

Canterbury Town News

May 2010

Selectmen's Corner



In the midst of recent budget crises, flooding, etc. we're doing pretty well. Thanks to our Emergency Management Director Luther Thurlow for tracking and compiling local damage data on the recent storm, and to the Fire Department for pumping out almost 30 basements. We'll be hearing from the State what funding for storm damage repairs might be available.

Some items of note:

Our annual budget Town Meeting will be held on Friday, May 21. Copies of the proposed budgets are available in the Town Clerk's office. Our focus continues to be to control costs wherever possible without cutting staff and services, maintaining State aid, and maximizing outside funding sources.

"911" address signs received as part of a Justice Assistance grant are still available in the Selectmen's office. There is no cost to homeowners.

After more than a year spent eradicating invasive species, we are now in the "planting" phase of the Municipal Rain Garden. We plan to utilize plants (and labor) from local sources wherever possible.

We are applying for another \$300,000 grant for housing rehabilitation projects. We need to have a minimum of 10 completed applications from residents by the end of May to qualify. Please contact the Selectmen's office for program details and application instructions.

Now that Spring is here, we are initiating many Public Works projects throughout Town. Please be patient when traveling in the vicinity of construction activity.

Brian Sear

Board of Finance

The Board of Finance is in the final stages of preparing the Town's budget for presentation at the Annual Town Meeting on May 21. In preparing this budget, both the Board of Education and the Board of Selectmen were asked to do their utmost to keep any increases to a minimum. This action was taken by the Board of Finance in anticipation of possible reductions in the amount of State funding that the Town would receive in these difficult economic times. Both Boards were able to present budgets that the Board of Finance feels are worthy of presentation to the Town as presented. At this point in time we believe that the budget will see a slight decrease in the mil rate, but we are waiting for some final revenue figures from the State.



Fourth of July Parade

Saturday, July 3rd
10:00 am

Call the Selectmen's Office at 860/546-9693
for details or to volunteer.

Town Clerk & Tax Collector's Office

The 2010 Hunting and Fishing Guides have finally arrived! We have plenty of copies available for anyone still needing the current regulations.

Our office will be sending out lien notices to those taxpayers that have outstanding real estate taxes on April 30. The deadline for payment is May 28. Any unpaid real estate accounts will have a lien placed on the property on June 1.

We have noticed there is usually some confusion regarding the budget process and its connection to your tax bills. The Town is presently working on the 2010-2011 budget. The General Government, CIP (Capital Improvement Plan), and Education budgets have been presented to the Board of Finance--copies of all budgets are available in the Town Clerk's Office. The Board of Finance held a public hearing on the budgets on April 9. They will then meet to decide if the presented budgets are ready to be voted on by the citizens of Canterbury. The Annual Town Budget Meeting will be held on May 21. Typically, all budgets are adjourned to referendum. If the budgets do not pass, then revisions will have to be made, another Budget Meeting will take place, and then another referendum. If the budget fails again, then the process is repeated. If the budgets pass at referendum, then the Board of Finance sets a mil rate, and bills can be processed. It usually takes about three weeks after the budget is passed for us to get the bills printed, envelopes filled, and then mailed out to you.

The Town Clerk's office issues absentee ballots for the budget referendum for any citizens that may be out of town during the referendum. We cannot mail applications for referendum absentee ballots.

Reminder notices for dog licenses will be sent in mid-May and after that point we will be able to issue licenses.

Natalie Riemann
Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Agricultural Study Committee

Our volunteer committee has been meeting for a year to look at ways to enhance farming and encourage support of agriculture businesses in Canterbury. We have held a few listening sessions and participated in two workshops hosted by the Advocate program which is funded by a grant from the CT Dept. of Agriculture.

We have created an Agriculture Commission Ordinance and a Right to Farm Ordinance that will be going to town meeting in the near future. The meeting will be posted on the town web site and will be publicized. These proposals are posted on the town website for your review.

Our committee meets the last Thursday of each month at 7 pm. You are welcome to join us.

"Farmers provide food, fiber, horticulture, Agritourism & open space for the benefit of all."

Dawn Pindell, Chairman

Land Use Office



The Land Use Office staff hopes all residents are enjoying the beautiful spring weather and getting their “honey do” lists completed! We certainly had a wet spring – basements that have never had water issues flooded from the excessive rainfall and roads overtopped like they have not done in quite some time. Luckily, the severe damage that afflicted neighboring communities seemed to pass us over, for the most part.

The Planning and Zoning Commission will be holding a public hearing on May 13th to receive comments on the Town’s draft Plan of Conservation and Development. This plan lays out the Commission’s agenda on growth and conservation matters for the next ten years. As this affects each and every resident, it is important that you review the document and let your opinions be heard at the hearing. Written comments may also be submitted to the Land Use Office for inclusion in the record.

At the same hearing, comments on our new agricultural regulations section and revisions to our sign regulations will be discussed. Changes to these sections give more options for business owners and farmers, while protecting the rural character of the Town. Economic Development has reviewed the changes to the sign regulations and the Agricultural Study Committee has approved the agricultural sections.

Both the Plan of Conservation and Development and the Zoning Regulation changes are on the Planning and Zoning webpage for your review.

The Commission is also working with our consultant on ways to introduce more affordable housing in Town. Even with the recent downturn, it is difficult for single people and families starting out to find housing in our community. As housing prices recover, this will become only more apparent. The Commission is looking at several strategies to help make housing more affordable including offering incentives for developers to create more affordable units and to allow housing above retail buildings in the Village. Several booklets on the topic are available on the Planning and Zoning webpage if you wish to find out more about these activities.

