

Canterbury Town News

February, 2018

Canterbury, Connecticut

SELECTMEN'S CORNER

We have had quite a few changes in town recently, including my election as First Selectman, as well as the election of many new members to our Town Boards and Commissions. I want to thank everyone who serves Canterbury, elected or volunteer, as your efforts make what we do possible.

2018 came in much as 2017 left, cold and snowy. This year is making up for the milder winters we have been enjoying. However, regardless of the conditions our Public Works Team has been diligent in keeping our roads clean and safe. They will not let me drive a plow truck, but I have been out on a few cold morning checking on road conditions and I will say that our crew deserves thanks for their effort over the winter months.

Over the past year, I have been working with SustainableCT, a new organization created by towns for towns to recognize thriving and resilient Connecticut municipalities through a Certification program as well as providing opportunities for grant funding. I am looking to register Canterbury with SustainableCT and need volunteers to serve on our Sustainability Team to lead our town initiatives. Please visit their website, sustainablect.org, for detailed information about the program. I believe that Canterbury's participation will only benefit our community and I look forward to working with you on being a more sustainable town. If you would like to volunteer please contact me for more information.

I want to thank you for your continued support and cooperation. Please do not hesitate to call, visit or email me with your comments, concerns or suggestions.

Chris Lippke
First Selectman

Canterbury Assessor's Office

Elderly & Totally Disabled Tax Credit Program

If you turned 65 in 2017, 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 is \$43,000 for married and \$35,300 for unmarried. 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 2018 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.

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 the above program/exemptions. The Assessor is normally in the office on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

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 March 20, 2018. Petitions are available in the Assessor's Office as well as on the Assessor's Office webpage on the town website at <http://www.canterburyct.org>.

Lynn Byberg
Assessor

Canterbury Town Clerk & Tax Collector

NEW Transfer Station Stickers – This is the year that you will need a new two-year sticker to access the transfer station. Stickers will be issued during the month of **APRIL**. You must present a current **Canterbury** motor vehicle registration to obtain a sticker. **New stickers will not be issued prior to April 1.** **Reminder:** the Transfer Station is for household garbage and recycling only. We do not give stickers to businesses or any out of town entities.

Annual Town Meeting - The annual town meeting will be held on Thursday, May 17th at 7:00 pm. At this point, there isn't a date for the budget referendum.

On-Line Tax Payments - The home page of the town website www.canterburyct.org has a button to click that will connect you to the portal to view or pay your bills on-line. You may also pay your bill via text (see payment portal to sign up). There is a convenience charge for using a credit or debit card of 3% of the total bill. However, if you transfer payment from checking or savings accounts, there is a nominal fee. **We CANNOT accept credit or debit card payments in our office or over the phone.**

IRS Report of Taxes Paid in 2017 - You may use the on-line service to obtain year-end tax payment amounts for IRS filings. Alternatively, reports are also available upon request in our office for \$1.00. We **do not** provide yearly tax payment information over the phone.

Audit and Annual Reports - The 2016-2017 Town Audit is available for viewing in the Town Clerk's Office. The Town's Annual Report for FY 2016-2017 will be available by March 1. This report includes information regarding the activities of the various Town Departments, Boards and Commissions, and financial data for the year.

Natalie Ellston
Town Clerk & Tax Collector

Department of Public Works ~ Mailbox Reminder

The Town of Canterbury does not repair, or replace, mailboxes and/or posts that fall from the force of snow as the plow truck is traveling down the road. Mailboxes and supporting posts must be of good quality to withstand New England winters and installed to withstand the rigors of snow removal, including the force of snow pushed from the street onto the roadside. Mailboxes should not extend out over the traveled portion of the road or, if the road is curbed, should not extend out past the curbing. Mailboxes should not impede, in any way, vehicular traffic and/or sightlines.

Mailbox Damage: The Town repairs, or replaces, only mail-

boxes and/or posts that are actually struck by a snowplow. A paint mark and/or truck tire tracks supply sufficient evidence of a mailbox strike. The mailbox damage will be inspected by the Highway Foreman and, if approved, the mailbox will be repaired or replaced by the Town.

