

Canterbury Town News

April 2, 2008

SELECTMAN'S CORNER



Winter is finally beginning to grudgingly let go, bit by bit. I think this spring will be especially welcome to all of us who've weathered the high price of keeping warm! In the Selectmen's office, we've been busy the past few months planning the budget, applying for grants, and assessing how the needs of the Town can best be met. Our goal in preparing the 08/09 budget was to be as frugal as possible in these tight economic times without sacrificing essential Town services. The budget proposal we sent to the Board of Finance represents a 4.83% increase over last year's budget. This addition is primarily due to contractual wage increases, and rising employee health insurance and energy costs. I urge all voters to seriously consider approving the budget on the first referendum.

In February, we applied for a \$500,000 STEAP (Small Town Economic Assistance Program) grant to be used for land acquisition and planning for a Town Municipal park/recreation/nature center. We are also applying for a \$300,000 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program for housing rehabilitation throughout the Town. As always, thank you to the many employees and volunteer workers who make this Town such an interesting and pleasant place to live and work. Please contact the Selectmen's office with any concerns or comments you have.

In case you missed the public hearing, the Town is applying for a housing rehabilitation grant for repair and upgrade of residences throughout the Town. A broad range of income levels qualify; it is not specifically a "hardship" program. Please contact the Selectmen's office for more information or to find out how to apply for the program.

We still have many openings on a "Green Grounds" committee we are forming to spruce up some of the municipal areas in Town. Please contact the Selectmen's office for more information.

TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE



Although the temperature outside doesn't give the sense that spring is upon us, the calendar is indicating otherwise. Our office

windows give us a good glimpse of the outdoors--not too many signs of spring, but it has been fun watching the progress being made on the new Cumberland Farms across the pond. It's good to see new businesses coming to our town!

We are gearing up for our office's regular spring tasks: issuing hunting/fishing licenses (opening day is April 19), preparing for the Annual Town Meeting (May 16), issuing absentee ballots for the budget referendum, issuing annual dog licenses (June) and wrapping up the fiscal year. When the budget passes, we will be sending out the 2007 Grand List taxes. We are not able to accept any pre-payments for taxes until we actually have bills printed.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Janet M. Tyler, Superintendent



As the superintendent of the Canterbury Public Schools since January 2008, I am extremely honored and humbled to be entrusted with the enormous responsibility of overseeing the school district. Since my tenure began, I have been making assessments and have identified specific areas of immediate focus. These areas are incorporated in my goals, which reflect four identified areas: educational leadership, organizational management, community and Board of Education relations, and personal and professional qualities and relationships. They include, but are not limited to, assessing and promoting quality teaching and learning, improving technology, preparing a budget, reviewing and revising district policies, and expanding district partnerships.

As you are aware, this is budget season in every district. The Canterbury Public schools is no exception. The budget process for the 2008 – 2009 school year began with input from teachers and staff to the building principals and Director of Pupil Services. The administrators gathered the requests and compiled them into several documents, which were sent to the superintendent. After a process of identifying essential needs and the rationale for those requests, a budget was formulated and, finally, created by the Business Coordinator. Each budget section, with its rationale, was presented to the members of the Board of Education. Numerous budget discussions have taken place over the past two months and the Board of Education has accepted a fiscally responsible budget.

The 5.3% increase reflects the need for additional classrooms, thus additional teaching staff, at the Canterbury Elementary

School due to increased enrollment. The additions include a new grade one teacher, a new grade two teacher, and an additional .2 (.1 funded through a grant) music teacher to deliver instruction to the newly formed classes. A literacy teacher is requested at the Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School to work with students needing reading remediation and enhancement. Also, a special education teacher is requested due to the requirements of the specials needs population. In addition to the enhanced teaching staff, the BOE has included funding for the salaries of the Athletic Director and nine coaches, thus alleviating some of the cost to parents.

The Board of Education members and I will be establishing evening budget sessions to discuss the rationale and identified needs of the district. We encourage community members to join us on these nights. Also, we will be participating in coffee hours at various homes throughout Canterbury. If you are interested in hosting a coffee hour, or would like us to speak at your club/organizational meeting, please contact me at 546-6950 or jtyler@canterburypublicschools.org.

Since my appointment, I have made a concerted effort to meet children and adults, both within and outside of the school buildings. I am hoping that we can establish and extend partnerships so we are working together as an entity in the community. I welcome your input and feedback, and suggestions. I have established open hours, 8:00 – 9:00 each morning to be appointment free. Please drop by my office for a chat during that hour or at any time throughout the day so we can extend our working relationships.

Again, let me stress my pleasure in being part of the Canterbury community. By working together, we can make a difference in the lives of children.

CANTERBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A. Catherine Ferguson, Principal



Canterbury Elementary School has many upcoming events that all are invited to attend. A school-wide assembly to present the talent we have here will be held on Wednesday June 11 at 2:00 pm. A Celebration of the Arts will be held at 6:30 pm on Thursday, May 8. This event provides us with an opportunity to showcase the Grade 3 Chorus and present the artistic talents of our students. "T-BONE" will lead us in song on May 28 at two performances, 9:00 and 2:00, compliments of the HUGS Grant Program. All of these events will be held in the Canterbury Elementary School cafeteria.

Our Kindergarten Registration was held on Friday, March

28. Pre-Kindergarten Registration will be May 1 and 2. These events Help us project the number of students who will be new to our school during the 2008-09 school year. The School Readiness Program will give fourteen new preschool students the opportunity to attend the program without cost. This is made possible through a State Department of Education Grant. The students will be chosen by lottery, but must attend the registration to be considered.

If you enjoy a baseball game enhanced by the beautiful voices of our Grade 3 students, please plan on attending the Defenders Game the evening of Friday, May 30. Our students will be kicking off the start of the game by singing, "The Star Spangled Banner."

Before we know it, our Grade 4 students will be saying goodbye to Canterbury Elementary School and moving on to Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School. The send-off is always held the last day of school, which is presently Thursday, June 19. Our Presidential and Technology Awards will be presented in a special assembly the evening of June 18 at 6:30 pm.

Our Kindergarten Play will be held on Wednesday, June 4 at 6:30. This is always a special event. This year the students have been studying Nursery Rhymes and will use them as the focus of their play.

As always, we welcome the community to attend our performances. We would love to see you there!

DR. HELEN BALDWIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Kathleen Boyhan-Maus, Principal

Some of our students, who participate in a program on Fox News 61 will be receiving an award at The Learning Corridor in Hartford. The National Junior Honor Society students will be selected in March and inducted in an evening ceremony in April. Parents are involved during the ceremony by pinning the NJHS pin on their children. Following the ceremony, a light dinner will be served for the students, their special guests, and the teachers who work with the society.

Grade four students will make a challenging transition to middle school next year. To enable a smooth shift to middle grades, they are invited to visit the school, have a tour of the building, and spend some time with the fifth grade students, and the teachers. The visit is planned simultaneously with the fifth grade science fair, so students can have an idea of academic expectations prior to their arrival. Fourth grade parents are also welcome to visit in

the afternoon and evening with the grade five staff. Invitations will be forthcoming. Mrs. Boyhan-Maus visits CES to answer specific questions the students may have and to try to alleviate any anxiety about their transition.

The grade 5-8 drama students have been working for months on this year's musical. "Monsters, Murderers, and Madmen" will be presented for the entire Canterbury community on May 16 at 7:00 pm in our gym. All are welcome.

Graduation is planned for the evening before our last day of school, currently June 18. As in past years, the ceremony will be held at Griswold High School.

Important Dates at Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School, March 2008-June 2008.

- March 17 - April 4 Community Service Organization Food Drive
- April 1 Track Tryouts grades 5-8, 3:30
- April 8 Board Of Education - 7:00 pm
- April 9 Grade 5 Trip to Hyde Cultural Center for Hansel & Gretel Opera 10:50-2:00
- April 10 Fox 61 News Team Kids Award Ceremony – Hartford, CT
- April 14-18 Spring vacation
- April 22 Honor's Breakfast - 7:30 am
- Board of Education Meeting - 7:00 pm
- April 23 PTO Meeting - 6:00 pm
- April 24 National Junior Honor Society Induction - 6:30 in gym
- April 26 PTO Five Course Dinner Wright's Mill Tree Farm - 6:30-11:00 pm
- May 7 Special Friends' Day (Lunch with parents, relatives, and good friends) - 11:35-1:35
- May 13 Board of Education - 7:00 pm
- May 14 Our band to CES for their program - 2:00 pm
- May 15 Science Fair in grade 5 (Tentative)
Grade 4 visits school in morning – parents are welcome after school - 3:30-5:00 (Tentative time).
- May 16 Drama Production Grades 5-8, Monsters, Murderers, and Madmen - 7:00, gymnasium

PUPIL SERVICES

Bryan Klimkiewicz, Director

The Canterbury Special Education Department is in the midst of a three year improvement plan. The two major goals within the plan are to: 1) Improve the quality of edu-

cation for students with disabilities by increasing their opportunities to be educated alongside their non disabled peers. 2) Increase parental participation within the special education process.

Within this plan there are a number of objectives that were collaboratively created by parents, state department of education officials, teachers, and administrators. By implementing this plan during the 2006-2007 school year, as a department, we have increased the number of co-taught classrooms within the district, created a district-wide inclusion team, increased the amount of time students with disabilities are educated with their non disabled peers, provided monthly workshop opportunities for parents on various topics, and increased professional development opportunities for our staff regarding inclusive education.

