

# Preston Pipeline<sup>2</sup>

VOL 4 ISSUE 3

SPRING 2015

## From The Desk Of The First Selectman

by First Selectman Bob Congdon



**Bob Congdon**

Included in this month's Pipeline is the Town's Annual Report outlining the financial condition of Preston as of June 30, 2014. The Board of Finance is required to present the audited financial statements for the previous fiscal year. For the current fiscal year, the Town is tracking at or better than budgeted for both revenues and expenses. Historically the Board of Finance has strived to maintain a fund balance of between 7% and 8% of the annual budget, as recommended by bonding agencies and the Town's auditors. Last year the Board of Finance raised the required fund balance to 9%. Preston is in a very strong financial

position with a current fund balance of nearly 18%. Given the uncertainties of State revenues due to the budget problems at the State level, this strong financial position will help mitigate any reductions in State revenues will have on our local property tax mill rate.

A listing of Preston Municipal and emergency services numbers has been included in this edition of the Pipeline.

This winter has been extremely hard on our local roads. The Public Works Department will be busy throughout this spring and summer repairing the damage.

**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](mailto:congdon@preston-ct.org).**

### Town Directory

Preston Town Hall 860-887-5581

Selectmen's Office x 101  
Building Department x 103  
Assessor x 115  
Zoning Enforcement x 115  
Inland/Wetlands Enforcement x 103  
Building Inspector x 130  
Town Planner x 109  
Town Clerk x 111  
Tax Collector x 111  
Treasurer x 110  
Senior Affairs x 104  
Parks & Recreation x 113  
Land Use/ Planning Dept. x 118

Resident Troopers (non-emergency)  
860-848-6500

Fire Chief/Fire Marshal  
860-917-4900 or 860-887-5581

Public Works Garage  
860-886-7220

#### Preston Town Hall Hours

Tues, Wed, Fri 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

#### Preston Transfer Station Hours

Friday & Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

#### Town's Websites

Town of Preston  
[www.preston-ct.org](http://www.preston-ct.org)  
Preston Public Schools  
[www.prestonschools.org](http://www.prestonschools.org)  
Preston Parks & Recreation  
[www.preston-ct.org](http://www.preston-ct.org)  
Preston Library  
[www.prestonlibrary.org](http://www.prestonlibrary.org)

#### Board of Education

Superintendent's Office 860-889-6098  
Preston Plains Middle School  
860-889-3831  
Preston Veterans School  
860-887-3113

#### State Senator

Andrew Maynard 860-240-0591  
[Maynard@senatedems.ct.gov](mailto:Maynard@senatedems.ct.gov)

#### State Representative

Mike France 860-240-8700  
[Mike.France@housegop.ct.gov](mailto:Mike.France@housegop.ct.gov)

#### United States Congress

##### US Congressman 2nd District

Joe Courtney 860-886-0139

##### US Senator

Richard Blumenthal 202-224-2823

[www.blumenthal.senate.gov](http://www.blumenthal.senate.gov)

Christopher Murphy 202-224-4041

[www.murphy.senate.gov](http://www.murphy.senate.gov)

Fire & Police Emergencies dial 911

State Storm & Emergency Info dial 211

#### Regional Agencies

United Way 860-464-3314

[www.uwsect.org](http://www.uwsect.org)

#### Thames Valley Council for Community Action(TVCCA)

860-889-1365

[www.tvcca.org](http://www.tvcca.org)

(shelter, meals on wheels, energy assistance, head start, etc.)

Judge of Probate 860-887-2160

## INSIDE:

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

TOWN OF PRESTON WEBSITE: [WWW.PRESTON-CT.ORG](http://WWW.PRESTON-CT.ORG)

Preston Pipeline<sup>2</sup>

# The fastest way to pay off your mortgage.



You want to refinance at today's low rates, but you don't want to have payments for another 30 years. You want a FastPay Mortgage!

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APR\*

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\*Annual Percentage Rate (APR) effective March 3, 2015. Rates are subject to change at any time. 8-year term requires 96 monthly payments of \$11.50 per \$1,000 borrowed. 12-year term requires 144 monthly payments of \$8.18 per \$1,000 borrowed. APR is 0.25% higher for customers who choose not to sign up for automatic payment from a Jewett City Savings Bank checking account. Payments do not include taxes and insurance, if applicable. Actual payments will be greater. Maximum loan-to-value 80% on 1 to 4 family owner occupied residential property. Maximum loan-to-value 75% on owner occupied condominium. Minimum loan amount \$25,000. Maximum loan amount \$350,000. Not available for new purchases. No homes listed for sale or intended for sale. Other terms and rates available, ask a loan representative for details. Other restrictions may apply.

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- Socialization

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Arcella 1-860-887-5167

[www.broadway-dogs.com/tonabar.htm](http://www.broadway-dogs.com/tonabar.htm)

Barbara Keck, owner, Dog behavioral counselor

**No dog is too old...few are too young!**

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email: [bourbeaudoor@gmail.com](mailto:bourbeaudoor@gmail.com)

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**860.889.8117**

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 Fax (860) 886-8091

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[georgem@matternconstruction.com](mailto:georgem@matternconstruction.com)

## MATTERN & STEFON LAND SURVEYORS, LLC

148 Route 2 • Preston, CT 06365  
 Phone & Fax: 860.889.1999

Boundary and Topographic Surveys  
 Commercial and Residential Development  
 State and Municipal Permitting  
 Consulting Civil Engineering

**Susan F. Mattern, L.S.** [susan\\_camp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:susan_camp@sbcglobal.net)

# 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](mailto: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  
Learning Express - 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 Hours & Closures:

**Saturday, May 23 rd through Sunday the 25th --Closed**  
**Friday, July 3rd through Sunday the 5th --Closed**

For the safety of our staff and patrons, the library follows the inclement weather policy of the Preston Schools.  
Thank you for your understanding.

## "How-to Books!"



As the weather becomes milder, and Spring cleaning kicks in, many people begin doing home improvement projects, starting on that gardening project, planning for summer garage sale hunts, or getting ready for a summer trip? We have a wide variety of "How-to" books available here at the library which may greatly assist you with your project!

## Summer Reading is Coming!

Sign-up for our Summer reading program will begin on June 20th this year. Miss Jayne is hard at work thinking of fun events for everyone to participate in, and we will be posting them on our website as everything is finalized. Please check there for updates as we get closer to the date. Children in the local school district should also be receiving some information and hand-outs from their school librarian.

**Registration is required. Please call (860) 886-1010**

## Passes available to check out for our patrons to local attractions!

And speaking of Summer planning, our library has passes available for a wide variety to many local Connecticut attractions that will either save you money or get you in free! All you have to do is check them out with your library card! Some of these passes were made possible by donations and/or membership fees to the Friends of the Preston Library.

**We have passes to the following attractions: Wadsworth Atheneum Art Museum, Children's Museum of Southeastern CT, Connecticut's Old State House, CT Science Center, Custom House Maritime Museum, Denison Pequotepos Nature Center, Florence Griswold Museum, Maritime Aquarium, Mystic Aquarium, Mystic Seaport, Roger Williams Zoo, and the Connecticut State Parks and Forests Day Pass.**

Library Board of Trustees: Patricia Bell, Bob Chapin, Jan Clancy, Wendy Connal-Nicolaou  
Joanne Eisenhard, Ceil Gerber, Ann Legler, Mary Jo Nugent, Edie Sowa **Email:** [prestonlibraryboard@gmail.com](mailto:prestonlibraryboard@gmail.com)

The Friends of the Preston Public Library Invite You to:  
“Stars & Constellations of the Current Season’s Sky”

Mystic Seaport  
The Museum of America and The Sea  
Treworgy Planetarium  
75 Greenmanville Avenue  
Mystic, CT 06355



Thursday, May 28, 2015  
5:45pm (starts promptly) – 7:00pm  
Rain or Shine



Adults & Children: **Free**

*(We were able to receive approval for 100% grant funding, thanks to Mystic Seaport)*

***Limited capacity in the Planetarium, so please sign-up at the front desk of the Preston Public Library as soon as possible, no later than May 20, 2015.***

Discover the beauty of the dark night sky that has inspired poets and guided mariners. Learn how to find the principal stars and constellations as well as a story or two about them. Inside the Treworgy Planetarium at Mystic Seaport, the stars and planets are projected overhead onto the surface of a 30-foot diameter dome. About 1,200 can be shown. The planets, sun, and moon are projected by individual lights.



