT standards by state department curriculum consultants. The assessments were administered on-line in our Technology Lab. There was one 60 minute Math and three 20 minute reading assessments. All of the classes have completed all 4 assessments. Our results should be very interesting especially with regard to the change of format. One would also think that students' performance would also be affected by their ability to keyboard.

We continue to focus efforts on achievement of all elements required for national certification by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Documentation of observations, parent surveys, teacher questionnaires and evaluation of classroom environments are all part of the self-study process and subsequent site-visit. It is an extremely ambitious project and we are up for the

challenge! It is also required of our School Readiness Grant that provides preschool to 24 of our Canterbury families at no cost.

We are anxious to begin serving our students K through Grade 3 through a Primary Mental Health Grant we call HUGS. This grant is aimed at providing services in a stress free zone for students who are at risk. Students will participate once a week for a half hour and be involved in a situation where they are directing their own play and empowering themselves through their selections under the supervision of a counselor assistant.

Our thanks to our PTO, a group of extremely dedicated parents, for all they do to add to the experiences of our CES students. Through their efforts, we have an enhanced playground; students have the opportunity to attend field trips and the fine arts presentations, as well as, participate in fun social events such as family nights.

We delight in every opportunity to showcase the talent we have here at CES. Our Grade 3 students will be performing at CES on January 14, 6:30. Their voices always warm our hearts in the middle of the cold, wintry weather. There will also be a spring concert which is scheduled for Thursday, May 14, 6:30. All concerts will be held in the CES cafeteria. Other important dates include Special Friends Day to be held on Friday, May 15; and our Grade 4 Awards Ceremony which will be held on Thursday, June 11.

As always, our assemblies provide us a great opportunity to come together as a school, have the public in and celebrate the talent we have here. Our assemblies are always on a Wednesday @ 2:00p.m. The dates for the remainder of the school year are as follows: January 28, March 25, April 29, and June 10. We hope you can attend.

DR. HELEN BALDWIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Kathleen Boyhan-Maus, Principal

Our spring concert, under the direction of Jason Beit, will be in the evening on May 14, 2009. Also in May our school play will be performed for the entire Canterbury community on the evening of May 8, 2008. The play this year is Honk which is currently on Broadway. Our drama students and some of their parents are going to New York City on March 18, 2009, to see the Broadway production Mama Mia.

This April 2 will be a very special day at the middle school. The grade four students will be invited to meet their next year's teachers, take a tour of the school, and attend short classes in grade 5. That evening, the teachers and students will highlight student work from the entire school year. Students will have live performances representing concepts in math, language arts, science, and social studies. The arts will be displayed as well as our science fair projects. The multiple uses of technology will be evidenced through looped documentaries, virtual museums, and amazing student authentic presentations through the use of technology.

Please feel free to visit our website which is maintained by Alan Tortolani: www.canterburypublicschools.org to find information on multiple topics. Each teacher maintains his/her

own site for student assignments and class information, education games, articles on autism, dyslexia, Down Syndrome, special teacher notes, and many additional interesting items.

Our next parent conferences will be held in January on 29 and 30. Invitations will be forthcoming.

This year's Miss Cherry Pie cheerleading tournament will be held on Saturday, February 28 in Thompson, CT, at the high school. Our cheerleading coach is Mrs. Rodrigues, the seventh grade language arts teacher. We appreciate all the Booster Club has done for all the sports in the middle school; the cheerleaders received new warm up uniforms and replacement uniforms for some cheerleaders.

The PTO has also been outstanding in giving their time, expertise, care, and energy. They recently purchased English-Spanish dictionaries for our foreign language classes. They consistently help us update our technology within the school. Please look for the Wine Pairing dinner this spring. Last year's dinner was incredible at Wright's Mill Farm. Our small core group of parents works tirelessly on all kinds of fundraisers for the children of the middle school. The holiday bonanza in November was a huge success.

SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Bryan Klimkiewicz, Director

I am extremely proud of the efforts of special education teachers, general education teachers, and related service providers for their work on our district wide special education goals for the 2008-2009 school year. Our goal was to improve and increase general education opportunities for students with special needs. For state reporting purposes, the Department of Education monitors the amount of time students with special needs are educated beside their non disabled peers. There are three categories:

- 1) Students that are educated 79-100% of the school day with non disabled peers
- 2) Students that are educated 40-79% of the school day with non disabled peers
- 3) Students that are educated less than 40% of the school day with non disabled peers.

When our special education improvement plan was implemented in 2006-2007 our district percentages for the above were: 1) 56%, 2) 30%, and 3) 14%. Our current data reflects: 1) 78%, 2) 10%, and 3) 11%.

This data reflects hours of collaboration, training, and coordination of supports and services within our district. As a result of this improvement, all of our students benefit from the enriching educational experiences provided by our teachers. Additionally, our students have increased social opportunities, are more self confident, and more invested in their educational experience. As we enter the New Year, we will look to continue to support our students in the Least Restrictive Environment and build upon the strong foundation of success we have experienced.

