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Volume 13 • Quarter 4 • 2013



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First Selectman's Corner

Great news for Westbrook! The most recent *Connecticut Magazine* edition on "Rating the Towns" rates Westbrook #3 out of 39 towns relative to the median sale price of a home. On page 58 of the magazine, note the following: "If you're interested in an affordable town along the shoreline, you might consider Westbrook, which ranks second in civic engagement, second in economic success and third in education."

Please note below the highlights and information regarding Westbrook's outstanding rating:

Median Home Sale Price	Crime	Culture/Leisure	Community Engagement	Education	Economy
\$162,500	4	28	2	3	2

For further information on the rankings, see the following criteria that was used by *Connecticut Magazine*:



First Selectman Noel Bishop

Education: This category combines four elements: 2013 Mastery test results for 4th, 6th and 8th grades; results of the 2013 Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT); local SAT scores for 2012; and the 2012 graduation rate for public high school students.

Economy: The strength of the local economy was determined by the 2013 Public Investment Community score, compiled by the Office of Policy and Management, which rates all Connecticut towns under a formula based on population, per capita income, the adjusted equalized grand list per capita, the unemployment rate, the equalized mil rate and per capita aid to children. The higher the number, the less need there is in a community.

Crime: This category is based on major crimes (murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft) committed in 2012 per 1,000 population, the most recent figures available from the state Department of Public Safety.

Civic Engagement: This category combines voter turnout in the 2012 election and the amount of local news coverage available from daily and weekly newspapers, websites and TV and radio stations.

Leisure/Culture: Includes the proximity to state parks and forests; number of colleges and universities; number of restaurants listed in *Connecticut Magazine* 2013 Best Restaurants issue; and number of shops, theaters, museums and concert venues.

First Selectman Noel Bishop

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MADISON

\$465,548 - Spacious Colonial with great storage located close to town. Oversized formal living room and dining room. Finished rooms in walkout basement. No knowledge of pool condition. Selling as is. Great home for a little sweat equity.
JOANNE PUTNAM



OLD LYME

\$329,000 - See the lake from your "LIKE NEW" home - Cape w. LR, DR, brand new kitchen, all new SS appliances, granite & vaulted ceiling. First fl. BR or office - full bath, 2 BRs and full bath up-Sunken FR w slider. Large MBR w bath and sitting area.
FRANK PURDUE



OLD SAYBROOK

\$575,000 - Meticulously inside and out. Beautiful wood floors, open floor plan, 1st floor master w/sunroom & hot tub. A large country kitchen, 4 season room leads to a patio. Garage space for 5 cars, custom 26x25 attached heated garage with extra bay off of back, Custom detached 30x22 Carriage shed w/ phone, power, water and workshop.
PAT REED



ESSEX

\$459,900 - Located in the EAGLE RIDGE Subdivision. This home features an open floor plan, living rm/dining rm with shared fireplace, master bdrm w/full bath/dressing rm, walkout lower level, 3 car attached garage. A very lovely home.
JOANNE PUTNAM



CLINTON

\$529,500 - Peaceful setting south of RT 1 on a cul-de-sac with serene views. Set on a level lot with a cedar grove, this 2752 square foot home offers a wonderful floor plan. 1st floor bedroom. Freshly painted interior.
SARAH MARCINEK



CLINTON

\$174,900 - Delightful 2 bedroom condo across the street from Cedar Marina-short stroll to Town Dock. Relax on the rear deck or poolside! Full basement for storage & laundry. New windows & efficient natural gas heat. Nice area for walking & biking.
SARAH MARCINEK



DEEP RIVER

\$265,000 - Beautifully maintained Cape with 3 patio areas and deck. Lovely terraced yard overlooking a babbling brook and French garden with a gardeners potting shed. Close to both Chester or Deep River for shopping, parks, or libraries.
CARYL STEFANSKI



CLINTON

\$239,500 - Home sets nicely on the lot. Good living space including the family room in the lower level. Large deck offers the perfect spot for everyday living and entertaining. Efficient pellet stove heats the whole home. Subdivision location. owner/agent related.
SARAH MARCINEK



HIGGANUM

\$482,000 - 4 Bedroom, 2.1 Bath Home to be built. House package features a large bonus room over garage w/access from Family Rm. Superior Quality, Exceptional Value, custom choices, high end finishes, energy efficient, Gorgeous 12 lot cul-de-sac subdivision only 1 mile from Rt 81.
PAT REED



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MISS MULVEY



Watching the leaves change.

Westbrook Fire Department

Westbrook Chemical Engine Company No. 1 Inc. sponsored another successful Halloween Party for the children of Westbrook. The Company funded this event with the money earned at the Carnival held in July. The members look forward to this event and are already planning next year's party. Thank you for your support at the Carnival and we enjoyed seeing you at the Halloween Party.

Westbrook Fire Department is pleased to announce that the contract has been signed with Seagrave Fire Apparatus LLC for a new Aerial Ladder Truck. This new piece of apparatus will be delivered in November of 2014. This new apparatus will be replacing a 1975 Baker/Aerialscope that is in current use.

As we are going into the winter months remember to have your chimney cleaned and to be careful of ashes cleaned from fireplaces and wood stoves. Do not place the ashes in a cardboard or plastic container, near your home, shed or on your deck.

Just a reminder: Town Ordinance Article IV Numbering of Building Required.

The Town of Westbrook requires that the owner of each building attach a three (3) inch high number to the building.

The Fire Department relies on these numbers to find your home, office or business in case of an emergency. The Department wants to respond to your location as fast as possible. The Volunteer firefighters live through out town and are familiar with every road but may not know every house number; therefore, it becomes very important for the numbers on your building to be visible under all circumstances.



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Westbrook Recreation Department Tree Lighting Committee



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Westbrook Garden Club—Giving Thanks to Neighbors and Friends

In this fruitful fall season we have many people to thank for an exciting and satisfying summer. Sales at the Fall Mum Sale enabled us to award a scholarship to a second worthy Westbrook student Matt Winschel. Matt studies horticulture and landscape design at Naugatuck Valley Community College. Thanks to the many local merchants who contributed to our popular raffle baskets, to dedicated and hardworking club members, and to all the enthusiastic townspeople who attended our fundraisers. Thanks also to our scholarship committee members – Dr. Marjorie Corrigan, Martha Neale and Vivian Partridge.

We are delighted to announce that landscaping of the gazebo on the town green is complete! If you haven't already seen the new look, be sure to drop by to admire it. A truly cooperative venture, the gazebo landscaping will be maintained by WGC members. Read more about this project in "Westbrook Citizens Work Together to Create New Spot."

Recently the Garden Club has been busy decking the town's window boxes and barrels with holiday greens. We also provided a free special November program in collaboration with the Arbor Garden Club of Clinton, where Dee Mozzochi presented Holiday Tables with Glitter and Glitz. We hope you enjoyed learning to create beautiful holiday table decorations. Congratulations to the lucky raffle winners who took home Dee's sample arrangements.



President Mindy Gordon (left) and Scholarship Committee Member Vivian Partridge present WGC scholarship check to Matt Winschel.

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News From Westbrook Social Services

Two Important Changes to SNAP!

In October of each year, the USDA reviews the cost of living and adjusts Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) income limits and maximum deduction amounts appropriately. This means that most SNAP recipients saw a slight increase in benefits on October 1.

