

SPRING 2022 ISSUE

STONINGTON

magazine



Photo by Stonington Garden Club
Gardens By The Sea - Garden Tour, June 10 & 11



William Pitt

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INTERNATIONAL REALTY

recent sales



15 GRAVEL STREET, MYSTIC



27 BROADWAY AVENUE, MYSTIC
Commercial Sale



1 PEARL STREET, MYSTIC
Commercial Sale
Listing Agency: Market Realty, LLC



14 WEST MYSTIC AVE, MYSTIC



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Brenda Pelt
860-961-7887



Valerie Pagliaro
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Tracy O'Donnell
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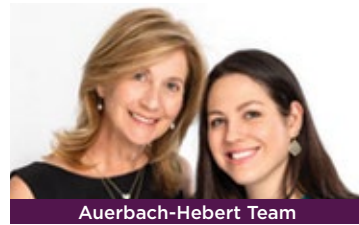
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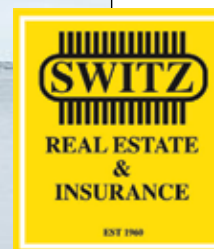
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Greetings from your Board of Selectmen,

As we settle into 2022 and continue thinking about the possibilities it may bring, it is a good time to reflect on all we each have to be grateful for in our lives and community. We want to again share our thanks to the countless residents, workers and business owners who have helped get our community through challenging times and bring forward many positive moments. We are so proud of the everyday kindness and resilience we see from the community.

As we write this, we are coming to the start of our budget season and know many residents would like to better understand how local tax dollars are put to use and how they can be more involved.

A little over half of our local budget is dedicated to funding the important work undertaken by the Stonington Public School system. Then comes General Government at around 11% of the budget, which encompasses the work done by the team at Town Hall and Human Services. This includes many of the functions needed to help run the day-to-day of municipal government, including the following departments: Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Assessment, Building, Planning, Administrative Services, Information Technology (IT) and Finance. This also includes the Department of Human Services, which represents a little over 2% of this portion of the budget. Human Services includes youth and senior programs, social services, mental health support, and recreation.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) is the next largest area of the budget, at around 10%, of the total Town budget. DPW's operations are extensive and diverse. It includes road maintenance, drainage, signs (largely made in-house), street sweeping, and snow plowing. The also take care of our town-owned facilities, parks, athletic fields, and roadsides. This portion of the budget also includes the Department of Solid Waste, which focuses on refuse and recycling collection. Thanks to the state-wide leadership of this team, mainly our Unit Based Pricing program (i.e., our yellow bags), Stonington has one of lowest per capita waste generation in the State and has saved over \$7 million on avoided waste disposal costs since implementing the yellow bag program. Further advances on textile recycling (pink bag) and work towards composting will help our Town remain a leader in our State, and keep our expenses down. Police are

about 9% of the budget, and are a dedicated group of men and women who provide a range of crime prevention and protection services for residents and visitors alike. They also engage the community in educational programs through partnerships with both our Town and School staff, as well as other First Responders and local nonprofits. The smallest category we have, representing about 4% of the budget, is dedicated to Capital Improvements, which funds the larger infrastructure needs facing the Town. This can range from community investments in sidewalks and bridge repairs to purchasing new police cars and snow plows. The final area of the budget is debt service, representing about 11% of the budget, and these are scheduled payment the Town makes to pay back the debt it has previously issues. This includes, for example, the bonds for building of two new elementary schools and infrastructure improvements to our town-wise sewer system.



Visit the Town website for an overview of the budget hearing dates, and to sign-up for direct email communication.

Stonington is able to provide these wonderful services, all while having one of the lowest tax rates in the State of CT, thanks to the dedicated work of our municipal employees and volunteers. We rely heavily on the work done by our over 40 local nonprofits and the volunteers that make-up our 30+ Boards and Commissions.

We know we will always have different challenges ahead of us, but with your support we know we can find ways to turn those challenges into opportunities. We invite you to find more ways you can be involved in the community. One great resource is the Nonprofit Roundtable (www.stoningtonnonprofits.org) or reach out to us directly. There are so many ways to make a positive difference, and if we can help you find your way, please let us know.