I would like to applaud the efforts of parents, teachers, and administrators for their work within this initiative. Collaboratively, we have created safe, efficient, and effective learning environments for students with disabilities within our schools. You may view our plan in its entirety on our district web site: www.canterburypublicschools.org. Should you have any questions regarding Canterbury's support services, please do not hesitate to contact me.

A CANTERBURY STORY

By Sheila Mason Gale

In 1956, Edgar and Hazel Mason moved from West Warwick, Rhode Island to North Society Road in Canterbury so Edgar could start his own dairy farm. They had four children, Carolyn, Marilyn, Edgar III and Sheila. When the move took place, Edgar had to milk the cows in West Warwick in the morning, complete the move, and then milk the cows at night in Canterbury. The far end of North Society Road was a wonderful location, so peaceful and quiet. Old friends and relatives from Rhode Island would often come unannounced to visit the farm on Sunday afternoon and sit and talk for hours. Edgar started with 30 dairy cows and the farm grew to over 100. The farm Edgar and Hazel created is now the Tyler farm.

Marilyn had just graduated from high school and got a job at Phillips Garage in Plainfield. She didn't have a license so her mother had to drive her back and forth to work. She didn't know it at the time, but a customer, Robert Manship, would in the future become Canterbury's First Selectman and she would work with him as Canterbury's Town Clerk/Tax Collector.

She worked at Phillips garage for three years and then met her husband Richard Burriss at the Baptist church in

Danielson. He was from Oklahoma and was stationed at the Nike site in Foster, Rhode Island. They met in March and were married in October, moved to Danielson and eventually had two children, Richard and Susan. Marilyn got a job at the CBT bank. Richard worked second shift at Pratt & Whitney and it was decided the whole family would move back to Canterbury so Richard could help Edgar with the farm work during the day.

Marilyn was a stay-at-home Mom for twelve years, but was looking for a job after she became a widow in 1971. The Canterbury Town Clerk at the time was Marguerite Simpson and her assistant, Eunice Parker left to take the job as secretary to the Superintendent. Marguerite asked, and Marilyn accepted the assistant job and worked five hours a week. After just two weeks as the new Assistant Town Clerk, Mrs. Simpson had to have surgery and was out for two weeks and Marilyn was on her own. Marilyn said this would become a pattern-whenver Marguerite was sick or on vacation something unique would always come up in the Town Hall that Marilyn had never handled before. Because Marguerite was so organized and kept such good records, Marilyn could find a solution to any problem.

Her second year on the job, the Board of Assessors needed a clerk so she took on that job as well. This was before computers and one of Marilyn's jobs was to hand-write the Grand List. The next year they needed someone on the Board of Assessors so she ran for the job, was elected and served with Charles Savarese and Fred Dorr. Marilyn said the Town saved a lot of money by electing Charles and Marilyn because Charles was on disability with Social Security and Marilyn received a widow's pension so both could only receive a small amount of outside income. Marguerite Simpson was a firm believer in education and Marilyn began to take certification classes for Tax Collection and Assessing. She was the first person in the State of Connecticut to be certified as an Assessor and Tax Collector.

Marilyn was invited to Calvary Chapel's "March to Sunday School in March" when her daughter was two years old and she's been going ever since for over forty years. She was on the church's Board of Christian Education, Music Committee, Hospitality Committee, served as treasurer for the Sunday School and Women's Christian Fellowship and sang in the choir where she was a soloist. Marilyn was also involved in the Canterbury PTA. When she was asked to be a PTA officer she decided it was time to finally get her driver's license so at 32 she took the courses and got her license.

She worked with Marguerite for 13 years as her Assistant so she felt qualified to handle the job. Mrs. Simpson retired and in 1985 Marilyn ran for the Canterbury Town Clerk/Tax Collector job and won the

election. She would be the top vote getter for 7 elections proving the citizens felt she treated everyone the same and was a very fair person. Marguerite was born in Canterbury and knew everyone in town. Marilyn missed growing up in Canterbury and felt she didn't have the advantage of knowing residents when they were younger. However, she calls Canterbury her adopted home. She dealt with a lot of people in her position and one person she remembers was Joseph Kulaga who would drive his tractor from home on Cemetery Road, down to the old Town Office under the Dr. Helen Baldwin School to pay his taxes. He also sent her a congratulatory card when she won her first election. She worked with current Assistant Town Clerk, Beth Heon for fifteen years and hired Patricia Spruance who was Town Clerk/Tax Collector for eight years and Natalie Cordes, the current Town Clerk/Tax Collector. Marilyn retired in January 2000, but can't stay away. She still works four hours a week checking land records and sending documents back to land owners. Her coworkers told me one of Marilyn's greatest qualities was her interest in others. She had a smile for every Canterbury citizen and truly cared about them and what was going on in their lives.