But, a second very important change took place on November 1, 2013. SNAP benefits were increased substantially back in 2009 as part of a law called "The American Recovery & Reinvestment Act," (ARRA). The purpose of ARRA was to boost our economy. One way to do that was to give SNAP recipients more money to spend on food. That increase was only temporary and expired on October 31, 2013.

This is what will happen:

- On **October 1, SNAP benefits went up slightly** for most recipients, just like they do every year.
- **But** then, on **November 1, SNAP benefits went down** for most households because the temporary ARRA increase expired. The average decrease was \$11 for one person and \$36 for a family of four.

How to Get the Highest SNAP Benefits You Can

If you are not already getting the maximum SNAP amount, you might be able to get a higher monthly amount by reporting the following information to DSS:

- Payments you made for child care (including mileage to and from).
- Payments you made for the care of an elderly or disabled family member.
- Payments for court-ordered child support.
- Out-of-pocket medical expenses (for people 60 and older or disabled). Includes doctor bills, co-pays, transportation to/from the doctor, prescriptions, medical equipment.
- Updated shelter costs. Includes rent, mortgage, electricity, heating/cooling, basic fee for 1 phone, water.

This is a summary of an article from the CT Department of Social Services. Here's the link to the full DSS article: [http://www.larcc.org/files/larcc_files/documents/Dearborn DSS tips.pdf](http://www.larcc.org/files/larcc_files/documents/Dearborn%20DSS%20tips.pdf).

- **Online** - www.connect.ct.gov Current DSS clients can set up an online account (called 'MyAccount') and get benefit information without visiting or calling their local DSS office. The general public and clients can also check on their eligibility for food, cash and medical service through a handy pre-screening tool (called 'Am I Eligible?').
- **Phone Access** - 1-855-626-6632. DSS now has a single, statewide toll-free number for clients (the Client Information Line & Benefits Center). The Client Information Line service is available 24/7 with the ability to set up a phone account for automated information on client accounts. Callers can also connect directly to a worker in our Benefits Center (follow the phone menu prompts, Monday through Friday, between 7:30 am and 4 pm).
- **In-Person Access** - DSS services are available at 12 field offices statewide. For a list, please visit www.ct.gov/dss and click on Regional Offices.

DSS offers these tips for clients:

- Open an online benefits account at www.connect.ct.gov if internet access is available. This enables clients to self-serve and get information about their benefits online, 24/7.
- Call 1-855-626-6632 (the DSS Client Information Line & Benefits Center) to use an interactive-voice response line to self-serve.
- If you need to speak to a DSS worker, call the Client Info. Line at 1-855-626-6632. The hours are Monday – Friday 7:30 am until 4:00 pm. Avoid calling during peak times (Mondays and the end of the day).

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Junior Colonial Fife & Drum Corps of Westbrook

The Junior Colonial Fife & Drum Corps of Westbrook would like to thank the Westbrook Foundation for its generous support during 2013. With funding from the Foundation, the Corps recently purchased beautiful new uniforms (including shirts, waistcoats and haversacks) and replaced its damaged snare and bass drum heads. We also created a striking new banner to let everyone know who we are when we perform!

The Junior Colonial Fife & Drum Corps of Westbrook was organized in 1961 to educate its members in musicianship and in the heritage of the ancient fife and drum tradition. The Corps comprises children ages 8 to 18 who hail from towns along the shoreline and interior Connecticut. The Corps is known for the quality of its musical instruction and has a reputation for offering a positive and supportive environment for members and their families. The Junior Colonials rehearse weekly and perform year-round at musters, parades and other events throughout northeastern United States.

The Corps is looking for new fifers, drummers and color guard members – no musical or marching experience is necessary! Instruments, uniforms and weekly musical instruction are provided for a low quarterly membership fee. Involvement in a musical ensemble, such as the Junior Colonials, provides a unique opportunity to foster a child's personal development. It



does so by promoting self-discipline, cognitive development, teamwork, social ties to peers and community, appreciation of the nation's history, and leadership opportunities for the older members.

For more information, please visit our website www.juniorcolonials.com or email us at wjcfdc@gmail.com.

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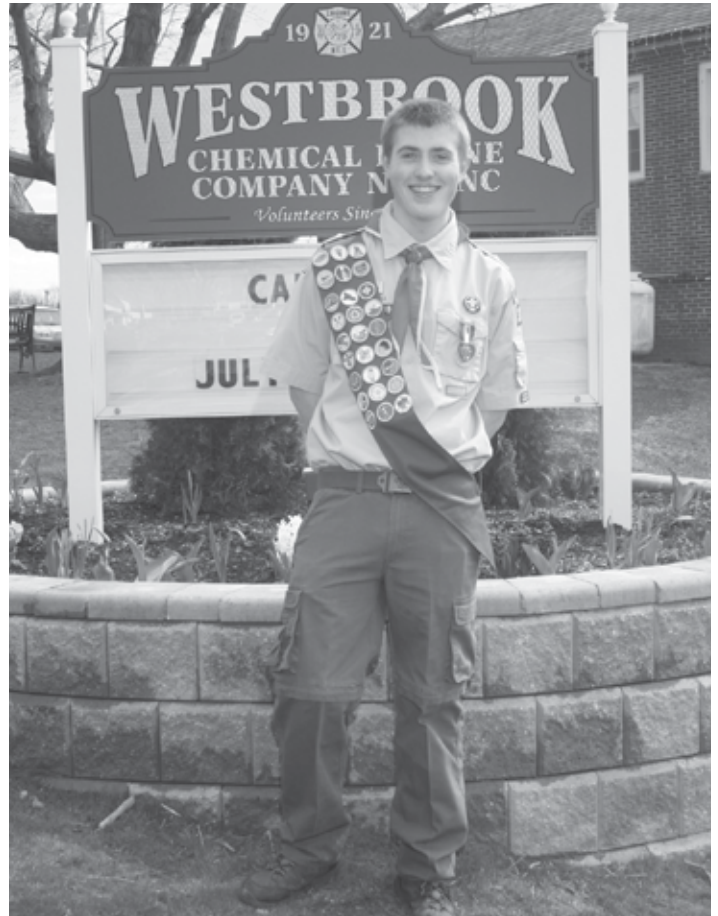
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Andrew Spencer Clark was recognized in the spring for completing all the requirements for Eagle Scout, the highest rank in Boy Scouts. His service project was to build the wall around the Fire Department sign and to plant a garden. There are many requirements in order to attain the Eagle rank, including 21 merit badges; many of them are specific for the rank of Eagle. Andrew joins several family members who are also Eagle Scouts; his older brother Devon and two cousins, Danny and Sean Spencer.



CLINTON: Lovely, well kept two-bedroom ranch with open floor plan. New kitchen with sky lights, wainscoating and pantry. Master bedroom with spa bath and balcony. Outside gazebo, deck, and pool are perfect for summer living. MLS 0143550 Asking \$280,000.

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Running to Fight Hunger

After escaping from communist Cuba, my family had to rely temporarily on community soup kitchens to make ends meet. Those soup kitchens helped to get my family through a difficult period in their lives. I was brought up recognizing the value that our soup kitchens and pantries provide to people in need.

The Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries provides approximately 900,000 meals each year, serving residents of Essex, Chester, Clinton, Madison, Old Saybrook, East Lyme, Lyme, Old Lyme, Killingworth, Westbrook and Deep River. As we all know, the price of everything from gasoline to food to heating our homes has gone up. It all has a major impact for families on fixed incomes, our senior citizens and those who are unemployed.

