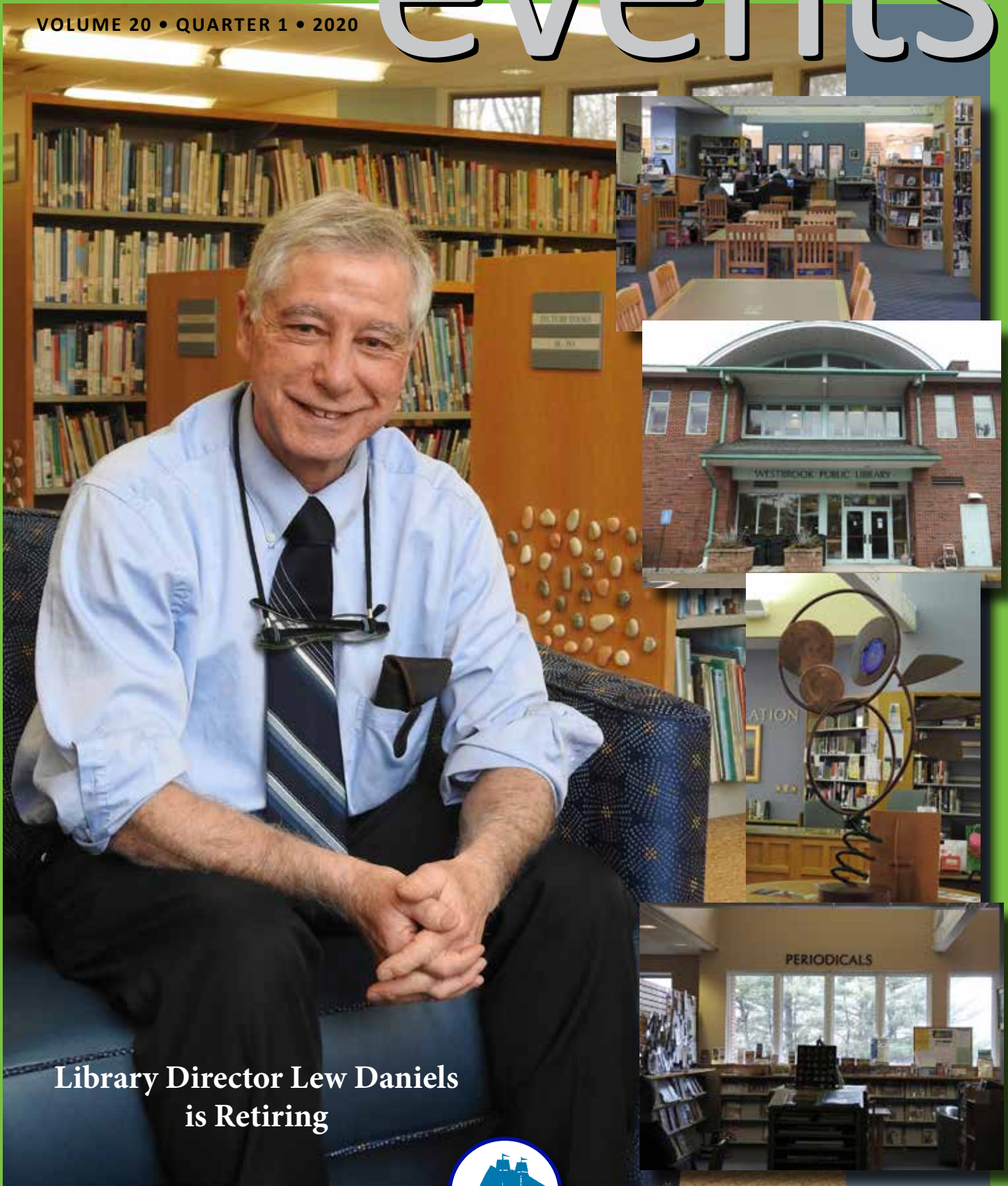


Westbrook events

VOLUME 20 • QUARTER 1 • 2020




**Library Director Lew Daniels
is Retiring**

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Selectman's Corner

A Westbrook Icon

Our very distinguished Library Director Lew Daniels is retiring on June 30th. He has served in this position for 40 years with great distinction. During his tenure, he was instrumental in the design and building of our current library; recruiting and supervising an outstanding staff and provided excellent library resources for individuals of all ages.

Lew is always available to provide any material that has been requested. It is because of his dedication that the Westbrook Library has become an indispensable service to this community. At a time when much of our society has seen the demise of the printed word, our library, under Lew's direction reminds us that a library is an indispensable resource. The power of the written word to inspire and sustain is our only connection with the past and a constant resource for all that is yet to come.

It is Lew's constant vigilance, dedication and willingness to take the time to help each and every individual that has made him an iconic figure in this community.

We will be celebrating his retirement on Sunday, April 26, 2020 between 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm at the Westbrook Elk's Club. All are welcome.

The Library Board also encourages you to take the time to visit the library and express your appreciation to Lew for his service. This issue of Westbrook Events features Lew, whose collaborative efforts and commitment over the years has resulted in a positive and enduring impact for countless groups and individuals.

This issue will also include a series of letters that have been written by individuals about Lew. (see page 10). In recognition of Lew's service, he has earned the honor of the Connecticut Library Association's Outstanding Librarian Award for 2019. Since we could not print all of the letters, I encourage you to access the Town's website (www.westbrookct.us) for those letters that could not be included in the magazine.

In the January 23, 2020 issue of the Harbor News, Lew was featured as the "Person of the Week." His quote "it has been a lucky, lucky time for me" refers to his service as Westbrook's Library Director. One day when the history of Westbrook is written, it is Westbrook that has been so fortunate and lucky to have Lew as our Library Director. Very few individuals have earned the honor of being a Westbrook icon. Best wishes to Lew, his family, and all of his friends. A job well done.



Noel Bishop

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News from the Westbrook Public Library

This year continues to be one of transitions at the library. Our wonderful Assistant Librarian Brittany Pearson has been offered and has accepted the position of Head of Reference and Adult Services at the North Haven Memorial Library. She will begin working there in March.

Brittany has been responsible for teen and young adult services, social media, and technology support for library patrons and staff since January 2015. She developed an outstanding book collection and lively programs for teens and young adults. Brittany offered patient instruction and valuable tech support to many people struggling to use the vast and ever changing array of popular electronic devices, and helped the library keep current with social media and new technology. Our library and community will definitely miss her. We wish her well in her new position and know how fortunate North Haven's public library is to have her joining their staff.

