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# Canterbury Town News

January 2012

Canterbury, Connecticut

## SELECTMEN'S CORNER

With the completion of concrete, asphalt and railings, the upper portion of our new Solid Waste Transfer facility on Kinne Road is now functioning. Thanks to all who participated throughout this project both on the design and construction end, as well as those who made the transition to the new arrangement so smooth. Come Spring, we will be completing construction of the lower section, including the installation of trash and recycling compactors, and landscaping the frontage area on Kinne Road.

We applied for, and are now part of, the "Call & Ride" system for seniors and disabled persons which is administered by NECCOG. Details are available in the Municipal Agent's column of this newsletter.

As of this writing, Mother Nature has spared us the usual series of severe winter storms. This does save the Town money in terms of salt, sand, fuel, overtime wages, etc. (sorry skiers...). We had incurred substantial Public Works costs from storm Irene in September. As a result of those storm costs, we applied for, and will be receiving, \$41,576.68 (75% of total \$55,435.58 claim) from FEMA. I am heartened to see that the frustration we experienced in the aftermath of Irene has been used to totally re-evaluate all aspects of storm response throughout the State. Again, I can't express how proud I am of our local response to the storm. Whenever possible, I share our expertise in local government with those at the State level. We have lots to be proud of.

I was proud to recently formulate a \$3 million agreement with Enova Energy Group that would compensate the Town for permitting installation of cooling pipes for the Plainfield Renewable Energy (PRE) plant under Packer Road, and to present this option to the Town via referendum. Unfortunately, since the Town voted against this option, we will not receive any compensation and the pipes will be installed on private Canterbury land parallel to Packer Road.

As always, feel free to stop by or call the Selectmen's office with your comments or concerns. I now have a high-speed scanner and a clutter-reducing commitment, so I'd love to show you I really do have a desktop under all that paper!

Brian Sear

## Canterbury Agricultural Commission

We encourage farmers and the public to come to our meetings the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall. The February 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting will be at Maple Leaf Farm. Please join us. Maple Leaf Farm will also be open weekends throughout February and March; stop in to learn about maple sugaring and get maple syrup for pancakes and more.

We welcome your input on the focus our committee can take in our community. Activities planned so far for 2012 are: Meet Your Farming Neighbor; The 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade; Old Home Days; Walktober. Visit the Canterbury Town website and check out the Agriculture Commission page. You can e-mail active farming photos to [john21v25@aol.com](mailto:john21v25@aol.com) to add to the webpage.

Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup> is a CT Agriculture Commission Conference – Growing Farms in Your Community at EastConn from 9 to 4. Contact Jennifer Kaufman at 860-450-6007 or [AGvocate@yahoo.com](mailto:AGvocate@yahoo.com) for information.

## Town Clerk & Tax Collector's Office

Tax bills may be paid on-line by accessing the Town's website: [canterburyct.org](http://canterburyct.org) and going to the Tax Collector's page under Town Departments and scrolling down to the link for on-line bill paying. You may pay with a debit or credit card or transfer monies from your checking or savings account. There is a fee involved with any on-line payment transaction. Fees are shown on the MCC web-site as you proceed through the payment process. We cannot accept credit or debit card payments in the office. You must pay with check or cash.

The 2010-2011 Town Audit is available for viewing in the Town Clerk's Office. The Town's Annual Report for FY 2010-2011 will be available in mid-February. This report includes information regarding the activities of the various Town Departments, Boards and Commissions, and financial data for the year.

The Presidential Election will be held on November 6, 2012. Prior to that, there will be a Presidential Preference Primary on April 24, 2012. If necessary, the Primary for Candidates for State and District Offices and Municipal Offices (Registrar of Voters and Justices of the Peace only) will be held on August 14, 2012. Absentee ballots will be available 21 days before each primary and 31 days before the regular election.

The Town Clerk's Office is open Monday through Wednesday 9:00 am until 4:00 pm; Thursday 9:00 am until 6:30 pm; and Friday 9:00 am until 1:30 pm. The office can be reached by phone at 860/546-9377.

Natalie Riemann

## AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY

### Happy New Year!

This year brings new and exciting programs to Canterbury. We have new classes already in progress and upcoming classes for the spring.

