

Canterbury Town News

May, 2013

Canterbury, Connecticut

SELECTMEN'S CORNER

We are proud to be facilitating many projects throughout the town...

After lots of hard work and coordination, the daytime ambulance staffing program is now in place. This program is unique system, allowing the greatest staffing flexibility. By having the Town administrate the hiring, staffing and payroll, personnel can continue to volunteer for non-weekday hours, while being included in the pool of daytime "per diem" staffers. Thanks to all who helped in this process: Cindi Robinson, Amy Burroughs, Bob Droesch, and countless others. And a big thank you to Selectmen's Assistant Sheila Mason-Gale and Treasurer Cheryl Miller, who will be handling the weekly payroll for the pool of staffers.

Now that the ground has thawed, work is flying along on site prep for the new, STEAP grant funded Public Works garage at Kinne Road, and we have finally fine-tuned the new compactor system for trash and recyclables at the Kinne Road transfer station. We are closing out the STEAP grant for the Transfer Station project, and we certainly made the \$200,000 go a long way. Thanks to all the vendors, volunteers and Town staff, as well as Ed's Garage, for help making this project, estimated at more than \$300,000, be completed without funds from the Town budget.

Plans are coming together for the STEAP grant funded Recreational Upgrades. We hope to start construction on these upgrades this summer, and have as much as possible accomplished by the Fall. Thanks to the Recreation Commission for administering this process.

And for those who haven't yet picked yours up, we still have "911" emergency signs available through the Selectmen's office.

Enjoy the great weather!

Brian Sear

Canterbury Agricultural Commission

May 14th - Regional Agriculture Meeting. Sterling Town Hall at 7pm.

June 1st - "Who Grew My SOUP?" 10:30 at Canterbury Library. Christina Fensley, McV Farm, Will read a story and provide pots and seeds for kids to plant and take home. She will also answer your gardening questions.

July 4th - Join us to show agriculture in Canterbury at the annual parade.

Eating fresh wholesome foods grown locally is good for you and your family. Have fun at local farms, Farmers Markets, farm stands, and picking your own fruits and vegetables. Visit farms in our town and in neighboring towns. To find places and time got to www.buyctgrown.com.

This time of year farm equipment will be on the roads going to fields to spread manure, harrow and plant. Be cautious and patient when following or passing farm equipment. Spring planting is part of what farmers do in their jobs, to provide us with food to eat.

We are looking for alternate Committee members, join us the fourth Thursday of the month at 7 pm for Agriculture Commission meetings.

Dawn S. Pindell
County Executive Director

Canterbury Fire Department

Starting Monday, April 15th, we will have a paid ambulance crew standing by at the Canterbury Firehouse from 5 AM to 5 PM Monday through Friday. You may see the ambulance around town as the crews may want to get something to eat, but rest assured, they will be ready to take your call. All other hours will be covered by our volunteers who receive the calls on their pagers and respond from home or wherever they happen to be. In the event that a volunteer crew cannot be completed, the call will be paged to a mutual aid community such as Scotland or Plainfield.

Economic Development Commission

A Word of Thanks

Many, many thanks to Chris Wellinghausen for 18 years of service on the EDC. We are a diverse crew, representing many views of how business should, could, and might grow in Canterbury. For me, almost the newest member of the EDC, Chris represents tradition and stability. Chris, thank you from all of us, but especially from me. I will try to remember those two critical views going forward.

We continue to emphasize community in our business building efforts, and to that end we have planned a Paddle, Pedal and Picnic event for the end of June. Normally this would be our River Paddle, but in an effort to include more participation, we are expanding the event to include a bike ride and a picnic. Stay tuned for more details!

We encourage public participation at our meetings. Please come!

Respectfully,
Jet Tucker, Chair

Canterbury Town Constables

YES, we do have constables in Canterbury! For years we have promoted Public Safety. The Canterbury Constables have been requested by many organizations and the town public works department to conduct traffic control duties. Some of the events we have supported over the years are as follows:

Old Home Day; St. Augustine's Car Show; Prudence Crandall Open House and concerts; Baldwin Middle School Basketball Tournament; July 4 Celebration; Canterbury Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) exercises; Trunk or Treat at the Town Hall (Halloween) and numerous motorcycle rides and memorial wreaths for the Veterans. The Canterbury Constables wish everyone a safe spring and summer.

