

Canterbury Town News

January, 2016

Canterbury, Connecticut

SELECTMEN'S CORNER

HAPPY NEW YEAR – 2016

It is very hard to believe that another year has already come and gone. 2015 was an extremely busy, but productive year and I look forward to another exciting year for 2016. Thus far, winter has been mild with December having set numerous records for its "warmer than normal" temperatures. But with that said, we have several months of winter still ahead.

As in the past, I would like to take a minute and wish each and every one of you a "belated" Happy New Year and I hope that 2016 brings health and happiness to every Canterbury Resident and their families.

The month of January is always a busy month at the Town Hall as we are in the early stages of the budget planning process for our 2016/2017 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, has been completed. This project has been several years in the making, and due to the successful application by the previous administration for grant funding under the Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP), the overall cost to the Town has been minimal. The main heating source for the new garage is a "waste oil" furnace that uses waste oil that is collected at the Transfer Station, along with waste oil from our town trucks and school buses. The new building now enables the Public Works Department to house and maintain our trucks and equipment in the five, large bays of the garage.

Renovation of the grounds at Manship Park are now completed. There are a few areas that will be touch-up in the spring, but the Baseball and Soccer Fields, along with the Volleyball Courts and the Walking Track will be ready for use this Spring. The new Play Area for the Kids has already been a big hit for the youngsters, and for the parents, as it provides for a safe environment for the kids to play in. For obvious reasons, the "fenced in" Kid's Play Area and the Volleyball Courts are off-limits to pets and we ask that you pick up after your pets when using the Walking Track.

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 A. Piper
First Selectman

Emergency Number Signs

1 2 3 4

Have you picked up your free 9-1-1 sign for your home?

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 reflective 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, will save precious minutes of response time in the event of an emergency at your residence.

Canterbury Assessor's Office

Elderly & Totally Disabled Tax Credit Program

If you turned 65 in 2015, or you are totally disabled, you could be eligible for the 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 \$42,900 and for those who are single the maximum income is \$35,200. Proof of income is required. The filing period is from February 1st through May 13th. 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 2016 Grand List. Proof of income is required. Check with the Assessor's Office for the income limits.

Please note that all of the above programs require a biennial filing. The Assessor's Office will mail you an application if you are due to file this year.

Board of Assessment Appeals

If you wish to appeal your assessment you must fill out a petition to the Board of Assessment Appeals by February 19, 2016. 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 (860-546-6035) if you have any questions or if you would like to make an appointment to file an application for these programs.

Lynn M. Byberg, CCMA II
Assessor

Canterbury Senior Trips

Just back from our January cruise! What great weather and sailing we had on a beautiful new ship. There is a virtual balcony in the inside cabins, so it looks like you have a balcony!

Don't forget to look for our newsletter and flyers on the library bulletin board. Please help yourself to a newsletter, if you have any questions just call!

We have quite a full list of trips already with more coming for the year – shows, day trips, multi-day trips (flying and bus). We are going to Sedona and the Grand Canyon, Mackinaw and Chicago and Quebec. We always enjoy Pennsylvania and the Sight and Sound Production. Join the CT Lighthouse Cruise...visit a castle...enjoy the comedy at the Newport Playhouse!

So take a newsletter and see if there's something you'd like!

Canterbury Seniors

The Canterbury Seniors have begun another new membership year. We are looking forward to fun activities, entertainment, games, tasty luncheons, exciting trips, and friendly fellowship. Adults age 50 and over are eligible-annual membership fee is \$8.00.

Our regular monthly meeting and potluck luncheon is held the second Thursday of every month at 11:00AM at the Town Hall. Upcoming meetings are Feb 11, March 10, April 14, and May 12. Meetings are a great way to keep up-to-date on the latest issues relevant to midlife and seniors.

Our Bistro Luncheon is held the third Wednesday of every month at 12:00PM at the Town Hall. All ages are welcome. Bistros are scheduled on Feb 17, March 16, April 20, and May 18.

Copies of current senior activity calendars are located in the front foyer at Town Hall. If you have any questions or require additional contact information, call Deb Kinne at 860-546-6136.