Last, but not least, residents are reminded that building permits are required for any structural improvements to their homes including things such as siding, roofing, decks, and most electrical and plumbing upgrades. Contact the building official, Rob Kerr, for clarification at 860-230-3012 or the Land Use Office at 860-546-6857. Additionally, wetland permits are required for any work done in or within 100 feet of a wetland or watercourse. Please contact the Land Use Office if you have any questions or to determine if one is needed.



Canterbury Lions Club

Please support our upcoming events.

- Sight Saver Day ~ April 23, 24 and 25 at the Better Val-U Store. The club will be asking for donations. Please support your local Canterbury Lions Club.
- Canterbury Lions Club and Jewett City Savings Bank is sponsoring a Community Concert at the Canterbury Community Center on Saturday, May 22, 2010 at 6:30. Admission is free and will feature the Griswold High School Steel Drum Band.
- 1st Annual Canterbury Lions Club Golf Classic at the University Club of Connecticut in North Windham, CT (formerly the Willimantic Country Club) on September 10, 2010. For more information please contact Kimberly Coombs at 860/564-6966 ext. 24 or at kimc@westminstertool.com.

Assessor’s Office

Effective the week of April 12th the Assessor’s Office will be implementing new hours while the Assessor, Jennifer Sullivan, is on maternity leave. We are pleased to welcome Lynn Byberg, CCMA II to the Assessor’s Office to help while Jennifer is away. She will be in the office on Tuesdays from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm and Thursdays from 9:00 am to 6:30 pm. On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays the office will be open to the public to use the computer, maps, & sales books but there will not be any staff available to assist with any questions. Please keep in mind that assessment data is always available at: <http://www.visionappraisal.com> & questions can always be answered by emailing the assessor’s office at assessor@canterbury-ct.org.

When Jennifer returns from maternity leave she will be in the office on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm and Lynn will be in the office on Thursdays from 9:00 am to 6:30 pm. Tuesdays and Fridays the office will be open to the public but there will not be any staff available to assist.

The Elderly & Totally Disabled Tax Credit Program deadline is May 15th!

If you turned 65 in 2009, 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 \$39,500 and for a single person the maximum income is \$32,300. 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 is within certain limits. To receive these exemptions, an application must be filed between February 1st and October 1st for the 2010 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 2007, another application needs to be completed in 2009 in order to continue receiving the benefit. If you are unsure of when you last filed, please call the Assessor’s Office to verify.

Attention Renters:

The Renter’s Program begins May 17, 2010. If you are 65 (or older), and/or totally disabled, & 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 Wednesday September 15, 2010.

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.

Canterbury Senior Trips

We had an excellent beginning this year—great weather and relaxation in the Caribbean in January, a very entertaining St. Patrick’s Day show and an inspiring tour of our national memorials in Washington, D.C.

A list of our trips can be found in our Town Clerk’s office and library. Detailed information can be found in the library or by calling 860 546-9830. All are welcome to join us! A quick list – Custy’s and Casino, The Riverhouse, Wright’s Chicken Farm, Lobster Tails, Bobby Vinton, Iceland, Learn at Lunch, “Dirty Rotten Scoundrels”, Niagara Falls, Apple Fest, Newport Playhouse and another Caribbean cruise in January!

Sit back, relax and enjoy!



Canterbury School District

Office of the Superintendent
Janet M. Tyler, Superintendent

It has been a busy year and a very good one, thus far. As you will read in the principals' reports to follow, there is still much more to come. I encourage all parents and community members to participate in the upcoming spring events.

Energy savings in the district has been a focus over the past few months. The district was awarded an ARRA Energy Efficiency Grant which will fund the installation of an Energy Management System at the Canterbury Elementary School. This system will allow us to remotely regulate the heating and minimal cooling at a significant cost savings.

The Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School has been retrofitted with new, energy efficient lighting. This project was realized through the CL&P Small Business Energy Advantage program. The Canterbury Elementary School will also benefit from this program.

The paving project will continue at CES this summer. After completion of the bid process, it is our intention to pave the hill leading to the school, at the very least.

Our partnership with the Department of Transportation has been very successful. Due to the closing of Butts Bridge Road, bus routes needed to be changed to transport students to and from school. These changes were accomplished efficiently and without incident. Most noteworthy, all additional costs to the Canterbury Public School district due to the closure will be reimbursed by the DOT.

The district will participate in Connecticut's Race to the Top Grant, Phase II Application. The competitive grant, which is due in Washington, D. C. on June 1, is based on education reform. Connecticut must demonstrate its plan for developing great teachers, promoting innovation and reform, and improving STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) instruction. In addition, CT must share its educational standards and assessments as well as its data systems. If awarded, this grant will greatly impact the educational process.

Many scholarships are available to high school students. The applications can be found at the Public Library.

It is vital that children feel a part of and contribute to their community, thus Community Service has been an expectation of the students this school year. Some have worked at soup kitchens, gathered food for food banks, collected pennies for leukemia, etc. In May, all students will be participating in *Beautify Your School Day*.

Mrs. Roberta Wezenski has been hired as the Director of Pupil Services. Her vita includes employment at The Children's Home as an Assistant Principal and at the Portland Public Schools as the Director of Pupil Services. Her degrees include a Bachelor of Science with a concentration in Special Education and a Master of Science with a concentration in Learning Disabilities. She will begin her tenure in the district on April 26.

