

Preston Pipeline²

VOL 5 ISSUE 4

SUMMER 2016

From The Desk Of The First Selectman

by First Selectman Bob Congdon

More than 325 residents attended a Town Meeting held on May 19th to discuss and act on a Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Preston and the Mohegan Tribal Gaming Authority (MGTA) for the development of the Preston Riverwalk site.

The MOU outlines the framework for a 200 - 600 million dollar mixed use development to be constructed on the site. Voters overwhelmingly approved the MOU which provides for a 180 day exclusivity period during which time a detailed Master Plan and a Purchase and Sale Agreement will be developed by the MGTA and Town. Once both documents are complete, there will be public forums to provide residents with all details of the agreement and development. Before the property can be sold voters will have the opportunity to approve the final agreement at a Town Meeting followed by a Referendum.

This development has the potential to provide major benefits to the Town, the State and the Region. The Board of Selectmen and the Preston Redevelopment Agency will keep residents informed



Bob Congdon

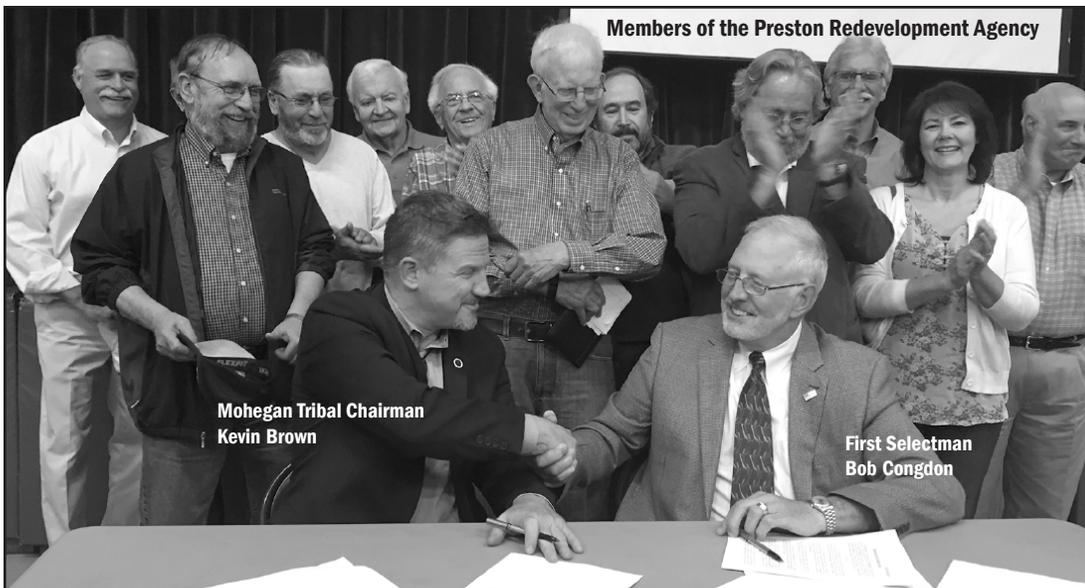
by regular updates posted in local newspapers, the Preston Pipeline and the Town Website.

If not for the incredible effort put forth by the Preston Redevelopment Agency, Mohegan Tribe, the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development and Governor Malloy this agreement would never have been possible. Thanks to everyone who has made this possible, especially the voters of Preston who had the vision and courage to purchase the property five years ago.

At the time of this writing the Board of Education Budget has not been approved by Preston voters. The Board of Finance will set a mill rate so that local tax bills can be calculated and sent out. There is the possibility supplemental tax bills will need to be issued once a Board of Education but gets approved.

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.

Historic Agreement Between Mohegan Tribe and Preston



Mohegan Tribal Chairman
Kevin Brown

First Selectman
Bob Congdon

On Thursday, May 19, the town of Preston entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Mohegan Tribe concerning the development of the Norwich Hospital property. The hard work of all on the Preston Redevelopment Agency and tireless efforts of our first selectman, Bob Congdon are to be highly commended.

This is very exciting and we look forward to new developments as they arise!

INSIDE:

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

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

Preston Pipeline²

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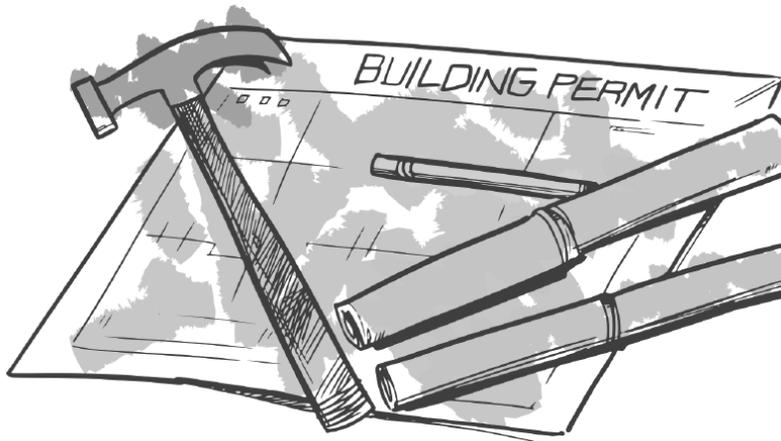
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THE 2nd ANNUAL
**PRESTON
MUSIC FESTIVAL**

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A BENEFIT CONCERT
FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE
1817 LONG SOCIETY
MEETING HOUSE

**Saturday, September 17
at 3 pm**

THE PRESTON COMMUNITY PARK
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ONLY REALLY HEAVY RAIN WILL STOP US!

**St. James
Silent Auction
and Craft Fair**

October 8th and 9th
9 a.m to 3 p.m.

**Looking for crafters and taking
applications now!**
Please call 860-861-9518

Food and Bake Sale
and a Children's Corner

(The silent auction will be two days with the
winners announced on Sunday but not before 5pm.
You do not have to be present and will be called.)

Do you have a business to promote?

**Think about donating a basket for
the silent auction!**

**Last year there were over
115 auction items!**

Preston City Congregational Church



Reverend Stanley E. White,
Minister

*"Where Friends
Become Family"*

For more information,
check out our website:
prestoncitycongregational.org.
Check us out on
FACEBOOK!!!