Thank you, Stonington,

Danielle Chesebrough, First Selectman

June Strunk
Selectwoman

Deborah Downie
Selectwoman

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Town of Stonington

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Monday-Friday 8:30am to 4pm

STONINGTON HUMAN SERVICES

166 South Broad Street, Pawcatuck, CT 06379
Monday-Friday 8:30am to 4:00pm
Lobby Open: Mon-Fri 9am-12pm / 1pm-3:30pm

STONINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

173 South Broad Street, Pawcatuck, CT 06379
Monday-Friday 8:30am to 4pm
911 for Emergencies

TRANSFER STATION

151 Greenhaven Road, Pawcatuck, CT 06379
Monday-Tuesday/Thursday-Friday: 9-3
(Closed Wednesday); Saturday: 8-3; Sunday 8-1

- Administrative Services (860) 535-5000
- Animal Control (860) 599-4411
- Assessment Department (860) 535-5098
- Building Official..... (860) 535-5075
- Emergency Management (860) 535-5050
- Engineering (860) 535-5076
- Finance Department..... (860) 535-5070
- Highway (860) 535-5055
- Human Services (860) 535-5015
- Planning Department (860) 535-5095
- Public Works..... (860) 535-5055
- Registrars of Voters..... (860) 535-5047
(860) 535-5054
- Sanitarian..... (860) 535-5010
- Selectmen's Office (860) 535-5050
- Solid Waste and Recycling..... (860) 535-5099
- Transfer Station (860) 535-5088
- Police Department..... (860) 599-4411
- Tax Collector (860) 535-5080
- Town Clerk..... (860) 535-5060
- Water Pollution Authority..... (860) 535-5065

www.stonington-ct.gov



Stonington 2022 Rain Barrel Program

When You Buy a Rain Barrel, you will:

- Decrease your water bill by up to 40%.
- Have an alternate source of water during droughts.
- Have a healthy, chlorine and chemical-free water source for plants and gardens.
- Improve residential storm management.
- Slow pollution from runoff.
- Lower municipal water demands & save energy at treatment plants

About The Great American Rain Barrel:

- 100% re-purposed, food grade, UV protected and BPA free barrels. Produced in Massachusetts.
- Most durable rain barrels on the market: 3/16” wall thickness.
- Will last for years when properly drained & stored for winter. Pay for themselves in one year.
- Screen filtered to keep mosquitoes out.
- Several rain barrels can be linked together — easy 5-minute setup
- Available Colors: Forest Green, Earth Brown, and Nantucket Grey. Also available unpainted.

How to Purchase Your Rain Barrel:

- Barrels offered at \$85, \$5 from each barrel purchased is going to the Stonington Beautification Committee

How to Order: <https://www.greatamericanrainbarrel.com/community/SelectTown>

Pick-Up: Wednesday June 29th 5-7:00pm Human Services Parking Lot 166 South Broad St, Pawcatuck

Deadline: June 19th at Midnight

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Rotary of the Stoningtons

Our small but active and engaged club strives to fulfill the Rotary International mission to alleviate poverty and improve health, education and the environment. We contribute annually to both global and local organizations aimed at bettering the lives of people and their communities. Some of our recent accomplishments include providing substantial contributions to the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center and the Stonington Human Services Fuel assistance program, working with other local Rotary clubs to fund computers for a new library for the Chikumbuso project in Zambia, and providing cash donations to more than a dozen local community programs and service organizations. We are thrilled to be once again hosting a golf tournament on Fishers Island on May 26th to raise funds for our charitable distributions, and are actively soliciting businesses and organizations to sponsor and advertise at the event.

In addition to our monetary contributions, we volunteer as a club at the New London Community Meal Center and are looking forward to participating in our Rotary Districts Day of Service on April 9. Visit our club page at <https://www.facebook.com/havingfuninservice/> as details of the event develop. If you would like to join us on a weekly Zoom meeting or speak to one of our members directly, please contact our membership chairperson at carolu.rotary@gmail.com or our president at sabrinabuehler@gmail.com.

Department of Assessment

The Department of Assessment would like to notify all residents that the Homeowners-Totally Disabled Program and the Additional Veteran Program opens for applications February 1st, 2022. The application period for the Homeowners ends on May 13, 2022 and the Additional Veterans ends on September 30, 2022. Both of these programs are income based with the maximum income for a single person being \$38,100 and for married couples \$46,400. Please contact the Department of Assessment at 860-535-5098 or assessor@stonington-ct.gov for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Revaluation 2022:

If you are a residential property owner and you have not yet submitted your data mailer, there is still time to do so. Completed data mailers can be mailed or dropped off at the Town Hall or emailed directly to the department.

