

Preston Pipeline²

VOL 2 ISSUE 2

WINTER 2013

From The Desk Of The First Selectman

by First Selectman **Bob Congdon**

As we begin a new year we can hope for more sanity in 2013 than in 2012. We ended the year with the tragedy in Newtown, political dysfunction in Washington highlighted by gridlock in dealing with "the fiscal cliff", and understanding our place in the world. As we look forward, we're facing the challenges of a struggling economy, huge budget issues at the state and federal levels and developing solutions to address violence in our society. We have choices on how we address these challenges. According to Charles Swindell, a noted author and writer, "The remarkable thing is we have a choice everyday regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past... we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude. I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% of how I react to it. And so it is with you... we are in charge of our Attitudes." We can address challenges with a positive attitude and have the opportunity for positive outcomes, or we can choose a negative attitude and guarantee a negative result.

The events that occurred in Newtown we reviewed locally and at the State and Federal level. At the State and Federal level the issues of protecting an individual's constitutional right to own and carry guns while insuring that we live in safe society and of the effectiveness of our mental health system will be reviewed. At the local level we will need to review our schools security systems and emergency procedures. Preston is well



positioned to meet these challenges. The Board of Education has always made student safety a priority investing in security cameras, locks on classrooms and school entrances and implementing lockdown procedures.

From a financial perspective, the town did well in 2012. The Board of Selectmen and Board of Education completed the year under budget returning, respectively, \$176,892 and \$248,291 to the General Fund. Property Tax and Intergovernmental Revenues exceeded budget by \$406,785. These positive events increased the Town's fund balance by \$831,968. The Town's strong financial position will help the Town as we continue to see little improvement on the State and Federal levels.

On the lighter side, you may have wondered what's going on at Hallville Pond. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is constructing a fish ladder. When finished, you will be able to view fish swimming up river to spawn in the pond. This will be an excellent resource for educating our children and local youth groups.

In closing, the Board of Selectmen wishes everyone a happy and prosperous New Year.

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



INSIDE:

REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY • PRESTON FOOD PANTRY
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TOWN OF PRESTON WEBSITE: WWW.PRESTON-CT.ORG

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EVENTS




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Resident Trooper Tip

Criminals have developed methods of breaking into most any home or building, but even a highly experienced law breaker will only devote a very short time to getting inside. The longer it takes for them to make their way in, the better the chances are that someone might see them and call the police.

You can take steps to make it not worthwhile for a criminal choose your house by beefing up your security measures.

Burglars look for any easy entrance to a home. A pet door, busted window or unlocked point of access will let them get in quickly. Walk around your house and examine it to make sure there are no vulnerable points that law breakers can use to force their way inside. Fix broken windows, busted locks and any other part of your house that is not secure immediately.

Security windows are designed to not be breakable, so installing them will make your home more of a stronghold. You can even purchase bullet proof glass for extra security. These items can get expensive, so a good alternative is to install a second lock on the window. You can find them at any retail location that sells hardware products, and they do not cost much. Stay safe!



Resident State Trooper Tim Paige

The publisher reserves the right to accept or reject any and all advertising. The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors and reserves the right to edit or delete information provided for space considerations.

Layout & Design by **Tracy Lyn Designs, LLC**
Preston, CT

To advertise in the winter issue of the Preston Pipeline² please contact Tracy at 860-889-0238.
tracylyndesigns@comcast.net



PRESTON PUBLIC WORKS (Bob Boyd, Foreman) By Eleanor Miller

It is human nature to take for granted many of the services conducted by the Preston Public Works. We usually notice them when we have a hurricane or huge snowstorm - but they are "on duty" all year long.

Bob Boyd and First Selectman Bob Congdon, who is Public Works Director, work together on the necessary decisions on a daily basis. The staff consists of the following: Ed Fleming, Don Desimont, and Dominic Pace.

Preston has 59 miles of roads. In the spring, the winter debris is swept from the roads, pot holes are filled in, and roads are paved. Beginning in June, seven to ten miles of road is chip-sealed, or whatever the budget will allow. Tree maintenance and mowing all lawns on town-owned property is performed. The growth at the sides of the roads is cut back with the use of two tractors. Roads are line-stripped, drainages are repaired and new installations, if needed, and, the maintenance of town hall buildings, and stop signs and street signs. Salt and sand are mixed and stored on site. During September and October, all the big trucks and equipment are serviced in preparation for winter. Preston owns



Our Public Works Team and Transfer Station Crew(below)



five plow trucks for removing snow and ice which, of course, is the important task in the winter along with usual maintenance of the roads such pot-holes, car accident repairs to guard rails, etc.

