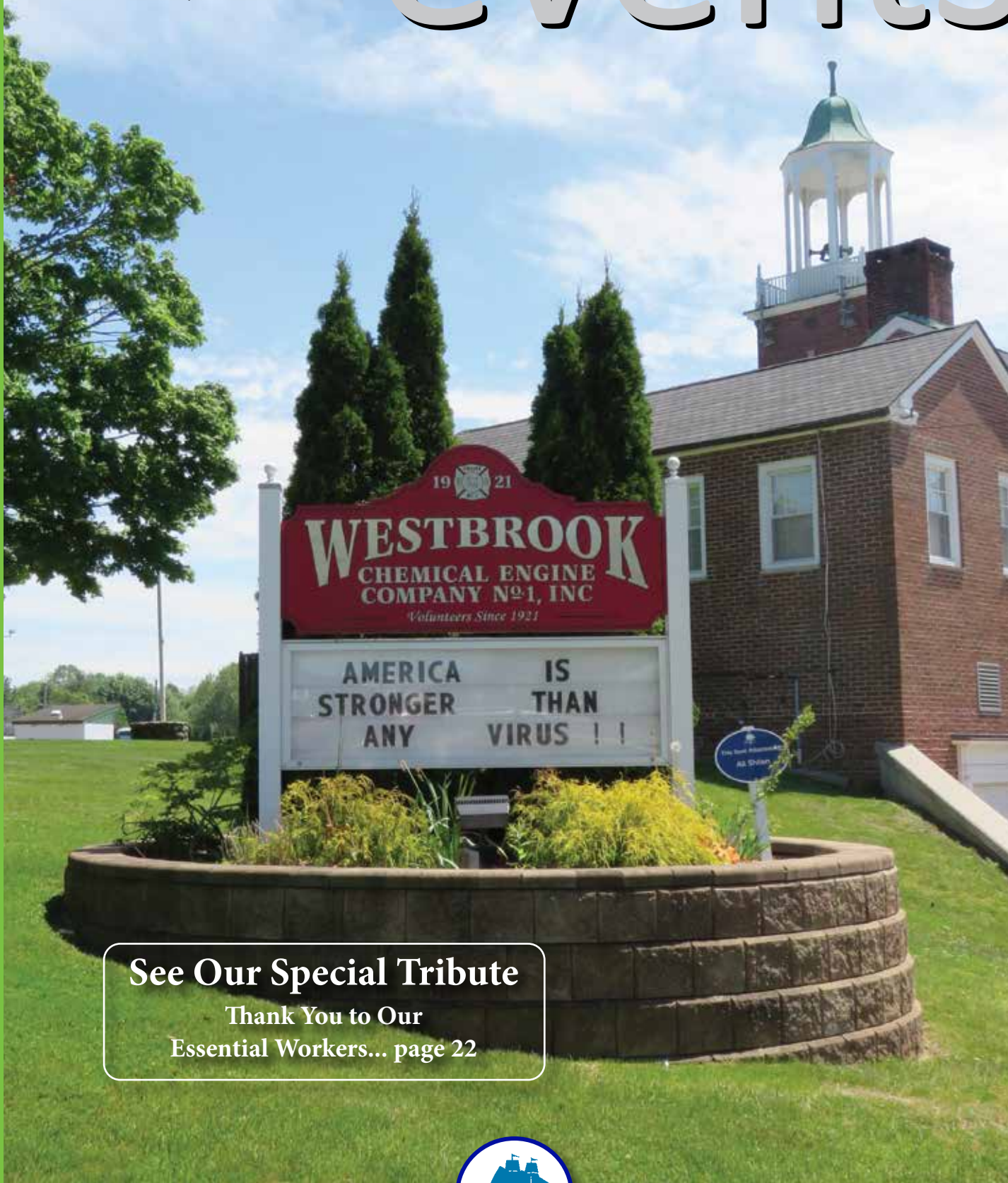


Westbrook **events**

VOLUME 20 • QUARTER 2 • 2020



See Our Special Tribute
Thank You to Our
Essential Workers... page 22

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*In light of the Coronavirus
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Selectman's Corner

Governing with COVID-19

Governor Lamont has had daily press conferences on the status of COVID-19 and the implications it continues to have on municipal governments. Currently, there are over 45 Executive Orders that must be monitored and enforced by Health Directors, Mayors and First Selectmen of our 169 municipalities. In fact, as we all know, there is no aspect of our lives and livelihoods that has not been affected by this pandemic. The virus has demonstrated that we all live in a new world, assuredly, not of our own choosing.

Please note how COVID-19 has affected our municipal government:

* Beginning the week of March 16th, we closed our Town Hall to the public except by appointments, telephone calls and emails. All of our employees, however, continued to work, including some who were able to work remotely. I continue to be impressed with our staff that has functioned as a team insuring that all of our collective responsibilities have been accomplished despite this pandemic.

* As of Tuesday, 5/26, all employees are now working in the Town Hall even though the building remains closed to the public.

Our Health Director, Zack Faiella, has done an exceptional job monitoring all of Governor Lamont's Executive Orders. Additionally, before we returned to work on 5/26, a very comprehensive protocol, with mitigation procedures, was established to ensure the safety and well being of all of our employees at the Mulvey Center.



Noel Bishop

All Boards and Commissions will continue, as they have since March, to hold virtual meetings to conduct their business. The number of individuals from the public participating in these meetings is often higher than when they are held in person at the Town Hall. For example, in the final deliberations of the BOF regarding the approval of the budget, there were approximately 100 individuals who "zoomed" in.

I encourage you to constantly access our website, www.westbrookct.us. This site has been one of the most effective means of communication to the public, along with social media.

continued on page 5



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events

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

As of press time, our country is still in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. These are, indeed, difficult times for all. Included in this issue of Westbrook Events Magazines is information regarding various programs and activities that span the upcoming quarter. Given the circumstances, some dates and times are subject to change.