Representatives of Vision Government Solutions will be working around town doing inspections of properties that have sold during the last year and properties that have open building permits. This process requires the interior and exterior inspection of your property including exterior measurements. All personnel information will also be posted on the town website and will also be on file with the police department. If you wish to confirm the identity of any of the revaluation personnel, please contact the Assessor's Office at 860-535-5098 during town hall business hours 8:30am to 4:00pm. All property owners and tenants are respectfully requested to cooperate with data collectors to ensure that accurate information is used in the revaluation process.



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TRUST • CARING • COMMITMENT • EXCELLENCE

The mission of the Department of Human Services is to enhance the quality of life for Stonington residents from all age groups and all economic backgrounds by advocating for their basic needs and promoting self-sufficiency.

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

We understand the challenges that life can present from time to time – we are here to help! During the intake process, we will screen for a wide variety of federal, state and local programs that may be able to assist your situation (financial or otherwise) – we are here for you! Our team of friendly, knowledgeable staff are happy to help you in any way they can, with personalized case management and support. If we cannot meet your needs on a local level, we will advocate for you to find an agency/organization that can! For more information, or to make an appointment with a case manager, please call (860) 535-5015 or email Amanda Davis, Human Services Specialist: ADavis@stonington-ct.gov. For assistance outside of our normal business hours (M-F, 8:30am-4:00pm), please reach out to 2-1-1 CT (dial 211 or <http://www.211ct.org>).

SPECIAL NEEDS EMERGENCY REGISTRY

Enrolling in the Special Needs Emergency Registry lets police, fire and other first responders in your community better prepare for and respond to your needs during a hurricane, storm, homeland security or any other emergency situation that you may be experiencing. If you, or someone you know, may need extra help during a time of emergency, please sign up today at: <https://stonington.recdesk.com/Community/Program/Detail>. If you would like a form mailed directly to your home, please call (860) 535-5015 or email Leanne Theodore, Human Services Director.

HEATING ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS NOW BEING TAKEN

TVCCA's Energy Assistance Program helps families and individuals pay their home heating bills. Priority is given to "vulnerable households" with young children, elderly or disabled individuals. Please e-mail to: energyassistance@stonington-ct.gov and an application packet can be sent to you to complete and return along with required documentation, or make an in-person appointment to meet with one of our case managers.

STONINGTON FEEDS STONINGTON

Supporting local businesses, while simultaneously brightening someone's day! Restaurant gift cards available for residents. If you, or someone you know could use a ray of sunshine at this time, please e-mail Human Services Director, Leanne Theodore: LTheodore@stonington-ct.gov.

UNITED WAY MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

The mobile pantry is a critical extension of the work of the Gemma E. Moran United Way/Labor Food Center and focuses on bringing fresh produce, proteins, and healthy snacks directly to those most at-risk for food insecurity in New London County. Currently operating as a drive-thru distribution, guests are advised to bring a form of ID and their own bags.

Where? Stonington High School parking lot

When? 1st Wednesday of each month from 5-6:00pm

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

All counseling sessions and support groups are held at Stonington Human Services and are provided at no cost to Stonington residents. Interested in a support group that is not currently in place? Please let us know!

GET FREE AT-HOME COVID-19 TESTS

Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order (4) free at-home COVID-19 tests. The tests are completely free. Orders will usually ship in 7-12 days. Order your tests now so you have them when you need them. Go to: <https://www.covidtests.gov/>.

COVID-19 TESTING

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

EACH TESTING SITE WILL REMAIN OPEN WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

TUESDAY 2 PM Groton Municipal Building 295 Meridian Street Groton	WEDNESDAY 8 AM Crystal Mall 850 Hartford Turnpike Waterford	THURSDAY 3 PM Stonington Human Services 166 S. Broad Street Pawcatuck	FRIDAY 12 PM Ocean Beach Park 98 Neptune Avenue New London
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

- PCR swab testing. All ages welcome; a parent/guardian must be present for children under 18. You do not need to be experiencing symptoms.
- If you do not have insurance, there will not be a charge at any of these sites.
- If you have insurance, please bring that information/card.
- If you have been directed to a "State Supported Site" by your health insurance provider you should go to Waterford or Stonington.
- Sema4 will email (check your "junk" box) your test results. If you cannot find the email within 48 hours, contact Sema4 at 1.800.298.6470, option 2.