We are now going to have a program called **Call & Ride**. This program will provide rides for anyone over 60 years of age and older and to people of all ages who have a disability who have completed the application and are certified as a Call & Ride Rider (a card will be issued). Fares are \$1.00 per ride to any of the participating NECCOG towns. The Call and Ride service will start in approximately 2 weeks. Anyone interested in filling out an application please contact my office at (860)546-9845, go to [www.nectd.org](http://www.nectd.org) on site go to Types of Service to download the application and send to my office or drop off, or call Northeastern Connecticut Transit District at (860)-774-3902.



Zumba Gold class.

I have contacted **Brooklyn Country Club** to see about starting a golf club group in the spring. The instructor Dale has great ideas for the group. You would change the format every week- for example: one week play two man scramble, another week a four man/woman best ball, and another and week an individual competition. The class would be for beginners who need lessons - to experienced golfers who are just looking for something fun to do and get outside to enjoy the fresh air. Anyone interested please let me know.

Listed below are some of the current classes we are holding. Anyone interested in joining any of the classes please call my office and leave your name and **phone number**.



Art class.

### Join us for fun and exciting senior programs/classes.

All programs/classes to be held in the Town of Canterbury Community Room.

**Senior Fitness** with Susan Wyatt on Tuesdays from 9:30am - 10:30am (free)

Currently on-going

**Card and board games** on Wednesday s from 10am – 1:30pm (free program)

Currently on-going

**Zumba Gold** with Lisa Caruso on

Thursdays from 11am – 11:45pm  
(free 8 week program)

Beginning in January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**Art/Charcoal Class** with Mary Abby' Bingham on Tuesday or Thursday s from 12:30pm – 3pm

(free 8 week program)

Beginning January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**Tai Chi** on Fridays from 9:15am – 10:15am 8 week program

(free 8 week program)

Beginning January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012

This looks to be a very fun and exciting year! I look forward to serving the Canterbury Seniors in any way possible. Please feel free to come into the office or call with any concerns or issues.

*Cherri Richardson*  
Municipal Agent

## Assessor's Office

The Assessor's Office staff hours have returned to normal following the Assessor's return from maternity leave. The Assessor is available Mondays & Wednesdays from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm and the Assistant to the Assessor is available Thursdays from 9:00 am to 6:30 pm. Thank you for all your cooperation during the past two months when staff hours were limited.

### Elderly & Totally Disabled Tax Credit Program

If you turned 65 in 2011, 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 \$39,500 and for a single person the maximum income is \$32,300. Proof of income is required. The filing period is from February 1<sup>st</sup> through May 15<sup>th</sup>. 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<sup>st</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup> for the 2012 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 2010, another application needs to be completed in 2012 in order to continue receiving the benefit.

**Board of Assessment Appeals Information:** If you wish to appeal your assessment you must fill out a petition to the Board of Assessment Appeals by February 20, 2012. Petitions are available in the Assessor's Office as well as on the Assessor's Office website at <http://www.canterburyct.org>.

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.

*Jennifer Sullivan*

## Canterbury Volunteer Fire Department & Emergency Medical Services

### CALLING 911

So you wake with chest pain and you need to get to the hospital. You are too sick to drive yourself and your scared so you make the decision to call 911. So many people use this life saving system to get the ambulance to their home so that they can be taken to the hospital and treated along the way. This article will educate you as to what happens after calling 911 - how does the ambulance get to your house with a trained crew on board, especially when your town has a volunteer Fire Dept that does not have a paid crew waiting at the station for emergency calls?

1. You call 911
2. You tell central dispatch about your emergency and then they "tone" out the call to the Canterbury Vol. Fire Dept.
3. Our beepers/pagers, that we carry, alert us that there is an ambulance call
4. We get into our own personal vehicles, that are equipped with Blue flashing lights, and we drive to the station to pick up the ambulance. This might mean getting out of bed in the middle of the night or leaving family dinner - we don't mind it is what we do.
5. A crew of 2-3 personnel which will include an EMT, EMR and a driver will drive the ambulance to your home. Dispatch has already given us the address and told us what the problem is.
6. The EMT (emergency medical tech) will assess you and treat what they can in your home and then place you on a stretcher which will be loaded into the ambulance. At this time the EMT will determine if you need a Paramedic who is able to give you advance life support. Examples: IV's , Respiratory treatments , meds.....
7. If a medic is needed the Canterbury Ambulance will meet them along the way to the hospital. The medic will then get out of their ambulance and get into the Canterbury Ambulance for continuation of transport to the hospital.
8. The Canterbury EMS crew will continue to treat you and assist the medic with your care all the way to the hospital until the ED nurses take over.

