

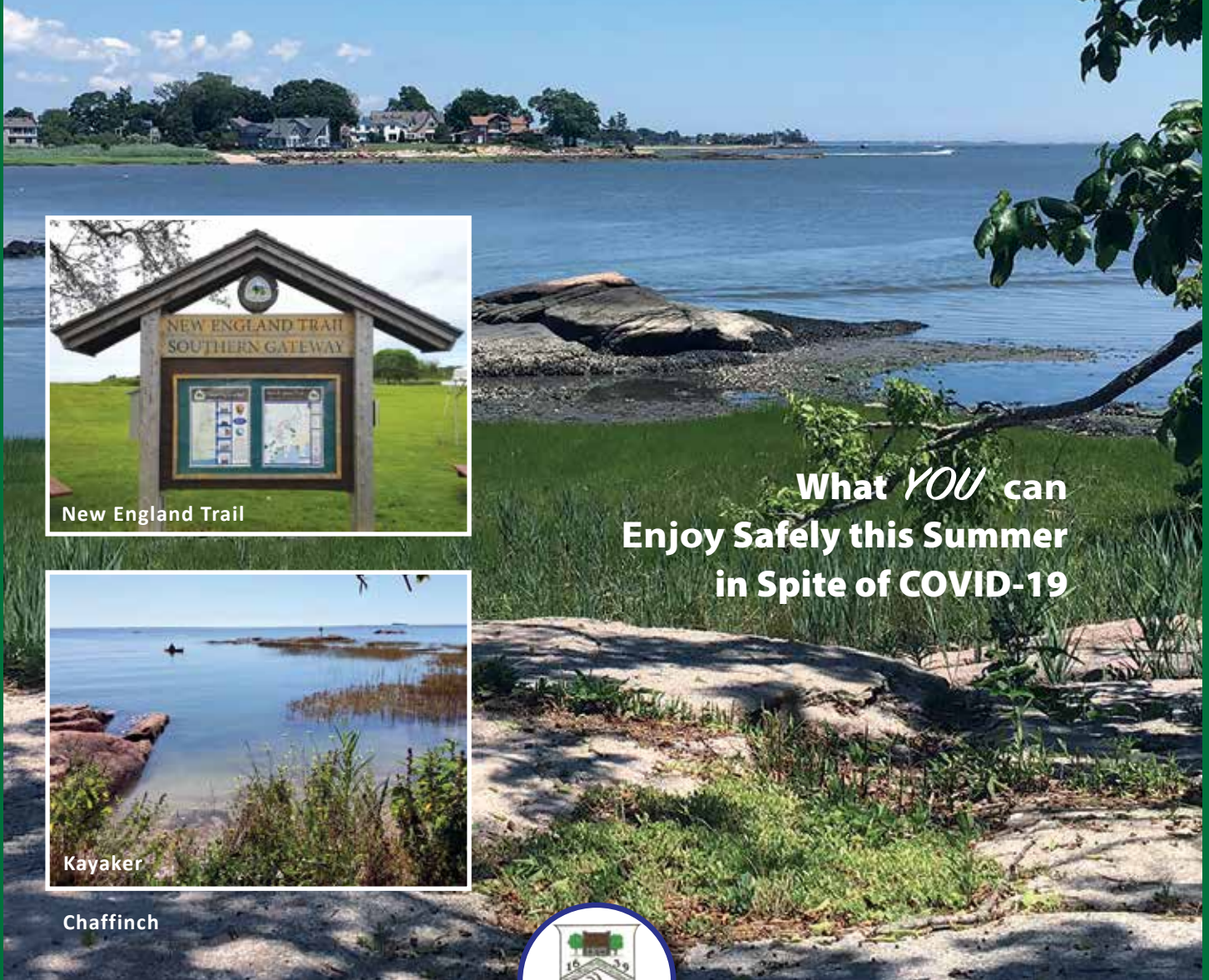
Guilford **events**

VOLUME 9 • QUARTER 3 • 2020



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The First Selectman's Corner

I would like to first commend our community for its compliance with social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic. I know it has been a difficult few months, but our community really comes together during challenging times to take care of one another. The Guilford Cares Program is a perfect example of this when volunteers and town employees quickly organized to provide essential shopping services for our seniors and other high risk individuals. We were also able to keep town offices operating during that time so residents were still able to get the services they need. As we head into the summer season, businesses and restaurants have been re-opening and everything so far has been going smoothly.

In compliance with the Governor's orders, the Board of Finance was tasked with setting a budget for Fiscal 2020-21 in lieu of having a referendum. The board weighed the necessary expenditures needed to operate the town with the financial issues that many have suffered due to the COVID-19 crisis and passed a budget with the use of some undesignated fund balance to keep the tax increase at .87%. In addition, the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance approved bonding \$1,700,000 for upgrades to the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system at Baldwin Middle School. The second phase of this project needs to be done prior to the next school year, because the Board of Education has had difficulty keeping some rooms above sixty degrees during the winter months.

I am happy to report that we had successful ratings calls on bond refinancing which will save us \$216,000 in the FY2020-21 budget and \$3.1 million overall.

I also want to commend our Public Works Department for its great work on Sullivan Drive. Employees cleaned up the access to and the stump dump area, created additional parking for greater access to the East River Preserve and are in the process of moving the gate controlling access to the site and parking.

I know this summer is going to be very different for our Town. We will miss all of the annual community events that occur at this time, such as the Art Center Expo, Fireworks, and Guilford Fair. There will still be wonderful opportunities to get outside and visit Jacob's Beach, play a round of golf or go for a hike on our many wonderful hiking trails. If we continue to be careful and comply with social distancing recommendations, hopefully by next summer we will be in a better place enjoying all of our events once again.

continued on page 5



Matthew T. Hoey III, First Selectman



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events

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18 Industrial Park Road, P.O.Box 205
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860-767-9087 Fax 860-767-0259
email: print@essexprinting.com
www.essexprinting.com

PUBLISHER

William E. McMinn

LAYOUT & AD DESIGN

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COVER IMAGES

Courtesy the Town of Guilford.
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Guilford Lakes Golf Course

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- Open 7 days a week,
Tuesday - Sunday from 8:00 am - 7:00 pm,
Monday from 12:00 pm (noon) to 3:00 pm.

Guilford Lakes Golf Course will follow the "COVID-19 Resources for playing golf in Connecticut as set out by the Connecticut State Golf Association as it applies to our course.

First Selectman... continued from page 3

Lastly, I want to congratulate the Guilford High School Class of 2020. You had a lot of special occasions taken away from you this year. The Board of Education did the best they could to at least provide you with a special ceremony to commemorate this important milestone. It is through these challenging times that you learn the most and develop the characteristics that will lead you to becoming successful adults. I wish you all much success on your future endeavors.