VISIT 211CT.ORG OR CALL 211 FOR MORE TESTING LOCATIONS

For more information about COVID-19, please visit LLHD.org or ct.gov/DPH.

Please stay tuned to <https://stonington.recdesk.com> as well as our Facebook page (Stonington Human Services) for upcoming information on workshop offerings, as well as adult education and enrichment opportunities. If you are experiencing difficulty during this time please do not hesitate to call (860) 535-5015 or email KKing@stonington-ct.gov. We are here for you! Kristen King – Youth & Family Services Administrator

SAVE THE DATE – SATURDAY, MAY 7TH 3RD ANNUAL STONINGTON SPRING FEST

We hope you'll join us! Something for ALL ages! A chance to connect with friends, neighbors, first responders, local non-profits and service providers. Give-A-Ways; Children's Crafts; Face Painting; Touch-A-Truck; Car Seat Checks; Field Games; and much MORE! VENDORS WANTED! For more information, email to: LTheodore@stonington-ct.gov.

2022-2023 HUMAN SERVICES PRESCHOOL

Operating Days: Mon/Wed/Fri

Program Hours: 9:00 am-12:30 pm

Every parent wants a nurturing environment for their young child's early education. Open to fully potty-trained children ages 3-5. Located within Stonington High School, A 3-day option is available at this time. Students must be fully potty-trained and 3 years of age by September 1. Registration opens March 5 (\$25 non-refundable registration fee is due at the time of sign up).

Quality Affordable Program * Certified Preschool Teachers * Encourages social, emotional, physical, and intellectual growth * Structured classroom setting with a well-balanced schedule of activities * Weekly curriculum themes.

COMMUNITY GARDENING IN STONINGTON

Community Gardens are located near the Department of Human Services (166 South Broad Street, Pawcatuck) and Stonington Town Hall (152 Elm Street, Stonington). Join our network to learn how to grow your own vegetables, cut food costs and learn about four season square foot gardening. The annual fee for a 4'x16' plot is \$25 (Stonington residents). If you are interested in renting a plot this year at either location, please call (860) 535-5015 or email to: KKing@stonington-ct.gov.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG DROP BOX AT THE STONINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Do you have unused, unwanted or expired medications? Sponsored by Stonington Prevention Council in 2015, the Stonington Police Department hosts a permanent Prescription Drug Drop Box in their main lobby. Open 24 hours/day, 7 days/week, the box is a free service with no paperwork is required to participate. Accepted items include: prescriptions (including patches, medications); over-the-counter medications; vitamins; samples; pet medication. The following items are not accepted: needles/sharps; ointments/lotions/liquids; aerosol cans; inhalers; hydrogen peroxide; thermometers.



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NANCY TROSTLER, AU.D, CCC-A,
CHRISTINE H, KENDALL, MA

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR HARD WORKING STAFF!

HUMAN SERVICES: RECREATION

The Recreation Division within the Human Services Department serves as an advocate for meeting the recreational needs of Stonington residents of all ages by providing residents with an abundance of seasonal and year-round opportunities ranging from camps, clinics, leagues to open runs, trips, and fitness programs. Call (860) 535-5015 for further information or register online <https://stonington.recdesk.com>. Please contact Richard Ward at rward@stonington-ct.gov for additional information.

SPRING PROGRAMS

Youth Programs - Tennis Lessons; NFL Flag Football Tournament; Middle School Co-Ed Rec Basketball League; Adult Programs - Men's & Co-Ed Softball Leagues. We are pleased to offer program scholarships to resident families who are in financial need. Please call (860) 535-5015 for more information.

For current program listings and online registration, go to: <https://stonington.recdesk.com>.

SPELLMAN RECREATIONAL PARK

Our recreation complex consists of (4) athletic playing fields; a large playground area; outdoor exercise equipment; (2) basketball courts; (6) tennis courts, (2) batting cages and (2) pavilion areas (available for rent - \$30/day) - with outdoor volleyball and shuffleboard courts. Add Stonington High School's Palmer Turf and baseball fields, and we have one of the finest recreational facilities in the area! Any organized non-scholastic sport using the fields for games or practices at the park, Stonington Middle School or SPS District Office, must be approved in advance. For more info, call (860) 535-5066.

