

Preston Pipeline²

VOL 3 ISSUE 3

SPRING 2014

From The Desk Of The First Selectman

by First Selectman **Bob Congdon**



Budget Process - The Board of Education (BOE) and the Board of Selectmen (BOS) submitted their budgets to the Board of Finance (BOF) the first week of March. The BOF reviewed both budgets and will bring them to a public hearing on April 10th. That hearing will be at PVMS at 7:30 PM and is an important opportunity for public participation and input. All are welcome. The BOF then takes any additional input on cuts or additions and meets on April

21st to adjust the budget accordingly. That budget gets brought to an annual Town meeting on May 1st at PVMS at 7:30 PM. The Annual Town Meeting provides residents the opportunity to comment and influence how we spend tax dollars. After the budget is discussed at the Town Meeting, it is automatically adjourned to a referendum on May 15th at Town Hall. As you can see, decisions made at the annual Town Meeting and the Hearings leading up to it will decide how the Town spends its money on education and services.

Public Works - This past winter has been challenging both financially and operationally. Our sand and salt budgets have been depleted as have the Public Works Overtime budget and the contractor services

budget. As we recover from winter and enter spring we'll be filling potholes and sweeping up sand. So while traveling our roads over the next few weeks, we encourage motorists and bikers to exercise caution until the roads are swept.

Riverwalk - Many of you are aware that through the efforts of the Preston Redevelopment Agency (PRA) we received a \$5 Million dollar Urban Act Grant from the Department of Economic Development (DECD) to further clean up the Riverwalk site. The PRA has made incredible progress, much of which isn't visible from Rt 12. But as we continue to remediate and demolish buildings like Kettle, progress will be very obvious. We owe the ten members of the PRA our thanks on behalf of the Town. They didn't do this alone, however. Residents took a bold step forward when they approved the purchase of the property and allocated matching funds for State and Federal grants. Finally, none of these efforts would have been possible without the support of Governor Malloy, DECD Commissioner Catherine Smith, Office of Personnel Management Secretary Ben Barns and their staffs and Senator Andrew Maynard, and Representative Tim Bowles.

Issues and ideas - If you have something you'd like to present to your elected officials, please attend a Selectmen's meeting held every other Thursday evening at 6:30 pm, contact me at (860) 887-5581, or e-mail me at congdon@preston-ct.org.

A MEMORIAL – RALPH S. ECCLESTON

Nov. 8, 1940 – Feb. 5, 2014



When Ralph Eccleston died on February 5th, Preston lost a person who was devoted to its residents and enjoyed their companionship.

Ralph grew up in Preston, attended Preston Schools and the Norwich Free Academy. He worked at UNC Naval Products for many years and subsequently for the New London Sheriff's Department. For several years his final employment was at the Preston Transfer Station where he was able to help people and connect with his fellow Preston residents whom he loved.

Ralph was a lifetime member of the Preston City Fire Dept. He was an avid yard sale enthusiast and collector of everything, elaborate storyteller, skilled woodworker, wheeler & dealer, lover of antiques, and perpetual garage cleaner. He always maintained a mischievous spirit, and was thoughtful, generous, and always willing to lend a helping hand.

Ralph Eccleston will be sorely missed by all that knew him as well as the by Preston community.

INSIDE:

REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY • PRESTON FOOD PANTRY • PRESTON PARKS AND REC
• AVALONIA NEWS • HISTORICAL SOCIETY • LIBRARY NEWS • MORE!

TOWN OF PRESTON WEBSITE: WWW.PRESTON-CT.ORG

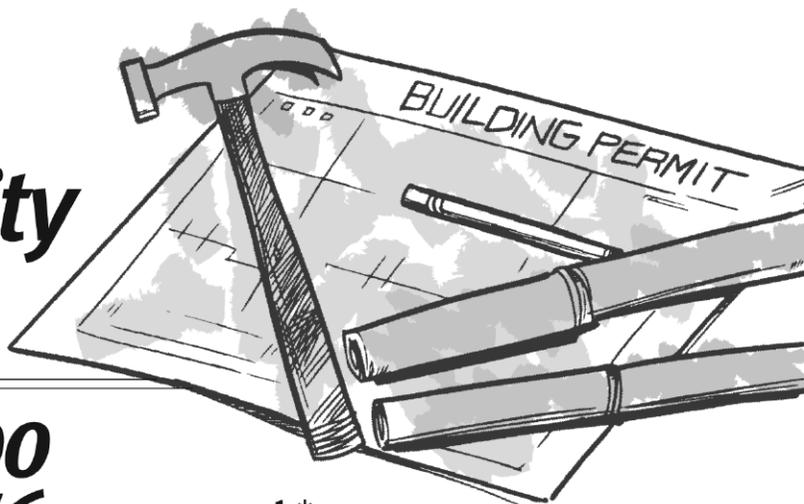
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Events

Heart & Hands Quilt Show

presented by
Country Quilters of Northeast Connecticut
Sat. May 3, 9-4pm and Sun. May 4, 10-3pm
at Plainfield Town Hall
8 Community Ave., Plainfield CT
Admission \$5 kids under 12 free
Featuring: raffle quilt, raffle baskets, vendors from the tri-state area, boutique table of handmade items for sale, over 200 quilts and items on display, kids quilt block activity, catering by Big Kat Catering, and more.

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Volunteers Wanted! Make A Difference!

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer is a non-competitive, 5K (3.1 mile) event that will help bring a lifetime of change for people facing breast cancer and their families. Every Making Strides Against Breast Cancer (MSABC) event is an incredible and inspiring opportunity to unite as a community to honor breast cancer survivors, raise awareness about what we can do to reduce our breast cancer risk, and raise money to help the American Cancer Society fight the disease with breast cancer research, information and services, and access to mammograms for women who need them.

The Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk for New London County will take place on Sunday, October 26th beginning at Noon at Rocky Neck State Park. We are looking for **volunteers** to join our Planning Committee, to volunteer for various tasks on the day of the walk, and/or to volunteer to walk and raise funds for this event.