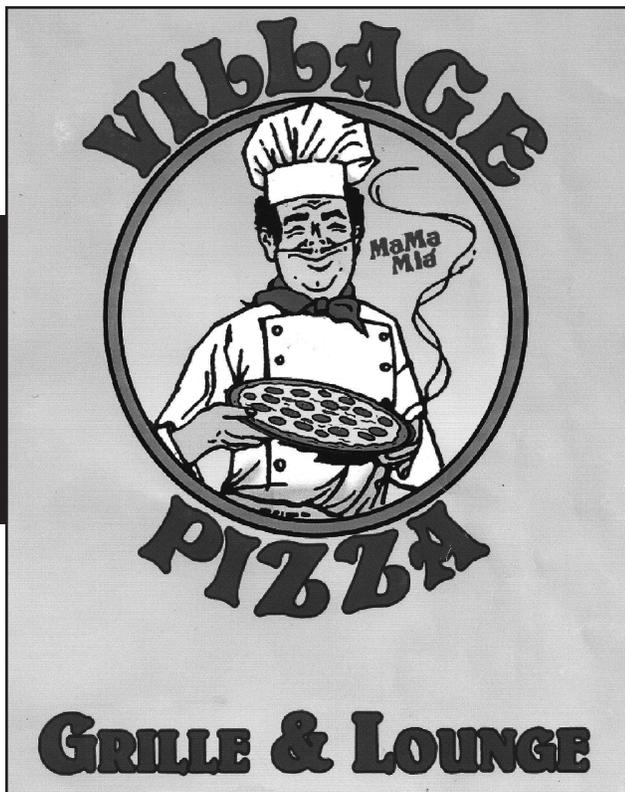
Bring your family and kids. We would be delighted if you can join us !

*Brought to you by The Friends of the Preston Public Library*

*Star light, Star bright*

*Join us for a night of lights!*

Where family and good friends meet to eat the **best pizza** in town!



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## A Poem From One Of Our Readers

Heavy fog dims the setting sun  
yet the world is mysteriously lit.

I enter the dark stall.  
The sweet smell of hay lingers.  
Holding still, breathing is the black horse  
sleek, strong, angelic....always shy.

Touching his silken neck with a soft word  
he leans into me with knowledge  
of trust and kinship.

We are alike in our shyness...  
uncertain upon approach yet  
soothed by an easy touch.

He carries me on his bare back into the  
heavy fog aware of my balance.  
Trusting each others movement,  
descending into deep woods, trees shifting,  
full of birdsong and green,  
wet leaves brush against my skin.

He flicks his tail and raises his head.  
His action is smooth.  
We travel as one as if in a dream.

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# Thank You!

## News From The Preston City Congregational Church Two Can Food Pantry



There's good news and bad news! Every month we provide bags of food for 60 - 80 needy families, who are so grateful for our help. The "bad" news is that the need is outdistancing the supply. We have been able to keep up so far, thanks to the generosity of many individuals and organizations in Preston.

Keep us in mind as you garden this summer. If you have extra fresh garden vegetables, consider bringing some to the pantry on the 3 days preceding the 3rd Wednesday of the month (our distribution day). Just call the church (887-4647) and we will meet you.

What do we provide each family? In every bag there are 2 cans of tuna and soup, 3-4 canned vegetables, pasta sauce, 2 dry pasta, peanut butter, jelly, canned pasta, mac and cheese. Another bag contains toilet paper, bread and cereal. Your continued contributions, in funds or in food items, are greatly appreciated. **Thank you so much!**

# Preston City Congregational Church

Reverend Stanley E. White, Minister



*"Where Friends  
Become Family"*

**9 A.M. service**  
(May 24 - September 6)

**Yard Sale, May 23**  
8 A.M. - 2 P.M.  
(rain date: June 6)

**Ham & Bean Supper**  
**June 27**  
Call for reservations.

**Vacation Bible School**  
**July 13 - 17**  
Call the office to register!

For more information, check out our website:

[prestoncitycongregational.org](http://prestoncitycongregational.org)

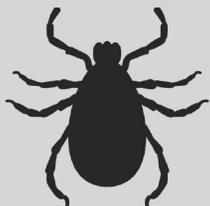
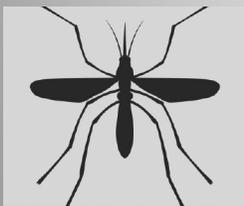
Check us out on FACEBOOK!!!

*Join Us This Sunday!*

321 Route 164 • Preston, CT  
860.887.4647 or 860.886.7200

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# PRESTON PARKS & RECREATION

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### PRESTON PALOOZA

Back by popular demand...Parks & Recreation and Preston Veterans Memorial School PTO will be holding our 2nd Annual Preston Palooza! What's this your ask?? A fun night for the Preston community. There will be food (hot dogs, hamburgers, side dishes, & more), moonwalks, cotton candy, snow cones, cake walk, face painting, games for kids, dunk tank, and more!!

Date: Wednesday, May 27, 2015

(Rain date: Thursday, May 28)

Time: 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Where: Preston Veterans Memorial School

Fee: \$7 per person for tickets purchased May 2 - May 26  
\$9 per person for tickets purchased on May 27

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

### PRESTON NIGHT @ CT TIGERS

Join Preston Parks & Recreation for Preston Night at the CT Tigers!! Pre-game food and post game fireworks!! Fee includes ticket to the game and all-you-can-eat bbq picnic (hamburgers/cheeseburgers, hotdogs, bbq chicken, veggie burgers, corn on the cob, soft drinks, desserts, and more)

Date: Friday, July 31

Where: Dodd Stadium in Norwich

Fee: Adults: \$23 per person

Children, ages 2-12: \$13 per person



## SUMMER CAMPS

### SUMMER 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, & Friday field trips to the beach!

Dates: Monday - Friday, July 6 - August 14

Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Ages: Entering Grade 1 - Grade 7

Location: Preston Veterans Memorial School Gym

Fee: \$90 per week or \$30 per day (minimum of 2 days per week)

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](http://www.preston-ct.org)

### HOOP ACADEMY BASKETBALL CAMP

It is with great pleasure that we announce the 3rd annual Hoop Academy Summer Slam Basketball Camp! 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

Dates: Monday - Friday, June 29 - July 3

Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Ages: Entering grades 3 - 9

Location: Preston Veterans Memorial School

Fee: \$165 per kid



## SUMMER CAMPS (cont.)

### MINI-HAWK CAMP

#### (SOCCER, BASEBALL & BASKETBALL)

Skyhawks multi-sport programs are tailored to your child's age and skill level while teaching life lessons such as respect and teamwork. Mini-Hawk@ programs give children age 4-7 years a fun and positive first step into athletics.

Dates: Monday - Friday, July 13 - July 17

Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Ages: 4 - 7

Location: Preston Community Park

Fee: \$109 per kid

### MULTI-SPORT CAMP

#### (SOCCER, BASEBALL, BASKETBALL & FLAG FOOTBALL)

Skyhawks multi-sport programs are tailored to your child's age and skill level while teaching life lessons such as respect and teamwork. Mini-Hawk@ programs give children age 4-7 years a fun and positive first step into athletics.

Dates: Monday - Friday, July 13 - July 17

Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Ages: 7 - 12

Location: Preston Community Park

Fee: \$129 per kid

### ARCHERY CAMP

Black Bear Sports present Kids Archery Camp. Camp will be taught by NAA certified instructors, this recreational archery program is great for ages 7 through 14. This class is structured for all skill levels, from the brand-new participant to an intermediate archer. We will focus on safety, coordination and the development of consistent skills. Black Bear Sports will provide state of the art equipment and have taught over 10,000 students.

