

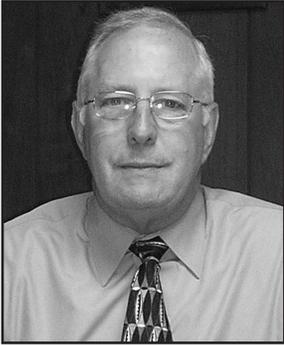
Preston Pipeline²

VOL 5 ISSUE 2

WINTER 2016

From The Desk Of The First Selectman

by First Selectman Bob Congdon



Bob Congdon

As we begin a new year I want to wish everyone a happy and prosperous 2016.

Preston just received the financial audit for fiscal year 2014 - 2015. Preston had another strong year financially, even after using \$515,000 from savings to balance our budget and reduce the mill rate last year we ended the year increasing our fund balance by \$283,565. Our strong financial position will help us mitigate and face the bleak financial indications from

Hartford and Washington. Municipalities just received notice from the State of reductions in state revenues for the current year and we are expected to see additional reduced funding over the next several years. We will be challenged to balance the need to provide necessary local services while being sensitive to the impact budget decisions have on property taxpayers.

As we address the many challenges we will face in the coming year we will have choices on how to deal with them. 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 Town recently went out to bid for a vehicle wash facility to be built at the Public Works facility. The combination of the effects corrosive snow melting chemicals have on town equipment and new environmental restrictions from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection on washing vehicles has necessitated building a facility to wash town owned equipment. Construction of the facility will be in early January and be completed before the end of winter.

Issues and ideas - If you have something you'd like to present to your elected officials, please attend a Selectmen's meeting held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm, contact me at (860) 887-5581, or e-mail me at congdon@preston-ct.org.

Seen At St. James Festival Last Fall...



TAKE THIS HOME TODAY AND PUT IT ON THE FRIDGE!

St. James Church
95 Route 2A, Preston
889-0150



Famous Fish & Chips
for 51 Fellowship
years! Dinners

6 Fridays During Lent 2016

Feb. 12 — March 18

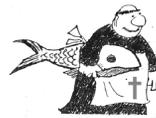
Sit-Down Dinners

Served Family Style

Take-Out, Too!

3:30 pm — 7:00 pm

Baked and/or Fried!



With A Special Take-Out Entrance

CALL AHEAD FOR TAKE-OUT
860-889-0150

Experience the friendship!

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

The fastest way to pay off your mortgage.



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

Choose from 2 terms

8-YEAR TERM
2.606%
APR*

Jewett City Savings Bank's FastPay Mortgage lets you refinance your mortgage – for one low fee.

Enjoy a wealth of benefits

- Pay off your mortgage in 12 years or less.
- Lock in an incredibly low fixed rate.
- Save thousands of dollars on interest.
- Reduce expensive closing costs.

Apply Online:
JCSBank.com

12-YEAR TERM
2.869%
APR*

Why wait? Apply for a FastPay Mortgage today. It's one of the smartest moves you can make.



Your Hometown Bank
Brooklyn • Dayville • Jewett City
Plainfield • Preston
860.376.4444
JCSBank.com



Facebook.com/JCSBank

Member FDIC

*Annual Percentage Rate (APR) effective December 22, 2015. Rates are subject to change at any time. 8-year term requires 96 monthly payments of \$11.50 per \$1,000 borrowed. 12-year term requires 144 monthly payments of \$8.18 per \$1,000 borrowed. APR is 0.25% higher for customers who choose not to sign up for automatic payment from a Jewett City Savings Bank checking account. Payments do not include taxes and insurance, if applicable. Actual payments will be greater. Maximum loan-to-value 80% on 1 to 4 family owner occupied residential property. Maximum loan-to-value 75% on owner occupied condominium. Minimum loan amount \$25,000. Maximum loan amount \$350,000. Not available for new purchases. No homes listed for sale or intended for sale. Other terms and rates available, ask a loan representative for details. Other restrictions may apply.

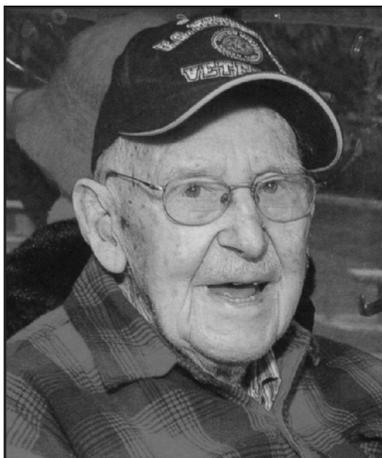
DAVID M. TONGREN - A REMARKABLE 99 YEARS OLD!

by Eleanor Miller

Ten years ago, when David Tongren was 89 years old I wrote an article for the Pipeline and here I am again writing when he is 99 years old!! He has had an industrious life with a strong religious philosophy.