On October 12, I was proud to run in the Hartford Marathon to raise money for this great cause. With help from many of you, we raised more than \$3,300, and that money will get stretched very far to help families in our region.

This holiday season and throughout the year, please consider donating either money or time to help Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries. Call 860-388-1988 to help. No one should go hungry. Together, we can stem this growing crisis.



Art Linares is State Senator for the 33rd Senate District, which encompasses the towns of Chester, Clinton, Colchester, Deep River, East Haddam, East Hampton, Essex, Haddam, Lyme, Old Saybrook, Portland, and Westbrook. On the web: www.senatorlinares.com.

Senator Art Linares



Westbrook Youth & Family Services

www.WYFS.org

Programming. WYFS wants YOU to Look for the Good. We invite each of you to share what makes you grateful. Write or draw on a 4x6 postcard and send to WYFS at PO Box 918, Westbrook. Postcards will be displayed at the Senior Center in 2014, so come see what makes your friends and neighbors grateful!

We are delighted to lead several peer groups at Westbrook schools that are designed to teach children social and emotional skills, foster connection, and support children through family transition. A new 8th grade Girls Circle on self esteem and relationships is launching, as well as new high school groups focusing on healthy relationships, leadership, and stress reduction techniques.

Holiday Toast Fundraiser. WYFS annual fundraiser is tentatively scheduled for December 5 and features a wine and spirit tasting, delicious hors d'oeuvres from local restaurants, and raffles. Join us for what is always a special and celebratory seasonal event!

Seasonal Giving Programs Underway. Please consider sponsoring a family for Holiday Giving or if you are the one in need of a helping hand, please contact us.

Thank You! Jon Lorensen of Westbrook Honda. Mr. Lorensen has been a longtime friend of Westbrook Youth and Family through generous donations and enthusiastic support of our work and this community. We are fortunate to have his support!

Counseling Services. Westbrook Youth and Family Services 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. Services are offered on a sliding-scale fee basis or state insurance is accepted. Please call Macdara MacColl at 860-399-9239 to set up an appointment.

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Estuary Council

ESTUARY COUNCIL OF SENIORS, INC. has been serving seniors in the nine-town Estuary region for 38 years. Call us to receive our *Gazette Newsletter* or go to www.ecsenior.org for our online newsletter, events calendar, menu, and more.

MEALS ON WHEELS – hot meals delivered to your home. Call Peg at 860-388-1611. A \$3.00 donation request for those aged 60+. Meals are supported by Senior Resources Agency on Aging with Title III funds available under the Older Americans Act.

CAFÉ MEAL SITES - Clinton, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Westbrook (Thursdays). Reservations required by calling 860-388-1611 by 11 am, 24 hours in advance.

STAN GREIMANN ESTUARY MEDICAL OUTPATIENT TRANSPORTATION. For medical appointments to any medical location beyond the nine-town estuary region. Suggested donation of \$35 for a roundtrip Doctor appointment up to 5 hours. Suggested donation of \$70 for appointments over 5 hours. Local service is now available every Wednesday from 9 am to 1 pm for a charge of \$10 per roundtrip. Call Judy at 860-388-1611.

BENEFIT COUNSELING – Old Saybrook. Benefits counselor now onsite on Thursdays by appointment. Assistance with Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. Call 860-388-1611 for appointment.

CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES: Board Games, Billiards, Ping Pong, Yoga, Exercise Classes, Mah Jongg, Wii, Cribbage, Writer's Group, Book Club, Quilter's Group, Needlecrafters, Hand and Foot, and more! Check the Gazette for all of our programs.

ESTUARY THRIFT SHOP: Open 10 am - 3:45 pm, Monday - Friday; and from 9 am - 12:45 pm on Saturdays. Clothes (men, women, and children), kitchen items, crafts, and more available. Donations are accepted and volunteers always needed.

THE MARSHVIEW GALLERY AT THE ESTUARY: Open daily 8 am - 4 pm, and from 9 am - 1 pm Saturdays. The art on exhibit changes monthly and highlights the talents of local artists from along the shoreline. The artists donate a portion of their art sales to the Estuary Council of Seniors. An artist's reception is held the second Friday of each month from 5 - 7 pm. Refreshments are served, and a door prize is drawn each month. All ages are welcome. Call 860-388-1611 for information.

DONATE YOUR CAR OR BOAT TO THE ESTUARY COUNCIL - Turn your car or boat into a tax deduction by calling: 1-800-716-5868. Proceeds benefit the vital services we provide for seniors in the nine-town Estuary Region.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: Call Judy at 860-388-1611.

Registrar of Voters

The Registrar of Voters Office is open each Tuesday from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm and Thursday from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. The Registrars are also in the office at other undesignated times or by appointment. If you would like to speak to the Registrars, you can call the office to set up an appointment. The phone number is 860-399-3042. Any Westbrook resident may register to vote if he/she is at least 17 years of age and will be 18 on or before the next Election, is a citizen of the United States, and is not a disfranchised felon. Applications to register may be obtained from the Registrar's or Town Clerk's Office. Once the application is filled out, place it in the mail box outside of the Registrar's Office or mail it in. The application will be processed by the Registrar and the registered voting will receive a confirmation of registration through the mail. Keep this document as your receipt. Anyone who is currently a registered voter and has had a change of name, address, or would like to make a change concerning party affiliation, please update the information on a new application and follow the process above. It is important that all eligible voters exercise his/her right to vote. Your vote can make a difference.

Registrars – Mary Labbadia and Nancy Moore

Westbrook Recreation Department

Fall and Winter Preview!

This Fall has been very busy with registrations and attendance in all our programs. From Tots to Seniors, we have programs that will interest everyone. K-4 Karate has children doing this program twice a week after school at the Daisy Elementary School. We presently have 16 boys and girls enjoying this Monday and Wednesday after school program. Archery also was full for the twelfth year in a row.

Soccer also has had a large number of children keeping very busy this fall. We had 71 children registered between both our Tot and Recreation Soccer programs. Our new program for this fall is Youth Badminton. This program is both challenging and lots of fun! Youth Badminton starts on November 16th, at the Daisy Elementary School. Give us a call if you still wish to register for any of these programs. Remember that we now accept Master Card, Visa and Discover, so you may register over the phone.

Our Middle School, After School Program has been growing since the start of the school year. Parents can now have their child in a safe and supervised environment while they are at work or running errands. Your child can register anytime for less than \$ 10.00 a day. This rate is for everyone that signs up for the whole month. Different rates apply to children doing only single days.

Our Belly Dancing, Yoga, Zumba, Aerobics and Pilate's classes are still very popular with all the adults and seniors on the shoreline. Pilate's and Aerobics are done twice a week at the Mulvey Center. You can sign up for one night or both classes and make up classes you may miss (for people only doing one class each week). Our Aerobics classes are the best kept secret on the shoreline. Our two certified instructors will help you reach your fitness goals in a fun and challenging atmosphere. Come on down and register for these highly effective and affordable programs.

Our Youth Winter Basketball programs officially start on January 4, 2014. All children from Kindergarten to 8th grade should register as soon as possible for their specific Basketball program. We use Westbrook Middle School gym along with the Daisy gym to provide quality basketball instruction for your child. Each site provides age appropriate instruction and games essential to learning basketball fundamentals. Sign up as soon as possible so we can prepare for the season!