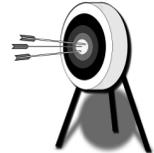
Dates: Monday - Friday, July 20 - July 24

Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Ages: 7 - 14

Location: Preston Community Park

Fee: \$130 per kid



### SOCCER CAMP

Skyhawks is the nation's #1 camp for learning the fundamentals of soccer. Using our progression curriculum, boys and girls will gain the technical skills & sport knowledge required for that next step into soccer.

Dates: Monday - Friday, July 27 - July 31

Location: Preston Community Park

Ages: 5 - 7

Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Fee: \$109 per kid

Ages: 7 - 10

Time: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Fee: \$115 per kid



### TENNIS CAMP

In Skyhawks tennis programs, boys and girls learn proper grips, footwork, strokes, volleys and serves, as well as the rules and etiquette that make tennis an exciting game. Programs fill quickly due to limited court space.

Dates: Monday - Friday, August 3 - August 7

Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Ages: 7 - 12

Location: Preston Community Park

Fee: \$109 per kid



## ADULT PROGRAMS

### **BOATING SAFETY CLASS**

This program is taught by volunteers or employees of the Connecticut DEEP Boating Division and is designed to fulfill the requirements for the Connecticut Safe Boating Certificate and the Personal Watercraft Operator's Certificate. Upon successful completion of the course and final examination, the student can send or carry the diploma, the application for certification, and the appropriate fee to any State DEP office to obtain the Safe Boating Certificate and/or the Personal Watercraft Operator's Certificate.



Dates: Tuesday, June 16 & Thursday, June 18  
Time: 5:30 - 9:30 pm  
Ages: 12+  
Location: Preston Public Library  
Registration Fee: \$25 per person

### **YOGA BASICS**

For beginners & experienced students. Practice includes a variety of foundational postures (standing, seated and on the floor) that focus on balance and alignment. Breathing techniques, yoga philosophy, meditation and deep relaxation are woven into each class. Modifications are offered to optimize each individual's experience. Please wear comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat, 2 blocks, and a blanket.

Instructor: Sandra Hartnett

Dates: Mondays: May 18 - June 15 (no class on May 25)  
Time: 6:00 - 7:00 pm  
Location: Preston Veterans Memorial School Gym  
Registration Fee: \$28; 4 week session

### **HOOP FIT**

Get sweaty, fit and have fun! Hoop Fit class is designed to keep your heart rate up for the whole class. Whether you have never hooped or an experienced Hooper this class is for all levels. Join us for 4 weeks of musically, charged fun!!



Instructor: Judi Jones

Dates: Wednesdays: May 13 - June 10 (no class on May 27)  
Time: 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm  
Location: Preston Veterans Memorial School Gym  
Registration Fee: \$30; 4 week session

### **SENIOR ACTIVITIES ~ AGES 60+**

(Programs offered at discounted rates for PRESTON seniors)

### **CHAIR YOGA**

Join us for a fun, four week A complete yoga practice using the support of a chair. Breathing techniques, yoga philosophy, meditation and deep relaxation are woven into each class. In this fun and informative class students will take home tools for mindfulness and relaxation as well as movements for energizing and stretching the body. This class is appropriate for all ages and abilities.

Instructor: Sandra Hartnett

Time: 10:00 - 11:00 am  
Location: Preston Public Library Meeting Room  
Fee: \$20 Preston residents; \$30 non-residents (6 week sessions)

Summer Session #1 ~ Mondays: May 18 - June 29  
(no class on May 25)

Summer Session #2 ~ Mondays: July 6 - August 10

Classes are limited to a max of 14 participants.  
Register early to ensure yourself a spot.

## 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: \$40 for Preston residents; \$55 for non-residents  
Registration deadline: Friday, June 12th.

### **FALL SOCCER**

Fall soccer league for kids ages 4 & up!! Early registration is key to the success of this fall league. Registration forms available on our website [www.preston-ct.org](http://www.preston-ct.org). All registrations are due by June 30th.



Attention parents—coaches & assistant coaches needed!!



Preston Parks & Recreation is looking for youth soccer referees for the fall season. Training will be provided. Applicants must be 16 years of age or older. Contact Preston Parks & Recreation for more info!!

## EMPLOYMENT

### **PRESTON COMMUNITY PARK PAVILION**

Looking for the perfect place to host a baby shower, birthday party, bridal shower, corporate event, large family gathering...well look no further as Preston Community Park Pavilion is available for rent. Weekends book up quickly. Contact Preston Parks & Recreation for more info either by phone at 860-889-2482 x113 or email [prestonrec@hotmail.com](mailto:prestonrec@hotmail.com)

### **NEW PROGRAM IDEAS??**

Do you have a new program idea? Are you interested in sharing a special talent of yours and instructing a class?

Contact Preston Parks & Recreation by phone at 860-889-2482 x113 or email [prestonrec@hotmail.com](mailto:prestonrec@hotmail.com)

*Check out website [www.preston-ct.org](http://www.preston-ct.org)  
for additional programs...new programs  
will be added in the coming weeks!!*

### **PROGRAM REGISTRATION POLICY**

All registrations are due at least one week prior to the start date of class.  
Early registration helps ensure the success of programs



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](http://www.facebook.com/PrestonParksRecreation)

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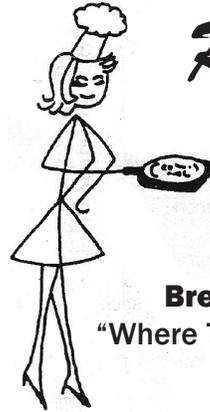
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# Town of Preston Annual Report

For the Year Ended June 30, 2014

In December 2014 the Town’s auditor, Sandra E. Welwood, LLC, Certified Public Accountants, completed its audit of the Town’s financial statements and met with the Board of Finance to present and explain the results of that audit. The fiscal year 2014 (FY2014) financial data presented here and on the following three pages are extracted from the audit report. The full audit report is available for review in the Town Hall.

In her presentation to the Board of Finance, the auditor noted that no audit adjustments were needed and she praised the cooperation of the Treasurer, Finance Director, and all Town personnel involved.

Preston is financially very healthy with a Standard & Poor’s rating of AA+. The Town ended FY2014 with an unassigned fund balance of \$2,801,541. This is an increase over the previous year mainly because Town revenues exceeded expenses. Table 1 is a summary of the actual revenues and expenses for FY2014. Details of the budget vs actual performance for the year can be found in Table 4.

**TABLE 1**

General Fund – Balance Summary			
FY2014 Actual Revenues		FY2014 Actual Expenses	
Property Taxes	\$9,159,588	General Government	\$3,222,803
State Revenues	\$4,894,166	Education	\$10,564,584
Local Revenues	\$1,045,030	Debt Service	\$698,688
Total	\$15,098,784	Total	\$14,486,075

Tables 2 and 3 on the following pages report the balances of the major governmental funds. Table 2 is the end-of-year balance of the funds while Table 3 shows the change in fund balance from the previous year.

The General Fund is the fund that holds Town operating revenues and from which expenses are paid. The day-to-day operation of the schools, public works, and Town hall are paid from the general fund. It is also the repository of taxes paid and any state grants received.

The Capital and Non-Recurring Fund is a fund established by the Board of Finance to pay for unplanned one-time projects that are not included in the annual budget. It includes excess funds from completed capital projects and funds added by the Board of Finance. The Open Space fund balance of \$256,650 is included in the capital and non-recurring fund.

The Capital Projects Fund holds funds for ongoing capital projects that were approved in 2013.

The Preston Redevelopment Agency Fund was created to segregate funds received as State or Federal grants to be used exclusively to abate, mediate and demolish buildings and develop the former Norwich State Hospital site.

Other Funds are a collection of small funds that are maintained by the Town, such as: various cemetery funds, dog fund, Bates Fountain fund, EMS capital fund, and several others.