David served during world War II as a US Marine. He was part of the second wave of Marines to land on Iwo Jima and witnessed the historic flag raising—a symbol of the US Marines. Honorably discharged at the end of World War II David returned to his wife and two girls. David attended New York University and Northwest Medical School and was awarded a Degree in Podiatry and became a Certified Podiatrist. He was the owner of Tongren's Shoe Store for 52 years and in the year of 2001, at the age of 85, he retired. His precious wife of 61 years, who made his life easier, died from a stroke a year after he retired.

He served as deacon at the Preston Bible church for several years and at present is a deacon emeritus. He served as State President of the Connecticut Gideon's International for 6 years, the longest anyone has served in Conn. Gideon International is a Protestant organization that places Bibles in hotel rooms, hospitals, schools, prisons, armed forces, etc. David was the

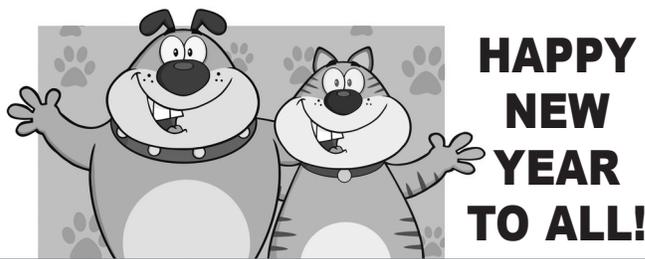


former Gideon State Chaplain and Norwich Chaplain. As part of the Gideon ministry he conducted chapel services twice a month at Corrigan-Radgowski Correctional Institute. David stopped speaking for the Gideon two years ago when he was 97! He served the prison ministry for 45 years.

He led the singing for the chapel as well as playing the harmonica. He is an accomplished harmonica player and can play songs from memory. He played the harmonica at church and also at rest homes. He has also written a collection of poems and has recited his poetry at the Preston Bible Church on Wednesdays and every Sunday,

unless the weather is too bad for him to attend.

What a remarkable life David has led. He was a successful business man, a devoted husband and father, and an inspiring religious leader. The Preston Pipeline congratulates you!



PRESTON ANIMAL HOSPITAL

Saturday Hours Available: 9 to 12

Open M, T, TH, FRI 9 to 5

38 Doolittle Road • Preston, CT • 860-889-4736

Dr. Craig McIlquham, D.V.M.

Win a \$25.00 Gift Certificate to Village Pizza!

What is your favorite song of all time?

Your answer: _____

From: _____

Phone: _____

Please mail your entry to: **Tracy Lyn Designs**

211 Rt 164 Preston, CT 06365

Or Email me at tracylyndesigns@comcast.net

(860) 887-1998
Fax (860) 886-8091

MATTERN CONSTRUCTION INC.

GENERAL CONTRACTING / CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

GEORGE MATTERN 26M BUSHNELL HOLLOW RD.
PRESIDENT BALTIMORE, CT 06330

georgem@matternconstruction.com



MATTERN & STEFON
LAND SURVEYORS

SUSAN F. MATTERN, L.S.

148 ROUTE 2, PRESTON, CT 06365
PHONE 860.889.1999 • FAX 860.383.2524
WWW.MATTERNSTEFONSURVEYORS.COM
SUSAN@MATTERNSTEFONSURVEYORS.COM

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: Consumer Reports w/cars
ICONN your re-Search engine • Encyclopedia Britannica • JobNow
Learning Express - Learning Center **free for Preston residents with library cards.**

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS:

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

-CHECK IT OUT!-

The Preston Library recently completed a major move of books. We have interfiled our "Fiction", "Mystery" and Science Fiction" sections of our Adult Fiction section! Now, instead of trying to figure out if the book you want is a "Mystery" or simply "Fiction"... you will be able to find all our Fiction books in once convenient location.

Most Large Print titles are still available in a separate section-(except for those books which are part of continuing series-they will be filed with the rest of that series in the "Fiction" area to make reading that series easier for our patrons).

We really hope this consolidation makes finding the materials you are looking for much easier, and it will be quicker and simpler to read your favorite authors' books now that they are all filed next to one another...

**Need up-to-date data for a research paper?
Looking to trace your family roots? Try:**



(formerly known as "iConn") where you can locate journal, magazine, and newspaper articles. They also offer links to Genealogy resources & CT Digital collections of historical archives. The link is available on our webpage for your convenience.

Book Sale & Donations-

The Friends of the Preston Public Library (FOL) have a selection of hardcover and paperbacks for sale in the Library entryway for you to browse through; all sales go to Friends of the Library funds to benefit the library and its patrons

The Friends will be having a book sale in the spring. Please check the library website, prestonlibrary.org, at the library, or follow the Friends on Facebook for the date and time as the event gets closer!

