

# Canterbury Town News

<http://www.munic.state.ct.us/CANTERBURY>

July 1, 2006

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



This issue marks the first that will NOT be mailed out to every household in town. In an effort to conserve valuable tax dollars we are printing a limited number of "hard copies" and urging everyone to take advantage of the internet to access this and future issues online at the Town's website at the internet address above. If you have this copy in hand then you know where future issues will be available. The current plans are to increase the publication and distribution from three times a year to four. The next issue target date is October 1. If you would like to submit an article for consideration please send it to the Selectman's Office no later than September 22. If you would still prefer to have these newsletters mailed to your home, please contact the Editor, Robert Droesch, at 546-6301 or by email at [rdroesch@snet.net](mailto:rdroesch@snet.net)

## SELECTMAN'S OFFICE



I hope everyone can attend the 4th of July parade this year. It begins at 10:00 a.m. at the Dr. Helen Baldwin School, travels west on Route 14 to the Municipal Building. We will be having a barbeque and other events in the Municipal Building parking lot. I would like to thank all the 4th of July Parade Committee and all the volunteers who helped put the parade together as well as the events that will take place after the parade.

The first of three dedications to the Canterbury Veterans Memorial was held on Saturday June 17. Thanks to the Veterans Memorial Committee who worked so hard over the last several years to complete the project.

Neil A. Dupont, Sr.

First Selectman

## TOWN CLERK & TAX OFFICE



We will mail out tax bills three weeks after the budget passes and the Board of Finance sets the mill rate. You will have thirty days to pay without interest. Motor Vehicle bills are paid in one installment and real estate bills are paid in two equal installments. You will not receive a bill or notice regarding the January installment. Please contact this office if you do not receive a tax bill.

August 8 is the date for the primary and the general election is November 7. Unaffiliated voters who wish to register with a party may do so in the town clerk's office.

The Board of Finance set our collections for the 2005-2006 fiscal year at \$6,663,911 and we have exceeded that number by over \$154,700.

The tax sale held on June 24 was a success. The properties sold generated over \$53,000 in successful bids.

Patricia Spruance,

Town Clerk/Tax Collector

## ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

**Attention Renters:** We are currently taking applications for a renter's rebate program that could benefit you. If you are 65 (or older), and/or totally disabled, and rent in Canterbury, you could be eligible for the State of Connecticut's Rent Rebate



program if you meet the State's income and expense guidelines. Application must be made no later than Friday, September 15, 2006.

**Attention Veterans:** If you filed for the Additional Veterans and/or Local Option Veterans Exemptions in 2004, another application needs to be filed no later than October 1, 2006 in order to continue receiving the benefit.

**Sold your car?** Tax bills will be issued soon and you may get a bill for a car you no longer own. If you transferred the license plate registration to another vehicle, the July bill won't be prorated because you will receive a credit on the January supplemental bill for the new vehicle. But, if you did return the plates to DMV and canceled the registration, bring a copy of the receipt from DMV, along with documentation that shows what you did with the vehicle and when you did it (for example, if you sold the vehicle, bring in a copy of the bill of sale) so the bill can be prorated.

**Personal Property** forms will be mailed out at the end of September for the 2006 Grand List. Please remember to return these forms no later than November 1<sup>st</sup> to avoid a penalty.

**PA490 applications** will be available in the Assessor's Office on September 1<sup>st</sup> and can be filed between September 1<sup>st</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Call if you have any questions—the phone number for the Assessor's Office is 546-6035.

## RECREATION COMMISSION



The Recreation Commission would like to express our thanks to several helpful folks. Martin Gumbs and Elliot Burroughs raked Canterbury's baseball fields, and Fred Green rolled the soccer fields at Manship Park. We really appreciate your time and efforts.

We are working on preparations for a chartered bus ski trip to VT in early winter, and a possible NYC day trip during the holiday season. We would like to plan some other bus day trips to areas of interest, but we really need to hear from you what kinds of trips you'd like to see offered. Please note that these trips are completely self-funding and no tax dollars are used. Please email us at [RecTrips@charter.net](mailto:RecTrips@charter.net). As trips are finalized, they will be posted at <http://www.CanterburyAthleticAssociation.com>. Follow the link to Canterbury Recreation Commission on the left hand side of the homepage.