If you would like to help us, please contact: Kelsey Fast, Specialist, Community Events, New England Division, American Cancer Society at (203) 379-4810 or by email at kelsey.fast@can-cancer.org.

You can also find more information at the MSABC website for New London County:

http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?pg=entry&fr_id=62573

Pat Biggins, Preston, CT

Local Author Presented About Her Books On Preston and Norwich. They Are Now On Sale!

More than 50 people came to hear a presentation by local author, **Chris Wisniewski** at the Preston VFW on January 16, 2014 which was sponsored by the Preston Historical Society and the Friends of the Preston Library.

Wisniewski discussed her books, **The Hurricane of 1938: Norwich Remembers the Storm of the Century**, and **Sto Lat: One Hundred Years of the Wisniewski Family in America**, both of which deal with the history of Preston and Norwich. The books are available locally at the Backus Hospital Gift Shop and Slater Museum or online at www.saving-stories.com.

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Prevention and Natural Healing for Women's Breast Health

****Learn the miracles of ancient Traditional Chinese Medicine and how it can compliment modern medicine to heal many of our current physical and mental symptoms, diseases.**

****Learn how Traditional Chinese Medicine and healing can help to prevent breast cancer and to help to prevent reoccurrence of this disease.**

Learn self-healing practices of Qigong to balance Kidney, Stomach and Liver energy for ultimate breast health. Keeping the energy flowing freely prevents stagnation, pain and disease.

This workshop teaches the Traditional Chinese Medicine approach to maintaining breast health and helping to recover from breast cancer.

**INCITE Wellness Center, 208 Otrobando Ave., Norwich CT
Space limited, Pre-Registration Only, 860-884-1145
Monday, April, 14, 6-8 pm**

**\$25 cost **Portion of Proceeds will be donated
to Connected Hearts, non-profit for care and
Healing Touch treatments for cancer patients**

Why Spring Provides a Powerful Opportunity to Heal Yourself

Take just a moment and visualize what's happening in spring: Nature is renewing herself from the inside out. Deep within the earth an incredible force is at work, pushing plants upward and raising the sap in trees so leaves can grow outward. This force is energy, or Qi, and without it nothing can grow or live.

We can follow nature's lead and use the special quality of spring's pure and flowing energy to heal ourselves in the next few months. We can mirror the renewal occurring in nature and deeply renew ourselves!



**WARRIOR HEART Jan Mallett
Energy Healing**

JanMallett@JanMallett.com • 860-884-1145



Preston Public Library

389 Route 2 (Across from Town Hall) Preston, CT 06365 Phone (860) 886-1010
Find us online: <http://www.prestonlibrary.org> Email us: library@prestonlibrary.org
Hours: Monday 9-3 Tuesday-Thursday 9-8 Friday 9-5 Saturday 9-1

SERVICES:

Best Sellers/ Fiction & Non-fiction • Books for all ages
Audio books-cassette/MP3/CD/Playaways
Videos & DVD • Interlibrary loan • Magazines
Audiobooks from Iconn • Online Catalog • Reading groups
Passes to area attractions • Reference services
Internet Access • Preston Historical Society files

ON-LINE DATABASES:

ICONN your re-Search engine
Encyclopedia Britannica
JobNow

LearningExpress- Learning Center **free for Preston residents with library cards.**

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS:

Story Times: For children - birth to three years old.
Join us for stories, songs, fingerplays, and crafts
Tuesdays, 10 to 11 am and Wednesdays, 10 to 11 am.

Holiday Closures:

Closed for Memorial Day - May 24th-26th
Closed for Independence Day - July 4th-6th

For the safety of our staff and patrons, the library follows the inclement weather policy of the Preston Schools.

Thank you for your understanding.

**Ever wish you had access to expensive software to assist you in learning to how to use Windows 7 or 8?
Or maybe you could use assistance learning to use Microsoft Office, or get ready to take the SAT or even the MCAT exam!**

**Well, Preston Library has this *for* you at no charge!
All you need is to be a Preston resident with a library card!
The program is called "Learning Express."**

To use it, just go to our website, at www.prestonlibrary.org look to the right hand side where it says, "Online Services" and select the bottom option, "Learning Express". You will need to create an account to use the service, and then you can study for any of the many tests or study programs that they offer-all for free!

Book Sale:

Please check the library website, prestonlibrary.org or at the library, for the date and time of future sales! The Friends have a small selection of hardcover and paperbacks for sale in the entryway at low prices for you to browse through; all sales go to Friends of the Library funds to benefit the library and its patrons.

We are unable to accept: Textbooks, encyclopedias, magazines, Reader's Digest Condensed books OR any moldy books. If your books smell bad, please do not bring them to us! Thanks, The Friends Booksale Committee.

Children's Programs

Coming this Summer... For Kids of all ages:

Fizz! Boom! Read!

We will be exploring dinosaurs, forensics, grossology, rocketry, hula hooping and more!

Keep your eyes open for upcoming dates-especially, **Maniacal Mondays!** Details will be posted as they become available at <http://www.prestonlibrary.org>



The Preston Library is a collection point for "Box Tops for Education" and "Labels for Education". Labels collected will go to support the Preston Veterans Memorial School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). There is a small collection box available at the circulation desk for your convenience.

Kids- Did you know the library carries Magazines?

You can check out "Game Informer", "National Geographic Kids", "Ranger Rick", "Ranger Rick Jr.", "Seventeen", or "Sports Illustrated Kids"!

Adult Programs:

Friends of the Preston Library - Upcoming Events

Follow the Trail! The Connecticut Authors Trail is back!



The Kick-off event will be at 6:30 pm on July 8th at the Janet Carlson Calvert Library in Franklin, CT. More information will be forthcoming on the Preston library homepage and/or the page for the Connecticut Authors Trail (<http://connecticutauthorstrail.org>) as we draw closer to the date.

Thursday, July 24th at 6:30 pm the Preston Library will host author Thurman P. Banks, Jr. as part of the Connecticut Authors Trail program. Mr. Banks is the author of "Beyond John Dann" and "The Light of a Bright Sun (Hayward) (Volume 1)" and is currently working the second book in his "Hayward" series. Mr. Banks will speak about his books and be available for signing. Refreshments will be provided.