The FOL thank you for your donations of books, CDs and DVDs throughout the year. Due to storage limitations at this time, we will be unable to accept donations from December 1st, 2015 until March 15th, 2016. Please hold onto your well loved/good condition books until then.

Upcoming programs-

The FOL are in the planning stages for upcoming programs. Check the library website or at the library for updated information.

Holiday Hours & Closures:

Saturday, Feb 15th through Monday the 15th - Closed
Friday, Mar 25th through Sunday the 27th - 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.

Looking to download an eBook or Audiobook?



Try out provided by the CT State library. Not only can you find many popular authors available, but they have recently added 58 courses from the popular "The Great Courses" lifelong learning series! Link to this service through our website.

The State-wide online catalog (findIT CT) is projected to be available in early 2016. There is still no date set for the restoration of the state-wide Interlibrary Loan system (requestIT CT). Library staff will continue to try to borrow materials on a limited basis.

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

Your Town Government - 514 Votes Were Counted

By Norman Gauthier

What if we had an election and nobody came?

That's almost what happened in November when only 514 residents took the time to cast a vote for the town officials who will run the town for the next two years. Compare that number to the 2,693 who voted in the 2008 presidential election. More than two thousand experienced Preston voters who know where and how to vote did not bother to vote in the town election. Part of the reason that so few people voted is that municipal elections are not as publicized as state or national elections; and some people in town didn't even know there was an election.

Every November, voters are invited to express approval or disapproval of their government. It's the American way. We get to choose the people who manage our government at the federal, state, and town level. In odd numbered years, like 2015, it is the management of town affairs that is put before the voters. Last November Preston voters were asked to fill 23 positions in town government. There are 41 elected officials who serve the town.

This year, the term of office expired for 23 of them and they needed to be reelected or replaced. These are the town officials who represent you and make decisions on your behalf. Because they are local decision makers, their actions have a direct impact on the quality of life here in Preston; much more impact than actions by state or federal officials. A few of these are paid positions but most are volunteers.

This election actually began way back in July 2015 when the local political parties selected the candidates to run for the various offices. There could have been 44 candidate names on the ballot; each party was allowed to endorse 22 candidates.

Those residents who are registered as democrats or republicans met in their respective caucuses and selected the candidates whose names would appear on the November ballot. The democrat party nominated 9 candidates and the republicans nominated 17. That's 26 candidates to fill 23 positions.

There are several reasons why neither party nominated a full slate of 22 candidates. One is the state minority representation law. The law limits how many members each party may elect to a board or commission. For example, each party could nominate 2 members for election to the Board of Finance but the republicans could elect only 1. The Board of Education has special rules in that each party could nominate 3 candidates but only 2 could be elected so instead of the 6 candidates allowed, there were only 4 names listed. Another reason that voters did not see a full ballot is apathy. Both political parties have to struggle to find enough people to become candidates. And lastly, very few people want to challenge the incumbents who have won in a previous election and would probably win again.

The resulting ballot left only 4 contested races, with little motivation for voters to make choices. The election outcome is that every one of the 21 incumbents on the ballot was reelected, one new official was added, and one office was left vacant to be filled by the Board of Selectmen.

We need to have more choices in municipal elections; to do that we need you to join one of the major parties and take part in the early candidate selection.

We welcome your questions and comments.

Contact the author at N.Gauthier@usa.net

The Preston Conservation and Agricultural Commission Needs YOU!!!

The Preston Conservation and Agricultural Commission is on a mission to promote agriculture in our Town. We have discussed matching the crop, the land, the animal, and the farmer or landowner to achieve this goal. We have had some success already and will be reporting on this in a future edition of the Preston Pipeline.

One idea we've had to promote the project is to do something similar to Preston's 325th Anniversary Celebration when students and residents painted and decorated plywood turkeys as part of the "Turkeys around Town" project. Many people participated, the project was a success and everyone enjoyed seeing the turkey artwork and the creativity it inspired.

We are now ready to begin this project and we are asking for volunteers to donate plywood, primer and paints, cut out the shapes, sand and prime the cut-outs and paint the shapes into animals, crops, barns and silos, tractors or whatever farm related cut-out you may desire. Our goal is to implement the project and have the cut-outs completed prior to the start of the growing season so the matchmaking can begin.

If you think you can help us in any small way with this program, please contact any member of the Preston Conservation and Agricultural Commission by calling Town Hall at (860)887-5581, Extension 118 or email nichols@preston-ct.org.

Hello From A New Business In Town!

Hello from Then & Again Emporium!

In introducing ourselves, I will start with the process of naming our business. So very many ideas and words were thrown around all while trying to incorporate the concept of what we do.

Well, what we do is "create". Through reclaiming, recycling and repurposing, we are able to give something old a new life.....hence "Then & Again". We carry a variety of styles trying to provide something for everyone. Handmade crafts including country, rustic, shabby chic, vintage, and more all created using 85-90% recycled materials.

