TOWN OF STONINGTON, CONNECTICUT WINTER 2019 ISSUE agazine 1649 \* U

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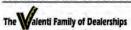








#### **HOLE IN ONE SPONSOR**



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Special thanks to all of our volunteers

The Stonington Alerts notification system provides accurate and immediate notifications to your cell, work or home phone, via text, email or voice message. Receive notifications that may affect your home, business, workplace, school or any other locations within Stonington



To download community and emergency notifications and information visit:

www.stonington-ct.gov/pages/stonington-alerts

# Town of Stonington

#### STONINGTON TOWN HALL

152 Elm Street, Stonington, CT 06378 Monday-Friday 8:30am to 4:00pm

#### STONINGTON HUMAN SERVICES

166 South Broad Street, Pawcatuck, CT 06379 Monday-Friday 8:30am to 4:00pm

#### STONINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

173 South Broad Street, Pawcatuck, CT 06379 Monday-Friday 8:30am to 4:00pm 911 for Emergencies

#### TRANSFER STATION

151 Greenhaven Road, Pawcatuck, CT 06379 Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri 9:00am to 3:00pm Wednesday - Closed Saturday 8:00 to 3:00 / Sunday 8:00 to 1:00

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

## Hail & Farewell to the Board

The theme for the Selectmen's Corner this quarter is to say "Farewell" to the current Board of Selectmen.

Current 1st Selectman Rob Simmons has risen through the ranks since he occupied a vacancy created by the resignation of Selectwoman Glee McAnanly in September 2014. She was the first woman ever elected to the Board. Rob moved to 2nd Selectman in 2015 and was elected to the top spot in November of that year.

Selectman John Prue was elected to the Board in November of 2017 and has served a full two-year term. Selectwoman Jocelyn Kepple was appointed to the Board in 2019 replacing Kate Rotella who served for three years but moved on when she was elected State Representative.

Since Simmons and Kepple are not running for reelection this November, there will be at least two new members of the Board. The outcome of Selectman Prue's election for 1st Selectman remains to be seen.

Given the fact that change is in the wind, it is useful to remark on some of the good things the current Board has addressed these past two years.

First and foremost, we have exercised our Charter obligation to prepare two budgets both of which passed in the first referendum. The Boards of Selectmen, Finance and Education worked together in a bipartisan fashion to ensure that we met all of the Town's needs while, at the same time, saving the taxpayer from unnecessary expense.

Second, working with Town Engineer Scot DeLedda, the town was awarded a Class 7 rating from the Federal

Emergency Management Administration for its participation in the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System. This is the highest rating in the state and guarantees that over 1,000 homeowners and businesses in town get a substantial discount on their flood insurance.

On the financial front, the town was able to upgrade its bonding status



with Standard and Poor from AA+ to AAA which is the highest rating there is. We are the first town in Southeastern Connecticut to achieve this rating and it will provide us with favorable rates of interest when we sell our bonds on Wall Street.

In the area of development, the Perkins Farm project, Spruce Ridge, Harbor Heights and Birchwood Farms are proceeding apace as is work on the Stonington Breakwater and the south pier of the Town Dock. Stonington currently has almost \$200 million in projects underway which is an awesome achievement.

Regarding education, the Deans Mill and West Vine Street Schools have been renovated to new with festive ribbon cutting ceremonies. The new Stonington Middle School is now in. West Broad Street School is under consideration for use by Saint Michael School, and the Central office has moved from the now closed Old Mystic Elementary School to the former Pawcatuck Middle School.

And in the area of public safety, Stonington has been declared one of the safest Towns in Connecticut. A study done by a website that specializes in home and cybersecurity ranks Stonington 38th out of 169 Towns and cities.

Finally, a sudden thunder storm in April 2019 caused the collapse of the former Connecticut Castings Mill at 75 Stillman Avenue into the Pawcatuck River. After initial demolition, months of environmental testing and subsequent removal of the hazardous debris on site, the property was declared safe this September. The teamwork that was needed, to include coordination between local, state and federal agencies, was a credit to all involved.

As the sun sets on the current Board of Selectmen, we offer best wishes and "Hail" to what the future may bring.

Rob Simmons, First Selectman, John Prue, Selectman and Jocelyn Kepple, Selectwoman

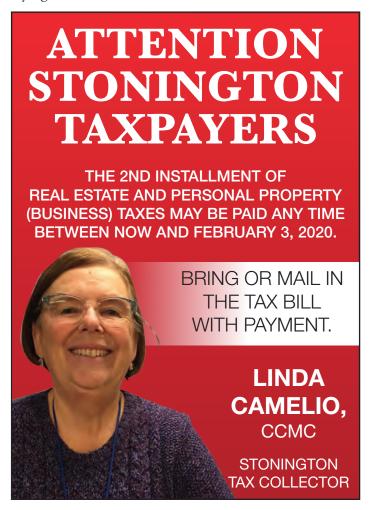


Left: First Selectman Rob Simmons and Town Engineer Scot Deledda display a plaque signed by FEMA Federal Flood Insurance Deputy Administrator Roy E. Wright which commends Stonington for 'successfully' participating in the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System and achieving a Class 7 rank which is the highest available to Connecticut municipalities.