Matthew T. Hoey III, First Selectman

Assessor's Office

Telephone: 203-453-8010 | FAX: 203-453-8013

MOTOR VEHICLE TAX BILLS were mailed in June. If between October 2nd and August 31st you sold or totaled your vehicle and did not transfer the license plate to a new vehicle or if you registered your car out of state, then you may, with the submission of acceptable proof, be eligible for a tax reduction for that motor vehicle tax bill.

PERSONAL PROPERTY DECLARATION FORMS will, as a courtesy, be mailed in September to all persons known to be conducting business in the Town of Guilford as of October 1, 2020. Said forms must be filed by November 2, 2020. If not, penalties will be applied. Forms will also be available online on the Town's website under the Assessor's Office.

EXEMPTIONS: The following is an abbreviated look at some of the exemption programs that the Assessor's Office administers. Some programs are State Programs which means it is available in all towns. Some programs are Local Programs which means it is available in Guilford and only available in other Towns that have also passed an ordinance authorizing that particular program. If you think you might be eligible for any of these programs, please call the Assessor's Office, Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm for more information. There is also additional information about these programs (and other important information) on the Town's website: www.ci.guilford.ct.us under Departments; Assessor's Office. Please note: Exemptions are always stated in assessment dollars. To calculate the actual tax savings, multiply the assessment exemption amount by the appropriate mill rate (e.g., the assessment exemption amount is \$1,000 and say the mill rate is 22.36 so the tax savings is \$22.36 or \$1,000 times 0.02236).

VETERANS (STATE PROGRAM) must have their honorable discharge papers (full copy DD-214: must contain Block #24) on file with the Town Clerk by September 30, 2020 in order to receive a \$3,000 assessment exemption on the October 1,

continued on page 6

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Assessor... continued from page 5

2020 Grand List. Once filed in Guilford, there is no need to re-file. Veterans moving into Guilford from another town must file their DD-214 in Guilford by September 30, 2020 to receive this exemption. Administratively, the exemption is applied to real estate, even if recorded in the spouses name only. If real estate is not owned, then it is applied to one's motor vehicle.

VETERANS (LOCAL PROGRAM), who qualify for the above-described program, may, depending upon income, qualify for an additional \$10,000 assessment exemption. Income, including Social Security, cannot exceed \$62,000 for a single individual and \$70,100 for a married couple. Applications must be filed no later than October 1, 2020.

VETERANS (STATE PROGRAM), who qualify for the Veterans State Program (described above), may qualify for an additional exemption depending upon income. The amount of the assessment exemption will vary. Income cannot exceed \$37,000 for a single individual or \$45,100 for a married couple. Applications must be filed no later than October 1, 2020.

DISABLED TAXPAYERS (STATE PROGRAM) must file their Award Letter (issued by the Social Security Administration) with the Assessor's Office by October 1, 2020 in order to receive a \$1,000 assessment exemption.

DISABLED TAXPAYERS (LOCAL PROGRAM), who qualify for

the above-described program, may qualify for an additional \$1,000 assessment exemption depending upon income. Income cannot exceed \$37,000 for a single individual and \$45,100 for a married couple. Applications must be filed no later than October 1, 2020.

BLIND TAXPAYERS (STATE PROGRAM) must file a Certification of Legal Blindness (issued by the Board of Education and Services for the Blind, State of Connecticut, Wethersfield, CT) with the Assessor's Office by October 1, 2020 in order to receive a \$3,000 assessment exemption.

BLIND TAXPAYERS (LOCAL PROGRAM), who qualify for the above-described program, may qualify for an additional \$2,000 assessment exemption, depending upon income. Income cannot exceed \$37,000 for a single individual and \$45,100 for a married couple. Applications must be filed no later than October 1, 2020.

FARM, FOREST LAND AND OPEN SPACE (STATE PROGRAM) applications must be filed between September 1, 2020 and October 30, 2020.

FARM BUILDINGS (LOCAL PROGRAM) used exclusively for farming activities by farmers who are receiving an exemption for their farm equipment may be exempt. An application must be filed no later than November 1, 2020.

Jennifer Bernardo, Assessor



Hyland House Museum

We regret to inform that due to COVID-19 the Hyland House Museum remains closed this year. We hope to welcome you when the pandemic is over.

In the meantime, please enjoy our **To-Do-At-Home-Activities** (available on our website at: www.hylandhouse.org).

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GUILFORD TOWN HALL DIRECTORY

www.ci.guilford.ct.us

DEPARTMENT	EMPLOYEE / TITLE / ADDRESS	PHONE	E-MAIL
ASSESSOR	Jennifer Bernardo, Assessor, Town Hall - 31 Park Street	453-8010	bernardoj@ci.guilford.ct.us
BUILDING	Kimberly Norman-Rosedam, Building Official, Town Hall South - 50 Boston Street	453-8029	normank@ci.guilford.ct.us
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	Brian McGlone, Economic Development Coordinator, Town Hall - 31 Park Street	453-8071	mcdgloneb@ci.guilford.ct.us
ENGINEERING	Janice Plaziak, Town Engineer, Town Hall South - 50 Boston Street	453-8029	plaziakj@ci.guilford.ct.us
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING	Kevin Magee, Environmental Planner, Town Hall South - 50 Boston Street	453-8146	mageek@ci.guilford.ct.us
FINANCE	Maryjane Malavasi, Finance Director, Town Hall - 31 Park Street	453-8027	malavasim@ci.guilford.ct.us
FIRE	Charles Herrschaft, Fire Chief/Fire Marshal, Fire Headquarters - 390 Church Street	453-8056	gfd10@guilfordfire.com
GUILFORD LAKES GOLF COURSE	Ted Tighe, Golf Course Superintendent, 200 North Madison Road	453-8217	guilford_lakes@hotmail.com
HEALTH	Dennis Johnson, Director of Health, Town Hall South - 50 Boston Street	453-8118	johnsond@ci.guilford.ct.us
HOUSING AUTHORITY	Guilford Court - 32 Guilford Court Boston Terrace - 41 Boston Terrace Sachem Hollow - 310 State Street	453-4760 453-4760 453-4760	
HUMAN RESOURCES	Mitch Goldblatt, Director of Human Resources, Town Hall - 31 Park Street	453-8075	goldblattm@ci.guilford.ct.us
LEGAL/PURCHASING	Pamela Millman, In-House Counsel/Purchasing, Town Hall - 31 Park Street	453-8015	millmanp@ci.guilford.ct.us
LIBRARY	Rob McCoolle, Library Director, Guilford Free Library - 67 Park Street	453-8282	rmccoolle@guilfordfreelibrary.org
MARINA	Rod McLennan, Dockmaster	453-8092	townmarina@att.net
PARKS & RECREATION	Rick Maynard, Park & Rec Director, Community Center - 32 Church Street	453-8068	maynandr@ci.guilford.ct.us
PLANNING & ZONING	George Kral, Town Planner, Town Hall South - 50 Boston Street Erin Mannix, Zoning Enforcement Officer - Wetlands	453-8039 453-8039	kralg@ci.guilford.ct.us mannixe@ci.guilford.ct.us
POLICE	Jeff Hutchinson, Police Chief, Police Headquarters - 400 Church Street Animal Shelter Routine Calls	453-8244 453-8083 453-8061	hutchinsonj@ci.guilford.ct.us
PUBLIC WORKS	Tom Fillion, Public Works Director, Public Works Garage - 47 Driveway	453-8081	filliont@ci.guilford.ct.us
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS	(D) Lisa Kops, Registrar, Town Hall - 31 Park Street (R) Gloria Nemczuk, Registrar, Town Hall - 31 Park Street	453-8028 453-8028	registrar@ci.guilford.ct.us registrar@ci.guilford.ct.us
SELECTMAN'S OFFICE	Matthew T. Hoey III, First Selectman, Town Hall - 31 Park Street	453-8021	hoeym@ci.guilford.ct.us
SOCIAL SERVICES	Tammy DeFrancesco, Social Services Director, 263 Church Street	453-8009	defrancescot@ci.guilford.ct.us
STUMP DUMP		453-8029	
TAX COLLECTOR	Debi Milano, Tax Collector, Town Hall - 31 Park Street	453-8014	milanod@ci.guilford.ct.us
TOWN CLERK	Anna Dwyer, Town Clerk, Town Hall - 31 Park Street	453-8001	dwyera@ci.guilford.ct.us
TOWN PROPERTIES	Steve Neydorff, Facilities Engineer, Town Hall South - 50 Boston Street	453-8487	neydorffs@ci.guilford.ct.us
TRANSFER STATION	1900 Boston Post Road	453-8095	
YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES	Lyne Landry, Director, 36 Graves Avenue	453-8047	landryl@ci.guilford.ct.us