On July 1, 2008 Marilyn will have worked for the Town of Canterbury for 36 years.

ASSESSOR OFFICE

Deadline is May 15 for the Elderly & Totally Disabled Tax Credit Program

If you turned 65 in 2007, 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 \$36,500, and for a single person the maximum income is \$29,800. Proof of income is required. The filing period is from February 1 through May 15. Please call the Assessor's Office for more information about this program.



Additional Veteran's & Local Option Veterans Exemption

These programs are designed to provide property tax exemptions for veterans whose income is within certain limits. To receive these exemptions, an application must be filed between February 1 and October 1 for the 2007 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 2006, another application needs to be completed in 2008 in order to continue receiving the benefit.

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.

PRUDENCE CRANDALL MUSEUM

The Crandall Museum opens for the 2008 season on Wednesday, April 2, with regular hours of Wednesday - Sunday, 10am to 4:30pm. On display will be "New Acquisitions to the Canterbury Historical Society Collections" which includes documents and photos pertaining to Prudence Crandall. These items were recently added to the Historical Society's collection.



Museum exhibits include:

"To Get a Little More Learning" which gives the viewer background information on the development of Connecticut's public and private school systems. The exhibit also includes early 19th century school-related items -- ink wells, steel tipped pens, school books, and a candle stick holder that, as tradition holds, was owned by Prudence Crandall herself.

"A Bold Front - Leaders of the Abolitionist Movement in Support of Prudence Crandall" includes biographical background on the many individuals who supported the work Crandall was doing at the Academy. Her group of supporters included both black and white men and women. Historians refer to the Abolitionist Movement as the first time in American history that men and women, black and white worked together for a just cause. And so many of these individuals are directly connected to Canterbury's history!

The Museum also looks forward to many exciting public programs during the upcoming season. The first will be a "Spring Tea" to be held on Sunday, May 4 from 1 - 3:30 pm. The Friends of Prudence will provide the tea and refreshments, including tea sandwiches, scones and cookies. (For folks who attend our Fall Tea, keep in mind that the Spring Tea will not include the presentation included in the Fall Tea.) Cost for the tea is \$12.00 per person; registration is required as space is limited. Registration includes self-guided tour of the museum.

On Saturday, June 14, the Museum will participate with hundreds of other state museums and cultural organizations in hosting "Open House Day." Free admission will be offered all day. At 2 pm historian Cynthia Dias-Reid will present a program on "Historic New England Gardens." Friends of Prudence will provide refreshments throughout the afternoon.

If you haven't visited the museum in a while, we hope you'll stop in soon. The Museum shop is open without admission. For additional information, please contact the museum at 546-7800.

Kazimiera Kozlowski, Museum Curator

CANTERBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Canterbury Historical Society has a few plans for 2008 in which you may have an interest. For instance:

? A dedicated group of volunteers is already planning the events that will make up **Old Home Day** on the Canterbury Green. This free event is scheduled for *Saturday, September 20, 2008*, and will include (among other things) live music, tours of the Green School, displays by local craftsmen, food, and more. More details will be forthcoming as the event draws near. We hope you'll make plans to join us on that day, rain or shine.

- CHS is working to produce a 2009 calendar featuring photos of some of the town's groups and organizations. We hope to have this calendar available by Old Home Day.

? Coming sometime this spring, the Prudence Crandall Museum will host a CHS-themed exhibit that will feature some of the Canterbury-made items from our archives, including pieces as varied as woodstoves and fishing rods. We hope to have an "opening ceremony," so do look for announcements of that on flyers posted around town or on our website: www.canterburyhistorical.org.

- Also in the planning stages is a CHS cookbook. We are looking for recipes from everyone -- not just CHS members. If you have a recipe you'd like to share, we'd love to hear from you. Your name will be included with the recipe. Recipes may be submitted via email to canterburyhistorical@gmail.com or send your recipe to us at *CHS, PO Box 2, Canterbury CT 06331*. If you have questions, call Jackie at 546-6238. We look forward to seeing your recipes!



As you are probably aware, the Canterbury Historical Society has been working to restore the Centre (Green) District Schoolhouse to its early 20th century appearance for the last several years. There are still a good number of alumni of Canterbury's district school system in the area, and these people have visited the school during various open houses we've held through the years. Beginning on Mother's Day (May 11), the Green School will be open on the second Sunday of each month (May-September) from 2-4 pm.

Next time you visit the Town Hall, be sure to take a look at the display case near the Community Room. In the case, you will see the painting of the Green School that was done last year by Canterbury artist David Costanzo, as well as photographs from several Green School classes

from 1912 to 1946. You will also see some of the items for sale, including our Canterbury pictorial history, Green School pottery, and notecards featuring Canterbury scenes. All of these items are available for purchase in the Canterbury Public Library, or by calling 546-9062.