Please check with the applicable organizations for any potential changes and/or cancellations. We hope that the situation resolves as quickly as possible and that we can all get back to some sense of normalcy! Please also take note of our The Last Word feature (on page 22). The array of pictures celebrates the strength of our community as we persevere through hard times. Thank you to all!

We are pleased to be able to continue to provide you with Westbrook Events Magazines. Please stay safe and healthy. We look forward to celebrating better times ahead!

William McMinn / Essex Printing and Events Magazines

Selectman's Corner continued from page 3

During the month of March, there were over 8,000 "hits"; considering that we have approximately 7,000 residents, this demonstrates that during this crisis, the public is being kept informed. Additionally, the Health Director and I have provided weekly updates.

Next Steps

It is difficult to predict what additional specific initiatives our municipal government will be able to take regarding COVID-19. We will continue to enforce all of the Executive Orders from the Governor, his staff and Commissioners. None of us have a crystal ball but our continued priority must be the safety and well being of all of our citizens and making sure that our businesses will not only be able to re-open but also will recoup the losses they have sustained since the beginning of March.

At the end of April, there were over 500 Westbrook residents who had filed for unemployment benefits and this number will continue to increase. All of us have families,

friends and neighbors who are struggling and I am confident that your municipal government; and all of the services that we offer the public, will be there for your continued assistance and support.

A special thank you to all of our healthcare providers; first responders; EMS, ambulance and so many, many others who have been on the front lines 24/7. It is gratifying when you drive around Westbrook to see the signs that say "thank you" to those individuals who have responded to the call of duty.

I have full confidence that as we begin to emerge from this pandemic, that our resilience, determination and abiding faith in all that makes Westbrook a great community will manifest itself in the coming months and years. I continue to welcome your inquiries.

Noel Bishop
Selectman

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From the Registrars of Voters

The Presidential Preference Primary in Connecticut will be conducted on August 11. All registered Republican and Democratic voters in Westbrook will receive an Absentee Ballot application in the mail directly from the Secretary of the State. The rules for absentee voting have been modified to allow anyone concerned with their safety during this pandemic to cast their vote by requesting an absentee ballot from their local Town Clerk.

In person voting will be available for those who choose to cast their ballot in person

at the Mulvey Center from 6:00 am to 8:00 pm. Enhanced safety precautions and stringent protocols, including social distancing, will be employed as voters enter and exit the polling place.

The registrars are actively seeking individuals to be poll workers for the primary. Many of our more experienced workers have compromising issues that preclude them from comfortably serving in a traditional polling place environment. If you are 18 years old or older and interested in working the polls on August 11, please

contact us at (860) 399-3042. A training class will be conducted on July 16 at 6:00 pm in the Mulvey Center where duties and compensation for the day's work will be fully explained.

Any questions related to the primary and/or the voting process may direct them to our office for clarification.

Terry Alaimo
Colin Bennett
Jim Crawford

Finance Department

On March 11, 2020 the Governor declared a public health emergency due to the growing concern over the coronavirus. As a result, Town Hall was closed to the public to help protect employees, residents and help prevent the spread of the coronavirus. The Governor also, through several executive orders, took steps to suspend all in person voting/town meetings and the Board of Selectmen provided the Board of Finance with the authority to approve the FY20-21 Operating budget and five-year capital plan.

On Tuesday May 5, 2020, the Board of Finance voted to approve an operating budget for the Town and Board of Education for FY20-21 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021) in the amount of \$31,131,630. This represents an increase of \$471,268 or 1.5% over the current year (FY19-20) approved budget. In an effort to keep the budget as low as possible no new positions, rate or hour increases were included and reductions were made in nearly every department. As a point of reference, the original requested budget was \$31,382,700 or an overall increase of 2.4%. The Board of Finance took very seriously its expanded role in the budget process this year and, in light of the economic uncertainty facing many, worked hard to find the best balance between spending on needed services and limiting the tax impact on residents.

Included in the FY20-21 operating budget is \$1,418,707 in capital projects. Among other items, there is funding for a new police vehicle, two jetties at west beach, consulting work for a new rec center, the continuation of the sidewalk improvement and paving programs, as well as continued general building repairs, and the completion of the library technology/all-purpose room. A total of \$306,000 in Board of Education projects was covered through the board's capital reserve. Due to the uncertainty of the current environment, the decision was made not to use fund balance or bonding to fund any capital projects so all of these projects are supported by taxes. While several reductions were made from the original request of \$2,134,900 it was important to the Board of Finance to not simply put off the bulk of the capital plan for next year as that would only result in higher long-terms costs. They feel the compromise kept the capital plan moving in a forward direction while also being fiscally responsible.

The approved FY20-21 budget results in a mill rate of 25.00. This is a .33 mill increase over the current year or 1.3%. On the average home valued at \$245,000 this equals an increase of \$81 per year or \$6.74 more per month. This budget was prepared by the Town's Finance Department. If you have any questions or would like more detail please do not hesitate to contact the Finance Director Donna Castracane at dcastracane@westbrookct.us or call 860-399-3004.

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

July 2nd closed at 4 pm
July 3rd closed
Independence Day

Westbrook Visiting Nurses

Westbrook Visiting Nurses would like to thank Zachary Faiella, Director of Public Health, and Don Izzo, Director of Emergency Management for their support, and providing assistance with the provision of PPE and cleaning products. During these unprecedented times of the Covid pandemic, our office has not slowed down. Westbrook Visiting Nurses and Public Health have been up and running, and servicing the residents of Westbrook and surrounding towns with home care services seven days a week.

We have been very appreciative of the support we have received from patients and families and are appreciative of seeing the “hearts” displayed throughout town. The Lohutko family has shown their gratitude by making the sign pictured at right. Heather Lavoie, RN, Case Manager, and Noreen Saunders, PT, Therapy Supervisor, are pictured here with their family with their personalized sign.