Winter Floor Hockey will start on March 1st and run through April 12th. Floor Hockey is a fast moving, safe and fun sport for both girls and boys. This program has convinced many children to make the jump to local Youth Ice Hockey and Field Hockey teams. We have Tot Floor Hockey for children 3 to 6 years old and other Floor Hockey classes for children all the way to 13 years old. Please call for the time when your 1st – 6th grader will be playing. Don't miss out on all the fun!

Men and women are encouraged to try our Adult Volleyball and Basketball programs. These programs are drop-in only and different teams are made each week. It's good exercise, lots of fun and very popular this winter. Give us a call if you



Youth Winter Basketball programs officially start on January 4, 2014.

need more information?

We will again be helping Santa with our "Letters to Santa" program.

Last year we had well over 119 children participate from four different shoreline towns. Special mailboxes will be at Daisy, the Westbrook Library and the Town Hall. Children can write to Santa and mail their letters to the North Pole (Don't forget a return address!). Santa will send back his letter responding personally to your child. Please help your child with constructing these letters. We don't wish to tell any child that they are getting a present and have them not receive it for Christmas. Call us if you have any questions?

The Westbrook Recreation Board and Staff members wish all the Westbrook residents a safe, happy and fun Holiday Season! Please register for your Winter programs as soon as possible to avoid missing out on all the fun. Call 1-860-399-3095 to receive a Winter brochure, and find out why people are saying "Westbrook Recreation has programs for everyone!"

The Westbrook Recreation Board

Town Garage:

185 Horse Hill Road, Exit 64

860-399-6891

Westbrook Citizens Work Together to Create New Spots



It takes a family of organizations to beautify Westbrook one spot at a time. The Westbrook Garden Club, Ali Shlien, and Jeff Gordon have adopted spots which were aided by the efforts of others. Thanks go to The Westbrook Foundation, Westbrook Public Works, Explorer Scouts, and Grove Gardens for helping them create their spots.

The Westbrook Garden Club has planted a mixed shrub garden around the gazebo on the green. Members Cathy Curt, Carolyn Fish, Mindy Gordon, and Dee Mozzochi worked together to develop the design and oversee the installation.

They set a new benchmark by enhancing their plan with hard-scape materials for edging and paving. Other garden club members will pitch in for future maintenance of this spot. This project is a great story of the power of various organizations supporting each other. Many thanks go to the Boy Scouts who built the gazebo and maintain the structure, The Westbrook Foundation for a grant enabling the beautiful garden work, the Westbrook Garden Club for donating additional funds and spring bulbs, the Westbrook Public Works Department for paving preparation, and Grove Gardens for donating some of their work.

Ali Shlien, a summer resident who recently became a year round resident, has adopted the planter surrounding the fire-house information sign. She added shade loving plants that will enhance this planter that was built by Explorer Scout Andrew Clark.

Jeff Gordon has adopted a small piece of town property near the corner of Old Clinton Road and the Boston Post Road. Westbrook Public Works supported him by building berms for his plantings. Jeff will add plants over the next three years so this corner will be pleasing for drivers passing by. Thanks go to Jeff and the town employees who helped him.

It's always a good time to adopt a spot. You can contact Deborah Rie at 860-399-0664 or deborahrie@sbcglobal.net; or, you can find an application, guidelines and a list of available spots at www.westbrookct.us.

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Save the Date

Tree Lighting

Sunday, December 8th

Town Green, 4:00 pm

Old Saybrook/Westbrook Exchange Club Membership Drive

The Exchange Club, also known as America's Service Club, is seeking new members. Whether you reside or work in either of the two towns, you are invited to contact us to discuss what activities we are involved with in both communities.

Our national cause is prevention of child abuse. Here in Connecticut, our clubs throughout the state support four safe houses for families in need.

Locally, we strive to make our communities better places to live through programs of service in Americanism, community services and youth activities. Examples of these programs include the flags on Main Street in Old Saybrook, handing out 2,000 American flags to children at the Old Saybrook Memorial Day Parade, honoring firemen of the year in both towns and policeman of the year in Old Saybrook. Every year, we offer scholarships to a high school senior in each of

the towns. In addition to these activities, we support many other organizations including the Youth and Family Services in both towns.

The club becomes a real team when raising funds to support our many interests. The two principal fund raisers include a wine tasting at the Elks Club in Westbrook and a road race through the North Cove area of Old Saybrook.

Joining the Exchange Club is a great way to "give back" to your communities. It will also enable you to expand your acquaintances throughout our towns.

Our dinner Meetings are held on the first and third Wednesdays at Luigi's. If you are interested in attending one and learning more about our club, please call our President, Bernadette Jones, at (860)767-4414 or you can email her at bajones@snet.net.

From the Desk of the Animal Control Officer...

We are pleased to announce that we are now sharing a newly renovated regional shelter with the Town of Clinton. The shelter is located at the public works facility on 115 Nod Road, Clinton. If your dog has been impounded you will still need to call the Animal Control Officer first as this facility is not open to the public daily. I handle all domestic animal complaints and some situations regarding wildlife.

As of October 1st, our town beach is open for dogs, allowing them on the beach. All dog owners must have control of their dogs and must clean up after the dog's bathroom breaks. Keep in mind how your dog reacts to other dogs. On May 1, 2014 the dogs are prohibited during the summer months. This includes night time walks. There is now a Town ordinance and it will be enforced.

With the colder weather approaching, I would like to take this opportunity to remind pet owners of the dangers of

leaving a pet outdoors for too long. Our pets can suffer the ill effects of hypothermia and frostbite just like us. If your pet must be left outdoors in the winter, you must provide proper shelter and drinking water that is not frozen. Leaving a pet outdoors for longer than 6 hours in extreme winter weather even with shelter is unwise. When walking your dog along the winter roads, please keep in mind of the salt and ice-melting chemicals. These chemicals can burn the pads of your pet's feet. Walks should be limited in frigid weather conditions. If there are any questions or concerns about your pets health and safety, please contact animal control or your veterinarian.

I'm on call for emergencies 24/7. If you have lost a dog or have found a dog please call me at 860-790-1075. It is a pleasure serving the Town of Westbrook.

Sandra J. Bannon, ACO

A Message from the Open Burning Official

Fall is upon us once again and the urge to burn leaves runs through our minds. **Leaves are not permitted to be burned, per the Department of Energy Environmental Protection.**

The burning of brush however is permitted if certain criteria are met. If you have a pile of brush that you would like to burn, contact the "Open Burning Official" and I will meet with you to see if it is safe to burn in your location. Please call 860-399-3040 ext 149.

Bonn fires and campfires are permitted for "ceremonial" purposes only. They should be contained in a stone, concrete block or sunken area away from any dwellings of wooded area. The fire department has been called out to several Bonn fires that were started with an accelerant and caused flames to reach 10' to 15' into the air. This is a dangerous and illegal method of starting a fire and someone could be injured in the

process. Please note that building materials and wooden pallets are not allowed in the use of Bonn fires. Some paper and dry kindling should work well if you plan ahead for your fire.

NO BURNING OF ANY KIND IS ALLOWED DURING "HIGH, VERY HIGH or EXTREME BURNING INDEX.

You can go on the Department of Environmental Protection's web site to check "forest fire danger." <http://www.ct.gov/dep/site/default.asp>.

You may call the "Opening Burning Official" for advice and to let me know that you will be having a Bonn fire at your location.