The Recreation Commission meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 6 PM in the Community Center. All are welcomed to attend these public meetings.

## CANTERBURY CARES

Canterbury Cares is the food bank in town that helps families supplement their food needs.

We would like to thank the numerous organizations and individuals in town who have been so generous with donated food items and monetary donations. The Girl Scouts and Brownies for the wonderful breads they baked for the holidays. The Boy Scouts, Canterbury Elementary School and The Canterbury Library for the enormous amount of food collected. The Hattie K. Tracy Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society at Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School, the VFW and Boy Scouts for their monetary donations. Also, Calvary Chapel, First Con-

gregational Church of Canterbury and St. Augustine for their food donations. Last but not least Mary Smith for her time and support and the many families in town who donated food baskets and money.

It is amazing how much can be accomplished when everyone works together for the good of the town.

Thank you. JoAnn and Gene Brustolon

### FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY



Friends of the Canterbury Library had its annual election of officers meeting in conjunction with the Library Board "Thanks to our Volunteers" reception on May 17, 2006. The officers for 2006-2007 are: President – Steve Orlomski, Vice President – Ellen Chalfant, Treasurer – Trish Burbach, Secretary – Sherry Appleton, Members-at-Large – Mecky Chapellka, Walter Moriarty and Steve Taylor. It was a lovely evening with refreshments and discussions of the long-term plans for the town library.

Make sure to mark on your calendar Sept. 22 for our annual Spaghetti Supper. It will be held at the Community Center. Come on down to fill your stomachs and warm your hearts seeing all your hometown friends. Tickets will go on sale closer to the date and takeout dinners also will be provided.

We will be holding another book sale on Oct. 28 at the Community Center. But there's no need to wait till then, stop by the Canterbury Library and check out our bookcase of donated books for sale to the public.

If you would like to support your local Canterbury Library, consider becoming a "Friend" too. You can email me at [appletonsherry@aol.com](mailto:appletonsherry@aol.com), or call me at 546-9834 and I will send you the membership registration form. For as little as \$5.00 you can become a "Friend" too!

During these hot and hazy days, take time to grab a tall glass of lemonade and a good book, sit back, relax, and have a wonderful summer!

### KINNE PRESERVE-CELEBRATING 30 YEARS



If you would like to know more about the preserve, brochures are available in the Town Clerk's office. The Kinne Preserve is a great place for a family outing, an easy walk - even for young children.

If you are a "letterboxing" fan, the Kinne Preserve Park Commission and the Canterbury Public Library recently placed a letterbox in the preserve called "Happy Birthday Kinne Preserve". See [letterboxing.org](http://letterboxing.org) for clues. The library has a summer program called "Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales" and visiting the letterbox is one of its activities. For extra fun, visit the two other letterboxes in the preserve.

Save the date: October 14, 1:00 p.m. at the preserve. A rededication ceremony and a "Weed Walk" led by Pam Brundage.

### BOARD OF EDUCATION



With the end of another school year, the board has decided to encourage and expand upon the generosity of our local volunteers. This year's summer volunteer program will be looking to accomplish some much-needed painting at the middle school. The scheduled days for painting are as followed: July 8, July 15, July 22, and July 29. All are Saturdays. Volunteers will meet at 9:00am at Baldwin Middle School. Please bring rollers, drop cloths and brushes if at all possible.

As the painting is accomplished, other summer volunteer projects may be discussed and scheduled for the near future. The board will keep you posted through the Town Hall, and the message display located outside Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School.

The Board of Education would like to offer our sincerest congratulations to all of our 2006 graduates. Best wishes to those graduates as they enter high school, begin their college experience, and also those that have completed their degree and are starting a new chapter of their lives. Congratulations once again!

The board still meets during the summer months. We encourage public participation and look forward to having highly attended board meetings. Your opinion and input matter.

In closing, have a wonderful and safe summer. We look forward to building our volunteer-based projects, and striving to provide the best possible quality education for all students in Canterbury.

### THE PRUDENCE CRANDALL MUSEUM



The Prudence Crandall Museum would like to thank everyone in the community who helped to make the dedication of the newly acquired John Carter House and property such a success at our May event. We look forward to all the new opportunities in programming and public activities the house and barn will allow us to do in the future.