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Tax Bill Information for 2019

TOWN OF GUILFORD TAX BILL INFORMATION
FOR 2019 GRAND LIST

****IMPORTANT**

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES**

**REAL ESTATE, PERSONAL PROPERTY, & MOTOR
VEHICLE TAX PAYMENTS SHOULD NOW BE MAILED TO:**

TOWN OF GUILFORD TAX
DEPARTMENT #000352
PO BOX 150405
HARTFORD, CT 06115-0405

**PAYMENT STUBS WERE PROVIDED FOR BOTH FIRST
AND SECOND PAYMENTS (IF APPLICABLE).
PAYMENT DUE DATES: ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1,
2020 AND JANUARY 1, 2021.**

- The first installment of your tax bill is NOW due ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2020; you are given a 90 DAY DEFERRAL, and will be considered delinquent after OCTOBER 1, 2020. Interest will accrue from the original due date, at 1 ½% per month, per State Statute. The second installment will be due January 1, 2021 with a 30 DAY GRACE PERIOD, and will be considered delinquent after February 1, 2021.

New in Town!

"Where Kids Play" Have you ever wanted to find that special place to bring the kids? A place that's fun, safe, interactive, and just lets you recharge and reconnect? It's here, thanks to the ingenuity of entrepreneurs Garrett & Maggie Sullivan, and Camille Murphy of Murphy & Co.

The Sullivans are launching Play Café. Located at 439 Boston Post Road, it is a 4100 square foot interactive indoor play area for children ages 1 - 8+. The overall mission of Play Café is to give parents, grandparents, and caregivers a place to bring the kids to play - all in a safe, clean environment and where all can enjoy much needed "me time" as well as interaction with other adults and gourmet coffee and snacks. It's a place to recharge, relax and join in the fun.

The Sullivans have two young children of their own and found that there was something missing around the community when it came to indoor play. For example, for younger children bounce houses and inflatables may be too difficult and dangerous. The place is designed with the parent and child in mind. With experience in building businesses from the ground up, the Sullivans came up with a plan and set it in motion.

They've built the entire place from the ground up. And just in the midst of it all, the COVID-19 pandemic struck. "Timing wasn't perfect, let's be honest," explains Garrett. "Shooting for a mid-July open amid a pandemic hasn't been great. However, we've continued pushing through managing the renovation in smaller groups for safety." There will be sanitizing stations, temperature checks for clients at check in, and health questionnaires.

Visitors can expect a clean, safe and organized environment for their children and themselves. "With a clean design, melding rustic touches with modern influence,



an open layout, themed play areas, birthday room and coffee bar for adults, we are catering to everyone," notes Garrett. Look for monthly events such as author readings, magicians, critters, and more. Special days for parents and guardians will include chair massages, nail painting and crafts.

"We are so excited to finally open our doors after all of the hard work we have put into this for our community," says Sullivan. "Play Café will be entertaining for all, able to host birthday parties which this area has been missing for years and offer a unique approach to imagination, interaction, education and play. We can't wait to see you soon!"

Play Café
439 Boston Post Road, Guilford, CT
203 494 4738

- LANDLORDS, IN ORDER TO PROVE ELIGIBILITY, MUST PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION TO THE TOWN OF GUILFORD THAT THE PARCEL HAS OR WILL SUFFER A SIGNIFICANT INCOME DECLINE OR THAT COMMENSURATE FORBEARANCE WAS OFFERED TO THEIR TENANTS OR LESSEES. LANDLORDS MUST SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS TO THE TAX COLLECTOR BY JULY 1, 2020. THE APPLICATION WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE TOWN WEBSITE.
- PLEASE NOTE: If you did not receive a tax bill by July 1, 2020, you must call the Tax Office immediately at 203-453-8014. **Failure to send/receive a tax bill does not invalidate the tax or interest should the account become delinquent!**
- You will be responsible to remember to pay the second half of your bill. NO OTHER BILL IS SENT.
- If you registered a motor vehicle **after** the October 1, 2019 Grand List date, but before August 1, 2020 a supplemental tax bill may be issued to you in December 2020 due January 1, 2021 per State Statute.
- All delinquent MV bills will be flagged at DMV. **IF YOU NEED TO REGISTER A VEHICLE WITH DMV, PLEASE NOTE, DMV RELEASES ARE NOT AUTOMATIC! A RELEASE COULD TAKE UP TO 10 BUSINESS DAYS!**

- PLEASE NOTE: ALL MOTOR VEHICLE AND PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX BILLS THAT ARE DELINQUENT WILL BE TURNED OVER TO THE COLLECTION AGENCY; TAXSERV. PLEASE CALL 860-724-9100 IF YOU HAVE BACK TAXES FOR MOTOR VEHICLE OR PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES.
- If you have any **Back Taxes** (this will be noted on your bill), payment will be applied to the oldest bill first and interest and fees will be paid first before principle, per State Statute. **Liens will be filed on all delinquent Real Estate tax bills on April 1, 2021.**

PAYMENTS MAY BE MADE BY MAIL, ONLINE OR IN THE OFFICE.