Board of Trustees: Patricia Bell, Donna Bowles, Bob Chapin, Jan Clancy, Wendy Connal-Nicolaou, Ceil Gerber, Ann Legler, Edie Sowa Email: prestonlibraryboard@gmail.com

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PRESTON RIDGE VINEYARD, NEW HOURS, NEW WINES & GOOD TIMES

Last year was more than we could have ever asked for, and we could have never done it without our incredible customers! Our tasting room was filled with lots of friendly faces all season long, and we cannot wait for this upcoming year. We have a lot in store! From the extension of our hours, to the addition of new wines and the return of some favorites, there is a lot going on at Preston Ridge.

We re-opened for the 2014 season on Saturday, March 29, so be sure to stop in and see us! Our biggest news so far this year is that we now have live music every Friday night, beginning April 4th from 5p-8p and continuing throughout the year. Check our website to see who will be gracing our tasting room weekly, bring a picnic and come enjoy some wine and great music!

Our other exciting update is the Sunday Music Series, beginning in late spring. We'll have live music from 12p-3p every Sunday afternoon. Of course, we'll also be open again this summer when the Mohegan Sun puts on fireworks shows.

On the wine side, of the 10 different wines we had available in 2013,

we sold out of three and released two delicious new additions to the line-up. We're proud of all our wine so far and are very excited to be previewing our 2012 Zundell Farm Rose and 2011 Mélange early this spring. The Rose is once again made primarily of estate grapes, with hints of raspberry and vanilla. A light residual sugar makes this delicious wine best to enjoy on a warm spring or summer day. Our Mélange, a 50/50 blend of Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon, has been barrel-aged for two years in American Oak. It is a full-bodied wine with a deep flavor emphasized by notes of blackberries and cassis. These are just two of many releases we have planned for this year, so get ready!

We hope to see you this spring, but if you can't make it in until later in the year you can always visit us on Facebook or Instagram to see what's been going on at the vineyard. See you soon!

Preston Ridge Vineyard is located at 100 Miller Road. We are open Fridays 1p-8p, Saturdays & Sundays 11a-5p, www.prestonridgevineyard.com.

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March 29th

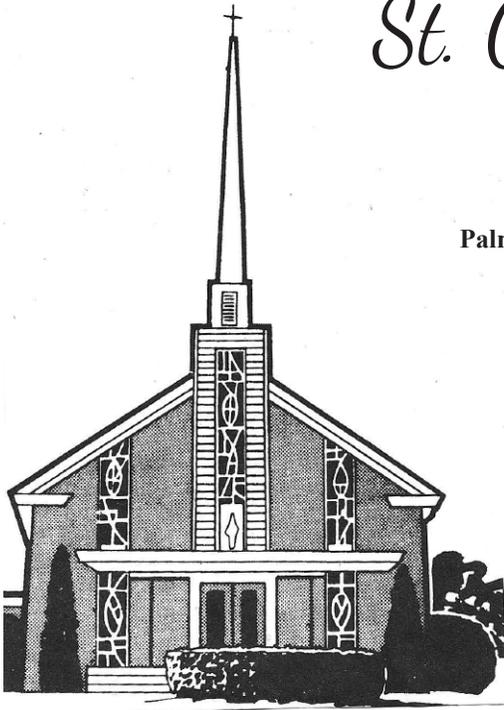
Welcome

Preston Ridge Vineyard is the perfect destination all weekend long. Enjoy our tasting room, our spacious deck or tour our beautiful grounds. We are also available for Weddings, Private Parties or Corporate Functions. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Live Music
EVERY FRIDAY
5p - 8p
Begins April 4th

Friday 1p - 8p
Saturday 11a - 5p
Sunday 11a - 5p

100 Miller Road - Preston, CT
info@prestonridgevineyard.com
860.383.4278 | PrestonRidgeVineyard.com



243 Route 164 • Preston CT

St. Catherine of Siena Church

**God is knocking at your door this Easter.
ALL are welcome to join us!**

Palm Sunday Weekend: Commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem

Saturday April 12 - 4:30pm Vigil Mass - Blessing of Palms

Sunday April 13 - 10am Mass - Blessing of Palms

Chrism Mass - Blessing of our Parish Holy Oils by Bishop Cote

Tuesday April 15 - 10:30am Mass - St Patrick's Cathedral, Norwich

**Triduum: The Three Days the Church celebrates the mystery
of Jesus' Death and Resurrection**

Holy Thursday April 17 - 7pm Mass - St. Mary's Church in Jewett City

Good Friday April 18 - 3pm Service - St. Mary's Church Jewett City

Holy Saturday Easter Vigil April 19 - 8pm Mass

St. Mary's Church Jewett City

Easter Sunday April 20 - 10am Mass

St. Catherine of Siena, Preston

GALE ENNIS - WIFE, MOTHER, PROFESSIONAL, & VOLUNTEER

By Eleanor Miller

Gale (Eccleston) Ennis is a lifelong resident of Preston. She attended Preston schools and graduated from the Norwich Free Academy. During her senior year at NFA, she was employed part-time at Dime Savings Bank. After graduating, she continued working at several banks and began her first of many volunteer positions. She became a member of the Preston City Fire Department Auxiliary and as fate had it, that is where she met her future husband, Ken Ennis. They have been married for 31 years and have two daughters, Chelsea, 29 and Mallarie, 27. While the children were growing up, Gale volunteered in the schools as an active PTO member and eventually, was offered a paid, full-time position as a paraprofessional which she did for 11 years. As the girls prepared to graduate from high school and enter college, she went back to what she had loved doing as a young woman, banking.