Most importantly, the Board of Education 2010-2011 Budget reflects a zero increase for the second consecutive year. It eliminates two teaching positions and enhances some programs. It is with great thought, hard work, a respect for the community, and a focus on providing a quality education for children, that the budget was generated. If you have questions or comments about the budget, I hope you will contact me. I would be happy to explain the thought process behind each expenditure and the rationale for its placement in the budget. With your sustained help, we will provide the education that the children deserve.

Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School
Kathleen Boyhan-Maus, Principal

The students at Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School have begun a personal kindness campaign inclusive of community service. Each member on the principal's advisory council is maintaining data with students' names, grades, and wonderful actions. To highlight a few: holding doors open for students and adults, helping older neighbors with yard work, helping peers carry heavy books, sharing snacks, cleaning out peers' lockers, helped a peer fix a necklace, helped peers study for Spanish test, volunteered to help with homework and academic subjects, helped peer with anecdotal stories.

Additional community service activities involve The *Community Service Organization's* holding a Food Drive again this year. Because of the serious need for food, the drive was extended from March 22 to April 10th. Our entire school is involved. Baskets are located in every homeroom. Students, parents, and teachers continually help fill the distributed baskets.

The *March of Dimes* has also been instituted by several grade 8 students. They are committed to support infant health. Each student received a small box in which to collect change. The final collection will be tallied soon. The grade 8 ladies announce during morning announcements to remember to help support the cause.

Students in the National Junior Honor Society and our Peer Mediation program are volunteering their time and running ability by participating in the in the Relay for Life on the Woodstock Fairgrounds. Parents and students will be camping with our teacher-directors all night and running for the American Cancer Association. Many of our families' lives have been touched by cancer and the students are passionate about helping.

Students were invited to the Museum of Modern Art in New York City on April 5, 2010. They secured special tickets for the Tim Burton exhibit. Their reservations entitled them to browse the exhibit as long as they wished. The other main featured artists our students were excited to view were Claude Money, Alexander Calder, and Wassily Kandinsky, all of which they are studying in art class and the students work has been outstanding. They lunched at Paley Park and dined at Applebee's. At least twelve parents accompanied our students to this educational excursion.

Our parents and families are invited to the annual parent night in grade 7; exhibitions will be displayed in the science lab on April 15th from 6:30 to 7:30. Students are proudly demonstrating their prowess in biology by explicating their cell projects. All students have been working hard on creating poetry booklets which will also be presented. Additional pieces of academic projects will become part of the students' proud exhibitions. All are welcome and refreshments will be served.

Report cards will be distributed on April 9, 2010, for the third marking period. Students receiving honors and high honors will receive invitations for their families to attend an honor roll breakfast on April 27, 2010 from 7:30-8:30 a.m. Entire families celebrate the students' academic achievements to support the effort and hard work ethics our students put forth. We are very proud of our students and their attendance at the Honor roll Breakfast. The names of all honor roll students is also sent to the paper.

The cheerleaders under the direction of their coach, Mrs. Rodrigues, would like to attend the summer cheer camp again this year. To offset the expense because it is rather costly, they are holding a dinner and silent auction on April 30th beginning at 6:00 p.m. at Wright's Mill in Canterbury. This year's prizes are incredible! Tickets are only \$12.00 for dinner.

Our Special Friends' Day will involve three different lunch waves on May 4th. Lunch can be purchased right at the cafeteria, but we are asking for advance notice of the amount of family members expected. We will also try to have some entertainment from the acts for the upcoming Talent Show.

The district has been involved with an obesity grant which has involved multiple nutritional activities. All students in grade 5 & 6 will be going on a trip to the UConn dairy farm on May 7th. They will visit the farm, walk all around, and receive an ice cream cone. The nutritionist will accompany the group and explain the importance of proper nutrition.

Additional Upcoming Dates of Interest:

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|-----------------------------|-------------|
| • Career Day | May 7 |
| • Talent Show | May 14 |
| • Spring Concert | May 19 |
| • Honor Society Induction | May 11 |
| • Field Day | May 28 |
| • 8th Grade Class Trip | May 26 & 28 |
| • Graduation Dance | June 4 |
| • Grade 7 Six Flags Trip | June 11 |
| • Potential Graduation Date | June 11 |

Canterbury Elementary School
A. Catherine Ferguson, Principal

Exciting news! As many of you are already aware, we were awarded national certification for both our Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Programs by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The Canterbury Board of Education celebrated this outstanding achievement at a recent Board of Education Meeting. I was so proud to lead this exceptional team of early childhood educators and am most proud of this prestigious acknowledgement.

Kindergarten registration and classroom visit was held on March 26. Students who will be 5 years of age by December 31, 2005 are eligible. If any parents have missed the registration, they may call (860) 546-6744 to obtain the required paperwork. Pre-schoolers who are presently enrolled here at Canterbury Elementary School are automatically enrolled and do not need to register. A classroom visit will be held for all the incoming kindergarten students later in the school year.

Registration for pre-school will be held on May 6 and 7. Information regarding this event has been posted throughout the town. If you would like to make an appointment to register, please call the special education office at (860) 546-1040. Openings are made possible through a School Readiness Grant from the CT State Department of Education. We will be applying for this grant again this year and asking that it be provided at no cost to our Canterbury parents. Slots are limited and registration does not guarantee placement. Selection is made through a lottery process.

We have again begun serving our students K through Grade 3 through a Primary Mental Health Grant (HUGS), another opportunity through the CT State Department of Education. This grant is aimed at providing services in a stress free zone for students who are at risk. Students participate once a week for a half hour and are involved in a situation where they are directing their own play and empowering themselves through their selections under the supervision of counselor assistant, Mrs. Amy Marsalisi. This program is supervised by our guidance counselor and school psychologist, Mrs. Canning and Ms. Mansigian, respectively; as well as, me.