We will gladly customize upon request & also feature some other vendors carrying various items.

We are so very blessed to become part of this beautiful community of Preston and so look forward to seeing you soon!

Gratefully yours,
Erin Browne & Victor Jorge (Owner/Operator)
Then & Again Emporium
73 Rte 2
Preston CT 06365
(860)222-3028



**Then & Again
Emporium**

**What is old to one...
is new to another...**

Using 85 - 90% recycled materials
Hand made rustic/country crafts
Customized items available
Weekend flea market

73 Route 2
Preston, Connecticut
Owner, Operators:
Victor Jorge & Erin Browne

(860) 222-3028

Preston City Congregational Church



*"Where Friends
Become Family"*

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

Reverend Stanley E. White,
Minister

Join Us This Sunday!

Worship 9 & 10:30 A.M
Sunday School 8:45 A.M.

From 'our family' to yours,
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Chili/Soup Supper

(Soups & Chilis, salad, rolls,
dessert, and beverage)

Saturday, January 30

Tickets: \$10 (No Take-outs)
4-6 P.M.

Call the office for reservations:
860.887.4647

*Inclement weather alternative
date: January 31st, 4 - 6 P.M.

**321 Route 164 • Preston, CT
860.887.4647 or 860.886.7200**

Thank You!

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



The holidays are over, and, with your help, we were able to provide holiday turkeys and the "fixins", along with the usual monthly food items, to 92 area families. We close our year, with much less money, but with a warm feeling, knowing that our efforts have made the holidays brighter for so many in need.

Canned fruits and vegetables, dry pasta and pasta sauce, tuna and canned meats, soups, mac and cheese, baked beans, rice, and ESPECIALLY peanut butter and jelly are always needed. There are Food Pantry containers at the library and at Jewett City Savings Bank site in Preston City where you can put these items. Monetary contributions are also needed and greatly appreciated. Checks should be made out to "Toucan Food Pantry" c/o Preston City Congregational Church. **Thank you for your continued interest and support of our outreach program**



Preston Historical Society

Preserving The Past for Future Generations

News from the Preston Historical Society

Forgotten: The Story of Two WWII Pilots Killed Over Preston in 1944



George K. Kraus, USNR



Ensign Merle H. Longenecker, USNR

January 26, 2016

6:30 PM

Preston Public Library

The Preston Historical Society is sponsoring a free program led by author Richard Vittorioso and VFW Council Vice-President and Vietnam Veteran John Waggoner. The program will focus on the book *Forgotten*. It is the true story of two WWII pilots who were on a training mission over Connecticut in 1944 testing a newly developed radar system for Hellcat fighter planes for the U.S. Navy. The program is open to the public.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Preston Historical Society is our Annual Meeting scheduled for Wednesday March 16, 2016, 6:30 pm at Preston Public Library. 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.

Publications of the Preston Historical Society

- Cemetery Inscription Book ~ \$10.00
- Early Homes and Families (Marion White Hall) ~ \$15.00
- Meet our Craftsmen (Diane Norman) ~ \$2.00
- Postcards ~ .20 cents
- Preston in Review (Marion White Hall) ~ \$15.00
- Nine Dollars per Month & Board (Lewis R. Peckham) ~ \$3.50

(All are available at the Preston Public Library or the Preston Town Hall)

Update: Long Society Meeting House



A 1950 photo of the interior of the Meetinghouse with a working stove

Though the Meeting House will be quiet over the winter, we have big plans for it in the spring. The Preston Historical Society was awarded a matching grant from the 1772 Foundation of the CT Preservation Society earlier this year. We sought and received a grant from the Jewett City Savings Bank for \$1000, and from the Preston Community Fund for \$3000. We can't thank both of these local programs enough for their support of our efforts to do the initial restorations of this wonderful building. We have hired a local contractor, Mike Holdridge Restoration, to repair the immediate and short term needs identified in a recent evaluation. This will commence in March.

We have many people in town to thank. First, the Crary family for their help in trimming, raking and cleaning up the Long Society Cemetery; Bob Boyd and his crew for helping us remove the brush, etc.; and Dave Oat for his assistance in preparing for the Lantern Tour.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our Lantern Tour due to low ticket sales. We hope to have another one when the weather is nicer.

And More: Got an idea for a different event?

Contact:

Donna Bowles (860-884-4663 or zhf.alpacas@gmail.com)
Linda Christensen (860-887-5828 or LindaCh5@comcast.net)

PRESTON PARKS & RECREATION

389 Route 2 • Preston, CT 06365 • 860.889.2482x113 • www.preston-ct.org • prestonrec@hotmail.com

COMMUNITY EVENTS

WINTERVAL: A FIRE & ICE CELEBRATION

Join us for a fun-filled night at Preston Community Park for Preston's 2nd Annual Winterval: A Fire & Ice Celebration. Enjoy ice skating on the pond and keep warm and socialize around the fire. At the time the publication was due for printing, no date had been picked as its still 60°...event will take place in January or February. Check town website and Facebook for updates!!