If paying in the office we will accept cash or checks. Please have your check filled out and bill number in memo. The Tax Office is open Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

If payments are made by mail please make checks payable to: TAX COLLECTOR-GUILFORD. Mail to: TOWN OF GUILFORD TAX, DEPT #000352, PO BOX 150405, HARTFORD, CT 06115-0405. YOU MUST NOW include your tax bill stub. **An Official U.S. Postal Service post marked date on the envelope will be honored. A postal meter stamp will NOT.**

You may also pay online at: www.ci.guilford.ct.us, go to the Tax continued on page 10



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Tax Information... continued from page 9

Dept., and follow the link to Pay and View my bill. If paying with a credit/debit card convenience fees will apply as follows:

- All debit/credit cards – 2.95%
- Online E-Checks - \$1.95 – E-checks are considered checks – DMV release will take 10 business days.

All returned checks will be charged a \$20.00 fee.

If you have any questions about assessments or motor vehicles you no longer own, please contact the Assessor's Office at 203-453-8010.

If a Bank/Mortgage Lender pays your Real Estate taxes through an escrow account and you received this bill in error please forward this bill to your bank immediately for payment.

If you need to discuss payment arrangements, please contact the Tax Collector at: 203-453-8016 as soon as possible. Please, do not ignore your bill.

Thank you,
Debi Milano, Tax Collector



Guilford Foundation - Thanks You!

The Guilford Foundation's COVID-19 Response Fund for Guilford has invested \$112,583 as of June 4 to support our community members impacted by this disease. Your contributions have provided support for infants to seniors, from basic needs to helping local businesses, and arts and culture to mental health services. We know that with your support, TGF will be here to

help. The original intent of the COVID19 Response Fund for Guilford was to provide immediate financial grants to individuals who suddenly found themselves without a paycheck due to the pandemic and before governmental assistance was available. Through our partnership with Women & Family Life Center, TGF provided financial assistance to 75 families totaling \$35,000. TGF was able to expand our impact to

other organizations and initiatives addressing the emergent needs caused through COVID-19. To date and thanks to you, we've supported 19 grant requests to organizations and projects working directly in the Guilford community. From all of us at TGF, thank you. We are honored to partner with you to make a difference. To help contact us at: guilfordfoundation.org.

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- Anita Soucy, DVM
- Morna Pixton, DVM
- Donald Mullen, VMD
- Kirsten Nordt, DVM
- Christina DeAngelo, DVM
- Alanna Munzenmaier, DVM
- Dana Muir, DVM
- Jacqueline Pino, DVM

Mon.-Fri. 7am-7pm
Sat. 8am-3pm
Sun. 9am-2pm
(Emergency services during regular business hours.)

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Guilford Cares Shopping Assistance Program

When concern about the COVID-19 virus started in mid-March Guilford Parks and Recreation Department's Seniors Program, in coordination with Guilford Cares and the Ethan Miller Song Foundation implemented a program to provide grocery shopping services for seniors and those who are immunocompromised.

The program primarily has been focusing on providing assistance with grocery shopping from Big Y, Bishops, Fresh Market and Marketplace and with running other errands such as picking up prescriptions. Guilford Seniors collects the orders for supplies via e-mail or phone, and the list is provided to a volunteer who shops for the individual and deliver it to their home. Payment for items

purchased can be either credit card or check. All shopping occurs during office hours so that staff are available to assist as needed. For the safety of all involved in the program, volunteers adhere to strict guidelines during shopping and delivery and do NOT enter homes. Since the program began at total of over 800 shopping trips and errands have been completed by the volunteers.

If you are in need of someone to grocery shop for you or for a family member or if you are concerned about a neighbor in need of assistance in obtaining supplies, please contact Guilford Seniors at: 203-453-8086 or email: buckleyt@ci.guilford.ct.us.



During the entire month of July, join our SUMMER BREEZE CHALLENGE!

Our annual Summer Breeze Ride for Autism raises funds to provide programs that support the needs of individuals with autism and other disabilities. This year, we are happy to bring you a new

and exciting way to celebrate our annual Summer Breeze in a NEW format. Instead of gathering for our annual ride, this year you choose your activity - ride, run, walk, hike, swim, or any activity you choose!

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Economic Development

Like everyone around us, Guilford faced a particularly difficult second quarter, starting at about mid-March. You probably don't need to be reminded that the vast majority of our local businesses were deemed "non-essential", and as such closed, or operated on very different schedules. Many retailers created "virtual" shopping opportunities with online stores, Facebook and ZOOM type presentations. Curbside deliveries and shipments became the normal mode of operation. Many service businesses operated from home with remote staffing.

It was amazing to witness the positive support business owners showed for one another: cheering each other on, sometimes offering creative suggestions for new methods of marketing their businesses. In several cases, shops took on products from other businesses to help them sell products. The spirit of cooperation was, and remains, very evident throughout our community. Recognizing the challenges all of our businesses are facing, many customers are purchasing Gift Cards and Gift Certificates as a show of their support.

During March, April and May, the EDC spent time on conference calls and ZOOM meetings in an effort to assist with identifying, educating and training local businesses on state and federal programs available to them. Unemployment Insurance, the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), Small Business Administration (SBA) loans and grants are a few of the critical tools businesses have been utilizing to get through this difficult period. The EDC partnered with local and regional resources



PPE Distribution at Guilford Community Center. Mark Wasserman - EDC Chairman, Sheri Cote - President Shoreline Chamber of Commerce, Brian McGlone - Economic Development Coordinator. Photo by Brian McGlone.

including town officials, the Shoreline Chamber of Commerce and the New Haven Chamber of Commerce, our regional partner REX, state legislators and other departments, in order to insure our businesses were connected with programs and that organizations that would be most beneficial to them.

The State, in collaboration with the Connecticut Business Industry Association (CBIA), offered small businesses PPE, including surgical masks and infrared thermometers, at no cost to the businesses. Representatives from the Economic Development Commission and the Shoreline Chamber of Commerce distributed the pre-ordered equipment at the Guilford Community Center.

The State created requirements and guidelines for Phase 1 business re-opening that became effective on May 20th.

Detailed information about all of these sectors can be found on the DECD website. An overriding goal of the sector rules is to proactively protect public health and accelerate the pace of economic, educational, and community recovery, while restoring Connecticut's quality of life. General Business Rules were developed that applied to university research and a wide range of outdoor recreational activities. Additionally, the State identified 5 market sectors that could safely open after completing a "Self-Certification", to assure customers that they met or exceeded the requirements as defined in the guidelines. Following a Governor's Executive Order, the town created and implemented a simplified review and approval process which allowed restaurants to provide outdoor seating to their customers.

Phase 2 guidelines were recently released, and became effective June 17th. This article was submitted prior to the June 17th date, so look to the next EVENTS publications for commentary on Phase 1 and Phase 2 implementation. Assuming all continues to go well, Phase 3 is expected to become effective 4-6 weeks following the execution of Phase 2.