Second conferences of the year were held on March 18 and 19. Teachers and staff communicated with parents as to the importance of supporting the education of their children which is critical for their success. Conferences were held both at night and during the day to accommodate as many parents as possible.

Continued thanks to our PTO, a group of extremely dedicated

parents, for all they do to add to the experiences of our CES students. On March 26, they hosted a very successful fundraiser, the Basket Bash. Without their efforts, we would not have an enhanced playground; student opportunities to attend field trips and fine arts presentations; as well as, participate in fun social events such as family nights.

Last year, the Canterbury Board of Education asked if we would encourage students' community service efforts. We whole-heartedly agreed that these opportunities benefit all those involved in a myriad of ways. This year, our students and staff are making a difference in the lives of so many through their community efforts. Mrs. Riviera has organized opportunities for her grade 4 students to enhance the local soup kitchen and pantry at St. Vincent de Paul. Mr. Crispin Fresco-Hawes again coordinated an opportunity to raise money for the American Heart Association through Jump Rope for Heart. This event also provides us with PE equipment. Mrs. Marcia Baker will be facilitating the St. Jude Research Hospital opportunity which is an annual spring event. Mrs. Sharon Breen coordinated the Pennies for Patients, a campaign that raised funds for children with leukemia and lymphoma. The students were very excited about contributing their "pennies". They were also involved in the calculation by counting the donation totals.

Our staff continues to work on their SMART Goals for the present school year. Teachers continue work within their professional learning communities analyzing data in reading, writing and/or math. Strategies put into place are evaluated as to their effectiveness based on assessment data. New strategies are developed as needed based on this data, as well as through, collegial dialogue. We continue to focus on enhancing teaching and learning related to primary areas of need with regard to Reading (making reader/text connections and examining context and structure), Writing (composing and revising), and Math (estimating solutions). Analysis of the fall assessments were helpful in identifying needed areas of instruction, as well as, provide feedback related to achievement in the targeting those skills and incorporated into achievement of our SMART Goals.

Upcoming Dates of Interest:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| • Celebration of the Arts | May 5 - May 12 |
| • Field Trip - Grade 4 | May 5 |
| • Special Friends Day -Gr. 3 | May 5 |
| • Preschool Registration | May 6 & 7 |
| • Field Trip - Grade 3 | May 7 |
| • Special Friends Day -Gr. 4 | May 7 |
| • Grade 3 Spring Concert | May 12 |
| • Field Trip - Grade 1 | May 17 |
| • Special Friends Day- Gr. 1 | May 21 |
| • Field Trip - Grade 2 | May 21 |
| • PTO School Dance | May 22 |
| • HUGS Spaghetti Dinner | June 2 |
| • Kdg Celebration | June 3 |
| • Field Day | June 9 |
| • School Assembly | June 9 |
| • PreK Celebration | June 10 |
| • Grade 4 Awards Night | June 10 |
| • Grade 4 Sendoff | June 14 |

CES PTO

The CES PTO is finishing up another busy year fundraising and working hard to provide those 'little extras' for our students at the elementary school. Funds raised provide field trips, classroom extras, and so much more! Thank you for making our Yankee Candle fundraiser, the December New York bus trip, the February Family Bingo Night and the March Basket Bash & Craft Show such successes! Mark your calendars for the Spring Fling Dance to be held on May 22, 2010. And remember, CES t-shirts are on sale. Look for your order form.

Volunteers are always needed. Please call 546-6744 for more details on how you can support our organization.

Agent for the Elderly

We have approximately over 800 seniors in the town of Canterbury. I currently see the seniors that come to the senior luncheon every month, as well as the seniors that stop in my office for assistance. I would like to reach out to *all* the seniors in Canterbury to find out what your needs may be and if you have any concerns I might be able to assist you with. As Municipal Agent for the Elderly I would like for the seniors in Canterbury to feel comfortable calling me or stopping by the office.

Please consider your possible current needs such as transportation, homecare services, grocery shopping, prescriptions, energy assistance. Are there ways we can make your lives easier?

I am considering having a Pot Luck once a month, along with a speaker or entertainment of some kind. In having the Pot Luck I hope to be able meet as many seniors from town that I currently have not had the opportunity to meet. I am open to any suggestions on what the seniors would like to have at the Pot Luck for informational purposes. I can schedule Fall Prevention Seminars, Walking Programs, Alzheimer Care Representatives, or any other medical informational or home care issues you may be interested in, as well as entertainment possibilities.

Please feel free to call or e-mail me.

Cherri Richardson

Phone (860)-546-9845

e-mail: crichardson@canterbury-ct.org

Economic Development Commission

The first quarter of 2010 was an active time for your Canterbury EDC. Our monthly meetings segued into a monthly local business group and attendance at the regular meetings of Planning & Zoning, almost a weekly commitment to growing our town's economy.

Business Sign Program

EDC has been working with P & Z to create a temporary sign program in addition to the present road directional signs. This will allow local businesses to erect signs featuring daily or weekly specials, new additions to inventory, hours of operation, etc. The designs will be in the form of a sandwich board or signs similar to those present at election time. This consistency in design will make for an attractive presentation throughout the community.

Monthly Business Meet & Greet Meetings

Martello's Pub has been kind enough to allow members of the business community to meet monthly at 5:30pm on the first Tuesday. Four get togethers have given our local entrepreneurs an opportunity to share areas of concern and discuss ways of marketing our goods and services as a group. Of particular interest was recent vandalism and breaking - and - entering matters. A trooper from Troop D in Danielson attended the April meeting. Other subjects of discussion included zoning matters, agricultural rights to do farming and a community welcome package.