The following are highlights of a few key areas of professional development for the following school year that are stipulated within our special education improvement plan. We are planning to continue to expand the supports that our "Coaches Academy Inclusion Team" provides within the district regarding best practice for inclusive education for students with special needs. Additionally,

? **CMT Skills Checklist Training**

We have participated in mandatory statewide training for those educators administering the skills checklist for special education students with intensive needs.

? **MAPS/PATHS**

A team of two elementary and middle school teachers will be trained as MAPS/PATHS trainers within the district. MAPS is a process of viewing a student's educational and extracurricular goals over a 5 year period. We have had the opportunity to participate in this process for one of our students this year. It was extremely beneficial for parents, staff, and most importantly the student.

? **Renew Staff that are PMT certified**

Our goal is to continue to have a core group of educators trained in the techniques of physical and psychological management. These trained professionals are equipped with skills of verbal de-escalation and management of crisis situations with student safety as a priority.

? **Assistive Technology within our Schools**

A very successful assistive technology program that has previously been utilized for a select few students will now be available to all students at the middle school level through our network. This program assists students in reading, writing, and organizing their written language in a meaningful way.

This year the Pupil Services Department has been trained in IEP direct. This is a web based program which will give Canterbury the capacity to create, amend, and track IEPs online. This highly secure web based program will give our teachers, related service personnel, and administrators' access to students IEPs anywhere in which internet access is available. Our pupil services office will also have the ability to mail meeting invitations, submit forms electronically, and collect necessary data for state reporting in a timely and efficient manner. Other benefits of this program:

- ? Reduce paperwork
- ? Improved collaboration in the development of IEPs
- ? Enhance tracking of timelines and tasks
- ? Increase data driven decision making based on current reports.
- ? Boosting staff morale by reducing time spent on paperwork and meetings. Time returned to direct instruction with our students.

The 2008-2009 school year will mark STEP's sixth year of existence. The group's vision is to create and foster a collaborative relationship between parents and educators for the success of our children. The STEP group meets on a regular basis to plan activities and coordinate resources to provide valuable experiences for parents, educators, and

community members. The first organized event was a huge success this year. STEP invited all families to attend a "Family Fun Night" in which the Mad Science Team presented an educational and informative show for all ages. Individual flyers for future events will be created periodically throughout the school year. The STEP group would also greatly appreciate your input and suggestions. For additional information visit our district website (www.canterburypublicschools.org) click on the special education link and the STEP logo for an updated meeting schedule, parent lending library, and the STEP brochure.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Your Economic Development Commission continues to work on several fronts to help our business community thrive and expand.

Ribbon Cuttings

Several companies will be honored soon at ribbon cuttings to take place no later than mid-winter. Cheryl LaFlamme-Miller of **C L Services** will be opening her new office building on Knollwood Drive. She will have office space to rent in addition to her own quarters. Elliott Burroughs will be recognized once his new storage building at Westview Tractors is completed. Hart's Greenhouse & Florist will also be honored for their business leadership in Canterbury. Ads and posters will let you know the events will take place.

Canterbury Business Directory...Do Business Locally

Canterbury's new Business Directory has been out for several weeks and features 73 companies that provide products and services to local residents and throughout the Quiet Corner. The Last Green Valley has placed the directory in all of its literature racks which exposes our businesses to residents and tourists from Sturbridge, Mass to Norwich. Residents may pick up a copy at the Town Hall or the Prudence Crandall Museum. There is always one typo in every publication. Ours provided the wrong phone number for Martello's Pizzeria...please note that the correct number is **546-6680**. A reprint of the directory is scheduled for the spring as new companies wish to be included or current information has changed. Our first printing of one thousand is going quickly. And the directory was created and printed by a local company...A & M Design.

Plan of Conservation & Development

Your EDC spent some time at its November meeting discussing how best to answer the Questionnaire which asked seven questions pertaining where Canterbury is going in the next 10-20 years. Every member participated in the discussion. A copy of EDC's thoughts can be obtained in the Planning Office.

Business Signage

Some general signage pointing out our business district and town services is being considered for the intersection of Routes 14 & 169. These two areas are not easy to find. EDC

is also continuing its efforts to secure approval of specific business signage so that customers can more easily locate our companies that exist along our side roads and byways.

Winter Wanderings Brochure

The Last Green Valley (formerly Quinebaug-Shetucket Corridor) is putting together a brochure promoting various winter events taking place in the Quiet Corner. It's similar to their Walktober calendar publication which was very successful. Local event coordinators who want their message portrayed should call Michelle Bourgeois at 774-3300 or 428-2719.

Canterbury Business Forum

A number of local business persons discussed how best to present Canterbury to the Quiet Corner at our October meeting. Advertising in various local media along with consideration of Connecticut and Yankee Magazines was suggested. Radio and cable television were also mentioned. The planning process will continue at our January 27 meeting.

Again, we encourage residents to attend our monthly meetings which are the last Tuesday of each month. Your thoughts will be grateful appreciated.

Avery Tillinghast,

Chairman 546-9199

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Has the Boy Scout Program Changed?

A short time ago one of my adult scout leaders told me about a parent's response to why he didn't enroll his son in Scouting. The reason given was because Scouting had changed and was not the same as when he was a kid. Of course Scouting has changed. What hasn't changed over the course of time?