Join Us This Sunday!

We're up and runnin'...

If you can't make it to church,
watch our Sunday service on
the net!
Go to:
prestoncitycongregational.org
and you'll see the link!

**Summer worship schedule
continues through
September 4; 9a.m.**

**We return to two services
September 11, 9 & 10:30 a.m.**
PLUS... the Sunday School
(ages 3 - high school)
begins at 8:45 a.m.

**See you at the
Scarecrow Festival!
September 24, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Admission: Free**

321 Route 164 • Preston, CT
860.887.4647 or 860.886.7200

A BIG Thank You!

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



In the last issue of the Pipeline, we told our Preston neighbors that we were getting low on supplies and short of funds to meet the ever-increasing number of needy families each month. So many of you answered the call; the many donations of food and money was heartwarming, ensuring that we will be able to meet the needs of our families for another couple of months. All donations, large and small, are greatly appreciated. We have collection boxes for food at the town hall, the library, and the Preston office of the Jewett City Savings Bank. St James, St Catherine's, and the Preston City Congregational Church also collect food for the pantry. Checks can be made out to PCCC Food Pantry and sent to the church at 321 Rte 164, Preston (06365) **Thank you so much for you support.**

If you know a family in need of help, send them on the 3rd Wednesday of the month to our church pantry..from 10 AM - noon, or from 3 - 5 PM.

Kutápatamush Kutápatamuyumun!

I thank you...we thank you!

On behalf of the Mohegan Tribe, I would like to extend our deepest thanks to the residents of the Town of Preston for approving the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at your town meeting on May 19th. This is a win all the way around as it helps to generate taxable revenue for the town and state, as well as add hundreds of permanent jobs into the area.

It is my promise to you, the citizens of Preston, as well as to the residents and businesses of this region and state, that we will develop something that is going to really put this area on the map and drive new business, helping to strengthen the economy of Southeastern Connecticut.

Since the MOU has been signed, we have been diligently working on the master plans for the 393-acre site. As many of you have heard or read, we are looking at a variety of non-gaming options including an outdoor adventure park, a synthetic ski slope, hotels, dining and more.

And while we are committed to a multimillion dollar development, we have not lost track of the importance of historical preservation and public access. We have the right experts ensuring that is incorporated as well. At a time when the region is experiencing growth in parks and recreational space with the



Thames River Heritage Park, the State Park at Seaside in Waterford, and the Mystic Boathouse Park, it feels "right" for us to find a way to become part of that larger picture.

We will continue to work hard to ensure we are providing a destination that you can all be proud of.

As your neighbor and friend, I would like to personally invite you to join us as we celebrate the **2016 Mohegan Wigwam Festival over on our reservation at Fort Shantok, the Village of Uncas. The two day event will be held on Saturday, August 20th and Sunday, August 21st from 10:00am to 7:00pm both days.**

There, you can experience a little piece of Mohegan culture and traditions including Native American crafts, food and a dance competition. The festival is open to all ages and offers free admission. Shuttle is available from Mohegan Sun's bus lobby and Thamesview Garage as there is no onsite parking available.

I hope to see you there and look forward to our continued partnership and to the next phase of the Preston Riverwalk.

Kevin Brown "Red Eagle"
Chairman of the Mohegan Tribe

Mohegan Tribal Chairman Kevin Brown.
The Riverwalk property is in the background.
Photo by Sam Chinigo.



Mohegan / Preston Agreement

Merrill Gerber & Sean Nugent



The Town Meeting on May 19th was held in the auditorium of Preston Veterans Memorial School and was well attended (est. ~ 350 people). Presentations were made by the PRA, Mohegan Tribal Chairman Kevin Brown, and Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) Deputy Commissioner Tim Sullivan.

The chairman for the PRA walked the audience through the details of the MOU. Chairman Brown spoke from the heart highlighting the fact that he was born and raised in this region and that the Mohegan's have been our neighbors for a long time, are committed to the region, and are not going away. Deputy Commissioner Sullivan highlighted the elements the State will require before they provide the funding required to complete the clean-up of the property.

Following these presentations, the attendees overwhelmingly approved the MOU. Following the vote, Chairman Brown and First Selectman Congdon signed copies of the MOU that outlines the framework for the negotiations over the 180 day time period.

Within days following the Town Meeting the two parties have begun the negotiation process. During this time it will be quiet as we work through the details and specifics. It is important for the residents of Preston to understand that the proposed PDDA will come back to the Town for discussion and approval.

The news has been strongly supported by community leaders and elected officials from all over our region and State.

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

At a May 12th Board of Selectman meeting, and to the surprise of many, the Preston Redevelopment Agency (PRA) requested the Selectman set a date for a Town Meeting to present, discuss, and vote on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Mohegan Tribe. The agreement is to sell the entire 393-acre property [formerly known as the Preston portion of the Norwich State Hospital] to the Tribe. Following a series of questions, the Selectman voted to set the Town Meeting for May 19th.

The project will be a high-quality, integrated mixed-use development suitable for the unique nature of the site. It is contemplated that this development will consist of entertainment, recreation, hotel, retail (including, without limitation, lifestyle center, restaurants, convenience), business, time share, senior housing, and similar and related uses.

The MOU gives the Tribe and the Town 180 days to work through the details of a Purchase & Sale and Development Plan (known as a PDDA). In addition, the Tribe has agreed to pay up to \$600,000 in legal and consulting fees for the Town during the negotiation period. The Tribe would set aside \$11 million to buy the hospital property, and that amount would be reduced to \$1 if key milestones are reached.

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Mohegan Sun

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Your Town Government - Congratulations Preston!

By Norman Gauthier

On May 19th the people of Preston took a vote we have been waiting for since 2005 when the state agreed to let Preston find a developer for the former State Hospital property. By that vote, we authorized the Town to negotiate an agreement with the Mohegan Tribal Gaming Authority for the sale and development of the property. The proposal is for the MTGA to purchase the land for \$1 and a promise of \$400 million for development. The Town will pay \$912,000 to complete the sale and the state is promising \$10 million to complete the clean-up.