Gale is now the Executive Assistant to the President of Dime, and at Dime's recent employee appreciation party she was given a leadership award for all the hours she has spent volunteering for local organizations and various boards. She credits Dime Bank for her mission of, "giving back" as Dime is a community oriented institution, helping to improve the well-being and quality of life for members of our communities. She has been a member of the NFA Alumni Association for nine years and its president for the past three years. She stated that the



Gale (Eccleston) Ennis

association is very important to the school because it creates a strong alumni network, recognizes current NFA students, honors successful alumni, and gives back to the Alma Mater and community. She is especially proud of her work with the Cynthia Carano Memorial Scholarship. Cynthia was a beloved teacher in Preston for over 20 years and died unexpectedly 5 years ago. Weeks after her passing Gale and another parent formed a committee to oversee fundraising for an annual scholarship which would assist a graduating Preston high school senior going to college. In its first 7 months, the committee was able to raise over \$15,000 with most of the money being raised at a community barbeque.

In June, the 6-member committee will present the 2014 recipient with a scholarship for \$1,000. Gale is also the administrator of a

Facebook page called Preston Neighborhood Watch, a member of the Preston Community Fund which distributes the interest of \$100,000 each year to non-profit agencies in Preston, and a member of the Preston Ethics Committee. Her motto in life, "Let what you love be what you do."

Gale's professional career is very important to her but what she cherishes most is the time she spends with her family.



Preston Historical Society

Preserving The Past for Future Generations

News from the Preston Historical Society

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Preston Historical Society will be held on Wed., June 11, 6:30 pm at the Old Preston Library on Rte. 164. New members are always welcome.

Long Society Meetinghouse

We continue to work with the town to obtain ownership of the Meeting. We will then be able to apply for grants for the building's restoration.

The Great Gold Swindle

by Edward Popkins
(Found in The Day July 2, 1976)

If the citizens of Preston had to give a name to this story, it might be called "The Great International Mining Swindle of 1900" involving a bamboozle of greed and gullibility, the swindle was probably the biggest "Con" this town has ever seen.

The man behind the scheme was a tall, well-educated West Indian...Dr. Myrschyant Guioness. who spoke several languages, traveled around the East passing himself off as a benefactor of the Negro race...

The whole thing began in the fall of 1900 when Guioness set his eyes on 30 acres of land on Palmer Ave. in Preston. That winter he bought the land from Judge C. W. Carter for about \$3,000. But in the meantime, the con-man had convinced Joseph Bernard, a somewhat ignorant hog-raiser who grazed his animals on Carter's land, that there was gold underneath a large rock on the property. Anxious to have a local citizen connected with the operation, Guioness let Joe in on his "secret," and offered to make him manager, superintendent and foreman of the operation. Joe readily agreed and began to dig foundations for the buildings that were to be erected.

On June 24, 1901, Guioness reported his discovery to the press. The next day, the Norwich Bulletin announced that the ore from a mine discovered by "Dr. Mychant Gaunais" (sic) would reportedly bring anywhere from \$40 to \$100 a ton, and that although only a few blasts had been made, the work would begin in earnest as soon as the smelter that was

ordered arrived.

Within the next two years, a company was formed with Guioness as the president, William H. Purdy as secretary, Charles H. Chinn as treasurer, and Joseph L. Bernard as everything else. A true professional, Guioness located the company's headquarters in Providence, R.I., and incorporated it in Maine.

On April 4, 1903, the Bulletin announced that the Mining International Company would begin operating the gold mine off Palmer Avenue with a standing capital of \$1,000,000 - in personal notes, of course.

While Joe Bernard, who had since been named as the mine's discoverer, continued working on the foundation of the smelting plant, Dr. Guioness traveled around New England, New York and New Jersey selling stock to prospective fortune-seekers. Literature he distributed stated that the company had already earned over a million dollars in its first year, and that gold was in the process of being removed from the operating mine in Preston.

Things went smoothly enough for about two years-investors were plentiful-but then disaster struck. A cautious investor came to inspect the "operation", and found the only thing resembling a plant were Joe's foundations, and instead of a mine saw nothing more than a shallow hole blown in the ledge. The investor called the police. Guioness was picked up in Bridgeport where he had been defrauding blacks there out of \$1000. He avoided going to trial, as he did on several occasions, by simply returning the money.

His luck ran out in March of 1905, however. He was arrested in Newark, N.J., as "Myrschyant Guinoff", and charged with selling three Bridgeport men \$850 worth of stock in the phony mine. When authorities there checked the mine, they discovered that the company's Providence headquarters was a janitor's closet and that the State of Maine had declared the corporation forfeited two years earlier.

Guioness was tried in Bridgeport on the fraud charges and imprisoned. Joe Bernard stopped blasting rock and later acquired a milk route.

The story of the fake gold mine is not too well known today, but for years after many residents carried bottles full of the ledge's speckled soil in their pockets.

Preston Historical Society Membership Application

\$5-Senior (55+) / Student • \$10-Single membership • \$15-Family
\$100-Lifetime membership

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Donation to the Preston Historical Society _____

Please make checks payable to PHS. Remit to: Mark Christensen, Treasurer 15 Amos Rd, Preston, CT 06365



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PRESTON PARKS & RECREATION

COMMUNITY EVENTS

KID'S FISHING DERBY

Back by popular demand...join us for our 2nd annual Kid's Fishing Derby! Registration starts at 8:30, fishing will begin at 9:00! Children will compete to catch the shortest fish and the longest fish of the day! Trophies will be awarded to the winners of each age category.

When: Saturday, April 19
Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Ages: 3-14
Where: Maple Lane Farms
(57 Northwest Corner Road)
Fee: FREE to Preston residents,
\$5 donation for non-resident



PRESTON PALOOZA

Parks & Recreation and Preston Veterans Memorial School PTO will be holding the first ever Preston Palooza. What's this your ask?? A fun night for the Preston community. There will be food, cakewalk, face painting, games for kids, moonwalks, & lots more!!

When: Thursday, May 22
Time: 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Where: Preston Veterans Memorial School
Fee: \$5 per person for tickets purchased by May 1
\$7 per person for tickets purchased after May 1

We need volunteers & event coordinators. Please contact the Preston Parks & Recreation office by phone at 860-889-2482 x113 or email prestonrec@hotmail.com if you want to get involved in this great community event!!

