



Canterbury Town News



January, 2015

Canterbury, Connecticut

SELECTMEN'S CORNER

HAPPY NEW YEAR – 2015

Well, another year has come and gone and 2015 has gotten off to a very cold start. This Winter has been mild thus far but we have several months of Winter still ahead. I would like to take a minute and wish each and every one of you a “belated” Happy New Year and I hope that 2015 brings health and happiness to every Canterbury Resident and their families.

We are in the early stages of the budget planning process for our 2015/2016 Budget Year. This process is both challenging and rewarding in that putting together a workable budget for both the school and the town government requires the concerted time and efforts of many dedicated people. The reward comes when all of these efforts produce a fair and balanced budget that the citizens of Canterbury approve, while still maintaining the level of services that the citizens require.

The construction of the new Public Works Garage, funded through the receipt of grant funding from the State, is nearing completion and should be completed by mid-Spring. This project has been several years in the making, and due to the successful application by the previous administration for grant funding, the overall cost to the Town has been minimal. When completed, the new 66' by 100' building will enable the Public Works Department to house and maintain our trucks and equipment.

Renovation of the grounds at Manship Park are scheduled to be completed late this Spring. For now, only the walking/jogging track and the children's play area are open for public use. If using the track, please stay off of the field areas until the entire park is once again opened to the public.

Our Transfer Station continues to run smoothly, but some areas of its operations are being studied to determine possible ways to help cut costs, while maintaining efficiency. Please see related article in this newsletter. This Spring, we will receive a special container that will be used to accept old mattresses and box springs for recycling, thereby saving the Town this disposal expense.

Again, I thank you for your continued support and cooperation. Please do not hesitate to call, visit, or send e-mail me with your comments, concerns, and suggestions.

Roy Piper
First Selectman

Canterbury Town Clerk & Tax Collector

Happy New Year!

The 2013-2014 Town Audit is available for viewing in the Town Clerk's Office. The Town's Annual Report for FY 2013-2014 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.

Opening day for fishing is April 19, 2015. Angler Guides normally arrive in our office the second week of April.

November 3 is the date of the Municipal Election for town officials and members

of various boards and commissions. Any person interested in serving on a board should contact either the Democratic or Republican Town Committee.

Tax bills may be paid on-line by going to: canterburyct.org accessing 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/credit card or transfer monies from a checking/savings account. There is a fee involved with any on-line payment transaction. **We CANNOT accept credit or debit card payments in the office.** You must pay with check or cash.

Canterbury Assessor's Office

Elderly & Totally Disabled Tax Credit Program

If you turned 65 in 2014, 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 \$42,200 and for those who are single the maximum income is \$34,600. 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.

Additional Veteran's & Local Option Veterans Exemption

These programs are designed to provide property tax exemptions for veterans whose income falls within certain limits. To receive these exemptions, an application must be filed between February 1st and October 1st for the 2015 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 2013, another application needs to be completed in 2015 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, 2015. 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 if you would like to make an appointment to file an application for these programs.

Jen Sullivan
Assessor

Canterbury Agricultural Commission

A tool kit for farmers called “Advocating for Connecticut Agriculture in Local Communities” is at www.cfba.org. On this Connecticut Farm Bureau website click on Advocacy; scroll down to Local Advocacy Tool Kit; scroll down to look at the resources on Agriculture Commissions, Laws and Ordinances, Tax Programs, Farm to Market, Municipal Regulations and more.

You can also find information about state and federal programs like Farm Business Planning and Farmland Preservation at www.ctfarmrisk.uconn.edu and a variety of guides at ctplanningforagriculture.com

If you are looking for some things to do in the great outdoors check out thelastgreenvalley.org and click on What’s Going On; then scroll down to Events Calendar. Or click on Explore to see more things to do in The Last Green Valley. Volunteers recently did an eagle count spotting 30 on a chilly Saturday morning in January.

On February 11th from 5:30 to 8:30 pm a Regional Agriculture Commission meeting will be held at the Killingly Agri-Science Center, 226 Putnam Pike, Dayville. All are welcome to tour the Agri-Science Center to learn what the program has to offer students; and participate in the meeting which will include a farmer panel and presentation on effective communication. If the school is closed due to weather the program will be held on February 18th.