**TABLE 2**

Town of Preston, Connecticut  
Governmental Funds  
Balance Sheet of June 30, 2014

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Capital and Nonrecurring Fund</u>	<u>Capital Projects Fund</u>	<u>Preston Re- development Agency Fund</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Assets</b>						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 3,299,619	\$ 438,625	\$ 1,477,995	\$ 1,444,237	\$ 424,768	\$ 7,085,244
Investments	-	-	-	-	36,754	36,754
Receivables:						
Taxes	254,769	-	-	-	-	254,769
Intergovernmental	-	-	-	113,162	203,398	316,560
Loans	-	-	-	-	316,854	316,854
Other	711,047	-	-	231,009	206	942,262
Due from other funds	62,111	90,226	-	17,960	87,728	258,025
Restricted cash	47,451	-	-	-	-	47,451
Prepaid expenses	19,075	-	-	-	9,500	28,575
Inventory	-	-	-	-	7,025	7,025
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 4,394,072</b>	<b>\$ 528,851</b>	<b>\$ 1,477,995</b>	<b>\$ 1,806,368</b>	<b>\$ 1,086,233</b>	<b>\$ 9,293,519</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>						
Accounts payable	\$ 403,556	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 66,619	\$ 470,175
Accrued expenses	128,898	-	-	494,629	-	623,527
Unearned revenue	4,444	-	-	1,034,775	237,814	1,277,033
Bond anticipation notes	-	-	-	2,000,000	-	2,000,000
Due to other funds	159,987	34,301	-	17,960	45,777	258,025
Due to others	111,413	-	-	-	-	111,413
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>808,298</b>	<b>34,301</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,547,364</b>	<b>350,210</b>	<b>4,740,173</b>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>						
Unavailable revenue - taxes	211,708	-	-	-	-	211,708
<b>Fund Balances</b>						
Nonspendable	19,075	-	-	-	358,842	377,917
Restricted	2,112	256,650	-	-	17,180	275,942
Committed	-	52,368	1,477,995	-	-	1,530,363
Assigned	551,338	185,532	-	-	360,001	1,096,871
Unassigned	2,801,541	-	-	(1,740,996)	-	1,060,545
<b>Total fund balances</b>	<b>3,374,066</b>	<b>494,550</b>	<b>1,477,995</b>	<b>(1,740,996)</b>	<b>736,023</b>	<b>4,341,638</b>
<b>Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and fund balances</b>	<b>\$ 4,394,072</b>	<b>\$ 528,851</b>	<b>\$ 1,477,995</b>	<b>\$ 1,806,368</b>	<b>\$ 1,086,233</b>	

Table 2, above, shows the balance of each major fund as of June 30, 2014. Attention should be given here to the Fund Balances that are classified as:

Non-spendable – amount that is encumbered, such as long-term payables.

Restricted – amount that can be spent only for the specific purposes stipulated by the providers.

Committed – amount that can be used only for specific purposes determined by action of the Town Meeting.

Assigned – amount intended by the Board of Finance to be used for specific purposes but is not restricted or committed.

Unassigned – fund balance amount remaining in the General Fund that is spendable. Expenditure of this fund, up to \$20,000 can be approved by the Board of Finance, over \$20,000 requires Town Meeting approval, and over \$100,000 requires a Town-wide referendum for approval.

**TABLE 3**

Town of Preston, Connecticut  
Governmental Funds  
Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Fund Balances  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2014

	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Capital and Nonrecurring Fund</b>	<b>Capital Projects Fund</b>	<b>Preston Re- development Agency Fund</b>	<b>Other Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Revenues:</b>						
Property taxes	\$ 9,159,588	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,159,588
Intergovernmental	6,093,850	-	-	1,762,117	526,814	8,382,781
Local	1,045,030	35,536	5,663	183,639	223,138	1,493,006
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>16,298,468</b>	<b>35,536</b>	<b>5,663</b>	<b>1,945,756</b>	<b>749,952</b>	<b>19,035,375</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>						
<b>Current:</b>						
General government	1,547,070	-	-	5,971,064	-	7,518,134
Public works	592,317	-	-	-	14,279	606,596
Public safety	596,950	-	-	-	9,565	606,515
Health services	119,323	-	-	-	2,161	121,484
Public and social services	346,000	-	-	-	130,017	476,017
Education	12,065,450	-	-	-	463,537	12,528,987
Capital outlay	-	43,388	258,456	-	-	301,844
Debt service	650,535	-	-	-	-	650,535
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>15,917,645</b>	<b>43,388</b>	<b>258,456</b>	<b>5,971,064</b>	<b>619,559</b>	<b>22,810,112</b>
<b>Excess of revenues over (under) expenditures</b>	<b>380,823</b>	<b>(7,852)</b>	<b>(252,793)</b>	<b>(4,025,308)</b>	<b>130,393</b>	<b>(3,774,737)</b>
<b>Other financing sources (uses):</b>						
Proceeds from debt issue	-	-	-	2,000,000	-	2,000,000
Transfers in	5	20,000	25,000	-	121,808	166,813
Transfers out	(123,853)	(25,000)	-	(17,960)	-	(166,813)
<b>Net change in fund balances</b>	<b>256,975</b>	<b>(12,852)</b>	<b>(227,793)</b>	<b>(2,043,268)</b>	<b>252,201</b>	<b>(1,774,737)</b>
<b>Fund balances, beginning of year</b>	<b>3,117,091</b>	<b>507,402</b>	<b>1,705,788</b>	<b>302,272</b>	<b>483,822</b>	<b>6,116,375</b>
<b>Fund balances, end of year</b>	<b>\$ 3,374,066</b>	<b>\$ 494,550</b>	<b>\$ 1,477,995</b>	<b>\$ (1,740,996)</b>	<b>\$ 736,023</b>	<b>\$ 4,341,638</b>

Table 3 shows the year-to-year change in the fund balance of the major funds. As shown, the general fund increased by \$256,975. The negative change in the capital projects and capital non-recurring funds means that those funds are being used.

Table 4 on the following page, shows the Town's actual performance to the FY2014 budget. Note that every category of revenues exceeded its estimate and every Town department spent less than their budgeted allowance. The result is that the FY2014 budget returned \$612,709 to the general fund.

Table 5 is the annual report of the Tax Collector. The taxes paid to support the FY2014 budget are based on the October 2012 Grand List. The year 2012 seems a long time away, however, FY2014 begins on July 1, 2013 and the budget is adopted in May of that year. The collection of back taxes and lien fees added \$205,482 to the total tax collections.

The Board of Selectmen, Board of Education, and every Town department should be congratulated for their contributions to making FY2014 a fiscally positive year for Preston.

Board of Finance

Norman Gauthier, Chairman, Ken Zachem, Jerry Grabarek, Andrew Bilodeau, David Cannon, Merrill Gerber

**TABLE 4**

Town of Preston, Connecticut  
General Fund  
Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Fund Balances  
Budget Basis – Budget and Actual  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2014

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance With Final Budget Positive (Negative)</u>
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>		
<b>Revenues:</b>				
Property taxes	\$ 8,915,826	\$ 8,915,826	\$ 9,159,588	\$ 243,762
Intergovernmental	4,440,387	4,440,387	4,894,166	453,779
Local	1,015,146	1,015,146	1,045,030	29,884
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>14,371,359</b>	<b>14,371,359</b>	<b>15,098,784</b>	<b>727,425</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>				
Current:				
General government	1,455,218	1,448,526	1,306,976	141,550
Land development and control	70,285	70,285	63,878	6,407
Public works	587,756	617,057	592,317	24,740
Public safety	590,350	616,809	596,950	19,859
Health services	129,405	129,405	119,323	10,082
Public and social services	367,612	367,612	346,000	21,612
Miscellaneous	349,809	349,809	197,359	152,450
Education	10,622,236	10,622,236	10,564,584	57,652
Debt service	698,688	698,688	698,688	-
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>14,871,359</b>	<b>14,920,427</b>	<b>14,486,075</b>	<b>434,352</b>
<b>Net change in fund balance</b>	<b>\$ (500,000)</b>	<b>\$ (549,068)</b>	<b>612,709</b>	<b>\$ 1,161,777</b>
<b>Fund balance, beginning of year</b>			<b>2,725,019</b>	
<b>Fund balance, end of year</b>			<b>\$ 3,337,728</b>	