We have also been busy teaming up with the work that the Senior Center and Social Services Department have been doing during these challenging times by helping with grocery lists for seniors, and obtaining and distributing fabric masks. We are often asked by local residents and patients for contact information for a “handy” person who would be available to assist those in need of making small adaptations to their home to ensure more safety; such as installing grab bars or railings on stairs. If anyone would be interested in doing small jobs like this, please drop off a business card to our office. Thank you.

Tax Collector's Office

The Westbrook Tax Office would like to remind you of several important issues. July is just around the corner. You have the whole month of July to pay without penalty. Per Governor’s Executive Order 7S, Low Interest Rate Program, the Town of Westbrook’s Board of Selectman have made the decision to adopt Section 6B of the order which states “Low Interest Rate Program.” This program provides a ‘window’ of 90 days from

the due date of July 1st, 2020 where taxpayers would be able to pay at a reduced interest rate.

Instead of the normal 18% per year, 1.5% monthly, the 90 day period would be 3% per annum or .25% monthly. If as of October 2nd, 2020 and thereafter, taxes are not paid and still delinquent, the statutory rate would again apply to the remaining delinquent tax owed. This means the tax interest rate would return to 18% per annum or 1.5% per month as of July 1st, 2020.

We encourage you to please pay by mail. A return envelope with be provided in your tax bill. They can be mailed to 866 Boston Post Road, Westbrook. Or you can pay on line at www.westbrookct.us. Credit cards are accepted with a fee of 2.5% for credit cards, \$3.95 for a visa debit card and \$2.00 for e-check. There will be a drop off box outside of the main entrance of the Town Hall if you wish to drop your bills off.

Reminder- If you would like a receipt when paying your tax bill please send your entire bill in and a self- addressed stamped envelope.

Traffic tickets- Please be advised that you only have 10 days from issuance of a traffic ticket to pay or the fine is doubled. Payment for traffic tickets can only be paid by cash or check and cannot be paid online.

If you should have any questions or concerns about your tax bills, please contact the Tax office at 860-399-3043.

Tax Collector Kimberly Bratz, CCMC

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Senior Center Recipe

A Seasonal Recipe Courtesy of
Westbrook Senior Center: Strawberry
Crumb Bars

Recipe Adapted from Flavor Mosaic

INGREDIENTS

½ cup sugar
½ tsp baking powder
1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
¼ tsp salt
1 stick COLD butter
1 egg, beaten
1 tsp vanilla
2 cups fresh strawberries, chopped
1/3 cup sugar
2 tsp cornstarch

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Preheat the oven to 375 ° F
- Place parchment paper on the bottom of an 8x8 pan that hangs over the side of the pan. (This is to make it easier to remove the bars from the pan after cooking)
- In a medium bowl, stir together ½ cup sugar, flour, baking powder and salt. Using a fork or pastry cutter, cut the butter into the flour mixture. (Make sure the butter is very cold!) Work with the dough until the pieces are very small - dough will be crumbly. You can also pulse in a food processor too, until you get pea-sized crumbs.
- In a separate measuring cup or small bowl,

beat an egg with a fork. Add the egg and vanilla to the flour/butter mixture, and combine until you have a crumbly mixture.
- Pat half the dough evenly into the bottom on the lined pan.
- In another bowl, stir together 1/3 cup sugar and cornstarch. Stir in the strawberries. Spoon this mixture over the bottom crust.
- Crumble the remaining dough over the strawberry filling layer.
- Bake in the preheated oven for 45 min., or until the top is slightly golden brown.
- Cool completely before cutting into squares. It is recommended to refrigerate these until ready to serve.

New Library Director

Thanks to the diligence of our Search Committee, a fruitful interview process, and guidance from the State Librarian and our First Selectman's office, The Board of Trustees of the Westbrook Public Library has hired our Library's next director! Mr. Timothy Kellogg will assume responsibilities in July, when Mr. Lewis Daniels will retire after 40 years of exemplary service. Mr. Kellogg brings to our Public Library a passion for sharing all that libraries have to offer, experience with the many facets of a Director's

responsibility, and essential technology knowledge. His skills with interacting with patrons and the community are highly lauded by colleagues. We look forward to the positive impacts Tim will make for our staff, programming, Library and community.

Welcome Mr. Kellogg!

MaryJo Noonan
Chair, Board of Trustees, Westbrook Public Library

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Westbrook Health Department

With the dreary, cold months now gone, summer has sprung forward with warmer temperatures that entice us to stay outdoors, whether it's tending to our gardens outside all day, going out for a hike, or simply catching that nice tan we've been longing for as we shed our winter hides. But while it's easy to dive headfirst into our outdoor activities, it's just as easy to forget about the safety precautions we need before exposing our bodies to potentially harmful ultraviolet rays! The two, notorious UV rays we all know are ultraviolet a, UVA rays, and ultraviolet b, or UVB, rays. These two rays are distinguished by the wavelength and, according to the Skin Cancer Foundation, UVA contains the longest wavelength and is associated with skin aging while UVB has a medium wavelength and is associated with skin burning.

Before heading outdoors, always apply sunscreen and let it absorb in your skin for 15 minutes or more before laying on that beach towel! Use sunscreen with an SPF 15 or greater and apply every 2 hours or after swimming in the ocean. No sunscreen? No problem! Wear dark, long-sleeved clothing or a wide-brimmed hat that limits your exposure to sunlight! Sunglasses also double your protection; the CDC states that wearing sunglasses can "protect your eyes from UV rays and reduce the risk of cataracts [and] protect the tender skin around your eyes from sun exposure." It's always ideal to take a break from the sun by staying under shady areas and to stay hydrated throughout the day.