Bob Boyd also oversees the Preston Transfer Station which has three part-time employees: Ralph Eccleston, Jim Mackie, and Ed Bernat.

During hurricane Sandy (Oct. 29) there were seven road closures in Preston. By Oct. 30, all town roads were open and it took 14 days of cleanup (removing and chipping trees). After hurricane Gloria, in August, 2011, the Conn. Light & Power Co. has donated tree trimming crews as we need them at no cost to the town.

When you see them....say THANKS!... on behalf of Preston residents who are so well-served by the Preston Public Works.

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The next issue of the Preston Pipeline 2 will be out in mid-April. If you wish to advertise or have an article/story to submit please do. Deadlines will be in mid March You can contact me at: tracylyndesigns@comcast.net



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PRESTON PLOW DAY!!

Start shining your moldboards! The Preston Conservation Commission is planning to hold the first (we think) Preston Plow Day on Saturday, April 20th, 2013. As any of you who have tried to dig a hole in the ground know all too well, rocks are plentiful in Preston and this can result in less than optimal plowing conditions. Fortunately, the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation has tentatively given us permission to use the former Dawley property on Rt. 2, and this land is known to be practically rock free.

Details are still being sorted out, but we plan to welcome both tractor and livestock teams. For the competitive plowboy/plowgirl, we might even be able to offer judging according to the rules of the United States Ploughing Organization.

More information will be available in the next issue of the Preston Pipeline². Whether you want to participate with a plow or just stop by and watch, the Conservation Commission hopes that this will be a fun way for all to celebrate our agricultural heritage. Contact Lynwood Crary (860.886.1868) if you have any questions or would like to help with organizing this event.

Opinion

To my friends and neighbors,

Thank you so much for your support and vote of confidence this past election. I look forward to working with you in meeting the difficult challenges we all face ahead.

My thoughts and prayers are with you and your families.

Timothy Bowles,
State Representative

Preston, Connecticut

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June 28-30:	Disco Dance Fever Weekend
July 5-7:	Blues & BBQ Weekend
July 12-14:	Mardi Gras Weekend
July 19-21:	Elvis Meets Dolly Weekend
July 26-28:	Christmas in July Weekend
August 2-4:	Redneck Round Up & Pig Roast
August 9-11:	Fiesta Weekend
August 16-18:	Pirates Weekend
August 23-25:	Back to School Special

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A Story about John Good, a Preston Farmer

"Preston, the center of the universe."

"If I was any better, I couldn't stand it", were 2 things Uncle John said.

Paul Newman looked like Uncle John with his twinkling blue eyes and big smile. We were lucky enough to have been born to the Good Farm, and we were children there. We were unaware that Uncle John and Uncle Julius were trying to run the farm, a business, because they welcomed us along on their tasks or put us to work. We got to bottle feed the calves, put molasses on the hay for the cows, pick eggs, play in the haybarn, go baling, ride the fender of the tractor with our little fingers holding on, careful not to fall, lead heifers in the Preston City Fair.

My brothers and many of my boy cousins and neighbors got steady work on the farm. We girls begged for employment. A few jobs we managed to get - cleaning and painting the milking parlor, cutting down the thistle plants in the front field, and driving a silage truck along the corn chopper. Every job we got built character one way or another.



When "the boys", John and Julius, came for lunch, they would have a hot meal made by their mother, my Babci. John, always with a smile on his face sampled, mostly finished, the variety of food in front of him - rye bread and butter, sour milk and potatoes, salt pork, every kind of soup you could think of, an assortment of foods you don't see as much of today.

If it weren't for the fact that the farm is still mostly intact, I would feel sad that these memories were lost forever. But these memories are still protected, because the farm has barely changed since I was a child, the major changes

being the hay barn lost to fire, and the new barn to replace it. My brother, Steve Snurkowski runs the business of the farm nowadays. The farm boasts a Holstein herd of about 240 cows with about 120 cows being milked twice a day.

My cousins and I got to witness the courtship of Uncle John and Aunt Joan at Ocean Beach. She was the "school teacher". We would tease him endlessly about his new girlfriend. Uncle John and Aunt

Joan had many happy years together. I remember like it was yesterday, waiting for everyone to arrive at my Babci's house on Christmas Eve so we could open presents, Uncle John and Aunt Joan arriving, her with her pretty wool coat, corsage and red lipstick, him with his wool overcoat. He sure did clean up nice. Recently Aunt Joan shared with my mother and I that Uncle John told her that he was going to die young because as a child, he had rheumatic fever. He told her that before he got run over by a bulldozer, and lived a few decades after that.