**TABLE 5**

Report of the Tax Collector for the Year Ended June 30, 2014

Grand List October 1,	Taxes		Suspense Transfers	Adjusted Taxes Receivable	Collections			Taxes Receivable June 30, 2014	
	Receivable July 1, 2013	Lawful Corrections			Taxes	Interest and Liens	Total		
		Additions	Deductions						
2012	\$ 9,131,353	\$ 50,400	\$ 44,590	\$ -	\$ 9,137,163	\$ 8,938,446	\$ 39,347	\$ 8,977,793	\$ 198,717
2011	152,409	1,263	2,110	-	151,562	103,577	24,817	128,394	47,985
2010	41,865	1,581	535	(10,418)	32,493	25,975	4,503	30,478	6,518
2009	388	-	-	-	388	297	175	472	91
2008	347	-	-	-	347	195	163	358	152
2007	(43)	-	-	-	(43)	299	285	584	(342)
2006	238	-	-	-	238	251	278	529	(13)
2005	2,024	-	-	-	2,024	431	587	1,018	1,593
2004	3,097	-	-	-	3,097	885	1,318	2,203	2,212
2003	634	-	-	-	634	393	662	1,055	241
2002	(275)	-	-	-	(275)	316	593	909	(591)
2001	(20)	-	-	-	(20)	-	-	-	(20)
2000	(768)	-	-	-	(768)	69	66	135	(837)
1999	(544)	-	-	-	(544)	-	-	-	(544)
1998	(393)	-	-	-	(393)	-	-	-	(393)
	<b>\$ 9,330,312</b>	<b>\$ 53,244</b>	<b>\$ 47,235</b>	<b>\$ (10,418)</b>	<b>\$ 9,325,903</b>	<b>\$ 9,071,134</b>	<b>\$ 72,794</b>	<b>\$ 9,143,928</b>	<b>\$ 254,769</b>

# Counselors of Real Estate Visit Preston Preston Redevelopment Agency

By Merrill Gerber

It has been almost five years since the Preston Redevelopment Agency (PRA) drafted our Conceptual Management Plan for the Preston Riverwalk Property. During that five-year interval major changes have occurred in the economy, in societal priorities and in the clean-up/shovel ready status of the property. When our work first began we attempted to both secure development interest and clean up the property in concert. We learned that the brownfield nature of the property was a deterrent to attracting development interest and we then shifted our focus to significantly reduce that barrier. As you've seen when driving by the site recently, we've made great progress in our cleaning up effort with 49 of the originally 57 structures having been abated and demolished. Clearly we need to continue to press forward with the remaining eight structures. Jim Bell and his Funding team continue to seek additional funding to allow us to progress this effort.

As the visual presentation of the site has now changed, the Agency recognized that it is on the cusp of shifting from the task of clean up to that of attracting development. We also recognized that we do not have the skills or expertise to flesh out the specifics for this path and that it entails more than having a broker. In the business world one would turn to consulting experts to provide guidance and assessment. However such groups are far too expensive for a municipality such as Preston's to hire. Fortunately, Bob Congdon and Sean Nugent attended a CREW CT breakfast and met Mr. Ed. Hill. Mr. Hill, who is a real estate legal expert in our State and the Northeast Region, introduced them and the Agency to an organization called the Counselors of Real Estate. This is a group of select real estate experts (1300 nationwide) who provide expertise to municipalities and non-profit groups for a minimum fee. After assessing their capabilities, learning about their work on similar properties in other states, the Agency engaged the Counselors of Real Estate (CRE) Consulting Corps to assist with preparing for this transition.

Four members of the Consulting Corps brought a set of fresh eyes, and their unbiased perspective to Town on March 15th. Over the following five days they reviewed the Riverwalk site, talked to 'stakeholders', reviewed work done at the site and

then presented a road map forward based on their collective experience. A key component of their process was a series of meetings with our 'stakeholders' (18 state, local, tribal & civic leaders) to gain their perspectives and insights on Southeastern CT and Preston Riverwalk.

On Friday morning, March 20th the Counselors presented their findings to a group of nearly 50 people at the Hilton Garden Inn in Preston. CRE members identified a number of potential uses, many of which have been discussed in the past, such as a Conference Center, hotel, health and educational facilities. They noted that bringing the uses to fruition will require builder/investor developer and funding along with the Town providing a more detailed plan. These experts highlighted the importance of the property to the region and emphasized the need for regional planning efforts and suggested that we re-brand the property as "Riverwalk @ Preston". How regionalization affects the Town and the PRA must be worked out. Thinking regionally is not new as the Southeastern Connecticut Enterprise Region (seCTer) identified Riverwalk as an important regional project in the Comprehensive Economic Strategy (CEDs). In addition to rebranding, the consultants suggested that "Riverwalk @ Preston" become the third village in Preston. For those interested, a copy of the CRE teams presentation can be found on the Town home web page. Agency member Sean Nugent and First Selectman Bob Congdon were pleased with the results, because they re-affirmed the Towns efforts to date and provided confidence that the Agency has been moving in the right direction.

**So what do we do now?** Sometime in the next six to eight weeks a formal, written report will be sent to the PRA by the CRE team. The Agency will review, share with state, regional & local leaders and map out a path forward to attract builders and investors. A copy of that final report will also be made available to the public at large.

**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.**

## Crafters & Vendors

### Wanted !!!

**Big 10th Annual  
Scarecrow Festival  
at Preston City  
Congregational Church**

**Sat., Sept. 26th 2015**



Harvest fun will be in abundance with dozens of scarecrow entries lining the festival, the aroma of chowder and baked goods in the air, live entertainment, a chicken BBQ, Pumpkin Patch children's area, local businesses, vendors & crafters ... free admission ... who wouldn't want to be there?! 10' x 10' space is only \$50. Space is limited  
**TO REGISTER : Call 860-887-4647**  
Email: [scarecrowfestivalcrafters@hotmail.com](mailto:scarecrowfestivalcrafters@hotmail.com) or visit [www.prestoncitycongregational.org](http://www.prestoncitycongregational.org) for Registration Form

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## Preston City Fire Department

A lot of exciting things are happening at the Preston City Fire Department! Since June 2014, we have had 13 people join the fire department! We'd like to welcome: *Bob Peck, Tyler Saucier, Kristin Ellington, Troy Powell, Sandra Pank, Brandon Norman, Zach Houghton, Dawn Stanford, Heather Helwig, James Jennerwein, Cliff Heinzelman, Ryder Choti, and Paul Schulz.*



Brandon Norman and Sandra Pank being sworn in by President Bill Buckley.

We also have six members graduating from EMT class in May: *Bob Peck, Tyler Saucier, Kristin Ellington, Cliff Heinzelman, Justin Bonosconi, and Troy Powell.*



P-21 arrived on February 7, 2015.

The new Rescue/Pumper is now in service and will be at the Preston Palooza in May. Stop by and see us for a tour of the new truck!

The Preston City Fire Department is always looking for volunteers. Whether you'd like to be an **active member** or a **social member**, there is a job for everyone! **Active membership** allows you to be an emergency responder as a firefighter and/or EMT or EMR. **Social membership** consists of members of the community who would like to be involved in their local fire department, but do not wish to, or are unable to, respond to emergencies. There are many ways a social member can contribute to the fire and EMS service. For more information, stop in on the first Monday of the month or email [prestonvolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:prestonvolunteer@gmail.com).

# House Fire On Miller Road

By Eleanor Miller

February 11th began as another cold winter day with four feet of snow on the ground the result of a recent blizzard. The Ledyard Digital Receiving Center received several calls at about 9:00 AM informing that there was a house fire at

55 Miller Road. When the firemen arrived there was fire coming out of every window. Fire Chief, Tom Casey, met Walt Liss, the occupant, who confirmed that no one was in the building and he was able to rescue his two dogs. (Walt Liss is a retired firefighter having served twenty years.) Walt advised that there was a lot of ammunition inside the building. With that in mind, the firefighters decided on a "defensive attack" (an attack from the outside). Also, the deep snow from the blizzard impacted the ability to fight the fire. It took two hours to bring the fire under control and the firemen remained on the scene for eight hours. In addition to losing all the irreplaceable household items, Anna Liss, Walt's wife, who creates jewelry which she sells to art shows, lost all of her supplies worth over \$15,000 which were not insured. The following fire departments took part in fighting this fire: Preston city, Poquetanuck, Ledyard, Gales Ferry, Norwich, Griswold, and Voluntown. At this writing, Chief Casey stated that the cause of the fire is still under investigation.