The Canterbury Agriculture Commission meets on the fourth Thursday at 7 pm. Please join us.

Editor’s Note

The next issue will be published in April 2015. Anyone wishing to submit articles may do so by email to canterburynewsletter@yahoo.com or by dropping them off at the Selectmen’s Office before April 15th.

The editor reserves the right in all instances to edit for length and content.

Emergency House-Number Signs

It is 2 o’clock in the morning, and you have an emergency (fire, medical, or police matter) at your home. You call “9-1-1” for emergency assistance. Emergency responders are dispatched to your home, but because we live in a rural area, with dark, narrow roads, it is sometimes very difficult for the first responders to locate a specific home on the first pass-through. This delay could prove to be very costly.

One solution is to place a house-number sign at the end of your driveway, with the reflective numbers visible on both sides of the sign. This way, your house number is clearly visible to the first responders, no matter which way they approach your location or residence.

These house-number signs, and reflective numbers, are available to Canterbury residents and can be picked up at the Canterbury Town Hall and, the best part, they are available at no cost. If you have not already picked up your house-number sign and reflective numbers, I encourage you to stop by the Selectmen’s Office and pick up your sign and numbers for your specific residence.

The few minutes that it will take you to pick up your sign, and properly mount it at your home, may save precious minutes of response time in the event of an emergency.

Earthquake Preparedness & Safety

With the recent occurrences of minor earthquakes and aftershocks in the Plainfield area over the past few weeks, I am providing some information that could be helpful before, during, and after an earthquake.

An earthquake is a sudden, rapid shaking of the earth caused by the breaking and shifting of rock beneath the earth’s surface. Earthquakes strike suddenly, without warning, and they can occur at any time of the year, day or night. Forty-five states and territories in the United States are at moderate to very high risk of earthquakes, and they are located in every region of the country.

The American Red Cross has an Earthquake Preparedness Checklist, written in English, Spanish, and seven other languages. The link to the website is: <http://www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster-safety-library>. If you do not have access to the internet, a copy of the Earthquake Preparedness Checklist may be picked up in the Town Clerk’s Office at the Town Hall. For more information on disaster and emergency preparedness, visit www.redcross.org.

In addition, the State of Connecticut has produced a very helpful planning document called “Connecticut Guide to Emergency Preparedness”. This guide is useful to each and every household in the planning and preparedness for all types of emergencies and natural disasters. Copies of the CT Guide to Emergency Preparedness are available at the Town Hall in the Town Clerk’s Office, and are free of charge.

No one can predict where, or when, a natural or man-made disaster will happen. But you can get through it, if...*you learn to live prepared.*

St. Augustine Church

LITTLE FISH SHANTY

Presents during Lent: Fish Fry FRIDAYS Dinners

Dates: 2/20, 2/27, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 3/27

Serving 4:30 PM to 7:00 PM

Menu: Platters/Dinners – includes fries, coleslaw, roll, beverage & dessert.

Fisherman’s Platter, Whole Belly Clams Dinner, Hot Lobster Roll Dinner, Fried Scallops Dinner, Fried Shrimp Dinner, Fried Clam Strips Dinner, Baked/Fried Fish, Fish & Chips, Fish Sandwich with Fried and Coleslaw, Fritters, Clam Chowder, Grilled Cheese & Fries, French Fries

Pay at the Door

Takeouts: Call 860-546-6225

Transfer Station Review Committee

TRANSFER STATION REVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMENDING ANNUAL VEHICLE STICKER PROGRAM TO BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Over recent years the Canterbury Transfer Station has experienced an increase in misuse forcing the cost of operation to increase for the Town tax-payers. In the budget year 2013/2014 an additional \$10,000 had to be requested to cover the cost of Transfer Station operations, on top of the \$165,000 annual budget line item. This is not due to poor operations or management, the transfer station staff do their jobs well, but it is becoming increasingly difficult for the staff to control who uses the station. The original sticker program has become difficult to enforce to ensure that only current Canterbury residents are using the service.