#### Upcoming Museum Events:

With that in mind, we'd like to invite anyone and everyone who's interested to a "Public Forum" which we will be holding on Sunday, July 15, 2006 from 1 to 4 pm (The program will take place at the Carter House). The purpose of the discussion will be to get input from local residents on what they'd like to see the Carter House property used for. Although museum staff has rainy-day ideas in mind, the more input we can get at this point, the better the eventual outcome will be. Laura Roberts, a management consultant from Boston who brings vast experience in museum planning and management to the process, will facilitate the Forum. The Forum is open to all, but we ask that you RSVP if you plan on attending. Please call the museum at 546-7800.

On Saturday, August 19 from 6:30 to 9 pm the Museum hosts "Music at Twilight" with music provided by Nick Anderson and the Gospel Friends. Suggested donation is \$2. Bring a blanket, lawn chair, and picnic supper and enjoy an evening of traditional and contemporary gospel music. The Friends of Prudence will be selling ice cream during the evening's program.

The Museum will host the 20th Annual Prudence Crandall Day event on Saturday, September 2 from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm. Suggested donation is \$2 per person. The day will include craftspeople, music, a bake sale, and children's games. The Friends of Prudence will have food available for purchase throughout the day.

#### Other Museum Activities:

Folks driving by this summer may have noticed a new Heirloom Garden planted in the area between what had been the barn foundation walls on the museum property. John Christian, local farmer and horticulturist, has been hard at work planting a variety of vegetables, herbs, and perennials. As homes in the mid-1830s would have had a "kitchen garden" it seems natural to add this heirloom garden to the museum property and the interpretation of Prudence Crandall's school. If you are interested in helping John maintain the garden, please contact the museum.

The Friends of Prudence

The Friends of Prudence are looking for new members who are interested in working with them on lending support to the museum. The mission of this newly formed organization is to assist with the preservation and interpretation of the Prudence Crandall Museum, to encourage visitation and promote educational opportunities. The group will be planning additional events and fundraisers in the future! If you're interested in joining, please contact the museum.

The museum is open throughout the season from Wednesday through Sunday, 10:00 am to 4:30 pm. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 senior citizens and children 6 -17. Ages 5 and under are free. Keep in mind that the museum shop is open during regular museum hours and doesn't require an admission. For additional information, please call us at (860) 546-7800.

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS



A Democratic Primary will be held on August 8, 2006 from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. You must be a registered Democrat to vote in the primary. New and unaffiliated voters can register up to noon the day before (August 7) if you are registering in person with the Registrar of Voters or Town Clerk. The deadline for mail-in applications is August 3.

A voter list is available in the Town Clerk's office if you wish to check your affiliation before the deadlines.

Registrars of Voters: Loreen Hegan (D), Mary Bergeron (R).

CANTERBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



The Canterbury Historical Society has had a great spring with several entertaining and well-attended programs since the last town newsletter. Although there are no more meetings/programs until September, we'll see you at the Canterbury 4th of July festivities. We'll have a float in the town's parade and we'll also have a booth at the community event on the Town Hall grounds following the parade. We will be selling several Canterbury-related items that make great gifts to anyone who has a Canterbury connection. They include:

- A stoneware crock with a rendering of the Green Schoolhouse on it. This is the first in a series of stoneware that the CHS is having made by a Pennsylvania potter. The price is \$22.
- Notecards/envelopes that have three different Canterbury scenes on them. They include a sketch of the Green Schoolhouse, a sketch of the Westminster Church, and the well-known 1800s' Barber print of the Canterbury Green. They come in sets of ten cards/envelopes and the price is \$7 per set.
- "A Scrapbook of Canterbury District Schools," a photo booklet of class pictures and the town's one-room schoolhouses is available for \$8.
- The Canterbury Historical Society's book "Canterbury: The First 300 Years", now in its second printing, is also available for \$20.

In addition, the Canterbury Historical Society will also play a major part in the Third Annual Canterbury Old Home Day/Green Schoolhouse Open House to be held on Saturday, September 16th. We hope to see you there.