Like any family, we had our heartaches and troubles, but all in all, the Goods were one big happy family and we were all a tiny part of that. Our love of the land came from these farmers. Uncle John lives on through endless memories many of us have for the farm, and "Growing up Good". We will miss him but will always remember how he shaped us, loved us, scolded us into the people we are today. And for that, I for one will have a happy heart for his life, and for the person I became because of him and our family. Yes we will miss him, but soon we'll see him again, smiling that smile, that is, if we're lucky enough.

**Written by
Susan Snurkowski (Camp) Mattern**

John Good was born on March 8, 1928 on the farm. He leaves behind to cherish his memory his wife Joan, sisters Rose Snurkowski, Sophie LeMonte Bodnar, Mary Podurgiel, and brother Julius Good, and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his sister Julia Good and brother Victor Good.

Happy New Year!

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Troop 75 Activities

By Scoutmaster Barry Black and Committee Member Merrill Gerber

October, November and December have seen the Troop busy with the annual Scouting for Food Drive, completing Zach Moran's Eagle Project, and making plans for High Adventure Trip 20013. But we're getting ahead of ourselves.

Scouting for Food - The troop had a great year with our annual scouting for Food Drive. We collected approximately three quarters of a ton of nonperishable food items for Preston's Two Can Food Pantry. Fifteen Leaders and twenty eight Cub and Boy Scouts put in approximately forty one hours of public service time to help our less fortunate neighbors through the holiday season.



Rank Advancement - Our younger Scouts have been busy meeting their advancement requirements such as taking a five-mile hike and working on the basics of using a map and compass. They also worked on identifying plants and animals - two more useful knowledge elements to stay away from poison ivy, oak and sumac as well as recognizing "signs" of what animals may be in the woods with you. Finally, the whole Troop is working on Citizenship in the World Merit Badge. This Merit Badge is what's called a "white ringer", that means it's one of the twenty one Merit Badges required for the rank of Eagle Scout. Scouts who earn the Citizenship in the World merit badge will discover that they are already citizens of the world. They will learn that to be good a world citizen each person depends on his willingness to understand and appreciate the values, traditions, and concerns of people in other countries.

Eagle Project - Zachary Moran completed his Eagle Project of re-landscaping the gardens at the Preston City Fire Department. The flowerbeds had gotten over-grown since they were planted by the Troop as a Scout Service Project in the 90's. Zack's paperwork is at the District level, and after their response he'll need a Board of Review. His Eagle award will be special because Scouting is celebrating the 100th anniversary year of the Eagle Scout Award!

Christmas Tree and Wreath Event - T-75 Scouts were busy with this annual event and fundraiser. We started cutting trees and making wreaths in mid November. This event is a major fundraiser, and each Scout earns points from it for summer camp. Both T-75 Scouts and Leaders were "burning the midnight oil" in the Scout room trying to make the perfect wreath. The perfect tree was another story and provided by "Akeella", the great God of Scouting. T-75 thanks Mrs Holly Cyr, Mrs Karen Davis and Charlie Hobbs for organizing the event. In addition, a thank you goes out to two of our veteran Scouters, Jim Ryley and Dwight Hopkins,

as well as Gaston Cyr and Bill Migliacco for their help trucking greens, trees and leftovers. We would like to thank Mr Lambert and Mr Fishkin for their donations of trees, and Joe Dudek and Duane Button for providing trees from their tree farms at a special "Boy Scout" price. Finally, thanks to those who provided baked goods and all those who stopped to say "hello" and took home one of our items.

Campouts - We had one campout at Benjamin's in October. But our major campout since the "Fall Pipeline" article was "Thanksgiving in the Woods". We had a record turnout of ninety-one Scouts, family member and friends who enjoyed a full

turkey dinner with all the trimmings! (And the turkeys were cooked in garbage cans of course) Webelos II Scouts were on hand to judge our annual chili contest and enjoy skits performed by our Scouts. This year, dinner was served by former T-75 members who are Eagle Scouts and included Wess Ludlow, Anthony Good, Steven Hedler, Tim Ryley and Chris Black. Many thanks to all who helped, but in particular to former Scoutmaster Jim Ryley who was in charge of the meal!