Sustainability in Westbrook's Town Center

When visiting Westbrook's Town Center this spring, please take note of a few improvements that may appear small, but are actually large steps in Westbrook's action toward environmental friendliness.

Two new, bright blue bicycle racks have been installed on the Green, along with low energy lighting that uses only 10 percent of the energy compared to the previous technology.

Solar-powered trash and recycling receptacles have been installed; embedded sensors call for pick-up when full.

A new urban meadow planted between the Turtle Cafe and Key Bank brings nature to the new parking lot with 20 spaces for visitors to our "downtown" area. Native species of perennial flowers, grasses, shrubs and trees were selected to support healthy growth with minimal care. More than 1,000 plants will provide multi-season color and visual interest once they mature.

River birch trees were included in the plan to aid in storm water management and protect the stream that runs under the area. They'll also provide shade for parked cars as they mature, and act as privacy screening from the Boston Post Road for the residential area behind the lot.

The perennial garden surrounds a pervious asphalt system, which means that rain-water will not run off into the nearby stream. Instead, it drains into a gravel base below.

To help residents and visitors learn about the new plants, garden labels identify the native species used in the project, which was supported by grants from CT STEAP (Small Town Economic Assistance Program) and the Rockfall Foundation.

Employing sustainable practices that both modernize and protect the small-town charm of our community is a top priority for economic development. Local, state



Two new bike racks on the Westbrook Town Green are among the new additions for residents and visitors.

and federal grants continue to help fund improvement projects that attract new business and residents.

Submitted by Marcia Simon

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Westbrook Troop 38 Update

We are getting closer to our trip of a lifetime to Philmont Scout Reservation in New Mexico this August. We are still training and doing fundraisers to help us meet our goals. It is a very intense program. The planning and logistics of getting this together are being worked on weekly.

A little information about Philmont. It is the world's largest youth camp, consisting of 140 thousand plus acres or about 220 square miles. There are 315 miles of trails, and 35 staffed backcountry camps with 770 campsites. It is also a cattle ranch with 250 horses, 85 burros, 320 cattle and 140 bison. They also produce three hundred tons of hay per year. It will be an adventure that will never be forgotten.

Al Johnson

Harbor Management Commission

Several moorings for boats up to 31 feet LOA are available in the Patchogue River at an annual cost of \$250. Applications are available on the Harbor Management page of the Westbrook Town website.

Registration for shoreline moorings is required, and the application form is available on the Harbor Management page of the town website. In-person applications may be made at Town Hall between 6 and 7 pm on May 25 and June 18, where mooring stickers will be given out if the applications are approved on site.

Mooring tackle requirements for shoreline moorings have been revised and are posted on the harbor management page of the town website. Please note that mooring permit holders must inspect their tackle each season. Moorings which are unregistered or deemed unsafe will be removed by the harbormaster. They will be stored for 60 days, within which period the owner may recover them for a fee of \$100 plus a valid current mooring registration. Please note that applications for mooring permits should include a gps location of the mooring.

If there are questions regarding Harbor Management related topics, contact the town harbormaster, Harry Plaut, at 860-982-7555.

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Westbrook Youth & Family Services

COUNSELING SERVICES

Register for Spring Programs:

School groups! WYFS's peer groups are in full swing! It is never too late to join!

Stepping Up - An opportunity for 3rd and 4th graders at Daisy Ingraham to *step up* and into leadership roles. Students will explore what it means to be a leader, encourage self-confidence, build resilience to stress strategies, develop a positive mind-set and, practice optimal relationship skills. This group will run from 3-4 pm for 6 weeks at Daisy Ingraham Elementary beginning in April. Permission slips will be distributed at Daisy.

Sensory Play group - Parents with children, 0-6, connection, support, and fun activities for their young children. Group meets one Monday once a month 3:45-4:45, March 16th, April 27th, May 11th, and June 1st.

NARCAN - Free training for overdose prevention. Learn the signs and gain resources! This will take place at Westbrook Public Library May 7th, 6:30.

Life 2.0 - This is a supportive, encouraging and informational group to help women navigate the challenges of Life 2.0. Each week there will be a casual discussion of different topics. This group is an open group and meets on Thursdays at 1:00.

Counseling Services

WYFS provides support and therapy for individuals, families and couples. Our therapists help strengthen family functioning, and support children and families working through life's challenges, including emotional and behavioral issues, stress, anxiety, grief, depression, trauma, peer issues and life transitions. Call 860-399-9239 for an appointment.

Check us out at WYFS.org & Like Us on Facebook!

TOWN HALL HOURS

Mon. – Wed. 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Thursday 9:00 am – 7:00 pm

Friday 9:00 am – noon

TOWN HALL CLOSED

April 9th closed at 4 pm

April 10th - Good Friday

May 25th - Memorial Day

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Health Department

Fat, Oils and Grease (FOG) Should Not Go Down the Drain

Westbrook and most of southern Middlesex County is served by subsurface sewage disposal systems (aka septic systems) and it's important that owners of these systems ensure they are functioning properly.

Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) can damage septic systems. FOG are byproducts of cooking and are generated from meat fats, shortening, lard, sauces, margarine, food scraps, and dairy products such as butter. When FOG is washed down the drain from cookware, plates, and utensils, it can negatively impact a building's plumbing and septic system. FOG cools down, hardens and builds up

on the inside of pipes. This buildup can potentially result in wastewater backups into the home or business. This may also result in wastewater breakout onto the ground's surface and into the surrounding environment if the septic system is affected.

Septic system owners can protect the environment, their property, and their investment by refraining from the discharge of FOG down the drain and by pumping their septic tank every 3-5 years (refer to the Town of Westbrook Code of Ordinances Chapter 18, Article III).

To prevent FOG from entering the building's wastewater system, remove FOG from cookware and dishware prior to washing, use drain screens, and minimize garbage disposal use.

Simple, routine maintenance prolongs the life of a septic system, and protects the home or business from unwanted and costly problems. It takes a coordinated effort by property owners to implement and maintain "Best FOG Management Practices," which in turn, protects the environment and our community from public health nuisances.

Westbrook Foundation

Twice a year, the Westbrook Foundation awards grants to non-profit organizations for projects designed to positively impact the lives of town residents. The next deadline for

applications is Wednesday, April 1. For more information, policies and guidelines, and to download an application, visit www.westbrookfoundation.org/grants.