The Norwich State Hospital for the Insane was established in 1904. Later, as its mission was expanded to include other services, including the treatment of geriatrics and drug & alcohol addicts it was renamed Norwich Hospital. That name never caught on and it continued to be called Norwich State Hospital or just State Hospital. By the mid 1960's, the hospital had grown to include over 55 buildings on 468 acres of land; 419 of those acres in Preston. In October of 1996, the hospital was closed. The property was abandoned and for the next fifteen years the elements of nature continued to take their toll on the buildings. Some homeless took up residence while vandals and looters helped themselves to anything of value.

The State hired a real estate broker in 2000 to market the property, but they were unsuccessful. The State was willing to sell the property for \$1 to anyone who would complete the environmental cleanup. Several proposals were received and rejected. In the summer of 2004 the State rejected the only remaining proposals, Mohegan Sun and Utopia Studios, and offered the property to Preston and Norwich with the stipulation that the Towns do the cleanup.

Preston immediately started soliciting proposals and meeting with potential developers. Since 1996 there had been several committees and civic groups trying to influence the decisions made on the future of the Hospital site. In 2004, as the Town was preparing to notify the State of its intent to purchase the property, the Norwich Hospital Advisory Committee (Committee) was created to review proposals and negotiate with potential developers.

In March 2005, the Board of Selectmen approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that made Utopia Studios the preferred developer for the Hospital property. At a referendum voters approved the MOU with Utopia by a margin of 85% for and 15% against. The negotiations with Utopia soon fell into disarray and were terminated in July 2005.

In November 2005, First Selectman Robert Congdon signed a purchase and sales agreement with the State to transfer 390 acres of the former hospital to Preston for \$1. The agreement was approved by all parties in January 2006 with a closing date deferred for 3 years to give the Town time to find a developer. Meanwhile, negotiations with Utopia continued.

In April 2006 the Committee recommend approval of a development proposal with Utopia and scheduled a referendum on that agreement. The voters approved that agreement in May, 2006. Those negotiations ended in November when Utopia failed to complete the conditions required for the sale. The most notable failure was the failure by Utopia to deposit funds into an escrow account to cover environmental cleanup and other expenses.

In January 2007, the Committee began actively seeking another developer for the property and by September, ten developers had submitted proposals. In June 2008, the Committee and the Board of Selectmen recommended that Northland Investment Corporation be selected as the developer for the property. That decision was confirmed by Town voters in a referendum in July 2008. Negotiation with Northland did not go well and in October 2008 negotiations were terminated.

The Town was contacted by several other developers, but the Committee decided that time had run out on the January 2006 agreement with the State. In February 2009, the Committee recommended that the Town complete the purchase of the Hospital property. The purchase was approved by a Town referendum and the closing took place on March 12, 2009. The final action of the Committee was to recommend the establishment of a redevelopment agency in accordance with Chapter 130 of Connecticut General Statutes. The ordinance creating the Preston Redevelopment Agency (Agency) was approved by a Town Meeting in April 2009. The Norwich Hospital Advisory Committee held its final meeting on May 13, 2009 and the Agency held its first meeting on May 20, 2009. The PRA got off to a rough start with some internal conflicts resulting in the resignation of three key leaders in 18 months.

One of the very first tasks of the new Agency was to draft a management plan for development of the property. At the same time, they selected the name Preston Riverwalk for the site. The final plan included development concepts as well as a management plan. In February 2010 the Town approved A Conceptual & Management Plan for the Redevelopment of Preston Riverwalk. In September 2010, Manafort Brothers Incorporated was selected as the demolition contractor for the site.

In 2010 the agency reorganized itself and restarted the search for a developer. One victim of the restart was a Connecticut developer named World, LLC. They made several proposals and tried very hard to get the Agency to negotiate, even offering cash for a purchase option. However, the agency was not ready to do business yet and rejected their offers.

Since then, the agency has been very successful in securing grants and loans to pay for demolition and some environmental clean-up. They have also met with many potential develop-

Continued from page 6

ers, but until today, none of those talks were fruitful. Now, the vision to purchase the property in 2005 appears ready to become real. In about 3 years, the Town may start to see the first trickle of financial benefit from the proposed development and in ten years we will realize the full benefit. Congratulations Preston!

**We welcome your questions and comments.
Contact the author at N.Gauthier@usa.net**



The Quilt Ladies of PCCC laying out the 2016 Christmas Bazaar quilt!

Preston's Own... Max Zachem!



Currently Max is participating in the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour.

He is currently 2nd in the standings of over 35 cars to start the year!

So far, Max has finished 2nd place and has 5 Top 10s to start off his season.

Hopefully the future holds a shot at the NASCAR championship in October!

Max is working hard to stay consistent and on top of his game through the summer months.



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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

Summer Reading 2016 On Your Mark, Get Set... Read!

Schedule of events

6/11 Saturday, **Summer Reading begins**
Come in and register (all ages welcome)

7/12 Monday, 10 am - **Fun boot camp** (ages 4 and up)

7/14 Thursday, 10 am - 12 pm **Art project** with children's book author and artist Michael Albert (ages 6 and up)

7/18 Monday, 10 am **Water games!** (ages 3 and up)

7/19 Tuesday, 3-4 pm

Breakdancing with Jacob Roadhouse Hodge

Learn some moves! (6 years old and up)

7/25 Monday, 10 am **Judo class** (ages 5 and up)

8/1 Monday, 10 am **Yoga for kids** (ages 5 and up)

8/6 Saturday, 11 am **Mr. Magic** (all ages welcome)

8/8 Monday, 10 am **Hoop dancing with Judi Jones**
(all welcome)

8/13 Saturday, noon **Martial Arts demonstration** and **last day** of Summer reading- last chance to get your prizes!

The Preston Library Summer reading program is open to children of all ages. Come on in, register, and pick up a reading log, pick out some great books and join the fun! Registration for events is not mandatory, but is appreciated.

For information call us at 860-886-1010.

Summer reading will run June 11st through August 13th.

Connecticut Authors Trail (CAT)

The program begins in Franklin at the **Janet Carlson Calvert Library** on **July 7, 2016 at 6:30 pm**. The series ends on September 15, 2016 at the Mohegan Sun, local authors will showcase their books and share their stories.