When this occurred, Anna, was in Poland caring for her seriously ill father. A family friend was able to reach Anna's daughter,

Katherine, who resides in New York and she had the difficult task of informing her mother about the fire. Anna said that she was glad that she did not have to witness the destruction of her home.

On March 7th, the Poquetanuck Fire Department put on a spaghetti supper at the Preston VFW for the purpose of contributing to Walt and Anna to help compensate for their tremendous loss. The attendance was overflowing. Both Walt and Anna feel that words are inadequate to express their appreciation to the residents of Preston.

The Preston Fire Emergency Service is comprised of volunteers from Preston City and Poquetanuck along with paid staff which supplement the volunteer force. To qualify for volunteer firemen, applicants are required to take several hours of fire training. In addition, many choose to enroll in emergency medical training. Besides responding to fires, firemen are on call for medical calls, accidents, and rescues. Presently, the two departments have twenty active members. Fire Chief Casey mentioned that if anyone in the community interested in becoming a volunteer is welcome to stop by either firehouse.

Walt and Anna plan to build another log cabin on the same location.

## Update on the FARM DATING PROGRAM sponsored by the Preston Conservation and Agricultural Commission

If you remember, in an earlier edition of the Preston Pipeline, we discussed matching the crop, the land, the animal, and the farmer or landowner to promote agriculture in our Town. Those of you who have been in contact with us when our first Pipeline article appeared will soon be receiving a questionnaire.

If you are looking for a farm, the questionnaire will ask questions such as type of farm you require, how large or small of an operation you have in mind, what type of farming practices you plan to use, etc.

If you own a farm, the questionnaire will ask questions such as the type of farming you will allow, how many of your acres

would be available to farm, equipment or shelters that may be available, etc.

Then, we will try to match up the farmer with the farm or vice versa via the information you provide on the questionnaire. From then on, it will be up to you to make contact with each other and work out the details of an agreement.

**If you are interested in this program, please contact a member of the Preston Conservation and Agricultural Commission by calling Town Hall at (860)887-5581, Extension 118 or email [nichols@preston-ct.org](mailto:nichols@preston-ct.org)**

## Crafters & Vendors Wanted !!!

**Big 10th Annual Scarecrow Festival at Preston City Congregational Church**

**Saturday, September 26th, 2015**



Harvest fun will be in abundance with dozens of scarecrow entries lining the festival, the aroma of chowder and baked goods in the air, live entertainment, a chicken BBQ, Pumpkin' Patch children's area, local businesses, vendors & crafters ... free admission ... who wouldn't want to be there?!

10' x 10' space is only \$50 Space is limited

**TO REGISTER : Call 860-887-4647**

Email: [scarecrowfestivalcrafters@hotmail.com](mailto:scarecrowfestivalcrafters@hotmail.com) or

visit [www.prestoncitycongregational.org](http://www.prestoncitycongregational.org) for Registration Form



# 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 is scheduled for Wed., June 10, 2015 at 6:30 pm at the

Old Preston Library on 293 Route 164.

All interested persons are welcome to attend.

Want to join? Please check out our website though the town's [www.preston-ct.org](http://www.preston-ct.org) for information and an application.

Look for us on Facebook at Preston Historical Society of Connecticut.

## Our Publications

Did you know that the PHS has books and postcards available for purchase? Please stop into the town hall or the Preston Library to check them out. Here are our holdings:

### Cemetery Inscriptions

**in the Town of Preston \$10.00**

**Early Homes & Families.**

**Marion White Hall \$15.00**

**Preston in Review.**

**Marion White Hall \$15.00**

**Nine Dollars per Month & Board.**

**Lewis R. Peckham \$3.50**

**Preston Cabinetmakers.**

**Diane A. Norman \$2.00**

**Post Cards (Pen & Ink Sketches)**

**Selected views of Preston \$.20**

## CONTACT INFO

**Linda Christensen - 860-887-5828**

[LindaCh5@comcast.net](mailto:LindaCh5@comcast.net)

**Donna Bowles - 860-884-4663**

[zhf.alpacas@gmail.com](mailto:zhf.alpacas@gmail.com)

## Long Society Meetinghouse



There's a secret treasure hidden in Preston that few people know about. It's been hidden in plain sight for close to two hundred years. It's plain and simple, and really doesn't look like much. It had several different uses in its original form. Today, there are only three of its kind left in New England, and it is the only one in Connecticut.

Many of us are trying to find that original treasure. Even though it was found and brought back to life in the 1960s – in fact, it was even placed on the National Registry of Historic Places – it's slowly falling apart, from the inside out. Of course, the hidden treasure is our very own gem, the Long Society Meetinghouse located on Long Society Road in Preston.

After several years, the meetinghouse title has been transferred to the PHS, and we are now in the beginning stages of evaluating the building structurally as well as its surrounding land.

We've been working with the Connecticut State Archaeologist, Brian Jones, who plans to help us determine whether there are burials immediately adjacent to the church that might be dis-

turbed during renovation. He and several of his students will be doing some digging at the rear of the Meetinghouse. If you're interested in watching or perhaps helping, please look for us on our Facebook page for updates.

Help us develop future uses for this great old structure. We'd love to hear your ideas.

**The Last of the Puritans:  
Long Society Meeting House**  
(Taken from Nov./Dec. 2014  
Connecticut Preservation News)

Austere and primitive, the Long Society meeting house sits surrounded by a small cemetery on a quiet road in Preston. The building was built in 1817, and so it's nearly two hundred years old, but it belongs to a tradition that reaches back in Connecticut history for nearly two hundred years more.

New England's Puritan settlers sought to cut through what they saw as centuries of Catholic error and return Christianity to the purity of its early years. Rejecting the idea that a place could be holy - a Church, to them was a congregation of people, never a building – they worshipped in structures that could be used for secular as well as religious purposes. Meeting houses, they were called, and they hosted town meetings, elections, schools, as well as workshop. As often as not, the meeting house belonged to the town rather than the ecclesiastical society.

## Preston Historical Society Membership Application

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ 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**

# Your Town Government - Who's Running This Town?

By Norman Gauthier

In February, the Preston Community Voice user group page on Facebook was abuzz with news about the Board of Education. In the midst of the many comments, Stacy wrote, "Has this town always been this involved in the politics of the town, i.e. BOE, BOF, the salaries of employees, the way money is spent, etc.? Granted I'm not from a small town, . . . However, in . . . bigger cities, you would never hear of parents or residents getting into these types of conversations because it's dealt with on the upper levels of the school board, mayor, etc. I read along with the posts here and it confuses me. I have never seen anything like this before . . ., these discussions would never be heard of where we're from."

Stacy's comment reminded me of how fortunate we are to live in a town where local government functions at a level close to the public it serves. Our public officials always have time to listen to the public. As a matter of fact, in Preston it's the law. At every meeting of every public agency time is set aside for public comment. If you want to talk to the Board of Education, Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, Planning & Zoning, Parks & Recreation, or any town agency, all you have to do is show up at their meeting and wait your turn. Some town agencies even allow the public to comment on issues as they are being debated.

One reason we function this way is that the town is run by you and your neighbors. That's right, you! You are somebody's neighbor and you can join with others to contribute your time and talents to make our town a better place. The town is run by almost a hundred volunteers who serve on various boards and commissions. Some of these positions are filled by appointment and some are elected. This is not a private club; you have an open invitation to get involved. You can contribute to decisions like: should Parks & Rec start that new program? Should we buy a new bus for senior citizens? Should we allow that new commercial business on your street? These are the kind of decisions that town agencies make on your behalf. Vacancies

occur often and are posted on the town web site: [www.preston-ct.org](http://www.preston-ct.org). If you are interested in finding out more information about a vacancy, contact the Town Clerk or First Selectman's office. Also, you can sit-in on a meeting of a board or commission to see what they do and then decide if that agency is a good fit for your interests. Meeting schedules are also posted on the Town web site.