For those environmentally-conscious individuals, search for mineral sunscreens that don't contain the two main toxic ingredients that affect our coral reefs: oxybenzone and octinoxate. For more information on reef-safe sunscreens and how sunscreens affect marine ecosystems, check out <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/news/sunscreen-corals.html>!

Pamela Solis, BS
 Westbrook Health Department



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Harbor Management Commission

As of May 26, five Patchogue River Moorings are available for boats up to 31 feet in length. For more information and fees, please contact Harry Plaut, Harbormaster, at 860-982-7555.

A reminder: beach moorings in Westbrook must be registered. As of May 26, only 18 permits have been issued. Since the town hall is closed due to Covid, in-person mooring registration is not possible. Permit applications may be found on the town website, and permits may be mailed to the harbormaster at the Westbrook Town Hall. Please note that there could be delays in getting that mail forwarded to the Harbormaster. Alternatively, permit applications may be e-mailed to the Harbormaster at: hsplaut@plautenvironmentalcompany@yahoo.com.

Please note that the anchorage at Duck Island Roads is a Federal Harbor of Refuge. Any vessel, commercial or private, may anchor there by federal law.

Conservation Commission

As we have done for many years, the Conservation Commission has hired interns Sam Dailey and Gus Marx to assist with the management of Westbrook's Open Space by clearing and maintaining trails, caring for the parking areas and controlling invasive plants. They will also be working with the Garden Club on phase 2 of the Meadow Walk project and will monitor Salt Island (off of Middle Beach) by interacting with island visitors to promote the stewardship of our natural resources,

to educate the public with information on nesting shorebirds, island vegetation and to conduct visitor surveys.

I hope everyone reading this article will take 20 minutes out of their busy day to go for a quick stroll at the Tom ODell Memorial Open Space (which we call affectionately Tom's Open Space or Tom's Trials) next to the post office on Rt 1. If you have a bit more time, try one of the trails at Chapman Mill pond near the junction of interstate 95 and Horse Hill Road. If you have an hour or two, try some of the longer hikes at the Horse Hill Woods Open Space with parking areas in the south off Breakneck Hill Road or the northeast off Horse Hill Rd.

During these uncertain times when we all need to protect the front-line health workers, first responders and the most vulnerable in our Town by practicing social distancing, I am so happy and grateful that the town residents have voted again and again to preserve conservation land in Westbrook for passive recreation, allowing everyone the opportunity to get outside and enjoy the majesty of our natural world and the flora and fauna that make the forests and fields their homes.

Garden Club

Hello from the members of the Westbrook Garden Club! We missed seeing you at our annual May Market Sale that we were forced to cancel due to COVID 19. During this stressful time, we hope that many of you are taking the opportunity to be outside and working in your gardens as gardening can be very therapeutic. I guess we will have no excuses for having weeds in our flower beds!

As many of you already know, our spring sale funds the flowers for our annual spring plantings around town. In order to offset the cost of the flowers we hope to be hosting our Fall Mum sale in early September. Hopefully by then we will all be free to be out and about! The most popular items by far at our annual May Market are our members' plants. Since we were unable to sell them this spring, we will be selling them at our fall plant sale. Actually, it turns out that this is very helpful for perennials as fall is an excellent time to plant them. So, we hope you come out and take a look at what we have to offer at exceptional prices. In addition, we will be selling our fall mums, garden items, and jewelry.

We sincerely hope that everyone has been well, and we look forward to seeing you soon. Check our Facebook page, Westbrook Garden Club of CT for updates on speakers and events.

Lastly, thanks to the generosity of the Westbrook Foundation and some hard work by members and Kathy Connolly, our Pollinator Preserve/Meadow Garden next to the Post Office is looking spectacular. If you have a chance, please check it out!

Building Department

David W Maiden, Building Official

I first want to thank the amazing citizens of Westbrook and the contractors working in our town for how quickly everyone adapted to the challenges we have been facing since March of this year. When Governor Lamont issued in his executive order that construction was considered an essential service, many of you reached out to the Building Department to discuss the options for applying for permits, requesting inspections and how to conduct business during the COVID-19 shutdown.

continued on page 12

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Building Dept... continued from page 11

As requested under the Governor's orders, the building department personnel were required to work from home for a then unknown period of time. The Town of Westbrook leadership authorized a plan of action to ensure that any employee who needed additional equipment or software to work from home was provided whatever was needed to continue to deliver services to our customers. Within days we had an infrastructure in place and permits were being processed. A few days later many of us heard of ZOOM for the first time. It was no longer what the little boy said when

a Mazda drove by. We worked together, learned as we went, and were successfully performing inspections to keep projects moving and contractors working.

So, is this the new normal? It's anyone's guess. The building department staff are back in the office fulltime and we hope to be allowed to perform infield inspection on all of our projects in the near future.

We are currently performing infield inspections of new homes and unoccupied commercial projects. Most others are

performed via virtual inspection at the time of this writing.

We'll all stay in touch and see what the future brings. Those of you currently working on a project or soon to start a project I hope to see you in person on the site or, if we must, in a little box on each other's tablet or phone.

Please don't hesitate to reach out me if I can assist you in any way. My email is: dmaiden@westbrookct.us or phone 860-399-0339.



Westbrook Youth & Family Services

Register for Spring/Summer Programs

Coming Soon! WYFS will be offering a support group for parents of children 0-2 on an online platform. This group has been designed to help parents connect with

others, and discuss topics of interest. Details to follow soon.

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. Currently because of the COVID-19 health crisis all counseling services are taking place via Telehealth. Currently we are accepting new clients. Call 860-399-9239 for an appointment. Check us out at WYFS.org & Like Us on Facebook!

Town Clerk

A message from Town Clerk, Joan S. Angelini

Dear Westbrook Friends, I hope you are all continuing to stay safe and healthy. Even though the Town Hall Building remains closed; we are here working our regular business hours with a few changes. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

DOG LICENSES – Reminders have gone out the end of May. Renewals will be handled by mail. Please verify rabies and provide us with a copy if it has expired since your last renewal.