Business Advocate Program

The EDC is helping several businesses work their way through the permitting process. Whether expansion or a new venture, business people will be able to rely on the assistance of the Commission to see that their plans are discussed fairly and appropriately. Canterbury's business-startup brochure which has received kudos from State EDC professionals is part of this process.

Advocate Program

The EDC has been active at discussions of potential

agricultural regulations which give protect farmers rights to farm. These rights are discussed at each commission meeting and our input has helped develop a fair and understandable set of regulations.

Community Welcome Package

A complete package of local information is being developed to make both residents and newcomers aware of town services, schools, cultural opportunities, places of worship, and organizations. This compliment with the Business Directory which describes goods and services available locally.

June 12th-Canterbury Business Day

Planning is going on to encourage every local business to set up a table in our Community Room describing their goods and services. Tentative hours are 9am to 3pm. Possible features include a children's play area, entertainment, food, giveaways and a raffle. We hope an adequate number of entrepreneurs will join to make this affair of value to them and to the community. More on this as the day gets closer.

Northeast CT Economic Alliance Workshop

Several members of the EDC attended an all-day workshop at Quinebaug Valley Community College concerning Smart Growth & Regionalization and how it might fit in Canterbury. The program underwritten by Northeast Utilities was of great interest to EDC members whose charge is to expand the tax base commercially speaking. The Commission will be exploring various aspects of the presentation which will be reported in the next newsletter.

In closing, please make every effort to support Canterbury businesses...they have many unique goods and services to offer.

Avery Tillinghast, Chairman

The Prudence Crandall Museum

The Prudence Crandall, which is administered by the Commission on Culture & Tourism, looks forward to opening for the 2010 season on Saturday, May 1. The Museum will be open Saturday and Sunday, 10am to 4pm (last ticket sold at 3:30) May 1 through Oct. 31, 2010.

The Museum is looking forward to offering, for the first time, a *Docent Training* program for everyone, age 16 and older, interested in volunteering at the museum. Docents, volunteers who work as guides or interpreters at historic sites, bring to life our heritage and history! Do you enjoy history? Like meeting new people? Then join us and become a vital part of keeping the museum open to the public. The Docent Training Sessions will be held on four Saturdays: May 8, May 22, June 5 and June 19 from 10am to Noon. Registrants are required to attend all four sessions, and agree to work at the museum at least one day (10am to 4pm) each month during the season.

Connecticut Open House Day Event ~ June 12, 1-3pm. The Museum will participate in this year's Connecticut Open House Day an event which showcases attractions for Connecticut residents. The museum will offer free admission to all state residents, along with the program, *How Does Your Garden Grow* from 1 to 3pm. Youngsters will have an opportunity to plant bean seeds to take home to start their own vegetable garden...similar to the ones each household would have had in the 1830s. The program is free.

In July the museum invites children of all ages to come and play *Children's Games on the Lawn* the afternoon of Sunday, July 11, 1-3pm. Participate in games and activities from the 1830s, including the game of graces, rolling hoops, and checkers. Included in regular museum admission.

Regular Museum admission is \$6 adults/\$4 children ages 6-17 and sr. citizens/ages 60 and over, admission is free for ages 5 and under. For additional information, contact the museum at 860-546-7800.

Canterbury Public Library



Hours: Monday-Wednesday 10am - 7pm;
Thursday 10am - 8pm; Saturday 10am - 4pm

Website: www.canterburylibrary.org

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

Email: canterburypublic@yahoo.com

Computer Education: Interested in computer classes? Would you like to learn more about Excel, or how to create a PowerPoint presentation? Have you been thinking about creating a MySpace page or joining Face Book to connect with your friends? Have you just purchased a new computer and would like to know how it works? We will create a class or work with you one-on-one. Call us today.

Free Downloadable Audio Books: Check out our website for new downloadable audio books.

Canterbury Stitchers: An afghan, created by the stitchers as a fundraiser, is displayed at the library. Tickets are one for \$1.00 or six for \$5.00. Drop in and work on your sewing projects, knitting, crocheting, quilting, etc. Every Monday, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. and Thursday, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Citizen Science Volunteers Needed!

Spring 2010 marks the beginning of the second year of Canterbury's participation in the Connecticut Audubon Society's Citizen Science Volunteer Monitoring Program, a partnership with the Canterbury Public Library and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. In 2009, 24 volunteers contributed 211 volunteer hours collecting conservation data for five Citizen Science projects. There's a project in each season and training sessions are held for each project. To register, call 860-928-4948. Canterbury residents' fees are covered by the USFWS grant. Volunteers from other towns are welcome.

Vernal Pool Inventory 2010 - Vernal pool season goes by quickly --don't miss the fun. On Friday and Saturday mornings in April and May, our trained volunteers document vernal pools in Canterbury, Pomfret, and Woodstock. We tramp through woods, listen for wood frogs and count amphibian egg masses. If you missed the training in early April, it's not too late to train in the field by contacting Paula Coughlin, project coordinator.

Library Passes

State Museums: Free Admission for 2 adults & 2 youths (6-17 years). Old New-Gate Prison & Copper Mine; Prudence Crandall Museum; Sloane-Stanley Museum; Henry Whitfield State Museum. **Wadsworth Atheneum:** Free admission for 2 adults & 2 children; **Mystic Aquarium:** Discounted admission for up to 2 adults & 2 children; **Higgins Armory Museum:** Free admission for up to 4 adults and/or children; **Roger Williams Park Zoo Pass:** Reduced admission for up to 4 adults, seniors, and /or children. Includes a 10% discount on zoo retail items.; **Connecticut Parks Pass:** No Child Left Inside Initiative. Free admission for 2 adults & 4 children at Dinosaur, Fort Trumbull & Gillette Castle State parks. Covers parking at all four state beaches as well as, several inland parks.