The EMT's and Fire Fighters of the Canterbury Vol. Fire Dept are dedicated and highly skilled volunteers that enjoy what they do and take pride in helping the citizens of Canterbury. Please help us by pulling over to the side of the road if you see our blue flashing lights and also have your house numbers clearly visible so that we can find you.

The Canterbury Fire Dept is a great organization and we are always looking for new members. We reimburse tuition for the schooling needed to become an EMT or Fire Fighter. If interested please call and leave a message at the Fire House and a member will get back to you. 860-546-9807.

Thank you for your continued support and we hope this article was educational.

*Karen Trant, EMS Chief  
Canterbury Vol. Fire Dept.*

### Editor's Note

The next issue will be published in May 2012. Anyone wishing to submit articles for consideration may do so by email to [canterburynewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:canterburynewsletter@yahoo.com) or by dropping them off at the Selectmen's Office before April 15<sup>th</sup>. The editor reserves the right in all instances to edit for length and content.

## Canterbury CERT Team

In reviewing the fall column, it was obviously submitted prior to the arrival Irene. I would be remiss not to recount the role played by the CERT team in response to that memorable prolonged power outage for our town. For the record, The CERT team made 17 home visits immediately following the passing of the storm to town residents on the Special Needs Registry to assure their safety. A number of follow up visits were made, and we also discovered some folks with special needs unknown to the registry referred by concerned neighbors. In addition, the Helen Baldwin School was opened for public showers for five days. During that time **397** residents came away refreshed and smiling – it was one of the more rewarding places to be working. And – nearly **1,100** MREs (that's Meals-Ready-to Eat in military speak) were distributed along with bottled water. Along the way the team added a slew of willing and able volunteers and volunteer Constables to its numbers. **This was indeed a total community TEAM effort.**

That end of August tropical storm was followed by the freak end of October snowstorm that left part of our town without power. Again, our team members checked on those Special Needs Registry folks.

The Team continues to meet regularly and in May it will participate in an Emergency Operation Center (EOC) Activation Training Exercise led by the CT Dept. of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. At no charge to the town, the state will offer a full day of training to those who would be involved in EOC Operations in a disaster.

The Team meets the **second Tuesday of the month at 7 PM** at the Helen Baldwin School, basement room across from the entrance to the cafeteria. Anyone interested in the CERT team is encouraged to attend.

*Carol Kent  
CERT Team Leader - 860-546-6924*

## LAND USE OFFICE

The Planning and Zoning Commission has been working on a Village Center conceptual plan with our consultants, Planimetrics. This plan is the result of several meetings where residents indicated they liked the village center concept, and would like to see a green in the area around Town Hall. As the Commission was working on some revisions to the Village District Zoning Regulations anyway, this was a great time to further explore this concept.

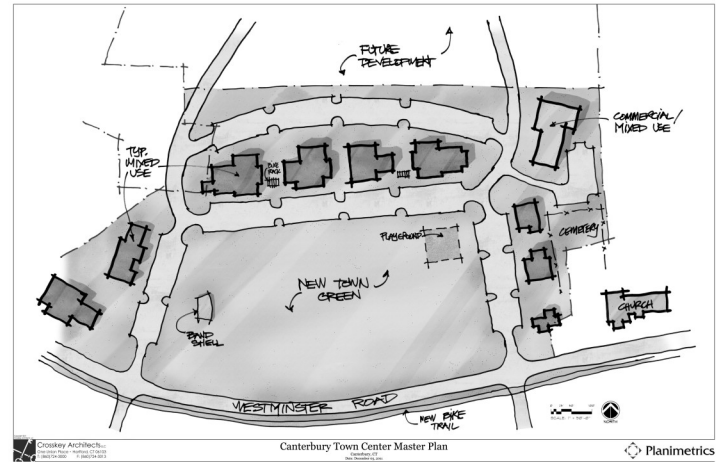
With a small grant from the State, we were able to work with Planimetrics and Crosskey Architects of Hartford to draft this plan. A site walk was held where we walked RT 14 along the Village Commercial District and discussed options. As a result, three drafts were presented to the Commission and they picked the one that resembled the current plan.