TODDLER / PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

MINI KICKERS

A fun introduction to the game of soccer for young players! The emphasis of coaching is to give children versatile experiences of basic motor skills and combinations, whilst creating a fun and safe environment for children to interact.
Registration deadline: April 15th



Instructor: Challenger Sports

When: Sundays: April 27 - May 18 (4 week session)
Where: Preston Community Park
Fee: \$55 for Preston residents, \$60 for non-residents
(includes uniform & ball)

Session #1:
Time: 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Ages: 2-3
Session #2:
Time: 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Ages: 4-5

MAD SCIENCE

Mad Science Preschool Programs are engaging hands-on learning experiences for preschool children ages 3 & 4. Each workshop is an interactive, age-appropriate exploration of a specific science topic. Children will learn about science by touching, feeling, and even tasting their science experiments. Preschoolers enjoy engaging demonstrations and perform simple experiments.

Instructor: Mad Science of Southeastern CT

Dates: Fridays: May 16 - June 6 (4 week session)
Time: 10:00 - 10:45 am
Ages: 3 & 4
Location: Preston Public Library Meeting Room
Fee: \$35 (includes all materials)



SUMMER CAMPS

DAY CAMP

Summertime is the perfect opportunity for children to meet new friends; participate in activities in a safe, supervised and friendly atmosphere; expand their horizons; build self esteem; and have lots of fun! At our summer camp, kids will enjoy arts & crafts, games, music, sports, water activities, science experiments, & more!

Dates: Monday - Friday, July 30 - August 8 (NOT July 4)
Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Ages: Entering Grade 1 - Grade 7
Location: Preston Veterans Memorial School Gym
Fee: \$85 per week or
\$70 for 3 days per week or \$80 for 4 days per week

Friday field trips to Ocean Beach for ALL kids!

Before Care (8:00 - 9:00 am) ~ \$5 per day or \$20 per week

After Care (3:00 - 5:00 pm) ~ \$10 per day or \$40 per week

Complete details available on our website at www.preston-ct.org

HOOP ACADEMY BASKETBALL CAMP

It is with great pleasure that we announce the 2nd Annual Hoop Academy Summer Slam Basketball Camp at Preston Veterans Memorial School! This is a great opportunity for all players, regardless of age or ability, to continue to develop and learn about the game of basketball in a positive environment. All campers will receive a full week of drills and instruction on all aspects of the game including shooting, dribbling, passing and defense. Come and learn all of the skills you will need to play the great game of basketball. There will also be fantastic guest speakers, medals, prizes and much more! All campers will receive a free t-shirt for being in attendance.



Camp Directors: George & Colleen Hardison

Dates: Monday - Friday, August 11 - 15
Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Ages: Entering grades 3 - 9
Early Bird Fee: \$150 for Preston residents; \$160 for non-residents
(registrations are due by June 13 to receive early bird discount)
Regular Fee: \$165 for Preston residents; \$175 for non-residents

YOUTH SPORTS

3v3 SUMMER BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Are you a basketball player looking for new and fun ways to participate in basketball this summer? Grab some friends and sign up for our 3v3 league! There are opportunities for boys and girls in grades 3-8.



3v3 leagues offer an exciting, affordable opportunity to enhance your individual and team skills. The smaller team size increases offensive and defensive opportunities for each player through basic fundamental team play (give and go's, back door cuts, pick and rolls, etc.). The intent of this format is to provide a fun, competitive learning environment for all players. Games will be weeknights during the summer.

Fee: \$35 per player (up to 6 players per team)

Registration deadline: Friday, June 13.

FALL SOCCER ~ U6 & U8 Divisions



In-town soccer league for U6 & U8. Early registration is key to the success of this fall league. Coaches needed!!

Fee: \$35 per player

Registration deadline: Friday, June 13.

CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAMS

BABYSITTER TRAINING

In babysitting training you'll learn how to:

- ** Make decisions
- ** Choose safe & age-appropriate toys and games
- ** Interview for a babysitting job

Date: Saturday, July 19
Time: 9:30 am - 2:30 pm
Ages: 11-18
Location: Preston Public Library Meeting Room
Fee: \$50 (add \$15 late fee for registrations received after June 13)

CPR/FIRST AID TRAINING

In CPR/First Aid you'll learn how to:

- ** Handle an emergency or illness
- ** Perform first aid, including responding to emergencies
- ** Recognize emergencies, check victims
- ** Only Child & Infant CPR covered

Date: Saturday, July 26
Time: 9:30 am - 2:30 pm
Ages: 11-18
Location: Preston Public Library Meeting Room
Fee: \$50 (add \$15 late fee for registrations received after June 13)

SAFETY SAKES PACKAGE ~ sign up for both
Babysitting & CPR/First Aid and get both classes for only \$75!!
(\$15 late fee for registrations received after June 13)

COACH BUS TRIPS

(...transportation will be via deluxe motor buses with bathrooms!)

BOSTON RED SOX GAME

Travel to Fenway Park in Boston, MA and watch the Red Sox take on the Houston Astros. Game time is 1:35 pm. Trip fee includes round trip bus transportation & game ticket. Coach bus departs from Fenway Park 30 minutes after the conclusion of the game.



Date: Sunday, August 17th
Time: Bus leaves Preston Veterans Memorial School at 9:00 am
Fee: \$87 per person (adults, seniors & children are all same price)

**** Early Bird Registration: \$77 per person (\$10 savings)
if registration form & payment is received by June 13 ****

Limited seats — less than 25 seats lefts — register today!!!

**** ADULT SELF DEFENSE SEMINAR ****

Preston Parks & Recreation is pleased to announce we have teamed up with Black Dragon Martial Arts and will be hosting an adult self defense seminar.

This seminar will cover proper kick and proper punch. We will also be going over escape moves, what to do when grabbed, and disarming techniques.

Wear comfortable clothing and bring a water bottle.

The seminar will be taught by Master Dan Jenkins who holds a 6th degree black belt in Kemp karate.

Date: Thursday, May 15
Time: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Ages: 16+
Location: Preston Veterans Memorial School Gym
Fee: \$15 per person for registrations received before May 1
\$25 per person for registrations received after May 1

ADULT PROGRAMS

BALLOON TWISTING

Join us for a fun three week course to introduce you into the creative world of modern balloon twisting.