FAR FLUNG DISC GOLF COURSE

We are currently building a 9-hole Disc Golf Course in Spellman Park. Watch for Grand Opening date(s) coming soon! A huge thanks go out to our sponsors: Far Flung Enterprises (Title); First Financial Advisor Services, Mystic Knotwork, The Valenti Family of Dealerships; Ear Nose & Throat Associates of SECT (Founding); Pawcatuck Roofing; Beer'd Brewing Co; SHS Class of 1998; Stonington Prevention Council; SHS Class of 1995; The Moody Family (Legacy) and the numerous seasonal sponsors that contributed the funds needed to make this project a reality. Please reach out to us at discgolf@stonington-ct.gov to learn more about how you, or your organization, can help us reach our goal!

STONINGTON PLAYGROUNDS – COME ONE, COME ALL!

Did you know that Human Services - Recreation Division oversees and maintains three playgrounds in our community? Please abide by all posted rules and regulations. **Spellman Park** - Spellman Drive, Pawcatuck; **Town Dock** - High Street, Stonington Borough; **Haley's Way** - Haley's Way, Old Mystic.

2022 SUMMER CAMP

Held at Spellman Park, our camp takes full advantage of on-site sports fields, playground, hiking trails and school facilities for safe, fun-filled weeks of summer time adventure!

Theme Days • Crafts Sports • Fantastic Fridays
Wacky Wednesdays • Field Trips • Nature Theater
Camper Time Clubs and much, much more!

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION STARTS FEBRUARY 1st - MAX 100.

Age/Grades: Campers entering Grades 1-6 in Fall 2021.

Day/Date: Monday-Friday - June 28-August 20

Full Day: 8am-4pm

Early Bird Rates (end March 31st): Full Day, Full Summer: \$650/Resident; \$800/Non-Resident

New for 2022! Choose any one (or more) of the [8] weeks we are in session

Weekly rate: \$125/Resident; \$160/Non-Resident



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Mystic & Noank Library

Spring means fun and energizing programs at the Mystic & Noank Library! Join us this season for great baking classes for kids, an indoor yard sale with treasures waiting to be found, and a virtual lecture about women and jazz!

THURSDAY, MARCH 10TH AT 6:30 PM join us and our other sponsoring libraries to welcome professional flutist and music educator Galen Abdur-Razzaq for a Zoom performance and lecture on Women and Jazz in celebration of Women's History Month.

FRIDAY, MARCH 18TH FROM 10 AM – 4 PM & SATURDAY, MARCH 19TH FROM 10 AM – 2 PM Visit the library, for The Friend's Indoor Yard Sale! Proceeds of the sale will be used by the Friends to support the Library throughout the year.

Get cooking with Food Explorers' Baking Classes for Kids this season! Learn how to make veggie stuffed shells, spaghetti and meatballs and risotto! Food Explorers provides children with the knowledge to make healthy choices for themselves.

Visit us online at mysticnoanklibrary.org to register for these programs and to view our virtual library with free access to audiobooks, ebooks, movies and TV shows. For daily updates on what's happening at the Library please visit the Library's Facebook & Instagram pages at [@mysticnoanklibrary](https://www.instagram.com/mysticnoanklibrary).

Bascule Bridge's 100th year!

As we settle into 2022, the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce is planning an epic celebration as our own Bascule Bridge, the oldest of its kind in the U.S., turns 100 this summer. Beginning in April, the Mystic Chamber and Foxwoods Resort Casino will partner with a host of for profit and non-profit businesses to commemorate the Bascule Bridge's 100th year! Events will occur all Spring and Summer with a ceremony and dedication planned for October 15th, 2022. Look for details at mysticchamber.org about local high school Scholarships and all of the planned festivities. If you are interested in helping with the planning or sponsoring the event, please email Bruce at bruceflax@mysticchamber.org.

We are seeking volunteers to help with events and in our GMCC office in 2022! Make a difference in your community and help make your hometown a better place by supporting over 500 local business members. This volunteer experience will offer the opportunity for individuals to take part in events and network with fellow professionals in the area, all while making a difference! Need volunteer hours for school, religious, or extracurricular purposes? We can help with that! Contact Morgan at (860) 572-9578 or email morgan@mysticchamber.org.