This plan shows a large green with mixed-use buildings around it. These would have businesses on the first floor and either offices or residences on the second floor. The plan also features an area for a bandstand or gazebo and a playground on the Green. Though this plan is placed on the land across from Cumberland Farms, it is not necessary that it actually be built there.

It is important to note that this is just a conceptual plan. It is something that the Commission likes and is considering endorsing. The Town has no plans to build this project or force it upon anyone. Our hope is that a developer, at some point, will look at this plan

and, knowing it is something the Town likes, will use it as a basis for their development plans. A copy of the plan in on the Planning and Zoning web page (<http://www.canterburyct.org/board.php?id=23>)

In other news, we are still awaiting an answer from the State DEEP on the grant for the Quinebaug trail. This trail will run the majority of the length of the Quinebaug from RT 14 all the way to the Brooklyn line – some 7 miles total! This trail will provide great recreational opportunities for the Town's residents as well as visitors who will support our local businesses. We are all keeping our fingers crossed!



Lastly, an important reminder to get permits for any new gas, wood or pellet stoves that you plan to install. Many fires each year are caused by improper installations. Something as simple as installing the stove pipe in the wrong direction can cause a fire! Permits costs just a few dollars and could save your life! And as we saw at that horrible Christmas day fire in Stamford, be very careful with ashes – use an approved ash can and store them outside – far from your home. The NFPA also recommends getting your chimney inspected AT LEAST annually.

Be safe and have a great spring!  
Steve, Land Use Director

## Economic Development Commission

Canterbury's EDC would like to thank you for a great 2011! We're confident that the move into 2012 should bring the biggest and best results in years.

Did you hear the big news about Canterbury EDC's web presence? We have rolled out a professionally developed website that can be found at [canterburybiz.com](http://canterburybiz.com). From here, you can learn how to start a business and find local, state and federal information. We proudly promote many of Canterbury's great businesses here as well. The site includes a business locator map, minutes, agenda, and many other things you would expect out of a larger community's Economic Development Commission. If you would like your business promoted or if you would like additional information, please email us

at [members@canterburybiz.com](mailto:members@canterburybiz.com).

The entire stretch of the Quinebaug River in Canterbury has been designated as a State Greenway. The First Selectman released the news in the last newsletter, but we wanted to thank his office and the Land Use office for their efforts in the process. We now have a greater opportunity for resources to encourage tourism, recreation, conservation, and cleanup.

Have you looked around town lately? Good things are happening. I have counted no fewer than seven business that have recently relocated to Canterbury, or have expanded operations into commercial spaces. This means more local goods and services

closer to your door, jobs at these companies, and an expanded tax base. While EDC can't take credit for others' business decisions, we salute them and hope to help create an environment that makes us an easy choice for investment. As such, I know that we have hundreds of cottage business in town operating out of their homes. If you're one of these businesses, take a look around...might this be the time to expand in Canterbury? If so, call us through the Land Use Office (860-546-6857) and we'll be happy to help.

We wish all of you a happy and prosperous 2012!

Rich Curtis

## Prudence Crandall Museum

These winter months find the Prudence Crandall Museum staff busy planning for the upcoming season (which will begin in May) with new exhibits – new programs – even a new schedule of Docent training sessions! But until then....

Even though the museum isn't now open to the public on a regular schedule, you can still tour the museum – or just browse the museum shop – by calling the museum at 860-546-7800 and making an appointment. A tour can be scheduled Monday through Friday from 10am to 3pm until the museum opens in early May for the regular season. (And remember that if you're a member of the *Friends of the Prudence Crandall Museum*, you'll receive a 20% discount on all items purchased in the shop.)

If you happen to have a few hours free each week and you're wondering what to do with them...keep in mind that the museum is always looking for additional volunteers to help out on a wide variety of projects – from library cataloguing, to office work, exhibit preparation and routine house cleaning. Stop by and see how you can become a vital part of preserving this important part of your town's history!

The Museum will also be sponsoring **Docent Training Sessions** this season. (dates below) If you've always wanted to work with the public in giving tours at the Prudence Crandall Museum, now's your chance to get the training you'll need to do this. Anyone age 16 and over with a love of history can participate. Once your training is completed, you'll be required to work at the museum at least one day each month from July through October. Call if you have any questions - we'd love to add you to our Docent Staff.