CANTERBURY OLD HOME DAY GREEN SCHOOLHOUSE OPEN HOUSE

Last September, the Canterbury Historical Society sponsored a reunion of Canterbury's one-room schoolhouse alumni. More



than 100 people attended that open house/reunion at the Green Schoolhouse, which was held in conjunction with the Canterbury Old Home Day. Since that time, we have had many inquiries as to when there will be another reunion.

During the past year, we have continued to work on the restoration of the Green Schoolhouse. A new chimney has been built and the woodstove installed, walls have been plastered and painted, and new displays are being developed. We will be holding another Alumni Reunion/Open House in conjunction with the third annual Canterbury Old Home Day. It will be held on Saturday, September 16th.

We invite everyone to come to this special event in town and to see what's been accomplished in Canterbury's last remaining one-room schoolhouse that is open to the public.

In addition, we are always looking for old school photos or school-related memorabilia (diplomas, yearbooks, graduation programs, pins, etc) that we may be able to copy for our archives and future display. If you have anything of this nature, please bring it to the event.

SENIOR NEWS



The summer schedule is in effect starting with the July Pot Luck lunch on the 13th. We want to give the kitchen crew a break, so we are having picnic type food. Please do not bring in hot dishes.

There will be no meeting in August. Monthly meetings will resume in September on the second Thursday, September 14.

At the time of this writing, several Canterbury seniors are on a 10-day trip to Alaska. Our trips are not all the one-day variety. For future trips, contact our trip coordinator, Joanne Sheridan at 546-9830.

Our president, Betty Bardsley, and vice president, Barbara Thompson, both resigned their offices prior to the June meeting because of family obligations. The members have all expressed their sorrow and wished them well. The new officers elected to complete the unexpired terms are: Arthur LeBeau as president, and Carol Fitch as vice president.

All persons age 55 and over are reminded that monthly meetings are held on the second Thursday at 11:00 AM in the Community Center, followed by a Pot Luck lunch and some type of a program.

There is a Tai Chi session every Tuesday from 10:45 to 11:45 AM in the Community Center. The next series of 8 sessions will begin on July 18. Those interested in participating can stop in and get all of the information on that date.

A CANTERBURY STORY By Sheila Mason Gale

When I was eleven I would often go horseback riding with Linda Bassett. We would ride along Water Street and always rode next door to the Coombs farm. I remember wishing I could ride a horse like Gloria Coombs Scharlack. She was so at ease and comfortable in the saddle.

I recently met with Gloria and her cousin Edward Chartier to talk about the Coombs family. In 1911 George Rose Coombs and his wife Laura Wigfield Coombs moved from New Jersey and bought a 135 acre (more or less) farm in Canterbury. They had six children: Harvey, Roger, Helen, Elsie, George and Charles.

Helen married Edward Chartier and had two children: Laura and Edward. Elsie married Harold Chartier and they had six children: Gertrude, Harold, Lillian, Arlene, Shirley and Harry. George joined the service and moved to California. Charles

married Mildred Slater and they had eight children: Eugene, Phyllis, Theodore, Fred, Helen, Raymond, Elaine and Judy. Charles was one of the men who helped construct Butts Bridge and I'm sure many of you know his son, Ray Coombs, Sr. who is involved in many Canterbury activities.

The farm was very large and was on both sides of Water Street. It was eventually divided into two farms. Roger ran the original homestead on Water Street and Harvey ran one on Cemetery Road. Roger and Ethel had three children, Richard, Clifford and Gloria. Harvey and Sadie had four children, George, Irene, Julia and Estelle. Harvey later married Dorothy and had one son, Robert.

Many of you might remember Harvey's son George Coombs who was a school bus driver and was also the Road Crew Foreman for Town of Canterbury for many years. He built the original town garage on Kinne Road. I wish I could have interviewed George about his life in Canterbury because he was a great storyteller. He would sometimes tell me stories about the time he served in the military. Just a few years ago George won the award for being the most decorated living veteran.

As a child, Gloria remembers a quiet neighborhood. Some of her neighbors were the Bassetts, Bullards, Pattersons, Lachapells and Papugas. Many of you might remember the Papuga's country store at the end of Water Street. Gloria's brothers Richard and Cliff went to the Gayhead School. Gloria went to the Westminster school for three years until the Dr. Helen Baldwin School opened.