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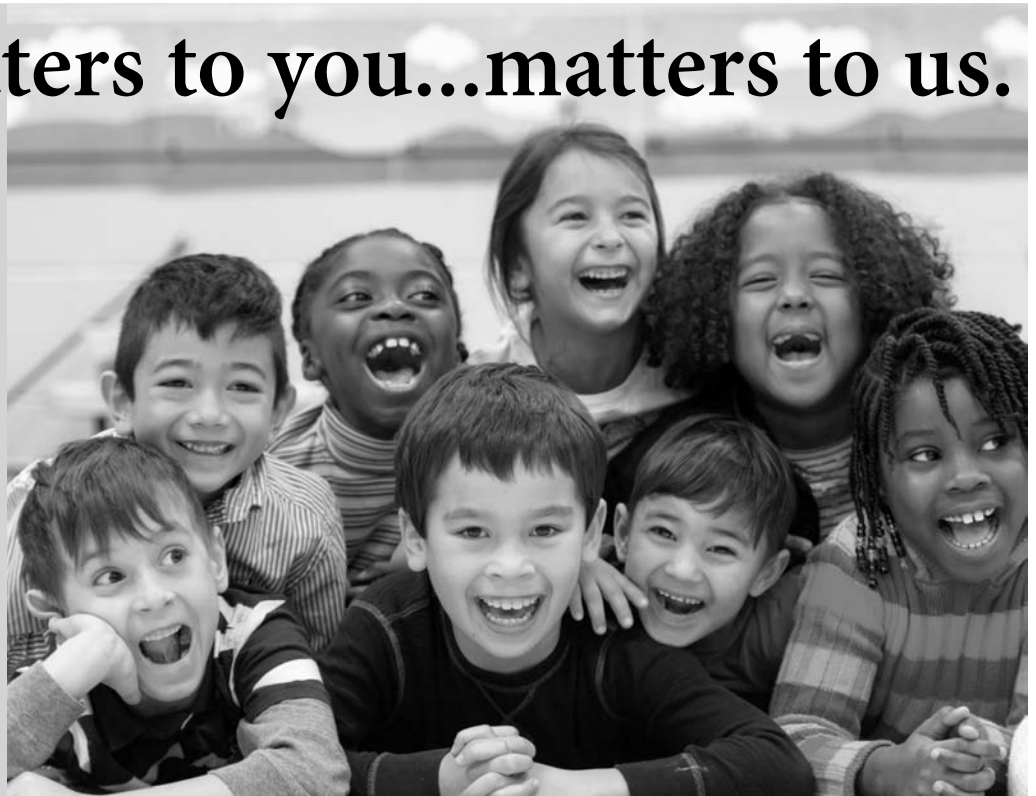
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Lew Daniels - Letters of Recognition

A note from Elain Crawford, President, Friends of the Westbrook Public Library

Before cell phones and laptops, and iPhones and iPads, there was Lew Daniels: repository of everything you needed to know at the Westbrook Public Library. Lew came to Westbrook with Sue, his wife, and two small children. It seems the whole family took to our community as much as we took to them.

His ever friendly and professional manner was just the tonic we needed to help guide the library in the years to come. Lew improved reference services and access to information with his broad knowledge. If he did not have an immediate answer, he knew right where to find it. Whether you were published author doing research for your next book or a seventh grader researching a first term

paper, Lew never stopped digging until your questions had been answered. I personally remember the great interest Lew took ensuring that children's programs, public information forums and community events were given equal attention. The Friends of the Westbrook Public Library never had a more dedicated member. Lew made it a priority to attend every meeting.

Lew has seen us through transitions and transformations with the most skilled stewardship a town could be lucky enough to enjoy. Whatever retirement holds for you - I'm sure it will include some friendly conversation with your devoted admirers - and some really good books.

Lew has been, I think, the town's unsung hero, always on hand to help someone find a less well known book, or trouble shoot computer issues, or to cheerfully greet me (and many other patrons including other children) as we came to the library from school, and also to joyfully engage in the Holiday House workshops and other amazing programs at the library. He also took the time to really talk with community members of all ages, making the Westbrook Public library unique, a place of history and community. He saw community members grow up from little children to adults with children of their own whom they bring to the library to meet Lew. He brought so much joy and passion for reading and life! He will be missed.

Anne Kearney Logan, PhD Candidate, Viticulture & Enology School of Integrative Plant Science

I have worked with Lew for forty years, and his dedication to his job as Library Director never ceases to amaze me. He has made the library a warm, welcoming community center. He has assembled a balanced and impressive collection of books and media, especially for a small library. He has always put in extra hours to keep up, and many Sundays and Mondays he can be found at the library when it is not open. Many residents enjoy stopping in to see him for book recommendations and town news; it is always a pleasure to visit. His well-deserved retirement will leave a huge hole in our hearts.

Kathie Cietanno, Westbrook Library Board

Walter and I feel that Lew and Westbrook have been a perfect fit. 40 years bringing happiness and knowledge to myriads of people is quite a legacy. Nothing was ever too difficult for Lew to solve. Nothing was ever unimportant no matter how busy he was. I think he had read every book in the library, and then he always remembered where that book was shelved. His smile was always at the ready for

Dear Mr. Daniels,

Thank you so much for everything you have done for Westbrook. You have touched the lives of generations of young readers who, like us, will always remember your kindness and warm smile, your good cheer, and of course, your love of books.

*Enjoy your retirement!
Patrick, Emmet, and Yi-Mei Truxes*

Dear Lew,

Tom and I want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your longtime service to the Westbrook Public Library. You have been the perfect library director, loved by generations of Westbrook children and adults alike - promoting reading and connecting people to information in the most warm and caring way.

We have been very fortunate to have you as the anchor of our community. That point was driven home to me by Louise Blalock, former director of the Hartford Public Library (HPL), whom I came to know in the early 2000s

Lew Daniels has been a phenomenal resource for and influence on Westbrook residents for forty years. His genuine interest in and care for others comes through in every interaction. He has a curiosity and enthusiasm for all manner of pursuits and celebrates the curiosity that people display. Lew was like an additional member of the faculty for Westbrook High School and always went out of his way to coordinate with projects and assignments. He always celebrated kids and their accomplishments. We're proud to celebrate you Lew!

Bob Hale, Westbrook HS Principal - 1994-2014

Lew has been a large part of our lives--a great person we're sorry to see retiring. We will miss him greatly. We've been catching up with him every Saturday for years. He welcomed us to Westbrook when we first visited the library with our three babies many years ago. He has made the Westbrook library a welcoming place to everyone and has been such an asset to our community. We value the work he's done for the library and for Westbrook, his wisdom and his spirit. We hope that he'll enjoy his well-deserved retirement and look forward to catching up with him from time to time.