Mystic & Noank Library

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- PROGRAMS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

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CALL (860) 536-7721 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Culture Connects

In December, the Town of Stonington’s Economic Development Commission partnered with the Cultural Coalition of Southeastern CT, and the Town of Stonington to host a meet and mingle at Rio Salado in Mystic with many who create, promote and support arts, culture and history in Stonington. A recap, update and next steps on the formation of a Cultural District in Stonington were shared. A Cultural District is a center of cultural activities/places that make a community special with unique assets for both our citizens and visitors alike.

Next steps are critical - calling all Stonington residents with an interest in Arts and Culture!! We will conduct community outreach to seek Cultural District Committee members representing all areas of the Town. An ideal Committee is 18-20 people from various backgrounds: artists, cultural organizations, restaurant/hospitality, museums, real estate, tourism, healthcare, education, and more. Once a committee is launched, its first actions will be to decide the boundaries of one or more Cultural Districts.

The Economic Development Commission and SECT Cultural Coalition advocate for connecting and strengthening a robust economy with a resilient arts and cultural sector, which contributes to vibrant, healthy and equitable community. Local artists gain opportunities as integral assets to economic and community development; employers are using arts and culture as a tool for attraction and retention of employees; and SECT is a desirable place to live, work and enjoy.

The Cultural District Committee will be guided by Southeastern CT Cultural Coalition culturesect.org. For more information contact EDC member Elsie Bisset at elsiebis@yahoo.com.





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Looking for Mighty Moms!

The Mighty Mom competition is a fundraiser for the Stonington Community Center, where awesome moms (or grandmoms!) partner with a local business sponsor and fundraise for the COMO. Moms can recruit friends and family to support them in the competition for \$5 a vote. The winning Mighty Mom will have their sponsor's logo, along with their own picture, displayed on the COMO billboard!

If you're a Mighty Mom (or know one!) or have a business and would be interested in sponsoring an amazing local mom, reach out to Rebecca Ross at R.Ross@thecomoo.org or 860-535-2476 by March 18 for more information on this friendly competition.

Funds raised by the competition support the COMO and help continue to offer a space where community members of all ages, abilities and financial backgrounds can make memories, build friendships, and access affordable childcare, athletic, and STEAM programming.

REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER CAMP IS OPEN!

The COMO has 10 weeks of camp beginning June 27. Campers will explore the entire 16-acre COMO campus including our tennis and paddle courts, garden, and makerspace, with trips to duBois Beach. Athletic and STEAM specialty camps are also available throughout the summer.

Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center

Spring is the perfect time for all ages to get outdoors! Come explore 10+ miles of trails connecting our two locations or take part in a program. DPNC offers year round environmental education programs for all ages, both in-person and online.

WOODLAND EGG HUNT, FRIDAY, APRIL 15

Stroll the trails in search of eggs, and meet animal friends along the way. Trade in your found eggs for wooden ones to decorate in your own unique way. This event is outdoors, you must preregister, and is suited for families with children up to 10 years old.



PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

DPNC has a wide variety of programming for children of all ages and schedules, with drop off programs as well as programs for families to enjoy together.

BEFORE SCHOOL & AFTER SCHOOL CARE

DPNC and Precious Memories Place have partnered to offer a unique child care program before and after school for ages 5 to 12, at Coogan Farm where nature is our playground! Includes bussing from Deans Mill School.

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

DPNC offers adult programs with in-person birding and hikes with small group sizes, as well as online gardening and art programs.

DPNC has two locations where fun comes naturally, the Nature Center on Pequotsepos Road and Coogan Farm on Route 27. Explore 10+ miles of trails, meet rehabilitated wildlife, and immerse yourself in natural history and heritage. DPNC offers year round environmental education programs for all ages.

Learn more on DPNC's website at <https://dpnc.org/>.

Stonington Free Library


Stonington Free Library is here for you! Connect with SFL this spring for special events planned for National Library Week, April 3-9. Library Book Groups meet monthly on the 2nd Thursday at 2pm and the 1st Wednesday at 5:30pm. Knitting Group meets Wednesdays from 1-3pm. Sunday Evening Lectures and Thoughtful Thursdays take place March through October. Our free WiFi extends outside the library building--no password required--and we offer WiFi hotspots for loan. In addition to books and periodicals, come in for printing, copying, scanning, and faxing. Computers are available to the public inside the library, and Chromebooks are available for loan.

Look for a new children's Grab & Go Kit each month. The Family Reading Challenge and 50 to Grow On continue through April 4. We also have All CT Reads titles available for checkout. Look for Summer Reading Program announcements on our website.