Instructor: April Brunelle (www.aprilsballooncreations.com)

When: Mondays: May 5, 12, & 19
Time: 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Ages: 18+
Where: Preston Plains School Library
Fee: \$50 for 3 week class (includes all materials)



A MEDITATION ON DRAWING

Calling all adults that want to express their creative side! Learn basic drawing skills or advance the one's you have from still life. The class will start out with basic shapes using line and form and work up to more challenging still life.

Instructor: Eleanor Miller

Date: Mondays: May 5 - June 2 (NOT May 26)
Time: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Ages: 16+
Location: Preston Veterans Memorial School Library
Registration Fee: \$45; 4 week session

Materials needed: vine charcoal, kneaded eraser, & drawing pad. If you already have those materials, great! If you would like to go out and purchase them yourself, great! If you would like us to take care of ordering the class materials you will need, then please include a \$25 materials fee with your registration form.



QIGONG: MEDITATION, MOVEMENT & BALANCE

Learn gentle movement, breathing techniques to relieve longstanding chronic pain conditions AND regain the flexibility and balance of younger years. This class is approved for people of all ages and physical capabilities. No special equipment necessary.

Instructor: Jan Mallett

Jan Mallett has been training and studying Tai Chi & Qigong practices for over 18 years And has developed this class to help people regain balance in their lives, physically and mentally and to help relieve longstanding chronic pain conditions.

Date: Thursdays: May 15 - June 19
Time: 11:00 am to 12:15 pm
Ages: 18+
Location: Preston Public Library Meeting Room
Registration Fee: \$60; 6 week session

ADULT KNITTING RETREAT

Ever want to learn how to knit? Well now's your chance! Even though summer is in the air get ready for winter by learning to make your own winter scarf? In this retreat you'll learn the basics of knitting such as how to cast on, and how to do the knit stitch, which is the primary knitting stitch. If we have extra time we may learn a few other stitches also. You'll leave knowing how to finish off your scarf and all you need to be able to do it on your own.

Instructor: Pat Fuller

Skill Level: Beginner

When: Saturday, June 7
Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Ages: 18+
Where: Preston Public Library Meeting Room



Stay up-to-date with all the programs, events, and happenings Preston Parks & Recreation is offering!! "Like" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/PrestonParksRecreation



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April Rain Cocktail

2 ounces vodka
1/2 ounce lime juice
1/2 ounce dry vermouth
Lime peel for garnish

Pour the ingredients into a cocktail shaker with ice cubes. Shake well. Strain into a chilled cocktail glass. Garnish with the lime peel.

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Your Town Government -You Can Appeal That Tax Bill

By Norman Gauthier

This is a continuation of a series of articles about Preston town government.

Did you ever look at your tax bill and wonder why your taxes are so much higher than the neighbor who has a similar home and lot size? It is probably because the Town's assessor has determined that your property is more valuable than your neighbor's. That can't be so, you say. When that happens, you can seek to have your assessment reviewed by the Board of Assessment Appeals. The Board consists of three members who are elected to a four-year term. They are unpaid volunteers who serve the community in a function that is a mix of administrative and judicial. The assessment review is administrative, but their decision carries the force of law.

The duties and responsibilities of the Board of Assessment Appeals are described in Connecticut General Statutes and serve to keep minor cases out of the court system. The Board also provides a less costly and timelier resolution of assessment disputes. Generally, the courts will not hear an assessment dispute unless it has first been reviewed by a Board of Assessment Appeals.

The Preston Board of Assessment Appeals meets twice a year. In March, it meets to consider appeals of real estate property assessments and in September it will review motor vehicle assessments. The assessor or the town clerk can provide the exact date, place, and time of their meetings. In order to have your appeal heard you must file a single-page appeal form about thirty days in advance and have your appeal scheduled for a hearing. Walk-in appeals are not accepted. The assessor can provide you with the necessary forms and instructions on how to file an appeal.

Before filing an appeal, it is generally helpful to discuss your valuation question with the assessor. The Board works closely with the assessor in order to understand how she reached her assessment. She may be able to explain the assessment process and satisfy your concerns about the accuracy of your assessment. She may even agree with your re-assessment and help you with the appeal.

Each October the Preston assessor reviews the assessment of 2,400 real estate properties and over 5,000 motor vehicles. In January she must certify a total town assessment for the Board of Finance to use when setting the tax rate for the next tax year. Her final assessment for 2013, called the Grand List was published in January 2014 and totals \$392,503,005. The appraisal of all the property in town is a massive task and sometimes some special detail of your property that affects its value may be overlooked. It is those details that the Board will consider when it makes its decision. The Board members may choose to inspect your property if necessary. They may want to see for themselves the swamp that is assessed as developable property.

The appeal process is easy and painless. It is more of an administrative process than a judicial one. The Board will hear your appeal and about two weeks later issue its decision. The Board decision is binding on the assessment for one year. The assessor operates independently of the Board and when the assessor updates any subsequent Grand List, the property value may be reduced or increased.

We welcome your questions and comments. You can contact the author at N.Gauthier@usa.net

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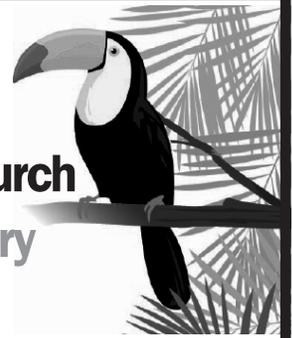


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Jillian Dykema with a table full of food for the Two Can Food Pantry!

News From The Preston City Congregational Church Two Can Food Pantry



Over the past few months, the PCCC Food Pantry has received gifts from many generous sources. Monetary contributions and gift cards in memory of Ralph Eccleston and Father Finnerty have allowed us to purchase much needed food items. The Ledyard High School Vo-Ag program has donated meat from a pig they raised, supplying us with meat items to give to 53 families.

The young lady in the photo, Jillian Dykema, celebrated her birthday, asking her guests to bring food donations for the pantry instead of usual birthday presents. As you can see, many food items were given to our pantry. We are grateful to all who have helped in any way. A special thanks to the members of our church, and to the parishioners of St. Catherine of Siena, who continue to be our strongest supporters. Our needy families benefit from your generosity, and express their gratitude each month.