Plans - Our schedule is filling up with: Helping with a Pack 75 Blue and Gold Banquet on February 24th, a Klondike Derby on February 15-17, a ski trip to Waterville Valley in New Hampshire March 8-10, both a local campout March 22-24 and potentially a crossover with P-75, our annual pancake and French Toast breakfast on April 7, a bike trip to Block Island April 18-20, a Scout Exposition at the Hebron fair Grounds May 31-June 2, and, finally, a High Adventure trip to Colorado in July. Colorado areas of interest include Pikes Peak (often referred to as America's most famous mountain at 14,115ft high), Estes Park whose main attraction is the Rocky Mountain National Park with its hiking trails, breathtaking views, rafting, Big Horn Sheep, deer and other species as well as the tallest sand Dunes in North America. Other major attractions include the ancient Indian Dwellings at Mesa Verde National Park and the Durango and Silverton narrow gauge Railway with its bright yellow cars that has been hauling freight and passengers since 1882.

Join Scouting - If our plans sound like fun, join Scouting and come along with us. Troop 75 is always looking to welcome new members. Just bring enthusiasm and energy. For information or suggestions, contact Scoutmaster Black at 860 887-2414. And parents, you're welcome to join our activities; we can always use your help to make the program successful. And if you're not a hiker and camper, we always need drivers to get us to events and back home again safely.

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Community Fund Accomplishments By Reverend David Cannon and Merrill Gerber

The Preston Community Fund was established approximately twenty-five years ago with a grant from American Refuel when the incinerator was built, and then continued under Covanta Corporation, the current operator.

Over the years the fund has supported many projects of benefit to the Town, such as Preston's 350th Anniversary Celebration, band concerts at the community park, fed the bands that participated in the concerts, funded the Preston Pipeline, supported Parks and Recreation programs, sponsored a band program in our schools, supported our Community Food Bank, provided audio equipment for local concerts, assisted with camper ships for members of Troop75, assisted with efforts at the Dog Pound, and, for those that remember, helped fund the Preston City Fair.

This years disbursements were \$1800.00 to the Historical Society for the Preston Revolutionary Memorial restoration, \$1500.00 toward postage of the Preston Pipeline, \$1800 to the Two Can Food Pantry to purchase items needed for good nutrition, and \$400.00 to Troop 75 for camperships.

Requests for support are due by September 24th of each year and should include a short narrative about the project, an estimate of the required funding and a summary of the proposed project's anticipated benefits to the community. Applications are available at the Preston Library and should be filed with David Page, Treasurer, 172 Route 164, Preston, CT 06365 and should include three copies.

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News From The Preston City Congregational Church

Two Can Food Pantry



During the past holiday season, the PCCC Food Pantry Outreach was able to provide regular food bags plus holiday dinner packages (turkeys, hams, and "the fixins") to many area families. **At Thanksgiving, we served 60 families and at Christmas, 70.** The Friends of the Preston Library donated many children's holiday books, which were joyfully received. Monetary donations have come from many quarters: generous grants from the Jewett City Savings Bank, the Preston Community Fund, and the PCCC Missions Fund, and gifts from many private individuals throughout our town. Food donations continue to flow in from the library's "Food for Fines" program, and church collection boxes at PCCC, St Catherine's, and St James. Lo Presti's Farm provided fresh produce for the bags of "fixins". and many people pitched in to help in the distribution. We wish to thank the generous people of Preston for all their gifts of food, money, and time which have allowed the Pantry to serve so many in need.

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Preston Town Building & Facilities Committee Report

Walter Kornosewicz, Chairman

At the end of every year, I have the opportunity and responsibility to update our Committee's Annual Report. It is a progress report on what the Committee members have accomplished during the year and what we are looking forward to, in the coming year. Copies are forwarded to the Board of Selectmen and, along with other Board and Committee reports, compiled into a larger report that is sent to the State for review.

This year, the Committee members worked on replacing the old, outdated electric generator for the emergency shelter at the Preston Plains School. Although the old unit did run for Hurricane Irene, it needed service during the outage to keep it running. The old diesel generator was gifted to the Town from Dow Chemical Co., decades ago and repair parts for the engine were becoming difficult to find. As we had already updated the building to run on natural gas, the diesel fuel tank was due to be removed from the site. During the Spring and early Summer, Roger Galliher and Ted Powell worked on researching a possible replacement. Bid specifications were written, bids received and the work was awarded to AC/DC Electric out of Yantic for a replacement natural gas fired generator. Work was completed and the generator was ready to be run, if needed, for Hurricane Sandy this October. The residents of Preston and the sur-

rounding area will have a fully operational emergency shelter, for the foreseeable future.