The Preston Public Library will be hosting: **John-Manuel Andriote on Tuesday, August 23rd at 6:30 pm**. Mr. Andriote will be speaking about his book **"Tough Love: A Washington Reporter Finds Resilience, Ruin, and Zombies in His 'Other Connecticut' Hometown."** **Tough**

Love is a collection of weekly newspaper columns, front-page feature articles, and other commentary by a longtime Washington, DC reporter who returned home to Norwich, Connecticut. Planning a second career and a new life, the author instead found his journalist's instincts at full alert as he watched-often incredulously-as the city's leaders grasped at one plan after another to save the city. Tough Love is more than the story-stories, really-of one old American city; it's a close-up look at what has been called 'the other America,' the left-behind hometowns that made the nation wealthy-but now struggle to find a new place in a new millennium that seems to be passing them by.

Long Car Ride Ahead?

We have expanded our Children's Audiobook collection. There are some great audiobooks and books on DVD that might make the trip more enjoyable! Come in and check-out our expanded selection before you depart! You and the kids can listen to a well-told story to make the miles go by with much less tedium!

STUDENTS

Are you looking for your required reading materials for Summer Reading? We have most required reading materials for local schools. Come in and let us help you find the books you need!

Holiday Hours & Closures:

Saturday, Sept. 3 through Monday Sept. 5 - Closed
Saturday, Oct. 8 through Monday, Oct. 10 - 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.

EXPLORE!

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Best Sellers/ Fiction & Non-fiction Books for all ages
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Reference services • Internet Access
Preston Historical Society files

ON-LINE DATABASES: Consumer Reports w/cars
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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.

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

Waste Not Want Not: How the Preston Community Fund turned trash to treasure

The Preston Community Fund, which supports a variety of causes in Preston, has for decades turned trash into treasure, thanks to a donation from a regional waste incinerator.

In the late 1980s, many of the 5,000 residents objected to the Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resources Recovery Authority's choice of Preston as the site of a large incinerator that produces electricity by burning household waste from more than a dozen surrounding municipalities.

"The incinerator split the town at the time," recalls The Rev. David Cannon, retired pastor of St. James Church in Preston. But he realized there might be a silver lining in this cloud of controversy, and in 1991 with a few other citizens asked incinerator operator American Ref-Fuel for a charitable donation to the town. After numerous meetings at the plant and phone calls to the company's Texas headquarters, the corporation offered a sizable contribution, and The American Ref-Fuel Preston Community Fund was born.

"It was a very local endeavor. People were thinking out of the box," The Rev. Cannon says. The Fund was to be a permanent fund guided by a five-member advisory committee comprised of Preston residents.

In the following 25 years the Fund has used interest to award grants to such recipients as the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Preston Public Library, Parks and Recreation, volunteer fire departments, Preston Historical Society, Preston Revolutionary War Memorial, public school music program, local food pantry and The Preston Pipeline. Last year, through the Thames Valley Council for Community Action, a regional social-service agency,

the fund also covered home heating fuel costs for those in need.

"We all went out in person to hand-deliver the checks this year," says committee member Phil Ludlow. "The grants help to look out for the needs of our neighbors and young people right here in town." The committee delivered awards to the Preston Historical Society, \$3,000; Preston Pipeline, \$500; Toucan Food Pantry, \$1,000 and Boy Scout Troop 75, \$400.

After several years of declining interest rates that threatened to seriously diminish the Fund's principal, the committee asked the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut to consider taking stewardship of the Fund. Committee member Gale Ennis, who had served on one of the Foundation's scholarship committees, made the first inquiries, and in December 2015, the Fund was officially established as an endowed donor advised fund to be managed by the Foundation in perpetuity, with a committee of five Preston residents as the advisors. Other members of the 2016 Committee include David Paige, David Swercewski and Merrill Gerber.

"It was a very careful and thoughtful process and a great example of the dedication people have for their local communities," says Alison Woods, the Foundation's vice president and COO. With the prospect of financial growth through the Foundation's investment strategy and new contributions, the Preston Community Fund will remain a treasure for the people who call this town home.

This article was reprinted with permission from the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut.

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PRESTON PARKS & RECREATION

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Music in the Park

Bring blankets or lawn chair. Come and relax and enjoy the music from 6:00-8:00 pm

Wednesday, July 20

Wednesday, July 27

Wednesday, August 3

More info available online www.preston-ct.org



Thursday, August 4

Come enjoy a movie under the stars with your family and friends. Bring blankets or lawn chairs. Family movie will be shown, visit our website for complete details!! Movie will start at dusk.

****Food, drinks, and ice cream will be available for purchase during all three concerts and movie night****

TRUNK OR TREAT

Preston Parks & Recreation & PVMS PTO will be hosting Preston's 6th Annual Trunk or Treat event on Friday, October 28. More details coming in October Pipeline!! We are looking for 30+ people to decorate the trunk of their vehicle and hand out candy on the night of the event. If you are interested in being a trunk decorator, please contact Preston Parks & Recreation.



TODDLER / PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

MINI KICKERS

MiniKickers is a new and exciting program that teaches basic soccer skills while developing strength, balance, coordination, listening skills and team work for children aged 2-4. Professional, licensed British coaches will ensure your child has a positive soccer experience. Interactive parent/child program.



Instructor: Challenger Sports

Dates: Fridays: September 16 - October 27, 2016
Time: 10:00 - 11:00 am
Location: Preston Community Park
Fee: \$65 per child - includes ball and uniform

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. 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, Ongoing - August 5, 2016
Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Ages: Entering Grade 1 - Grade 7
Location: Preston Veterans Memorial School Gym

Complete camp details available at www.preston-ct.org

MINI-HAWK CAMP

(SOCCER, BASEBALL & BASKETBALL)

The essentials of each sport are taught in a safe, structured environment with lots of encouragement and focus on fun. All games and activities are designed to allow campers to explore balance, movement, hand/eye coordination and skill development.

Dates: Monday - Friday, July 25 - July 29, 2016
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 camp is designed to introduce young athletes to a variety of different sports in one setting. Athletes will learn the rules and essentials of each sport through skill-based games and scrimmages. By the end of the week, your child will walk away with knowledge of multiple sports.

Dates: Monday - Friday, July 25 - July 29, 2016
Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Ages: 7 - 12
Location: Preston Community Park
Fee: \$135 per kid

HOOP ACADEMY BASKETBALL CAMP

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.