The Transfer Station Review Committee has researched the operations and budgets of other nearby municipal transfer stations. There are a variety of systems in other towns; the majority include additional charges for specialty disposals of appliance's, tires, demolition waste, mattresses, and other items on top of an annual cost for the purchase of a sticker.

The only way to ensure that the Canterbury Transfer Station is being utilized properly by current residents is to implement an annual vehicle sticker program. The new stickers would be of higher quality, easily visible, and designated to specific vehicles. The details of the Committee's recommendation are not yet finalized; however the initial idea is that a low-cost sticker per resident vehicle would be purchased at the Town Hall during the June/July tax season. The committee wishes to avoid a system that includes additional fees on certain items or limits the number of disposals, however, resident cooperation is required. Please do not bring loads of bulky or demolition waste for nearby friends and family to the Transfer Station. The rising cost of disposal may force an increase in budgeting for the Transfer Station operations, which can be reflected in our tax rates.

Residents are encouraged to reduce the amount of waste produced in their homes, compost food waste in tidy backyard systems, and re-use or donate usable items.

Residents are invited to provide comments at the Selectmen's Meeting on February 17, 2015, Transfer Station Review Committee members will be present.

Land Use Office

The Land Use Office welcomed Debby Plantamuro in September as the new Land Use Administrative Assistant. Debby is a great addition to the office and has been getting adjusted to her new position.

Typically the office is slow during the holidays and winter months with little to no building taking place. The exception this year has been the drastic increase in solar energy permits the office has received. Though the activity is permitted as a right in Canterbury, the installation of solar energy does require permits. Roof mounted systems require a building permit, and ground and pole mounted systems require both a building and a zoning permit. These permits can be found on our website www.canterburyct.org or you can pick them up in the Land Use Office. Section 9.7 of the Canterbury Planning & Zoning Regulations, covers solar energy systems. This section can also be found on our website.

Both the Planning and Zoning Regulations, and the Inland Wetland and Watercourse Regulations are being reviewed at this time. There are several typographical and formatting errors that need to be corrected. The IWWC regulations are slated to go to public hearing on February 25th, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Canterbury Municipal Building. Public comments are welcomed. A public hearing has not been set for the P&Z regulations at this time.

Melissa Gil
Land Use Director

Canterbury Recreation Commission

Work on the fields at Manship Park was largely completed before the end of the year. They are still in their warranty period and the contractor will need to work on the lawns in the spring. A rope has been run along the inside of the walking track to indicate that we should stay off the fields until the lawn is established. The walking track is open to the public, and the playground will be opened once some final safety issues are attended to.



The Baldwin Booster Club, the Baldwin Middle School 8th grade class, and the Canterbury Recreation Commission are sponsoring the first annual Opening Day 5K road race on April 18th 2015. The race starts at 9 am from the Canterbury Town Hall. Register online (or download the form) before April 1st to get the \$20 entry fee (www.canterburyopeningday5k.com); \$25 after April 1st, 2015 . All proceeds to benefit the Baldwin Middle School 8th grade class trip.

The Rec. Commission is looking for a carpenter or contractor to rebuild the outside staircase and covered landing at Frink Park. We would like to get this job done before the start of the SFC Little League season in April 2015. Please submit quotes to: Rec. Commission

1 Municipal Dr,
Canterbury

or call Jim Glennon at 860-546-9397.

We encourage individuals interested in the Manship Park project or other recreational activities 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 at the Baldwin gym:

Adult Women's volleyball
Mon. 7:30-9:30pm

Adult basketball Tues. 7:30-9:00pm

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

Young adult basketball
Fri. 7:30-9:30pm

Canterbury Senior Trips

2014 was a good year of travel. Some of us went to places we'd never been before! Excellent entertainment was enjoyed along with good food!

As you might know you are invited on trips that interest you - Come sign up. Information can be found on our town library bulletin board, calling (860) 546-9830, or going on-line and googling Canterbury Ct Senior Travel and scrolling to Come Explore With Us. There might be something in the list that excites you - find out! There are two cruises, one to the Caribbean and one along the New England coast. We have several shows (musicals and plays) with lunch. Explore Newport! Journey to the top of Mt. Washington on the Cog Railway! We're off to Lancaster and "Joseph" at the Sight and Sound Theater.