Expensive, decorative and specialty mailboxes are not required by the Post Office and, therefore, the financial responsibility will NOT be borne by the Town. Decorative mailboxes and posts that receive direct contact from snow removal equipment will be replaced with a standard mailbox and post.

LAND USE OFFICE

The Land Use Office commonly receives inquiries about splitting a piece of property. Another frequent question is the regulation requirements for two family dwellings, or accessory apartments on a residential lot. Below is a quick reference to free splits, subdivision, resubdivision, two family dwellings, accessory apartments, and also guest houses. For further, more detailed information please contact the Land Use Office at 860-546-6857. All regulations can be found online at www.canterburyct.org

FREE SPLIT

If a property has not been subdivided since June, 6, 1968 (effective date of subdivision), the parcel may be entitled to one free split without having to go through the subdivision procedure. The lot still MUST meet current zoning and subdivision regulations.

PLEASE NOTE* A division of land does not go by property owner, but by the property:

Ex: John Smith owned a parcel of land in 1970, and splits the parcel into two lots. He sells one of the lots to Bob Jones in 1992. Bob Jones wants to split this property. This now requires a subdivision, for John Smith took the free split on the property in 1970. It does not matter that Bob Jones now owns the property and has never taken a free split.

SUBDIVISION

Once a property has used its free split, any further division of the property must receive subdivision approval. Subdivision is granted through The Canterbury Planning & Zoning Commission, and if necessary the Canterbury Inland Wetland & Watercourses Commission. The property must be surveyed and the wetlands must be delineated.

RESUBDIVISION

Any property that has gone through the subdivision process, is therefore now part of a subdivision. In order to further divide any parcel of land in the subdivision, it now becomes a resubdivision and must receive Commission approval.

Two-Family Homes (Section 5.2.2)

Two-family dwellings are allowed in the Rural District zone.

Accessory Apartment (Section 10.1.3)

- Accessory Apartments are allowed by zoning permit ONLY when attached to a single-family dwelling by a common wall
- The apartment cannot exceed six hundred (600) square feet of floor area

- Only one Accessory Apartment shall be permitted per residential lot
- The subject site must have at least three (3) off-street parking spaces
- Each Accessory Apartment must be self-contained and shall have at least three (3) rooms (a separate kitchen or Kitchenette and bath plus one other room).
- Each unit shall also have a separate entrance to provide access to the new unit without passing through the principal dwelling unit.
- Owner of the house must occupy one (1) dwelling unit
- No more than two (2) people can occupy an Accessory Apartment
- The Northeast Dist. Dept. of Health (NDDH) must determine that the septic system and well adequate to serve the additional Accessory Apartment as well as the original unit
- If a single-family residence which is being converted does not conform to all Zoning requirements, conversion must not increase the nonconformity

Guest House (Section 10.1.5)

Guest Houses are allowed in the Rural District subject to the following standards:

- Shall be self-contained (having a kitchen and a bath)
- No larger than 1,000 square feet in floor area
- Shall meet all requirements of the zone (setbacks)
- The lot must have a minimum of three acres
- Owner of the property must occupy the principle dwelling
- Shall not be used for more than 30 days in a calendar year
- Longer periods, of up to six (six) total months annually shall be allowable by zoning permit which shall state the only dates the Guest House can be occupied
- Must have at least one additional parking space
- Must be 100 feet from the principle dwelling
- Applications for a guest house must have all the standard elements of a home including provisions for adequate water and septic service, adequate driveway. Submitted site plan must show both the accessory guest house and principle dwelling.
- The owner of the lot shall keep records of the occupants of the guest house and shall provide this record upon request of the Zoning Enforcement Official
- No exceptions or variances shall be given to the occupancy requirements of this section.

Canterbury Seniors

The Canterbury Seniors began another new membership year on January 1. The annual \$8.00 fee is now due. Adults age 50 and over are encouraged to join. We meet the second Thursday of every month in the Town Hall Community Center. Meetings begin at 11:00AM with brief informational presentations, followed by members and guests gathering to socialize and enjoy a delicious potluck luncheon. Join us throughout the month for additional activities, day trips and occasional Quilts of Valor presentations to honor local U.S. military veterans. Upcoming meetings will be March 8, April 12 and May 10. Keep in mind your dues must be paid if you plan on attending our catered Annual Appreciation Luncheon on May 10, and reservations are required. For more information and referrals, call Debbie Kinne at 860-546-6136, or the Municipal Agent to the Elderly, Ella Hebert, at 860-546-9845. Additional information of interest to seniors is routinely posted on our new bulletin board located in the Community Center.