A View From The Steeple

IT'S SPRING? REALLY?



I know the calendar says it's spring, but it sure doesn't feel like it. Just when you think winter is **finally over, behind us, gone for good**, weather forecasters tell us, it's baaack! I enjoy reading church sign boards stating light-hearted messages. Here's one I read just a few weeks ago: **"Whoever is praying for snow, PLEASE STOP!"** My thought exactly.

What are looking forward to when spring **really** arrives? For me... trees and flowers in bloom, the color green and the smell of freshly cut grass, opening windows and listening to the song of the birds, warmer days; I could go on...

When spring arrives and stays, pause for a moment and take in all of its beauty. Preston in the springtime is particularly beautiful, but you won't realize it until you slow down and look around. Maybe, like me, you'll say, **it was worth the wait!**

**See you around town!
Rev. Stan**

Preston City Congregational Church



*"Where Friends
Become Family"*

Reverend Stanley E. White, Minister

WORSHIP TIMES: 9am, 10:30am

Sunday School 8:45am

Ages 3 to High School

EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 20th

Ecumenical Sunrise Service

Amos Lake, Hollowell Road, Preston

6:30 a.m.

In case of rain, held at Preston City Congregational Church

Easter morning breakfast 7:00 a.m.

Preston City Congregational Church

By reservation 860.887.4647

The celebration of Easter:

9:00 & 10:30 a.m.

The choir will sing at both services.

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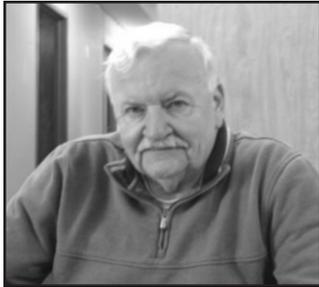
Check us out on FACEBOOK!!!

*Join Us
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Sunday!*

Preston Redevelopment Agency

Merrill Gerber

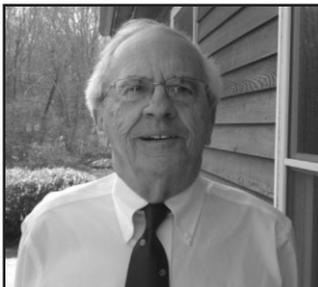
In the last two issues of the Pipeline we provided a brief overview of the Site Operations Team and some of the volunteers who are members of that team. In this issue we would like to introduce and highlight Frank Ennis and Jim Bell.



Frank Ennis
Site Operations Director

Frank leads the Operations team and has been the key player in our successful abatement & demolition work to-date.

Frank Ennis has been a member of the Agency since July 2012. Frank and his wife Nancy live on Krug Road and has been a resident since 1972. Frank retired from the construction industry in 2012 where he was involved in many new construction and demolition projects. He was also very active in the trades union. Frank enjoys traveling and has spent time in Florida, North Carolina and other special parts of this country.



Jim Bell - PRA Vice Chairman
& Funding Director

Jim is the co-chair of the Preston Public Safety Advisory Committee and has been a member since its inception. Jim serves as the PRA vice-chair and the Director of Funding where he has been instrumental in raising the funds needed to abate and demolish the old buildings on the site.

Jim Bell has been a member of the Agency since 2010. Jim and his wife Pat live on Krug Road and has been a resident since 1977. Jim retired from the State Technical School System in 2008 where he was the department head of Graphic Communications. Prior to being an educator, Jim was the vice-president/treasurer of the former Franklin Press company in Norwich. His hobbies include golf and



On Saturday, March 1st, a party was held at Fleming's Feed in Preston in honor of the Irvine family. Rob is fighting ALS and over \$8,000 was raised to benefit the family by in-store fundraising throughout the month of February! Uninvited Wilson donated their time playing their popular music and there were raffles and silent auction items. Thank you to all for your support!

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Preston Redevelopment Agency Update

Merrill Gerber

As many of you may have seen when driving north of Route 2A on Route 12, there has been a lot of demolition activity on the site resulting in significantly fewer structures on the site and allowing one to now see from Route 12 all the way to the Thames River.

To-date a total of 45 of 62 structures have been abated and demolished an additional 22 structures were added to this list during the second half of 2013 and the first quarter of 2014. This includes roughly 90% of the tunnels and approximately 40% of the buried asbestos insulated conduits. We track and report structures (which includes buildings, tunnels, oil tanks and overhead piping) rather than just the buildings as all require abatement, demolition and monies to accomplish this work.

So how was this funded? In December 2012 the citizens of Preston approved a \$2M DECD Loan which required a \$2M Town Match. Once approved by the Town, we worked with DECD to finalize a detailed contract as well as secure the Town Match via a Municipal Bond. Both were approved and in place by June of 2013 and we were very fortunate to secure the Town Match as a 'one-year note' at 0.349% interest. Once we had these monies in hand the Site Operations team

worked closely with Manafort to establish an abatement/demolition plan which focused primarily on the older (pre-1950's) buildings on the northern portion of the former main campus. These monies and working partnership with Manafort Bros. led to the clean up and demolition of the Bell, Brigham, Earle, Ribicoff, Greenhouse, White, Stedman, Stribling, Galt, Kirkbridge, Woodward, Butler and Maintenance buildings along with approximately 40% of the tunnels and a number of transformer vaults in roughly nine months.

We continue to progress this work and have approximately 8 buildings and some contaminated demolition structures remaining. The remaining buildings represent the largest footprint buildings (1950's era buildings) so significant work remains to make the site 'shovel ready'. We will be utilizing the \$5M Urban Act Grant, which was awarded to the Town during the January State Bond Commission meeting, to abate and demolish at least three of these buildings.

Should you have any questions, suggestions or comments, please attend one of our meetings at Town Hall on the second or third Wednesdays of the month or contact our Chairman Sean Nugent at 860 917-6567 or me at 860 887-7169.

Avalonia Land Conservancy By Margaret Gibson

Avalonia Land Conservancy is adopting a positive attitude—we WILL have spring this year. By the time you're reading this, surely it will have come. How do we know?