Municipal Agent for the Elderly

Energy Assistance program has been in full swing. Please call the office to make an appointment. Last day to take applications will be April 28, 2016

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

Elderly & Totally Disabled Tax Credit Program: If you turned 65 in 2015, 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.

Farmers Markets Coupons: I will be ordering Farmers Market Coupons for seniors' for the 2016 season in February. Due to the high demand last year I am doubling my request of booklets. My office usually receives these coupons at the end of June. Please contact my office and leave your name and number as I will be making a list for those interested... First come first serve: Anyone 60 years of age or older and an income of \$21,590 for single and \$29,101 for Couples can receive this booklet of checks valued at \$18.00 and can be used at any CT Farmers Market. These checks are good from May 1, to October 1, 2016.

Renters Rebate Program: My office will be completing all Renters Rebates for the Town of Canterbury effective immediately working under the Tax Assessor. The Tax Assessor will be still completing homeowners and Veterans Benefits. State law provides a reimbursement program for Connecticut renters who are elderly or totally disabled, and whose incomes do not exceed certain limits. Persons renting an apartment or room, or living in cooperative housing or a mobile home may be eligible for this program. Renters' rebates can be up to \$900 for married couples and \$700 for single persons. The renters' rebate amount is based on a graduated income scale and the amount of rent and utility payments (excluding telephone) made in the calendar year prior to the year in which the renter applies. Application may be made at the town social service agency, or the Assessor's Office, depending on the town, between April 1st and October 1st. Recipient or spouse must be 65 years of age or older, or be 50 years of age or older and the surviving spouse of a renter who at the time of the renter's death had qualified and was entitled to tax relief provided such spouse was domiciled with such renter at the time of the renters' death, or 18 years of age or older and eligible to receive Social Security Disability benefits. Must meet a one year state residency requirement. Grants are based upon income requirements.

Programs for Winter/Spring 2016

Art Classes for over 50 years of age with Mary Bingham Abbey

Thursdays 1:30-3:30 pm - Community Room - \$3.00 a session - beginning Feb 4th
Bring your own canvas and picture, all other supplies provided.

Tai Chi Class with Instructor Paula McNally

Fridays 9:30-10:30 - Community Room - \$1.00 per session

Senior Exercise Class with Instructor Christine Bernier

Tuesday 9:30-10:30 & Thursdays 9:30-10:30 except the 2nd Thursday of the month
Community Room - \$1.00 per session. All equipment provided

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 860-546-2057 or 860-546-6136. Leave name and number of who will be attending by the Thursday prior.

Senior Luncheon 11:00 am- Community Room

Every **Second Thursday of the Month** except August. This is a Pot Luck Luncheon that immediately follows the Seniors meeting and each family is requested to bring in a dish or dessert.

Canterbury Town Clerk & Tax Collector

The Board of Selectmen has decided to initiate a new two-year **Transfer Station Sticker** program. New stickers will become available in early February.

Justices of the Peace must be endorsed by either major party by May 24. Our office has copies of the Justice of the Peace Manual for those interested. If you

FOR THE PURPOSE OF NEW STICKERS ONLY

The Town Clerk's office will remain open until 6:00 pm on the following dates:

February 16, 17 & February 22, 23, 24.

All residents must get a new sticker for your vehicles by April 30, 2016 (even if you recently obtained a sticker). The new sticker will be valid for two years. Stickers will be available in the Town Clerk's office, unless otherwise noted. You **MUST** present a current **Canterbury** motor vehicle registration to obtain a sticker. **Reminder:** the Transfer Station is for household garbage and recycling only. We do not give stickers to businesses or any out of town entities.

Opening day for **fishing season** is April 9, 2016. Angler Guides normally arrive in our office the second week of April.

The **Presidential Preference Primary** will be held on April 26. You must be registered as a Republican or a Democrat to vote in that party's Primary.

do not belong to a major party, you may be considered for appointment by the Town Clerk. Please phone for details.