Canterbury Recreational Women's Volleyball League

“THANK YOU” to all of the participants in the Canterbury Recreational Women's Volleyball League! Because of your continued commitment and support to keeping the volley going, our upcoming 2018 Season will mark a decade milestone of the league's existence!

This adult women's league runs Monday nights on the three sand courts at Manship Park in Canterbury. Game times are at 6:00 & 7:00pm. The 2018 Season is expected to kick off around mid-May, and continue through the end of September. Teams face off weekly against their opponents in a 3 game series of head to head competition. Qualifying teams are then eligible to participate in the Playoffs at the end of the season.

Team slot openings exist for the 2018 Season. Interested participants are encouraged to call the number provided below. Spectators are always welcome to drop by and cheer on your favorite female athletes, and see what this awesome beach volleyball sport is all about!

Wendy Dayger, Director

Canterbury Recreational Women's Volleyball League – (860) 546-9132

Canterbury Agriculture Commission

On Friday, **March 16th from 1 to 8 pm** at the Windham County Extension Center, in Brooklyn, UConn Cooperative Extension is offering free One on One Agricultural Advising Sessions. You can sit down in a confidential setting with an agri-business professional for up to one hour to discuss your farm needs to help your agribusiness succeed into the future.

One session is: **SCORE Mentors & USDA Farm Service Agency - “Enhancing the Path of Farm Profitability and Growth”** SCORE mentors, in partnership with USDA, will help you identify your farms strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Free follow up with SCORE Specialists can be arranged.

To schedule a one-hour session please contact: Mackenzie.white@uconn.edu

On **Thursday, March 29th from 6:30 to 9:00 pm**, a Regional AGvocate meeting will be held at the Canterbury Town Hall Community Center. Topics will include Biological Controls for Farmers and Gardeners; USDA/SCORE, RMA and Agritourism.

On the fourth Thursday of each month, you are welcome to participate in Canterbury Farmers Market planning meetings at 6 pm; and Canterbury Agriculture Commission meetings at 7 pm.

We have two representatives on the Killingly Agriculture School Advisory Committee. If your seventh and eighth grade students are interested in learning about the agriculture program and touring the school please e-mail dawn.pindell@gmail.com.

Spring is just around the corner!

Dawn Pindell

St. Augustine Church

144 Westminster Road
Canterbury, CT 06331

LITTLE FISH SHANTY

Presents during Lent:
Fish Fry FRIDAYS Dinners

February 16 and 23
Every Friday in March

4:30 to 7:00

Pay at the Door. For Takeouts, call 860-546-6225. For the menu, please see the Turnpike Buyer or the Shoppers' Guide.

ST. AUGUSTINE LADIES GUILD Annual Plant Sale

Saturday, May 12, 2018

8:00 am—2:00 pm

Just in time to get your Mother's Day plants/flowers as well as your garden vegetables. Something for everyone.

Canterbury Cares

Canterbury Cares Food Pantry, located in the lower level of First Congregational Church of Canterbury, is a monthly food resource to residents of the town of Canterbury. We distribute on the third Monday of the month, from 10 am to noon, and invite town residents in need of food assistance to visit the pantry or contact the church at (860)546-9007.

Upcoming dates for distribution are:

February 19th 10 am - 12

March 19th 10 am - noon

April 16th 10 am - noon

We are so grateful to everyone who has donated funds, food and time to Canterbury Cares.

We are so blessed to have the support of our town's wonderful churches, schools, local organizations and individuals. We are also grateful to all our volunteers. Whether you faithfully unload the truck, stock shelves or help distribute food, you provide a valuable service and we thank you! If you would like to volunteer to help with Canterbury Cares Distribution (the third Monday of the month), please contact us at (860)546-9007.

Thank you so much!