For more information: 860-546-7800 or email [kaz.kozlowski@ct.gov](mailto:kaz.kozlowski@ct.gov)

## SFC Little League

Spring is near and that means it's time for Baseball/Softball registration! Online registration will begin February 1st at [www.eteamz.com/sflittleleague1](http://www.eteamz.com/sflittleleague1) or at the following locations: Franklin Elementary School, February 18th from Noon-2pm; Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School in Canterbury on February 25th from 9am-Noon; Scotland Elementary School on Saturdays nights now through March 10th during Winter Clinic from 6:30-8:30pm; and Sayles School on Thursday nights now through March 15th during the Pitching/Catching Clinic from 6-8:30pm.

Players new to the league must bring a copy of their birth certificate and two forms of proof of address. Any player turning 4 before April 30th is eligible to play T-ball. Anyone wishing to manage or coach a team should attend a registration event for more information or to complete the necessary paperwork.

Registration fees for the 2012 season: Ages 4-5 \$60; Ages 6-12 \$70; Age 13+ \$75; Family Max \$150; All Stars \$50; Extended Season \$30; Fall Ball \$35.

Don't forget our free clinics!

Winter Baseball/Softball Clinic: Now through March 10th, Saturday nights at the Scotland Elementary School. Ages 4-7: 6-7:30pm; Ages 8-12: 7:30-9:30pm. Please bring a glove; no cleats.

Winter Pitching/Catching Clinic: Now through March 15th, Thursday nights at Sayles Elementary School, Ages 8-12, 6-8:30pm. Please bring a glove; no cleats; catchers need to wear proper gear.

Umpire Clinic: Saturday, February 25th at 6pm at the Baldwin Middle School gym. This clinic is open to anyone ages 12+.

Please consider sponsoring a team. Our league depends on the generous donations from our sponsors! For more information, contact Eric Graham, President. [egraham55@hotmail.com](mailto:egraham55@hotmail.com)

## Calendar of Museum events for May

**Museum Docent Training Sessions:**  
(Saturdays) May 12, May 19, June 2 and June 16 from 10am to Noon.  
Participants are required to attend all four sessions, 10am to Noon.  
Study materials provided.

### Sunday May 20

Grand opening of the new exhibit *Friends and Neighbors: Canterbury's 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century African American Residents* which includes and expands on the research done this past summer by Museum Summer Intern and Bryn Mawr Student, Vicki Sear. Ribbon cutting 11:30am.

### Sunday May 20

**Annual Spring Tea.**  
1 to 3pm, \$17. per person,  
pre-registration required as seating is limited.

## Canterbury Senior Travel

Canterbury Senior Travel invites all to join us for our new travel year! Our list includes a wide variety, some new destinations and some past favorites.

There are one day, overnights and multi-day choices. We will travel to San Antonio, New Orleans. See fabulous shows - "Jonah", "Gypsy", an Irish entertainer, a tribute to Roy Rogers, the Edwards Twins (great impersonators). Destination trips to the 9/11 Memorial, New Hampshire Turkey Train, Hampton Beach Seafood Festival, Block Island, Adirondack Balloon Festival, and the Tall Ships in Boston.

For more information you can look on the Canterbury Library bulletin board where you can see flyers for each trip, take a Newsletter and look them over at leisure, look on the internet at [canterburyseniorsct.wordpress.com/home/](http://canterburyseniorsct.wordpress.com/home/) or call Joanne Sheridan at 860/546-9830.

See you on the bus!  
Joanne Sheridan

# CANTERBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY



**Downloadable Audio Books** are now available @ your library. Check our website for the link and directions to download FREE audio books onto your compatible device. EBooks coming soon.

## Universal Class – Continuing Education in your Community

A free online educational service through your library providing the highest quality online course for people interested in the lifelong pursuit of knowledge for either personal or professional development. Live instructors moderate each course, grade assignments and interact with students and the ability to earn Continuing Education Units (CEU's) that meet an international standard.

## First Friday Getaways @ Your Library

Family fun nights the first Friday of each month (excluding July & August). Refreshments will be served at all programs. The library will be open from 5-8 PM.

**Be a Citizen Science Volunteer** to register, call 860-928-4948 or email pcoughlin@ctaudubon.org.

## Let's Talk about Books on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month

Starting at 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.