LAND RECORDS are available online at no charge beginning with 1946. Go to www.searchiqs.com/ctwbk. Map copies are available by contacting our office. **HUNTING/FISHING LICENSES** are available on-line at /DEEP/Fishing/General-Information/Fisheries-Licenses-and-Permits.

MARRIAGE LICENSES can be arranged by appointment only. The worksheet can be found on the Westbrookct.us website under Town Clerk, Resources-Forms. Complete the worksheet and then contact our office to set up a time to receive your marriage license. We will require photo ID's with signature and the fee for the license is \$50.00 in cash or check. You may also request certified copies which are \$20.00

VITAL RECORDS (marriages, births and deaths). Certified copies are available and a completed form from the town website along with a check for \$20 payable to the Town of Westbrook can be mailed in and we will send your certified copies out to you.

RECORDINGS of land records are accepted by mail or can be dropped of in person in the rear of the building near the back door we have placed a steel covered mailbox for the Town Clerk. Please place your documents there but also be sure to let us know that you are doing so. Overnight mail is received daily and we will email or fax copies of receipts upon request.

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY has been postponed until August 11, 2020. Office of the Secretary of the State is mailing absentee ballot applications to all persons in CT who are registered with a major party to give you the option to vote absentee in the upcoming primary.

Lastly, we said goodbye and Happy Retirement to Deb DeCristoforo this past January, after eleven years as Assistant Town Clerk. She was a terrific addition and will be missed by many residents, title searchers, attorneys, co-workers and friends.

Emergency Management

Know Your Weather Terms

The National Weather Service uses terms when hazardous weather is/has the potential to threaten our region; WATCH and WARNING. These terms are used throughout year as it relates to thunderstorms, flooding, tropical storm/hurricane, nor'easter and other various weather events.

Throughout the spring and summer seasons, our region's probability increases for thunderstorm activity. These weather events can cause hazards for those:

- Working outside
- At the beach / pool
- Playing golf / baseball / other outside sports
- Picnics / family - social events

In order to stay aware of any inclement weather, please consider:

- Installing a weather app on your phone to notify you when a Watch/Warning is posted. Many weather apps allow numerous locations in your settings for notifications. This is an excellent option for family, work and friend's locations.

- Purchase a NOAA All Hazards Weather Radio for your home. Most units are under \$50 and can be purchased at local retailers, Amazon and other online websites. The unit sits quietly until a Watch/Warning is issued.

- If you participate on Facebook, Twitter or other social media, review your notification settings on your phone and electronic devices. Ensure you are receiving important notifications as 'PUSH' for real time announcements. (Example: Westbrook Emergency Management, National Weather Service New York)

For safety information on specific weather events, go to the Westbrook Emergency Management website at: www.westbrookem.com and click on Weather Safety.

If you lose power due to any event, activate your Emergency Power Outage Plan that includes contacting Eversource immediately at 1-800-286-2000. Eversource also supports text messaging notifications from your mobile device, power outage app and more. Contact Eversource for more information with these features.

Donald Izzo
Emergency Management Director

WESTBROOK Community Listings

IMPORTANT TOWN HALL NUMBERS

| | |
|--|--|
| Accounts Payable..... | (860) 399-3008 |
| American Legion Anderson-Hoxie Post 103..... | (860) 669-0336 |
| 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 |
|--------------------------------|----------------|

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 |

State Representative Devin Carney

The Plan to Reopen Connecticut's Colleges and Universities By State Representative Devin Carney

On May 6th, Governor Lamont announced that he had received a detailed report with recommendations for a phased-in re-opening of Connecticut's private and public colleges and universities. The report was compiled by the education committee of the Reopen Connecticut Advisory Group,

The recommended sequencing of the reopening is as follows... First, research programs and administrative functions opened on the same timetable as the first phase of the general business reopening. Next, early in the summer, workforce development programs at community colleges may open, and schools may allow back students who were unable to complete courses with lab or studio requirements for their spring degrees.

If public health conditions continue to improve, some institutions may resume graduate and some summer programs. By the end of the summer, undergraduate residential facilities may have

the option to reopen. The phase-in of this reopening, though, depends upon the status of public health conditions. The prevalence of COVID-19 must be low enough to allow for the safe reopening of campus, the institution must have adequate capacity for contact tracing, and schools that have residential facilities must have access to enough COVID-19 tests so that every student can be tested upon arrival. If a student tests positive, they must be immediately isolated.

The phase-in also requires schools to file reopening plans with DPH detailing how they plan on repopulating the campus, monitoring public health, containing the disease if detected, and shutting down campus, if necessary. If you have any questions or concerns related to this or any state issue, please contact me at devin.carney@cga.ct.gov or (860) 240-8700.

Thank you to all who have made a positive difference over the past few months to help us get through this crisis. I wish everyone a safe and healthy summer.

Westbrook Recreation ~ Summer Programs

With all the craziness created by the COVID-19 pandemic it's really nice to know that our Recreation Department is busy at work. On May 15th, we officially opened our beach parking lot to Westbrook residents. We have worked hard with the Westbrook Police Department to ensure that only Westbrook residents use our town parking lot. This will reduce the amount of people using the beach and also help us to achieve the 50% reduction required by the governor of the state.

We have officially started our pickleball lessons for beginners. Outdoor recreation has been approved within the first phase of reopening. Everyone is welcome to use our track and basketball courts, tennis and pickleball courts. Please remember to stay within groups of 5 or under and use social distancing whenever possible.

Summer Camps will officially start on June 22nd. We will be following the state guidelines and only allowing 30 children

for each camp. Please register as soon as possible or you might miss out on camp this summer. We are still waiting to hear from our other sports and theatre camps about running this summer.