Lord Baden Powell founded the Boy Scouts to provide boys with a club where they could learn a variety of skills applicable to their time (both indoor and outdoor skills) that would help them grow into productive, upstanding, and caring adults and would do it in a fun and safe environment. He also taught them about chivalry, courage, loyalty, and kindness.

Today, we, as parents, push our kids into sports, sports, and more sports. Don't get me wrong. Sports are very good for our kids but kids need a happy medium in all they do. What do most kids do after sports? They go home, do their homework, then sit in front of the television playing video games, many of which revolve around killing someone or something. We don't think of it as killing. It's just a shoot'em up game but it's killing all the same. This is acceptable to us but God forbid that we should teach our children the safe handling and use of fire arms. We don't even want to have them in our house. The Boy Scout program takes a different view of fire arms. The Boy Scout program teaches the boys a healthy respect for fire arms and what can happen when misused. The boys also learn how to handle, fire, clean, and take care of fire arms in a safe and secure environment so that when confronted with an unsecured fire arm, the child will

make the right and safe decision on what to do. The Boy Scouts injury record is zero tolerance and has had no fire arm accidents. How many other organizations can claim this record? The boys also get to use these "taboo" items so they are no longer the coveted item that we have to be afraid of should he come in contact with one. The boys learn a healthy respect for fire arms and know the rules regarding them.

At Christmas time we suddenly become concerned about those around us who don't have as much as us so we ease our conscious by donating to the Tommy Toy Fund, the Salvation Army, etc. The Boy Scouts learn about compassion for others all year round. The need doesn't stop just because Christmas has passed. The Boy Scouts do food drives, service projects, and service to others year round, not just as Christmas time.

What about "Going Green"? This is our newest term to protect our environment. We have switched to so called "green products" because they are good for our environment and we recycle and do what we can to protect our environment. The Boy Scouts have been doing this since their inception only we call it "Leave No Trace". The boys are taught to protect the environment. When we camp, our fires are controlled and properly put out, only dead wood is burned, no live trees are cut, and we leave the campsite as clean as or cleaner than we found it.

We also recycle. Back in the 1940s during the war, the Boy Scouts did more recycling for the war effort than any other organization. Today our Boy Scouts recycle cans and bottles at the transfer station in addition to cleaning up the outdoors that they use. They participated in last summer's clean up of the town also.

What about teaching our children about good sportsmanship and being good citizens. Playing sports, our children learn the rules of the game and how to compete. We push them to win the game. In the Boy Scouts, our boys learn the successful rules of life and are pushed to succeed in life and have fun doing it. They also learn about a host of other things with caring and trustworthy adults.

We all worry about who we entrust our children to. The Boy Scouts also take this very seriously. The Boy Scouts do a very strict background check on all new leaders to ensure the safety of our youth. Scout leaders also must have two deep leadership in all of their activities. This means that there must be at least 2 adults present on all Scouting activities. The Cub Scout ratio is 1 adult to every 4 boys with a minimum of 2 adults for all activities and the Boy Scout ratio is a 1 to 10 with a minimum of 2 adults for all activities. This ensures that there is always an adult available to supervise the children should something happen and one has to leave.

So, has the Boy Scouting program really changed? Yes, in some ways it has. We no longer teach the boys semaphore and Morse code. We teach them skills applicable to our times. We also include the Cub Scouts in the Boy Scout program and we teach them about the outdoors, cooking, safety in handling fire arms, knives, and campfires, etc. and how to be a fine, upstanding adult with the leadership skills necessary to be a successful adult. We call this the 12 points of the Scout Law.

(A Scout is: **Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Kind, Courteous, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent.**)

I could go on for hours trying to convince you of the values of the Scouting program. In a nut shell, the Scouting program teaches, enhances, and builds upon the good, solid foundation that we raise our children on. Lord Baden Powell said "Scouting is a game with a purpose" and that is exactly what it is both for the boys and the adults involved. The more boys and adults we get the more fun we can have and the more things we can do.

Today, Canterbury's Boy Scouts recycle bottles and cans. The money will be used to pay for their big trip out west in 2010. They also do service projects around town, work on their advancements, and have fun. We take them bowling, swimming, canoeing, hiking, have video & game nights, and do whatever the boys want to do. All this with adult interaction and supervision. What better environment for a boy to grow up in?

So, have the Boy Scouts really changed? Of course they have. The program has changed to keep up with the changing times. What hasn't changed is that we provide a safe and fun program where kids can be kids and still learn some valuable skills, have fun and companionship with boys their own age and with adults.

The Boy Scout program is open to all boys having completed the 5th grade through age 17.

The Cub Scout program is open to all boys from grade 1 through grade 5. A boy can join at any time of the year. If you would like more information on the Boy Scouting program, please call Cindy Phillips at 546-9208.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Boy Scout Food Drive a success. This year we collected over 400 items and raised over \$50 to help Canterbury Cares Food Bank.

CANTERBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Happy New Year! 2008 was a fine year for our organization with 10 well-attended monthly meetings (no meetings in July or August), a year-long display of some of the items from our archives at the Prudence Crandall Museum, several open houses at the restored Green District Schoolhouse, a fabulous Old Home Day event in September, and a fine Bluegrass show featuring the Gibson Brothers at the Finnish Hall in October. Thanks to everyone – CHS members, sponsors, and friends – who helped make the year so great. We look forward to continuing that trend in 2009, and hope you'll make plans to be part of it all.

The Canterbury Historical Society invites you to join us at one of our monthly meetings in 2009. We meet on the second Friday of each month – generally in the Community Room at the Town Hall. Look for notices about our meetings displayed in signs at the Town Hall, in the library, and at other locations throughout town. Meetings are free and open to the public.

If you've not yet purchased a calendar for 2009, we hope you'll consider buying one of our Canterbury calendars. This year, we've included photos from our archives covering nearly 100 years in Canterbury's history, including school photos from the 1950s and 1960s, as well as early-1970s era Boy Scout picture, scenes from around the Green, and in honor of their 30th anniversary in 2009, we have the graduation photo of the Dr. Helen Baldwin School, Class of 1979. Proceeds from the sales of these limited-edition calendars are used to present our various programs throughout the year – we hope you'll pick up a copy soon. Calendars are available at the Canterbury Public Library, as well as Ed's Garage, or by calling 546-9062.

While the date and plans for the 2009 edition of Old Home Day are not official, there's a pretty good likelihood it will happen on one of these dates: Saturday, September 12 or Saturday, September 19. We've sponsored and organized this one-day event for the last several years, and the 2008 edition was our best-ever. Of course, the weather was absolutely perfect that day, but hundreds of people made the trip to the Green to see displays by local craftsmen, reenactors, and other town organizations. Look for news about plans about Old Home Day 2009 over the next couple of months.

If you'd like more information on the Canterbury Historical Society, we invite you to visit our website anytime: www.canterburyhistorical.org.

Canterbury Public Library
860-546-9022 Fax: 860-546-1142
Email: canterburypublic@yahoo.com
Website: <http://canterburylibrary.org>

We have **new hours!** We are now open all day Monday – Wednesday 10:00-7:00; Thursday 10:00– 8:00 and Saturdays 10:00 – 4:00. Check out our all new **Website**. Let us know what you think.

Request books through your library account by going to our new website and clicking on My Account. You can renew or reserve materials, request materials from other libraries, and see what is available on the shelf all from the comfort of your home.

Programs

Are you between the ages of 14-19? Join our **Young Adult Advisory Council** and help the librarians create programs for teens. Activities include crafts, gaming, book discussions, writing club, etc. Watch for Friday gaming nights. Questions or comments visit the YA blog: <http://canterburypublic.wordpress.com/>.

Book Discussion: Our next book is *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak at the Canterbury Library on Monday, January 12. We meet the 2nd Monday of every other month at the Canterbury Library from 7:00-8:30 and the 3rd Wednesday of the alternating months at the Scotland Library from 6:30-8:00. Stop in at either library to pick up a copy of the next book.

Card Stamping with Arlene Sweet—6:00-8:00 p.m. Thursday, January 29 and March 26 A donation of \$7.50

would be appreciated for supplies.

The Environmental Group: Our next meeting will take place on Saturday, February 7, at 2:00 p.m. Join the forum to discuss issues concerning the environment and ways to encourage local awareness. Check out the recycling area and the environmental section of the bulletin board.

Vernal Pool: In collaboration with the Connecticut Audubon Society at Pomfret the library will sponsor a Citizen Science Vernal Pool Monitoring class in late March or early April. Check out our website for more information.

Canterbury Stitchers-bring your knitting/crocheting/other project to the library each Monday from 1-3 p.m. and Thursdays from 6-8 p.m. Meet other stitchers, share ideas and patterns, learn from each other. Hot beverages will be provided.

Order of the Phoenix-Harry Potter Guild: Meets the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month from 4-6 p.m. in the Community Room. For ages 12-18 who have read all seven Harry Potter books. Call Guild Headquarters at 860-916-9867 or the library for more information.

Scott Appleton Pre-Release Promotional Event for "Swords of the Six": Join us on Thursday, January 15 from 6:00 - 8:00 and/or Saturday, January 17 from 12:00 – 2:00 to meet and speak with our own Scott Appleton who will discuss his new and upcoming fantasy novel. Promotional materials will be on sale at each event. Pre-order your very own copy of the book.

Looking for **Tweens!** If you are between the ages of 11-14 join us at the library for special projects, programs and activities that are just for you. Call the library or stop in to sign up.

Craft /Activity Week: Visit the library the 3rd week of each month for a self-guided craft or activity anytime during library hours.

Music and Movement for ages 18mos. – 3 on Thursdays at 9:15 and 10:15.

Ladder to Literacy for ages 3 ½-5 on Wednesdays at 10 am.

Story time for ages 3-4 on Tuesdays at 9:30 am.

Sign-up is required or recommended for all programs

ECOLOGICAL LANDSCAPING ASSOCIATION'S 2009 CONFERENCE & ECO-MARKETPLACE

DIGGING IN: The Theory & Practice of Ecological Landscaping - February 26-28, 2009, MassMutual Center, 1277 Main Street, Springfield, MA.