In the Greenwood Preserve there will be peepers; in the wetland areas, there's a stirring and a bubbling in the muck. It's greener—no, actually, it's redder— the buds of trees reddening with the effort of early leafing out. The owls are calling; hawks have mated and aren't visible anymore doing their duet flights. In the Preston Nature Preserve, there are shoots of new indigenous plantings. And there's likely mud. Perhaps the water will be too high in the wetlands for the paths to be clear, but you'll hear the red winged blackbirds down near the old ice pond. Deeper into spring, the deep woodland birds will be returning to the Songbird Preserve—woodthrush especially. And if you're not wearing tick spray on your forays into the woods and fields, you could be asking for it.

The Preston Avalonia Town Committee hadn't met for spring by the time of this writing, so I can't give you firm dates. But please be on the lookout for an "open house" party in the Preston Nature Preserve come fall— we'll

have nearly finished our clean up and will want to show you our work. We may also be hosting walks in the Greenwood Preserve, which loops through several other contiguous preserves, making a corridor for wildlife. In the future we hope to offer you other notices of woodland life right here in your town.

For us all to enjoy the beauties of these larger preserves in Preston, some more of us are needed— for contributions of membership, money, and the play of working together to keep the preserve trails open and the indigenous weeds discouraged. Please contact Margaret Gibson or Bob Chapin if you'd like to join us. If you live near an Avalonia Preserve, we need friendly neighbors to let us know all is well next door in the green kingdom you're lucky to live next to.

For volunteers for summer's Brush Brigade, call the same number: 860-886-1777 and ask for Margaret or 860-889-43-73 and ask for Bob.

From all of us on the Preston Town Committee, a warm welcome. Bob Chapin, Linda Christesen, Joel Fuller, Margaret Gibson, Eleanor Miller, Gary Piszczek.

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Roseledge Country Inn Celebrates 20th Anniversary!



After discovering Roseledge in 1994; Gail Beecher has worked hard to bring the Inn to its current full beauty. Called Roseledge, due to the ledge that it is built on, the gardens have been planted and stonewalls lovingly repaired making it a beautiful setting for events and it's well known teas.

Relatively new to the Inn, is the shop, which was once a garage, but now filled with all sorts of interesting treasures and people are welcome to stop by and explore its contents.

Home grown foods and fresh eggs from the hens are served and prove to be a favorite to the visitors. Look for Roseledge in the spring edition of Yankee Magazine!

A garden Anniversary Celebration will be held on June 10, 5:30 to 7:30 pm with a Mystic Chamber of Commerce after hours, co-hosted by A Thyme To Cook and the Preston Ridge Vineyard. Like us on Facebook! Roseledge Country Inn and Farm Shoppe. And do stop by!

Troop 75 Activities

By Scoutmaster Wess Ludlow and Committee Member Merrill Gerber

The "Troop 75 Story" continues with a summary of some of our events, plans for the future, and recognition of Scout advancement.

Klondike - The following was written by two of our Scouts, Nathaniel and Peter Crary, about this year's event. "On Saturday, February 22, 2014 Troop 75 attended and helped host the 2014 Connecticut River's Council Klondike at Camp Tadma in Bozrah. The theme of this year's Klondike was "Lost in the Arctic". It was a big success, with all of the attending troops enjoying the events. Spaced throughout Camp Tadma were various events organized by the hosting troops, including a fire-building competition, pulling a sled through an obstacle course, and attempting to



hit targets with a giant sling shot. On the day before the Klondike, Troop 75 traveled to Camp Tadma for setup. We stayed in one of the cabins for the night along with one other troop. The next morning we ate a breakfast of pancakes and sausages and set up our stations as the other troops began to arrive. The competitions soon began. At each event, patrols were judged on how well they performed a certain task. Depending on their outcome, one to six golden nuggets were awarded and the patrol could be eligible for a ribbon as well. The golden nuggets could be exchanged for candy. Troop 75 hosted an event where you had to tie a tripod lashing, lift your sled (you had been pulling one all day!) over a "river" using a tripod, and finally cross a rickety bridge. This event was judged on teamwork, time taken to complete the course, and how much of the challenge you completed in the allowed time frame. The second event Troop 75 hosted included pulling your sled through an obstacle course. This event was judged similarly to the troop's other event. Some of Troop 75's adults hosted an event where the patrol members were asked a number of questions about the Boy Scouts. Depending on the amount of questions that were answered correctly you could get more gold nuggets or have them taken away. At lunch time the events stopped, and each troop went to their assigned campsite to eat lunch. Troop 75 had

meatball subs for lunch inside the mess hall. In the afternoon, after the events closed, the leaders of each event calculated who would be receiving ribbons. Troop 75 stayed until everyone else had left for home to insure that Camp Tadma was clean as could be. Tired after a long day, we left with good memories while looking forward to the next Klondike.

Court of Honor - Scout advancement and awards are recognized at "Courts of Honor". Our latest one was held on March 19 at the Preston City Fire Department. Jason DDD and Digby Ludlow received their 2nd Class awards and "Iceberg" patches were passed out to ten Scouts for camping in freezing weather.

High Adventure Trip 2014 - Plans are underway for our older Scouts to canoe on the Penobscott River from 12 to 20 July. Our younger Scouts will travel to Windsor, VT on July 10th for a weekend of hiking, camping and visiting local attractions.

Bike Trip - And for our readers who enjoy biking, we have a Block Island trip planned for April 16th. The trip will also include a campout as well as a "tour of the island before the summer season starts.

Pancake Breakfast - Our annual pancakes and French Toast Breakfast was held on April 6th. This provided a great opportunity to visit with friends and enjoy some warmer weather after what seems to have been a "long" winter. Thank you all who participated in this major fundraiser to support our Scouting program.

Join Scouting - If our plans sound like fun, join Scouting and come along with us. For information or suggestions, contact Scoutmaster Wess Ludlow at 860 608-6166. And parents, we can always use your help to make the program successful. If you're not a hiker and camper, we always need drivers to get us to events and back home again safely.



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