We are all navigating uncharted waters. Working together, we'll get through this unusual time. As always, should you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me. Stay safe, stay healthy and stay happy!

Brian McGlone, Economic Development Coordinator
mcgloneb@ci.guilford.ct.us | 203-453-8071

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Voter Registration Information

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY, AUGUST 11, 2020

The Presidential Preference Primary for both the Democratic and Republican candidates will be held on Tuesday, August 11, 2020. (As of this writing) In order to be eligible to vote in one of these primaries you must be an enrolled member in either the Democratic or the Republican party. Unaffiliated voters will NOT be permitted to vote in a primary. The deadline to change from one party to another has passed. Your regular polling place will be opened to vote from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm. Our polling places will be a "safe" place working with COVID-19 guidelines.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

You can obtain an absentee ballot application and ballot from TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE for the primary and the Presidential Election on November 3, 2020. Call the Town Clerk's office at: 203-453-2001, #3, and they will send you an application.

THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION will

take place on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. All polling places will be open from 6:00 am until 8:00 pm. You do not have to be affiliated with a party to vote. All are encouraged to vote. Our polling places will be a "safe" place working with COVID-19 guidelines.

OUR YEARLY CANVASS

We have sent out over 1000 letters to people we have reason to believe no longer live and vote in Guilford. If you are one of those 1000 voters who have received a letter from our office confirming your voting address, it is imperative that you read AND return the letter to our office telling us of your residential status. If we do not hear from you, your voting status will change from 'active' to 'inactive' in our Guilford Voter Registry. We cannot over-emphasize the importance of responding to these letters. **DO NOT RISK YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE.**

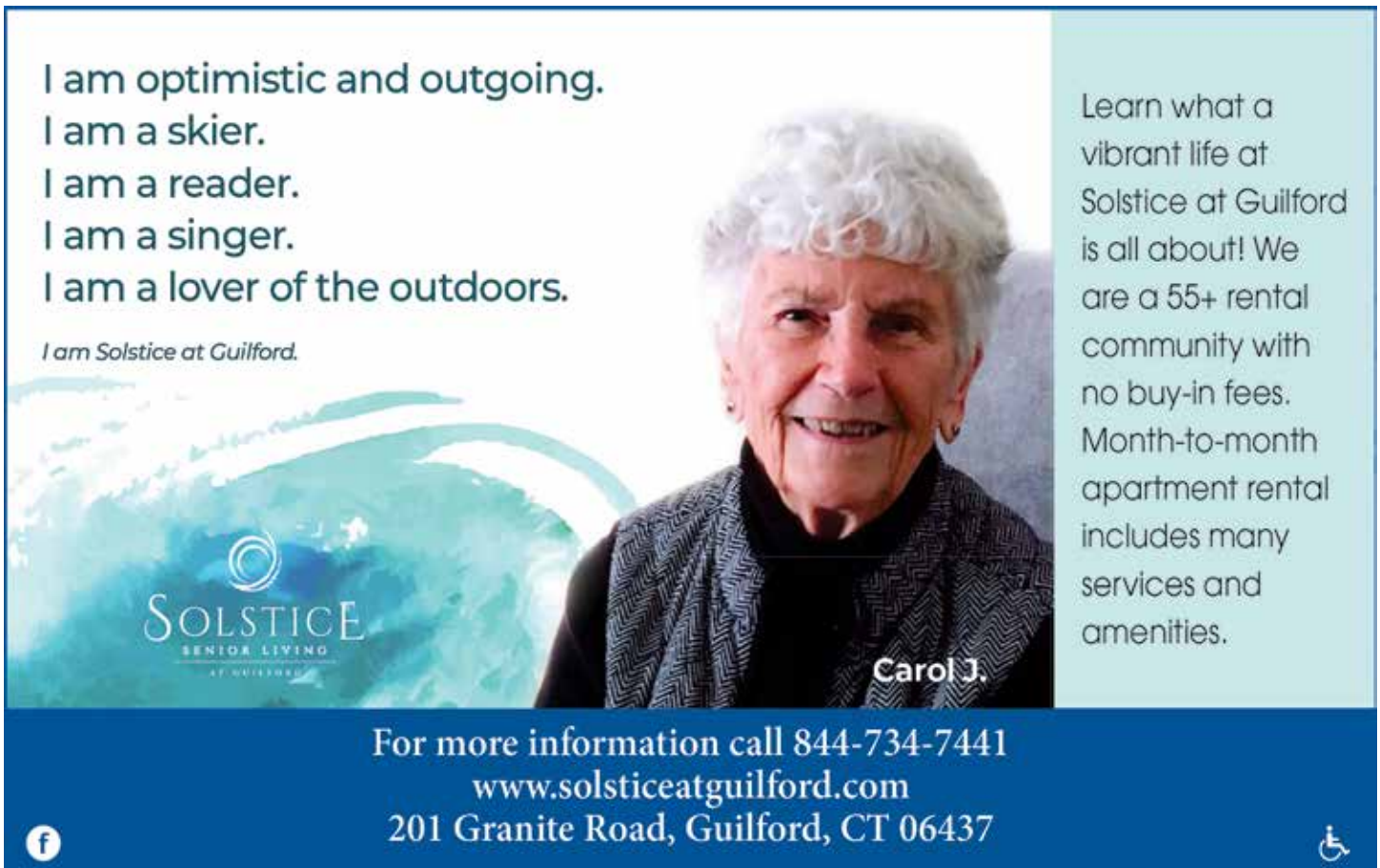
PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOTS

We would like to remind you of the availability of permanent absentee ballot status.

If you are a voter with a permanent physical disability and wish to automatically have an absentee ballot sent to you at home you may file a request for an absentee ballot with the Town Clerk. Include, with it, a letter from your physician that identifies your disability status and confirms that your physical condition prevents you from going to the polls to vote. From then on, the Town Clerk will automatically send you a ballot for every election and primary. You can fill the ballot out in your home and return it to the Town Clerk's office. Every January you will receive a letter from the Registrar of Voters asking you to confirm the accuracy of your address in order to keep your permanent absentee status.

Questions??? Please contact our office if you have any questions. Our office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons from 1:00 pm until 4:30 pm. You may phone us at: 203-453-8028 or email us at: registrar@ci.guilford.ct.us. Leave a message and we will contact you as soon as we can.

Lisa Kops & Gloria Nemczuk



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The last few months have been a challenging time for Parks and Recreation Department's around the country. Numerous programs being cancelled, socialization coming to a halt, field use being limited to small groups with no organized play. How will beaches safely open? Can we offer a Summer Day Camp and provide some fun?