Please contact our office with any questions about programs at 860-399-3095 or visit our website at www.westbrookrec.com. Please be safe and we hope to see you soon!

Westbrook Senior Center ~ Important Announcement

Due to the risk of COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) spreading among elderly persons in congregate settings, the closure of Westbrook Senior Center to the public will continue until further notice. The closure continues to follow the Governor's Executive Order. We appreciate your patience and will keep you updated as to when we can resume operations. Please call (860) 399-2029 or check the Town website for updates.

- **Do you have food?**
- **Do you have access to you medications?**
- **Do you have basic necessities?**

If you have answered "NO" to any of the following questions, please call (860) 399-2029 or email cburks@westbrookct.us.

Since our closure in March, Amber and I have been grocery

shopping and picking up prescriptions for Home Bound and/or At Risk Seniors, and have been making every effort to check in on our senior residents here in Westbrook and our neighboring towns. Since we are limited to only having phone numbers of seniors who participate in our programs, please forward to us the contact information of a senior in need or a senior who just needs to hear a friendly voice.

If you know of any senior citizen who might have questions about or require services during our closure, please email me: cburks@westbrookct.us or call (860)399-2029. Email and voicemail are checked daily. Having never dealt with a health crisis as large as this and strict Executive Orders for Congregate settings, we will do our best to make sure our area Senior Citizens are doing well.

Zoning Commission

The Town of Westbrook has been involved in updating its Plan of Conservation and Development for several months now. After a kickoff session in February, there was a planned face-to-face gathering to sort out issues. Unfortunately, this had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 outbreak, but an online survey was used with great success (over 150 responses!).

Now the Committee is commencing the work on the main pieces of the Plan. Per the 2011 Plan, these have been broken down into “A Health Environment”, “A Vibrant Community” and “A Strong Economy.” Over the next three months, the Committee will be reviewing each of these in online meetings on Zoom.

The next phase of the process is “listening sessions” on different topics to get input from other boards and organizations

within Westbrook. The Healthy Environment session will be held on June 4. The Vibrant Community session will be held on July 9. The Strong Economy session will be held on August 6. Prior to the meeting, a “briefing booklet” will be prepared summarizing the recommendations in the 2022 POCD and suggesting some possible discussion points for the 2021 POCD. These will be posted on the Town website. Interested individuals are welcome to join these sessions and time will be provided to hear the public’s input. (Details on each Zoom meeting will be available on the Town’s website as each meeting draws closer.)

Following the August session, the goal would be to have a more general gathering to review what had been discussed. (Ideally, this will be face-to-face, but that is unclear right now. It will also be on

Zoom, either way.) The draft plan would be crafted this fall, with the goal to have it reviewed and voted on by the Town in time for it to be adopted by June 30, 2021.

This is a very exciting time for the Westbrook Planning Commission. There is a great deal going on, including new sidewalks for the downtown. The Town only updates the Plan of Conservation and Development every ten years. This Plan will form the framework for many town actions stretching forward to 2031.

Please do not miss your opportunity to get involved in the process.

For further details, please contact Eric Knapp, Planning, Zoning and Development Coordinator, at 860-399-3041 or eknapp@westbrookct.us.

TRANSFER STATION HOURS

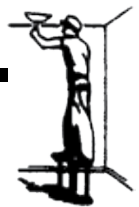
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Westbrook Social Services Department

Westbrook Social Services thanks all of the amazingly generous community members, businesses, organizations and Troop F who have been assisting the department with donations of gift cards, gift certificates, food, masks and more.

If you are a Westbrook resident in need or struggling due to the pandemic or any other reason, please reach out to us so that we can assist you.

COVID-19 OUTREACH “MASK UP” WESTBROOK

In an effort to help stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus Social Services continues to supply masks to those residents in need. Over the last month we have coordinated a program of very generous people donating their time and materials to construct homemade masks as well as working with the Middlesex United Way, Old Saybrook Rotary and the Westbrook VNA on this project. To date we have collected over 400 masks and given away over 300. Please call Social Services at 860-399-3090 for pick up or if you or someone you know would like to donate masks.

FOR THOSE IN NEED OF FOOD RESOURCES

Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantry
St. Mark's Roman Catholic Church
222 McVeagh Road, Westbrook
Tuesdays 1:00 – 2:30 <https://shorelinesoupkitchens.org/>
CT Food Bank Truck
48 B East Main Street (Route 1), Clinton
First Monday of the month 9:00-10:00

For other Food Truck stops use the web address:
www.ctfoodbank.org/get-help/connecticut-food-banks-mobile-pantry-schedule/

For additional food resources please check our webpage through the Town of Westbrook website: www.westbrookct.us or visit the Westbrook Social Services Facebook page.

RENTERS REBATE PROGRAM

The Town of Westbrook is accepting applications for the State of Connecticut's Renter's Tax Relief (Renters' Rebate) Program through September 30, 2020.

The program provides a one-time yearly reimbursement for Connecticut renters based on income, rent and utilities that were paid from the previous year (2019). The program is available to residents age 65 or older as of December 31, 2019, or residents at least age 18 by December 31, 2019 who have been found by a government agency to be permanently and totally disabled. Income must be no more than \$37,000 for single individuals or \$45,100 for married couples. Persons renting an apartment or room, or living in cooperative housing or a mobile home may be eligible for this program.

This year, because of the ongoing pandemic, we will be accepting applications and the supporting documentation by mail until further notice. For information and/or to request an application, please call the Social Services Department at 860-399-3090.

News from the Westbrook Public Library

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As you know our library has been closed to the public since March 17.

In this public health emergency our entire building has been shut down. Only essential staff have been allowed in to tend to critical business. We have been answering and responding to phone calls and emails all along. Our online and electronic resources continue to be available.