Have a safe Fall!

Loren E. Baker, Jr., Open Burning Official

Off To A Good Start for Business

A volunteer organization seeking to assist start-up entrepreneurs and nonprofits has formed in the Lower River Valley. The Old Lyme-based Mentoring Corps for Community Development (MCCD) provides experienced volunteer “mentors” to aid entrepreneurs and non-profit organizations in start-ups, and turnarounds. The focus of the Mentoring Corps is to improve company operations, efficiency, effectiveness, and performance. The work of this community-minded group is pro bono.

Originally conceived to assist students with their careers and to help victims of natural disasters with economic issues, the Mentoring Corps for Community Development (MCCD) of Old Lyme was formed in 2012. MCCD’s roots are grounded in addressing basic needs in the local community.

One of MCCD’s first and most challenging efforts was to aid those whose lives were disrupted and whose homes were damaged or destroyed by tropical storm Sandy in the fall of 2012. Focusing on the urgent needs of individuals and families who sustained devastating damage to property during this super storm, MCCD identified the sources of appropriate financial, technical and social assistance. Since then, the Mentoring Corp has assisted other families and individuals with acute financial needs.

Recently, the International Executive Service Corps (IESC), headquartered in Washington, DC, and the Mentoring Corps for Community Development (MCCD), headquartered in Old Lyme, have announced an agreement to collaborate in assigning



volunteer experts to provide consulting services to businesses and other organizations in Connecticut and nearby states.

MCCD’s volunteer mentors are available to offer assistance to businesses within the region, and may be contacted by email (rhsusa@gmail.com), or phone: (860-671-1634).

State Representative Marilyn Giuliano

Marilyn Giuliano represents Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook and Westbrook in the Connecticut General Assembly.

Orange Button Campaign



Join the Feed and Stay Informed!

In an effort to keep parents and the public better informed about events and happenings in our schools, the Westbrook Board Of Education Communications Committee would like to invite all interested parties to take advantage of our district’s RSS Feeds. We hope you will join us in our effort to bring our community together!

What is RSS?

An RSS Feed is a way to be notified automatically when a favorite website has been updated with new information. This means that instead of having to actively check websites for important updates, the sites you subscribe to will automatically send any new information straight to you — no need to waste time navigating to multiple sites on the internet!

What information will I get?

- Current events or important news from our schools
- Agendas for Board of Education Meetings

- Communications from our Superintendent

How does it work?

The only ‘tool’ that is needed is an RSS Feed Reader (often called an Aggregator). Many email services have built in Feed Readers for their clients, but if this is not the case, you can easily download a reader — find out how on our website <http://www2.westbrookctschools.org/subsite/dist/page/rss-subscription-43904>.

How do I subscribe?

To become a subscriber just look for the orange RSS con in any (or all) of the News and Announcements sections of our district’s websites — each of our schools and the district home page has its own feed, subscribe to them to get news from the schools and from the Board of Education. Follow the simple directions and start feeling connected!

For any questions please contact Ben Russell at rss@westbrookctschools.org

Westbrook Senior Center

ATTENTION ALL VETERAN'S: As of October 1st, the State of Connecticut adopted significant legislation in establishing a Veterans' Service Contact person for every municipality. On November 12th, the Senior Center introduced the Town of Westbrook's Veteran's Contact person John Johl at our annual Veterans Day breakfast. Mr. Johl will have established hours at the Senior Center. Please call 860-399-2029 for dates and times. The Senior Center Management Committee will sponsor a Christmas Bazaar that will be held on December 5th from 9:30 am-6:00 pm. The Bazaar will include indoor tag sale, hand-made crafts, and baked goods. Finally, we invite you to **our Christmas luncheon** which will be held on **December 18th from 11:30 am-1:30 pm**. Join us for Christmas Carols, raffles, and Santa! **Please RSVP to 860-399-3048 by December 10th.**

The goal of the Westbrook Senior Center is to improve the quality of life for the Senior citizens of Westbrook and our neighboring shoreline towns. The senior center welcomes citizens 60 years of age or older to participate in our many daily activities directed by staff and volunteers. The goal of these



programs is to promote the physical and mental well-being of our senior community. To see our scheduled calendar of events and upcoming special events, please come down to the center Monday-Friday. Or check us out on the web@ www.westbrookct.us. We look forward to seeing you.

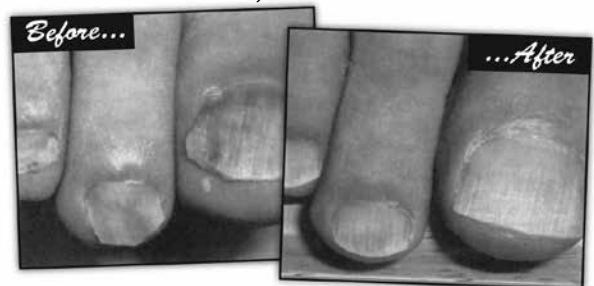
Courtney Burks, Director

Kiducation



Now there is a way to do good while you clean your closets. Bring all your used clothing, shoes, and accessories and place them in the Kiducation bin located in the parking lot of the tennis courts near the Westbrook Middle School. You can even donate books! Kiducation is a non-profit organization that gives a portion of the money earned from the donations, back to the community. This particular box supports the Westbrook Middle School PTO and all the wonderful programs it brings to the students. Stop by on your way to the transfer station. Then go online to download a receipt for your tax deductible donation: <http://kiducation.org/index.php/tax-receipts/printable-tax-receipts>. The Middle School thanks you, and the students thank you.

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SALT ISLAND: A Destination for Birds and People

Salt Island, the smallest and most eastern of Westbrook's three barrier islands, is owned by the Town of Westbrook and was recently designated as open space with the Conservation Commission assigned management responsibility.

Salt Island can be viewed and easily accessed from the town's Middle Beach at the end of Salt Island Road; you can easily walk to the island at most low tides. In the late 1800s, salt and fish oil were produced on the island. Sailing ships loaded and unloaded here; goods were carted at low tide to and from the main land. Salt Island was described as the heart of trade and commerce for the town. Remnants of these past industries are still attached to the Island's rocky framework, providing a "historic" incentive for protection and restoration.

Today Salt Island is an attractive destination for shore birds to forage, nest and reproduce. It is also a unique attraction for residents and visitors to explore and discover marine creatures and their habitats. At peak vacation times, which correspond to peak nesting periods, up to 50 adult and children vacationers have been counted exploring the Island. As one might expect the convergence of people and birds with different habitat interests can lead to conflicts. The Conservation Commission's daunting goal is to conserve, preserve and restore Salt Island for birds and people: We will need your help.

Salt Island's mostly rocky framework has a small beach on the mainland side, easily accessible to kayaks and small boats at low tide. At the highest point there is a small plateau of grasses, poison ivy and shrubs with enough scarce habitat



for nesting terns. In 2013, for the first time a pair of Oyster Catchers nested and fledged 2 chicks. This year Audubon CT put up signs warning about the nesting site and erected string fencing around the grassy plateau to deter visitors from trampling nests; these protection tactics were only partially successful. A more focused on-site educational program is being developed for next summer.

If you would like to help make Salt Island a compatible destination for birds and people please email the Conservation Commission at; todell@snet.net. Thank You!