The other project the Committee addressed was the suppression, fire and alarm upgrades to Town Hall. Gordon Conrad worked on researching the requirements and received recommendations from several firms before putting the project out to bid. The Town Hall vault will be getting a fire suppression system, which will protect valuable Town records. The entire building will be getting a new fire alarm system, as the existing system is the original system from the 1970s, and five years of testing and maintenance. The work should be completed within the first few months of 2013.

The Building and Facilities Committee was formed in 2003. Past and present members have been working to address the needs of the Town, as projects are brought to our attention. I would like to revisit some of these past projects in future Preston Pipeline 2 articles.

Interested in becoming a member? The Building and Facilities Committee meets the first Monday of the month (except holidays), at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall. Come to one of our meetings or inquire at the First Selectman's office, at the Town Hall.

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INFANT/TODDLER/PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

at Preston Public Library

TUMBLING TOTS with Miss Patti

Movement, music, and tumbling fun!
When: Fridays: 01/18/13-02/22/13
Time: 10:00-10:45 am
Ages: 18 months to Age 4
Fee: \$17, 5 week session

MESSY ART with Miss Patti

Interactive parent and child class; children will explore art hands on.
When: Fridays: 02/22/13-03/22/13
Time: 10:00-10:45 am
Ages: 18 months to Age 4
Fee: \$20, 5 week session

SIGNING BABIES & TODDLERS

Learn to communicate with your baby through sign language. A minimum of 125 ASL signs taught as well as 10 songs to sign and sign. A material fee of \$15 is included in registration fee.
When: Fridays: 04/05/13-05/24/13
Time: 10:00-10:45 am
Ages: Birth to Age 3
Fee: \$45, 8 week session

CHILDREN PROGRAMS

INDOOR FUN NIGHT for AGES 4-6

Come join us for a night of fun inside at Preston Veterans Memorial School Gym! Introduces children to variety of sports and activities. Offers lots of running around and emphasizes playing cooperatively. Fun night for parents and kids!!

Session #1:

When: Tuesdays: 01/08/13-02/26/13
Time: 6:00-7:00 pm
Fee: \$10, 8 week session

Session #2:

When: Tuesdays: 03/05/13-04/09/13
Time: 5:30-7:00 pm
Fee: \$10, 6 week session

KID STUFF & 1/2 DAY AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Parent instructors/volunteers are needed for these program to continue in 2013!! Please contact Parks & Recreation for more information!!

FIELD TRIP: INDOOR INFLATABLES & BOWLING

Join Preston Parks & Recreation as we travel to Pump It Up in Shrewsbury, MA (about 1 hour 15 minute bus ride) and enjoy 90 minutes of non-stop indoor inflatable fun -- gigantic slides, bounce houses, obstacle courses & more. After we'll break for lunch and then travel to bowling in Norwich.

When: Thursday, March 28, 2013

Ages: Kindergarten-Grade 8

Time: 9:00 am-4:00pm

Where: Bus departs and returns to PMVS

Fee: \$25 per child

(Parents can also register there child for Before Care 8:00-9:00am and/or After Care 4:00-5:00pm for additional fee \$3 per session)

YOUTH SPORTS

SPRING T-BALL, SOFTBALL & BASEBALL

Calling all boys and girls ages 5-15!!
Registrations will take place at Preston Veterans Memorial School on:
* Saturday, January 19 ~ 12:00-3:00 pm
* Wednesday, January 23 ~ 5:00-6:30 pm
* Saturday, January 26 ~ 12:00-3:00 pm
You must go and register your child in person during one of the above listed time slots for spring t-ball, baseball, or softball.

ADULT PROGRAMS

ZUMBA

Exercise with a Latin flair! Zumba fuses hypnotic musical rhythms and easy-to-follow moves to create a dynamic workout. Ages 16+.
When: Mondays: 01/07/13-02/25/13, NOT 01/21 & 02/18
Time: 7:00-7:55 pm
Where: Preston Plains School Gym
Fee: \$35, 6 week session or \$10 drop in fee per class

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Enjoy an evening of pick-up volleyball. Ages 16+.
When: Tuesdays: 01/08/13-03/26/13, 12 weeks
Time: 7:00-9:00 pm
Where: Preston Veterans Memorial School Gym
Fee: Resident: \$5; Non-resident: \$15

CO-ED COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

Enjoy an evening of co-ed pick-up volleyball, ages 18-25.
When: Fridays: 01/11/13-03/15/13, NOT last Friday of each month
Time: 7:00-9:00 pm
Where: Preston Veterans Memorial School Gym
Fee: Resident: \$5; Non-resident: \$15