Respectfully,

From all the Canterbury Constables.

Canterbury Recreation Commission

Now that we are out of the winter, CLA Engineers have been able to complete the survey/wetland delineation for the Rec. Field Improvements STEAP project. An updated conceptual plan for Manship Park will soon be posted on the Rec. Commission page of the Town website. As the planning proceeds and the necessary Town permits and approvals are obtained, a timeline for the renovations and new installations at Manship Park will be publicized. As a reminder, in order to keep costs down and carry out the necessary work in the most efficient and timely manner possible, there may be a period of time when access to some or all facilities will be unavailable. The Rec. Commission will keep all affected parties notified through direct contact and by postings on the town website.

Rec. Commission members meet monthly to plan how to use the STEAP

grant funds most effectively. We encourage any individuals or groups interested in the overall project or specific aspects of it to attend our meetings and provide input. We meet on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 pm in the Town library conference room.

The current Rec. program schedule is:

Adult basketball Sun. 9am-12pm

Women's volleyball
Mon. 6:30-9:30pm

Adult volleyball Wed. 7:30-9:30pm

Young men's basketball
Fri. 7:30-9:30pm

Basketball runs through the end of the school year at the Baldwin Middle School gym. Volleyball programs will move to the outside courts at Manship Park during May.

Canterbury Assessor's Office

Are You a Veteran?

If so, I would like to help make sure you are receiving all the benefits you may be eligible for. The first step to receiving veteran's benefits for property tax purposes is to file your DD-214 with the Town Clerk. The Town of Canterbury offers a 6,000 exemption off your assessment for veterans who served during a period of war and were honorably discharged. If you have received a disability rating from the Veteran's Administration you may be eligible for a higher exemption. In addition, there are also the Additional Veterans Programs that are discussed further below. If you are a veteran or if you are currently Active Duty and would like to discuss what benefits you are receiving or what benefits you might be able to receive please come talk to me. If you haven't visited in the Assessor's Office in a while, please come in so we can discuss any new programs that might be available to you. I would be more than happy to help you through the process.

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 1st and October 1st for the 2013 Grand List. Proof of income is required. Check with the Assessor's Office for the income limits.

The Elderly & Totally Disabled Tax Credit Program deadline is May 15th!

If you turned 65 in 2012, 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 \$40,900 and for a single person the maximum income is \$33,500. Proof of income is required. The filing period is from February 1st through May 15th. Please call the Assessor's Office for more information about this program.

Please note that all of these programs require a biennial filing.

If you last filed in 2010, another application needs to be completed in 2012 in order to continue receiving the benefit. If you are unsure of when you last filed, please call the Assessor's Office to verify.

Attention Renters:

The Renter's Program began April 1, 2013. If you are 65 (or older), and/or totally disabled, & rent in Canterbury, you could be eligible for the State of Connecticut's Rental Rebate program if you meet the State's income and expense guidelines. Application must be made no later than Monday September 30.

Call the Assessor's Office (546-6035) if you have any questions about these exemptions or want to make an appointment to file an application for these programs. Please remember office hours are Mondays & Wednesdays from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm and Thursdays from 9:00 am to 6:30 pm.

LAND USE OFFICE

Hello from the Land Use Office!

A few reminders:

1/ PLEASE make sure your wood stove or other heating appliances are safe. Although it is Spring and we may forget about these appliances, it is a great time to give them a thorough check out. We have had two homes burn to the ground in the past few years due to faulty woodstove installations, something that is preventable. Luckily, no one was injured seriously in these fires, but it certainly did ruin these families' lives for some period time.

First of all, if you installed your stove without a permit, please apply for one now – not to worry, we aren't going to fine or punish you – we only want you to be safe! The cost is generally around \$5-20 for a wood stove and it could save your life! Just fill out the application, which takes about 2 minutes, pay the fee, and schedule an inspection with Robert Kerr, our building official. He will look over your installation and make sure it's safe. Call Rob with any questions – 860-230-3012. His office hours are 8:30-10AM and 1-2 PM in Plainfield, or leave a message for a call back.