Visit stoningtonfreelibrary.org and social media for the latest updates. Our digital offerings, e-books, audiobooks, movies, music, TV shows, library programs and more, are available 24/7 on YouTube, Kanopy, Libby and Hoopla. Our website includes instructions on how to access all these offerings. To get a library card, visit our website, call 860-535-0658, or email stonlib@stoningtonfreelibrary.org.





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La Grua Center

La Grua Center is a nonprofit cultural center in Stonington Borough offering concerts, art exhibitions, and speakers on a variety of subjects. This spring, we are pleased to present the following programs:



MARCH

3/4 5-7pm—Exhibit Opening: Celebrating Our Region’s Emerging Artists

3/12 5pm—Music Matters Series: Homage to Bach III, with Misuzu Tanaka

3/20 3pm—Music Matters Special: Bartok & Rachmaninoff, with Wynona Wang

3/23 6pm—Military Matters Series: Breaking Ice & Breaking Glass, with Sandra Stosz

APRIL

4/1 5-7pm—Exhibit Opening: 2nd Annual Postcard Art

4/9 5pm— Music Matters Series: Homage to Bach IV, with Michael Bahmann

4/22 7pm—More Music: Mike Casey Jazz

MAY

5/6 5-7pm—Exhibit Opening: The Art & Photography of Shelley Lawrence

5/14 5pm—Music Matters Series: New England Folk Quartet

5/18 6pm—Art and Social Practice, with Jessica Cerullo

...and more! Please visit LaGruaCenter.org for details and additional programming.

Gardens by the Sea

Gardens By The Sea, a walking tour of nine private gardens in the Borough of Stonington, is planned for June 10 and 11, 2022. “Artists in the Borough,” a unique highlight of the 2022 tour, will feature New England “plein air” artists, who will draw inspiration from our seaside village gardens and landscapes. The tented Marketplace, located on Wadawanuck Square, will have a variety of vendors offering garden accessories, plants, crafts, clothing, jewelry, and home decorating and gift items. Gardens By The Sea will be open to the public each day from 10 am – 4 pm, rain or shine. Tickets will be online starting in March 2022 for \$35 in advance and \$40 if purchased on the day of the tour. Visit www.stoningtongardenclub.org/garden-tour/ the most up-to-date information.

James Merrill House

This spring the James Merrill House welcomes two writers in residence and an esteemed guest lecturer. Kamran Javadizadeh, who received his Ph.D. from Yale in 2008, is an associate professor at Villanova University, where he works on the history of poetry and poetics. He’s completing a book that braids poetry, family history, and the Iranian diaspora. Mehdi Tavana Okasi is Associate Professor of Creative Writing at SUNY/Purchase. He’s completing his first novel, *May This Be Your Last Sorrow*. Rosanna Warren will present this year’s Merrill Lecture. Poet, essayist, translator, and biographer, Warren is Hanna Holborn Gray Distinguished Service Professor in the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago. Her latest book is *So Forth: Poems* (W.W. Norton). Each talk will be broadcast live on the Merrill House YouTube and Facebook channels. Please check jamesmerrillhouse.org in advance of the date for details.

MARCH 26, 5PM: Kamran Javadizadeh

MAY 7, 5PM: Mehdi Tavana Okasi

JUNE 2, 5PM: Rosanna Warren
17th Annual Merrill Lecture

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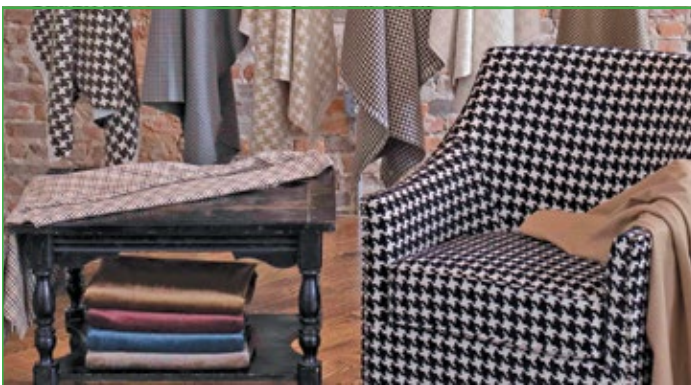