# Economic Development Commission – Who We are and What We Do

The Mission of the Stonington Economic Development Commission (EDC) is to grow of the tax base (Grand List) in Stonington. Town expenses invariably increase. The goal of the EDC is to encourage businesses and residential developers to invest in Stonington, spreading the tax burden across a growing number of people and businesses rather than increasing the tax burden on existing residents and businesses.

There are many ways for the EDC to encourage investment in Stonington. One effective way is to meet with investors before they seek zoning approval for their project. The EDC offers pre-application guidance and support to developers / investors, as well as advocating at Planning and Zoning Commission meetings when approvals are sought for projects that align with Town goals as outlined in the 2015 Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). Developers/investors spend tens of thousands of dollars in legal, architecture and engineering fees before they even get the go ahead for their project. They are constantly trying to balance the trade-offs between likelihood of





approval versus how much money they need to spend to get the approval. The EDC's involvement through the approval process reduces project risk.

The EDC focuses on the key economic clusters that drive the Stonington economy: Housing, Tourism, Agriculture, Marinas, Manufacturing and Elder Care. Because of our beautiful location, the biggest driver of our economy and tax base is tourism and housing. Stonington does not have a large manufacturing base, so more than 80% of our tax revenue comes from homeowners who pay property tax. It is the residents who will continue to bear the brunt of increases in the Town's budget. Therefore, increasing the tax base by helping businesses grow and by building more housing reduces tax increases on existing taxpayers.

The EDC is working on a branding initiative to promote Stonington to potential investors and residents. The logo you see above represents our history and the natural beauty of our waterfront and agricultural land that define Stonington's character. If you are interested in learning more or volunteering, please contact Dave Hammond, EDC Chairman at davehammond0203@gmail.com

The EDC is comprised of 12 dedicated, all-volunteer members: Virginia Abernathy, Rich Balestracci, Kevin Bowdler, Danielle Chesebrough, Chris Donahue, Kristine Halleck, Dave Hammond, Bill Hobbs, Suzanne Lane, Jim Lathrop, Dan McFadden, Pete Robinson.

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ StoningtonEDC/ and at www.stonington1649.com. Meeting agendas and minutes are posted on the town website.

# Your Bank is Now Open in Pawcatuck



Jewett City Savings Bank is now open in downtown Pawcatuck, and that's great news for anyone looking for a local bank with a long history of supporting neighbors, businesses and community organizations.

#### Meet your new banking team

While you are visiting, we hope you will take a few minutes to meet the team. We are looking forward to getting to know our new neighbors.



Shannon Haeseler **Branch Manager** 860-650-6004 shaeseler@jcsbank.com



Amy Panciera **Branch Supervisor** 860-650-6024 apanciera@jcsbank.com



**Ernest Muccio Chief Credit Officer** 860-376-7513 emuccio@jcsbank.com

## Get a free "Your Town" mug

Stop by the office to pick up a mug with the town of your choice - Pawcatuck or Westerly – while supplies last.

No purchase necessary.



46 West Broad Street • Pawcatuck JCSBank.com • 860-650-6005













# **Stonington Tax Collector**

#### 2nd Installment of Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes Due!

Since the tax office consolidated the Town and Fire District bills into one, the bill format has changed slightly. First, the taxpayer will see the Town (T) amount and below that, the name of the Fire District (D) with that amount. The taxpayer will also notice that, with the exception of the Pawcatuck Fire District, the first installment is more than the second because the first installment includes the fire district tax which is only paid once.

The bill comes in three parts – the taxpayer copy, the first installment copy and the second installment copy. While the second installment bill says due January 1st, delinquent after February 3, 2020, it actually may be paid at any time between now and February 3, 2020. It really depends on a few factors. First, the taxpayer may want the deduction in the year 2019, so the 2nd installment must be paid by December 31, 2019; secondly, the taxpayer may be headed south and wants to pay before leaving; and lastly, some people simply want to get the bill off their desks. Regardless of one's reason, know that the 2nd installment may be paid any time between now and February 3, 2020. If one's taxes are escrowed, the bank will pay the taxes.

Lastly, if the taxpayer has trouble paying, please call the office to discuss the situation. We make every effort to work with taxpayers.





# RECREATION • SOCIAL SERVICES • YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES • SENIOR SERVICES

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.

#### **SOCIAL SERVICES**

How can Stonington Human Services help you? Call (860) 535-5015 for more information or to make an intake appointment. During the appointment, you will be screened for a wide variety of federal, state and local programs that may be able to assist your situation. Home visits are available for housebound residents.

#### DO YOU QUALIFY FOR ENERGY ASSISTANCE?

Stonington Human Services has maintained a local fuel bank for over twenty years, participating with Operation Fuel, TVCCA, and United Way energy assistance programs. Income guidelines for the TVCCA program caps at 60% of the State Median Income. Assistance amounts are based on established guidelines regarding family size and vulnerability. Please call in advance for an appointment.



#### Free Music/Drama Program for Grades 4-12

The LUNCH Ensemble works with kids to present music and stage productions to benefit local social services. Our 23rd Annual Holiday Show will be presented on December 7. Any student who likes to participate in music and drama productions is invited to audition for the annual LUNCH Holiday Show and concerts. Work with nationally known songwriters and recording artists in benefit performances for our region's social service programs. Our recording studio has released hundreds of songs with kids from our area schools that are available worldwide. We mentor and coach students in songwriting, performance, music technology, audition preparation, and much more. Our programs meet most schools' requirements for community service hours. The programs are free and open to all.