February 26 forums focus on Lawns, Energy in the Landscape, Permaculture, and Soil.

February 27-28 conference includes 18 workshops presented

by preeminent educators, writers, and practitioners in the field of ecological landscaping. A concurrent Eco-Marketplace features exhibitors and live demonstrations showcasing landscape techniques, information, products, and services needed to create and manage healthy communities.

Full brochure is available at www.ecolandscaping.org or call 617-436 5838 (attendees); 978-874-1373 (exhibitors).

MUNICIPAL AGENT TO THE ELDERLY

Greeting everyone! I hope that everyone had a joyous Holiday Season. My office has been very busy with Energy Assistance applications. To date I have processed 269 applications for this winter season and have 35 appointments scheduled in the next few weeks. Total for our region is approximately 7,000 applications which is already superseded last year totals for the region and we still have 5 more months to go. If anyone is still in need for energy assistance please contact my office as soon as possible to fill out an application.

The State of Connecticut Municipal Agent Grant that my office applied for back in the spring 2008 for \$3,450 has finally arrived and the new date for the Canterbury Health and Safety Fair will be March 7, from 10-4 p.m. at the Community Center. This event will have many local and regional agencies present to provide information and answer any questions the people might have. This event is free and open to the public. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

As many of you know that I have recently married and my name has changed. My new last name is Hebert. My office hours remain the same. Mondays 11-2p.m. and Thursdays 10-12 pm. I have many more projects that I am currently working on or looking into for our area such as fallen wood from storms being used for firewood for needy families in our town and other grants that would provide more support for our seniors in the area. If anyone has any questions, comments or ideas that could help the town and our seniors please feel free to contact me. Again I would like to thank everyone for all their love and support during my 2 years in this position and look forward to the coming year.

Sincerely,

Ella M. Hebert

FINNISH AMERICAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

FAHS, the Finnish American Heritage Society and Hall, located on Rt. 169 (North Canterbury Road), has had an exciting fall. We now have a fully operational traditional Finnish wood-burning sauna at the hall, built by FAHS members with a generous grant from the Connecticut Commission on Cultural and Tourism. The sauna is "fired-up" during the Pulla Sale/Open House at the Hall or by special request to FAHS at either (860) 546-6671 and leave a message or e-mail at info@fahs-ct.org. We have collected, through generous donations, a library of Finnish books (many in English), which are available for loan.

Recent events at the Hall included a Wine Tasting which was supported wonderfully by Canterbury-area businesses who graciously donated items for a silent auction and with the able

assistance of "Big Gary"; FinnFunn weekend for all New England in Williamstown, MA; participation in Canterbury Old Home Days; the fall open air market (Tori); a children's Halloween party; a Pikkujoula Christmas Party and celebration of Finnish Independence Day. For those interested in fabric arts, there is a very active group that meets regularly at the Hall and offers fellowship and advice along with several weaving looms.

Coming events are open to the public and include dinners, pulla baking, Kalevala Paiva (the Kalevala is the epic poem of Finland and the source of many traditions and folk lore); a youth talent show (which was a great success and lots of fun for the youth participants and the audience last year); St. Urho's Day (according to tradition, St. Urho drove grasshoppers away from the vineyards in Finland thereby saving the crop-the celebration involves wearing purple and green and generally having fun. This year, the celebration will be held at Wright's Mill Farm); Finnish cooking demonstrations and sampling at Culinary Delights and the pulla baking day/sale; the pancake breakfast which includes the delicious Finnish oven pancake (pannukakku); the chicken barbeque (with secret recipe basting sauce) and the giant yard sale.

Events are open to the public and one and all are welcome. Some events have admission fees. Visit the website at www.fahs-ct.org or call 546-6671 for more information. Dates/times are:

- February 14** – Valentine Pasta Dinner – 5pm-7pm at the Hall
- February 21**– Pulla Baking/Sale & Open House – 10am-1pm at the Hall
- March 1** – Membership Meeting /Kalevala Paiva – 1:30pm at the Hall
- March 7 & 8** – Youth Talent Show Auditions – all day at the Hall (call)
- March 15** – St. Urho's Day Celebration – 1pm-5pm.
- March 21** – Finnish Culinary Delights – 1:30pm at the Hall
- April 2** – Membership Meeting - 7pm at the Hall
- April 4** – Pancake Breakfast - 8am-11am at the Hall
- April 18** - Pulla Baking/Sale & Open House - 10am – 1pm at the Hall
- April 25 & 26** – Youth Talent Show – begins at 2pm at the Hall
- May 2** – Chicken Barbeque – 4pm-6pm at the Hall (eat in or take out)
- May 7** – Member ship Meeting- 7pm at the Hall
- May 16** – Giant Yard Sale – 9am – 2pm at the Hall

The Hall is available for rental for events and includes a full kitchen and large meeting room and performance stage. For more information, e-mail hallrental@fahs-ct.org or call 860-546-6671 and leave a message. Please visit our website at www.fahs-ct.org for more information.