Salt Marsh Opera

Salt Marsh Opera is presenting *La Cenerentola* at The United Theatre on Wednesday, May 18 at 7:00pm. Based on the fairy tale *Cendrillon* by Charles Perrault, and composed by Gioacchino Rossini, *La Cenerentola* (Cinderella) has become part of the standard operatic repertoire, loved by audiences around the world. While Rossini is revered as one of the great Italian opera composers of the 19th century, he is known much more

for the first few minutes of his operas - the frantic, pulse-pounding overtures – than for his closing acts. Of the approximately 39 operas he composed, of which 4 were premiered in 1817, only a handful are performed in their entirety with any regularity today. One of the exceptions is *La Cenerentola*. Only his *Barber of Seville*, an opera he composed just a year before *La Cenerentola*, is heard more often. Salt Marsh Opera’s production has been shortened to an hour for its Kids Love Opera! program. The United Theatre performance is the culmination of its tour of the production which will be enjoyed by several thousand students from southern RI and southeastern CT.

Tickets to *La Cenerentola* will be available later this spring from The United Theatre box office at www.unitedtheatre.org.



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Luna's Story

My normally playful cat, Luna, wasn't interested in playing. She was sleeping more and her appetite had declined. I brought her to the Vet who suspected that she had pyometra, an often fatal infection in unspayed cats.

I delayed her spay because of COVID-19 and financial reasons. She was an indoor cat and not breeding so I thought it would be okay. If I had known that she could get sick, I would have done things sooner.

Luna needed emergency surgery, so I rushed her to the Vet which required money upfront to start the procedure. I could pay them some, but still needed help since I had just lost my job.

I contacted Stand Up For Animals because I knew if anyone could help, it would be them. After submitting the Vets paperwork, SUFA donated towards her surgery.

Stand Up For Animals continued to check up on Luna and tried to help in any way they could. I truly appreciate everything they've done. Without SUFA, I don't know if I could have come up with the money for Luna's surgery!

Of necessity, the financial health and adherence to our mission influences the number and amount of financial assistance offered.



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 15 Pearl Street, Mystic, CT 06355

Stonington Human Services
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Celebrate New England Kelp Harvest Week

APRIL 15 - 23, 2022

Did you know that Connecticut is home to a growing number of sugar kelp farms? This sustainable, native crop not only adds flavor and nutrition to your plate, it also cleans our local waters and fights climate change by sequestering carbon.

Kelp Harvest Week is a celebration of this amazing product, being farmed right off our coast! Programs at the Yellow Farmhouse during the week will include ideas for how to cook with kelp. And last year, over 50 restaurants, breweries, and cafes along the Connecticut shoreline featured sugar kelp on their menus during NE Kelp Harvest Week. In addition, over 1,000 pounds of sugar kelp was donated to area schools for tastings and cooking demonstrations. For information about where you can enjoy or purchase sugar kelp for yourself this year and to learn more about kelp week, visit <https://newenglandkelp.com/> or www.yellowfarmhouse.org.



Lingering winter temperatures make us hopeful for Spring. We're ready for warm weather and all it may bring.

Always Home is busy planning our next in-person event. A chance to come together with shared purpose and intent.

Preventing Family Homelessness is a collective mission and goal. When families have stable housing, their lives are more whole.

Always Home's Heart to Heart Gala will help families in need. But we need your help to really succeed.

We'll be honoring Dave Cruthers, long-time supporter and friend. May 13th, filled with promise, is an evening we hope you'll attend.

For more information about Always Home or May Gala details, please visit our website: www.alwayshome.org

 An advertisement for "The Sun" newspaper. On the left, there is a collage of newspaper photos showing people in winter clothing. On the right, the text reads: "Like a photo you saw in the THE SUN THE EXPRESS MYSTIC RIVER PRESS". At the bottom, it says "Order high quality photos at TheWesterlySun.com/BuyPhotos/".

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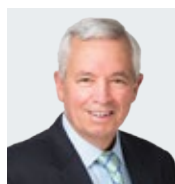
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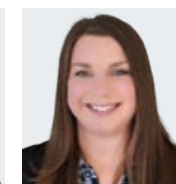
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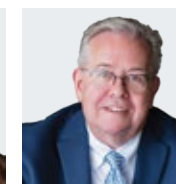
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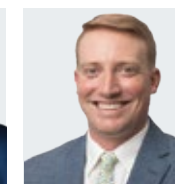
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