Hope to hear from you!

Canterbury Seniors

January 1 marked the beginning of another exciting year for the Canterbury Seniors. Our annual membership fee is currently \$8.00 per person. Adults age 50 or older are eligible to join, and we're always happy to see new faces.

Our regular monthly meeting and potluck luncheon is held the second Thursday of every month at 11:00AM in the Town Hall Community Center. Our next three meetings will be February 12, March 12, and April 9. Mark your calendars!

Attending meetings is a great way to keep up-to-date on the latest issues relevant to midlife and seniors. You'll have the opportunity to hear about upcoming community events and various activities such as weekly exercise classes, t'ai chi, art classes, game day, and of course our ever-popular day trips, overnighters and cruises. Local groups are occasionally scheduled to give musical and choral presentations.

For more information, call John Jakan (President) 860-546-6202 or Deb Kinne (Publicity) 860-546-6136.

Municipal Agent for the Elderly

Connecticut Statutes mandate that a Municipal Agent be appointed for each of the 169 towns in Connecticut. Municipal Agents (MAs) assist elders within their towns by disseminating information regarding the available community resources and potential benefits. They make referrals to a wide variety of services and benefit programs and help older adults apply for government programs. MAs are appointed to serve for either a two- or four-year term. They may maintain full or part-time positions or be volunteers. MAs must attend at least one training session that is sponsored by the Aging Services Division. In addition, they must prepare a written report at least annually that describes the services they provided as well as the needs and concerns of older adults in their areas.



With the colder weather upon us I would like to remind family and friends of our elder population to please check on their family, neighbors and friends who live alone regularly. If anyone is seeking shelter please call 211.

This is the season for many elders or handicap persons to have falls and slips that can cause significant injuries. Please beware of your surroundings and footing. Wear appropriate shoes and clothing for the weather.

Medicare Saving Programs enrollments are always open; if you need assistance paying your Medicare Part B Premiums please contact my office.

Please stop by my office if you would like to have your Blood Pressure checked.

The programs for Winter/Spring 2015 are as follows.



**Art Classes for over 50
Mary Bingham Abbey**
Thursdays 1-3:30 pm
Community Room
\$3.00 a session

Bring your own canvas and picture, all other supplies provided

Mary is a lifelong resident of Canterbury and is also available for Private lessons by calling 860-546-6933

Tai Chi Class with Instructor Paula McNally

Fridays 9:30-10:30
Community Center
\$1.00 per session
No Class 4/3/15

Senior Exercise Class with Instructor Christine Bernier

Tuesday 9:30-10:30
Thursdays 9:30-10:30
Community Center
\$1.00 per session
All equipment provided

Energy Assistance Program

This has been an extremely busy season and my office is still taking applications, Please call my office to set up an appointment. Last day to apply for assistance through my office will be April 23, 2015.

Bistro Luncheon

12:00 p.m. Every third Wednesday of the Month at Community Hall. A different Menu each month and will be posted in Library and my office, Bring your own beverage.

\$5.00 per meal due at Luncheon. You will be responsible for payment even if you don't show. Preregistration is required by calling my office 860-546-9845. Leave name and phone number of who will be attending by the Thursday before Luncheon.

Farmers Market Coupon for seniors:

I will be requesting double the amount of coupons that I requested for 2014. I expect to have these coupons by June 1. If you are interested in obtaining a booklet worth \$18.00 please contact me.

Senior Luncheon

Every Second Thursday of the Month except August. This is a Pot Luck Luncheon and each family is requested to bring in a dish or dessert. There are programs scheduled for after the meal and events are posted on Town Web site. A monthly Calendar will be available at each meeting for seniors to know what's going on over the next month.

Ella Hebert
Municipal Agent to the Elderly

Prudence Crandall Museum

The Prudence Crandall Museum opens for the season on Friday, May 1, 2015!

The Museum looks forward to an exciting and program filled year, as it unveils new exhibits and programs focusing on the lives of the students who attended the Canterbury Female Boarding School in 1833 to 1834. We're calling 2015 the "year of the students!"