In July 2015, the Republican and Democrat town committees will be seeking candidates for about 20 positions that will be filled at municipal elections in November 2015. They need your help. Many people don't like labels and are reluctant to become a member of one party or another; however, that is the way our system is set up. The political party town committees are expected to find qualified candidates for all positions. If you were to attend a meeting of any town board or commission you would not be able to identify which members are from which party. Every board member is a Preston resident and votes to make Preston a better place whether they are elected as a Democrat or Republican.

So, what are you waiting for? Are you waiting for an invitation; you are now invited. Are you waiting to be asked; we're asking. Pick the party that suits you best, and join up. It's easy. You can do it from home at [voterregistration.ct.gov](http://voterregistration.ct.gov) or at the town hall. Then attend your political party town committee meeting and become a part of the team that manages the Town of Preston. For more information about your town political committees, Republicans can contact Norman Gauthier at [N.Gauthier@USA.net](mailto:N.Gauthier@USA.net) and Democrats can contact Sean Nugent at [s.t.nuge@gmail.com](mailto:s.t.nuge@gmail.com).

**So, who is running this town? You are, by your participation as a member of a board, commission, or agency, by helping to choose candidates, by voting for your friends and neighbors, and by letting those who serve know your opinion on issues you care about. It's time for you to get involved. We welcome your questions and comments. You can contact the author at [N.Gauthier@usa.net](mailto:N.Gauthier@usa.net)**

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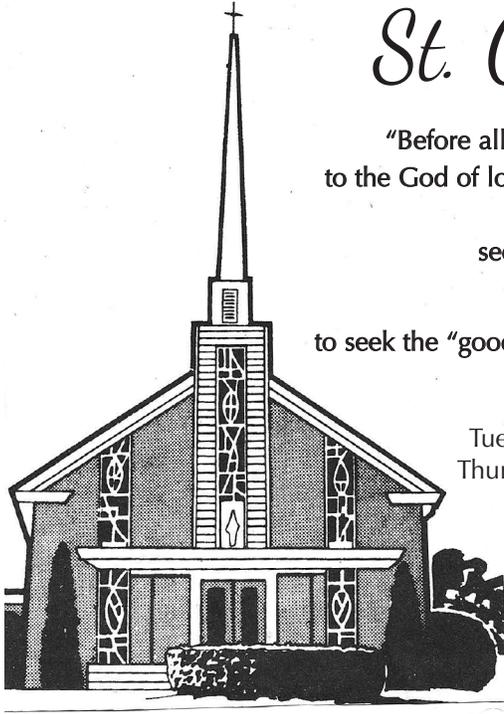
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In a double rocks combine ingredients over ice.  
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# St. Catherine of Siena Church

“Before all else, the Gospel invites us to respond to the God of love who saves us, to see God in others and to go forth from ourselves to seek the good of others.” - Pope Francis

Come join us at St. Catherine of Siena to seek the “good of others”. Our door is always open!

### Weekday Masses:

Tuesday: 9 am in Rectory Meeting Room  
Thursday: 9 am in Rectory Meeting Room

Saturday Confessions: 3:30 - 4pm

### Weekend Masses:

Saturday: 4:30 pm Vigil Mass  
Sunday: 10 am Mass

Pastor: Fr. Ted Tumick  
Parochial Vicar: Fr. Steve Gulino  
Pastoral Associate: Nancy Mignault

243 Route 164 • Preston CT  
Telephone: 860-887-9966

## St. Catherine of Siena 5K Road Race

\*ALL Ages Welcome

Date: Thursday June 11, 2015

Time: Race starts at 7pm

Place: Begins/Ends at Amos Lake Beach Club

Location: Hollowell Rd off of Rte. 164

Prizes/Gift Certificates will be awarded!

Register online at:

[www.stcatherineroadrace.org](http://www.stcatherineroadrace.org)

Or at the Church Rectory: 860-887-9966

Pre-Registration: \$15/ Night of Race: \$20

## St. Catherine of Siena Gathering Events

### Giant Yard Sale/Flower Sale/ Pie Sale

When: Friday June 12, & Saturday June 13

Time: Hall doors will open at 9am until 3pm

\*Food will be offered out of Church Kitchen

**COME JOIN THE FUN!!!!!!**

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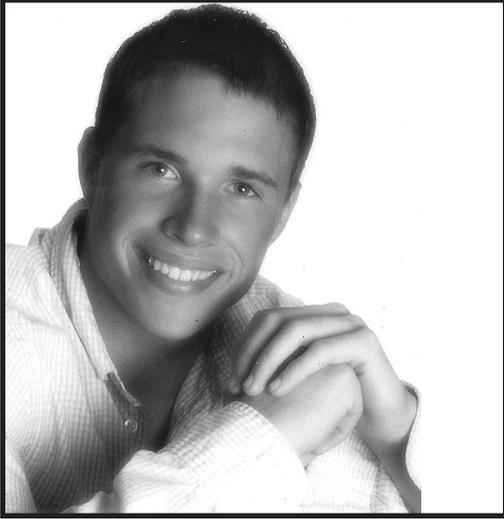
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## Congratulations Marc Mignault!

**Marc Mignault**, son of Dr. & Mrs. Brian Mignault graduated from Washington and Lee School of Law in Virginia on May 9, 2015. Marc attended grades K-8 Preston Schools. As part of his law school experience Marc was chosen for Moot Court Finals, which U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito presided over. He also secured an invitation to the American Bar Association's 2014 National Competition after finishing second at the regional competition in Williamsburg, VA. He and his negotiations team partner then headed to the National Championships in Chicago where they competed against 162 law schools. Competitions included Appellate Advocacy, Mock trial, Mediation and Client Counseling.

Marc and his partner were one of 4 teams to make it to the finals. They were recognized as National Finalists. Marc has been hired by a law firm where he will be specializing in medical malpractice.

## Exercise Your Right to Vote - Registration is Easier Than Ever

By Joanne Eisenhard and Lennie Spencer

In the previous issue of Preston Pipeline2, we were introduced as the recently elected Registrars of Voters (ROV). Since taking office in January, we have been busy in the office working to put our hands on every paper record in the office and confirming that the electronic records in the Connecticut Centralized Voter

Registration System (CVRS) match our town's paper records. There are approximately 3,000 "active" voters here in Preston. Additionally, we have approximately 350 "inactive" voters. A voter can be placed in the "inactive" file of voters for several reasons, the most prevalent coming from being identified in our annual Canvass as having a change of address and the voter didn't respond to our canvass mailing or the canvass mailing coming back as undeliverable. Inactive voters are moved to "off" status after 4 years of inactive status. We have hundreds of voter records that have been placed in "off" status that we are required to maintain for at least five years from the date the voter is removed.

Did you know that you can confirm your "active" voter registration status in CVRS by going to: <http://www.dir.ct.gov/sots/LookUp.aspx> and putting in your pertinent information? The link will identify in which party you are registered and your polling location for an election. If it returns a "Record Not Found," you are not an active voter in the town in which you were looking. Did you move to Preston and not inform the Registrar's office of the change? Perhaps you can check your status in a previous town and find you are still an active voter there. Do you want to switch party status because of too many robocalls before an election? Do you need help?



You can download the voter registration card at a link on our Town of Preston ROV page, complete it, and mail it in. Our office hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to noon each day should you want to come in and register in person. If you have recently reached voting age or are new in town or have a change of address you need to notify the Registrar. Please note that you may choose to switch enrollment to or from a political party at any time, but there is a three-month waiting period to attain voting privileges in your new party.