You Buy it...We Loan it. Purchase books or movies that you want at our % discount. The material is shipped to us shelf ready. You get it first and for as long as you need it. When you return it is then ready to be loaned out to others. You get the tax deduction we do the work. All donations must meet the final approval of the Library Director

Book Discussion 2010 Join us each month for an engaging book discussion. Call either library to reserve a copy of the book. All discussions start at 7:05 p.m.

Wednesday, April 21, at Scotland Public
The Help by Kathryn Stockett

Monday, May 17, at Canterbury Library
The Given Day by Dennis Lehane

Wednesday, June 16, at Scotland Library
The Comforts of a Muddy Saturday by A. McCall Smith

Wednesday, July 21, at Scotland
Ragtime by E.L. Doctorow

Monday, August, 16, at Canterbury Library
In Defense of Food by Michael Pollan

Summer Kick-off with *Bubble Artist-Keith Michael Anderson* on **Saturday, June 19th at 11:00 a.m.** in the community room.

Summer Fun at Your Library June 19, 2010 – July 31, 2010

Weekly themes for this year's program include:

Week 1 ~ 19 June through 26 June
Animals That Live by the Water

Week 2 ~ 26 June through 10 July
Storms

Week 3 ~ 10 July through 17 July
Healthy Water Makes A Healthy Body

Week 4 ~ 17 July through 24 July
Lakes & Rivers As A Habitat

Week 5 ~ 24 July through 31 July
Conserving Water

Canterbury Historical Society



The Canterbury Historical cordially invites you to join us at an upcoming meeting. On Friday, May 14th, our regular business meeting will be followed by a presentation by Marilyn Labbe of the Killingly Historical & Geological Society, whose subject will be a newspaper from days-gone-by: the *Windham County Transcript*. The *Transcript* was the weekly source for news in the area from 1860 to 1977, and Mrs. Labbe will share some interesting news she's discovered while reviewing copies of the *Transcript* owned by KHGS. In addition, she'll talk about her experiences in putting together a book in 2009 called [Dear Transcript: Letters From Windham County Soldiers During The Civil War, 1861-1865.](#)

On June 11th, our meeting will feature a presentation by the Connecticut Historical Society on the subject of "Natural Disasters In Connecticut." Among the "highlighted" disasters will be the Blizzard of 1888, the Flood of 1936, the Hurricane of 1938, and the Hurricane & Flood of 1955. Our business meetings start at 7PM, followed by our presentations about 7:30PM. Refreshments follow each presentation, and both meetings will be held in the Town Hall Community Room. Meetings are free and open to the public. Please note that CHS does not hold regular monthly meetings in July or August.

On Saturday, April 10th, CHS sponsored a successful Indoor Tag Sale at the Town Hall. Many thanks to everyone who rented a table or donated an item for CHS to sell.

Planning for our annual Old Home Day – tentatively set for Saturday, September 18th – has begun. The next Old Home Day planning committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 19th at 7PM at the Green District Schoolhouse. Come bring your ideas as we work to make this free annual town event a success. Everyone is welcome to this meeting. If you have questions or ideas you'd like to share, call Amy at 860-546-9062, Ellen at 860-546-9346, or send email to canterburyhistorical@gmail.com.

The Canterbury Historical Society plans to be part of Connecticut's annual Open House Day on Saturday, June 12th. Join us for an Open House at the Green District Schoolhouse from 10AM to 3PM.

More information on our meetings and events can be found on our website. www.canterburyhistorical.org.

A Canterbury Story

by Sheila Mason Gale

It's just not Christmas in Canterbury until the Christmas decorations go up on the hill at the intersection of Route 169 and Bennett Pond Road. Alton and Eleanor Orlomoski created and continue this Canterbury tradition.

In 1908, Eleanor's grandparents, Truman and Maude Hart, moved from Southington to Canterbury and bought the colonial house just north of Quinebaug Valley Farm. Truman was a motorman on a trolley in Southington and Eleanor's father, Charles, remembers traveling to Canterbury on a trolley when he was a child. Charles was the oldest of nine children. As an adult, Charles worked in textile mills in the area and this is where he met his wife Hilda. The Hart's rented the house on the west side of Ed's Garage and started a family. You may know Kenneth Hart, Arthur Hart, Marjorie Orlomoski, Eleanor Orlomoski, Nancy Allyn and William Hart.

They rented from Fremont Smith from 1936 to 1953 for \$7.00/month. Fremont's father was George Washington Smith who was the owner of a hoop shop and blacksmith shop directly across the road from the house. Hoops were made to hold the sails to the masts of a ship. Eleanor believes the machinery from the old hoop shop is now on display at Mystic Seaport. Eleanor and her siblings were allowed to play in the hoop shop, but not when they used steam to bend the hoops. That would have been too dangerous.

When Eleanor was a child, she and her siblings thought they owned the town and walked everywhere. They went to the Canterbury Green from their house and enjoyed the Library (next to where Calvary Chapel is today). They would get their fishing poles and head out to Kitt Brook or a fishing hole on Elmdale Road and spend the day. She remembers taking some peanut butter and crackers and hiking across the street to sit under the cool pines. Her brothers would ride their bikes all over Canterbury and even ride to Plainfield. In the winter they would put the sleds in the middle of the road, start just above her house and slide all the way down to the Bacon Bridge just before Plainfield. Lovell Lane was a dirt road then and hardly any traffic in or out of Canterbury. They went to square dances at the Grange Hall (where the VFW is today) and the Volunteer Fire Company would have minstrel shows come to Canterbury as an annual fund raiser.