Darren, Kelly, Ian, Cooper and Gareth Whitehouse

everyone who came through the library doors. Oh how we will miss him. Oh how lucky we have been. We wish him a joyous retirement, and know that we will see him often as we use our library cards.

Walter and Nancy Carlson

when I frequented the HPL within walking distance to where I used to work. One day, upon learning that I lived in Westbrook, Louise remarked "You live in Westbrook? You are fortunate! Lew Daniels is one of the best librarians in the state."

It is hard to imagine the library without you, but there is a time for retirement. We wish you the very best. Now finally you will have a chance to catch up on your reading.

Fondly, Ming and Tom Truxes

Go on the Westbrook Historical House Tour... virtually!

The Westbrook Historical Society is delighted that Westbrook's Juliana Fabrizi has chosen the Westbrook Historical Society for her Girl Scout Gold Award Project.

The Award is akin to the Boy Scout Eagle Award, thus requiring development of the scope of the project that will benefit the community, researching the topic, developing an online database, finalizing a walking tour, and printing tour brochures.

Juliana has worked diligently and respectfully with the Society. I think people of Westbrook as well as its visitors will have a lot of fun with this virtual tour once it is online.

The Tour is designed within the Westbrook's Town Center District, covering an area along the Boston Post Road from Water's Edge to the Mulvey Municipal Center, Old Clinton Road to the railroad overpass near Hammock Road, North, Wesley Avenue, to a portion of Seaside Avenue, and back along South Main Street. Juliana recently conducted her first tour with Girl Scout Junior Troop 62077.



Westbrook Hotel 1922

One of the houses along the way was the "Moore's Hotel," located at 1248 Boston Post Road. The hotel was built for Emily Moore in 1840 after her husband, John Moore, had died. John had been a school teacher in East Lyme when they came to Westbrook and managed Moore's tavern, later used as the Congregational Church parsonage. It stood east of the Wilcox Garage and was demolished in 1964. Emily managed the hotel with her four sons. Son, George, was the town clerk from 1864-1918. After he died, his daughters, Adelaide and Caroline, continued to run the hotel.

We will be open for Memorial Day from 9-1 and on Family Day. Join us June 13th for State Open House Day where Juliana will feature her historic house walking tour.

*Catherine Neidlinger Doane, President
Westbrook Historical Society, Inc.*

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Homeowners and Totally Disabled Tax Relief Program

The following is a summary of the benefits currently available to certain Westbrook homeowners. The details of the programs are set forth in the Connecticut State Elderly and Totally Disabled Program (Connecticut General Statutes Section 12-170aa) and the Municipal Tax Relief Program (Connecticut General Statutes Section 12-129n and the ordinance of the Town of Westbrook entitled Amended Resolution for Providing Tax Relief for Elderly Homeowners) and is subject to the provisions of those statutes and ordinance.

Westbrook homeowners may apply for the Elderly/Disabled Homeowner Program between February 1 and May 15, 2020. The applicant must be 65 years of age to apply or any age if they are permanently and totally disabled and qualify with the state income limits. Please bring a copy of your form 1040 and/or form SSA-1099 when applying, and, if under age 62, a Benefit Verification Letter. This program is also called the Circuit Breaker Program. This form must be filed every two years.

Along with the homeowner's age or disability requirements, the qualifying income limits for the Grand List 2018 applications are \$37,000 for single and \$45,100 for married. If you are unsure if you qualify for the upcoming year, please call the Assessor's Office 860-399-3016 or 860-399-3045.

The town of Westbrook also has a Senior Tax Freeze Program wherein your taxes can be frozen the first year you qualify.

From then on, as long as your income criteria does not exceed the state income limits and you do not increase the value of your home by way of additions or outbuildings, your taxes will not increase. If a homeowner is on the Elderly Homeowner Program (Circuit Breaker), their taxes can be frozen and the forgiven taxes do not have to be repaid when they sell their home. There are certain limitations, however, based upon the total tax forgiven annually. This is determined on an individual basis with the taxpayer at the time of application.

If the homeowner does not qualify for the circuit breaker program, the homeowner may still qualify for the freeze program; however, in that event a lien will be placed on the property in the amount of the taxes not paid, and when the property is sold, the lien amount must be repaid to the town.

The total income is calculated from the IRS 1040 form line 5A Social Security Benefits, and line 6 Gross Income. If the applicant does not file an income tax return and has social security as their only yearly income then a copy of the form SSA-1099 – social security benefit statement will be required.

Owners of mobile homes may apply for either the elderly Homeowners Program or the Renters Program. You cannot apply for both programs.

ADDITIONAL VETERANS PROGRAM

You must be a town of Westbrook resident on the assessment date of October 1st to receive a veteran's exemption.

Regular Veteran's Exemption: to qualify for a Regular Veteran's Exemption, the veteran must have served at least 90 days during wartime and received an honorable discharge. Original discharge papers (DD-214) or separation papers must be filed with the town clerk's office prior to October 1st. There is no income criteria for this exemption. If you have questions about qualifying, please stop by the Assessor's Office.

Disabled Veteran's: disabled veterans who receive eligibility letters directly from the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs may be entitled to increased property tax exemptions for service related disabilities. In order to receive this exemption, the veteran must file the disability letter with the Assessor's Office.

Additional Veteran's Exemptions: an additional benefit is available for veterans with incomes lower than \$37,000 for a single person and \$45,100 for a married couple. The filing period is February 1st through October 1st. Qualifying income includes your form 1040 tax return if filed or SSA 1099 – social security statement. Additional Veteran's Benefits double the regular Veterans Benefits. Qualifying income for 100% V.A. Disabled Veterans is \$18,000 for a single person and \$21,000 for a married couple. Social Security income is not considered.

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A widow/widower is entitled to keep 100% of their spouse's veteran's benefit.

The following tables show the levels of qualifying income for the Elderly and Totally Disabled Tax Relief Program applications

to be filed in the year 2020. These levels are to be used for the 2019 Grand List Homeowner and Renter Rebate applications, 2020 Grand List Additional Veteran's applications and may be used for any local option programs.