THE GUILFORD PARKS AND RECREATION IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE FOLLOWING:

JACOBS BEACH - Due to COVID-19, precautions are being taken to protect the public along with staff. Staff will be at Jacobs Beach selling beach passes (Residents: \$35.00 / Non-Residents \$70.00 and Active Adult 55+ & Veterans: \$10.00 / Non Resident Active Adult 55+ & Non Resident Veteran \$25.00.) Credit cards will be the only form of payment (Visa, Mastercard, Discover.) If you are unable to use a credit card, please contact the Guilford Parks and Recreation Department Monday through Friday at: 203-453-8068 so that other arrangements can be made. In order to utilize Jacobs Beach one MUST have a beach pass. We are currently not offering the option to pay a daily fee.

Hours: Monday through Friday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday & Sunday: 8:30 am - 6:00 pm

At this time, as Town staff can assess new restrictions due to COVID-19, lifeguards will not be on duty. Beach / Safety monitors will be focusing on monitoring the facility, selling beach passes and cleaning. The Guilford Parks and Recreation Department staff is hopeful over the next several weeks to evaluate the policies and procedures during COVID-19 and have lifeguards back in the chairs serving the public.

The following are guidelines set forth by the State of Connecticut:

“Residents are encouraged to select locations closest to home, and consider visiting early in the morning before crowds gather. At least six feet of social distancing must be maintained, and groups over five are prohibited. Residents should recreate with members of their immediate household and not meet up with others. Connecticut municipalities continue to make decisions regarding the local beaches and swimming areas they oversee.”

Recommendations to promote safe enjoyment of beaches include:

- No public gatherings or groups of over twenty-five.
- Face coverings worn when in proximity to others
- Set parking capacity limits at each beach based on observations of levels needed to maintain social distancing

- Daily closures when social distancing cannot be maintained
- Use of social media and other communications to inform the public when capacity is restricted so they can plan to go elsewhere
- Spacing of 15 feet or more between beach blankets”

It is also our intention to formulate a plan to be able to open the beach at Lake Quonnipaug for patrons to enjoy. However, currently this facility is closed due to the restrictions caused from COVID-19.

CAMP MENUNKATUCK: As you have heard through the State of CT Governor's Office, summer camps will be looking quite different this summer. Guilford Parks and Recreation has had to cancel several camp programs; however, we will be offering Camp Menunkatuck, grades 1-6, with restrictions. Camp Menunkatuck will run for 8 weeks (1 week sessions,) that started on June 22, 2020, \$150.00 dollars/week. Camp hours will be 8:00 am - 4:00 pm with no after care option. Camp will be held at Guilford High School. You can register online at www.guilfordparkrec.com.

The following are changes from previous years due to precautions being taken due to COVID-19:

- Camp location is Guilford High School. Staff are planning for park days to Jacobs, Bittner, Chaffinch.
- Maximum number of participants at camp is 50 (participants will be split into 5 groups of 10 with 2 staff; groups will not be by grade.) Groups of 10 will remain with each other throughout the day and will not interact with the other groups.
- Staff and participants will have a health screening daily. Staff will ask parents if they have noticed any other COVID-19 symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, headache.) If anyone has a temperature 100 degrees+ or any symptoms they will be sent home. If a person or family member is diagnosed with COVID-19 it must be reported to the Parks and Recreation staff. Anyone that is in the group will be sent home for 14 days.
- All staff and participants will be required to wear a face covering.

Prior to the start of Camp, parents will receive a parent packet. Within the packet we will provide any updated information regarding camp policies and procedures. Also in the packet will be a consent form that must be signed as it is a directive from the state.

The consent form reads:

“I hereby attest that I have been informed of the following pertaining to the coronavirus:

- People who are 65 years and older and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions or are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are recommended to stay at home. A list of medical conditions associated with a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 can be found in CDC's guidance.
- Individuals and families should consult their healthcare provider to determine whether they have medical conditions that place them at risk.
- Staff and children living in households with individuals who are

65 years and older OR have higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are recommended to stay home."

The Guilford Parks and Recreation Department staff are committed to providing a safe and fun atmosphere while following the new guidelines being set forth by the Governor's Office. If you have any questions or would like to further discuss camp, please email Ellen Clow, Recreation Supervisor at: clowe@ci.guilford.ct.us.

VIRTUAL FITNESS/YOGA PROGRAMS: Please visit: www.guilfordparkrec.com for a listing of fitness and yoga programs being offered via Zoom and You Tube for the summer session. The staff is hopeful to begin to offer some classes at an outside location as permitted.

Youth Programs

VIRTUAL ADVENTURELAND CAMP:

ages 3-8 4 minimum / 15 max program # 36109

Each week will be focused on fantastical adventures! Incorporated into camp are areas of art, sensory, science and games! Join us for adventures of epic proportions! A materials list and Zoom link will be provided. \$30.00

Instructor: Elena Bigio/Kidscapades

Monday: 9:00 - 9:30 am | July 6, 13, 20, 27

VIRTUAL PRINCESS DAYS:

ages 3-8 min. 4 minimum / 15 max program # 36111

Each week a different Disney Princess will be explored inside our castle walls. Everything princess from art projects to games. Incorporated into camp are areas of art, sensory, science and games! A materials list and Zoom link will be provided.

Instructor: Elena Bigio/ Kidscapades

Monday: 10:00 - 10:30 am | July 6, 13, 20, 27

FIELD USE: Spring seeding and fertilizing has been completed and staff are gearing up for a possible summer sports season. If you have any questions regarding field use contact Ellen at: lowe@ci.guilford.ct.us.

RICK B. MAYNARD DISC GOLF COURSE BITTNER PARK:

This 18 hole course was designed by Craig Smolin. Funding for this project was provided by: Anthony "Tee" Barber, Allstate Insurance, Pa's Place, Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine Centers, Site One, Page Taft Christie's, Guilford Rotary, Bishops Orchards, Guilford Optical Shoppe, Guilford Foundations Youth Advisory Group, Ashley's Ice Cream, The Hinding Family, Guilford Savings Bank, Green Homes, Guilford Knights of Columbus, Cartier and Bower, and Page Hardware.

Members of Boy Scout Troop 471 & 474 built the kiosk at the entrance of the course, tee pads, bridge by the waterfall and installed the disc golf baskets, sign posts, fairway sign boxes and benches.

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Shoreline Arts Alliance

As the COVID-19 pandemic hit, businesses and schools began to close and events were cancelled, but Shoreline Arts Alliance saw the opportunity to encourage the artists in our community to keep creating, writing, singing, dancing and taking wonderful pictures.

Future Choices, Shoreline Arts Alliance's juried and curated art show for high school students had just been hung, and everyone had been eagerly awaiting its opening. In spite of the inability to gather in person, Shoreline Arts Alliance was able to create a Virtual Tour of the Gallery that was posted on its website so that students, teachers, families & friends could celebrate the success of the student artists, and college recruiters could see the artwork.

Shoreline Arts Alliance's statewide photography competition and exhibit, IMAGES, turned into "IMAGES Re-imagined," Shoreline Arts Alliance's first virtual photography competition and show. People gathered virtually for an Opening Reception and Awards Ceremony, a Gallery Talk with James Welling, a Discussion with the Jurors and to cast their online votes for the People's Choice Award.