FRIENDS OF PRUDENCE

The Friends of Prudence have been busy this past year as we supported the activities and outreach of the Prudence Crandall Museum.

A Spring Tea was added last May which brought a sell-out crowd and was quite well-received. We look forward to repeating that event in 2009. Our most popular November Tea with Prudence and Sarah sold out as usual, but we hope to initiate some changes that will allow us to accommodate a larger group next fall.

The Museum has some exciting new events scheduled for the 2009 season and the Friends look forward to participating in their implementation.

We also became an incorporated group as of last summer. We are now The Friends of the Prudence Crandall Museum, Inc. and are pursuing our 501 (c) 3 status.

We have planned our 2009 membership drive for January/February and need to hear from all of you. Your membership, whether simply financial or physical, allows us to expand the scope of Prudence Crandall's story that of a courageous young Canterbury resident who believed in education for all. Please plan to join the Friends in 2009!

To support The Friends of Prudence, please copy and fill out the form below, make checks payable to, and mail to:

The Friends of Prudence
P.O. Box 34
Canterbury, CT 06331

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

Annual Membership:

- \$10 **Volunteer** - Assist at three events - free admission.
- \$20 **Individual** - Free admission.
- \$35 **Family/Grandparent** - Free admission for 2 adults and 2 children.
- \$75 **Patron** - Free admission for 4 adults.
- \$100 **Sustainer** - Free admission for 4 adults.
- \$250 **Associate** - Free admission for 4 adults.
- \$500 **Benefactor** - Free admission for 4 adults.
- \$1000 **Lifetime Member** - Free admission for 4 adults.

All information provided will be kept confidential and used only by The Friends of Prudence.

CES PTO

The CES PTO has had a busy beginning to the new school year, and we're only getting started! Our fall fundraiser was successful and, as always, we couldn't have done it without the support of everyone involved. Our ice cream sundae event at the new playground had a great turnout, despite the cold weather! Playground t-shirt sales are booming. We will be taking orders again soon so if you haven't purchased yours yet, it's not too late. Our first bingo night was lots of fun and we have more fun events planned for the New Year. Original Works, our annual art program, will be held again so watch for sign-ups. Plans are being made for our annual basket bash,

spring fundraiser ideas are being discussed, and field day plans are set! This is a great time to join the PTO and help with all the upcoming events. We are busy, but we love to see new faces and hear fresh ideas. Meetings are held in the CES library at 6:30 PM. Babysitting is provided. Upcoming meeting dates are 1/14, 2/11, 3/11, 4/8, 5/13 and 6/10.

RECREATION COMMISSION

The Canterbury recreation commission currently offers the following programs for all residents. Please take a minute to see if you might be interested.

The following programs are held at the Baldwin Middle School Gym:

- Adult volleyball - Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm. (Dan Kildea)
- Adult indoor soccer - Thursday evenings at 7:30pm. (Kurt Marshall)
- Young Adult basketball - Sunday evenings at 7:00 pm. (Ross Minski)
- Adult basketball - Sunday mornings at 9:00am. (Jim Molkenhain)
- Parent/child basketball - Friday evenings at 7:30pm. (Prentiss Balcom)

Rebecca Collins continues to offer the After School Care Program at the Canterbury Elementary School. This program is available to all children attending CES or Baldwin Middle School. Call Rebecca for information or to register (546-9094).

Susan Miner continues to offer her movie making classes for kids at the Elementary School. This program is available to all Canterbury children. Susan can be reached at 889-1909 or at (stonewallprod@sbcglobal.net).

The Recreation Commission is always looking for new programs to offer. Please stop by any meeting with your suggestions. The Recreation Commission meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 pm in the Town Hall Community Center. Our next meeting will be on January 12, 2009.

THE PRUDENCE CRANDALL MUSEUM

The Prudence Crandall Museum is open during the months of January through March on a "by appointment only" basis, Monday through Friday. Please call if you'd like to make an appointment for a tour, or if you'd like to visit the Museum shop. The Museum expects to reopen for the regular season on Wednesday, April 1.

The first event of the season will be the museum's 2nd Annual Spring Tea, which takes place on Sunday, May 3, at 1:30. The afternoon includes a tour of the museum, tea and light refreshments, and the opportunity to visit with friends and family in the museum's front parlor. Cost is \$15.00 per person, pre-registration is required as seating is limited.

The Friends of the Prudence Crandall Museum invite all

members – along with future members – to join them at the organization’s *Annual Meeting*, which will be held at the Museum on Saturday, May 16 at 10am. Come find out how you can join others in preserving and promoting the history of your community while assisting the Museum staff with events and programs. All are welcome! Refreshments will be served.

Movie Premier!! On Saturday, May 30 at 3pm everyone is invited to the Canterbury Community Center as the Museum hosts the premier of a new video “To All on Equal Terms: The Life and Legacy of Prudence Crandall.” The 24-minute video, which tells the story of Prudence Crandall’s life, was produced in conjunction with the award winning video production company, Hudson River Film and Video from Garrison, NY. Hudson River will be on hand to answer any questions you might have on film making. And since many local residents participated in the project when filming was taking place here in Canterbury – come join us in giving them a round of applause for a project well done! Refreshments will be served. For additional information, please call the Museum at (860) 546-7800

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 10688

The Canterbury Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 10688 was started in 1983. Over its initial 20 years, meetings were conducted at various locations throughout Canterbury, including the basement of a local bank. In May of 2005, the Canterbury VFW purchased the Canterbury Grange building located at 21 North Canterbury Road, Route 169, where meetings are now held on a regular basis.