One way we're celebrating their lives and accomplishments is through a new installation. "Beyond the Classroom," on the second floor, is an area that would have been used as dormitory space while Prudence was operating her school. "Beyond the Classroom" includes period furnishings and reproduction items that help tell the story of what life would have been like for Prudence's African-American students. The installation offers visitors the opportunity to take a look behind the scenes of what life was like in an early 19th century boarding school.

Also opening May 2 will be the museum's new exhibit for 2015, "Lives & Legacies: Prudence Crandall's

African-American Students." The exhibit highlights the lives of the African-American young women who attended Prudence Crandall's academy during the 17 months it was open. The exhibit reminds us that these girls didn't just leave when the school was closed, but went on live full and rich lives in their own right. The exhibit draws on information that's recently come to light regarding the students, and though it's in no way the definitive discussion of who the students were, we hope it's a solid beginning.

From May 2 through October, the Museum's regular hours are: Wednesday through Sunday, 10am to 4pm (last ticket sold at 3:30pm). Friends of the Museum get free admission and a discount in the museum shop. For membership, either call the museum at 860-546-7800 Ext 7, or go to friendsofprudencelandmuseum.org

To find out more about Museum programs and events, call: 860-546-7800 or go to www.cultureandtourism.org. Follow the Museum and Friends of the Museum on Facebook!

Canterbury Historical Society

Our year started by welcoming Michael Day of the Barkhamstead Historical Society who presented a program on "The One-Room Schoolhouse: What Was It Really Like?" During his presentation, Mr. Day presented us with several older books that were the property of the Raymond Family in the late 1800s. Those books will be added to our collection along with a generous donation of ephemera and other items from the Noiseux Family

In January we held an election for our Executive Board of 2015 and they are as follows: Linda Orlomoski - President; Bob Noiseux - Vice-President; William Kivic-Treasurer; Elizabeth Bartoshevich - Recording Secretary; Ellen Wilson - Corresponding Secretary; and Robert Blackard and Roy Piper - Members-at-Large. Appointed by the President to their respective offices are Curator - Amy Orlomoski and Programming Chair - Paula Roswell. Please join us at our

events which include scheduled programs by Bill Reid on "Notable and Notorious: Curious and Infamous Characters from The Last Green Valley" on February 13 and John Banks who will be discussing "Connecticut's Role in the Battles of Antietam and Gettysburg" on March 13th. Programs are presented around 7:30 PM following our monthly meeting in the Town Hall Community Room which begins at 7PM. Programs are free and open to all! Watch for more programming at canterburyhistorical.org; our Facebook page at [facebook.com/CanterburyHistoricalSociety.CT](https://www.facebook.com/CanterburyHistoricalSociety.CT); or our new Twitter feed at twitter.com/CantbrHistory.

On April 25th we'll be holding our big Annual Indoor Tag Sale at the Town Hall from 8:30 AM - 2:30. If you have any items that you'd like to donate or for information on a table to rent for \$10 to sell your own goods, please contact Eleanor at (860) 546-9062.

Friends of the Library



Upcoming Friends sponsored programs

February 7, 2015 - Take Your Child to the Library Day

March 30, 2015 - Horizon Wings Owl Program

(Please contact the Canterbury Public Library to sign up or for more info)

Upcoming Friends Events/Fundraisers

May, 2015 (date TBD) - Friends Annual Meeting

June 6, 2015 - Book & Bake Sale

Volunteers Needed

Horizon Wings Program

Book & Bake Sale (set-up June 5, June 6 for sale and clean-up)

Book Donations Needed before June Sale (Please call the library 860-546-6482 before dropping off more than 1 box of books)

The Friends of the Canterbury Library have been busy in the past six months raising funds through our Book & Bake Sale and a Wine/Beer Tasting event sponsored by North East Wines and Spirits. We continue to fund a myriad of programs and items not covered by the Library's operating budget. In the last six months this included: the Summer Reading Program, Story Time Classes, November Tea Party and *Wish List*, a patron donation program which donated of 24 new print and audio books to the library. We also pay for museum passes which offer free or reduced admission to area attractions. Recently renewed passes include the Roger Williams Zoo, The New Children's Museum and Florence Griswold Museum.