Farming is a hard life and the whole family has to pitch in to help, but there was time for fun too. The Coombs children and neighbors would get together and go bicycle riding and horseback riding. There were plenty of open fields and they always played baseball. It was easy to get a team together once the Bassetts moved into the neighborhood because they had eight children. In the summer they would go over to Ted Dean's house and go swimming. Mr. Dean even put an old bus by the pond for them to change their clothes. Gloria and her friend, Ruth Bassett, would go horseback riding around Canterbury and even rode over to Scotland. As they got older, they would go square dancing on Saturday nights or go to the movies. This was in the 1950's when it only cost 25 cents to see a movie and a pint of ice cream cost 10 cents. Also, there were the young people's activities at Westminster Church and Calvary Chapel.

Gloria went to Griswold High School. Other students would often tease her and ask if she got there by stagecoach. I remember the same joke because the kids used to say the same thing to me a decade later.

When George Coombs decided to retire as a school bus driver in 1967, he asked Gloria if she wanted to take over. She talked it over with her husband, Bob, and said yes and has been doing it ever since. There is quite a Coombs family history of caring for Canterbury school age children because not only did George and Gloria drive a school bus, but her brother Richard drove a school bus for 53 years. I think that is a record. She tells of the time she was driving the bus and a boy had several books of matches in his back pocket. When he sat down they scraped against the seat, ignited and set his coat on fire. He jumped out of the bus with Gloria on his heels telling him to roll in the snow. Over her many years of driving, Gloria said she has come to the conclusion that the kids in Canterbury are good, decent children.

Four or five generations of the original Coombs family (George and Laura) still live in Canterbury. A few of the families the Coombs have married into are the Bassetts, Millers, Thurlows, Chartiers and Gallagers. Richard and Phyllis Bassett Coombs now own the original farm. They run it with their sons Richard, Kenneth and Jesse and their daughter Debbie Leone handles the bookkeeping. Canterbury was built on farming and it is good to see the Coombs family keeping it alive and going strong. George and Laura Coombs would be

very proud of the legacy they left their children and Canterbury.

### VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY



The Canterbury Volunteer Fire Co., recently held its yearly plant, yard, bake sale to help raise money for the department. We wish to thank everyone that attended and rented a table and helped us in this endeavor.

We also recently held our Mother's and Father's Day breakfasts with great success.

We are currently developing a Junior Fire Program for those between the ages 14 to 18. If you are interested, please call the department at 546-9807 or come to one of our meetings on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm. We welcome new members anytime. Please join and be part of a great team of people who care.

### CANTERBURY VETERANS



The Canterbury Veterans Memorial Committee is seeking contributions to complete the last two phases of our project. Phase One is complete and includes the engraving of the names of Canterbury Veterans of World Wars I and II, and the Korean War on the back of the present monument. Phase Two will include veterans from the Vietnam Era to Present and Phase Three will include from the French and Indian Wars to the Spanish American War. The total estimated cost of the project may be in excess of \$20,000 - \$8,000 of which has been raised to date to cover Phase One.

The memorial is not to glorify war but to remember the men and women of Canterbury that gave service to God and Country. Everybody gave something. Others gave all.

The location of the present monument and Eisenhower Memorial Tree will be modified into a small park where families and veterans may gather to remember the sons and daughters of Canterbury who answered the threat of enslavement and tyranny.

The Veterans Memorial Committee is appealing to all residents of Canterbury for a contribution to aid in the completion and final dedication of the Canterbury Veterans Memorial.

Residents who served in World Wars I, II and Korea received recognition on Saturday, June 17, when the Veterans Memorial Committee unveiled names etched into a stone monument outside Town Hall. It was the first of three planned war memorials. Phase II will include local military personnel who served in subsequent wars and conflicts. Phase III will feature those who served in conflicts from French and Indian War to the Spanish American War.

Committee members are Delores Baynes, Robert Kinne, Raymond Roode, Bill Deason, Betty Patridge, Robert Drosch, Larry Laisi, William D'Appolonio and Carleen Edmond.