BUS TRIPS

BOSTON FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW

The Boston Flower & Garden Show will return to the Seaport World Trade Center in Boston with the theme "Nurtured by Nature". The care we put into our gardens comes back to us a thousand-fold. Floral arrangements, houseplants and containers enliven and refresh our living paces. Celebrate the bountiful benefits of the garden and learn how to keep yourself, and your garden, growing strong!

Dates: Friday, March 18

Fee: \$57 per person if registered on or before February 10

\$64 per person for all registrations received after February 11



TODDLER / PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

PRE-K MINI SPORTS

ARTS & CRAFT CLASSES

CHILD PROGRAMS

ARTS & CRAFT CLASSES

BABYSITTER TRAINING & CPR CLASSES

THEATER PROGRAM

PILLO POLO

T-BALL, BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

Preston Youth Baseball/Softball Association is accepting registrations for the spring season of t-ball, baseball, and softball. Registrations take place during the month of January.

T-Ball/Baseball Contact:

Tom Jenkins: prestonyouthbaseball@comcast.net

Softball Contact:

Ken Daniewicz: prestonball@gmail.com



ADULT SPORTS ~ WEEKLY PICK UP GAMES

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Dates: Thursdays: October 1 - May 26

Time: 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Fee: \$20 per person

CO-ED VOLLEYBALL

Dates: Tuesdays: November 10 - May 31

Time: 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Fee: \$15 per person

ADULT PROGRAMS

ZUMBA

Session #4 ~ Thursdays: February 25 - March 31

Session #5 ~ Thursdays: April 14 - May 26 (no class on April 21)

Time: 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Fee: \$41 per session or sign up for both session for only \$77

YOGA BASICS

Session #4 ~ Mondays: March 7 - April 11

Session #5 ~ Mondays: May 2 - June 13 (no class on May 30)

Time: 5:00 - 6:00 pm ~ Fee: \$45 per session

MODERATE YOGA

Session #4 ~ Mondays: March 7 - April 11

Session #5 ~ Mondays: May 2 - June 13 (no class on May 30)

Time: 6:15 - 7:15 pm ~ Fee: \$45 per session

BOATING SAFETY

Session #1 ~ Tuesday, March 22 & Thursday, March 24

Session #2 ~ Tuesday, May 24 & Thursday, May 26

Time: 5:30 - 9:30 pm ~ Fee: \$25 per person

BASKET WEAVING

Dates: Wednesdays: February 24 & March 2 ~ Time: 6:00 - 8:30 pm

Class Fee: \$28 per person (plus \$15 material fee payable to class instructor on the first night of class)

SENIOR PROGRAMS

CHAIR YOGA

Session #4 ~ Mondays: March 7 - April 11

Session #5 ~ Mondays: May 2 - June 13 (no class on May 30)

Time: 10:00 - 11:00 am ~ Fee: \$20 per session

EMPLOYMENT

Preston Parks & Recreation is accepting applications for a part-time office/program assistant. Applications and job descriptions are available on town website at www.preston-ct.org. Applications for part-time office/program assistant are due by Friday, February 5, 2015 at 4:30 pm.

In addition, Preston Parks & Recreation is accepting applications for the following summer camp positions: Camp Director, Assistant Camp Director, and Camp Counselors. Applications and job descriptions are available on town website at www.preston-ct.org. All summer camp positions applications are due by Friday, April 1, 2015 at 4:30 pm.

Applications may be mailed to Preston Parks & Recreation, 389 Route 2, Preston, CT 06365 or dropped off in person.

FIELD NOTES FROM AVALONIA LAND CONSERVANCY IN PRESTON

By the time you read this, there may be snow on the ground- and what could be better on a crisp winter day than to snow shoe across an open field in your own home town? The Preston Nature Preserve off Krug Road offers you trails and open fields, opportunities to take photographs of the natural beauty of the preserve, opportunities to watch for winter wildlife.

Avalonia Land Conservancy, Inc. is a land trust dedicated to the conservation via acquisition of natural areas. It is a non-profit, non-political, tax-exempt organization. We believe it is essential to conserve our natural resources for the benefit of wildlife, our present generation, and generations yet to come.

Avalonia holds 3,200 acres in New London County. These acres are preserved in perpetuity as natural open spaces. Where it's appropriate, trails are maintained for activities such as hiking, bird watching, nature study, and photography. We ask only that you take pictures and leave footprints.

You can go to <avalonialandconservancy.org> and find a map to the Preston Nature Preserve-look under "preserves" and "Preston." You'll also learn about other preserves in neighboring towns. Here in Preston we have trails also on the Mitchell Preserve, and we hope to get information on the website about that preserve by spring.