The VFW is a fraternal organization. The purpose is to reach out to the local communities through Patriotism, History, Education, and Charity. We assist all veterans, regardless of their eligibility for membership. We perpetuate the memory, and history, of our military dead and assist their widows/widowers and orphans. We honor the dead by helping the living.

Our programs, inside and outside of our immediate community, are ongoing, many of which are conducted on an annual basis. We have conducted Blood Drives in conjunction with the American Red Cross, and have co-sponsored other events along with other organizations. We visit veterans in nursing homes and hospitals, including the Veterans Hospital located in Rocky Hill, and the Northampton Regional VA Hospital in Northampton, Massachusetts. We have helped families with financial hardships, or have assisted them in obtaining long-term aid and assistance from other sources. We conduct ceremonies for deceased veterans; participate in various patriotic events, such as Memorial Day Ceremonies and numerous parades. Some of our annual donations include donations to a local Food Bank, Operations Uplink, which provides free Calling Cards to active duty military personnel and to hospitalized veterans, and to the VFW National Home for Children in Eaton Rapids, Michigan. In addition, regular donations are made to various Memorial Projects throughout the year.

Youth activities, past and present, include donations to various

Athletics Associations, sponsoring an Open House at the Post for children on Halloween, supporting Veterans in the Classroom, and promoting various scholarship programs.

The Canterbury VFW, Post 10688, is a non-profit organization that receives no financial assistance from State or Federal Agencies. The programs that we do conduct, and the donations that are made from the Post, are from monies raised from such events as monthly Breakfasts, Tag Sales, Book Sales, and from the generosity of the people that donate to our annual “Poppy Drive”, which takes place each year on the weekend prior to Memorial Day.

Meetings are held at the VFW Post Home located on North Canterbury Road (Route 169) on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month, starting at 7:30 PM.

Are you already a member of VFW Post 10688? If so, and you would like to have your e-mail added to the current e-mail listing for future announcements of Post activities, please send your e-mail information to Roy Piper at roy.piper@snet.net.

For additional information, please call Bill D’Appollonio, Post Commander, at (860) 456-1631 or e-mail Roy Piper, Post Junior Vice-Commander, at roy.piper@snet.net.

CANTERBURY VOLUNTEER FIRE CO

The Canterbury Volunteer Fire Co., elected new officers for the 2008-2009 year as the following:

President:	David Lachapelle
Vice-President:	Robert Droesch
Secretary:	Betty Bingham Patridge
Treasurer:	Pastor Paul Overdorf
Chief:	Cory Kasacek
Deputy Chief:	Kyle McCarthy
Assistant Chief:	Warren Robinson
EMS Chief:	Sarah Hasbargen

This December we held our 2nd Santa Run which was very successful and made a lot of children in town very happy to see Santa drive up in the fire truck.

The fire department is planning its 60th anniversary celebration party this year on March 28 at Wrights Mill Farm in Canterbury from 6:00 PM until midnight. Tickets will be \$25 per person or \$40 per couple. We will be circulating tickets around town but if you would like to purchase them please call either 546-9395 or 546-6714. Or see one of the members. We would appreciate your support and we hope to see a lot of townspeople there.

Please list your house number on your mail boxes as this helps us find you. We also would like to remind everyone to get your chimney cleaned and check your smoke and Co2 detectors and upgrade with new ones every few years.

Our meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 and we welcome new members as well as junior members too.

In closing we wish everyone a safe and happy 2009.

The Canterbury Volunteer Fire Co.

LAND USE OFFICE

The Land Use Office would first like to wish everyone the best in the New Year! Please stop by the office and say hi - we would love to talk to you about any of your plans - or just say hi.

Although building permits have been slow in this slumping economy, we sure have issued a lot of permits for wood stoves! If you are planning on putting one in, a permit is required. In the unlikely event that a fire occurs because of the stove, your insurance company will be much more likely to pay your claim if you had a proper permit and the installation was inspected by the building official. If you have one that was put in without a permit, just stop by and apply for one now (they're inexpensive), and we will get it inspected for you - better safe than sorry!

Our Plan of Conservation and Development update meetings have been going well. So far, we have had three meetings, with the next one scheduled for January 22 at 7PM in the Community Room. This plan will shape Canterbury's future growth and we want public input on this important document. It is the Town's plan, so be a part of it! Check the P&Z page on the web site for updates and further information.

We will be holding a public hearing on some proposed regulation changes at our February 12 meeting. These changes include the addition of a comprehensive set of gravel excavation regulations in addition to several other updates - all can be viewed on the P&Z page on the Town's web site.

On the legal front, we have been able to settle two important law suits.