### THE GREEN VALLEY INSTITUTE

#### DID YOU KNOW...?

The Quinebaug-Shetucket National Heritage Corridor is a 1,085 square mile, 35-town region in Northeast Connecticut and South-Central Massachusetts, defined by the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers and the rugged hills that surround them. Though surrounded on all sides by large metropolitan areas, the "Corridor" remains a rural oasis that is more than 80% farm and forest. Airline pilots know our region as the only dark spot in the nighttime sky along the long, coastal "megalopolis" stretching from Washington DC to Boston. It was they who first gave the Corridor its "Last Green Valley"



nickname.

Officially designated by the federal government in 1994, this National Heritage Corridor is a special kind of park. The federal government does not own or manage it. Instead, it provides financial and technical resources to the towns and people who live here, so we can decide how best to celebrate and conserve our historic and natural resources as our region grows.

Our Quinebaug-Shetucket National Heritage Corridor is blessed with many things. A long, rich history still written in our towns and on the landscape. Working farms and clean, beautiful rivers. Large tracts of unbroken forests that remain full of wildlife.

The corridor is changing: there has been substantial development over the past few decades that has created more roads, more homes and more businesses. Growth is inevitable and our landscape will continue to change. But without each town planning its future, individual developers, one-by-one in random fashion, will decide how our landscape will look. Corridor towns need to take the lead in deciding our future.

Preserving the town's rural character is the number one goal of most towns' Plans of Conservation and Development. But by adhering to their own zoning regulations, most Corridor towns will slowly but surely lose their rural character. There will be no farm fields, no views of a forested river valley, and few large areas of unbroken forest for future generations. The rural character will be lost forever.

But it doesn't have to be. Through planning for economic growth, towns can use their own zoning regulations as a tool to preserve their town's rural character. With the right zoning regulations, towns can increase the grand list while maintaining their rural character. Good planning allows us to encourage economic growth while maintaining our rural character, and it allows us to maintain the quality of life we enjoy today and to pass it on to our children and their children.

The Green Valley Institute is the educational outreach arm of the Quinebaug-Shetucket National Heritage Corridor, operated in partnership with the Cooperative Extension Systems at the University of Connecticut and the University of Massachusetts. If you would like information on land use and/or the conservation of natural or historical resources, please contact us at [www.thelastgreenvalley.org/gvi](http://www.thelastgreenvalley.org/gvi).

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday Street Fest Willimantic 6-9 PM

Jump into joy. Fly to the Fest. It's the time of year for the Willimantic Street Fest. Come on down and help us celebrate the 5th year of this widely popular street event. Yes, you've enjoyed four years of the delicious food, foot-tapping music, local crafts and beer. It's THE place to be and be seen. And after six months of the dark and dreary winter, it's time to shake off the cobwebs, enjoy the long days and hobnob with your neighbors.

It starts at 6 p.m. the 3rd Thursday of every month through October.

Tap your toes to energetic sound of Fiesta del Norte with their native costumes and instruments. Listen to the diverse blend of music of the Shag Frenzy, or The Jan Jundgen Trio that provides you with a carefully chosen jazz repertoire. Enjoy J Di-Menna and the Rule of Thumb as they play thematic anthems. Dance to the local group Bruce John and the Eagleville Band or enjoy oldies and blues with the Tony Horn Band. Or cool down with Quiet Life with their blend of classic country folk and indie pop sounds. Scott Mayfield plays instrumentals and The Chuck Hestons play all sorts of strange instruments.

Combine that with a stroll along the closed-off Main Street, stopping along the way to check out the hand-made crafts and the booths offering services or information. You'll be very

tempted by the wafting smells of delicious food. And don't forget to sample the locally made Hosmer soda, UConn Dairy Barn ice cream, and Willimantic Brewing Company beer. So get to Willimantic's Main Street early, hear all of the fun bands, eat the best ethnic food around, check out the new stores, and spend time with folks you haven't seen since the last Fest back in October.