Canterbury Historical Society

We hope you will be able to join us for some of our upcoming meetings and events. Details are available on our website <http://canterburyhistorical.org/>. And don't miss us on Facebook and Twitter.

February 9, Bev York Presents the History of Chocolate Just in time for Valentine's Day, at our regular monthly meeting on February 9, we will welcome Bev York for a presentation on the history of chocolate.

We meet monthly except in July and August, although we often hold special events over the summer. Unless otherwise noted, all regular monthly meetings are on the second Friday evening of the month, in the community room of the Canterbury town hall, beginning at 7 PM. Each meeting features a history-themed program. These meetings are free and open to the public. Bring a friend. Nosh on complimentary refreshments.

April 14, Indoor Tag Sale We will host an indoor tag sale

fundraiser in the community room. You're sure to find some amazing treasures for low prices. Why not rent a table or two, for just \$10 each, and sell your wares? To rent tables, or if you have questions, please contact Steve at 860-546-6669.

We Are Pleased to Announce a New, Updated Map of Canterbury Cemetery Locations The scope of this multi-year project was to pinpoint and document graveyard locations, not individual headstones. As a future enhancement, we hope to link to the photographs being taken systematically by a Canterbury resident of the headstones. See this page on our website for more information and an e-version of the new map. canterburyhistorical.org/?p=1742

Not on our mailing list? We hope you'll join the Canterbury Historical Society for just \$10 a year. To be added to our list, send a note, including your full name and the email address to info@canterburyhistorical.org.

FINNISH AMERICAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

Greetings from the Finnish American Heritage Society—we hope you enjoyed the recent holiday season and are staying healthy with this active flu season and variable temperatures in Northeastern Connecticut.

2017 was the 100th Anniversary of Finnish Independence and over 90 FAHS Members and friends celebrated in November with dinner and a program at Tamarack Lodge in Voluntown; including Finnish foods, stories, poetry and music.

The monthly December membership meeting and wonderful potluck was again followed by the annual Pikkujoulu event with carols, music, and a visit by Santa. Many thanks extended to our musicians Mike Kotowski, and Sean Tate, the pulla bakers, Katrina and Steve Bousquet, Bob Robertson and his classic sleigh along with Mr. and Mrs. Claus for helping make this another joyous day for the children and adults.

At the Annual Meeting in January, the following Board Members were elected: President: Steven Bousquet; Vice President: Stan Karro; Secretary: Rachael Linkkila; Treasurer: Jobina Miller; Corresponding Secretary: Laura Sasser-Cuff; Membership Secretary: Steven Coupe; Trustees: Saul Ahola and Ellen Buffington. Continuing on the Board as Trustees are: Patti Folsom, Sean Tate and Liz Hawes-Weeks. Anita Smiley, after serving as an officer and trustee since the beginning of FAHS, has elected to take a break and allow younger members an opportunity to participate. The board will miss her and we are sure she will continue to be closely involved given her passion for the Finnish culture. Congratulations to all!

The bakers at FAHS recently held a pulla bake/lesson at the Hall. Four people attended to learn how to mix, braid and bake the iconic Finnish sweet cardamom bread. Follow our Face Book for the date/time for additional lessons and pulla sales

The Connecticut Historical Society and Lynne Williamson have been long time supporters of the Finnish Historical Society with a variety of grants for traditional arts, support for the FAHS Museum and other support too numerous to mention. The latest exhibit in Hartford is "Passing It On: Traditional Arts Apprenticeships" runs from February 1 through March 10 at One Elizabeth Street, Hartford. Grants from CHS have supported weaving, violin playing, birch bark weaving and

wood carving for members. More information at chs.org.

We are actively gathering names of individuals who would be interested in weaving lessons; FAHS has multiple looms available and can work with a local master weaver to conduct lessons for the never-woven-in-my-life beginner, intermediate or experienced weaver. Please contact FAHS at 860-546-6673 (leave message) or info@fahs-ct.org to express your interest. Cost depends on number of participants and schedule is determined by the participants.

Please join us for the following events at The Finn Hall (all are welcome):

Laskiainen/Sledding Day – Saturday, February 10th from 10am-2pm. This is a traditional joyful occasion in Finland that celebrates the beginning of the end of winter. Families enjoy sledding, pea soup and breads. The fun event will be held regardless of snow, as a variety of indoor games and activities will be available along with an antique sled display, courtesy of Bob Robertson. Minimal charge.