"Let's Talk," a series of panel discussions, was also created to offer support, information and virtual networking opportunities for artists. The series has been running since April and has included updates from the Connecticut Office of the Arts, information about the Payroll Protection Program, discussions about creating virtual events and monetizing them, information about different virtual platforms and a panel about



The Palace.

Photo courtesy Shoreline Arts Alliance..

teaching dance virtually. This series will continue throughout the summer.

Artists and arts organizations, all share concerns about returning to studios and theaters in safe and healthy ways. Although they are eager to return to their art forms and are in desperate need of income, they cannot return to facilities in which they feel unprotected.

Shoreline Arts Alliance's newest initiative, Re-opening Connecticut Arts Venues: Science Based Safety is providing arts organizations, artists and arts venues with the information they need to begin re-opening, returning to creating art and performing, and re-establishing connections with their audiences and community members. It is imperative that guidelines and protocols be designed around science-based information so that both artists and consumers feel as safe and protected as possible. Shoreline Arts Alliance's Eric Dillner is the founder and chair of the Reopening CT Arts Venues Charter Task Force, and has partnered

Shoreline Arts Alliance with the Yale School of Public Health to deliver science-based information to artists, arts organizations and arts venues across Connecticut.

The first two virtual presentations entitled, REOPENING CT ARTS VENUES: SCIENCE-BASED SAFETY: Preparedness, Consumer Confidence, Clarity for Constituents drew an astounding number of participants and questions. Subsequent presentations will be offered over the course of the next several months.

Shoreline Arts Alliance and representatives from the Yale School of Public Health will also be traveling throughout the state with a film crew to venues. Presentations will address the needs and changes that must be made in each case to create safe environments for workers, performers and audience members or visitors and will be shared statewide to help others develop reopening plans and inspire consumer confidence and help draw audiences back to museums and venues.

Protecting Our Yards

For more than a decade, we have been listening to ecologists informing us of the value of protecting pollinators for food production (roughly 35% of our food crops require insect pollination) or for the niche which pollinators occupy in the ecosystem, we should be mindful of our gardening practices to encourage this diverse group.

BY NOW, WE ALL SHOULD KNOW THE BASICS:

1 Pollinators include native bees, honey bees, butterflies,

- moths, and some ants, wasps, flies, beetles and birds
- 2 Plan your garden so that you have a wide range of flower shapes and colors
 - 3 Make an effort to have something in bloom from February through November, be it early flowering bulbs, woody plants like willows and witch hazel, and of course, the vast selection of annual and perennial plants that encompass the greatest part of the growing season

- 4 Recognize that there are specialist and generalist pollinators.
- 5 The larval or juvenile stage of a pollinator may need a different food source than the adult
- 6 ALWAYS include some native plants in your garden design, as these plants have evolved and co-existed with our native pollinators.

To illustrate the co-evolution of our native plants and pollinators, the story of the wild-flower Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) is remarkable. Bloodroot emerges from the ground in early spring, when night frost is still a possibility, and days may be cold and cloudy. The multi-petalled white flower opens if it is sunny and temps are above 50. On cloudy days or at night, the flower closes to protect the pollen. Native bees cannot fly until the temp reaches 55, so flies serve as a secondary pollinator on colder days. No nectar is produced in this plant, so bees and flies both seek out the pollen for protein rich food in early spring.


The jewels of our gardens, the hummingbirds, have so often visited our red blooms before sampling the nectar of other flowers that it is easy to assume they prefer red. This is because the eyesight of the other nectar feeding insect pollinators are better at locating pale colored flowers. Thus, the red flowers have more nectar since they are not visited as often by insects, and retain the reward for hummingbirds.

Each of our pollinators and our plants that support them (and us) has a role within our ecosystem, and we should all garden with care.


Leigh, The Village Horticulturist

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Guilford Preservation Alliance 2020

This past March the Guilford Preservation Alliance welcomed into its organization the Guilford Witness Stones Projects as a permanent standing committee. The GPA recognizes the work of this committee as part of the GPA's mission to preserve Guilford's history.

Guilford Witness Stones Projects, Slavery's Legacy and The Death of George Floyd *Submitted by Douglas Nygren*

Events in Minneapolis and across the nation following the murder of George Floyd have reminded Americans that we have not come to terms with our history of slavery. Unable to deal with the trauma that slavery caused both the enslaved and enslaver, our country has been caught in an endless repetition of racial violence which hangs over the nation like a dark cloud. Only through examining, reflecting on, and taking responsibility for this sordid history will we free ourselves. The past is not at risk; the present and future are.

Guilford so far has been spared this round of violence, but it has not been spared the stain of slavery. Like a bad memory, its presence has been repressed, driven out of the light, out of consciousness, out of the school curriculum. Of the many who were enslaved here (the exact number we don't know), only one, Shem in North Guilford, has a gravestone.

Three years ago, a group which called itself the Witness Stones Project set out to change that through a combination of education and commemoration. They presented their idea to the Guilford Preservation Alliance which recognized them as a subcommittee. A week later the Board of Alderman approved their proposal to install 4"x4" cement markers (called Witness Stones) in the sidewalk in front of where an enslaved woman or man had toiled. Next Guilford Public Schools okayed the educational aspect of the plan which called for junior high 8th graders to study slavery in general and specifically focus on its practice in Guilford. The students

would use original documents (wills, court records, etc.) to research and write essays about men, women and their children who had been enslaved in Guilford. Each year the students would focus on three different people, write biographical sketches of them based on the evidence found hidden in public records, and then share their findings with the town at a ceremony on the Green. Towns people would then join the students installing Witness Stones for the three enslaved individual being remembered and honored.

The first so honored was Moses who worked where the Town Hall now is. Since then, seven Witness Stones in all have been installed, the last of which was for Dinah whom the Guilford Board of Selectmen themselves purchased.

Since its inception, the initiative has grown and is now known as the Guilford Witness Stones Projects. The "s" reflects that the group now has more than one project, the most surprising of which was also the most unexpected. The initiative's examining and learning about the enslaved prompted three residents to begin looking into their own families' histories to see whether their ancestors had enslaved people. Somehow all three were able to cope with the possible shame they might feel if they found uncomfortable truths; somehow, they had the courage to talk about what they had found. That's how our nation will begin to overcome its past. It will happen by finding the courage to step back and examine what happened instead of trying to deny and forget it. The past won't go away.

Guilford Witness Stones Projects invites interested residents to join them. This is not easy work. It is hard and tedious, time consuming and complicated. Guilford Witness Stones Projects would welcome anyone who would like to help. We have a list of more than 100 enslaved people who need to be researched. If you are interested, please contact douglasnygren@yahoo.com.

To learn more about the GPA visit: www.guilfordpreservation.org.

Enjoy a Day "Down on the Farm": The Dudley Farm Museum

WHAT A TIME IT'S BEEN!