February 21<sup>st</sup> Canterbury Public Library  
*Unsaid* by Neil Abramson

March 20<sup>th</sup> Scotland Public Library  
*Women of Silk* by Gail Tsukiyama

April 17<sup>th</sup> Canterbury Public Library  
*Little Bee* by Chris Cleave

### Library Passes

*State Museums*: Free Admission for 2 adults & 2 youths (6-17 years).

*Wadsworth Atheneum*: Free admission for 2 adults and 2 children

*Mystic Aquarium*: Discounted admission for up to 2 adults and 2 children

*Roger Williams Park Zoo*: Reduced admission for up to 4 adults, seniors, and /or children.

*2-Connecticut Parks*: No Child Left Inside Initiative. Free admission for 2 adults & 4 children.

*The Denison Homestead*: Free admission for two adults and two children

*Mystic Seaport*: Free admission for 2 adults & 3 children.

### Program

(Sign-up is required for the following)

**Environmental Storytime**: February 25<sup>th</sup>, March 17<sup>th</sup> 10:30 AM

**Acting Classes** for ages 12 and up with *New York* instructor Giacinta Pace, Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup>.



**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

### **Card Stamping** with Arlene Sweet

Thursday, April 5<sup>th</sup> & April 12<sup>th</sup> 2012 6-8 PM

**Music & Movement** for ages 18 months – 3 years. 2 Sessions 9:15 & 10:15 Sign-up is required

**Ladder to Literacy** for ages 3 ½ -5 yrs.

**Lap to Literacy: Mother Goose Story Time** for Infants-18 months.

**You Buy it...We'll Loan it.** Purchase books or movies that you want at our discounted price. The material is shipped to us shelf ready. You get it first and for as long as you need it. When you return it is then ready to loan out to others. We do the work, you get the tax deduction. *\*All donations must meet the final approval of the Library Director*

## *Friends of the Canterbury Library*

The Friends of the Canterbury Public Library want to thank all of our supporters for a very successful 2011 as we raised money to provide additions to the Library's collection and programs. We have already had several profitable book & bake sales and we are planning more events for this year.

We'll begin with a Book & Bake Sale in March on a Saturday (date to be determined). Please watch for our flyers and come prepared to get great deals on quality used books and pick up some tasty baked goods along the way. We'll also be preparing a shipment of books to our troops overseas in support of

Operation Paperback (find out more on Facebook under the name 'Friends of the Canterbury Public Library').

On Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, we'll be participating in the Canterbury Historical Society's Tag Sale at the Town Community Room. We'll have a table to sell donated goods in the Community Room and we'll also be selling used books in the Town Hall foyer. We're also planning on selling artisan breads at this sale (watch for our flyers). If you are interested in donating a quality, resalable item, please call Denise at 860-546-2062.

On Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm, the

Friends of the Canterbury Public Library will be holding its Annual Meeting in the Library. There, we will have a short overview of our 2011 successes and then a look-ahead into the coming year. The meeting is open to the public and refreshments will be served. If you have an interest in supporting our wonderful Town Library in any way, please mark this meeting on your calendar.

Finally, looking a little further ahead, our board members are planning a chili cook-off at our Fall 2012 Book & Bake Sale. If you are willing to help us out in this endeavor, please call Steve at 860-546-6669.

## Canterbury Historical Society

Looking back, it seems like 2011 was a pretty good year for the Canterbury Historical Society. Our program topics ranged from Rick *Spencer singing "The Greatest Hits Of The Civil War"* to Trooper Rick Oenning *discussing the History of the CT State Police*. We also learned about *colonial furniture making from Woodstock carpenter, Paul Rulli*, and noted antiques dealer, *Arthur Liverant, presented a program featuring children's chairs of the last 200 years*. In addition, we held a few events that seemed to be very well-received, including a *tag sale* in April, our annual *Old Home Day* on the Green in September, and a fine Bluegrass show featuring Nova Scotia's *Spinney Brothers* in May. Thanks to everyone who helped to make these events so successful. In short, we like to think that there's something for just about everyone at the Canterbury Historical Society. Won't you join us for at least one of our meetings or events in 2012?