Tax bills may be paid on-line by accessing the Town's website: 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/credit card or transfer monies from your checking/savings account. There is a fee involved with any on-line payment. Fees are shown on the MCC.net website as you proceed through the payment process. **We CANNOT accept credit or debit card payments in our office or over the phone.** You must pay with check or cash.

Natalie Cordes
Town Clerk & Tax Collector

Canterbury Volunteer Fire Department



Happy New Year from the Canterbury Volunteer Fire Company! We hope this year brings health and happiness to you and your family. As we head into the winter season, we would like to remind people to keep mailboxes and house numbers visible at all times. First Responders rely on these numbers to locate an address in an emergency.

Thank you to all who came out and participated in our annual open house during fire prevention week. We had some exciting guests and demonstrations and hope to be even better next year. EMS and Fire personnel visited the elementary school which was a great success. We look forward to bigger and better next year!

In December, the Juniors held their 3rd

Annual toy drive. Thanks to the generous donations and support from our community, we were able to give over 30 children a brighter holiday season. Look for us next year during the first weekend in December.

Every year the Fire Company holds an annual dinner to celebrate and commend our members. This is also an opportunity for us to socialize and meet the members of our community. This year's annual dinner will be held on Saturday, April 30, 2016. Tickets cost \$50 per couple and will be available from any member. You can also call the firehouse at 860-546-9807. Tickets will be on sale soon.

As always, if you have time to spare and would like to help within your community, we are always in need of volunteers. Please stop by to inquire or give the Station a call.

Canterbury Elementary School



PreK Registration will be held on April 7th and April 7th. Parents/guardians can call the Pupil Services office at 860/546-6744 for an appointment. Registration packets will be mailed once an appointment is scheduled.

LAND USE OFFICE



The Land Use Office has received several inquiries regarding logging activities. Section 5.2.3 of the Canterbury Zoning Regulations states that Agricultural and Forestry activities are permitted by right in Canterbury. These activities are not regulated by hours of operation nor days in which they can operate. A forester will notify the Land Use Office of an upcoming harvest. If there are wetlands on the property, the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission and/or the Wetland Enforcement Officer may conduct a site walk of the property with the forester. They walk the property to determine if there are any impacts to the wetlands. If so, how can these impacts be minimalized or avoided, but again these activities are allowed by right.

The Planning & Zoning Commission is currently discussing amendments to the zoning regulations. The Commission meets on the second Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Center. If a resident has specific concerns they would like the Commission to look into, please consider attending a meeting or send correspondence to the Land Use Office at 1 Municipal Drive, Canterbury, CT, 06331. Also feel free to email mgil@canterburyct.org.

Melissa Gil
ZEO/WEO

Canterbury Agricultural Commission

Let's "Grow" with Local Agriculture

Are you interested in Farmers Markets, do you know where to buy local fresh food for your family year round, do you know how to garden, or where to get loans to farm? You are welcome to come to the Agriculture Commission meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm; and we will help you get the answers you need from the variety of resources available for Connecticut Agriculture.

This month's question:

What is a CSA?

A farm has expenses for labor, equipment and seeds way before they have a crop to sell; so Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a commitment by families/customers to pay up front for those crops; or each week throughout the season. This way the farm knows it has money coming in to help cover expenses. The benefit to the customer is knowing each week of the season there will be a box of fresh local produce to enhance the taste buds, and challenge you to try new vegetables, and new recipes.

In December, on a Sisters Getaway, we discovered this easy and delicious salad recipe. Wash and towel dry or spin a mixture of lettuce; add slivered almonds, grated parmesan cheese and an appropriate amount of Lemon Ginger Salad dressing. Enjoy!

Dawn Pindell

Agriculture Commission

Editor's Note

The next issue will be published in May 2016.

Anyone wishing to submit articles may do so by emailing 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.

Friends of Prudence Crandall Museum

The Friends of the Prudence Crandall Museum, Inc., is preparing for the upcoming 2016 museum season!