Finnish Culinary Delights – Saturday, March 10th at 1:30pm. This year's focus will be on Finnish Super Foods and will feature a variety of demonstrations including a main dish, a smoothie, bread and desert. This is a complimentary event with donations requested. What a great opportunity to learn about and sample new foods in your local community.

Pancake Breakfast – Saturday, April 7th from 8am-10am. This annual event features traditional breakfast foods along with Finnish Pannukakku (oven pancake) with lingonberry jam and real maple syrup. And, of course traditional Finnish coffee bread, pulla. Bring your appetite!

Chicken BBQ with Beer Tasting & Lawn Games – Saturday, May 19th (time TBD). Enjoy charcoal grilled chicken basted with our secret sauce along with a variety of salads. Take out or eat in. A new addition this year will be beer tasting and a variety of lawn games. More information will be available as the date of the event gets closer.

Further information on our events can be found on our website at www.fahs-ct.org or like us on Face Book for up to date information on activities at The Hall.

CANTERBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

(Sign-up is required)

Bouncing Baby Tales with Melissa Lennon
Children, ages birth to 18 months old. 8 week program —next session begins Mar 27th & 28th
Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9:30am—10:00 am

Music & Movement with Melissa Lennon
Children, ages 18 months to 3 years old. 8-week program starting Mar 29th
Thursdays, two sessions at 9:30 and 10:30 am

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

Creativity Through Construction
Celebrate your inner engineer! Children will explore the fun and imagination that comes with architecture and construction. Activities will use Legos, Keva Planks, nanobugs and other materials. **Sign up Required. Ages 7+**
Saturdays: February 17, March 17, April 21—10:00 - 11:00 am.

Learning About Construction
With David McKinley. Making beams and testing their strength. **Limited Registration. Sign up Required. Ages 7+**
Saturday, March 24 - 10:00-11:30.

FAMILY PROGRAMS - All Ages!

Family Movie Night
Thursday February 22nd at 6:00 pm
Come and enjoy a movie in the comfortable environment of the library! Snack and drinks are welcome.
Movie Title: TBA

ADULT ACTIVITY PROGRAMS

(Sign-up is required)

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

February 7th - Coloring/Card Making
February 21st - Decoupage
March 21st - Jewelry

ADULT AND TEEN PROGRAMS

Decoupage Night
Decoupage for Adults with a St. Patrick's Day theme. Come to the library for this easy craft!
Sign up required. For Adults
Thursday, April 15th, 6:00pm

Card Stamping with Arlene Sweet
Space is limited. Sign-up required.
Thursday, April 5th & 12th, 6:00-8:00

Book Discussions
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 20th Canterbury—*Murder On The Orient Express* by Agatha Christie

March 20th Scotland—*News Of The World* by Paulette Jiles

April 17th Canterbury—*Any* Poetry by Emily Dickinson

May 15th Scotland—Quiet Corner Reads Selection: TBA

Tax Assistance Sessions
AARP Tax-Aide Volunteers will be at the library to help with your 2016 Tax Preparation. This is a free service available on a first-come, first-served basis. Appointments are available Mondays from 9:00 - 1:15 on the following dates:

February 12 & 26, 2018

March 12 & 26, 2018

April 9, 2018

Call the library to schedule an appointment: (860-546-9022)

LIBRARY SERVICES

See our Website for easy access



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



Zinio - FREE Downloadable Magazines
OneClickdigital - FREE Downloadable Audio and EBooks are now available @ the Canterbury Public Library on our website. Stop in for instructions and more info!



RBdigital - FREE Downloadable Audio and EBooks are now available @ the Canterbury Public Library on our website. Stop in for instructions and more info!

LIBRARY PASSES

Connecticut State Parks Pass (No Child Left Inside Initiative): Covers parking at all four state beaches, as well as several inland parks. Free admission for 2 adults & 4 children. **Florence Griswold Museum:** Free admission for 2 adults & 2 children (under 12).