The Kobyluck suit, which we brought against the owner of a gravel pit on Camp Road (off Butts Bridge) was an enforcement action. Our settlement includes the approval of an expansion at the pit, a very detailed set of plans and precise conditions to both reclaim the old pit and blend it into the new pit. In addition, a large bond will be posted and legal costs reimbursed.

The Rawson/River Junction suits were applicant appeals of three applications on Wauregan Road. The settlement addresses our concerns and adds greatly to the Town's open space. As part of this complex agreement, the Town will receive a \$60,000 payment in lieu of open space, \$2,500 for legal fees, a 40 acre tract of land along the Quinebaug River with an option to purchase the remainder of that tract in the future at today's prices, parking lots and a very long hiking trail that will tie into the Blue Trail in Brooklyn along Blackwell's Brook. A gravel haul road along the river is also being worked on that, if approved, will take a lot of the gravel truck traffic off Wauregan Road - a definite benefit for the neighbors!

A CANTERBURY STORY

By Sheila Mason Gale

When I was eleven I would often go horseback riding with Linda Bassett. We would ride along Water Street and always rode next door to the Coombs farm. I remember wishing I could ride a horse like Gloria Coombs Scharlack. She was so at ease and comfortable in the saddle.

I recently met with Gloria and her cousin Edward Chartier to talk about the Coombs family. In 1911 George Rose Coombs and his wife Laura Wigfield Coombs moved from New Jersey and bought a 135 acre (more or less) farm in Canterbury. They had six children: Harvey, Roger, Helen, Elsie, George and Charles.

Helen married Edward Chartier and had two children: Laura and Edward. Elsie married Harold Chartier and they had six children: Gertrude, Harold, Lillian, Arlene, Shirley and Harry. George joined the service and moved to California. Charles married Mildred Slater and they had eight children: Eugene, Phyllis, Theodore, Fred, Helen, Raymond, Elaine and Judy. Charles was one of the men who helped construct Butts Bridge and I'm sure many of you know his son, Ray Coombs, Sr. who is involved in many Canterbury activities.

The farm was very large and was on both sides of Water Street. It was eventually divided into two farms. Roger ran the original homestead on Water Street and Harvey ran one on Cemetery Road. Roger and Ethel had three children, Richard, Clifford and Gloria. Harvey and Sadie had four children, George, Irene, Julia and Estelle. Harvey later married Dorothy and had one son, Robert.

Many of you might remember Harvey's son George Coombs who was a school bus driver and was also the Road Crew Foreman for Town of Canterbury for many years. He built the original town garage on Kinne Road. I wish I could have interviewed George about his life in Canterbury because he was a great storyteller. He would sometimes tell me stories about the time he served in the military. Just a few years ago George won the award for being the most decorated living veteran.

As a child, Gloria remembers a quiet neighborhood. Some of her neighbors were the Bassetts, Bullards, Pattersons, Lachapells and Papugas. Many of you might remember the Papuga's country store at the end of Water Street. Gloria's brothers Richard and Cliff went to the Gayhead School. Gloria went to the Westminster school for three years until the Dr. Helen Baldwin School opened.

Farming is a hard life and the whole family has to pitch in to help, but there was time for fun too. The Coombs children and neighbors would get together and go bicycle riding and horseback riding. There were plenty of open fields and they always played baseball. It was easy to get a team together once the Bassetts moved into the

neighborhood because they had eight children. In the summer they would go over to Ted Dean's house and go swimming. Mr. Dean even put an old bus by the pond for them to change their clothes. Gloria and her friend, Ruth Bassett, would go horseback riding around Canterbury and even rode over to Scotland. As they got older, they would go square dancing on Saturday nights or go to the movies. This was in the 1950's when it only cost 0.25 to see a movie and a pint of ice cream cost .10. Also, there were the young people's activities at Westminster Church and Calvary Chapel.

Gloria went to Griswold High School. Other students would often tease her and ask if she got there by stagecoach. I remember the same joke because the kids used to say the same thing to me a decade later.

When George Coombs decided to retire as a school bus driver in 1967, he asked Gloria if she wanted to take over. She talked it over with her husband, Bob, and said yes and has been doing it ever since. There is quite a Coombs family history of caring for Canterbury school age children because not only did George and Gloria drive a school bus, but her brother Richard drove a school bus for 53 years. I think that is a record. She tells of the time she was driving the bus and a boy had a several books of matches in his back pocket. When he sat down they scraped against the seat, ignited and set his coat on fire. He jumped out of the bus with Gloria on his heels telling him to roll in the snow. Over her many years of driving, Gloria said she has come to the conclusion that the kids in Canterbury are good decent children.

Four or five generations of the original Coombs family (George and Laura) still live in Canterbury. A few of the families the Coombs have married into are the Bassetts, Millers, Thurlows, Chartiers and Gallagers. Richard and Phyllis Bassett Coombs now own the original farm. They run it with their sons Richard, Kenneth and Jesse and their daughter Debbie Leone handles the bookkeeping. Canterbury was built on farming and it is good to see the Coombs family keeping it alive and going strong. George and Laura Coombs would be very proud of the legacy they left their children and Canterbury.