Our Annual meeting will be held May 7th at the Museum; election of Board members will take place, along with a review and discussion of planned family events, activities, and fundraisers. If you are interested in serving as a Member of the Board, please contact friendsofprudencelandall@gmail.com. You need to be a member in good standing on the day of election (dues paid) and have a desire to further promote the appreciation and understanding of the story of Prudence Crandall and the Crandall Female Academy. Do not have the time available to be a board member, how about becoming a member? We have membership categories available to suit your needs. New members always welcome!

May 21st ~No Small Courage Symposium, Lives and Legacies: Prudence Crandall's African-American Students, the Next Chapter. Held at the Canterbury Community Center. The Symposium will feature: Prof. Jennifer Rycenga, Prudence Crandall biographer; Dr. Afua Cooper (Dalhousie Univ.) recipient of the 2015 Nova Scotia Human Rights Award and author; Dr. Carla Peterson (Univ. of Maryland) author of *Black Gotham: A Family History of African Americans in 19th Century New York City*; Prof. Rob Forbes author of *The Missouri Compromise and Its Aftermath: Slavery and the Meaning of America*.

More activities are in the works. You can find more information on our website: www.friendsoftheprudencelandallmuseum.org Find us on Facebook or call 860-546-7800 ext. 7. We thank you for your support.

Prudence Crandall Museum



The Prudence Crandall Museum will open for the 2016 Season on May 4th / Wednesday through Sunday, 10am to 4pm (last ticket at 3:30pm). We have a full slate of programs and events planned, and if you'd like to get more involved in the behind-the-scenes at the Museum, please consider joining either the Museum's Adult or Junior Docent Program. (Junior Docents are young people between the ages of 12 and 18 / Adult Docents are ages 18 and up.) All docents commit

to work at least one day per month from May through November; and new docents shadow a more experienced staff person until they feel comfortable doing tours on their own.

2016 Docent training will take place on: Saturday May 14 and Saturday May 21, 10am to 4pm. (Attendance both days is required.) Training on May 14 will take place at the Crandall Museum, and will be led by local historian and educator, Bev York. Bev has more than 25 years of experience in museum work and education, and is currently the Educational Director at the Mill Museum in Willimantic. On May 14 we'll not only explore the important role docents play in museums as they provide a welcoming and comfortable environment for visitors, but we'll also begin to discuss how to tell the stories of Prudence Crandall, Sarah Harris and her fellow students in an engaging and exciting way. Day 2 of Training will take place on Saturday May 21, as participants attend this year's No Small Courage, "Lives and Legacies: Prudence Crandall's African-American Students...Part 2" at the Canterbury Community Center, 10am to 4pm. The Symposium will explore the lives and legacies of the young women who attended the school from 1833-1834, and will add to information that was discussed in last year's "Part 1" Symposium. Docent Training participants will be charged a discounted ticket price of \$20, which includes symposium registration, all hand out materials, and box lunch.

If you'd like to learn more about how to get involved in the Museum's docent, or other volunteer programs, please call! We'd love to have you join us in sharing this amazing story with the public. For more info: 860-546-7800 / kaz.kozlowski@ct.gov / or www.cultureandtourism.org. Also follow us on Facebook!

Friends of the Canterbury Library

Friends of the Canterbury Public Library is a group of pro-community people who improve our town by strengthening and supporting the library.

This past year the Friends bought museum passes to Mystic Seaport, Roger Williams, Florence Griswold, and the Children's Museum. We sponsored literacy programs available at the library; Bouncing Baby Tales, Music and Movement, and Ladder to Literacy. We hold one or two book and bake sales every year. The next sale will be April 30th. We've created a new online Library WishList to fill the libraries needs.

You can support the town when you shop on AmazonSmile. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to the Friends of the Canterbury Public Library. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Start your shopping at smile.amazon.com and designate Friends of the Canterbury Public Library as your charity today.

These are just some of the ways the Friends make a positive difference in our community. If you would like to continue supporting your community, learn what many of your neighbors already know; by becoming a 'Friend' today. Memberships start at only \$5.