Visit www.lunchensemble.com for more information, and contact us at info@lunchensemble.com or 860-572-9285 to be involved in Fall & Spring events.



#### **CHANGING OF THE GUARD**

We are so very grateful for Carol Umphlett's 24 years of dedicated service to the Town of Stonington - advocating with care and compassion to our community's most vulnerable residents. With that, we congratulate Michelle Larese-Casanova on her promotion to Social Services Administrator! Michelle has been with the Department for 13 years and has extensive experience facilitating case management and working through Local, State and Federal programs. We wish them both the best in their new adventures!



# UNITED WAY MOBILE FOOD PANTRY Upcoming Stops: December 2nd; January 6th

United Way's Mobile Food Pantry makes a stop in the Stonington High School café during the winter on the first Monday of every month from 5-6pm. The pantry offers fresh fruits and vegetables, meat or other protein (eggs, beans, etc.) and more. There is no application process; those in need are simply asked to bring a photo ID and bags each time they visit the pantry.

Thank you to Officer Murray of the Stonington Police Department for accompanying our Youth & Family Services Administrator, Kristen King, to conduct the annual onsite Rx pick-up on Oct. 25th (stopping at all local senior housing facilities). National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day was Oct. 26th, but the Stonington Police Department has a drop-box in their lobby that is open to residents 24/7! Make your home a safer place today and clean out the medicine cabinet. The collection box, a grant-funded project through Stonington Human Services and the Stonington Prevention Council, accepts prescription patches/medications, over-the-counter medications, vitamins and pet medications.

#### SANTA ANONYMOUS BOOT PROGRAM

We are currently accepting names of children for the Santa Anonymous Boot Program. The program, sponsored by TVCCA's Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), provides new winter boots to eligible Stonington children. Call (860) 535-5015, or email LTheodore@ stonington-ct.gov, if you would like to sponsor and help a child receive a new pair of warm, winter boots.









#### La Grua Center

La Grua Center is a nonprofit cultural center in Stonington Borough offering a wide variety of concerts, lectures, and art exhibitions. Open to the public, we offer easily accessible events for all ages at reasonable prices; aged 18 and under are free. Visit our website at www.lagruacenter.org for more information.

#### **DECEMBER**

Friday, December 6, 7 p.m. U.S. Coast Guard Woodwind Quintet – FREE concert as part of Stonington Borough's Holiday Stroll

Wednesday, December 11, 6 p.m. Hallmark Movie Producer Andrew Gernhard – Behind the Curtain conversation about holiday for heroes filmed in Mystic & Stonington

Saturday, December 14, 5 p.m.

Portuguese Fado with Sonia

Bettencourt – Music Matters Concert

Sunday, December 15, 10 a.m.-Noon Youth Holiday Art Workshop

Through December 15 (times TBD) Pawcatuck Remembers: 80 Years at the Field Street School – Art Exhibition co-presented with Stonington Middle School

#### **JANUARY**

Friday, January 10, 5-7 p.m.

Beauty in Diversity Photography
by Kelly Norcia – Art Exhibition
Opening Reception

Saturday, January 11, 5 p.m. Shannon and Matt Heaton – Music Matters Concert – Irish Music in North America

#### **FEBRUARY**

Friday, February 7, 7 p.m. Hilary Castle – Violin Recital

Wednesday, February 19, 6 p.m. *Photojournalist Todd Gipstein* – The World Comes to La Grua – People, culture, and wildlife from his world travels

# DOWNTOWN MYSTIC

Saturday, November 30th: 2pm Santa Arrives by Tugboat to Mystic River Park, 6pm Tree Lighting and 6:30pm Holiday Lighted Boat Parade.















## HUMAN SERVICES: YOUTH & FAMILY

The programs and services that are offered by the Youth and Family Services Division are done so as a means of promoting positive youth development and supporting improved family and community relations.

Stonington Human Services is pleased to offer program scholarships to resident families who are in financial need. Please contact us for more information!

#### **GIFTS FROM THE HEART (3-WEEK SESSION)**

Age: All ages (accompanied by a parent/guardian) Time: 4-4:45pm Thursdays, Dec 5, 12, 19 Location: Human Services Community Room Fee: \$25/child all (3) sessions or \$10/child per class Instructor: Kristine Boisoneau

The best gifts are made with love. Parents/
Grandparents and children work together to create several unique handmade gifts for someone special this holiday season. Each week different options will be offered. All materials and supplies are provided to create your very own handmade gifts.



December 5: Cookie Mix in a Jar; We Whisk You A Merry Christmas; December 12: Christmas Tea Trees; Snowman Soup Gift Box; December 19: Gingerbread Bath Salts; Christmas Sock Cupcake

# Be the Hit of the Holidays! Our 80+ Delicious Flavors of Cupcakes Will Make Every Gathering Special! Call Today to Order Your Holiday Pies and Cookies! Bleu Squid Breakfast and Bakery Cafe Olde Mistick Village • Mystic, CT (860) 536-6343 • bleusquidmystic.com Monday - Friday 7 am - 3 pm • Saturday & Sunday 7 am - 4 pm

#### STORYBOOK SCIENCE (6-WEEK SESSION)

Age: Grades 1 and 2

Day/Date: Tuesdays January 21-March 3 (No class February 18) from 3:30-4:30pm

Location: West Vine Street School

Fee: \$30/child

Instructor: Kristine Boisoneau

A different story will be read to the young scientists each week, followed by hands-on science experiments to conduct the scientific accuracy, or explore the scientific elements of each story!