Second, have your chimney inspected by a licensed chimney sweep. Problems like a buildup of soot or creosote may be obvious but a professional will detect small cracks or other deficiencies that may be hard to spot. These problems can allow hot gasses or flame to escape the chimney and make contact with your home.

Third, check your smoke detectors! Several people in CT, including some young children, have perished in fires this year due to non-working smoke detectors. You should have one in each

bedroom, in the hall outside each bedroom or group of bedrooms, and at least one on each level of your home. They are cheap to install and give you the time you need to escape a fire.

2/ Several people have been inquiring how to get a permit to add on to their home or build a storage building. The process is rather straight forward. Draw a sketch map, to scale the you best can, of your property and where you wish to do the work. Mail a copy of this map and a B-200 application (available in Land Use Office) to the Health Department so they can verify that the proposed work will not interfere with either your current well or septic or a location where a new septic could be installed if needed. Next, bring in to the Land Use Office a second copy of that map along with the plans for the work and fill out a zoning and building permit application. You will also need the names, addresses, license and insurance information for any contractors that you plan to hire.

The fees (which are the cheapest around!):

Building permit: \$5.26 for each thousand dollars in project cost or value.

Zoning permits: cost vary by type (maximum of \$25), plus a \$60.00 mandatory State Fee.

3/ You may also need a Inland Wetlands and Watercourse permit for any work in, or within a hundred feet of, a wetland or watercourse. Please call the office before you do the work to determine if one is needed.

Thanks and have a great Spring!

Steve
(And, for the Land Use Secretary Missy, GO RED SOX!)

2013 Car Cruise St Augustine Church



144 WESTMINSTER RD ROUTE
14 CANTERBURY, CT

The annual car show will be held from 5-8pm on Tuesday August 27th (rain date will be Thursday, August 29th). Don't miss this fun event! There will be great food, fun music, a free moon bounce for the kids, and of course-muscle cars, classic cars, vintage cars and more. Last year there were more than 100 cars at the event. This is always fun for the whole family. Entrance is free. Voluntary donations of non-perishable food items for the Canterbury Cares Food Bank are welcomed.

Canterbury Senior Trips

As I look out there is bright sunshine! Time to think about leaving our abodes and traveling-a short distance or far!

We enjoyed a great cruise in January and you'll have the same opportunity next January when there'll be another offered on a beautiful NEW ship.-so look for the flyers. They'll appear before the end of this month! I'm looking at trips to California also for next year. You can find newsletters (you can take) and flyers (you can have copied, or call and I'll send what you'd like to see) on our Library Bulletin Board. All our trips are listed there and as you know, all are welcomed. Several trips are offered for this year and have openings-Martha's Vineyard, Italian food excursion in Providence, Guys and Dolls, a German festival at Hunter's Mt., an overnight on Long Island, and a fall trip in New Hampshire, and a cruise from Montreal to Boston!

So browse the bulletin board! Thanks to those who have enjoyed our trips for traveling with us! Joanne (860) 546-9830.

Editor's Note

The next issue will be published in August 2013. Anyone wishing to submit articles for consideration may do so by email to canterburynewsletter@yahoo.com or by dropping them off at the Selectmen's Office before August 15th. The editor reserves the right in all instances to edit for length and content. Submissions are welcome from all Canterbury organizations and institutions as well any suggestions to better the publication.

Friends of Prudence Crandall Museum

Begin our season with us on **Sunday, April 28!** At 3 PM that day, **Take Note!** the a capella group that sang for us in 2011, will be in concert at the Town Hall Community Room. Your generous 2011 donations amounted to over \$500 and allowed us to purchase archival materials for the museum. Meet and greet them at the reception following the concert. There is a rumor that pound cake with strawberries and whipped cream will be served!

On **Saturday, May 4** at 10 AM, Friends will hold their Annual Meeting at the Prudence Crandall Museum. Join us as we review our progress and elect the 2013-2014 Board of Directors. We have made great strides and are ready to take on ever-greater challenges in support of the Museum and to 'spread the word'!