Walking the PNP or working there with others to do volunteer stewardship, I've run into folks walking the trails who tell me that the Preston Nature Preserve is the best kept secret in Preston. Let's not keep it a secret! From Route 164, turn onto Krug Road and go about a half of a mile, looking to your left for a farm gate, and inside it a big brown sign with yellow letters. Pull up to the gate, open it, park inside near the sign, and close the gate behind you as you hike and when you leave. Enjoy the sloping fields and wooded uplands and the wetland areas.

For more information, contact Avalonia's Preston Town Committee members: Bob Chapin, Linda Christensen, Joel Fuller, Margaret Gibson, Gary Piszczek.



Joyce M. Brewster
Justice Of The Peace Notary
860.376.4167

WINTER IS HERE!!!! Stay WARM WITH US!

ANDERSEN OIL CO.



DELIVERING:
Fuel Oil
Kerosene
On and
Off-Road
Diesel

OFFERING:
Budget Plans
Pricing Programs
Prebuys
Price Caps
Heating System
Service & Installation

LICENSED & INSURED

860-464-7628

www.andersenoilcompany.com



Joe Keith
SINGER MUSICIAN
GUITAR INSTRUCTOR

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 New Year!

Sincerely,
Joseph J. Keith Jr.

860 884-9726
joekeith516@gmail.com



joekeithmusic

Preston Redevelopment: 2015 Year in Review

Merrill Gerber & Sean Nugent

Since the Preston Redevelopment Agency (PRA) was established major changes have occurred in the economy, in societal priorities and in the clean-up/shovel ready status of the property. When we first began we focused on both builder/investor interest and property clean up. We learned that the brownfield nature of the property was a deterrent to attracting interest from builders/investors and, therefore, shifted our effort to significantly reduce the brownfield barrier.

This past year you have observed a remarkable change at the site, as there are now 49 fewer structures. One result of this is an unobstructed view from Route 12 all the way to the Thames River and beyond. A more important result is an increase in requests for information and tours by the builder/investor community.

While this is a fantastic accomplishment, we know that more work is required to be 'shovel ready'. To address this, we have submitted for additional funds from the State and Federal Government to allow us to continue the clean up of the remaining structures and the Areas of Concern (AOC's). In addition, we now meet monthly with representatives from DEEP (CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection), EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), and our LEP (Licensed Environmental Professional; Tighe & Bond) to finalize the AOC clean up requirements, processes and costs.

In March four members of the Consulting Corps (national real estate professionals) brought a set of fresh eyes - and their greater than 100 years of experience - to assess the property, talk to 'Key Stakeholders', review work done at the site and then present a road map for moving forward. The CRE team (1) identified a number of potential uses, (2) highlighted the need to attract builders/investors versus developers, (3) that the Agency should prepare a more detailed master plan to enhance builder/investor attraction, (4) highlighted the importance of the property to the region, and (5) emphasized the need for regional planning efforts. They also suggested re-branding the property as "Riverwalk @ Preston" to emphasize its importance

to the region. For those interested, a copy of the CRE presentation and final report can be found on the Town home page.

Over the past six years the Agency has raised over \$15 million dollars from the State, the Federal Government, and the Town of Preston. These monies are a mixture of grants, loans and Town matches. With these dollars in hand the Agency worked closely with Manafort Brothers (MBI) and Tighe & Bond (T&B) to abate/demolish 49 of the 57-targeted structures along with the tunnels and the buried asbestos insulated conduits. Of the original 1.3 million square feet of structures the Town acquired in 2009, the abatement and demolition of the Kettle Building results in almost 80% of this original footprint being removed.

We recently were awarded a \$165,000 Brownfield Assessment Grant from the State, are awaiting approval of a new \$1.25 million Urban Act Grant, and have submitted for a State Brownfield Grant (\$1.68M) and three (3) EPA Clean Up Grants (\$200K each; each requires a \$40K Town Match if awarded). Jim Bell and his Funding team continue to seek additional funding to allow us to progress this effort.

Clearly the ultimate measure of success is attracting and creating agreements with the builder/investor community. While we have seen an increase in interest following the demolition of the Kettle Building, nothing formal or firm has materialized. As such, in December we terminated our relationship with our broker, JLL, and now seek new partners to assist us in attracting formal interest in the property.

So what will our focus be in 2016? As you've read above, with the level of clean up we have achieved, our efforts will now shift from clean up to Economic Development!!

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.

Did You Know that..... Preston once had a high school?

In 1833 there was the Preston City High School open to paying students to further their education. It was located "in a pleasant and healthy village, where good board may be obtained from \$1.25 to \$1.50 per week." Nathaniel Grover, the principal and instructor, advertised in the August 7, 1833 Norwich Courier. Classes were to be held for 12 weeks with tuition costing "\$3.00 for English branches; French, \$4.00; Latin and Greek, \$5.00." The school operated only a few years, 1832-1835, then appeared in Norwich in December 1835, this time offering higher Mathematics as well as English and interesting-

ly, a fuel charge probably due to the school operating in the winter. Students could choose their courses, according to the "German Plan".