We hope to see you at an upcoming meeting of the Canterbury Historical Society. Our meetings are held on the second Friday of each month, and are free and open to the public. For more information on meetings or any of our other events, visit our website anytime: www.canterburyhistorical.org

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Saturday April 26– Town-wide Clean-up Day - sponsored by Lions Club and the Town

Volunteers (individuals and groups) needed to walk roads and pick up trash along the roads.

Truck/trailer owners needed to pick up bags and provide warning for oncoming cars, etc.

July 4th Parade - Volunteers, floats and marchers are needed for this event.

HELP NEEDED HELP NEEDED

Canterbury Cares food bank, is looking for youth groups, to pick up returnable cans and bottles at the transfer station every fourth Saturday of the month. The more groups we can get involved in this community project the less time will be required of everyone. If your group can help with this very worthwhile community service please call Jo Ann at 546-9821. Thanking you in advance.

CANTERBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY

546-9022 Fax: 546-1142

canterburypublic@yahoo.com

Website: <http://canterburylibrary.org>

Hours: Monday -Wednesday 10:00-1:00; 3:00-7:00, Thursday 10:00 -1:00; 3:00 - 8:00, Saturday 10:00 - 4:00.

You may access your account to see what is due by going to our website and clicking on the Agent Verso icon. You can renew material, reserve materials, and see what is available on the shelf all from the comfort of your home. Check out our calendar for library happenings.



Young Adult and Adult Programs

Are you between the ages of 14-19? Join our

Young Adult Advisory Council and help the

librarians create programs for teens. Choose materials for the teen section and create a teen space to enjoy. Questions

or comments? Visit this blog: <http://canterburypublic.wordpress.com/> or call or visit Kathleen on Monday, Wednesday 4-6 pm or Kelley Thursday 5:30 to 7:30 at the library.

Young Adult April Vacation Fun: April school vacation will include the following activities: - 4/14 (Mon.) MONOPOLY - 4/16 (Wed.) FRIENDS movie night - 4/18 (Fri.) RockBand/Coffee House.

Book Discussion for Teens starting in April 2008. Call for more information.

Vernal Pool: The Young Adult Advisory Council is sponsoring a Citizen Science Volunteer Monitoring of Vernal Pools with the help of Paula Coughlin from the Pomfret Audubon Society on March 29 and April 18 or 19. This project is funded by LSTA Funds through the Connecticut State Library.

Chocolate Dipping: Presented by Lisa's Chocolates on Thursday, April 24. Sign-up required.

Andy's Wildlife Video: New footage from 2007 recorded with tan infrared video equipment on Audubon property in Windham County. See wildlife as you've never seen it before. Friday, April 18, 7:00-8:30.

Card Stamping with Arlene Sweet-6:00-8:00 p.m. April 10. Sign-up is required.

Reducing your carbon footprint: Thanks to a generous grant from Jewett City Savings Bank we will begin a program called **Low Carbon (C0²) Diet: A 30 Day Program to Lose 5000 Pounds.** If you are interested in learning more, please call to sign-up.

Book Discussions: 2nd Monday of each month at 7 pm. Stop in the library to get a copy.

Canterbury Stitchers: bring your knitting/crocheting/ other project to the library each Thursday between 6-8 pm. Meet other stitchers, share ideas and patterns, learn from each other. Hot beverages will be provided.

Children's Programs (Sign required for all)

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

Ladder to Literacy: ages 3 1/2 -5 on Wednesdays at 10 am.

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

Summer Fun: This summer the library will provide 6-weeks of fun at the library called **Catch the Reading Bug** and for the adults and teens, **Metamorphosis**. The fun begins Saturday, June 21, 2008.

CUB SCOUTS

The Cub Scouts would like to thank all those who participated in or donated items to our indoor tag sale. We would also like to thank our supporters for making our sale a huge success. This money will be going back into the Cub Scouting program.

The Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts held a combined Blue & Gold Banquet/Pinewood Derby night on March 28. The First Place finishers in the Pinewood Derby were: Tiger Cubs - Gavin Fitch, Wolf - Kaleb O'Donnell, Bear - Riley Noiseaux, Webelos - Connor Bright, Boy Scouts - Jacob James and Siblings - Ben Izzarelli. The top three winners in the Pack were Gavin Fitch, Riley Noiseaux and Kaleb O'Donnell. Jen Fitch, Brenda Button, Christine Bright, Jeremy Pelkauskas, Pat Hazard, and Michelle Pappas received thank you gifts for their hard work in running den and pack activities. Rick Ross, Lora Griffes, and Lisa James received thank you gifts for their hard work in helping to run our Boy Scout Troop.