Membership forms can be downloaded at http://canterburylibrary.org/friends_group

Finnish American Heritage Society

On November 1st, FAHS held their monthly membership meeting along with a potluck lunch followed by an Open House as a final celebration of its 90th Anniversary of the building. Many photos of FAHS events from our archives were on display as well as many decades of the region's communities and residents. The Hall was filled with friends and FAHS members from the region. Gregory Smiley along with many family members presented an interesting slide presentation of Jack's life with friends providing stories and tales of a full and exciting life to compliment the slides.

The reactions of the children at the Pikkujoulu (Children's Christmas Party) event at the Finnish Hall to Santa and Mrs. Claus varied from fear to joy as presents were given. Many sat on Santa's lap and others stayed a distance. During our membership meeting earlier in the day, we celebrated Finland's Independence Day with the reading of the proclamation from Finland's President and listening to the always popular Finlandia music composition. It was a wonderful day of activity to conclude the FAHS event calendar of 2015.

With the New Year came the annual membership meeting on Sunday January 3rd and election of officers and trustees for 2016 with the following results: Steve Bousquet of Norwich, President, Stan Karro of Brooklyn, Vice President, Ellen Buffington of Canterbury, Recording Secretary, Jobina Miller of Canterbury, Treasurer, Rita Kelley of Killingly, Corresponding Secretary, Steve Coupe of Chepachet, RI, Membership Secretary, Anita Smiley of Preston, Trustee, and Saul Ahola of Woodstock, Trustee. The following are continuing Trustees: Beverly Johnson of Woodstock, Patti Folsom of Greenville, RI, and Sean Tate of Preston.

Coming events at the Finnish Hall include the Winter Sledding Day aka Laskiainen Paiva on Saturday February 6 from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. The event features pea soup (perfect for the cold weather) and Finnish pulla for sale along with sledding for the younger generation if nature cooperates. This event along with many others at the Finnish Hall is open to the public.

On Saturday March 5th at 1:30 PM, the Heritage Society will host Finnish Culinary delights. This event features instructions on cooking a variety of Finnish foods followed by a tasting of these items by attendees; the event is free and always has interesting different flavored foods to try. Mark your calendar for all these events including our annual Pancake Breakfast scheduled for Sunday April 10th from 8:00 AM until 11:00 AM.

Our FAHS members and officers wish everyone a very Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous 2016.

St. Augustine's Church

144 Westminster Road
Canterbury, CT 06331

Lenten Fish Fry's will be held on each Friday during Lent from February 12 through March 25. Hours are 4:30 to 7:00. Details and the menu will be posted in The Turnpike Buyer as the time approaches. Eat in or take out.

Our Annual Plant sale will be held on Saturday, May 7th, in time for your Mother's Day plants and flowers.

Hope to you'll join us at these events.

Canterbury Historical Society

We hope you'll make it to some of our upcoming programs and events.

On Friday February 12, at 7:00 pm we welcome Bill Reid, Chief Ranger with The Last Green Valley, for a program entitled "Connecting the Drops: Source to Sea through the Last Green Valley."

On Saturday April 23, 8:30 am to 2:30 pm we're hosting a big indoor fundraising tag sale in the Community Room. Spring's also the perfect time to clean out your own house, garage, and barn. Rent a table or two for \$10 each to sell your own things, or donate your to the society. To donate items, to rent a table, or if you have questions, please contact Eleanor at 860-546-9062.

The Canterbury Historical Society's regular monthly meetings are on the second Friday evening of the month at 7:00 pm, except for July and August. Our monthly meetings feature a history-themed speaker program. Admission is free and the public is warmly invited.

We invite you to become a member, but we're also happy to send email announcements of programs and events to nonmembers. To receive notices, please send a note, including your full name and the email address to info@canterburyhistorical.org. We never share your contact information, and you can opt out at any time.

CANTERBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY



**Pick a wish
and help us
build a
better library**

Dreams really can come true with your support.