For additional information, to join the friends, make a donation, or sign-up for the *Wish List* please contact us through our web page canterburylibrary.org/friends_group or email us at: canterburylibraryfriends@yahoo.com

CANTERBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY



Hours: Monday-Wednesday 9am - 7pm;
Thursday 9am - 8pm; Saturday 9am - 2pm

Website: www.canterburylibrary.org

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

Email: canterburypublic@yahoo.com

Mar. 6th—Big Hero 6 (PG)

Apr. 3rd—Good Friday — no movie

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.

Jan. 20th Scotland—Mystery novel of your choice

Feb. 17th Canterbury—*Home* by Toni Morrison

Mar. 17th Scotland—Annie Proulx novel of your choice.

Apr. 21st Canterbury—*Philomena* by Martin Sixsmith

SENIOR PROGRAMS

(Sign-up is required)

Spring programs on healthy living topic to be announced.

LIBRARY DATABASES

See our Website for easy access



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

Dreams really can come true with your support.

Make a Donation/Volunteer Your Time
Sponsored by the FRIENDS of the CPL

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

(Sign-up is required)

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

February 21st—Owls—Whooo Goes There?

March 21st—Frogs—What Sounds Tell You Spring is Coming?

April 18th—Caterpillars—What Plants Do They Eat?

May 16th—Turtles—Who Carries Their Home with Them?

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



Math Gone Wild!

Where you'll build stuff, run and jump, make music, make a mess...it's a totally new kind of math club.

(Sign-up is required.)

An 8-week program for Grades 3-5.
Wednesdays starting Jan 28th, 4:00-5:00

Bouncing Baby Tales with Melissa Lennon
Children, ages birth to 18 months old.

8-week program
Tuesdays and Wednesdays,
9:30am—10:00am

Music & Movement

Children, ages 18 months to 3 years old.

8-week program
Thursdays, 2 sessions at 9:30 & 10:30

Ladder to Literacy with Melissa Lennon

Children, ages 3 1/2 to 5 years old.
Program runs September—May.
Tuesdays & Wednesdays 10:15- 11:15

ADULT AND TEEN PROGRAMS

(Sign-up is required)

Tax Assistance Sessions

AARP Tax-Aide Volunteers will be at the Canterbury Public Library to help with your 2014 Tax Preparation. This is a free service available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Appointments are available Mondays from 9:00-12:30 on the following dates:

February 9 & 23, 2015

March 9 & 23, 2015

April 6, 2015



Call the library to schedule an appointment.

"Just Say No to Telemarketers & Fraudsters" with Jet Tucker

Monday, February 23, 3:00-4:00

"De-clutter and De-stress" with Denise Lamb

Coming this Spring!

"Psychic Readings & Animal Communications" with author Suzy Graf

Coming this Spring!

Teen Programs Ages 11+

Thursdays, 6:00-7:30

Feb. 19th —Chinese New Year Party

March 26th —Cupcake Wars

April 16th —Movie Night

Card Stamping with Arlene Sweet

Thursdays 6:00pm-8:00pm

February 5th and February 12th

Space Limited. Sign-up required. .

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Sponsored by the Friends of the Library



Take Your Child to the Library Day

Saturday, February 7

For the 4th Annual Take Your Child to the Library

Day we will be celebrating Laura Ingalls Wilder's birthday with a cake and offer the following drop-in activities:

Color & decorate our "Rocket Ship"

Alternating craft and game activity every hour from 9:30 to 1:30.

Owls and Birds of Prey with Horizon

Wings Monday, March 30th, 6:00-7:30

Sign-up is required. Space is limited.

First Friday Family Movie

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

Feb. 6th—The Boxtrolls (PG)

CANTERBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Hello from the Canterbury Public Schools team!

CPS Mission Statement: In collaboration with our community, the Canterbury Public Schools will develop, foster, and cultivate all students to their highest potential, through rigorous academics within a safe, nurturing, and respectful environment.