On **Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>**, our program presenter will be *Elizabeth Abbe of the Connecticut Historical Society, and her topic will be G. Fox & Co. in Hartford*. The Society meets on the second Friday of each month (excepting the months of July and August) at the Town Hall Community Room – the meeting starts at 7PM, followed by the program around 7:30PM. Other meeting topics for the majority of the year have not yet been set, but do be sure to look for information on them posted in the Town Hall, at the library, and in other locations throughout town. We also try to make sure our information can be found in the Norwich Bulletin and Reminder newspapers. Of course, another great source of information is our website. CHS Corresponding Secretary Ellen Wilson does a fantastic job updating the website with pictures and other information, so do check it out when you can: [www.canterburyhistorical.org](http://www.canterburyhistorical.org). Another source for information about CHS is Facebook – visit us there, and “like” our page: [www.facebook.com/CanterburyHistoricalSociety.CT](http://www.facebook.com/CanterburyHistoricalSociety.CT).

At the January CHS meeting, elections were held for 2012 officers. The results: Amy Orloski, President; Dave Norell, Vice President; Treasurer, Bill Kivic; Lisa Joseph, Recording Secretary; Ellen Wilson, Corresponding Secretary; Trustee, Bob Noiseux. Walter Moriarty was appointed as Program Director and Judy Moffitt as Curator.

On **Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>**, CHS is sponsoring an *Indoor Tag Sale* at the Town Hall Community Room. The event will run from 8:30AM to 2:30PM. If you have items you'd like to sell, consider renting a table or two for \$10 each. If you'd prefer to donate your items to Canterbury Historical Society for us to sell and replenish our coffers, you're welcome to do that, too. For more information on table rental, or if you have items you'd like to donate to CHS, call Eleanor at (860)546-9062.

We look forward to seeing you at a CHS meeting or event in 2012. Our meetings are free and open to the public; membership information can be found at [www.canterburyhistorical.org](http://www.canterburyhistorical.org). Happy New Year!

## Canterbury Cares Food Pantry

We would like to thank everyone who contributed time, energy, non-perishable items and monetary donations to Canterbury Cares food pantry. During these difficult times many people stepped up to help our less fortunate neighbors. Many people are at risk of not having enough to eat including children, teens, seniors and adults. By coming together as a community we helped many people struggling with hunger so they can focus on other important needs. The gifts from individuals, organizations and businesses mean even more in this difficult economy. Once again the Canterbury community has come through. We thank you for your continued generosity in helping us provide this much needed service.

Also, any Canterbury resident that needs a little extra help is welcomed to use the pantry. Our hours are the third Monday of each month from 9 - 12 and the following Thursday evening from 5 - 6.

JoAnn & Gene Brustolon

## Friends of the Prudence Crandall Museum, Inc.

It has been a quiet few months for programs now as we work behind the scenes to prepare for the 2012 Museum season. The Museum will open on Thursday, May 3, and the Annual Meeting of the Friends group will be held at the Museum on Saturday, May 5, at 10 AM. There will be the election of officers, a speaker, and refreshments. All are welcome to attend and it will offer the opportunity of learning more about the Friends and their programs.

The Museum is open by appointment now if you are in the mood to shop. The Friends gift shelves have wonderful rag dolls, hand-dipped candles, pretty teacups, and great chef aprons. You can also purchase a large painted gift box containing all these items !

The Friends look forward to establishing a more formal Junior Program in the coming season. For those of you who have attended the Spring Tea in May or Tea with Prudence and Sarah in November, you know that we have young people, our junior members, to assist us in greeting the guests, serving, and cleaning up. These youngsters also participate in our summer programs such as demonstrating games from the 1830s, learning to stencil, and trying their hand at making a sampler. We expect the program to begin in June and we will start with a meeting to view the video that is used as an introduction to the Museum, *To All on Equal Terms*. The video tells the story of Prudence Crandall and her Academy. We want to convey to the junior members that we are a service organization; our function is to support the Museum with our knowledge and participation. It is a commitment to serve the community while also learning and having fun. If you are between the ages of 10 and 18, come join us !

Watch for our program calendar and more information in the next newsletter or call 860-546-9266 or the Museum, 860-546-7800.