#### **KIDS PAINT**

Age: Grades 1-5

Day/Date: Wednesdays - December 11 – Snowmen; January 29 - Winter Scene • Time: 4:30-6:00pm Location: Human Services Community Room

Fee: \$25/session

Instructor: Laura Kahler

Using acrylic paints and a blank canvas, children will create original works of art to take home.



#### CHRISTMAS IN NEW YORK CITY

Friday, December 6th • Fee: \$45/person

Join us as we travel on a full-sized motor coach for a day on your own in NYC! Leaving Stonington Human Services at 8am. Drop off at Rockefeller Center - Pick up is at St. Patrick Cathedral at 6:30pm.

#### 16TH ANNUAL CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PARTY

Saturday, December 14th at 11am-1pm at Stonington High School (Café / Commons)

Come join us for this fun festive, family event! Visit with Santa, holiday-themed carnival games, balloon twisting demonstration and a pizza lunch! NO COST to families who bring a non-perishable canned good to be donated to the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center.

#### HUMAN SERVICES: SENIOR SERVICES

Acting as an advocate for elderly residents in the Town of Stonington, the Commission on Aging (COA) is a twelve-member commission which meets monthly in order to discuss issues with regard to the elderly. The division provides local and regional access to supportive services, as well as a variety of educational workshops and socialization opportunities.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY? CALL (860) 535-5015 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON JOINING THE COMMISSION ON AGING.

#### **COMPUTER LAB OPEN TO RESIDENTS**

Open Monday to Friday from 9:30am – 3:30pm Set up your resume, send a few emails or read the paper online!

#### FRIDAY SENIOR LUNCHEON SERIES

From October to May each year, seniors are invited to join us for lunch, one Friday per month, from 12-1:30pm at various local venues. This very popular program includes a delicious meal, followed by a brief educational presentation or entertainment. Winter Sessions: December 6th: Guytanno's Restaurant (Musician Judy Hall); March 6th: The Elms (Naturopathic Doctor Craig Fasullo)

#### **COMFORT BASKETS FOR SENIORS - A COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROJECT**

The Comfort Basket Project is an interagency partnership that offers custom-prepared baskets for area senior citizens who are recuperating from an illness, transitioning to new housing, or who have experienced depression, isolation, or a recent loss. Partners include The Rotary Club of the Stoningtons, Stonington Arms, Stonington High School National Honor Society, the Commission on Aging and Stonington Human Services. For more information on the project, to refer a resident in need of a basket or to donate please call (860) 535-5015.

# HOLIDAY Winter Wishes DINNER & SHOW

Day Trip to the Aqua Turf Club Tuesday December 10, 2019 • 9:30 AM – 5:00 PM \$75/person (all-inclusive event)

Come and spend the day with us as we travel to Plantsville, CT on a full-size motor coach to enjoy a plentiful meal in an elegant atmosphere. Menu: Salad/Pasta/Roast Turkey/Sliced Roast Beef/ Vegetable/Potato/Dessert.

Featuring music by The Cartells - with a special appearance by The Glamour Girls. Playing songs with both the audience and the holidays in mind. Feel free to tap your feet along or shake a tailfeather as the dance floor will be open!

Register at: https://stonington.recdesk.com/ or call (860) 535-5015 for more information.

Sponsored by Stonington Human Service

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# HUMAN SERVICES: RECREATION

The Recreation Division within the Human Services Department serves as an advocate for meeting the recreational needs of all the residents within the Town of Stonington, providing youth and adults an abundance of seasonal and year-round recreational opportunities to participate in camps, clinics, leagues, open runs, trips and fitness programs. Register online or in person at Stonington Human Services – M-F from 8:30am-4pm.

For current programs, information and registration go to https://stonington.recdesk.com

Beginning January 2020, we will begin programming and scheduling a variety of activities for in the gymnasium at the Stonington Public Schools' District Office (formerly Pawcatuck Middle School) for residents of all ages! Please watch for details over the next several months. If you are interested in a particular program or activity please contact Richard Ward at rward@stonington-ct.gov with your suggestions!

#### **ADULT FITNESS & EXERCISE CLASSES**

All classes are held in the Community Room at Stonington Arms, 133 South Broad Street.

#### **BABY BOOMERS**

M, W, & F (join at any time) 9am - 10am Monthly Fees: 1 day/week \$15; 2 days/week \$30; 3 days/week \$45. Non-Residents: add \$15 Instructors: Michele Gardner & Stacey O'Donnell

Incorporate weights into fun cardio routines to tone and strengthen as you scorch calories. Designed specifically for individuals ages 50 and older.

#### **CHAIR YOGA**

Wednesdays (join at any time) 10am - 11am Monthly Fees: 1 day/week \$15 Instructor: Michele Gardner

Relieve stress and increase flexibility and balance with this gentle approach to yoga. Poses are done either standing or with a chair and none of the movements require floor work. All skill levels welcome!

#### **ADULT OPEN BASKETBALL**

Ages: Adults, 30+ years old Place: Pawcatuck Middle School Dates: Mondays, 7:30-9:30 pm Fees: \$30 / Season (Residents only)

Get in a good "run" with some open, recreational pickup games. Join and attend at any time; we will max at 20 participants. No programming on holidays and/or school closings due to inclement weather.



#### HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Age: Boys and Girls at SHS Grades 9-12 Fees: \$40 (SHS Students only)

REC High School Basketball league will be held this year at Pawcatuck Middle School. Games will be played on Thursday evenings starting January 2 through February 27.

**Important dates:** Registration deadline 12/20/19; Team Draft Day 1/2/2020 (all players must attend the open gym) Start of games 1/9/20 with the schedule still to be determined. Email Richard Ward for availability at rward@stonington-ct.gov The league is supported with thanks to the Rotary Club of the Stoningtons.



#### NFL YOUTH FLAG FOOTBALL - INDOORS

Fees: \$85/Resident • \$100/Non-Resident Place: Mystic Indoor Sports, 90 Welles Rd, Mystic

SESSION 1: Dec 8th – Jan 12th

- High School- Must be in Grades 9-12
- Grades 2-3
- Grades K-1

SESSION 2: Jan 19th - Feb 23

- Grades 4-5
- Grades 6-8

\*Sessions are subject to change based on registration

Our 4th year of league play at the Mystic Indoor Sports arena, off of Rt. 184 in Old Mystic! Goals of the league are that all participants will develop their social and mental skills, as well as physical strength and character while safely learning how to play flag football. Teamwork and active participation are key components. Every child plays—no cuts! This is strictly a recreational league and commitment to the league will not conflict with other winter sports. No practices during the week. Each player will receive an Official NFL Flag reversible team jersey and our coaches and referees will have access to amazing trainings and support tools to better teach and prepare for the games!

# **COTTRELL STREET**

Saturday, November 30th: 2pm Santa Arrives by Tugboat to Mystic River Park, 6pm Tree Lighting and 6:30pm Holiday Lighted Boat Parade. Event is put on by the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce.















Judi Caracausa, Broker-Owner, ABR **CELL PHONE 860-912-9903** 

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL Office at the Mystic River Park 28 Cottrell St, Mystic CT 06355

## **COMO Kids**

More than before and after care

#### It's Great to be a COMO Kid!



A curriculum-based before and after school enrichment program for grades K-8.

Stonington Schools provide transportation to and from the COMO.

School's Out vacation programming also available! Flexible scheduling options for school vacation days.



Pottery Studio | Makerspace | Children's Garden Athletics | Racquet Sports | Homework Club

### Like Us On Rug Decor LLC Facebook — 21 East Main Street, Mystic, CT Save the Earth, Buy Natural Fabrics HOLIDAY SALE Traditional and **Contemporary Boutique** Handwoven Rugs and Art 60% ticket price! Present this coupon and receive an additional 10% off. Offer Valid through 1/31/2020 Not valid with any other offers. 15% Off Rug Restoration and Cleaning Services Hours: Tues—Sat 10am—6pm Also available off hours by appt. 860-245-5639 • cell 856-308-4189 Rugdecorbydavoud@gmail.com • Parking in rear by Lighthouse Bakery.

#### **FENCING**

Acquire the reflexes of a boxer, the legs of a high jumper and the concentration of a tournament chess player. Equipment for these beginner classes is provided. Participants will have access to purchase their own equipment. Instructor Jonathan Reid has been involved with fencing for over 12 years and has coached and officiated for the sport for 10 years.

#### **REC MULTI SPORT BLAST** AGES 4&5 • GRADES K,1,2

Participants are guaranteed to have a BLAST while practicing specific sport skills during games such as star wars, dog pound, coconut shy, popcorn, hungry hippos and many more. Each week will focus on a different sport and the skill sets needed for success in soccer, flag football, lacrosse, rugby, baseball, softball, volleyball. Emphasis is on learning new skills while teaching life lessons such as respect and teamwork, all while having fun and staying active!

## **Stonington Bears Youth Lacrosse**

Stonington Bears Youth Lacrosse (formerly Stonington SEALs Lacrosse) offers Stonington and neighboring towns kids ages kindergarten to 8th grade the opportunity to learn lacrosse. Stonington Bears Youth Lacrosse gives our players the opportunity for personal growth and development by teaching the value of respect, fairness, teamwork, communication, responsibility, truthfulness, non-discrimination, honesty and integrity at all times. In December-March our online registration opens. February, we start indoor lacrosse practices and hit the fields in April our season lasts through the end of the school year visit: www. stoningtonbearslacrosse.org for more information and updates on our program.

# Mystic Highland Pipe Band Connecticut's Scottish **Ambassadors**

The Mystic Highland Pipe Band is a performance band that is a favorite sight in parades and events throughout New England.

The Mystic Highland Pipe Band practices at the Pawcatuck VFW on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8pm. We offer free bagpipe and drumming lessons. If you are interested please call 704-617-0870 http://www.mystic-highland-pipeband.com

## HUMAN SERVICES: SPECIAL NEEDS REGISTRATION

#### SPECIAL NEEDS REGISTRATION

The Town of Stonington, in continuing efforts to promote the safety and welfare of Stonington residents, through the work of the Emergency Response Management Team, created a Special Needs Registry. The Registry will assist Emergency Response personnel with identifying residents in need of transportation to the shelter during a natural disaster or homeland security situation. Registration with the Special Needs Registry is voluntary and Human Services will only provide the participant information to local first responders in the event of an evacuation and/or the town shelter being opened. All information will remain confidential.