Running Bamboo—A Problem for Backyards and Natural Areas

Passage this year of Public Act 13-82, An Act Regulating the Planting and Sale of Running Bamboo is a warning of the potential for running bamboo to become an expensive management concern for home owners and municipal agencies responsible for managing parks, forests, and other designated open space lands.

Legislative testimony during public hearing for P.A. 13-82 indicate that while running bamboo does not meet the criteria for inclusion on CT's Invasive Plant Council's (IPC) invasive plant list it may grow aggressively and spread from its original planting site, cross property boundaries, and establish in neighboring yards, managed landscapes and forested sites. Once established, these populations frequently cause property damage and can be difficult and costly to control or remove.

Testimony supporting regulation of planting and sale of running bamboo (P.A. 13-82) indicates that the species of most concern in Connecticut is *Phyllostachys aurea*, golden bamboo, the most common and aggressive bamboo species. In a July 21, 2011 letter printed in the 2011 Annual Report, of the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group, www.cipwg.uconn.edu/bamboo, Jeffery S. Ward, Chief Scientist, Forestry

and Horticulture, CT Agriculture Experiment Station, warns that golden bamboo can cause localized severe impacts to disturbed forests and riparian habitats and may be able to colonize riparian areas if rhizome fragments are washed out during storms and deposited downstream.

The Westbrook Conservation Commission is concerned that running bamboo may become another invasive-like plant that will overwhelm native plants requiring annual control in Westbrook's dedicated Open Space Lands. We urge you to find out more about this plant before planting in your yard. For more information use the link to CIPWG, noted above, or ask at your favorite garden center.

For town updates & information:

www.westbrookct.us

From the Nurses' Corner...

On Thursday, October 3, 2013, the Westbrook Visiting Nurses and the Westbrook Senior Center participated in a health and wellness fair for seniors and their families, hosted by Senator Art Linares at The Estuary Council's Senior Service Day in Old Saybrook. Noreen Saunders, our staff physical therapist, Carol Parham, our occupational therapist, and Courtney Burks from the Senior Center teamed up to discuss the services both of these town departments offer.

Noreen performed balance testing and provided home safety recommendations while Carol, also a message therapist, offered free messages to those in attendance.

Recyclable bags and stress balls imprinted with both agencies' logos were also handed out. In addition, the visiting nurse's office raffled off a free, \$25 value, foot care clinic appointment. We are pleased to report that the raffle was won by a Westbrook resident.

Our services were warmly received by all the seniors who participated. Thank you to everyone who made this event so successful.



L to R: Courtney Burks, Carol Parham and Noreen Saunders.

If you have any questions concerning our homecare or community programs offered, we'd love to hear from you. Please feel free to call us at (860) 399-3088.

Deborah Lovelette, RN, CHCE, Administrator

Community Support Award to the Westbrook Public Library

The Westbrook Public Library was established in 1895. Over the years, the Library has evolved into an expanded and updated facility and is located on Goodspeed Drive in Westbrook. The Westbrook Public Library is within walking distance to Vista's Westbrook campus and is regularly frequented by our students and members.

The mission of the Westbrook Public Library states, "To support and enhance the Community's pursuit of knowledge and enjoyment by providing a balanced collection of Library materials and information services for all ages." These words ring true and the Westbrook Public Library has welcomed our students and members to explore all the services they offer.

Whether it is requiring assistance to utilize a computer, the interlibrary loan system or seeking advice on videos, their knowledge and support has been an invaluable community teaching tool. They have facilitated a positive community relationship with Vista. In addition to their informational and technical support, the staff at the Westbrook Public Library has also demonstrated a commendable understanding and respect of our students and members in a positive learning environment. The Westbrook Public Library has been a respected and supportive community partner with Vista and in the words of the Library Director, Lew Daniels, "We're just happy to help."

News from the Westbrook Public Library

While the library continues to offer all the traditional services you expect, more resources and services are available to the public online. Ancestry.com is available on the library's computers. This free service offers access to the wide variety of material offered at this genealogical treasure trove.

With a visit to the library website – westbrooklibrary.lioninc.org – Westbrook library cardholders can use World Book Encyclopedia resources at home as well as in the library, or Job Now to get assistance writing a resume or taking the GED and Citizenship tests. Downloadable books (e-books), audiobooks, and magazines are also offered through the library online catalog accessible at the website or lioninc.org.

E-books and audiobooks are available through the Overdrive service. Just click on the Overdrive button at the

top right of the main page. E-magazines are provided by a service called Zinio. Just click on the Zinio button next to the Overdrive button at the top right corner of the page. All of these resources are free of charge.

A new generator has been installed at the library. This will allow the building to continue to have electricity during power disruptions so that the library can be open with full services. The building will also be able to serve as a secondary emergency operations center or provide town office space if necessary. The library thanks Town Facility Manager Loren Baker for managing this project and bringing it to completion and the Selectmen, Board of Finance, and people of the Town of Westbrook for making it possible.

Governor Malloy: Homeowners Can Apply Online for Storm Sandy Relief Funds

Governor Dannel P. Malloy announced homeowners impacted by Superstorm Sandy can now apply for federal relief funds online at the state's CT Recovers website. In July, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) approved Connecticut's action plan for disbursing \$71.82 million, through HUD's Community Development Block Grant Program, to help residents, businesses and communities recover and rebuild after Storm Sandy. The state Department of Housing (DOH) has allocated \$30 million in federal funding for the Owner Occupied Rehabilitation and Rebuilding Program to support efforts to rebuild and renovate homes while also addressing needs to prepare for future storms.

"Superstorm Sandy caused serious damage to more than 38,000 residential structures across the state. Too many homeowners, especially those living along the coastline, are still reeling from the storm's devastating impact," said Governor Malloy. "This federal assistance will go a long way towards offsetting the costs of rebuilding and mitigating such destruction in the future so displaced residents can go home and get their lives back in order. We appreciate the continued support of President Obama, Secretary Donovan and the entire congressional delegation during our Sandy recovery efforts."

The Owner Occupied Rehabilitation and Rebuilding Program, administered by DOH, is funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program. It is open to residents in Fairfield, New London, New Haven, and Middlesex counties and the Mashantucket Pequot tribal area. Superstorm Sandy brought high winds, rain, and storm surge to coastal areas of Connecticut, resulting in widespread wind and flood damage to homes, businesses, infrastructure, and public facilities. Many dwellings were rendered uninhabitable and a large number of residents still cannot return to their homes.

Assistance ranging from \$10,000 to \$150,000 is available to replace and rehabilitate homes, implement mitigation measures, and to make homes more resilient to future storm damage. Eligible expenses are those not covered by insurance, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or any other sources of funding. Specific work that is eligible includes:

- Structural repair or replacement of damaged property;
- Cost effective energy measures and improvements needed to meet HUD Section 8 Existing Housing Quality Standards;
- Lead-based paint abatement, asbestos abatement, hand-capped accessibility for special needs;
- Mitigation assistance to elevate homes and/or reduce the risk for future disasters; and
- Appliances — stoves and refrigerators are eligible items but will be considered on a case-by-case basis if they are not present at the time of rehabilitation.

"The Department of Housing will open intake centers in the four eligible counties in the next month to assist homeowners in the application process," said Evonne Klein, commissioner of DOH. "However, we know the need for these funds is critical. In the meantime, people can go to the state's recovery website or the housing department's site and start the application process immediately."

To access the application, details on how to apply for this funding and additional information on resources available for residents, businesses and municipalities following natural disasters and other emergencies, please visit the state's official CT Recovers website at <http://ctrecovers.ct.gov>.