Congratulations to Jen Fitch for receiving the Cub Scout Good Turn award for all the things she has done to help our pack.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The EDC continues to seek new members in order to fill several vacancies. We are close to our original number of nine active people. This committee helps grow Canterbury's tax base by encouraging new businesses to locate in Canterbury and existing companies to expand their operations. Call the chairman at 546-9199 to learn how you can participate.

As we have stated in past newsletters, the EDC welcomes citizens to its meetings held on the last Tuesday of the month. We learn from you the kinds of enterprises you and your neighbors would support. Our roundtable discussions are just that and add great meaning to our discussions held in the Town Hall at 7:30 pm.

A series of ribbon cuttings will be coming up soon. On April 12th, we will welcome **Bugs on the Water, Canterbury Antiques, CL Services and Heartfelt Therapeutic Massage** at the complex at 194 Westminster Road. Later in April, (perhaps the 26th), **Cumberland Farms and Westview Tractors** will be introduced and early May we will welcome **Dino's Grill, Shear Secrets** and other tenants to Canterbury.

Retailers and other interested entrepreneurs will be invited to the April 29 meeting to discuss joint advertising, marketing

strategies, a main street business group and other matters of interest. We will also present the possibility of holding a late October Pumpkin Chunking Contest. Much planning will have to go into this venture if it is to be successful.

The EDC continues to bring to each of its discussions the town-wide survey of last June. Be assured that the community's opinions as stated in that document continue to be considered in our deliberations

Avery Tillinghast, Chairman

FRIENDS OF THE CANTERBURY LIBRARY

Thanks to all who contributed in any way to our very successful Book & Bake Sale which was held on March 15. A special 'thank you' goes out to the many volunteers who helped during the set-up time and who contributed delicious baked goods (which quickly sold out).



The Friends of the Canterbury Library will be holding its Annual Meeting in conjunction with the Library Board's 'Thanks to Our Volunteers' event. The Annual Meeting will be held in May at a date yet to be determined. Watch for an announcement and please join us as we look forward to continuing our work together in supporting our wonderful library and its great staff.

GREEN VALLEY INSTITUTE

Did you know planning to protect wildlife habitat benefits wildlife and people?

Towns in the Last Green Valley can get lots of information about wildlife and the habitats they use through the Connecticut and Massachusetts Wildlife Conservation Strategy Plans. Each state has a detailed plan that identifies species and habitat locations, abundance and condition; problems effecting wildlife; and recommended conservation actions to protect wildlife and their habitats.

Farm and forest owners can receive financial incentives, or cost-sharing, to improve wildlife habitat through several state and federal programs. Town Conservation Commissions can protect key habitats in their towns through a variety of tools including land acquisition, upland and wetland restoration and conservation easements. Protecting a wide variety of habitat - large blocks of forest without roads, open marshlands, grassland meadows, cold streams and rocky ridges - ensure a rich, healthy assortment of plants and animals in the Last Green Valley for generations to come.

To learn more about enhancing the habitats and wildlife in your town, contact the Green Valley Institute or visit our website at www.greenvalleyinstitute.org

The Green Valley Institute is the educational outreach arm of the Corridor, operated in partnership with the Cooperative Extension Systems at the University of Connecticut and the University of Massachusetts.

CANTERBURY LIONS CLUB

The Canterbury Lions Club will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, April 27 from 7:00 - 10:30 am at the Community Center, 1 Municipal Drive. Adults \$8.00, children 12 & under \$4.00. Tickets will be sold at the door.

DHBMS PTO

Throughout the long winter months, the PTO was been busy planning a variety of fun and exciting fundraising events. In early February, Valentine carnations were sold to students, staff, and parents as a way to send warm wishes to special friends and family members. This event was a great success again this year! Thank you to all who participated in, and helped organize this fun event!

On April 26, DHBMS PTO, along with the CAA, will be hosting a **Wine Pairing Dinner at Wright's Mill** in Canterbury. Guests will enjoy five delicious courses including gulf shrimp on herbed foccacia, sirloin of beef, chocolate amaretto torte, and so much more - each paired with the perfect wine choice. If you are looking for an enjoyable night out with great food and friends, consider joining us. Please contact Robin Mlyniec- Blomberg @ 556-9024 or Pam Kerouack-Warner @546-1034 for tickets and information.

The DHBMS PTO has purchased outdoor equipment for each of the grades at Baldwin. Basketballs, soccer balls, Frisbees, and kick balls should be arriving soon to be used for recess. Additionally, the PTO hopes to purchase another SMART Board for the classrooms in order to have one available for each grade to use. It is with the help of our families, staff, and students that we are able to provide the school with these much needed items - your support is very much appreciated!

Please continue to donate Campbell's Soup labels and Box Tops for Education to the school. Both of these fundraisers help to provide educational supplies. The PTO will be collecting both throughout the rest of the school year. Collection boxes are located inside the main entrance.