Central Office Happenings as reported by Superintendent Dr. Lois C. Knapton

As usual, our school system is bustling with activity. The Leadership team wrote a grant and received 10 days of grant funded job embedded Professional Development from the CT State Department of Education. This PD will assist our staff in the continued implementation of CT Core Standards. Additionally, congratulations to the following teachers who received a mini grant to the Bureau of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment with the CSDE: Courtney Langlois, Kelly Walsh, Carol Strafaci, Kaye Jakan, and Beth O'Connor. A big thank you goes out to the Canterbury Volunteer Auxiliary for the gracious donation of \$744.51 to be used for the BMS school library. In addition, we received a \$50,000 gift from the estate of Rosalie M. Savarese to be used for instructional / library materials. Four students received the Superintendent Leadership awards. Congratulations to 8th graders Elijah Parker, Elizabeth Bartoshevich and 4th graders Ashton Croteau and Alexis Lisee. These students are a testament to the caliber of students we educate.

At the BOE level, we approved our three year strategic plan. You can find the entire document on our school website. Additionally, the CT Association of Boards of Education (CABE) awarded the Canterbury BOE with the Level I Board Leadership Award. CABE believes that Boards of Education and Superintendents which exhibit the most effective leadership is characterized by their ability to work together as team.

CES happenings as reported by Principal Sarah Walmsley Cary

We have had a great first half of the school year. The youngest classes were

very excited to get a visit from the fire department and learn about fire safety. As usual, the fire engine and the ambulance were a big hit. Thank you! Our third grade has been doing a unit on recycling and have created art and new products using recycled materials which are on display. Our PTO sponsored a hat and mitten drive in December and we received many donations for those in need. This fall, we completed a project to ensure wireless service for the entire building. We have had opportunities for parents to be here with us, ranging from a parenting workshop in November to parent/teacher conferences. Parents also come to watch our assemblies and showcase our students' academic and artistic talents. We thank you for your continued support and we wish you a very happy and prosperous 2015.

BMS Happenings as reported by the new Interim Principal Jane Dion

Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School is experiencing a transition as Principal Brain Tedeschi resigned. He took a position at Parish Hill High School. The new interim principal, Jane Dion, has been warmly welcomed. With 42 years of experience in education, she joined the staff on January 5. An Advisory Selection Committee is being formed to assist in the Principal search. If anyone is interested, please contact Dr. Knapton at 860-546-6950. On another note, be sure to check out our new sign in front of our school. A school-wide sign contest asking students to draw a picture depicting the BMS school of excellence

and school of distinction standing was held. Sixth grade student, **Tahlia Bryant** was the artistic winner. Thank you to all students who submitted drawings.

Special Education Happenings as reported by Jodi Davis, Director of Pupil Personnel

The Pupil Services department is very excited to welcome our new school psychologist, Laura Ruberto. She comes to us as a graduate of UCONN working on her doctorate degree. She is off to a wonderful start and has been a great fit.

The eligibility category of Dyslexia has been added to the Individual Education Plans in Connecticut. In order to support our in district capacity to provide instruction for students identified with this diagnosis, special Education teachers, Bill Bergan and Sanderson Tattersall, both spent a week in Warwick, RI at an Orton-Gillingham training. This specialized training provides teachers with multi-sensory language techniques to enhance the reading ability of struggling students.

The Baldwin Middle School Partner Classroom has been chosen by the New England Center for Children as a model classroom when opening up additional sites. Congratulation goes to teacher, Vicki Yaworsky, and her staff for a job well done!

A Thanksgiving Feast was held in November at BMS. Students worked on social and daily living skills through the creation, presentation and consumption of the meal. This annual celebration is a treat for both students and staff.

Canterbury Cares

Canterbury Cares is a once a month food pantry that serves residents of Canterbury who are in need of food assistance. We are located in the lower level of the First Congregation Church of Canterbury, on the Canterbury Green. We distribute a variety of goods on the third Monday of the month from 10 am-noon and the following Thursday from 5-6 pm. We are also available on an as needed basis to those requiring emergency food assistance.

We wish to thank everyone who has supported Canterbury Cares: those who have donated their time, run events, and given so generously with financial support and donations of food. We are so blessed to see first-hand the wonderful community we have in our town. Please contact Terry Poirier at (860) 546-9007, if you are in need of food assistance or would like to volunteer or donate. Donation bins are located in the Town Hall for anyone who would like to drop off canned and boxed foods.