Children's Librarian Mary Nyman has been doing virtual story hours on Facebook. We can provide reference and referral service and now offer take out or outside pick up service. Just call us (860 399-6422) or email us (westbrook.public.lib@gmail.com) with your requests.

We do not yet know when we will be able to open our doors. For now our community and conference room spaces are not available. We cannot yet provide access to the computer, copier, and fax services we used to offer. We are somewhat hopeful that the second stage of reopening around June 20 will include libraries and allow limited access again to our facility. We will keep you informed.

There is another staffing change at the library to announce. Our assistant librarian Joan Geissler who has worked at the library for 42 years is retiring at the end of June. Joan began work in 1978 and in 1988 was promoted to assistant librarian. She has run the library circulation department managing patron registration, holds, and requests. She is probably best known for

her “making people happy” calls to patrons when their requests are ready for pick up. Her many library friends will miss her cheerful and friendly presence. As will her colleagues at the Westbrook Public Library. We wish her a long and happy retirement, good health, and safe harbor during this challenging time.

Finally, as your retiring library director, I just want to say thank you for your support of the library all these years. Thank you for all the kind notes and messages. The library is ready to move forward with new leadership and the bright prospect of new services and initiatives under new Library Director Tim Kellogg.

Lew Daniels
Library Director (retiring)

Spencer Family Photos Acquired Whilst the Building Slept

As with other town buildings, the Historical Society has been closed since March due to COVID-19. We who volunteer our time to continue to organize materials and to continue research are eager to open and to see everyone again. Despite all, we have been busy.

Recently, we bid on and won 1918 era John Stokes Spencer family photographs sold by an Oregon eBay vendor. J.S.S. is descended from Westbrook's Capt. Timothy Spencer and Capt. Joseph Whittlesey Spencer whose house is opposite the Old Burying Ground. With the help of member donations and monies given in memory of John W. Doane, III, we purchased 133 photographs. The content involves: The Spencer family home, activities, and family members at Quotonset Beach; Duck hunting with George Manstan, Sr. and Elliot Spencer, Sr.; Mrs. George Norton; Chapman Mill Pond; Dibble's Dock; Baseball Winners; Salt Island; Great Rock; and more.

Remember George Manstan, Jr., a well-known bandleader? His father, George, Sr. grew up on Essex Road, married Minnie Hoadley, and lived on Wesley Avenue. This location is leading to MANY developing side stories. George, Sr. played fife in the original Westbrook Drum Corps as did his brother, "Ty." Later, George would conduct the Westbrook Band and would hunt ducks with Elliot, Sr. and just so many other stories to tell. Be sure to check out Girl Scout, Juliana Fabrizi's, virtual Historical Walking Tour of Westbrook accessed on our Facebook page.

With funding from the Westbrook Foundation, we will date with plaques our churches, schools, and civic buildings, most of which are in the Town Center Historic District. We hope to be open soon!

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



1922 Westbrook Baseball – Boys are Spencer's, Manstan, Neidlinger's



1921 Jack Spencer, George Manstan, Sr. and Elliot Spencer, Sr.

Westbrook Economic Action Initiative (WEAI)

The recent pandemic has affected our community in many ways, not the least of which has been the loss of jobs that has increased our ALICE population and its food insecurity (food pantries have seen a doubling in the amount of food they serve). The Westbrook Economic Action Initiative (WEAI), comprised of businesses, non-profits, town government and interested residents, continues to seek to reduce the ALICE population by finding ways to increase their earning potential and thus enabling them to find higher paying and more lasting employment.

On May 20, WEAI held a Roundtable (on Zoom) to focus on the issues facing the local economy as a result of COVID 19 and the impact of the ongoing "reopening" as we emerge from the pandemic. First Selectman Noel Bishop, as well as State Representatives Devin Carney and Jesse

MacLachlan, presented information and shared thoughts about steps already and soon to be taken. Roundtable participants discussed ways of bringing local issues and concerns with the reopening to the Governor and his staff.

Leslie Carson, the school system's Career/College Readiness Coordinator also summarized the activities from this first year of the position (including virtual activities during the pandemic) and outlined plans for the next year. Carson has facilitated learning connections between students and business leaders, including panels, visits and job-shadowing opportunities. She also presented the Pathway Program that is being initiated at Westbrook High School. This program gives students the opportunity to choose elective courses that correspond with a given career cluster (STEM, Health,

Manufacturing, etc.). Students are then placed in classes with peers sharing similar interests and where teachers may tailor lessons related to specific career areas.

The next Roundtable is scheduled for September 30. As the "reopening" progresses, the WEAI will continue to support ALICE in the community with programs addressing job training, entrepreneurship and skill enhancement. Further information on these programs can be found on the Town website link. <https://www.westbrookct.us/Search?searchPhrase=Westbrook%20Economic%20Action%20Initiative>

Tony Cozza
Jim Crawford
Andy Schatz

Family Health and Safety During COVID-19



Supervision and safety measures at the Valley Shore YMCA summer camp allow children to explore active experiences including the Challenge Wall.

With Westbrook businesses opening, and many parents heading back to work, how do you protect your family's health and safety? Should you skip your annual physical? Your child's dentist visit?

Fear of coronavirus is keeping many people away from medical care, even when experiencing life-threatening symptoms of a heart attack or stroke.

Hospital Emergency Departments have two separate patient areas – possible COVID-19 cases, and all others. Middlesex Health Shoreline Medical Center at Flack Rock Place requires all patients to wear masks, as of this writing, unless it is not possible for medical reasons.

Even during a pandemic, it is important to maintain care for

chronic conditions. Telemedicine is one option. Call your doctor's office with questions, and don't neglect your health. Putting off annual exams, important tests and treatments could mean you miss an early diagnosis, leading to a more serious problem.

What About Summer Camp?