Homeowners								
Income and Grant Information – 2019 Benefit Year								
Filing period February 1 - May 15, 2020								
Income		Tax Credit %		Tax Credit Maximum		Tax Credit Minimum		
Over	To	Married	Unmarried	Married	Unmarried	Married	Unmarried	
S-0-	\$18,600	50%	40%	\$1,250	\$1,000	\$400	\$350	
18,600	24,900	40	30	1,000	750	350	250	
24,900	31,000	30	20	750	500	250	150	
31,000	37,000	20	10	500	250	150	150	
37,000	45,100	10	-0-	250	-0-	150	-0-	

Renters								
Income and Grant Information – 2019 Benefit Year								
Filing period April 1 – October 1, 2020								
Income		Maximum Rebate		Minimum Rebate				
Over	To	Married/Single	Married/Single	Married/Single	Married/Single	Married/Single	Married/Single	
S-0-	\$ 18,600	\$900	\$700	\$400	\$300			
18,600	24,900	700	500	300	200			
24,900	31,000	500	250	200	100			
31,000	37,000	250	150	100	50			
37,000	45,100	150	-0-	50	-0-			

Visiting Nurses

The Visiting Nurse office is collaborating with the Senior Center to start a new “*Aging Support Group*” being facilitated by our social worker, *Rebecca Kieran, LCSW*. This will be a **FREE** meeting that will cover a wide variety of topics. Light food and refreshments will be served.

The first meeting will take place on Thursday, March 26th @ 5:30 pm. All are welcome. We may also start a morning support group to accommodate people who cannot come in the evening.

April is Parkinson's Awareness Month. We are teaming up with the Senior Center to introduce a new **FREE** program to our Senior Center "Dance with Parkinson's." The class will be led by *Rose Costanza*, who has an extensive background in dance. It is a very well received class that has been taught in the area for the past several years. Caregivers /spouses are welcome to attend this exciting program. Several studies have shown the benefit of dance classes with persons with PD. It can boost one's confidence, show improved quality of life, and improve balance and gait. The first class will be held on April 8th from 10:45 am -12:00 pm.

Please RSVP to *Courtney Burks, Senior Center Director*; at 860-399-3048 if you would like to attend one of these programs.

Westbrook Senior Center Recipe

Spanakopita Penne Bake

(Recipe adapted from *Good Housekeeping*)

Ingredients:

- 1 Lb Penne
- 2 10oz. boxes frozen chopped spinach
- ¼ cup loosely packed dill, chopped
- 15 oz. part-skim ricotta cheese
- 1 cup crumbled feta cheese
- 8 oz. shredded mozzarella

Directions:

- 1 - Cook penne for about half of the time the label directs, adding spinach and reserving ½ of the water just before draining.
- 2 - Combine feta, ricotta, dill and salt. Combine spinach/penne, cheese mixture and reserved cooking water.
- 3 - Spread evenly in a casserole dish (E.g. a 3-quart dish). Top with mozzarella.
- 4 - Cover with foil; bake at 400 degrees for 25 minutes. Uncover and bake 10 minutes more.

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WESTBROOK Community Listings

IMPORTANT TOWN HALL NUMBERS

Accounts Payable.....	(860) 399-3008
Animal Control Officer	(860) 662-3117
Assessor	(860) 399-3016
Assessor Clerk	(860) 399-3045
Building Official	(860) 399-2035
Emergency Management	(860) 577-0622
Emergency Management website.....	www.westbrookem.com
Environmental Health	(860) 399-3018
Finance Director.....	(860) 399-3004
Finance Director / Assistant	(860)399-1235
Fire Department / Business calls.....	(860) 399-9492
Fire Marshal Office / Business calls.....	(860) 339-5621
Harbor Master	(860) 982-7555
Health Director.....	(860) 399-9869
Inland Wetland Enforcement.....	(860) 399-3017
Transfer Station	(860) 399-6356
Land Use - Planning/Zoning/IWWC Admin. Asst	(860) 399-3091
Land Use - Building/Health Dept. Admin. Asst	(860) 399-0339
Probate Court	(860) 510-5028
Recreation	(860) 399-3095
Registrar of Voters	(860) 399-3042
Selectman's Office	(860) 399-3040
Senior Center Director	(860) 399-3048
Social Services.....	(860) 399-3090
Tax Collector	(860) 399-3043
Town Clerk.....	(860) 399-3044
Town Garage	(860) 552-4496
Town Web site.....	www.westbrookct.us
Treasurer	(860) 399-3040
Westbrook Senior Center	(860) 399-2029
Zoning Enforcement/Planning	(860) 399-3041

SCHOOLS

Daisy Ingraham Elementary School	(860) 399-7025
Junior-Senior High School	(860) 399-6214
Middle School.....	(860) 399-2010
Superintendent of Schools.....	(860) 399-6432

HOME HEALTH CARE

Visiting Nurses of Westbrook.....	(860) 399-3088
Ambulance & Oxygen Business Calls	(860) 399-7000

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Resident Trooper	(860) 399-7304
State Trooper.....	(860) 399-2100

LIBRARY

Westbrook Public Library	(860) 399-6422
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USEFUL NUMBERS

9 Town Transit	(860) 510-0429
Community Foundation of Middlesex County	(860) 347-0025
First Congregational Church of Westbrook.....	(860) 399-9367
Garden Club.....	westbrookgardenclub@yahoo.com
Historical Society.....	(860) 399-7473
Westbrook Youth & Family Services.....	(860) 399-9239
St. Mark's.....	(860) 399-9207
St. Paul's Episcopal Church.....	(860) 399-5402

Westbrook Economic Action Initiative Shares Upcoming Events

Westbrook Economic Action Initiative (WEAI) is a program of the Shoreline Basic Needs Task Force (SBNTF) and Westbrook businesses, community organizations and concerned residents seeking to foster sustainability through better jobs in Westbrook and other communities in Middlesex County. The focus is ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed), the disburbingly large number of our residents (33% in Westbrook, 32% throughout Middlesex County, according to a nationwide study by United Way) who earn less than necessary to cover the cost of essentials to live in our community, including food, shelter, health, childcare and transportation. WEAI seeks to assist the SBNTF in replicating WEAI in other communities throughout Middlesex County.

Since the last issue of Events, we have launched the WEAI website pages within the Town of Westbrook website. Please go to www.westbrookct.org and select "Services" – click on Westbrook Economic Action Initiative on the drop-down menu (or you may go directly to <http://westbrookct.us/422/Westbrook-Economic-Action-Initiative>). There, you may review the status of all areas of focus of WEAI (Schools, Jobs, Job Training, Entrepreneurship, Literacy, Financial Literacy, Transportation, Childcare, Economic Development) and all notices/summaries of meetings and upcoming events.