Dates: Monday - Friday, August 8 - 12, 2016
Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Ages: Entering grades 3 - 8
Location: Preston Veterans Memorial School
Fee: \$165 per kid

YOUTH PROGRAMS

FOOT SKILLS CLINIC

Foot skills will emphasize proper technique and creativity with the ball. Players can perform 600 touches in 6 minutes which will lead to a higher comfort level when handling the ball.



Instructor: Amy Fabry

Dates: Monday, July 18—Thursday, July 21 (Ages 7-9)
Monday, August 8—Thursday, August 11 (Ages 10-12)
Time: 7:00 - 8:00 pm
Location: Preston Community Park
Fee: \$75.00 per session

ADULT PROGRAMS

The following programs will begin in the fall...

- Men's Basketball
- Zumba
- Yoga Basics
- Co-Ed Volleyball
- Chair Yoga for Seniors

Visit our website www.preston-ct.org for complete program details and registration forms or call the Parks & Recreation office to have one mailed to you.



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

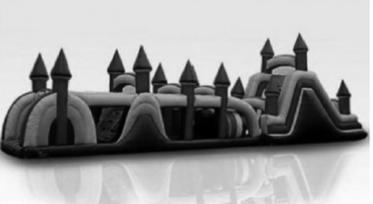
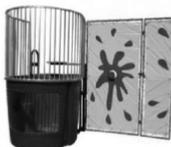
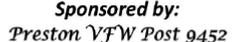
PROGRAM INSTRUCTORS WANTED

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

Preston Parks & Recreation and Preston Veterans Memorial School PTO held our third annual Preston Palooza on May 19th. There were over 650 people in attendance...by far our biggest crowd yet!!! Not only is Preston Palooza a great community event but it is also a fundraiser. We are happy to announce just over \$4,100.00 was raised from Preston Palooza, which will be split evenly between Preston Parks & Recreation and Preston Veterans Memorial School PTO.

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR 2016 PRESTON PALOOZA SPONSORS!!

<p>68' FOOT OBSTACLE COURSE</p>  <p>Sponsored by:</p> 	<p>KNOCKERBALL!!</p>  <p>Sponsored by:</p> 	<p>MOONBOUNCE</p>  <p>Sponsored by:</p> 	<p>MOONBOUNCE</p>  <p>Sponsored by:</p> 		
<p>Pony Rides</p> <p>By:</p> 	<p>DUNK TANK</p>  <p>Sponsored by:</p> 	<p>PHOTO BOOTH</p>  <p>Sponsored by:</p> 	<p>EST. 2008</p>  <p>Sponsored by:</p> 	<p>EST. 2008</p>  <p>Sponsored by:</p> 	<p>DUNKIN' DONUTS</p>  <p>Sponsored by:</p> 
<p>FACE PAINTING</p> <p>Sponsored by:</p> 		<p>FISH GAME</p>  <p>Sponsored by:</p> 	<p>PLINKO GAME</p> <p>Sponsored by:</p> 		

ADDITIONAL PALOOZA SPONSORS: American Landscape & Lawn Science, Ben & Judy's Pick Your Own Strawberries, Bonnie Plants, Preston Electric, Mattern Construction, The Hoop Academy, and Ploof Contracting

Cynthia A. Carano Memorial Scholarship Recipient: Alexa DeVito

The Cynthia A. Carano Memorial Scholarship committee is pleased to announce that the 2016 recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship has been awarded to Alexa DeVito. Alexa, a 2016 graduate of Norwich Free Academy is the daughter of Michael and Elissa DeVito of Tanglewood Drive in Preston. Alexa's essay, "How an Educator Has Positively Impacted My Life", written about NFA Field Hockey Coach, Ellen Cavanaugh, was chosen from six other applicants. "Her essay truly portrayed what the committee was looking for and honored Ms. Carano's legacy," said Gale Ennis, Chairperson of the scholarship committee. A luncheon was held on Sunday, June 5th at the Poquetanuck Firehouse and was attended by family and friends of the applicants, the Carano Family, and the scholarship committee.



The Cynthia A. Carano Memorial Scholarship was started in 2009 by two parents of her former students after her unexpected death. Cyndi Carano was a beloved teacher in Preston for 22 years. **For details how to donate to the scholarship fund, or to apply for the 2017 scholarship please contact Gale Ennis at 806-887-3618.**

It's Not Too Late To Date A Farm!

Why are all of these farm animals and barns and tractors popping up all over Preston, jazzing up our beautiful farms and landscapes? It is the clever work of the Unified Club of Preston Plains School. The Club, comprised of students in Grades 6-8 has helped out Preston's Farm Dating Program in the most unique way. They have helped bring attention to a mission of the Preston Conservation and Agricultural Commission - to save our farmland and promote agriculture in our Town.



Our thanks go out to Diane Hansen, Art Teacher and Jen Foltz, Unified Club Coordinator, for allowing us to involve our young people in this important project. When they are grown and Preston still has many farms, they can be proud of their part in conserving Preston's farming heritage for future generations.

If you would like to be part of this very important project, either by creating a painting or by dating a farm, please contact any member of the Preston

The Commission is promoting matching the crop, the land, the animal, and the farmer or landowner to achieve this goal. We have had some success and plan to continue our matchmaking.

Conservation and Agricultural Commission by calling Town Hall at (860)887-5581, Extension 118 or email nichols@preston-ct.org. Also, check out Preston's website to view the magnificent artwork!

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Trader Jack's Scout Shop

Trader Jack's Scout Shop, which is now located at St. James, 95 Route 2A Preston CT, started out as the Camp Tadm Trading Post in 2008. It was located in the basement of the Wakenah building at the Mark Greer Scouting Reservation, MGSR, in Bozrah CT. During the summer it sold mostly candy, ice cream and slushies. It also sold items the youth needed for camping and novelties based on that summer's camping theme. Each week in the summer we were open from Sunday to Friday and the scouts who attended were age 8 to 13 and the staff members were 14 years and older. The off season (Sept to June) from 2008 until 2012 the Trading Post was open weekends and sold candy, ice cream and soda to those Boy Scout units who came camping and advancements to Cub Scout and Boy Scout units. When Connecticut Rivers Council announced the closing of summer camp in the fall of 2013, the Trading Post continued to sell candy, ice cream and soda.