Our excitement is growing as we work to present the first **Prudence Crandall Museum Lecture Series**, titled **No Small Courage**. Mark your calendars for 1:30-3 PM on **Saturdays, May 4, May 18** and **June 8**. Opening the series is Jefferson Morley, author of *Snow-Storm in August: Washington City, Francis Scott Key and the Forgotten Race Riot of 1835*.

On May 18, Peter P. Hinks, author of *To Awaken My Afflicted Brethren: David Walker and the problem of Antebellum Slave*

Resistance, will address the audience. To close the series, Attorney Wesley P. Horton, CT appellate lawyer, will discuss his win in *Sheff v. O'Neill* (1996) that established education as a fundamental right in CT. Each lecture will take place at the First Congregational Church across from the Museum and will begin at 1:30. The lectures will be followed by refreshments and conversation at Carter House, next to the Museum and end at 3 PM. The fee for each lecture is \$6 and includes admission to the Museum.

Youngsters from 10 to 99 are invited to participate in the **July 4** parade with the Friends. Email us (see below) or call the Museum at 860-546-7800 for information.

Music at Twilight will return this year on **Saturday, July 13** from 6-8 PM. The concert by the 101st Army National Guard Band will take place on the Museum lawn.

Contact the Friends for more information by email: friends@friendsofprudencemandallmuseum.org and check our website for information and updates: friendsofprudencemandallmuseum.org

Lynne Pitman
Publicity Chair

PRUDENCE CRANDALL MUSEUM



The Prudence Crandall Museum reopens for the season on May 1, and will be open Wednesday through Sunday, 10am – 4pm (last ticket sold at 3:30pm) through the end of October. In addition to regular museum activities, the museum is also planning a variety

of programs and events this summer. Museum Docents and staff are always available to provide guided tours, and remember that the gift shop is open during regular museum hours at no admission cost. Please feel free to stop in and browse the wide selection of period children's games, books on local history, and souvenirs of all kinds perfect for gift giving. We also have free tourist and travel information available – stop in for state maps and vacation guides!

Upcoming Programs include:

Saturday, June 8 – 10am to 4pm. Connecticut Open House! The Museum will once again be participating in the State's Open House Day event, offering free admission to all Connecticut residents. Take advantage of the free admission to discover, or get reacquainted with, what the museum has to offer! For a full list of museums offering free or discounted admission, go to www.CTvisit.com.

Sunday, June 30 – 1 to 3pm. "Tin Workshop" program for ages 6 and up. Have fun making a tin ornament while you learn about the types of things made from tin that would have been in an early 19th century home. Cost: \$7 which includes all supplies and museum admission. Pre-registration is required.

Sunday, July 21 – 1 to 3pm. "Stenciling" program for ages 6 and up. Learn the basics of stenciling and make a finished piece to take home. Cost: \$7 which includes all supplies and museum admission. Pre-registration is required.

Sunday, Aug. 4 – 1 to 3pm. "Learn to Write with a Quill Pen" program for ages 6 and up. Learn how children in the 1830s would have written their school work on paper using quill pens. Cost: \$7 which includes all supplies and museum admission. Pre-registration is required.

Saturday, August 31 – 10am to 4pm. 27th Annual Prudence Crandall Day celebrates Prudence's 210th Birthday! Crafts, games, birthday cake, food, and entertainment and music throughout the day. Free Admission!

Exhibits on display throughout this summer include "Friends and Neighbors: Canterbury's 18th and 19th Century African-American Residents," which recently received an Award of Merit from the Connecticut League of History Organizations.

Museum Admission is: \$6 adults / \$4 sr citizens (60+) and youth (ages 6-17) / ages 5 and under are free. And remember that from Memorial Day through Labor Day the Museum, along with more than 1,800 other museums nationwide, will be offering free admission to all Active Duty members of the as part of the **Blue Star Museum Program**. For more information: www.arts.gov/bluestarmuseums.org

For additional information: 860-546-7800 / Crandall.museum@ct.gov or cultureandtourism.org

Agent for the Elderly

Happy Spring Everyone,

Why Managing Your Medicine Matters

1. Be informed about all the medications you're taking.

All drugs are potentially harmful—whether they're prescription medicines or over-the-counter products such as herbals, supplements, vitamins, minerals, antacids, sleep aids, and laxatives. Keep an up-to-date list of all of your medications. Share it with your doctor and pharmacist and have them review it for potential drug interactions.