The Dudley Farm Museum has been scrambling, cancelling events, cleaning our spaces, and assuring that we continue to be a presence for our community. Our grounds help remind us of what time of year it is with striking beauty, and the public has been taking advantage of our connection with the Dudley-Barrows Trail managed by the Guilford Land Conservation Trust.

SO WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Our Farmers' Market is now open every Saturday from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. Our

market opened May 30th thanks to the energy and enthusiasm of our Market Managers and the return of our customers. With social distancing and abundant sanitizing, it is a safe and enjoyable way to spend a Saturday morning.

The Museum is preparing to open July 1 with a return to our regular hours. We are featuring some of our unusual artifacts for this summer's theme, "But What Is It?" Learn about patents, inventions of the 19th century, and 19th-century inventors from Connecticut. Outside, walk around the grounds and find and learn about 5 key

buildings and objects that were and remain important to The Dudley Farm.

Thanks to all 5 of Guilford's museums - you can participate in a Guilford History Scavenger Hunt designed for the whole family. Created in conjunction with the other museums in town, this non-contact activity this Scavenger Hunt will take you around town (while you practice safe social distancing) so you can discover treasures of Guilford history. The scavenger history hunt is available at: <https://www.history-hunt.gflarchives.org>. AND - stay tuned for upcoming events.



SHERo Awards

A SHERo is a woman or girl who inspires others through her actions. She is a person who leads with kindness, has a desire to help others and is someone who is making a positive change in herself or for others in a community.

Women & Family Life Center, along with Guilford Youth & Family Services, Madison Youth & Family Services, Clinton Human Services and Branford Counseling & Community Services hosted the first annual Shoreline SHERos Community Awards virtually on Saturday June 6, 2020. The event, honored 30 women and girls on the CT Shoreline who are making a difference in their communities. This year's keynote speaker was U.S. Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro. This year's honorees, listed by town, were:

Branford:

Chelsea Barron, Wendy DeLuca, Joanne Goldblum and Diane Pappacoda

Clinton:

Jenna Kareliussen, Kelley Edwards and Sherry Martini

East Haven:

Bobbi Jo Evans

Guilford:

Gabriela Garcia-Perez, Carrie Bishop Healy, Jennifer Cruet, Shannon Gale,

Deborah Heinrich, Patricia McGuire, Gail O'Leary, Britney Obokovitz-Tasto, Liza Petra, Marji Shapiro, Dr. Andrea Silber, Kristin Song and Janice Ward

Killingworth:

Mary Angus and Christine Willett

Madison:

Lauren Kaplan, Keelin Virgulto, Jennifer Chapman, Karen Helburn, Tara Henry, Katie Stein and Martha Wells Hoffman



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New Questions; Some Silver Linings by Morgan McMinn

The COVID-19 pandemic has turned our lives inside out. We went from the normalcy of work and school, attending events, going to gyms, restaurants and bars to a state of emergency, social distancing and new protocols. As we continue to grapple with the struggles that have come with the pandemic, it is important to reflect upon what we have learned to date. Uncertainty remains, but perhaps we are better prepared for what may lie ahead.

THE HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY RESPONDS TO CHALLENGING TIMES



We have been living amid constantly evolving information about just what COVID-19 is? Is there immunity from the virus? Will the virus mutate? How is the virus transmitted? “We are always

learning new information” notes Amanda Falcone, Public Relations Director for Middlesex Health. “As of today, there is still much that is unknown. There’s no clinical playbook - no established standards of care for this virus. Knowledge changes rapidly.”

COVID-19 has altered what “normal” health care entails. Insurance has, at least for an interim period, approved telehealth visits. Telehealth is an important option especially for those who may lack mobility, access to transportation or the time for typical health care appointments. Middlesex Health stresses the importance of keeping up with your medical care. “Putting off annual exams and important tests and procedures can have unintended long-term consequences,” states Falcone.

Organizations like Middlesex Health are working to find out more about COVID-19. Middlesex Health is a part of a national initiative, led by the Mayo Clinic, that is investigating the use of convalescent plasma. Middlesex Health is also part of a study on Remdesivir, which, according to Falcone is the only medicine so far to show even a moderate benefit with respect to treating COVID-19.

Early on the healthcare industry faced worldwide supply shortages with respect to items such as personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies. Middlesex Health quickly made adjustments in how care is provided (additional cleaning, masks, care areas segregated based on COVID-19 status, additional safety equipment, etc.)

“We are actually using our pandemic plan as we work,” states Falcone. “When things get better, we will take a close look at our emergency and pandemic plan and adjust accordingly so that we are even more prepared should we ever need to use them again. Over the past several months we’ve learned a lot. We are now more knowledgeable and more prepared as we move forward, and we recognize that we will be dealing with this virus for a long time to come. It will likely be a moving target for a while yet to come.”

A RETURN TO NATURE?

With families and individuals confined to their homes across the globe, our planet was able to take its own breath and get slightly healthier. Startling images show clear waters in the Venice canals and the India Gate War Memorial in New Delhi became more visible as air pollution decreased (above right).



Some studies indicate that, while pre-pandemic levels of daily emissions were rising steadily every year, COVID-19 restrictions brought numbers comparable to 2006, mainly due to a reduction in surface transportation, power and industry (cars, electricity, fossil fuel, etc).

Mr. Robert Klee, Lecturer at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, notes that “clean air is important and this is a link to the pandemic being a respiratory pandemic - those who suffer from dirtier air and depressed or compromised health from dirty air are more susceptible to the likes of COVID-19. There are correlations with bad air quality and higher incidents.”



People are taking walks, running, hiking, biking, kayaking, etc. The pandemic “reconnected people in interesting ways,” observes Klee. “People locked in the house go on walks, hike on a trail, want to go out and experience nature.”

Cities like Bogota, New York, Paris and Berlin, along with local communities, have made new street spaces for safer individual mobility (walking, cycling etc.). Will this lead to more permanent change? “Part of the question as we restart our economy is what are we restarting it for and to? What is our goal?” And don't forget climate change is still an existential threat and a huge crisis and we can't forget about it for one moment.”

MENTAL HEALTH – RESILIENCE AMID UNCERTAINTY

COVID-19 has taken an emotional toll. “There is so much uncertainty. It's unprecedented,” observes Nancy Randall, a psychologist at East Lyme Psychological Associates. “People are more isolated than they have been. People are stressed about going back to work. They are anxious about the reopening and not sure what it will look like. The anxiety is really the biggest thing. Not knowing what's coming next.”

Is there a silver lining? “We adapt pretty well to things,” she says. Many are enjoying nature, adopting pets, finding time for relationships and hobbies. People connect via facebook groups or Zoom. They have found ways to make a difference, whether sewing face-masks or checking in on others. “People are resilient,” notes Randall. “We've found ways to adapt and try to find the positive in things. Things we learned we can take with us. That doesn't have to go away.”

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