WEAI is pleased to share upcoming programs open to the community:

APRIL 15 - tours of waste-water facilities at Water's Edge and the Big Y shopping center – see item K in the WEAI summary

APRIL 22 - 5:30-7:30 pm and April 25 11 am-1 pm – workshops on financial literacy will focus on household budgeting

MAY 20 - 5-6:30 pm at Town Hall Multi-Media Room – roundtable discussion of programs to benefit ALICE with business and community leaders (one of three per year)

For further information or to contact us:

Email WEAI4info@gmail.com.

Tony Cozza, Jim Crawford, Andy Schatz

Adopt-A-Spot

We are establishing several new spots to adopt within the new parking lot landscape in the center of town. Help keep this pollinator heaven trim and weed free over this coming summer. Learn about the over 50 types of trees, shrubs, ornamental grasses and perennials that are installed in this park. Find out more by calling Deb at 860-399-0664 or check out the Adopt-A-Spot page at the town website: www.westbrookct.us.

Social Services

RENTER'S REBATE PROGRAM

The Town of Westbrook will be accepting applications for the State of Connecticut's Renter's Tax Relief (Renters' Rebate) Program.

This program provides a one-time yearly reimbursement for Connecticut renters based on income, rent and utilities that were paid from the previous year (2019). Persons renting an apartment or room, or living in cooperative housing or a mobile home may be eligible for this program if:

- The renter and/or spouse is at least 65 years old as of December 31, 2019 OR is at least 50 years old and the widow/widower of a previously approved applicant OR is totally disabled and receiving benefits under a federal, state or local retirement program which contains requirements comparable to those of the Social Security Administration.
- Applicant may have rented elsewhere in Connecticut for all or some portion of the year proceeding the year of filing, but must file in the town in which they reside during the filing period.
- Income limits are determined annually by the State of Connecticut. "Income" is defined as income from all sources, including tax-exempt interest and Social Security. For the 2020 application period, 2019 income from all sources is considered. The income limits for 2019 are \$45,100 for married and 37,000 for single applicants, the same as for the Homeowners' Program. These income limits are adjusted each year.

You may apply between April 1 and October 1. Applicants must bring: proof of rent and utilities paid during the preceding calendar year, original or copies of their federal income tax (if filed) and their SSA-1099. If taxes are not filed, statements of all income sources (pensions, interest income, etc.) must be provided. Please call Westbrook Social Services for an appointment or information at 860-399-3090.

Westbrook Local Prevention Council - Save A Life

FREE Narcan Training and "the Paraphernalia Project," May 7 from 6:30 - 8:00 pm at the Westbrook Library. Light snacks and resources are available.

The Paraphernalia Project

This presentation offers a visual and hands-on exhibit for parents and professional to identify hidden drug paraphernalia, in addition to teaching parents how to identify the warning signs that point to risky behaviors. This presentation is for adults only.

Narcan Training

Narcan (naloxone) is an opiate antidote which blocks the effects of opioids and reverses overdose. This training will include overdose prevention strategies, signs and symptoms; how to administer Naloxone; and the Good Samaritan Law.

Narcan kits are available to those who are uninsured. If you have health insurance, please bring your information and prescription card for the mobile pharmacist Tracey Leary of Shop Rite Pharmacy of Clinton.

Please register by calling 860-399-9239 ext 115 or email admin@wyfs.org or Lconnery@westbrookctschools.org

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Westbrook Recreation Spring Programs

It's time to register for all our spring programs, travel soccer and T-Ball. Open registrations have already started and many programs are filling up. Register online soon so your children won't miss out on all the spring/summer fun. Please call our office with any and all questions.

Looking for an inexpensive, quality and safe childcare for your child? Looking for before and after care provided for your convenience? Looking for a teen camp that is age appropriate for your middle schooler? We have summer day camps that have weekly field trips, sports, arts and crafts, nature hikes, a day at the beach and gimpy projects galore! We also have the best priced day camps on the shoreline.

We also have so many fantastic sports and theater camps. They include Slammy Jamma Basketball, Challenger Soccer, Baseball Clinic, Broadway Beginners and Broadway Bound Theatre camps. We also have Tennis, Youth/Teen Field Hockey camps rounding out the rest of our camps. The best way for any student to improve in their sport is to register for a camp teaching that individual sport. All of our other sports camps information will be posted in our spring brochure or online at www.westbrookrec.com.

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Floor hockey has started on February 29th at the Daisy Elementary School. Boys and girls of all ages are welcome to participate. This sport is fun for everyone and is a great feeder program for girls field hockey. This year we added adult floor hockey on Thursday nights from 6:00-7:00 pm. As always we will prorate floor hockey for everyone who signs up late.

Our Tot T-Ball program will be the next program to start on April 25th. It has children from all over the shoreline participating in this springtime favorite. We introduce baseball to children as young as 3 years old, for their first big league experience. We teach your child how to properly throw, catch and hit a ball while having a fun time doing it. It's an interactive program that's fun for parents and children alike. Parents should oil their old baseball gloves and get ready for the upcoming baseball season!

We are still running bus trips to popular destinations all around New England.

Instead of stressing out with all the traffic, you can enjoy one our trips and relax during the drive. Please contact our office and we can give you a list of all the upcoming trips. There are only 50 seats per bus so please sign up soon.

Our Eighteenth annual Westbrook Family Day will be held on May 30th (rain date May 31th), at the Town Green. Westbrook Family Day has also become known to many friends and families as the annual Westbrook Town Picnic. Be sure to mark this date on your calendars for a fun-filled day of rides, entertainment, food and most of all, for all the funny clowns. This event is brought to you through the generous donations of many businesses from our shoreline and is totally free to the public.

Please call Rich at 860-399-3095, if you wish to make a donation or volunteer the day of the event.



"I'm ready for my close up!"
Miss Mulvey photo by Catie Marino

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Westbrook Garden Club



May Market is Coming! As spring approaches, the members of the Westbrook Garden Club are getting busy with some important events. In March, we start planning for our annual May Market Sale. This event is our biggest fundraiser of the year and the profits we realize from the sale of member plants, annuals, garden items and jewelry provide money to support our many window boxes and planters that grace downtown Westbrook. So please SAVE THE DATE, Saturday, May 16th from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm at Town Hall.

In addition to our annual spring sale, we sponsor fascinating garden-related speakers each month after our monthly meetings.