2. Use one pharmacy and talk to your pharmacist often.

Your pharmacist is a great resource. He or she can help you keep track of your meds and check for drug interactions among them. Ask your pharmacist questions about your medications.

3. Understand and pay attention to possible side effects.

Some meds can cause troublesome side effects, especially in older adults. Examples include dizziness and drowsiness that could lead to a fall; stomach upset, diarrhea, or constipation; blurred vision; dry mouth; and fatigue/lack of energy. Know what to expect, how long the side effects may last, what to do when they occur, and when to contact your doctor.

4. Store your medicines safely.

Medications should be stored in a cool, dry, dark location. Humidity in the bathroom can alter a medication's effectiveness. Keep medicines where you're likely to see them every day, and link taking them with other daily activities like eating or brushing your teeth. Clean your medicine cabinet regularly and discard any expired medications.

5. Take your medication as prescribed.

Medication adherence, as prescribed by your doctor, is important for good health. Make sure you understand how to take each of your medications safely.

My office has received information on affordable **Senior Housing in Norwich. 370 Hamilton Ave Norwich, CT 06360 (860)-204-0379** The beautifully appointed senior affordable housing has 138 apartments in three buildings situated within this community. If anyone would like an **application** or a **tour of the apartments** please call either my office (860)546-9845 or Lori Fenner at (860)859-9624

Operation Fuel will run a **limited energy assistance program this spring** for qualified households that face losing their **electricity or gas service** when the state utilities' Winter Protection program ends on May 1. Operation Fuel will begin taking applications from qualified households on April 29 and will continue through June 30 or until funds run out. The maximum annual grant is \$500 per household.

The **Renters Rebate Program** began April 1st – October 1st 2013. If you are 65 (or older) and /or totally disabled, and rent in Canterbury you could be eligible for the State of Connecticut's Rent Rebate program if you meet the States income and expense guidelines.

Fishing Season Opens April 20, 2013

Happy Fishing!!

Cherri Richardson

Friends of the Canterbury Library

The Friends of the Canterbury Library has had a productive few months. After being snowed out for a planned Winter Book & Bake Sale in late January, we held our most successful Book & Bake Sale ever on April 6th, raising over \$2,100 during a six hour period. As you can imagine, that is a lot of good quality, used books donated by people across the community, and we first would like to thank them for their very positive donations to our organization. Then, on April 13th, we 'rented' a table at the Canterbury Historical Society's Tag Sale and we raised another \$151. Thank you to all of our customers who attended these events and a special thank you to the many across of you across town who came to help set-up for the sales and then clean-up afterwards.

Our Annual Meeting is set for Wednesday, May 15th at 7:00pm. In addition to a short business meeting and an election of officers for the coming year, we are proud to announce that we will have a special guest speaker, Byron Martin, co-owner of Logee's Tropical Plants in Danielson and the co-author of several books on the subject of raising tropical plants. The subject of Byron's talk will be 'Growing Tasty Tropical Fruit in Containers.' Byron is the third generation owner and he is well-known as an expert in his field and has even appeared with Martha Stewart on her show. You do not have to be a Friends member but we hope that you will come and see what we have to offer the community. Byron has been asked to bring copies of his books for sale and autograph after the presentation if you would like to take advantage of this opportunity.

Also on the horizon is the return of our Spaghetti Supper fundraiser. This supper is being brought back after nearly ten years as so many people still comment on what a great event this was. The Spaghetti Supper will be held on Friday, September 27th in the Town Community Room. We will be looking for help as we get closer to the event so please make your interest known if you are willing and able to bring this special night back to Canterbury.

In addition to these upcoming town events, we wanted to make you aware of the recent addition to the Library's capability with the advent of the Library WishList program which is accessible through the Library's website. There, you can donate new books for the Library and they will be dedicated in your name. Simply go to the website and clicking on the Library WishList icon. This website, funded by the Friends, allows you to easily donate your time to the library through volunteer opportunities or your dollars by purchasing books, DVDs, and other items for the library's collections. Response to the website programs has been very good since last mentioned in the last Town Newsletter and we hope you will check it out.