The completed application form should be saved and emailed with all supporting documentation as a PDF attachment in one message to sandy.rehab@ct.gov. After submitting, applicants will be contacted by a housing recovery specialist who will work with you throughout the construction process.



Pictured above: Loren Baker, Facilities Director, Lew Daniels, Library Director, Ray Zelek, Zelek Electric. Photo provided by Noel Bishop.

Our New Generator

A new generator has been installed at the Westbrook Public Library. During a power failure, the public will now be able to come to the library and charge their cell phone, go on line and get e-mail and conduct other business. The building will also become a back-up center for Emergency Operations.

Want to Advertise?

Call Ward Feirer at (914) 806-5500

Friends of Westbrook Barrier Islands

The Friends of the Westbrook Barrier Islands are dedicated to promote the preservation, restoration, education and recreation opportunities of these unique islands and harbor of Westbrook, Connecticut while balancing the use of people with the protection of the wildlife.

Our goals are :

1. Develop a Communication/Marketing Plan
 - a. Benefits of the Islands
 - b. Inventory of Birds
 - c. Economic Impact on the Town of Westbrook
 - d. Establish and Manage Facebook Site
2. Develop Funding Sources
 - a. Restoration of the Islands
3. Coordinate current different regulations for Duck Island (CT DEEP), Menenketeesuk (USFWS) and Salt Island (Town of Westbrook)
4. Establish policy and procedures to allow island visits during summer season while conserving wildlife habitat.



Photo: Dunlin-breeding. Courtesy Patrick Comins.

5. Establish Islands as an environmental open classroom.

The Friends of Westbrook Barrier Islands meet monthly on the third Wednesday at the Stuart McKinney Wildlife Preserve offices. For more information, or to join our efforts, please contact Rick Potvin at the Stewart McKinney Wildlife refuge at (860) 399-2513, or John Rie at jrie06@yahoo.com.

Spencer-Doane Farm

One of this year's additions to Westbrook's small, but vital, agricultural economy is Spencer-Doane Farm. Spencer-Doane Farm, located at 316 Essex Road, grows nutrient dense food following sustainable environmental practices. These practices include companion planting, integrated pest management, and the selection of non-GMO varieties best suited for our New England climate.

Preservation and education are missions of Spencer-Doane Farm. The historic Joseph Spencer house (circa 1742), with its beautiful stonewalls, is a reminder of Westbrook's colonial beginnings. Standing among the fruits and vegetables, with busy bees, ladybugs, and dragonflies on the job keeping the plants safe and healthy, one forgets that you are next to Interstate 95. The farmers of Spencer-Doane Farm welcome questions about the varieties grown, sustainable growing practices, and the agricultural history of the property. Stop by and say hello, try a freshly picked fruit or vegetable, and share your food growing experiences.



Spencer-Doane Farm is open weekdays during Spring and Fall from 4 pm to 6 pm; weekends 9 am to 6 pm. Open daily during Summer from 9 am to 6 pm. More information about Spencer-Doane Farm can be found on our Facebook page.

Happy Holidays from *Events Magazines!*

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Haddam Foot Care Specialist

King Family Eye Care

Riggio's Garden Center

Window Products

Town Hall Closed

**November 28th - 29th,
Thanksgiving Holiday**

December 25th, Christmas Day

January 1, New Years Day

January 20th, Martin Luther King Day

Senior Travel

**DECEMBER 4 – Christmas with Kenny & Dolly
at Hukelau (MA) Bright Lights (Forest Park)**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT
LUCILE SPANILO (860) 399-6065**

Recycling Information

ACCEPTABLE RECYCLING ITEMS AT TRANSFER STATION

CARDBOARD (MUST BE IN 3FT LENGTHS, FLAT & BUNDLED)
NEWSPAPER & INSERTS
MAGAZINES, BROCHURES, JUNK MAIL, CATALOGS
PAPER BAGS
PAPER BOXES (CEREAL, EGG CARTONS)
PHONE BOOKS
HARD & SOFT COVER BOOKS
WHITE & COLOR PAPER ENVELOPES (WINDOW OK)

FILE FOLDERS
SCHOOL PAPER
SHREDDED PAPER (IN PAPER BAG)
MULTI 3 PLY PAPER
WHITE, GREEN & BROWN GLASS BOTTLES
TIN CANS & ALUMINUM CANS
ALL PLASTICS #1 TO #7
EMPTY AEROSOL CANS

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS FOR RECYCLING AT TRANSFER STATION

NO GARBAGE OR FOOD WASTE
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NO CERAMICS OR LIGHTBULBS
NO USED PAPER PLATES, NAPKINS OR TOWELS
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NO ELECTRONICS, BATTERIES, CD'S OR DVD'S

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NO WIRE OR PLASTIC HANGERS
NO POTS OR PANS
NO YARD WASTE OR GARDEN TOOLS
NO CAT LITTER OR HAIR

From the Town Clerk

NEW! State Land Shotgun Deer Hunting: The state land deer lottery selection process closed on August 31. Starting September 15th any unsold lottery permits will be available on a first-come-first-served basis to hunters who have not yet purchased a state land shotgun deer permit. These permits can be purchased on-line or at DEEP Offices.

NEW! Proposed hunting and trapping regulations were approved on August 27. The new regulations will be effective for the upcoming fall seasons. Changes included: legalizing crossbows for all archery hunters, expansion of youth hunter training opportunities, use of muzzleloaders as a lesser weapon, fluorescent orange exemption for coyote/fox hunters, adjustments to the crow season dates and establishing seasons, bag limits and other restrictions regarding the take of snapping turtles.

NEW! Hunting and Connecticut's Gun laws: Common questions and answers about how Connecticut's new gun laws may affect hunters.

There are a number of important changes to existing hunting and trapping regulations that were approved by the Legislative Regulations Review Committee on August 27. The regulations will be effective before the start of the fall 2013 hunting seasons. Among the approved changes are the following:

- Allow all hunters to use crossbows for all seasons and species. Remove obsolete arrow weight specifications, maximum draw weight and change definition of loaded crossbow.

- Allow the use of muzzleloaders during the shotgun/rifle deer season on state and private lands.
- Increase the number of youth deer and turkey hunting days from two days to seven days (Saturday to Saturday). Define the level of supervision required by mentors.
- Provide an exemption from hunter orange for coyote/fox hunters when hunting from a blind except during the firearms deer and fall turkey seasons.
- Allow the use of dogs for hunting turkeys in the fall on private land.
- Changes to season for hunting crows (August 10 – November 30 on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday only AND January 11 – March 29)
- Change methods for tagging birds taken at field dog trials, shooting preserves and dog training events.
- Shorten by one week the two-week closure prior to opening day of small game. Allow coyote hunting during the closure.
- Provide internet or telephone reporting for coyote/fox harvest by hunters.
- Allow use of replacement deer tags on certain state lands.
- Establish seasons, bag/size limits and other restrictions for the taking of snapping turtles.

Additional details are available on the DEEP website main "hunting and Trapping" page at http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2700&Q=323414&deepNav_GID=1633.

Sparkling Wines for the Holidays

Fall is upon us and the holidays are right around the corner. Sparkling wines are a great way to give a little "pop" to your celebrations. Whether it be a family gathering or a little brunch with friends, sparkling wines are always a light and refreshing beverage alternative.