Nathaniel Grover was born in 1805 in Atkinson, N.H., graduated from Dartmouth College in 1832. He taught school until 1855 after which he went into the ministry. After living in Norwich and several other towns in Connecticut he moved to South Haven, Michigan where he died in 1863.

Diane Norman, Researcher

State Legislative Update

By State Representative Mike France

As the 2016 Legislative Session swiftly approaches, I wish I could tell you that all is resolved and that Connecticut is on the right fiscal track. Unfortunately, the reality is somewhat different with a projected \$358 million deficit in Fiscal Year 2017 and a \$3.5 billion deficit in the following biennium. That is almost exactly where we were in 2010, and this is after implementing over \$4 billion in new taxes. We can do better. Connecticut has an opportunity to create an environment of strong economic growth with bipartisan effort.



Since my last update, the legislature was called into special session on December 8th for the second time following the end of regular session, to reassess and restore balance to the current budget.

Connecticut has been in a dismal financial state for years, with spending growth at unsustainable rates that force residents to make hard choices about remaining in the town and state where they and their families were raised. The budget pushed through the legislature in June didn't help. It left the middle class, hospitals and vital social and educational services suffering. The deficit mitigation plan recently approved without a single Republican vote did little to restore the necessary funds to the neediest among us.

Under the deficit mitigation plan, public school transportation was identified for a \$1 million cut and the Office of Policy and Management has avoided making any agreements to spare hospitals additional spending reductions. Additional education-related cuts include \$2 million from the private occupational school student protection fund, \$8.5 million from the UConn Operating fund, \$1.8 million from the Connecticut State University Operating fund, and \$1.8 million from the Regional Community Technical Colleges Operating Fund.

The propane tax issue was partially rectified during special session so that now all sales of propane primarily used for home heating will not be taxed. However, if a homeowner has two separate tanks - one for home heating and another for an emergency power generator - the one specifically used for power generation will continue to be taxed. Our use of propane has changed since the original legislation was passed over 20 years ago and homeowners who are providing power protection for their families should not be penalized by this tax.

I supported the Republican proposals to fix the State deficit without raising taxes, as well as the short-term and long-term

changes to the way we fund core government functions that would put Connecticut on a more sustainable fiscal path. Unfortunately, none of those ideas were included and I was left with no choice but to vote against the deficit mitigation package and prepare for further budget negotiations when we reconvene for regular session in February.

When we meet, I would like to see the legislature focus on education reform initiatives that will provide greater opportunity for all of our students. Several bills from the 2015 session will be reintroduced, including bills to provide full funding to towns for state special education reimbursement costs, to allow municipal oversight and control of non-educational

expenses in education budgets and to enhance audit requirements of board of education budgets. New bill proposals include creating an "off-ramp" option for high school students to transition from traditional high school to technical school after their freshman or sophomore years and allowing home school students to participate in after-school activities. Every one of these proposals provides expanded opportunities for the success of our students and gives greater assurance to our residents that their tax dollars are being spent appropriately.

In this session I will continue to focus on the municipal issues impacting the towns of the 42nd district. Together, we can solve long overdue issues and implement solutions that our towns need to run more efficiently. Several bills that I proposed in 2015, many of which received public hearings, will be resubmitted for consideration. These include allowing minor changes to municipal charters and standardizing the reimbursement of unemployment compensation claims to municipal employers in order to align with private sector employers.

Please feel free to contact me with your ideas for new legislation to propose in the 2016 session which begins on February 3rd. In addition, I welcome your opinions and concerns regarding any issues that may affect you, your family or your business. January Town Hall meetings will be held at the Preston Library on January 23, 2016 and at the Ledyard Town Hall Annex on January 26, 2016. Stay in touch with what is going on in the 42nd District by signing up for e-newsletters at my website (www.RepFrance.com) or following me on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/RepFrance.

USA PETRO PROPANE

"PAY LESS....GET MORE!"



**Fill up your gas tank and get
16 oz. Blue Monster
Energy Drink for FREE!**

WINTER DEALS

**Buy 4 pks of cigarettes
and get a Monster 0 Carb
"Blue" Energy Drink
FREE!**

**Tree Air Fresheners:
Buy 3, Get 1 FREE!**

**FREE Tubes when you buy
tobacco bag, 8 oz. or bigger,
from us (King size only).**

GREEN MOUNTAIN COFFEE

Island Coconut and Pumpkin Spice Coffee!