The PTO would like to invite you to our last few monthly meetings. Come share your ideas, thoughts, or concerns, or even just to listen to what our meetings are all about. Wednesdays (4/ 23, 5/21, and 6/18) at 6:00 pm.

RECREATION COMMISSION

Recreation adult volleyball (Monday evenings at 7 pm, Dan Kildea) and Recreation adult indoor soccer (Thursday evenings at 7 pm, Jim Glennon) are playing at the Baldwin School gym. Young men's basketball continues at Baldwin on Sunday evenings at 7 pm, and there is also adult basketball on Sunday mornings (9 am, Jim Molkenthin). Each of these activities is open to the public.



The After School Care Program is offered at the Canterbury Elementary School - call Rebecca Collins for information or to register (546-9094). Susan Miner continues to offer movie making classes for kids at the Elementary School, and she can be reached at 889-1909 (stonewallprod@sbcglobal.net).

Fence repairs (Alliance Fence) are underway at the Manship Park Baseball Field. The Recreation Commission is helping to prepare the Frink and Manship Baseball Fields for the coming season. Clean-up work is planned for Saturday 4/5 and Saturday 4/12. Please call Prentiss Balcom (546-9085) or Jim Glennon (546-9397) if you can help rake or bring a lawn tractor on those weekends.

The Recreation Commission meets on the second Monday of each month at 6 pm in the Town Hall Community Center. However, our next meeting will be on the special date of Apr. 7.



BOY SCOUTS

Troop 86 would like to congratulate Ben Griffes and Jacob James for earning the rank of Star Scout and Ricky Ross for earning the rank of Life Scout. These boys are well on their way to becoming Eagle Scouts.

Any boy interested in becoming a Boy Scout is welcome to join. We meet on Thursday evenings from 6:30 - 8:00 in our Scout Hall at Baldwin School. We do lots of fun activities and learn many new and interesting skills. We need more adults to help with our outdoor program. If interested, please call Cindy Phillips at 546-9208.

CANTERBURY SENIORS



The Canterbury Seniors meet at 11:00 am on the second Thursday of the month in the Community Center. Membership is open to those age 50+. The annual membership fee is \$8.00. Mail payments to: Canterbury Senior Citizens, Camille Fitch, Treasurer, PO Box 27, Canterbury CT

06331-0027. If you have any questions, contact Camille at 546-6362 or Debbie at senior.news@yahoo.com.

SOCIAL SECURITY NEWS

Did you receive Social Security benefits last year? Even if you are not otherwise required to file a tax return, you may still be entitled to an economic stimulus payment from the federal government.

WHAT YOU COULD GET: You could receive a payment of \$300 for individuals or \$600 if you are married and file a joint tax return with your spouse. Eligible taxpayers who qualify for a payment may receive an additional \$300 for each qualifying child. To qualify a child must be under age 17 as of December 31, 2007.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO: All you have to do to get the stimulus payment is file a 2007 IRS Form 1040 or Form 1040A and report at least \$3,000 in qualifying income on the form. You can include the amount of your SSA benefits to qualify for the stimulus payment.

QUALIFYING INCOME: Add the amount of your Social Security benefits to other qualifying income, such as wage earnings or certain benefits paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs, to reach the \$3,000 requirement. However, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) does not count as qualifying income for the stimulus payment.

WHAT YOU FILL OUT: You will enter your name, address, Social Security Number, and filing status on the form. Then just enter the amount of benefits reported to you in January on Form 1099-SSA on Line 14a of Form 1040A or Line 20a of Form 1040. If you don't have Form 1099-SSA, you can estimate your Social Security benefits by taking the monthly amount you received last year and multiplying it by the number of months you received a check. If you need to include wage earnings to reach the \$3,000 qualifying level, enter that amount on Line 7 of Form 1040A or 1040. In addition, you should write the words "Stimulus Payment" at the top of the 1040A or 1040.

IS THE STIMULUS PAYMENT TAXABLE NEXT YEAR? No!

WILL THIS PAYMENT AFFECT THE AMOUNT OF

SSA BENEFITS YOU RECEIVE? No!

WHEN WILL I RECEIVE MY PAYMENT? The IRS will begin mailing checks in early May.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: In late March 2008, the IRS will mail a packet of information to recipients of Social Security benefits who did not file a tax return last year. The packet will contain guidance to help you claim the stimulus payment. If you need information in the interim, you can visit the IRS web site at www.IRS.gov.

TAKE A HIKE

For those interested in a quick outdoor getaway close to home, visit the Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center. Beautiful, diverse and educational hikes of all shapes and sizes await you there.