LOCAL

POSTAL CUSTOMER

FINNISH AMERICAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

The Finnish Hall in Canterbury will celebrate its 90th Anniversary this year with the groundbreaking occurring in late 1924 and the completion of the building in December 1925. FAHS will host several events during the year to celebrate this milestone. We thank the community for their support over the past decades and welcome it in the future.

Our Finnish American Historic Site Survey report has been published and is being distributed to members. A copy has been donated to the Canterbury Library and also to the Canterbury Historical Society. It provides a history of the Finnish immigrants to North America and the eventual settling in the Eastern Connecticut region. The report was authored by Rachel Carley, an architectural historian of Litchfield.

On Saturday December 6th the Heritage Society held their December membership meeting and reviewed the plans for celebrating the Sibelius 150th Anniversary during 2015. We have arranged for a piano concert by Craig Randal Johnson, a pianist and conductor from Minneapolis on May 17th at the Pomfret School. The concert plan will be coordinated with a program to be developed into a FinnFunn weekend during the same weekend in our area. Look for more information in coming months.

The Heritage Society held its annual meeting in early January and elected the following 2015 officers and trustees: Stan Karro of Brooklyn, President, Steve Bousquet of Norwich, Vice President, Anita Smiley of Preston, Recording Secretary, Jobina Miller of Canterbury, Treasurer, Rita Kelley, Corresponding Secretary of Killingly, Steve Coupe of Chepachet, RI, Membership Secretary, and new Trustees Sean Tate of Preston, Patti Folsom of Greenville, RI, Beverly Johnson of Woodstock, continuing Trustees, Annaliisa Brassard of Brooklyn, and Saul Ahola of Woodstock. We thank everyone who has served in the past and appreciate the willingness of new officers and trustees to serve in the coming year.

On Saturday February 7th from we will host the annual sledding day also known as Laskiainen Paiva with pea soup, pulla (coffee bread), and other food items for sale.

On Sunday March 22 the annual pancake breakfast will be held at the Finnish Hall. Please save these dates for great food as we begin to welcome the warmer weather of spring.

We wish everyone a wonderful and healthy 2015 New Year.

The Last Green Valley

Thank you all for the support you've provided this past year. Due to your memberships, business & nonprofit partnerships, donations and volunteers, we at The Last Green Valley, Inc. (TLGV) are able to continue.

First up this year, we are putting together an all-new, comprehensive adventure and recreation guide to our National Heritage Corridor. **Explore! Outdoor, Indoor & Around Town Adventures in The Last Green Valley** will feature places to hike, bike, paddle, swim, shop, tickle your taste buds, rest for the night, dally in a museum, enjoy farms, and engage in every other sort of adventure imaginable. A listing in **Explore!** is a must if you have something to be discovered, shared and enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. Contact Marcy@tlgv.org or call 860-774-3300 for details.

We also received good news to start the New Year. Congress has extended the National Heritage Corridor's ability to receive federal funds through 2021. The same legislation, also formally changed the Corridor's name from the hard-to-remember "Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor" to a more apt moniker, "The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor."

Many other events and activities will continue throughout the year, too! Here is a glimpse at what other sort of things you can discover with TLGV:

Ranger Talks are held throughout the year, including "Notable & Notorious: Curious and Infamous Characters from The Last Green Valley" scheduled for Friday, February 13th at 7 p.m. at the Canterbury Historical Society. Be sure to attend!

Ranger Marcy will do an "**Acorn Adventure**" monthly, focusing on family fun and our youth while exploring different spots all around The Last Green Valley.

"**Green Lights**" will glow from February 15th through March 17th. We encourage everyone to join in the slightly off-kilter midwinter fun. Simply string up green lights at your home, use a green light on the porch, or include a green-themed special at your business or organization. Be sure to send pictures and let us know what you are doing so we can share!

Clean-ups are a focus as spring approaches, and once again we'll offer funds to groups willing to chip in and help keep The Last Green Valley clean and green.

Keep up to date with all the news and happenings in The Last Green Valley on our website thelastgreenvalley.org and on our facebook page.