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Weekly recreational pick up games. Ages: 18+
When: Wednesdays: 01/09/13-03/27/13, 12 weeks
Time: 8:00-9:45 pm
Where: Preston Veterans Memorial School Gym
Resident: \$5, Non-resident: \$15

OVER 40 MEN'S BASKETBALL

Weekly recreational pick up games for men over age 40.
When: Wednesdays: 01/09/13-03/27/13, 12 weeks
Time: 7:00-9:00 pm
Where: Preston Plains School
Resident: \$5, Non-resident: \$15

COACH BUS TRIPS

****40 people minimum are required per trip, register early****

BOSTON FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW

Celebrate spring early this year and let your senses take over at the show. The theme – Seeds of Change – will showcase how the region's best green thumbs are fearlessly embracing new plants, methods and materials to increase the beauty, the bountiful harvest and the ecological friendliness of their gardens and outdoor spaces. You will also be able to enjoy free time at Quincy Market.

Date: Saturday, March 16, 2013

Time: Bus leaves PVMS at 8:00am, bus departs Boston at 6:00pm.

Fee: Preston residents: \$54; Non-residents: \$64

PLYMOUTH WHALE WATCH

Travel to Plymouth, where pilgrims established a colony after arriving on the mayflower. You will enjoy free time in Plymouth and a 4 hour Whale Watch Cruise that will never be forgotten. Our boat captain will bring you to primary feeding grounds for Humpback Whales, Harbor Porpoises, Dolphins, and more!

Date: Saturday, May 18, 2013

Time: Bus leaves PVMS at 10:00am, bus departs Plymouth at 7:00.

Fee: \$70 per person

SNOW SCULPTURE CONTEST



Preston Parks & Recreation is hosting Preston's first ever Snow Sculpture Contest! We are looking for the most amazing snow creation you can come up with!

To enter send the following to Preston Parks & Recreation: photograph with sculpture(s), name & description of sculpture, and also a contact name & address. Complete details on website. Entries due by March 15.

MORE INFO & REGISTRATION FORMS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE: WWW.PRESTON-CT.ORG



Preston Historical Society

Preserving The Past for Future Generations

News from the Preston Historical Society

Preston Historical Society Meeting

The next meeting of the Preston Historical Society will be held at the Old Preston Library, Route 164 on Wednesday, March 20, 2013 at 6:30 pm. Everyone is invited.

Update on the Preston Revolutionary War Memorial

You may have noticed local citizens working at the Revolutionary War Memorial at the fork of Rt. 165 and Old Shetucket Tpke. in Preston City. The eagle was removed and repaired by Charles Sedell and recently powder coated by Spectrum Powder Coating of Griswold. The restored eagle is currently on display at the VFW in Preston. The monument itself has been cleaned by Nick Giordani whose family helped to erect the original monument, and preparations are being made for its reassembly. Materials and services have been donated by Home Depot of Lisbon, Spearpoint Auto of Preston, Bob Boyd and the Preston town crew, Mark & Linda Christensen, and Preston VFW Adjutant Ron Tanguay.

Donations have been graciously received from local citizens, as well as the Preston Community Fund, Jewett City Savings Bank, Preston VFW and Preston Historical Society.

A tribute garden is planned, with bricks identifying the names of Preston's Revolutionary patriots. A listing of these patriots can be found on the Preston Historical Society's page of the town website. We are offering everyone the opportunity to become a part of this memorial. These 4 x 8 bricks can be purchased at a cost of \$50 each. Please see the brick order form located in the Pipeline. Please feel free to contact members of the Preston Memorial Committee with any questions. Mark and Linda Christensen (LindaCh5@comcast.net) or Ron Tanguay (PrestonRonT@aol.com).

Winter in Preston

(Taken from Nine Dollars Per Month and Board Reminiscences of Lewis R. Peckham 1882-1967)



Another winter pastime was the sleigh ride or, as it was sometimes called, a "straw ride." When there was a good body of snow and good sleighing, a group of people would organize such an expedition. Those that took part were mostly young married couples or those likely soon to be. However, schools, or certain classes in schools, also used sleigh rides as a form of entertainment, although generally this was a daytime affair, especially if smaller children were included.

There were several sleighs around town suitable for rides. The owners would furnish the driver and a pair of horses - sometimes four, depending on the condition of the snow and the size of the crowd. These sleighs would accommodate twenty or more people. The seats were fixed lengthwise of the sleigh, on either side with a narrow alley between them which was filled with clean straw and frequently hot bricks here and there underneath. Passengers were packed tightly on the seats for warmth, and a generous supply of robes and blankets was provided.