James L. Goodwin was among the first foresters ever educated in America. Coming to Hampton in 1913, he purchased 25 acres and built a summer home. Over the years continued to purchase land until his "Pine Acres Farm" had grown to more than 1,700 acres of timber stands, apple orchards and Christmas trees.

In 1964, after 50 years of practicing forestry, Goodwin donated the entire Pine Acres Farm to the state of Connecticut. He stipulated that the house and acreage surrounding it were "to be used to provide education in forest, wildlife and general conservation among youth and adults." Thus was born the Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center.

Today, the Center offers several interesting hiking opportunities. For those with limited mobility, the 1.6-acre adjacent to the house sport the Richard D. Haley Native Plant Wildlife Gardens. Here one can take a self-guided brochure and walk among several individual gardens, each representing different combinations of trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants that have wildlife value. Visitors can find a spot similar to their own backyard, and come away with ideas for high value wildlife plants that they could grow at home.

Those seeking longer hikes have several options. A brand new, 2/3 - mile long "stewardship trail" leaves the northwest corner of the gardens and follows a loop that brings the hiker through several managed forest areas before returning to the Center. A brochure available at the garden gazebo explains the types of forests and the stewardship practices that the hiker encounters along the way. Numbered posts along the trail correspond to text in the brochure.

Those looking for still more can pick up a Goodwin State Forest trails map at the Center or at the southern terminus of the Blue-Blazed Natchaug Trail across Potter Road. Over 10 miles of white, red and yellow marked trails surround the 93-acre Pine Acres Pond, the smaller Brown Hill Pond, and follow other interesting forest landscapes. The Natchaug Trail follows the west bank of Pine Acres Pond, then passes Black Spruce Pond and a beautiful overlook on Orchard Hill before wending its way down to the Natchaug River and Route 198.

Finally, the Airline Trail State Park, a former railroad bed, crosses Potter Road just a few hundred feet from the Center. The graveled, level bed makes it ideal for hiking, cross-country skiing and horseback riding. Those feeling adventurous can hike the Airline Trail some 8 miles north to the Northeast Connecticut Audubon Center in Pomfret, and from there on to Putnam if they choose.

So whatever your desired hike may be, from a couple hundred feet to a dozen miles or more, the Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center has a great combination of natural beauty, exercise and educational opportunities to offer you. Come on out and enjoy!

DIRECTIONS: The Center is located off of Route 6 at 23 Potter Road in Hampton, CT. From the intersection of Routes 6 and 198 in Chaplin, go east 3.1 miles on Route 6 and take a left onto Potter Road. From the intersection of Routes 6 and 97 in Hampton, go west 1.4 miles and take a right onto Potter Road.

FRIENDS OF PRUDENCE

The Friends of Prudence (Crandall) are looking forward to the 2008 opening of the Prudence Crandall Museum on April 2.

The first event for the Friends will be a Spring Tea on Sunday, May 4 from 1 to 3:30. This will be an opportunity to tour the Museum before or after enjoying a relaxing repast of tea, tea sandwiches, cookies and the Friends famous scones in the Carter House next door. There is no formal presentation as at the Fall Tea, but registration is required (546-7800) and the fee is \$12.00.

The Friends annual meeting will be held at the Museum on Saturday, May 17 at 10 AM.

After a brief meeting to elect officers for *the* coming year, Professor Rycinga, Prudence Crandall biographer and professor of Comparative Religious Studies at San Jose State University, San Jose, CA, will address the group. She is a dynamic speaker and hearing her will be a special treat. The meeting is open to all and we encourage you to join us for this entertaining and informative meeting and coffee and `sweets'.

The Friends will support the Museum on June 14 for Connecticut Open House Day by serving refreshments as visitors spend the day exploring museum and craft venues throughout the state. Admission to the Museum is free so if you have never been inside that great old house on the corner of routes 14 and 169, this is the day to visit!

Music at Twilight will again be presented on two Saturday evenings, July 12 and 19, and the Friends will be selling ice cream, coffee and water. Watch for more details in the July town newsletter.

Plan to come, share the fun and consider joining the Friends to better promote the message of Prudence Crandall.

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

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Annual Membership:

? \$10 **Volunteer** - Assist at three events - free admission.

? \$20 **Individual** - Free admission.

? \$35 **Family/Grandparent** - Free admission for 2 adults and 2 children.

? \$75 **Patron** - Free admission for 4 adults.

? \$100 **Sustainer** - Free admission for 4 adults.

? \$250 **Associate** - Free admission for 4 adults.

? \$500 **Benefactor** - Free admission for 4 adults.

? \$1000 **Lifetime Member** - Free admission for 4 adults.

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

VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

The dedication of the Canterbury Veterans' Memorial will take place at 10 am Saturday June 28. The service is to celebrate and remember all Veterans from Canterbury having served during conflicts, from the French and Indian Wars to the continuing War against Global Terror.