In January of 2014, the store moved to the first floor of the Wakenah building and started carrying uniform shirts and other scout related items. Everyone started referring the store as the Tadm Trading Post or Trader Jack's (after the pirate in the store, to go with the Pirate ship that had been built at the swim-

ming area). When the News came in the Fall of 2014 that Connecticut Rivers Council was selling the Camp Tadm (local name for MGSR) and everyone thought that would be the end of store. Many scouts voiced their dismay at not having a place in the area to get their advancements or scout related products. Connecticut Rivers Council listened and put out the word that they would look for a place to move the store. When I mentioned this to Father Ron Kolanowski and Father David Cannon at an OWL luncheon, they were excited to have the store.

After working out the lease with Connecticut Rivers Council, the store was moved in January of this year and became Trader Jack's Scout Shop.

The word, along with the signage, is getting around the community that we are open for scout uniforms, merit badge books etc. The store is open on Fridays from 4 to 7 pm, Saturdays 10 am to 4 pm, Sundays noon to 3 and Mondays noon to 4. The store is staffed by volunteers.

If you would like to help please call me (Marie Perrin) at 860-334-2026 or email Trader.Jacks.Scout.Shop@gmail.com.

Family Fun! Preston City Congregational Church 321 Route 164, Preston, CT

Scarecrow Festival 2016

September 24th 10am - 5pm



Scarecrow Contest

Individuals, Kids (12 & Under) and Groups/Business

Win Cash Prizes!!!!

Chicken BBQ 3:00-6:30pm (parking on site after 5:30)

Silent Auction - lots of great items!

Circle K Farms Petting Zoo

Klyde E. Scope the Clown

Dozens of Vendors & Crafters!

Pumpkin Patch Children's Area

Crow's Nest & Chowder Shack Refreshments, Bake Shop

Mason's CHIP Program

Live Entertainment- Thames Valley Gymnastics, Ledyard K-9,

Black Dragons Martial Arts, NFA Fencing Team,

Stuart Woronecki Beekeeper

**FOR MORE INFORMATION & CONTEST REGISTRATION FORMS VISIT
WWW.PRESTONCITYCONGREGATIONAL.ORG
OR CALL 860-887-4647 follow us on facebook Scarecrow Festival 2016**

Thank You For The Honor of Representing You

By State Representative Mike France

I am so appreciative for having the privilege to serve you and our community. In January, I plan to bring up more legislation that will improve our communities, but for now I want to reflect on what we've been able to accomplish during my first term, and what I envision for the future in a state that is unfortunately still in crisis.

In June, the legislature met for a Special Session. At that session, I voted for increased oversight of the governor's "First Five" business incentive program. This program has become a business support system for companies like ESPN, Cigna, and Charter Communications, enabling them to receive millions of dollars in loans, grants and tax breaks. The legislature needs to provide greater oversight on these programs to ensure taxpayer funds are being used appropriately.

A few days prior to that, the State Bond Commission approved a \$22 million financial aid package for the world's largest hedge fund. This action is baffling, considering that at the end of May, the Office of Policy and Management confirmed that we are facing a \$259 million deficit this year. It's no wonder that Connecticut was recently ranked #50 among the United States in terms of its [complete lack of] fiscal health. The state spends 6% more than it receives in General Fund revenue. Pensions are seriously underfunded; our long-run solvency is shockingly inadequate; and our budget solvency ranks dead last. Year after year, the decision makers of Connecticut are content to fail, to come in last, and to wave goodbye to life-long residents who are moving to better-run states.

Connecticut hospitals continue to suffer. Lawrence and Memorial, for example, needs \$8.7 million a year to fund their equipment and staffing costs; however, next year they will only receive \$3.8 million in funding. Backus Hospital should receive \$6.4 million next year; but they are getting \$2.8 million. How can we continue to provide quality care to our residents? How are we going to keep up with the current opioid addiction and overdose epidemic, or the threat of the Zika virus to our area? (For latest statistics please visit www.ct.gov/zika). Our mental health services, among many other vital healthcare and social services, are priority, but aren't being treated as such.

During this session, I introduced, co-sponsored and supported several bills that bolstered healthcare and education initia-



tives, a more efficient government, and benefits for veterans. Please watch for my End of Session pamphlet that is currently being mailed. It goes into more detail about my position on these issues and related legislation. I also proposed legislation concerning oversight and transparency of taxpayer dollars that did not get necessary committee approval for action in this session. I will propose them again for the 2017 Session.

We have seen an increase in the use of campaign consultants who provide "Campaign in a Box" with candidate committees writing a single check for them to spend the majority of their Citizens' Election Program (CEP) grant. In most

cases, the individual expenditures are not documented though it is required by statute. The bill I proposed, required that a candidate committee that gives more than 15% of the CEP grant to one individual, such as a consultant, then that individual must sign an affidavit with the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC), similar to the one that candidates, treasurers and deputy treasurers sign, certifying their intent to abide by expenditure limits and other CEP requirements. We need greater visibility into how your tax dollars are being spent on elections.

In every town, both the General Government and Board of Education (BoE) budgets are audited annually. However, when the BoE budget is audited, it is treated as another department within the town, which doesn't give nearly enough emphasis to an account that is 70% or more of the overall town budget. The scope of the BoE budget audit essentially ensures that all required documents have been properly submitted to the State Department of Education. In practice, what this neglects are the applicable state statutes, BoE policies and local ordinances that provide direction to how budgets are to be executed. The bill I proposed requires auditors to ensure that BoEs comply with applicable state statutes, local ordinances and BoE policies related to budgetary items.

Another major piece of legislation I proposed is an education reform that would create a summer bridge program for high school students wishing to transfer to a technical high school after their freshman or sophomore year. Currently, 13 years old students in the 8th grade must decide whether they are going to a traditional high school and on to college or to a technical

Continued from page 14

school and follow a path toward a skilled trade. Once that decision has been made, it is extremely difficult, if not impossible for students to change their path. If a student completes their freshman year at a public high school and finds that the college academic path is not right for them, they do not have the alternative to transfer to a technical school. I believe that we should ensure that every student has an opportunity to pursue a path that will lead to success following graduation rather than one that may not produce the outcome that is expected. This bridge program would prepare students over the summer to start technical school at the sophomore year level (or later) if they have already completed at least one year in a public high school. This will be an alternative for our students, not a mandate, based on a review of their academic record and discussion with their family. Recently, I met with Dr. Nivea Torres, Superintendent of the Connecticut Technical High School System, in June to work together on this opportunity.