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

Town of Canterbury

Stay Informed, Get Involved

Not happy with the status quo? Want to have your voice heard? Feel you have something to contribute? Or, are you just looking for something to do? Then become involved. Canterbury is blessed with boards and commissions and local groups always looking for volunteers and who's ultimate goal is to do for and promote our wonderful little town. There is something for everyone.

To simply stay informed — attend one of the following:

Board of Selectmen Meetings

The 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month.
Special meetings as announced.

Board of Finance Meetings

The 2nd Wednesday of every month

Board of Education Meetings

February 13 (Budget Workshop 6:00)
February 27 (Budget Workshop if needed) 6:00 pm
March 6 (Joint meeting with BOF - Budget Presentation)
April 10
May 8

As the budget season progresses, more meetings will be announced. A full list of board/commission meeting dates, times and locations as well as meeting agendas and minutes can be found on the town website at:

canterburyct.org/calendar/month.php



Become more active — a list of Canterbury Boards and Commissions and town organizations can be found here:

canterburyct.org/boards.php

Missed an event or want to read more on what local organizations have to offer? Visit the newsletter archive at:

canterburyct.org/newsletters.php

Canterbury Senior Trips

We are still offering trips this year, it's a good list featuring trips for many interests - shows, plays, adventure and more. As always some are overnights and others, day trips. You know all are welcome. Flyers can be found on the Library Bulletin Board for you to take and flyers of each trip you can look at. For any additional information, call Joanne at (860) 546-9830. Hope to hear from you!

Friends of the Prudence Crandall Museum



Even though the museum is officially closed there is still a lot of activity going on, we recently acquired a beautiful organ that is in the front parlor and is of the period when Prudence was teaching. Work has also started on a new exhibit "The Story Will Outlive the Canvas" and looks at Prudence's portrait and what it came to symbolize.

As for upcoming Friends events we are planning on attending the NERC conference this spring in Hartford to present the curriculum that will be on the friends' website, we have also registered for the craft fair that was rescheduled from December at the Doctor Helen Baldwin School, and we are planning our symposium this May 12th which will look at the story behind the new exhibit.

On a more serious note, Kaz Kozlowski, curator for 35 years is retiring February 1st after many years of hard work in making the museum what it is today. In her honor we have established a curator's award to a deserving junior docent who is graduating.

Canterbury Lions Club



The Canterbury Lions Club has been active since 1972, serving our community and residents. As part of Lions International, Lions have a particular focus on the helping the sight and hearing impaired. We collect eye glasses and hearing aids year round, and have a collection box at the transfer station. One of our latest endeavors is our Million Penny Drive. Once we have collected our goal amount, we plan to put them on display before using the funds raised for our community projects. Collection containers can be found in area business or by contacting Lion Teresa Riley at 860-546-9408.

We have installed outdoor exercise equipment for adults at Manship Park, and will have a dedicated ceremony once the weather warms up. We continue to raise money to purchase additional pieces of equipment and will be having a Ham & Bean Supper at the Community Center on April 21st, and a Chicken BBQ in June. On Earth Day in April we are sponsoring a town wide clean up and are always looking for local youth and adults to assist in keeping our town clean. Members will be at the Community Center all day handing out garbage bags and gloves. We cap off the event with refreshments, soda and pizza provided to all volunteers as a thank you. We have worked collaboratively with several community organizations with our Food Trailer and look forward to working with more of them. All proceeds from our various fund raising activities go directly to benefit Canterbury and its residents or local organizations that address the priorities of Lions International. We are always looking for new members interested in serving our community.

You can find us on Facebook or at our webpage: e-clubhouse.org/sites/canterburyct

Editor's Note

The next issue will be published in April 2018. 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.

CANTERBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The district is a buzz with various activities. Read on, to hear about our new looping academic culture at Baldwin and a newly rejuvenated parent organization. At the elementary school, we are so looking forward to the grant funded biweekly storyteller visits and a new afterschool opportunity sponsored in part by the Canterbury Education Foundation and staffed by a parent volunteer and 2 teachers. The Special Education Department continues to offer a wide variety of educational opportunities to our students with the greatest needs. As always, we are so grateful to serve the students of Canterbury and look forward to many more wonder filled days together.