These programs, which start at 3:00 pm, are free and open to the public so please join us! We meet on the third Monday of the month at the Community Room of the Westbrook Public Library.

Upcoming speakers include Herbs and Cooking with Joy Molloy on March 16th, Pollination with Nancy DeBrule of Natureworks on April 20th, and Container Gardening with Acer Gardens on May 18th. Hope to see you!

This spring, we will continue our work on the Meadow Walk. This project has been a labor of love for our club members and the results are exciting. Come and check out our progress at the Meadow located between the Post Office and Oxford Academy. We have been working with the Conservation Commission and hope to have new signage installed this spring. We always welcome new members.

Please contact us at westbrookgardenclubct@yahoo.com for additional information regarding membership and follow us on Facebook as Westbrook Garden Club of CT. (photo is from May Market 2019).year and the profits we realize from the sale of member plants, annuals, garden items and jewelry provide money to support our many window boxes and planters that grace downtown Westbrook. So please SAVE THE DATE, Saturday, May 16th from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm at Town Hall.

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Westbrook Land Conservation Trust

Wildlife habitats and natural resources suffer from fragmentation locally and across the globe. The Town of Westbrook, in concert with Federal and State initiatives and the Westbrook Land Conservation Trust, has a noteworthy record of preserving and connecting open space to counteract that trend. With the approval of a grant from the State to secure a 147 acre tract, known as the Toby Hill Phase VIII parcel, in northeastern Westbrook, another piece of an extraordinary, expanding natural puzzle could be secured for our town. Corridors of the natural world, such as greenways, blueways, and flyways have become the operative vision behind town and regional planning. The value of the Toby Hill property is enhanced by its proximity to Toby Hill Woods, two Land Trust properties secured in 2006, the Preserve, our Town

Forest, and an Essex Land Trust parcel. As our neighboring towns also preserve open spaces in a like manner, we are interconnecting ecosystems and natural resources. Fragmentation is changing to integration, of a secured natural environment for its myriad benefits, in perpetuity.

Since 1968, the Westbrook Land Conservation Trust has acquired outright 31 land parcels throughout Westbrook, totaling over 150 acres, as well as the conservation rights to 51 acres. If you live near one of our signs, and would like to join in stewardship of properties, or simply appreciate the protected open space we preserve, please consider joining this organization. Write or email us at: WLCT, PO Box 1124, Westbrook, CT 06498. Email: Wesbrook LCT@yahoo.com.



Toby Hill Phase VIII Property - Trout Brook

From Senator Norm Needleman

Did you know there's a state program dedicated to protecting open spaces and natural forests in Connecticut?

The Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program does just that. All across the state, this program is dedicated to assisting with the purchase and protection of natural spaces, providing grants to towns and organizations assisting them in keeping these lands undeveloped and beautiful.

In January, this program assisted our town, allowing it to move ahead with an important acquisition. The Town of Westbrook received a \$315,000 grant to support the acquisition of more than 145 acres of land for the Toby Hill VIII project. This forest land is part of a 600-acre block with existing protected lands, and its diverse wildlife, including wild trout in the center, will provide a wonderful resource for local residents.

What does this mean for the town? It means residents from our town and beyond will be able to enjoy this scenic terrain for its natural beauty and its important support of our local ecosystems. It also means that hikers, bikers and nature lovers can explore its land. The forest is even accessible from an unpaved portion of a town-owned road!

In Westbrook, this program helped our town acquire this land – and it was one of 24 parcels across the state that are now safe from future development. That keeps important oxygen-giving trees and the diverse wildlife of our region free to benefit our region. Programs like these keep our towns pristine and keep

important resources available to us all. I look forward to seeing future grant releases.



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Westbrook Conservation Commission

Westbrook has a unique opportunity to add to the McVeagh Greenway with the purchase of 146 acres in 3 forested parcels called “Toby Hill Phase VIII.”

The Westbrook Plan of Conservation and Development (PCD) documents Westbrook’s plan for creating an open space system to help preserve the natural life support systems and contribute to the concept of “Green Infrastructure,” which will help protect and preserve the overall ambience of the community and provide opportunities to residents and visitors to experience nature in its purest form.

The PCD lays out a strategy to create two Greenways in Westbrook; 1) the “Menunketesuck Greenway” on the

west side of town and 2) the “McVeagh Greenway” in the middle of our town from the origin of Patchogue River north along Trout Brook. These Greenways are envisioned to provide pedestrian, bicycle and equestrian linkages between open space parcels and other destinations.

Westbrook has a unique opportunity to add to the McVeagh Greenway with the purchase of 146 acres in 3 forested parcels called “Toby Hill Phase VIII”. The Toby Hill Phase VIII parcels are being offered to the Town for \$650,000. The Town is a recipient of the State of Connecticut Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition grant in the amount of \$315,000 for the purchase and the Conservation Commission has voted to use \$140,000

from the Open Space fund, which brings the remainder to \$195,000.

The Conservation Commission urges the Town residents to support the purchase of these parcels which will add significantly to the McVeagh Greenway as envisioned in the Plan of Conservation and Development. These parcels close a significant gap in the McVeagh Greenway.

This purchase protects existing natural resources from residential development impacts which helps to maintain Westbrooks' low tax rate by reducing the level of town services. Open space land has been shown to require fewer town services over time as compared to land that is developed for residential use.

Finding Lung Cancer

While lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States, it’s important to understand that it can be treated successfully when found early.

Lung cancer often has no symptoms, making it difficult for people

to realize that something is wrong. Most often, early stage lung cancer can be best detected through lung screenings.

Lung screenings are ordered by physicians and recommended for those aged 55 to 80 who have a 30-pack year history of smoking. You must also be a smoker or former smoker who quit within the past 15 years and not be exhibiting lung cancer symptoms.

Middlesex Health is a Lung Cancer Screening Center of Excellence. This means that Middlesex demonstrates responsible, high-quality screening practices, and it ensures that the low-dose CT scans used to screen for lung cancer are carried out safely, efficiently and equitably.

Early lung cancer can also be detected through “incidental findings,” meaning that a suspicious lesion was detected during the reading of a diagnostic test that a patient was having for another medical issue. It is critically important that lesions, regardless of how they are detected, are followed up on as recommended.

The Total Lung Care Center, part of Middlesex Health Cancer Center, works with primary care physicians, radiologists and nurse navigators to coordinate expedited care plans. The goal is to always get you an appointment with a pulmonologist as soon as possible.