Thank you again for your support over the past two years. Serving the 42nd district in the state legislature has truly been an honor and an incredibly rewarding experience, and I am committed to providing strong representation for you.

If you have any questions or concerns about state government, please contact me at 1-800-842-1423 or Mike.France@housegop.ct.gov.

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Sat. 8 to 9

Sun. 8 to 8

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AVALONIA LAND CONSERVANCY IN PRESTON

We are mowing the walkways of our beautiful Preston Nature Preserve (off of Krug Road) and keeping the hiking paths open in the Greenwood (off of Lake of Isles).

If you want a casual summer's evening saunter, head for the PNP; if a cooler walk on a hot day, try the beautiful woods and rolling slopes of the Greenwood.

If you're even more active and want to help us preserve our holdings, please volunteer to come out and help us with some light brush work.

Contact: Margaret Gibson at 860-886-1777.

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Q & A With Joe Keith...Talented Local Musician; Guitars, piano, harmonica and even the violin!

What is your educational background?

I started my music education when I was 9 taking lessons with Ed Lowe in Preston! I began taking lessons with my current guitar teacher, Gary Potter, when I was 12 years old. Now, I'm studying with Berklee Online in an Interdisciplinary Music Studies degree program!

Why is music so special and important for you?

From a young age, I've always had an interest in music. I loved the way it could make me feel a certain way and bring back memories as I was growing up. In my early adolescence, I began to greatly improve as a musician and started dedicating more time to learning guitar. Music became a sort of emotional resource for me. If I was feeling a bit down, I could grab a guitar and learn something that was written by an artist who I greatly respected. It was very validating and encouraging to see myself improve and begin to match the skills of musicians I looked up to. For these reasons, music speaks to me in a way that few other things have. There are other careers I could have pursued but none would have made me feel as fulfilled as I do working with music!

Who you were most inspired by?

I was most inspired by my guitar teacher Gary Potter. He's not only one of the best guitarists I've ever met, but also, one of the best teacher's I've ever had. It is my goal to follow his path and become the best guitar teacher that I can be.

What are your hopes for the future?

I one day hope to settle down, probably right here in Preston, and build a little music school for myself and other teachers to provide the best possible learning experience that we can to students. I think music, especially playing music, can be a very important part in peoples lives, as it has been for me. I hope that by teaching music, I may be able to facilitate a talent for my students that could potentially help them through a tough time or simply provide some extra joy and passion in their lives... It may even become their careers!

What did you like best about growing up in Preston?

Now, I must say, Preston is the only town I've had the experience of growing up in so perhaps my opinion is a bit biased... However, I must say I love the peaceful and relaxed nature of my neighborhood and the rest of the town! Even with main roads and Fox Woods nearby, we manage to maintain a quiet atmosphere. Another thing, I love that I can take a walk at night, sometimes with friends, and, 9 times out of 10, we/I'll be alone. On many occasions, I've walked to the pond near my house and enjoyed moments with friends that still linger in memory. That's

certainly not an experience that could be easily gotten in a more dense town!



Joe Keith

Joe Keith

SINGER MUSICIAN
GUITAR INSTRUCTOR

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joekeith516@gmail.com

 joekeithmusic

Hello!

I'm currently welcoming students for guitar lessons in either your home or mine at \$20 per half-hour session. I have developed a talent for helping others to not only pick up the guitar, but also to better understand the music theory behind writing and performing.

As a reliable and trustworthy individual with a strong work ethic and a passion for sharing music with others, I believe you will be pleased with your decision to contact me for more information about taking guitar lessons.

Thank you for your consideration - and, Happy Summer!

**Sincerely,
Joseph J. Keith Jr.**

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Preston Historical Society

Meeting

The next meeting of the
Preston Historical Society is scheduled for
Wednesday, August 17, 2016, 6:30 pm
at Old Preston Library, Route 164.
Everyone is invited.

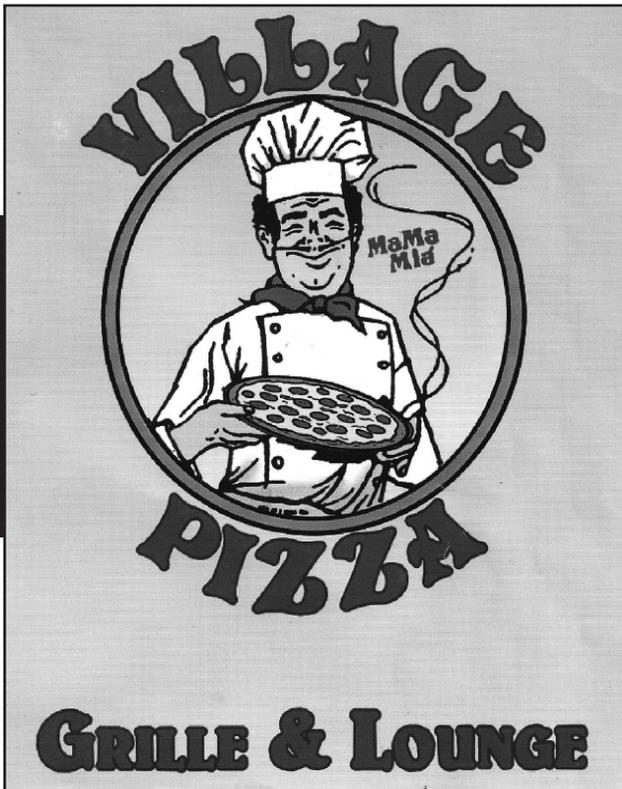
Come out and check us out.

**Want to join or renew
your membership?**

Please check out our website at
www.preston-ct.org for information
and an application.

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

Where family and good friends meet to eat...stop in check out our new menu!