In closing, we want to thank the many in town who help support us through their participation in our fundraisers. Finally, if you'd like to take a more active role in supporting our little gem of a town library, applications to join the Friends are always available at the Library circulation desk, or you can always call our organization's president Steve Orloski, 860-546-6669.

CANTERBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY



http://www.librarywishlist.com/wl/WishList_home.cfm?x=89769521

Dreams really can come true with your support.

*Make a Donation
Volunteer Your Time*

People Rely on the Library: In these difficult economic times, more and more people rely on the library. Unfortunately, our budget constraints make it difficult to keep up with the demand. We need your support. Please browse through our WishList and make a donation.

Sponsored by the FRIENDS of the CPL

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

(Sign-up is required)

Nature Programs will continue on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 10:30 am-11:30am. For ages 4 and up.

April 20th—*Water Magic*

May 18th—*Turtles*

June 15th—*Seeds*

July 20th—*Insects*

August 7th—*Birds*

Each program includes reading from a book, reading a poem, talking about the featured topic and a craft and take home activity.

Early Literacy Program

Bouncing Baby Tales

Children, ages birth to 18 months old.

Wednesdays, 9:30am - 10:00am

Music & Movement

Children, ages 18 months to 3 years old.

Thursdays, two classes:

9:15am - 10:00am

10:15am - 11:00am

Ladder to Literacy

Children, ages 3 1/2 to 5 years old.

Wednesdays: 10:15am - 11:15am

ADULT AND TEEN PROGRAMS

(Sign-up is required)

May 4 Community Shredding Day
11:00—2:00 PM

June 15 Flower arranging with Joyce Hart

Card Stamping with Arlene Sweet

Thursdays 6:00pm-8:00pm

July 18th or 25th

Teen Programs

May 29 Yarn Wrapped Painted Jars 5:30

July 12 Hobbit Party 4:00-8:00

August 3 Outdoor Extravaganza

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Money Smart Activities

Savings Bank Decorating Contest

Drop-off week of May 13th

Saturday, May 18 Bank Contest 2:00-3:00 Choose a bank at the library today!

First Friday Family Movie

Library is open 5:00-8:00. The movie starts promptly at 6:00.

May 3—*Frankenweenie*—rated PG

June 7—*Monster, Inc.*—rated G

LET'S TALK ABOUT BOOKS

3rd Tuesday of each month 7:05 pm

Call either library to reserve a copy of the book, Scotland P.L. 860-423-1492 or Canterbury P.L. 860-546-9022.

May 21st Scotland—*Tag Man* by Archer Mayor

June 17th Canterbury—*Clara and Mr. Tiffany* by Susan Vreeland

July 16th Scotland—*Years of Wonder* by Geraldine Brooks

August 20th One Book, One Region—*Selection to be determined*

Sept. 17th Scotland—*The Casual Vacancy* by J.K. Rowling

October 15th Canterbury—*Shakespeare's Tremor and Orwell's Cough* by John Ross

Nov. 19th Scotland—*Alice's Tulips* by Sandra Dallas

Dec. 17th Canterbury—*Book Selection Party*



Hours: Monday-Wednesday 10am - 7pm;
Thursday 10am - 8pm; Saturday 10am - 4pm

Website: www.canterburylibrary.org

Phone: 860/546-9022 **Fax:** 860-546-1142

Email: canterburypublic@yahoo.com

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Key Facts

Five Regional Chapters (Americans, Africa, Asia & Pacific, Middle East, Europe) follow the main text.

To Access: Go to our website click on the image. Sign in using your library card barcode number.

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Finnish American Heritage Society

Recently FAHS lost one of its oldest if not oldest members, Helmi Susannah Sipila. Helmi who was ninety-nine years of age was a charter member of our organization and her involvement with the Finnish Hall began in the 1940s. She was always an active and very supportive member to our group and the community. She will be missed!

The FAHS Annual Laskiainen Day (sledding day) was held on Saturday February 16th and this year we had snow and more snow. The sledding was fast and was enjoyed by many youngsters and some not so young members.