It's all happening on Willimantic's Main Street (it's closed off to traffic) from 6 to 9 p.m. There is plenty of parking and best of all, the Fest is FREE. For information, visit our web site at <http://www.WillimanticStreetFest.com>, or phone (860) 456-1573. Contact: Carol M Silva 150 South Street Willimantic, CT 06226, (860) 423-8287

### LAND USE OFFICE / TOWN PLANNER



It has been a busy spring in the Land Use Office with 11 permits for new homes and 61 permits for other kinds of work issued since January 1<sup>st</sup>. We remind you that permits are needed before you undertake any addition or renovation (including roofs, siding, structural electrical or plumbing repairs) on your home or other building and before you build or install any outbuilding. Please contact our office for details. Our P/Z and Wetland regulations are now online at: <http://www.munic.state.ct.us/CANTERBURY/Zoning.htm>. I am completing a new GIS (computerized mapping system) for the Town. Soon, a relatively accurate map of your property (if a survey map is filed on the land records) will be available, with aerial photography and wetlands overlaid.

### Planning and Zoning Commission News

**P/Z Regulation Revisions:** The Planning and Zoning Commission has been busy revising our outdated Zoning Regulations. Workshop meetings are usually set monthly and are, like all meetings, open to the public. Many of the proposed revisions are to correct some legal issues, spelling errors and inconsistencies and to tighten up some vague language.

The Scenic Overlay Zone, which will cover Route 169 and the small section of Route 14 from Route 169 to the Town Hall, will provide some assurances that development on this scenic byway will compliment, not detract from, the character of the corridor. Being nationally recognized as a unique example of the history and traditions of New England lifestyle, this road is truly an asset to this community.

Existing homes will not be affected by these regulations unless they do "substantial reconstruction", subdivide or open a business where the exterior appearance of the home will change. "Substantial reconstruction" is defined as work done to the exterior of a structure that has a cost of over 90% of the value of the property. Without meeting this "trigger" amount, the regulations in this section would not apply at all.

To further promote business, we are also discussing some uses which may be allowed by-right with just a site plan review, such as antique and gift shops, small offices, bed and breakfasts, village stores, small restaurants, and similar low-impact uses. Any person wanting to have one of these businesses would just have to show that they are meeting the overlay and standard zoning regulations to be approved, similar to new businesses in our Village Commercial Zone.

Another change that is being considered is to allow Conservation Subdivisions. These designs allow the same number of lots as our current subdivisions (with some bonuses possible) but with a smaller minimum lot size, perhaps 1 acre instead of 2, which would leave as much as 40% of the parcel to remain as open space. With this much land permanently protected as open space, areas such as farm fields, viewsheds, historical or environmentally sensitive areas, and prime recreational lands can be built around leaving them and the Town's rural character more intact.

This set of revised regulations will, once complete, be sent to a Town Meeting where the Commission will take additional public comments. After that meeting, they can vote to adopt or modify the regulations as they see fit. Please stop by the office and discuss with me any concerns you may have with our current or proposed regulations – or better yet, attend one of our workshops. Your opinion is very important to us!

**Business Owners:** All businesses in Town that started after 4/5/74 need to have approvals from the Planning and Zoning Commission. If you have a business that was started after this date, and you have never received any approvals, you should contact our office to correct this situation (before we contact you). Home Occupation permits are generally low-key and cover small owner-operated businesses run out of the home. Special Exceptions are needed for larger businesses that may have more impact to the community or are operated in another building on your property. Please inquire with my office to discuss your situation.

**QSHC Grant / Survey:** My office received a grant in the amount of \$8,453.00 from the Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor to help fund a professional survey on Canterbury to be completed by the UCONN Center for Survey Research and Analysis (CSRA). CSRA is nationally and internationally recognized as a leader in the field of public opinion research. Their professionalism will assure that this survey will be an accurate and unbiased representation of the opinions of the citizens in Town.

This survey, which was spearheaded by the Economic Development Commission, will be a joint effort by all Town agencies, especially Planning and Zoning, who will use this data in the update to the Plan of Conservation and Development, which is due in 2007. This document will define Canterbury's growth and conservation goals for the next 10 years and is the backbone of all our land use regulation.

#### Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Commission News:

Most activities that involve disturbing the soil or clearing vegetation/trees from, or within 100 feet of, a wetland or watercourse require a permit. Please discuss any activities you plan on undertaking with our office before you start to ensure you are not in need of a permit. Wetlands maps of all properties are available at the Land Use Office.