And you can re-register (i.e. make address changes, name changes, or party affiliation changes) on-line at: <https://voter-registration.ct.gov/OLVR/welcome.do> at any time and those electronic registrations will be sent to our office automatically through the CVRS. Any changes to your voter registration status by completing and mailing in the registration card or made through the electronic system will be followed by a letter from us to your registration address confirming the voter status change you just made.

You should be reading this in mid-May just before Preston votes on the budget referendum. Please exercise your right to vote and participate in town government. Registering to vote is easier than ever!

Should you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at 860-887-5581, extension 116, or by e-mail at: [registrar@preston-ct.org](mailto:registrar@preston-ct.org) <http://www.preston-ct.org/index.php/departments-aamp-services/registrar-of-voters> (Town of Preston ROV page)

# State Legislative Update

**By Mike France, State Representative**  
42nd District, Preston, Ledyard, Montville

The past month has been a busy one - welcoming the opening of Arooga's Grille in Uncasville, presenting citations to a promising young group of cub scouts, and hosting my first two town hall meetings.

At the beginning of March, I was honored to visit the Ledyard Senior Center to address municipal and legislative concerns with seniors of Ledyard, Preston, and Montville. We had a lively discussion about how the Governor's proposed cuts to social services and increases in personal and business taxes will be devastating to our residents. I was also able to share with them some information about the work I've been doing in my legislative committees to advocate for municipal issues, including updating the charter revision process, affordable housing, and increasing prevailing wage thresholds for municipal projects. Seniors who attended asked great questions about potential cuts to senior programs, tolls, legalizing marijuana and physician-assisted suicide. It's always a valuable experience for me to connect with constituents and I'm happy they asked me to visit.

Later, on March 28, fellow State Rep. John Scott and I met with constituents at a town hall meeting in Ledyard. There, I explained that my policy priorities this session were municipal government mandates, infrastructure and transportation fiscal discipline, and the creation of a friendly business environment in Southeastern Connecticut. Residents brought to my attention other issues of importance, including speed limit enforcement, gas taxes, ride-sharing services like Uber, cuts to social service funding, and the high cost of electricity.

On April 2, I held a town hall meeting in Preston, where tolls, tourism, property tax, minimum budget requirement for education, dyslexia recognition training for teachers, library budget cuts and railway improvements, particularly to Shoreline East were discussed. The overwhelming concern of Preston and Ledyard residents around these issues shows me that Connecticut needs to change direction - something I am strongly advocating in Hartford.

We are working to propose an alternative to the Governor's budget that is responsible and reforms government while balancing the budget without raising additional tax revenue.



Connecticut residents already have the heaviest tax burden in the United States. With the highest tax burden per capita of any state in the nation, it's no wonder our Tax Freedom Day comes on May 13th, later than any other state. Tax Freedom Day is the day each year when the average citizen has made enough money to pay their combined local, state and federal tax bills. To put it into perspective, each of us will spend more on taxes in 2015 than we will on food, clothing and housing combined. Until state leaders curb spending, create a stable tax and regulatory landscape, and stop passing legislation that fuels Connecticut's anti-business climate, we will continue to suffer from a lagging economy and shrinking workforce.

Our model for restoring balance to the budget could also be applied to resolving other major issues. One of those is Transportation, where I support using the Republican proposed 30-year plan as a guide because it would maintain our infrastructure without increasing taxes. Another, is to improve Economic Growth by reducing the cost of doing business through regulatory reform and reducing taxes and fees on small business. The Governor's flawed proposal regarding 100% municipal funding of Resident State Troopers is an unfunded mandate and a burden that should not be placed on municipalities.

Thank you to all of the residents of Preston, Ledyard and Montville who came out to meet with me. One of the most important aspects of being a state representative is making time to be available in the district to meet with the people I represent. My next town hall meeting will be held in Ledyard on June 18 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Ledyard Town Hall Annex. On June 20, I will host a town hall meeting in Preston from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Preston Public Library. Please attend either or both of these sessions to let me know what you think about the state of affairs in Hartford.

**Town hall meetings are free and open to the public. If you missed or cannot attend any of these events and have concerns to discuss please email me at [Mike.France@house-gov.ct.gov](mailto:Mike.France@house-gov.ct.gov) or call my office at 1-800-842-1423. You can also sign up for invitations to future events through my website at [www.repfrance.com](http://www.repfrance.com), or follow me on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/repfrance](http://www.facebook.com/repfrance) for more details.**

# Troop 75 Events and Activities



Peter Crary

Noah Cyr

Troop 75 recently had a change of leadership. Noah Cyr transferred the Senior Patrol leader (SPL) job to newly elected **Peter Crary**. **Noah Cyr** became Junior Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 75 Scoutmaster Wess Ludlow.

**Two scouts from Preston Troop 75 were presented Boy Scouts highest Rank recently. Noah Cyr and Gabriel Hopkins Gray.**

Noah Cyr's eagle Project was to construct an announcing Building at the new Sports field on Sheldon Rd in Griswold Ct.

Gabe's Eagle Project was to install a Prayer Path at the Preston City Congregational Church in Preston City CT.

Preston Boy Scout troop 75 is preparing for it's 50 mile bike trip this summer. A pre-bike trip was held recently were the scouts and leaders departed Preston City Fire house to adventure out on a 10 mile bike ride through the town of Preston.

## 50th Anniversary of the fish & chip dinners and the 50th year of Preston Boy Scout Troop 75!



St. James Church Finished 6 weeks of Fish and Chip dinner by celebrating the churches 50th Anniversary of the dinners and the 50th year of Preston Boy Scout Troop 75. Members of the troop served as waiters and helped with Take-Out orders. Father Ron Kolanowski and Father David L. Cannon Expressed a deep thanks to all the scouts of Troop 75. "We couldn't have done it without you".

Father David L. Cannon praised the scouts for the 50 years of service and all the support they have given to St. James parish over the years. Father Cannon said " St. James Parish has seen some ruff times over the last 50 years and there were Two things that kept us alive. One, the Annual Lent Fish and Chip Dinners and Two, the Boy Scouts and leaders from Preston Troop 75".

## Remembering Elizabeth M. Maciejny

**Elizabeth M. Maciejny** passed away on March 2, 2015. She was born in Ledyard on June 17, 1923, the daughter of Gustave and Katherine (Klemik) Kleeman. Elizabeth grew up in Ledyard and graduated from the Norwich Free Academy. On July 31, 1943, Elizabeth married Stanley Maciejny in Norwich. They were married for 42 years. He later suffered from Alzheimer's disease and passed away on April 17, 1986. Elizabeth cared for Stanley at home until his passing. In the beginning of their marriage, they started the Shady Oaks Ice Cream Parlor on Route 2.

After several years, a fire destroyed the building and they were forced to shut down. Stanley began to work at a grain company in Norwich while Elizabeth stayed at their Brickyard Rd home to raise their two children, John and Sandra. Stanley then began to work on their family dairy farm. Eventually, that dairy farm was destroyed by a fire and so they began a vegetable and pumpkin farm. Many people still remember the 'Pumpkin



Family' and the 'Haunted House'. Elizabeth was an important part of the farm, and without her, the farm would not have been successful. Many of the farm employees still speak of the sandwiches she made for lunch.

Once the pumpkin farm closed, Elizabeth began to work at the Town and Country Greenhouses. She shared her love for flowers and gardening while meeting many new friends. Elizabeth loved spending time with her family. She was grateful to live across the road from her son and daughter-in law as well as their children and grandchildren. She loved to cook and would always prepare a large Sunday dinner for the entire family.

Holidays were also special to her and she created many traditions for the family to carry on, especially at Christmas Eve and Easter. Elizabeth was a strong, caring and generous woman. Her family misses her dearly, but are thankful for the many memories she left behind.



## Evelyn Cournoyer

Preston resident, Evelyn Cournoyer, was the winner of the Clarsach\* Society's 2014 Young Composer Award.

She performed her composition "Individuation" for solo clarsach during the closing concert at Scotland's Edinburgh International Harp Festival on April 15, 2015.

An NFA senior, Evelyn will be attending the Berklee College of Music in September.

\*The clarsach is the smaller harp used in Irish and Scottish music.

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