In addition to sledding, Bob Robertson brought his extensive sled collection for display at the Hall. Bob related a detailed history of the Flexible Flyer Sleds and the style changes over the years. Pulla was sold and the kitchen group held a mini pea soup festival sale with chefs Bob Harmon, Don Buffington, Matti Huhta, and Stan Karro offering their own family recipes.

On April 14th we held our annual Finnish Pancake Breakfast. We had an outstanding number of attendees and we

wish to thank everyone for their support at this annual event. Ethyl Record chaired with support from Matti Huhta, the Harmon Families, the Gault Family (four generations) and many other members including June Leiss.

Our usually well attended Chicken Barbeque is planned for Saturday May 18th from 4:00- 6:00 PM. The usual potato and salad items will be included and take out orders will also be available.

The following week on May 25th, a Giant Yard Sale will occur at the Hall. For additional information and space requests please contact thehuhtas@yahoo.com or 860 564-7432.

In June we have two very interesting events occurring. On June 1st, FAHS member and fiddler Dr. Saul Ahola, fiddler Christine Anderson, and fiddler and accordionist John Chambers will present an evening of traditional Finnish music through a grant from The Southern New England Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program. They will be joined by widely acclaimed Finnish singer, Hannu Makipuro, and by Finnish

Canterbury Elementary School

PreK Registration will be held on May 2nd and 3rd. Parents/guardians can call the Pupil Services office at 546-1040 beginning April 1st for an appointment.

Celebration of the Arts will be held on May 9th. It runs from 6:00 to 7:30 with a concert by our chorus at 6:30.

dancers Marcia and Matti Huhta. There is no admission charge and light refreshments will be served following the program. The evening entertainment starts at 7:00. On June 8th from 6:30-8:30 PM, the Finnish Heritage Hall will host a Finnish Dance Workshop with instructors Jari Haavisto and Mari Solja from Helsinki, Finland. Adults and children of all ages are encouraged to register as soon as possible as space for students is limited to 30. Please call Beverly Johnson at 860 974-2760 to register. Spectators are also invited to attend. The admission charge is \$5.00 with light refreshments served.

Canterbury Historical Society

Happy Spring! Hope you're having a fine one so far! We had a fairly quiet CHS winter, as both our February and March meetings were postponed due to snow and ice. The programs that were scheduled for those meetings have been rescheduled for our September and October meetings, respectively. On May 10th, we'll welcome Carol R. Whitmer from the Connecticut Historical Society. Her presentation will be an introduction to genealogy. The June 14th meeting will feature a presentation by CHS member Bill Kivic on antique waffle and wafer irons. If you'd like to join us, we'd love to have you! Our meetings are held in the Town Hall Community Room, and begin at 7PM with a business meeting, followed by our program presentations around 7:30PM. As always, meetings are free and open to the public.

On April 13th, we held our annual Indoor Tag Sale and it was a great success! Big

thanks to all who donated items for us to sell, as well as to anyone who rented a table to sell their own "stuff." All of the money raised goes toward funding our programs and events throughout the year! Special thanks to Eleanor Orlomoski for chairing, and extra special thanks to Pat Riley of Canterbury Mini Storage for donating the use of a unit for the purpose of storing donated sale items throughout the year. THANKS!

As we get closer to the warmer months, we'll be holding open house sessions at the Center (Green) Schoolhouse. Join us on the second Saturday of the month, June through October, from 1-3PM. June 8th is also "Open House Day" throughout the State, so visit the several museums and tourist attractions at free or reduced admission costs.

CHS will be hosting a Blood Drive at the Town Hall Community Room on

Monday, July 15th. Check our website for more information, or call the American Red Cross to sign up to donate blood that day (1-800-RED-CROSS). Thanks to CHS member Lynne Pitman for coordinating this event!