Eleanor attended the Frost School, the Green School and the Baldwin one room schoolhouse on Route 169 (almost across the street from Gooseneck Hill Road) and the new Dr. Helen Baldwin School during her elementary school years. Muriel Carter was her favorite teacher. Ms. Carter played the accordion and the children would march around the green. She encouraged every child to learn to play the recorder and she created a Xylophone-type instrument made from glass tubes, which the children would play with wooden sticks. Eleanor graduated from Griswold High School and was ranked third in her class. Unfortunately, there was no money to go to college so she looked for a job. Some of her schoolmates were Allyn Tracy Woods, Bob Romanoff, Bob Grab, Ronny Fault, Barbara Dombrowski and Emerson Reynolds.

Eleanor was involved in 4-H and, like many of us, she was taught by Elsie Hawes. For spending money she and her sisters would clean Elsie's house and be paid \$3.00 maybe up to \$5.00. She was "rich" when she got \$5.00. Elsie worked as a clerk in the post office. It wasn't very busy and Elsie would allow Eleanor to come over to teach her how to knit. Elsie and Addison Davis were influential in helping her get a job at the post office. She started as a clerk and in 1962 became a full-time rural mail carrier after Fran Vaclavik retired. Eleanor retired after 30 years of service in 1992. Some of the more interesting items she delivered included tires, baby chicks, and even urns with ashes.

The Swan family owned Swan's Filling Station (Bergeron's Garage is located there today). In those days, Swan's Filling Station was well known for their ice cream. One day while Mrs. Swan was dishing out ice cream, she asked if Eleanor

would pump gas for a customer who had driven in. The customer was Alton Orlomoski who has recently moved with his family to Quinebaug Valley Farm where his stepfather was the herdsman. She said he was always fun and had a story to tell. She still enjoys his company and finds him fun. The following year, 1955, she married Alton and in 1956 her sister Marjorie married Alton's brother Kendall. Alton and Eleanor bought the property on Bennett Pond hill from the Swans and raised three children there—Steven, David and Amy. David lives in Colebrook and Steve and Amy live in Canterbury.

Her son Steve was a member of the Canterbury Historical Society and he told Eleanor and Alton he would pay for their membership the first year. She and Alton have since been very active in the Society and especially the Green School restoration. She finds the history of the town fascinating and enjoys studying all aspects of it. She said Canterbury is a more modern town now. In the early forties there was probably only about 1,000 people and lots of chicken farmers and some dairy farmers. She can remember cans of milk being hauled down to the railroad depot to be sent off to market.

Eleanor always loved Christmas and so when she and Alton had their own home, they decided to put up Christmas decorations on the lawn. Her son, David, made the first reindeer that appeared on the hill. The family has been doing this for a long time and Eleanor mentioned to her family that maybe it was time to stop putting up the decorations. Her daughter and granddaughters said no and they would be glad to help in any way to keep the Christmas decorations on the hill. Thanks to the Orlomoski family for this Canterbury tradition.

Calvary Chapel Celebrates 75th



This year Calvary Chapel is celebrating its 75th Anniversary. The Calvary Chapel, Inc. was officially recognized as a "lawful church institution" in Connecticut on

October 1, 1935. The original church building, built in 1873, was home to the Methodist Church on the Plains until 1931. On March 24, 1935, over fifty people met in the building, then other meetings were held to reorganize as an independent local church. The Articles of Association of The Calvary Chapel, Inc. were signed on September 27, 1935. The present building was completed in 1957 after the original building was destroyed by fire on March 24, 1954. A major addition was started in 1993 and is being used today.

Over the years, Calvary Chapel has been active in the community and the world. It contributes to the support of over 40 missionaries and mission organization. Since the 1950s, the church has sponsored programs for children and teens, including summer VBS and school year clubs. The church has always had an active Sunday School program. In the past, the church held meetings in the Brooklyn Correctional Institute and still leads services for two local nursing homes. More recently, the church has sponsored Red Cross Blood drives and has hosted the Girl Scouts.

As 2010 marks the 75th Anniversary, plans are being made to celebrate this event entitled *To God Be The Glory*. The following Sundays, one each month, will be designated to celebrate a decade of the church's history. May 9 will commemorate 1935-1950; June 13 1950-1960; July 11 1960-1970; August 8 1970-1980; September 12 1980-1990; and October 10 1990-2000 with the weekend of November 6-7 culminating the celebration. The public, especially those who were a part of Calvary Chapel, is invited to visit the 10:30 am service on any of the above Sundays and to participate in the November festivities. For more information, go to www.calvarychapelcanterbury.org or email liisak13@yahoo.com. As part of this celebration, the church is seeking pictures or memorabilia from the 1930s to the present that can be displayed each month and used in November as a visual history. These pictures/items can be dropped off at the parsonage, brought to the church on Sunday morning or mailed to Calvary Chapel, 175 Westminster Rd, Canterbury, 06331.

Finnish American Heritage Society

The monthly meetings of the FAHS have moved to the spring-summer schedule of Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm at the Hall, located at 76 North Canterbury Road. There is a social hour with refreshments before the meeting and all are welcome.