*Make a Donation * Volunteer*

Sponsored by the FRIENDS of the CPL

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

(Sign-up is required)

Nature Programs on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 10:00 -11:00. Ages 5-9

February 20th—*Woo Goes There? Owls*

March 19th—*Sounds of Spring. Frogs*

April 16th—*We can't see it: The Wind*

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

CHILDREN'S LITERACY PROGRAMS

(Sign-up is required)

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

**Tuesdays and Wednesdays,
9:30am—10:00am**

Music & Movement with *Melissa Lennon*
Children, ages 18 months to 3 years old.
Thursday at 9:30 and 10:30.

Ladder to Literacy with *Melissa Lennon*
Children, ages 3 1/2 to 5 years old.
Program runs September—May.
Wednesdays 10:15- 11:15

ADULT AND TEEN PROGRAMS

(Sign-up is required)

DIY Valentine's Sugar Scrub (Ages 12+) Thursday, Feb 4th 6:00-7:00 pm.
Bring home a spa treatment to pamper your loved one (or yourself).

Chinese New Year Drop-in Craft and Snack Monday, February 8th 5:00-6:00.
Paper lanterns red envelopes, mandarin oranges and fortune cookies. Ages 11+

Card Stamping with *Arlene Sweet*
Thursdays 6:00pm-8:00pm

February 18th and 25th & April 7th and 14th.

Tax Assistance Sessions

AARP tax-aide Volunteers will be at the

library to help with your 2015 tax preparation This is a free service available on a first com, first served basis **Appointments are available Mondays from 9:00 - 12:30 on the following dates: February 8 & 22; March 7 & 21; and April 4.** Call the library to schedule an appointment.

Household Paperwork Organizing

with *Denise Lamb.* **Monday, February 8, 5:00-6:00.** Learn how to deal with your daily mail, organize paperwork, and learn the no-fail system to create a household notebook. Call for a materials list.

Stop Putting Things Off: Simple Tools and Strategies to End Procrastination

with *Steve Taylor.* **Date TBA.**

Easter Cake Decorating with *Cindy Miller.*
Thursday, March 17, 6:00-8:00. Please bring a can of frosting and a utensil for spreading.

FAMILY PROGRAMS

First Friday Family Movie

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

February 5th—Hotel Transylvania 2

March 4th—Goosebumps

April 1st—The Peanuts Movie

Take Your Child to the Library Day:

Saturday, February 6th. For the 5th Annual day we will offer several drop-in activities.

Friends of the Library Book & Bake

Sale: Saturday, April 30th 9:00 - 2:00
Book donations are accepted during library hours only. Not accepted: textbooks, Reader's Digest condensed Books, encyclopedias, VHS tapes or magazines. Bake sale donations are accepted on the day of the sale.

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.

February 16th Canterbury—*The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins

Creating Community Connections

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

Website: www.canterburylibrary.org

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

March 15th Scotland—*March* by Geraldine Brooks

April 13th at the Thompson Public Library—Quiet Corner Reads Kick-Off Event with Anita Diamant.

April 19th Canterbury—*Short Stories and Poems* by Edgar Allen Poe

ADULT ACTIVITY PROGRAMS

(Sign-up is required)

Wednesdays from 10:00 - 11:00 In the Canterbury Town Hall Community Room with Kathleen Hart & JoAnn Brustolon

February 17 - Coloring to Relax: just have fun staying in the lines.

March 16 - YoYo Frabric Crafts: make mini YoYo Crafts, a necklace and home decorations

April 20 - Origami Crafts: fold paper into birds, flowers and other items.

LIBRARY PASSES

Connecticut State Parks Pass (2): No Child Left Inside Initiative. Free admission for 2 adults & 4 children.
Mystic Aquarium: Discounted admission for up to 2 adults and 2 children.

Mystic Seaport: Half-priced admission for 2 adults & 3 children.

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

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

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

Canterbury Public Schools

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

As I enter my third year as Superintendent, I am continually amazed by the deep sense of community that sparkles in Canterbury. I love representing the Canterbury Public Schools when attending Leadership meetings around the state. Our staff and students continue to thrive. For the second year in a row, the Canterbury Board of Ed. was awarded the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) Board Leadership Award for high standards, dedication, and teamwork.