Looking ahead to the Fall, CHS will be hosting some wonderful events. Our annual Old Home Day will be held on the Canterbury Green on Saturday, September 14th from 10AM to 4PM. On Saturday, October 24th, we'll be sponsoring a Walktober event called, "Colorful Canterbury". On Sunday, November 10th, we'll be presenting an afternoon of Bluegrass music with the Spinney Brothers as well as New Bear Minimum. For more information on this or any of the other events please visit our website: www.canterburyhistorical.org or "like" us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/CanterburyHistoricalSociety.CT

LOCAL

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A CANTERBURY STORY *by Sheila Mason Gale*

Since 1900 there have been 37 First Selectmen elected to office: George Greene, George Bradford, Fred Richmond, Aaron Moore, Charles Hyde, Marshall Frink, Elmer Bennett, William Barker, Marshall Frink, Levi Clark, E. Fitch Johnson, Edward Baker, Herbert Tracy, Christian Kerr, Arthur Bennett, Theodore Dean, Frederick Willoughby, Curtis Kinne, Fred Cone, George Blood, Theodore Dean, Hans Hansen, Norman Kerr, Robert Laws, Edward Waskiewicz, Andrew Schrader, Lewis Gray, David Ginnetti, Robert Manship, Raymond Guillet, Diane Tripp, Charles Savarese, Sr., Raymond Guillet, Neil Dupont, Sr., Paul Santoro, Neil Dupont, Sr. and Brian Sear. Only one First Selectman has served as First Selectman for ten years—Neil Dupont, Sr.

Neil is used to small town living as he grew up in Voluntown. He moved to Canterbury because of his wife, Adele's, sheep business. They had two boys, Neil Jr. and John and today they have three grandchildren: Ryan, Riley and Della.

In 1973, they bought a farm on Barstow Road. She showed her sheep all over the country. When she sold her business in 1989, she had the 3rd best Oxford sheep flock in the United States. While Adele worked her business, Neil was a driver for the Cooper Jarett Trucking Company. He drove all over the United States. He also became the company's shop steward. In this position he learned to be a negotiator between the drivers and management. This gave him experience dealing with people that would later serve him well.

In December of 1979, he opened his own business (Arrowhead Farm Supply) out of a large building on his property. He said it turned out to be very interesting because of the people he met through the years. He believed in running the business with a relaxed atmosphere. The door to his grain store was never locked. If he had to leave and run an errand he left a note telling customers to take what they needed and leave the money on the cash register.

The family didn't take vacations, but they travel to a lot of sheep shows and fairs. Between shows Adele would keep her hands busy making toys from sheepskins. She expanded that business to include her famous slippers and many other items which she makes by hand. Neil is a gun enthusiast and he started skeet and trap shooting at 25 years old at the Sprague Rod and Gun Club. His teacher started taking him to

competitions all over New England, New York and New Jersey. In 1967 and 1968 he won the Winchester Clay Bird Tournament in Rhode Island. The prize was a pair of specially made Winchester shot guns. One of his proudest moments was in 1968 when he beat his teacher in a competition.

Neil joined the Republican Town Committee and in May of 1994 was appointed as a Selectmen to the Board of Selectmen. During his second term, he had a heart. He told me that before the heart attack he would have a dozen eggs and a couple pieces of toast for a snack and 2-3 pounds of bacon while watching television at night. After the attack he stopped smoking and even today follows a very strict diet. He does cheat sometimes though (don't tell Adele).

In 1995 he thought he could contribute to the betterment of Canterbury so he decided to run for First Selectman and was elected. He could make decisions and stay cool-headed. Also, former Assessor and First Selectman, Charles Savarese, told Neil "I know if you become First Selectmen you will finally get a new town hall built for Canterbury" and he and the Town Hall Building Committee saw the completion of the Municipal building in 1995.

Neil was First Selectman 1995-2003 and 2005-2007. Other than the new town municipal building, here are some of his other accomplishments: He improved the Capital Improvement Plan to replace vehicles/buses more often. He continued the idea of a working transfer station. He improved the Canterbury road system. He realized Canterbury employees were underpaid and began a program to raise their wages. He moved the War Memorial to municipal. In 2003, Neil and about 12 dedicated citizens created, in only three weeks, a 4th of July parade/town activity and made the event a success. He supported emergency generators in the school and municipal building. He was a member of the Fire Department and was an EMT.

Even though, as First Selectman, there could be controversy, he could separate personal feelings from politics. Neil was known for "telling it like it is". Neil thinks the biggest change in town since moving to Canterbury in the 1970's is that some people are moving in to town from larger cities and they want to change Canterbury to be like a big town. "When you do that, you loose the closeness of the people in town. We need to keep that small town closeness in our community".