Champagne is the most widely known sparkling wine which is grown and produced in France in the Champagne region. There are many other sparkling wines from all over the world but they are only considered true Champagne if they come from this region. The grapes used to produce these sparkling wines are Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier. Varieties of champagne are: Blanc de Blanc, which is made of strictly Chardonnay grapes; Blanc de Noir, which is a blend of Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier; and Rose, which is typically one of the driest and best Champagnes. Rose Champagne has a small amount of still Pinot noir added to give the beautiful salmon color to the wine. Some sparkling wines are made in the same method as that of Champagne, and using the same grapes, these wines are labeled 'Methode Champenoise.'

Sparkling wine comes in a wide range of taste from bone-dry to sweet and floral flavors. The finishing process in which the wine is made determines this. As sediment collects on the cork, it is removed by placing the neck of the bottle in a freezing brine solution, which results in the sediment popping out under pressure when the bottle is opened. This 'clears' the

wine and in-turn leaves a space in the bottle which is filled with a dose of sugar solution. The percentage of sugar solution added determines how the bottle will be labeled. From driest to sweetest they are labeled; Natural, Brut, Extra Dry, Sec, Demi Sec and the sweetest is Doux (which is not carried much in the US).

In Italy, Asti and Prosecco are the two most popular sparkling wines. Asti Spumante is sweet and bubbly having been produced using Moscato Bianco grapes. The Prosecco grape produces a sparkling wine that lacks the sweetness of an Asti yet is not as dry as Champagne. Prosecco has quickly become one of the most popular sparkling wines on the market with its shopper friendly price tag and its approachability on the palate. Ranging from Brut to Extra Dry, Prosecco can be enjoyed with a wide variety of dishes or simply as an aperitif, or with dessert.

To jazz up your sparkling wines you can make a range of popular bubbly drinks. Add a touch of peach nectar to your Prosecco for a Bellini, a classic Italian favorite. Or perhaps you are in the mood for a Kir Royal, adding cassis to your Champagne. Orange Juice is a traditional American Brunch favorite to add to your sparkling wine. Or if you just want a kiss of fruit, place a few sliced strawberries in your glass. Whatever the occasion, sparkling wine is always a great addition to any gathering.

Art Lipuma, Seaside Wine & Spirits

How to Reach Your Elected Officials

STATE

Governor Dannel P. Malloy
 State Capitol Building, Room 200
 Hartford, CT 06106
 (860) 566-4840 – (800)406-1527
 Fax (860)524-7396
Governor.Malloy@po.state.ct.us

LT Governor Nancy Wyman
 State Capitol Building, Room 304
 Hartford, CT 06106
 860-524-7384, Fax (860) 524-7304
ltgovernor.wyman@ct.gov

Secretary of the State
 Denise Merrill
 30 Trinity Street, Hartford, CT 06106
 (860) 509-6000 Fax (860) 509-6209
<http://www.sots.state.ct.us/>

State Treasurer
 Denise Nappier
 55 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106
 (800) 618-3404 Fax (860)-702-3043
<http://www.state.ct.us/ott/>

Attorney General
 George Jepsen

55 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106
 (860)808-5318 Fax (860) 808-5387
<http://www.cslib.org/attygen/>

Rep. 23rd District
 Marilyn Giuliano
 Legislative Office Building, Room 4064
 Hartford, CT 06106
 (800) 842-1423
Marilyn.Giuliano@housegop.ct.gov

Senator 33rd District
 Art Linares
 Legislative Office Building, Room 3400
 Hartford, CT 06106
 (860) 240-8800
Art.Lineras@cga.ct.gov

Rep. 35th District
 Thomas Vicino
 Legislative Office Building, Room 5007
 Hartford, CT 06106
 (860) 240-8585
Thomas.Vicino@cga.ct.gov

FEDERAL

Senator Richard Blumenthal
 90 State House Square 10th Floor
 Hartford, CT 06103
 (860) 258-6940 Fax (860) 258-6958
 702 Hart Senate Office
 Washington, DC 20510
 (202) 224-2823, Fax (202)224-9673

Senator Chris Murphy
 One Constitution Plaza, 7th Floor
 Hartford, CT 06103
 (860) 549-8463 Fax (860) 524-5091
 SD-B40A Dirksen Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC 20510
 (202) 224-4041 Fax (202) 224-9750

Congressman Joe Courtney
 101 Water Street Suite 301
 Norwich, CT 06360
 (860) 886-0139
 215 Cannon House Office
 Washington, DC 20515
 (202) 225-2076
www.courtney.house.gov

Westbrook - Community Listings

USEFUL NUMBERS

Middlesex Community Foundation (860) 347-0025
 George Flynn Concert (860) 669-1208
 Consumer Protection (860) 566-2294
 9 Town Transit (860) 510-0429
 Visiting Nurses of Westbrook (860) 399-3088
 First Congregational Church
 of Westbrook (860) 399-9367
 St. Paul's Episcopal Church (860) 399-5402
 St. Mark's (860) 399-9207

IMPORTANT TOWN HALL NUMBERS

Assessor (860) 399-3045
 Building/Sanitarian (860) 399-3047
 Animal Control Officer (860) 790-1075
 Emergency Management (860) 577-0622
 Web site www.westbrookem.com
 Harbor Master (860) 399-2477
 Landfill (860) 399-6356
 Probate Court (860) 510-5028
 Recreation (860) 399-3095
 Registrar of Voters (860) 399-3042
 Selectman's Office (860) 399-3040
 Social Service (860) 399-3040
 Tax Collector (860) 399-3043
 Town Clerk (860) 399-3044
 Town Garage (860) 399-6891
 Town Web site www.westbrookct.us

Treasurer (860) 399-3040
 Westbrook Senior Center (860) 399-2029
 Westbrook Youth & Family Services (860) 399-9239
 Zoning/Planning/Wetlands (860) 399-3046

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT (860) 399-9492

FIRE MARSHAL

Business Calls (860) 399-3047

POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

LIBRARY

Westbrook Public Library (860) 399-6422

Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut

The Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut is Connecticut's leading source of information for the thousands of people who have epilepsy. The Foundation works to ensure that people with epilepsy are able to participate in all life experiences through information, education, recreation, advocacy and support.

A seizure is an abnormal electrical discharge in the brain. Seizures can be caused by head injuries, lack of oxygen at birth, brain tumors and other health condition. People often think of seizures only as jerking and shaking uncontrollably; however, not all seizures are convulsions. There are many different symptoms of seizures, which can include eye fluttering, staring and laughing. Recurring seizures can be a sign of epilepsy.

The Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut has many programs to offer those living with epilepsy. In particular, we offer seven support groups throughout the state. Our newest group is meeting in Guilford for adults living with epilepsy and parents of children with epilepsy. The meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month from 7:00 pm to 8:30 p at Guilford Parks & Recreation 32 Church Street, Guilford.

Those interested in attending meetings are asked to please RSVP, to the Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut by calling 800-899-3745 or emailing Allison at Allison@epilepsyct.com. Offices are located at 386 Main Street, Middletown, CT.

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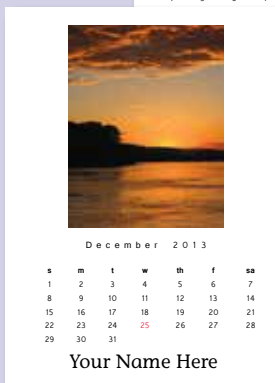
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