BMS: Since the beginning of the school year, much has been happening at 45 Westminster Road. The new teaching staff has been welcomed to Canterbury and shown great promise in the profession. The student total is currently 177 students and the restructured looping teaching teams and scheduling has proven successful throughout the year. Students will have the same core teaching staff for Grade 5 and Grade 6 there is another teaching team for Grade 7 and Grade 8. This looping concept allows for more meaningful understanding of a student's learning style and rapport is known the subsequent year. Students also receive a sole course focused on writing rather than receiving reading and writing instruction together in the past. The importance of the skill of writing transcends all disciplines and is a needed skill as students enter their high school years.

The culture and climate of the Baldwin Middle School is inherently safe and nurturing based on the community in which sends their children however, as students grow, it is important to support them with positive decision-making skills and modeling and since the community is focused on 9-14 year old's, fun and excitement are important. This year marks the 3rd annual Fall Festival, the inception of seasonal pep rallies which spotlight talent and art as well as a teacher/student competition, school wide programs focused on global perspectives, and the return of a PTO supported Field Day. As the school has been setting the ground work for student growth and independence over the previous 2 years, students have now begun to take direct ownership of their community. Students have taken over morning announcements, coordinated fundraisers for library books, created a community outreach group, reinstated the school store, and some students are even taking an active role in the complex bus dismissal process.

The winter months have brought great growth and development of the athletics program and the music department. Girls and boys basketball teams have been dodging snow days to get their seasons in as the Cheer team prepares for their competition in early February. The music department held a successful winter concert with exceptional participation and performances by students in all grades.

The spring months look fruitful as the Grade 8 students finalize their choices of high schools. This group of eighth graders will definitely make a strong impact on each of the schools they attend. The baseball, softball, and track teams will be participating in regional competition and this due to the great coordination and hard work of the Baldwin Booster Club. As always, thank you for your support of public education and look for weekly updates on the school website.

CES: The beginning of the year was filled with a variety of staff activities but the main focus was the establishment of a

Pre-School Screening

April 26 & 27

3 and 4 year olds

860-546-1040 appointment only

classroom culture focused on our school values of honesty, kindness, respect, responsibility and safety. Staff have also engaged in professional development in the areas of instructional strategies, safety, data analysis, and technology.

Grant funds continue to assist us in bringing services to students and staff. One grant funded program provides for storytellers to visit, on a bi-weekly basis, grades K and PK. This grant also gives us 4 assemblies for the other grades. This program is funded through an anonymous donation to the CT Storytellers and funds have been donated from our PTO and our Canterbury Educational Foundation. Our PK program continues to be primarily funded through the community Readiness Grant from the Office of Early Childhood.

Our parents have been an active part of our school community, donating their time to assist us in copying and shelving library books, as well as assisting in special projects. One such project was a recent family fun night; our parent advisory committee sponsored a "Build your Own Cityscape" activity. The community donated recycled items to be the building blocks and then the students had to chance to build! Starting next month, a community group comprised of teachers, parents, and community members is offering an afterschool opportunity for students in science exploration. The Canterbury Educational Fund is also sponsoring funds for this activity

The spring promises to bring us all new hope and challenges. Together we will remain dedicated to the future of the children of Canterbury. We hope you can join us for our Celebration of the Arts in May. Watch our webpage for upcoming events.

Pupil Services: The special education department continues to thrive in providing individualized programming to eligible students ages 3-21. We are currently providing programs in both Canterbury Elementary School and Baldwin Middle School, as well as, Norwich Free Academy, Woodstock Academy, Griswold High School, Franklin Academy, Harmony Hill School, Norwich Transition Academy and The Learning Clinic. Both New England Center for Children programs at CES and BMS are running smoothly, allowing children the opportunity to attend school in their home community and in the least restrictive environment which is required under the law.

The State of Connecticut, Bureau of Special Education has recently provided full access to staff from Special Ed Connection. Special Ed Connection is a resource that provides current trends in special education law, services, advancements and accomplishments. We are fortunate to have this resource provided to us at no cost.

Finally, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to the parents, guardians, and families of our students with disabilities. Without the continuous support and collaborative conversations between home and school, our students would not be achieving at the high levels they are.