The Valley Shore YMCA's summer camp plans to open the latter part of June with one-week sessions throughout the summer. Licensed by the CT Office of Early Childhood Education and following guidelines of the American Camp Association, groups will be limited to 10 children. Each group, organized by age, will stay together throughout the day without sharing sports or art equipment outside their group.

As parents go back to work and weigh decisions about childcare, the Y's executive director and author of "The Summer Camp Survival Guide," Chris Pallatto, asks parents to consider the safety of friends' houses, public venues and restaurants compared to a carefully controlled environment. The Y offers extended before- and after-camp childcare for working parents. For information, call 860-399-9622 ext. 106.

Westbrook Recreation also has plans for COVID-safe day camp this summer. Contact Westbrook Recreation at 860-399-3095 or rannino@westbrookct.us.

Marcia Simon for Westbrook Economic Development Commission

Westbrook Land Conservation Trust

"Nature doth kindly heal every wound." Thoreau. With social distancing required this spring, people are heading outdoors, flocking to available open spaces - trails, roadways, waterways. I have never seen state forest trails so populated with families on weekdays. Whether you are alone or with others, the natural world provides thinking away from a screen, fresh perspective, quietude, stress relief, peace and a place to expend energy outside walls.

Wilderness heightens the senses, fosters optimism and imagination for all ages. E.O. Wilson calls this biofilia, "the innately emotional affiliation of human beings with nature." These difficult times underscore the value of our preserved natural world, and Westbrook offers a significant variety to explore. Visit Westbrook's MapGeo system, look under Themes and click the tab for Open Space. The sounds, views, and smells are extraordinary out there this time of year. As the demands on our

natural resources increase, however, we must also be mindful to safeguard where we wander, for the next visitors, as if we were never there. Pick up any litter, and watch out for poison ivy! Meanwhile, I'll see you on the trail. - Doug White

The Westbrook Land Trust came into being in 1968 when there was concern over the development of ecologically invaluable salt marshes. With the donation of a privately held piece of land that year on Hammock Road, we began our journey preserving open space in concert with the Town. The Land Trust now owns 31 land parcels totaling over 150 acres, as well as the conservation rights to 51 acres. If you live near a parcel and would like to join in its stewardship, 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: WestbrookLCT@yahoo.com.



Above: WLCT Trout Brook Property.

Westbrook Adopt-A-Spot Volunteers Help Our Community

Adopt-A-Spot volunteers Shirley and Frank Lusk are helping our community celebrate this year's graduates by planting purple flowers, the Westbrook school color, under the sign for the Westbrook Library. If you know an adopter or see someone tending their spot, please thank them for helping to make Westbrook more beautiful one spot at a time.

You too can volunteer and join the over thirty adopters. It is an easy and healthy way to give back to your community and a great way to get exercise and be safe during the various pandemic phases. Adopters can add plants or tend what is already planted. One current option is to adopt a section of the native plant garden and pollinator oasis at the new Town Center Parking Lot. Call Deb at 860-399-0664 to find out what spot would work for you.



Submitted by Deborah Rie

Shirley and Frank Lusk Plant Purple Flowers to Honor Westbrook Graduates

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Senator Norm Needleman

When the COVID-19 pandemic began to unfold in March, it undoubtedly ruined plans for just about everyone in Connecticut. In the General Assembly, our entire spring was scuttled; two months of the three-month legislative session were scuttled, with the legislation and changes we hoped to make to improve the state mostly abandoned in 2020. Whether it comes in a summer special session or has to wait until the next time the Assembly can safely convene, I know that I am just as ready and eager as the rest of the Energy & Technology Committee to seek bipartisan solutions for improving our state's future.

We hope to continue the successes we've seen in recent years. Just in 2019, legislators began studying the

possibility of installing solar panels along our roadways. If that becomes possible in the future, and we believe it may be so, that would drastically reduce energy costs and create a new renewable energy source all at once. The landmark offshore renewable energy deals struck in 2019 sparked further optimism. Our state could supply up to a third of all power through wind energy in coming years.

In the future, one of our foremost focuses will be to continue focusing on solar energy. I plan to advocate for further support and use of it, expanding solar use in the state to spread further adoption of green energy. These advances don't need to be big - in the Green Economy bill last year, legislators developed an

expansion of solar incentive programs, helping municipalities and businesses access solar energy at affordable costs.

Additionally, wind energy will take major precedence in our efforts. Pushing toward greater adoption of wind energy on our shorelines can further drop energy costs while increasing employment. The state can still award 1,200 megawatts of power to businesses. That represents hundreds of millions of dollars to infuse into Connecticut's energy industry.

As this pandemic continues, and hopefully concludes sooner than later, legislators will continue to find ways to push Connecticut forward, not just in fighting COVID but preparing for the days after its threat diminishes.

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Congratulations!

Miss Mulvey Has Retired...

After nearly 17 years of faithful service, everyone's favorite Town Hall employee is retiring. Since 2003, Miss Mulvey has tirelessly served this community, bringing joy to countless citizens of Westbrook. She has always greeted visitors to the Selectman's Office with a flick or her tail, letting everyone know they were welcome. Mulvey came to us after a brief stint with the Valley Shore Animal Welfare League, but her stellar qualifications meant she moved on quickly. She would like to thank everyone for all of their love and help over the years, especially when she had to have surgery to remove some teeth; she could not have asked for a more supportive community. She would also like to thank



her work family for all the pets and treats throughout the years, especially her co-worker and human Mom, Jill Brainerd in the First Selectman's office. Nobody has taken better care and loved her more. Mulvey is now looking forward to being able to get a full 18 hours of sleep while curled up on a big comfy bed, and eating all of the treats she can fit in her belly and enjoy to finally look out a window and see all the wildlife. She hopes that everyone will consider adopting a furry friend. If you are not able to adopt a pet, she hopes you will consider donating to our local shelters in her name. Thank you again to the Town of Westbrook and all of her loyal fans. Photo & article by Catie Marino.

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