If you or a family member is in need of transportation to the town shelter and is interested in being included on the Special Needs Registry, please complete a registration form at our offices located at 166 South Broad St. Pawcatuck, CT.

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#### STONINGTON VILLAGE HOLIDAY STROLL

Friday, December 6: The Stonington Village Improvement Association (SVIA) will sponsor the annual Stonington Village Tree Lighting Ceremony and Holiday Stroll. This popular event marks the start of the Holiday Season in the Borough. The Stroll begins at 5:30pm in Wadawanuck Square where the Stonington Middle School Chorus will lead caroling on the steps of the Library. SVIA members will serve hot cider while carolers wait for Santa to arrive on a horse drawn carriage to light the Borough Holiday Tree. Immediately following the tree lighting is the Holiday Stroll down Water Street, where local merchants decorate the windows of their beautiful shops and welcome visitors with hors d'oeuvres, festive beverages and other goodies. The SVIA coordinates this popular event with the Stonington Borough Merchants Association with generous support from the Stonington Free Library. The SVIA also places lights and seasonal decorations in front of the Library and in Cannon Square.

Additionally, the SVIA sponsors the Stonington Village Farmers' Market, which has moved indoors to the Velvet Mill and is open every Saturday, 10am-1pm. The Market vendors offer a wide variety of produce, interesting food items, jewelry, pottery and crafts.

Learn more at www.SVIAStonington.org.





The Stonington Historical Society has a part-time prospect researcher position open in its development department. Candidates should have significant experience in aggregating information from a broad spectrum of sources. This staff person researches, organizes, and evaluates a prospect's financial capacity, ability to give, and willingness to give. They should also be able to identify a prospect's charitable interests and outline the history of their relationship with the Historical Society, its board and programs.

The researcher will produce in-depth, well-written reports on prospects based on a combination of data drawn from the donor data base, available financial records, real estate ownership and other markers of high net worth individuals.

This research can be prepared onsite and remotely using a variety of data bases including iWave and other cloud-based resources.

Candidates should submit a letter of interest and current resume to: Josh Adams, Director of Development and Communications, jadams@ stoningtonhistory.org



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# **Stonington COMO**

Founded in 1945, the Stonington Community Center (COMO) offers exceptional programming and opportunities for children and adults of all ages and abilities. Programs include a nationally-accredited preschool, childcare, youth and adult athletics, pottery studio, STEM programs and one of the oldest thrift shops in the region.

#### COMO Thrift and The Gift of COMO

Repurpose-Reuse-Rejoice! COMO Thrift, located at 45 Cutler Street, was founded at the end of WWII to redirect war relief efforts locally, specifically to support COMO programs. Today, COMO Thrift continues to have a vast selection of quality clothing, used furniture, jewelry, books, and one-of-a-kind items at bargain prices. Inventory comes from donations of generous patrons who help to support the COMO and its programs. Donations and volunteers are always welcome!

This holiday season, shop local and support COMO programs by giving the gift of COMO! You can purchase gift certificates for the thrift shop, programs like 3D printing or pottery, or COMO memberships. This year you can preserve that special family recipe with a laser-engraved heirloom recipe cutting board.

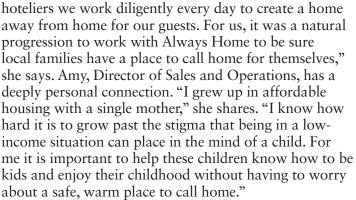
For more information, please visit thecomo.org or call 860.535.2476 from 9 am - 4:30 pm, Monday - Friday.

## **Always Home**

PARTNERING TO PREVENT FAMILY HOMELESSNESS

Always Home's Executive Director, Betty Smith appreciates that Amanda Arling and Amy Wagner of The Whaler's Inn are champions of the nonprofit's mission, Preventing Family Homelessness. "Amanda and Amy generously volunteer because they believe everyone needs a safe place to lay their heads at night," she says.

Amanda, President of The Whaler's Inn, considers Always Home's mission close to their own. "As



With Amanda, Amy and The Whaler's Inn's support, Always Home is helping families find their way home.

# Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center

The Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center has transformed its second floor into a thrift store. After opening its doors in August, several expressed pleasant surprise when they found "unexpected treasures". The name stuck, and the store is called "Unexpected Treasures".

All are welcome to explore hidden gems that include jewelry, toys, linens, household items and clothes for people of all ages and sizes. The price of clothing remains low so that it is affordable to all. Children's clothing can be found for less than \$1. Non-essentials, like designer handbags and clothing will cost more. All prices are well below cost. The store is open during PNC regular hours – Monday through Friday from 8:30 until 4:00. Donations are always welcome.

The PNC will distribute and deliver hundreds of turkey meals and toys in December.

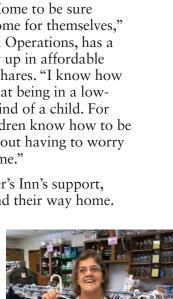
The food pantry remains available year-round and the Weekender Backpack Program provides weekend food for children. Clients are eligible to receive diapers,

formula and baby supplies each week at no cost, as well as pet food and personal hygiene items. Heating and utilities assistance are also available. If you need any of these items or services, stop by the PNC.