The destination was usually some farm house in the country but not so far away as to make the ride tedious or of too long exposure to the cold. The occupants of the house that was to be the destination were always told of the visit previously, and they would have the house well heated and lighted and stable arrangement made for the horses. Usually the party took with them the materials for a supper, frequently an oyster stew. The evening was spent playing guessing games, telling stories, and doing riddles and puzzles.

If music was available, a songfest was in order; or in a place that was suitable, a dance or a march around the chimney might develop. After the supper was cleared away, more social entertainment was enjoyed until time to start on the return trip. Then the teamster would hook up the team and fill the sleigh. "Goodnights" were said and the start back made. Most of those on such a ride had a noisemaker of some sort: a tin horn, conch shell bells, or sometimes a bugle or cornet. Everyone had a voice and there usually was singing on the return trip.

Preston Historical Society Membership Application

\$5-Senior/Student • \$10-Single membership • \$15-Family

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Donation to the Preston Historical Society _____

I would like to help with: Publicity _____ Programs _____

Document Transportation _____

Building & Property Preservation _____

**Please make checks payable to PHS. Send to: Linda Christensen
15 Amos Rd., Preston, CT 06365**

Preston Public Library

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

SERVICES:

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

ON-LINE DATABASES:

ICONN your re-Search engine
BookFlix-interactive stories
Encyclopedia Britannica JobNow
LearningExpress- Learning Center free for patrons.

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.

Thanks to our Friends of the Library we have passes available to many Connecticut attractions that will either save you money or get you in free!

Passes sponsored by the Friends include: Children's museum of Southeastern CT, Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center, Roger Williams Zoo, and Slater Memorial Museum at Norwich Free Academy.

Other passes available are: Connecticut's Old State House, CT Science Center, Custom House Maritime Museum, Maritime Aquarium, Wadsworth Atheneum Art Museum, Mystic Aquarium, and the 2012 Connecticut State Parks and Forests Day Pass.

Looking for Community Involvement?

The Preston Public Library Board is looking for a Board member. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm. Interested parties should submit a letter of interest along with their qualifications to the Library Board email. Must be a Preston Town Resident.

Did you know that you can find out what the library has on its shelves from home? That you could renew items over the net? or borrow books from other libraries from your home computer? Log on to the library homepage at prestonlibrary.org

LEARNING EXPRESS

**The Preston Public Library
OFFERS FREE AND UNLIMITED ACCESS
TO PRACTICE TESTS ONLINE THROUGH
www.LearningExpressLibrary.com**

Taking practice tests that could help you reach your school and career goals used to be expensive and inconvenient. Now it's free and completely accessible at your local library!

Visit the Preston Public Library, log onto a computer, and begin preparing for any of a number of official school and career exams. You'll have unlimited free Internet access to practice tests based on such official exams as the ACT, SAT, GED, ASVAB, Firefighter, Police Officer, Paramedic, EMT Basic, U.S. Citizenship, Postal Worker, Cosmetology, Real Estate Agent & Broker Exams. Maybe you just want to improve your reading, writing, math or grammar skills. At (library name), there's a practice test for you too! If you have a Preston library card, you can even log onto the Internet from your home computer and make use of this fantastic new service in the comfort of your own home!

Friends of the Library Book Sale

There is an ongoing display in the Library lobby of various hardback and paperback books, romance novels, children's books, VHS tapes and audiobooks for your perusal. All proceeds from sales of these items go to the Friends of the Preston Public Library (FOL) to be used towards Library projects and activities. Previous use of FOL funds have included passes for local museums, renovation of the entryway, children's programs, book discussions and speakers.

If you are interested in joining the Friends of the Library, please contact the Library at (860) 886-1010 for further information or see our page on the library's website.

Holiday Closures:

January- Saturday 19th – Monday 21st
February- Saturday 16th – Monday 18th
March- Friday 16th – Sunday 31st

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

Friends of the Preston Public Library

2013-2014 Membership

Your membership helps purchase museum passes / and sponsorships of library programs.

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
PHONE: _____ e-mail _____

**Individual \$5
Family \$15
Business \$25
Lifetime \$100
Donations always
welcome!**

Please make checks payable to:
Friends of Preston Public Library
Deliver to the library or mail to:
Friends of Preston Public Library
389 Route 2, Preston, CT 06365

The Friends of Preston Public Library is a registered 501C(3) organization and all contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Your Town Government - Town Clerk and Collector of Taxes

By **Norman Gauthier** and **Bob Congdon**

This is the 5th of a series of Pipeline articles about Preston town government.