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Preston Historical Society

Preserving The Past for Future Generations

News from the Preston Historical Society

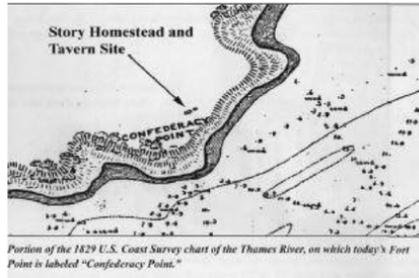
Ebenezer Story - Homestead and Tavern

With the present interest in the old Norwich State Hospital site, I thought I'd share a little history of that area. Information and photos are taken from Ebenezer Story Homestead and Tavern Site © 2010 by the CT Commission on Culture and Tourism. This was a publication (available at Preston Public Library) completed by Public Archaeology Survey Team, Inc.

"The 20-acre property on the Thames River where Ebenezer Story built his tavern and where the frigate Confederacy was built was purchased from the Brewster family in 1771 by Ebenezer, his brother Samuel, and his father, Jonathan Story."

The Story family had been engaged in many activities including farming, haul-seine fishing, a cider mill, a saltworks, as well as harvesting shipbuilding timber.

"The choice of the Story family's land (Confederacy Point or Fort Point) for the Continental shipyard, with Ebenezer completing a house for use as a tavern just a month before the shipbuilding began, may not have been entirely coincidental. Ebenezer's wife, Mehitable, was the niece of Samuel Huntington, who was then serving in the



Portion of the 1829 U.S. Coast Survey chart of the Thames River, on which today's Fort Point is labeled "Confederacy Point."



The Continental frigate Confederacy taking on supplies (Navy Art Gallery)

Continental Congress, and was also a third cousin of Joshua Huntington, who held the contract to build Confederacy."

Ebenezer provided the land for the shipyard and tavern for its workers. He operated the tavern through 1781, and though he was not among the initial crew, family tradition records that he later joined Confederacy as the ship's carpenter and was on board when she was captured off the coast of Delaware. Taken prisoner by the British, he starved to death in the Sugar House Prison, Brooklyn New York. He was only 32 years old when he died.

Ebenezer 2nd, and 3rd, cultivated land on the riverfront property and continued with the fishing activities. Eventually, they engaged in commercial oystering. Oysters were planted in the less polluted Pequonnock Cove and with the railroad close by, they took advantage of the growing demand for oysters in America's urban areas. The business was continued

through the 1890's and in 1903 the homestead was sold to the Dawley lumber business. In the 1920's it became part of the campus of the Norwich State Hospital.

Update on Long Society Meetinghouse

Brian Jones, Ct State Archaeologist, conducted a program in May focused on the items found during the May 2015 excavation. Our Second Annual Community Yard Sale on June 4 to benefit the Long Society Meetinghouse was a huge success and we hope to have it again next year. Thanks to everyone who participated.

Renovations of the back sill and corner posts for the Meetinghouse have been completed by local contractor, Mark Holdridge. (A special thanks to Mark for the use of his generator for Dr. Jones' talk.) The front steps will be leveled as well as the painting of the sides and back of the building are the next steps in restoration. The Preston Historical Society recently received a grant from the Chelsea Groton Bank towards restoration of the building. We continue to seek donations and grants to complete the restoration.

Please send any donations to Preston Historical Society, c/o Mark Christensen, 15 Amos Road, Preston, CT 06365.



Recently repaired back wall of the Meetinghouse

Preston Boy Scout Troop 75



Recently 10 Boy Scouts and 8 adults of Troop 75 completed a 10 mile hike in preparation for this summer Mt. Washington adventure. All Scouts and adults had a wonderful hike and missed the rain. Pizza was served at the Eagles nest prior to the hike.



Recently Matthew Scott Davis Jr. was presented his Eagle Scout award. Mom, Karin Davis and Dad, Matthew Scott Davis pin scouting highest award on their son during a Court of Honor at the Preston City Fire house.

25th Anniversary of the Liz Harris Cannonball One Mile Run!

The sound of a cannon exploded in Preston and over 210 walkers and runners raced down Schoolhouse Road to celebrate the **25th Anniversary of the Liz Harris Cannonball One Mile Run**. 2016 set a record turnout of registered participants (248) for this years Anniversary event. The weather cooperated as people from all over southeast Ct. showed a strong support of the race which benefits "Kids to camp" program at St. James Church. 2016, at time of race, had supported 32 Kid's to camps to organization of many varied interests. The Program added two new organizations with Camper scholarship awards; Young Engineering camp and St. Catherine's Church road race.

First overall Winner was **Jeff Wodecki** of Preston in a time of 4:55. **Jaclyn Sullivan** was the first overall Women to finish the Anniversary race in a time of 5:18. The Green Mt. Running Camp Scholarship winners were **Cody Kersteter**, of Ledyard, in the High

School Boys Division with a time of 5:15 and in the High School Girls Division **Liz Gray** finished in a time of 6:15. Both High School runners won the Tim and Kris-Anne Scholarship Award which provided full scholarships to the running Camp.

Robert Swercewski, former Preston resident and winner of the 1st Annual Liz Harris road race, in 1992, was present with his family. Father David L. Cannon (who the Race is also named after,) presented the David L. Cannon award to **Owen Muench**. Owen was the first St. James Parish member, under 10 years of age, to complete the 1 mile run in a time of 7 minutes and 28 seconds.

Thank you to the Preston Fire Companies and the Preston Fire Police who kept all runners and walkers safe during the successful event.

Contributed By Phil Ludlow



PHOTO: Robert Swercewski returns to race after 25 years, with his family. Robert won the first road race in 1992 when it was run on Rt. 164 (started near Cooktown Rd and finished at Preston Plans school parking lot.)

Mom and Dad David and Ellen Swercewski still leave on Tangelwood drive in Preston. Robert and Family ran in the race. Robert's son Martin (13) finished 15th in 5 minutes and :50 seconds

Win a \$25.00 Gift Certificate to Village Pizza!

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4 oz. spiced rum
4 oz. coconut milk
1/3 c. fresh pineapple chunks
splash pineapple juice
1 c. ice
2 maraschino cherries

DIRECTIONS

Add rum, coconut milk, pineapple chunks and juice to a blender with ice. Blend until smooth. Pour into 2 glasses. Garnish each glass with a pineapple chunk and a maraschino cherry.

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