A timely diagnosis is very important because it allows lung cancer to be treated at an earlier stage. If your lesion is determined to be cancerous, you may need additional care and treatment. The Total Lung Care Center’s nurse navigator will guide and support you through all aspects of lung cancer care—from diagnosis to survivorship.

For more information, visit MiddlesexHealth.org/lung.

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Westbrook Fire Department

The Westbrook Fire Department will soon take delivery on a new light rescue. The picture is the day it arrived, February 13th. We will have an updated photo in the next events that shows the lighting and the lettering on the apparatus. It is a 2020 Chevrolet 2500 Crew Cab with a custom Duramag body. The lighting package has been donated by Whelen Engineering. This new piece of apparatus will replace the 2004 GMC Sierra 3500. The Department is pleased that the Town has continued the ongoing replacement of apparatus plan in the Capital Plan.



The Department would like to thank the Westbrook Foundation for the \$38,000 grant than along with \$5,015 from our budget we will purchase large heavy duty extractor (washing machine), a gear and hose drying unit and a hose roller.

The extractor and drying unit will allow firefighters the ability to clean their PPE (Personal Protective Equipment). Clean gear is vital for the health and safety of the firefighters. Carbon particles are left on the PPE anytime a firefighter is exposed to smoke or fire. Carbon particles expose firefighters to known carcinogens, and reduce heat and flame resistance if the PPE is not kept clean. The dryer unit will dry the gear in 24 hours instead of 2 to 3 days.

The hose roller will safely allow firefighters to return hose of varying weight and length to be rolled and moved with less chance of injury to the firefighters.

Save the Date:
July 8th to July 11th is the Annual Carnival.

**Thank You to all who made this year's
tree lighting event on December 8th
such a tremendous success!**
from the Westbrook Tree Lighting Committee

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Women's Suffrage 100 Years Later by Sigrid Kun

Honoring the Hard Fought Battle for Women's Voting Rights



The year 2020 marks 100 years since the passage of the 19th Amendment, which was ratified on August 18, 1920. The 19th Amendment reads as follows:

“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State on account of sex. Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.”

Two simple sentences, it seems. Today, it is unimaginable that this basic right would not exist for women. Yet, the 19th Amendment resulted from a long, incredible struggle for equality and it represents a true turning point in United States history. It is only fitting to take a moment to reflect on this centennial. This brief segment can only present a few historical snippets surrounding the fight and can only point out some of the organizations commemorating the centennial.

THE BEGINNINGS

The first women's rights convention was held in Seneca Falls, New York in 1848. It marked the beginnings of what would become a national movement for women's suffrage. The first National Woman's Rights Convention was held in 1850 in Worcester, MA. Other conventions followed. The Civil War (1861-1865) effectively halted the women's suffrage movement with activists focused on the abolition movement. While the movements for the abolition of slavery and women's rights, respectively, were often entangled, the constitutional amendments following the Civil War created rifts.

By 1869, there were two main groups advocating for women's suffrage. Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony formed the National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA). Lucy Stone and others founded the American Woman Suffrage Association (AWSA). While each entity had the same ultimate goal of winning woman suffrage, their philosophies differed. The NWSA sought change through constitutional amendment while the AWSA focused on gaining rights via individual states.

There were also differences between the AWSA and NWSA when it came to the constitutional amendments following the Civil War. The NWSA opposed the 15th Amendment (the right of a U.S. citizen to vote not to be abridged by race, color or previous condition of servitude) due to the exclusion of women. The AWSA supported the amendment, believing that voting rights for women were not far away. The two organizations ultimately united in 1890 as the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA).

AN ARDUOUS STRUGGLE

Progress for the women's suffrage movement was painfully slow and rights were garnered state by state. Women achieved voting rights in Wyoming first in 1869. Colorado followed in 1893. In 1896, Utah and Idaho were added. Fifteen states granted women the right to vote prior to the adoption of the 19th Amendment.

The 19th Amendment itself languished for many decades. Drafted by Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton in 1848, the 19th Amendment was not introduced in Congress until 1878 (30 years after the Seneca Falls convention). It was not until 1919 - 41 years after the amendment's introduction and 71 years following Seneca Falls - that Congress submitted it to the states for ratification. The successful struggle capped heroic efforts by a multitude of women

- including pickets, petitions, marches, and speeches. The suffragists endured mockery, arrests, jail, and even forced feeding after hunger strikes.

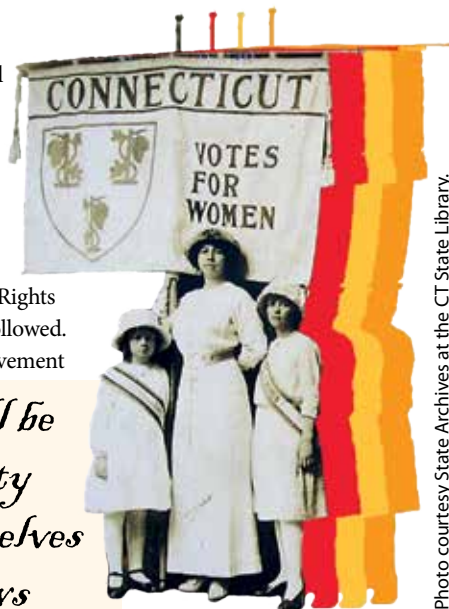


Photo courtesy State Archives at the CT State Library.

One of "Hartford's Mothers" Josephine Bennett.

“There never will be complete equality until women themselves help to make laws and elect lawmakers.”

Susan B. Anthony

CONNECTICUT'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Numerous events in 2020 around the country are celebrating the centennial of women's suffrage. Here in Connecticut, the Centennial Commission on Women's Suffrage (co-chaired by Secretary of State Denise Merrill, Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz and Connecticut's First Lady Annie Lamont) was launched to celebrate the 19th Amendment. Merrill calls the 19th Amendment “the largest expansion of democracy our

nation has ever seen.” The Commission she adds “celebrates the women who made this victory possible, and take[s] a thoughtful look at the work that is left to be done.”

“The moment of achieving a woman's right to vote was a turning point for our country and for our world, that one of the most powerful nations on earth was sending a message that women have the right and responsibility to contribute to our government,” stated First Lady Lamont. “That moment opened the door for women to hold positions of power in government, education, healthcare, and of course, in business.”

Please see www.votesforwomenct.com for some of the Connecticut events commemorating the centennial of the 19th Amendment. The website also provides insightful biographies of some of Connecticut's women suffragists, including Josephine Bennett pictured above.

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