In 1961, Preston combined the offices of Town Clerk and Collector of Taxes into a single office. Even though those two roles are different, that arrangement has served the town well for more than fifty years. The Town Clerk and Collector of Taxes is a full time position and is elected to a two-year term in municipal election held in the odd numbered years.

Collector of Taxes

The Board of Finance creates the annual town budget, the Board of Education and Board of Selectmen oversee the spending, but it is the Tax Collector that has to raise most of the money to cover town expenses. In Preston, about 60% of town revenues come from property taxes. After the annual budget is approved and the Board of Finance sets the tax rate, the Tax Collector sends tax bills to all property owners based on the Grand List provided by the assessor. The taxes collected are turned over to the town treasurer to disburse as needed. The Tax Collector is also responsible for pursuing delinquent collections and, when necessary, can file liens to secure unpaid real estate taxes.

Town Clerk

The Town Clerk is arguably the most essential office in Town government. She interacts with the public, provides services to every town agency, and performs many tasks that ensure the

smooth operation of town government. The duties and responsibilities of the Town Clerk are specified in various state statutes. She is the custodian of official public records and recorder of the town's history.

The Town Clerk is also the registrar of vital statistics. In that capacity, she issues marriage licenses, burial permits, and certified copies of birth, death, and marriage certificates. She issues dog registrations and sportsman licenses.

The Town Clerk keeps the official record of real estate transactions and property boundary maps. She is involved in elections preparations and certification of election results. She registers voters and sends out and receives absentee ballots. After each election, the newly elected town officials are sworn in by the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk also has the authority to appoint as Justices of the Peace, persons who are not members of a major political party. The posting of notices of meetings and filing of meeting minutes for various town boards and commissions is done by the Town Clerk. She records the minutes for town meetings and keeps the official record of all town ordinances and special acts.

We welcome your comments and questions. Questions about town government may be sent to N.Gauthier@usa.net or Congdon@preston-ct.org. Selected questions will be answered in future issues of Pipeline.

PRA Funding Approved – Sean Nugent, PRA Chairman

On Tuesday, December 18th, Preston voters passed a \$4 million loan package awarded the Town by the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). This loan package is comprised of a \$2 million 1.5 percent annual rate with no interest or payment due in the first five years and a forgiveness component of one million dollars for every 100 full-time jobs created. Either a taxable or tax-exempt 20-year bond will be raised to serve as the required \$2 million Town match.

The loan package was endorsed and supported by the Preston Redevelopment Agency (PRA), the Board of Finance (BOF), the Board of Selectmen (BOS) and regional legislators such as, Senator Andy Maynard, Representative Tom Reynolds, future Representative Timothy Bowles, and local Chamber of Commerce President, Tony Sheridan. This loan package continues the needed momentum of progressing the cleanup and demolition of Preston Riverwalk to make the site more attractive to the develop-

er community. We are working with Jones Lang LaSalle to finalize a contract to continue to market the property.

If you would like to read more about the PRA, please go to the following web sites:

<http://www.preston-ct.org/index.php/government/boards-aamp-commissions/redevelopment-agency>

<http://prestonriverwalk.com/>

On behalf of the PRA, we thank the voters of Preston.

Sean

Sean Nugent
Chairman

Preston Redevelopment Agency
(860) 917-6567



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**Black Oil
Sunflower Seed or
Striped Sunflower
Seed**

\$24⁹⁹

50 Pounds

Fleming's Coupon. Exp. 2/3/13

**Blue Seal Wild
Bird Seed**
(All mixtures)

\$2⁰⁰
OFF 40lbs.

\$1⁰⁰
OFF 20lbs.



Fleming's Coupon. Exp. 2/3/13

**High Energy
Suet Cakes**



\$10⁹⁹

Case of 12

Fleming's Coupon. Exp. 2/3/13

Nyjer Seed



\$17⁹⁹

20 lbs.

Fleming's Coupon. Exp. 2/3/13

\$200⁰⁰ OFF!



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- Over 50 to choose from!
- FREE delivery 8'x12' or larger

Fleming's Coupon. Exp. 2/3/13



Canned Cat Food
20 flavors to
choose from!
Limit 5 cases



39¢
each

Fleming's Coupon. Exp. 2/3/13

Fancy Flight Wild Birdseed



\$3⁰⁰
OFF 40lbs.

\$2⁰⁰
OFF 20lbs.

Fleming's Coupon. Exp. 2/3/13

**FLEMING'S FEED
Propane Refill**

\$8⁹⁹

20 lb. Gas Grill Size



Fleming's Coupon. Exp. 2/3/13