Sign up for Senior Center activities can be accessed through the PNC website. Upcoming special senior events include presentation by

nutritionist Andrea Deedee (12/4), party with Santa (12/11) and Nat King Cole Christmas at the Goodspeed (12/21). Year-round classes include Zumba, writing, painting, yoga, line dancing, lunches, BINGO and senior club activities.

The PNC van provides rides at no cost to Stonington residents, over age 60, who need to be transported to the PNC, shopping or medical appointments. Call (860) 599-3285 for more information.



# **Stonington Free Library**

A Stonington Free Library card allows access to any public library in Connecticut. Laptops are available to check out for use in the Library and offer one-on-one tech help on Fridays from 1-2pm. Please call 860-535-0658 or email stonlib@stoningtonfreelibrary.org with any questions.

The Library will be at the PNC on the first and third Wednesdays and at Human Services on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from 10:30-11:30.

#### **UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

Library Book Group meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 2pm. The Library Knitting Group meets every Wednesday from 1-3. An Adult Winter Reading Challenge will run concurrently with the Children's Reading Programs.

Drop-In Story Times 10:30am Tuesdays Babies to 18 mths, Wednesdays 18 mths – 3 yrs, Thursdays 3-5 yrs

Three Reading Challenges from December 2nd to April 3rd – the 50 To Grow On for children 7 and under, the Family Reading Challenge for Grades 1-8 and an Adult Winter Reading Challenge

For all the family - Holiday Gingerbread House Workshop on December 11th, Session 1: 5-5:45, Session 2: 5:45-6:30. Pre-register by November 13.

The Village Stroll on December 6th: 3pm - Ornament making for the Christmas Giving Tree with cider and cookies - 5pm Polar Express Storytime and a visit from Santa!!

Thanks to funding from Stonington Human Services we are able to offer the Grant Station program for local non-profits to research grant opportunities and thanks to a gift subscription from Michael Schefers and Sibby Lynch we also offer access to Adobe Creative Suite. Call 860-535-0658 to register.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no handicap ramp or side door access to the Library for the next few months while we are undergoing construction of a new ramp, an elevator and full accessibility for all our patrons. Full updates will be on our website.

# Mystic & Noank Library

The Friends of the Mystic & Noank Library will hold their annual Like-New Book Sale Monday, December 2 through Saturday, December 7 during normal Library hours. All books are in perfect shape and are suitable for gift-giving! There will be holiday items for sale as well. Proceeds go to support the Mystic & Noank Library. For further information, call 860-536-7721 or email friends@mysticnoanklibrary.org.

#### **UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

NaNoWriMo: Saturdays 1:30-2:30, November 2-23 November is National Novel Writing Month! The challenge is simple (but not easy): write 50,000 words in 30 days. Join us on and get those book ideas that have been floating in your head onto the page! The introductory session is Saturday, November 2, with all other Saturdays drop-in and write. Each week we'll close with problems we're encountering and provide encouragement for those 1,667 words per day. This program is for ages 13 and up.

#### Music Series: Musical Petting Zoo Saturday, November 16, 3:30-4:30

Kids will have the chance to play orchestra instruments: bow a violin, blow a horn or tap out a rhythm on a drum, just to name a few! This program encourages exploration and excitement, without the anxiety of a classroom.

#### Fiddle N' Fun: An Interactive Music Experience Saturday, December 14, 3:30–4:30

A unique music education program, Fiddle N' Fun introduces children (and adult caregivers) to the violin through singing, movement, games, and Fiddlestix.

#### The Pocket Musician: An Introduction to Harmonica Saturday, January 11, 3:30-4:30

Attendees will learn about the rich history of harmonica, and learn the basics of harmonica: how to hold it, breathing, and finding your finger style. Each attendee will receive their own new harmonica! (Harmonicas provided by the CT State Library.)

#### Drum Circle with Mike Leo Saturday, February 1, 3:30-4:30

These drum circles are interactive musical experiences for any age, level and ability. Each person is both the audience and performer. Live music sing-alongs, Musical games, and rhythmic activities are all part of my session.

All music series programs take place in the Ames Room and are free and open to the public. No registration is required. Funding provided by the Groton Education Foundation.

# **VELVET MILL**

December 14th and 15th: Holiday Stroll at the Velvet Mill 22 Bayview Avenue, Stonington. Saturday's from 10 am- to 1 pm: Indoor Farmer's Market is back in the Velvet Mill.

















# **Mystic Aquarium**

This December, step inside Mystic Aquarium's biggest and brightest! - holiday event yet.

"Beautiful light displays are going to dance to music throughout outdoor habitats, hand-crafted lanterns are going to bring Arctic animals to life; we're draping lights to create a glowing alfresco experience," announced Ainslie Daly, Events and Partnership Manager at Mystic Aquarium. "We're pulling inspiration from the most mesmerizing natural light display there is - the aurora borealis - and calling this nighttime experience Northern Lights."

Northern Lights transforms the Aquarium's outdoor pathways with a sea of lights. Holiday décor provides photo opportunities while festive food and beverage stations add flavor to the fun. Enjoy fireside chats with trainers and selfies with characters like the Snow Sisters. Father Christmas and Petey the Penguin. Plus, guests are encouraged to stop by our 'Send a Wish Upon a Star' station to write seasonal wishes to troops overseas.

"It's going to be perfect for families and will make for a romantic date-night," concluded Daly.