To try and expedite the process and save the Town from having to spend thousands of dollars in legal expenses, the Wetlands Commission wishes to utilize municipal citations to help gain compliance. This process allows the Wetlands Official to issue a fine to a violator after a written warning has been issued. The fine, which is variable and strictly limited by State Statute, would be payable to the municipality by the violator. On-going violations can also be fined on a per-day basis if the violation is not cleared up in a timely manor. A hearing officer, who is appointed by the First Selectman, (and is not the Wetlands Official or other individual related to the Wetlands Commission) can hold a hearing at the violator's request to review the circumstances surrounding the citations and uphold, modify or dismiss the fines as he/she sees fit.

This ordinance, which has to be adopted by a Town meeting and vote, has been submitted to the Board of Selectman for review. A copy of the proposed ordinance is available for review at the Land Use Office. Planning and Zoning is also considering a similar measure for zoning violations.

#### Canterbury Public Library



1 Municipal Drive  
Canterbury, CT 06331  
860-546-9022 Fax: 860-546-1142  
[canterburypublic@yahoo.com](mailto:canterburypublic@yahoo.com) **NEW**  
**Website:** [canterburylibrary.org](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

#### **Nutmeg Book Discussion Series**

Each month we will read one of the 10 books from the **2007** Nutmeg Nominees on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month from 1:30-2:30. In January you will be able to vote on real voting machines for your favorite book

Mar 11	<u>Kensuke's Kingdom</u> by Michael Morpurgo
Apr 8	<u>Thunder from the Sea</u> by Joan Hiatt Harlow
May 13	<u>Gifts from the Sea</u> by Natalie Kinsey-Warnock
Jun 10	<u>Half and Half</u> by Lensey Namioka
	<u>Becoming Naomi Leon</u> by Pam Munoz Ryan
Sept 9	<u>The Warriors</u> by Joseph Bruchac
Oct 14	<u>The Boy Who Saved Baseball</u> by John H. Ritter
Nov 18	<u>Brainboy and the Deathmaster</u> by Tor Seidler
Dec 9	<u>Macaroni Boy</u> by Katherine Ayres
Jan 13	<u>Granny Torrelli Makes Soup</u> by Sharon Creech

Anyone may attend these book discussions regardless of grade or age. **Snacks and great conversations await you. So get reading!**

**Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales** will be launched Monday, June 26. One highlight will be a dog parade on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Sign up is required.

#### Calendar of Events

Jul 4	9:30 - Dog Parade (meet at the Middle School)
Jul 4	12:00 - Pet Show Town Hall
Jul 5	10:00 - Library Audubon's Tracking T-shirt (bring your own t-shirt to decorate)
Jul 6	10:00 - Summer Read-Aloud (every Thursday - ages 6 and up)
Jul 10	10:00 - Didjeridoo demonstration
	3:30 - Tales from around the world (every Monday)
Jul 11	3:30 - Girl Scout Summer Reading (every Tuesday, boys and girls invited)
Jul 13	3:30 - Bird Bookmarks
Jul 19	10:00 - Stamping Journals
Jul 24	11:00 - Music w/Michelle Kaminsky
Jul 26	10:00 - Polymer Clay-Dinosaurs
Jul 31	10:00 - Guiding Eye Dog demonstration
Aug 7	10:00 - Wingmasters-Birds of Prey-Owls

#### **Programs**

**NEW Ladder to Literacy** on Wednesdays--sign-up in August. Spaces are still available. Sign-up is required. This program is for children ages 3½ -5 getting ready to attend kindergarten and their parents.

**Story time** for ages 3-4 yrs on Tuesdays. Sign-up in August. Space is limited. Sign-up is required.

**Music and Movement** for 18 mos. – 3 yrs. on Thursdays. A new session will begin in September. Sign-up is required.

#### **Passes**

The library has circulating museum passes available. You check these out like a book, use them for free or discounted museum admission, then return them. Here's the list we currently have:

- \* Wadsworth Atheneum-Hartford, CT
- \* Roger Williams Park and Zoo-Providence, RI
- \* Mystic Aquarium-Mystic, CT—(**not available** July-August)
- \* Prudence Crandall Museum-Canterbury, CT
- \* Higgins Armory-Worcester, MA
- \* New England Air Museum-Windsor Locks, CT
- \* Children's Museum of South East CT-Niantic, CT