In addition, one of our teachers at CES, Sergeant Louise Fletcher, is an active National Guardsman and was called away for active duty last school year. Canterbury Public School was honored as a 2015 Employer Support Freedom Award Finalist in recognition of exemplary support of National Guard and Reserve Member Employees. We are so grateful to her and her accomplishments in the National Guard.

Canterbury Elementary School, as reported by Principal Sarah Cary:

We, at CES, came back to school in the beginning of 2016 ready to learn! Our

students continue to make great progress in reading, writing, and mathematics. We participated in many special projects during the first half of the year. For



example, the third grade just finished a recycling unit in which the final project was to make

something new from recycled objects. They made such things as robots, pencil holders, bird feeders, and stuffed animals. Their projects are on display in our foyer. We continue to have assemblies which recognize our students' achievements in music, art, and reading. We also honor them for their citizenship and academic excellence. Our faculty is also involved in learning new things as we integrate technology into our classrooms and attend workshops. Our PTO is planning to bring us assemblies and other fun activities. Our families continue to reach out to us and together we partner to meet the needs of all our children.

Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School, as reported by Principal Mr. Ryan Earley

During the first half of the school year the staff and students at BMS have been deeply engaged in learning in various ways. I think it is great that the students

in have been able to experience learning outside of the classroom that have ranged from the arts to science and technology. Grade 8 students had the Senegal exchange students from Woodstock Academy visit, been able to visit and learn about their high school options, visit Salem MA, and take a walk down to the Prudence Crandall museum. Grade 7 students spent several days in Wakefield RI at Nature's Classroom, spent time with an expert on the topic of the Titanic. Grade 6 students took a trip to the USCGA band as Grade 5 students enjoyed a math Olympics, a Book Barn visit, and various science labs and experiences; and athletically a very successful fall season with the girls soccer team winning their division championship. Canterbury also awarded Jessica Kasecek and Gina Leo with the Superintendent's Award for 2015 from Grade 8. BMS also sent a team of female students to the statewide summit for Girls in Manufacturing in New London. As the students have been learning and growing, the adults in the school community have been concurrently working on providing more personalized instruction, and creating new fire drill and lock down procedures. I look forward to sharing more exciting news in the coming months.

The Last Green Valley

Do you feel a strong connection to where you live? Our goal this year is to inspire you even more to care for, enjoy, and pass on The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor. After all, The Last Green Valley is our home and our legacy! Unique natural and historic resources give us a sense of place in our 35 town region and are just a piece of our important designation as a National Heritage Corridor.

The Last Green Valley, Inc. (TLGV) will continue focusing our resources on our year-round work, but let's start out with a look at this spring!

Explore!, is the comprehensive adventure and recreation guide to our National Heritage Corridor. To be included in this publication, contact

Marcy@tlgv.org or call 860-774-3300 for details. Then look for and use the updated guide in the town hall and library in late May!

Monthly, Acorn Adventures are aimed at families with children inspiring that childlike joy. Member Programs offer variety and information. New in 2016 are Mystery Member Meanders, simple "show & go" hikes connecting people to new destinations. The locations are secret, until you RSVP!

Ranger Talks are free and held throughout the year, at your organization's request.

Volunteering opportunities galore exist with meaningful opportunities.

Clean-ups are a focus as spring

approaches, and once again we'll offer funds to groups willing to chip in.

River trails work continues. Success and recognition from the National Park Service in getting Willimantic & Quinebaug Rivers designated as National Recreation Water Trails, kiosks & signage in place, plus River Trail Guides for each has inspired us to add to those 90 miles already designated, this time on the Shetucket.

Free Programs for Schools are available, too, inspiring almost 3,000 kids per year to care about our rivers and lakes.

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

LOCAL

POSTAL CUSTOMER

A CANTERBURY STORY *by Sheila Mason Gale*

On March 1, 1980 I walked into the Canterbury Town Offices, located under the Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School, to begin my first day of work as the First Selectman's secretary. There were no copiers, answering machines, fax machines and, of course, no computers. Every letter had to be typed with carbon paper. Payroll and disbursement check ledger entries had to be entered by hand and totaled with a calculator. On December 31, 2015 I left this position, but I would like share a few anecdotes about all of "my" First Selectmen over thirty five years.