Recent events at the Hall included the 3rd Annual FAHS Youth Talent Show on the weekend of March 27th & 28th. Six youth performers, ranging from eighth graders to high school seniors, presented their talent to a full house of friends and family. This was a totally youth show with a youth director/producer and young folks taking tickets and running the concession stand where delicious home-made treats were served. From the introduction in the program packet, written by Kaila Galinat, Youth Director: "Our main goal is to give experience to young performers so they can get a feel for the stage..." The production team of Kaila, Justin & Susan Galinat, Norman Broad and Judy Galinat coached and encouraged the youth performers-it was really a great show! The performers included Sarah Babcock (singer); Daniela Cardillo (singer/songwriter/guitar); Moranda Chapman (dancer/singer); John Gallen (songwriter/guitar); Leah Gallen (singer/pianist); and Devin Kuhl (singer). Judges included musicians, teachers and high school play directors from Willimantic, Norwich and Canterbury. Cash prizes were awarded for first, second, third and fourth place and every participant received a gift card. Choosing the place winners was no easy task, given the talent of each of the youth performers. Don't miss next year's show-Canterbury's own "Connecticut Idol".

FAHS also celebrated Kalevala Paiva (Day)-a time to celebrate the national epic poem of Finland. The epic was passed along orally over centuries and was researched and published by Elias Lönnrot in the mid 1800's. The Kalevala has become a guide to the values, traditions, beliefs and customs of the Finnish people. The epic poem has served as an inspiration to a multitude of Finnish artists including the composer Sibelius.

Coming events at the Hall (all open to the community) are listed below. Note that June 27th is a demonstration of the traditional relief wood-carving that has been a grant sponsored apprenticeship program at the Hall. Supported by the Southern New England Traditional Arts Apprentice Program, master carvers have been instructing participants in the craft. Wood is very much a part of the Finnish culture due to the abundant forests in the country. Flora, fauna, and landscapes are favored subjects of relief wood carvers.

Calendar: (All meetings/events are open to the public.)

May	6 th :	7pm: Membership Meeting (social hour at 6pm)
	15 th :	4-6pm: Chicken Barbeque
June:	3 rd :	7pm: Membership Meeting (social hour at 6pm)
	26 th :	9a-2p: Giant Yard Sale (call to reserve a table)
	27 th :	2p-4p: Woodcarving Exhibit
July:	1 st :	7pm: Membership Meeting (social hour at 6pm)
	24 th :	2pm: Joint AURA/FAHS Picnic (at AURA Hall-Voluntown)
	28 th -8/1:	Finn Grand Fest-Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario www.finngrand-fest2010.com for more info.
August:	5 th :	7pm: Membership Meeting (social hour at 6pm)

The Hall is available for rental for events and includes a full kitchen, a large meeting room and a performance stage. For more information, e-mail hallrental@fahs-ct.org or call 860-546-6671 and leave a message. Please visit our website at www.fahs-ct.org for information. You are always welcome at the Hall-come by for a visit, a meeting or event or to enjoy coffee and pulla.

Friends of the Prudence Crandall Museum, Inc.

The Friends are looking forward to a great season that begins with our Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 1 at 10am at the Museum. The meeting is open to all and our speaker will be Dale Plummer, Norwich Historian, telling us about Sarah Harris and her family. The Spring Tea will follow on Sunday, May 2 from 1-3 pm. As many of you know, this is a relaxing and 'delicious' way to spend an afternoon with friends, explore the grounds and visit the Museum. Tickets are \$12 and reservations can be made at 860.546.7800.

A four-session Docent Training Program will begin on Saturday, May 8 from 10-12 noon. We are excited to present this program which will provide volunteer guides to assist at the Museum in this time of staffing cutbacks. The session dates are May 8 & 22 and June 5 & 19. Participants are asked to volunteer one day per month during the Museum season through October 31.

We are also looking for 'behind-the-scenes' volunteers. These are the volunteers who made it possible for the Museum to be open one day each week last year. We will be open this year on Saturdays and Sundays and with volunteer assistance, we hope to add Thursday and Friday to the calendar. Training is 'on the job' with great guidance from Kaz Kozlowski, Museum curator. Please call her (860.546.7800) to sign up for either category.

Our membership drive is currently underway and if you did not receive the Friends annual letter and a membership form, please call Kaz and we will send one out.

Watch for the Friends float in the town parade on Saturday, July 3rd and come to the Town Hall lawn on July 24th for the East Woodstock Cornet Band concert, brought to the community by the Friends!

Canterbury Boy Scouts



Volunteers Needed

Do you have 2-4 spare hours a month that you could spend helping the Cub Scouts? If so, we would like you to consider helping with our Cub Scout pack. Pack 86 is looking to fill the following positions: *Cub master* - runs the pack meetings. *Committee Chairperson* - Schedules and runs scout sign up nights, recruits den leaders and works with cub master, den leaders and committee members to ensure the pack runs smoothly. *Activities Chairperson* - plans and executes 2-4 pack outings a year, does not have to attend the outings. *Advancement Chairman* - records advancements for the boys, purchases the advancements and has them ready for distribution at the monthly pack meetings. These positions take only a small amount of time per month and are very rewarding. If interested, please call Cindy Phillips at 546-9208.

Huge Boy Scout Tag Sale

Friday, May 28, 2010 8:30 am until 4:00 pm

Sunday, May 30, 2010 8:30 am until 2:00 pm

290 Brooklyn Road

Large women's clothes, household items, books, furniture & much more. Donations being accepted.

Call Cindy at 546-9208.

Editor's Note

The next issue will be published in mid-August. Anyone wishing to submit articles for consideration may do so by email to canterburynewsletter@earthlink.net or by dropping them off at the Selectmen's Office. The editor reserves the right in all instances to edit for length and content.