## Canterbury Town Constables

Canterbury Constables are continuing to sponsoring a Neighborhood Watch program in the Town of Canterbury. If you are interested in starting a Neighborhood Watch program please come to one of our meeting which is scheduled on the second Monday of every month. Constable Joseph Sangermano is Chairman of the Neighborhood Watch program. The following contact information is: Phone number 860-546-9033 or Cell number 860-861-2707 and E-mail address tjmhydraulics@att.net

Chief Constable Ray Shinkiewicz  
Assistance Chief Constable Joseph Sangermano

## Canterbury Stitchers

The Canterbury Stitchers would like to thank everyone who supported our Yarn and Mitten Sale this past October. The goal of this sale was to raise money for the Canterbury Cares Food Bank. Through your generosity the Food Bank received over \$450.00.

All remaining mittens from the sale decorated the Holiday Mitten Tree inside the library. Those mittens (hats and scarves) plus more that were donated between November and December were also given to the Food Bank. Thanks again to a generous community; many residents in Canterbury will now be a little warmer during the cold winter months.

At this time, the Canterbury Stitchers are not planning any future yarn sales. Instead we will begin now to knit, or crochet, mittens, hats and scarves to be sold next fall. If anyone would like to knit mittens, hats or scarves (any size) to donate, it would be appreciated. All donations may be dropped off at the Library

The Canterbury Stitchers meet at the Canterbury Library Monday afternoon from 1 to 3pm and Thursday evening from 6 to 8pm. This group is made up of all levels of knitters and crocheters. New members are always welcome.

## A CANTERBURY STORY

by Sheila Mason Gale

*I was sad to hear of Sally Romanoff's passing last week. When I interviewed her she was vibrant and excited to tell me many stories about her life in Canterbury.*

*To follow are a few of the stories she told me.*

When I was a child I remember Sally Romanoff as always being friendly and outgoing. I didn't know that she also wore many hats. Besides being a wife and mother, Sally was a grocery storeowner, a representative to Connecticut legislature, a floral designer and an orchid grower.

In 1918 when Sally was two weeks old, the Havenens, moved to Canterbury from Brooklyn. Eventually they lived in the center of Town called the Canterbury Green. At that time, the road from Brooklyn was just a cart path and everyone in that area of Canterbury placed their mailbox at the Green because the mailman didn't go south past the Congregational Church.

Sally remembers the Fourth of July was always a big event in Canterbury and most of the townspeople met at the Canterbury Green to celebrate. There were lots of firecrackers and once a skyrocket flew into her father's barn and the haystacks started on fire. Since practically everyone in Town was at the celebration, they put out the fire and went on with the activities.

As a girl, Sally and Marguerite Simpson and Margaret Robinson were pals and all went to 4H camp together. Malcolm Wibberley drove them and many of the neighborhood children to camp. Malcolm would also pick and deliver apples from his farm to all the schools in town.

Sally met her husband Bill Romanoff who worked at the Frink and Wright store across the street from her house. In 1935 Bill and Sally were married and in 1939 they bought the Frink and Wright store and became shop owners. In 1953 they sold it to Michael Pappas and went into the orchid business full time. Eventually, Michael bought Sally's family home (the Havenen property) and built what is now Better Val U.

Bill had a dream to grow orchids and started with one exotic orchid. He worked at the grocery store, but at night he would read everything he could to discover how to grow and hybridize orchids. Orchid growers would not tell outsiders their growing secrets so Bill and Sally had to figure out, by trial and error, how to grow them. In this day and age orchids can quickly be cloned, but when the Romanoffs began they had to learn how to grow individual plants. They couldn't buy seeds so they had to use orchid pollen. At first the pollen would get moldy and die, and finally they realized the growing medium had to be bacteria free and even breathing on the soil would cause mold to form. They had to create a bacteria free area and use a sterilized case and tongs to work with the pollen. Once the pollen sprouted and seedlings grew to the proper size they separated them and put them in a container of California Redwood bark. Eventually, they began to take orders for their orchids and delivered them all over New England.

They started with a small green house about 7x9 attached to the house and over their fifty year career in the orchid business, they built 11 full size green houses and growers would come from all over the country to see their orchid farm.

To enhance their business, Sally went to floral design school. In the 1960's Sally was elected as a Connecticut legislative representative for six years. She tells how she would deliver orchids to West Springfield, MA and then drive to Hartford for the 10:00am legislative session.

In the small town of Canterbury, Sally shared, with her husband, the American dream. It started with the vision of one person and became real with a family's hard work.