David Ginnetti (Term: 11-22-77 to 11-21-83) was my first First Selectman and he knew everything that was happening in Canterbury. He was very intelligent and has an amazing steel-trap mind. If he was asked about a certain dump truck in the Town's fleet he could tell you what time of the year it was bought, exactly how much it cost, what kind of financing was used to purchase it, gave him a minute he could probably come up with the truck's serial number.

Bob Manship (11-22-83 to 11-21-89), a former state policeman, was tall, strong, laid back and calm. Bob was a Democrat and there had not been a Democratic First Selectman in town since the 1960s' so Senator, Joe Lieberman, came to swear Bob in. Bob loved children. When the children would return to their classrooms from the cafeteria and walk past our office window he would look out and say, "They are all beautiful aren't they?" River Park was renamed Manship Park after Bob.

Ray Guillet (11-21-89 to 11-19-91) and (11-16-93 to 11-21-95) was a Second Selectman for six years, but I really didn't know him. I had no idea how popular Ray was until he was elected

First Selectman. He was a great listener and could relate to people and talk to anyone. It is during his tenure that I became the First Selectman's Assistant.

Diane Tripp (11-19-91 to 11-15-92) was a hard worker. This was her first entry into politics and she studied and gathered every piece of information she could find so she could do a good job. She worked many hours at home. She also loved children. One day we went to BJ's to get supplies for the Town. A little girl was standing all alone while her mother was checking out and Diane smiled at her and got down to the little girl's level and started talking to her as if she were her grandchild.

Charles Savarese, Sr. (11-17-92 to 11-16-93) was a true gentleman. He really cared about Canterbury and would go out of his way to help any citizen who walked into the office. I believe he was at every town meeting and would give an educated opinion on any subject being discussed. He was our well respected Assessor from 1973-1993. While returning from any excursion out of town, Charlie would cross over the Canterbury town line and say out loud: "Dear old Canterbury, home again."

Neil A. Dupont, Sr. (11-21-95 to 11-18-03) and (11-22-05 to 11-20-07) is a typical New England Yankee, down to earth and honest and direct. He had a great mind for numbers and could rattle off phone numbers and budget numbers from memory. He has a great sense of humor and would keep a perfectly straight face while spinning some outrageous story or yarn. Due to him the Canterbury Municipal Building was finally built.

Paul R. Santoro (11-18-03 to 11-22-05) was very detail oriented and kept all of his paperwork and files in perfect order

and as I like things in a specific order awe both got along fine. He could write letters beautifully as well as manage finances. He put into place several accounting procedures that are still used.

Brian H. Sear (11-20-07 to 11-19-13) was a well-rounded person and had several jobs in his lifetime. Several years before he took office his daughter, Alex, gave him a book which helps you decide what you really want to do. After reading the book he said "I want to be in politics." Due to Brian's negotiating ability, Canterbury has annual monies for the Library, Town Hall and a paid daytime ambulance service. He had several catch phrases, one of my favorites was: "I want to grow old and become more open-minded".

Roy A. Piper (11-19-13 - present) was in the Navy for 23 ½ years and then worked for the State of Connecticut. I knew Roy for many years and knew he would make a good First Selectman. Over the years I would stop him in the hall and ask him when are you going to run? It was just a few weeks into his first term when I ordered copy paper. I wasn't going to be in for the delivery so I asked him to be here and make sure to count the boxes so we wouldn't be short. He said, "Sheila, I had to account for the delivery of nuclear weapons, I think I can handle the copy paper."

I recently read a biography of Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher. She was asked if she was a better politician because of her husband. "Of course. If you've got security and certainty behind you, if you come home to total loyalty and affection, then your basic worries in life are gone". I am so fortunate to have had my husband, Peter, with me through this wonderful job and as I start a new phase of my life.