Tickets are \$15; online only. Northern Lights grand opening is December 7 with additional dates every Thursday, Friday and Saturday through January 4, 2020. Visit MysticAquarium.org/Northern-Lights to

# Stand Up for Animals

SUFA is are a non-profit organization whose mission is to support the needs of our state-of-the-art animal shelter, adoption center and regional outreach facility to promote the health and welfare of lost or abandoned pets and to educate and assist those who care for them. Our services include educational programs for school aged children in Westerly, Richmond, Charlestown, Stonington, Pawcatuck, North Stonington and New Shoreham.

#### 2ND ANNUAL SANTA PAWS COLLECTION DRIVE

for Jonnycake Center and Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center for their Adopt-a-Family Program. Collecting NEW AND UNOPENED items now through December 1st – find the wish list on www.standupforanimals.org

#### PET PHOTOS WITH SANTA

hosted by Westerly Agway, Saturday, December 7th from 9am – 4pm. Have your pet photographed with Santa, children and families welcomed too. Pictures make great Christmas cards - a requested \$10 minimum donation

#### SPEZIALE & FRIENDS ANNUAL ROCK & ROLL **CHRISTMAS SHOW**

at the Knickerbocker Music Center on Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 6pm. Featuring John Speziale great rocking music, fine food and drink, raffles.....





#### **KEB' MO' JINGLE BELL JAMBOREE**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2019 | 8:00 PM

This fall, Keb' Mo' will embark on a holiday tour, Jingle Bell Jamboree, which will feature the four-time Grammyaward winning contemporary Blues and Americana artist performing songs off of Moonlight, Mistletoe, And You.

#### **HOT TUNA ACOUSTIC 50TH ANNIVERSARY**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2019 | 8:00 PM

Starting as a side project during their Jefferson Airplane days, Grammy winners and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Inductees Jorma Kaukonen and Jack Casady celebrate Hot Tuna's 50 years with their bluesy fusion of rock and free rhythm. Joined by Larry Campbell & Teresa Williams.

#### **RANDY RAINBOW LIVE!**

JANUARY 17, 2020 | 8:00 PM

The comedian, actor, writer, host and Internet sensation best known for his viral political spoofs and song parodies.

#### THE SIMON AND GARFUNKEL STORY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 2020 | 8:00 PM

The internationally acclaimed concert style theatre show about two young boys from Queens, New York who went on to become the world's most successful music duo of all time. Co-Sponsored by: Blu-Prints Unlimited, Inc.

#### A BOWIE CELEBRATION:

**BOWIE ALUMNI PLAY DIAMOND DOGS & ZIGGY STARDUST** SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2020 | 7:00 PM

Join key alumni musicians of David Bowie's bands from across the decades and world-class vocalists, showcasing an unforgettable and critically acclaimed evening of Bowie songs from two of his greatest albums.

#### A BRONX TALE: STARRING CHAZZ PALMINTERI

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2020 | 8:00 PM

Chazz Palminteri performs his one-man stage version of the hit movie and recent Broadway musical A Bronx Tale.



CHERISH THE LADIES: A CELTIC CHRISTMAS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2019 | 8:00 PM

GET THE LED OUT: A CELEBRATION OF "THE MIGHTY ZEP" FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2020 | 8:00 PM

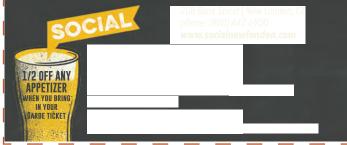
THE HIGH KINGS FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2020 | 8:00 PM

DAVE MASON WITH VERY SPECIAL GUEST JOHN MAYALL SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2020 | 8:00 PM

**B- THE UNDERWATER BUBBLE SHOW** SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2020 |3:00 PM

CHICAGO: THE MUSICAL SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2020 | 3:00 PM & 8:00 PM







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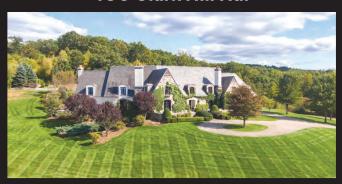


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#### 160 Clark Hill Rd.



Welcome to Auberge de Pomme, the Apple Inn. A High Country estate on 6.8 private acres built in classic European style. Fourteen inch thick stone walls and a blanket of Boston ivy insulate from winter winds and summer sun. Walk to world class fruit orchards, state forest trails, an equestrian center and a top-notch winery. Views of Hartford and the setting sun are spectacular, even from the basement. A commercialgrade steel infrastructure supports 100 squares of thick black slate that should last more than a century. Eight sets of mahogany French doors open to stone terraces that feel like Tuscany. Air conditioning? The owners would rather enjoy al fresco dining six months of the year and open doors to fresh air every day and windows at night to chirping gray treefrogs and spring peepers. Interior details took 20 years to complete. A massive Murano glass chandelier greets guests. Antique chestnut, oak and pine are used for posts, beams, staircases, floors, cabinets, and library walls. They provide warmth not found in most large homes. The kitchen can accommodate 30 people for Thanksgiving dinner. The master bath floor is limestone from France, 300 years old. The sweeping staircase is French limestone with hand-wrought iron railing. Eight fireplaces provide comfort. Custom plaster molding and ornaments crafted by modern experts reflect the masters of the past. This home is one of a kind and needs the care of owners with passion for this very special lifestyle.

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