Cakes • Warm Breakfast Sandwiches • Pre-made Grinders

Frozen Food & Ice Cream • Dairy Products

Roll Your Own Tobacco • Premium Cigars

PROPANE • GAS • ICE • CAMP FIREWOODS

HIGH TECH E-CIGARETTES • LOTTERY

FAX and PHOTOCOPY Services • PHONE TIME MINUTES

Coffee Only \$1.00*

UBER TAXI : 860-933-3831

*12 oz. and 16 oz. only.

363 Rte. 165 • Preston • 860.889.6401



Your Local Fire Department Needs You!

Ever wonder what makes a person want to run into a burning building while everyone else is running out? It's the sense of a small town community, knowing that next time it could be your house. It's the feeling of pride, knowing that you have been trained to make the difference in someone's life.

Put yourself in the driver's seat of the big red fire truck with a crew of firefighters that arrives at the scene of a house fire on Old Jewett City Road ready to help. **That person could be you.**

Picture yourself traveling home from work on Route 2 and you witness two cars collide. You know people are inside, but you don't know how badly they're hurt. You want to help; you want to assist in any way you can. Could you be the person who has the skills to respond to this situation? **Yes, that person could be you.**

Look over at your neighbor's house. Would you know if they were having a life threatening medical emergency even before an ambulance shows up? And if so, could you be the one to make the difference in whether they live or die? **Yes, that person who saves their life can very easily be you.**

Preston City and Poquetanuck Fire Departments want to help you be that person, the one who makes the difference in someone's life. We will provide all the training you need to be that person. Drop in any Monday night between 6:30 and 8:00 to become a part of our great community of volunteers.

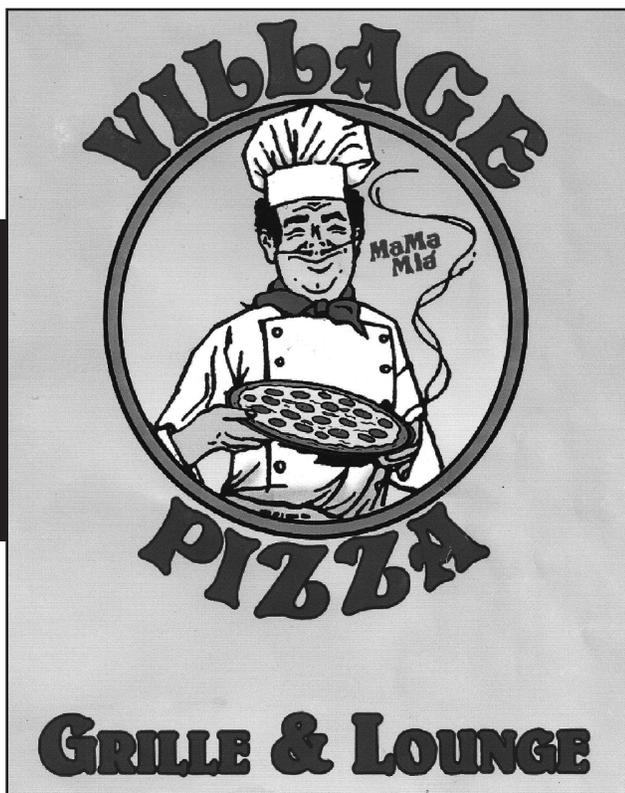


Layout & Design by
Tracy Lyn Designs, LLC
Preston, CT

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

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.

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



The "Upscale" Country Pizzeria & Grille

Gourmet Pizza

New Items on the Menu!

Calzones! New Wraps! Wings!

Specialty Salads & Grinders

DELICIOUS SOUPS and PASTRAMI!

*Mama Mia!
It's Soooo Good!*

**Route 165 • Fleming's Center
Preston CT • (860) 887-1930**

Minutes from Foxwoods. Rt. 2 West to Rt.
164. Turn Left Onto Rt. 165, on Right

Troop 75 Activities



Photo Left:
Boy Scouts thank the town of Preston for their support to make the 2015 Tree and wreath sale fund raiser a complete success.. Thank you everyone.

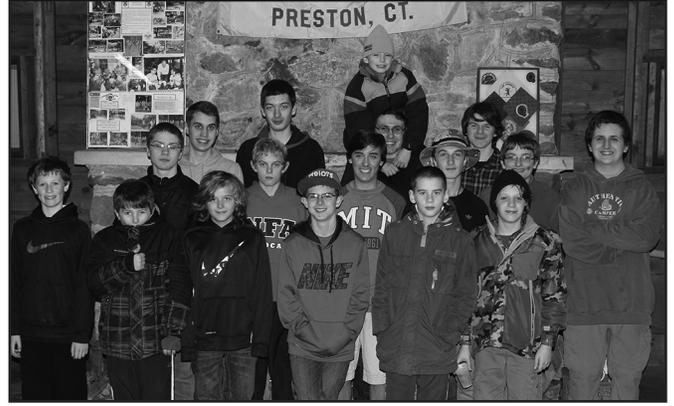
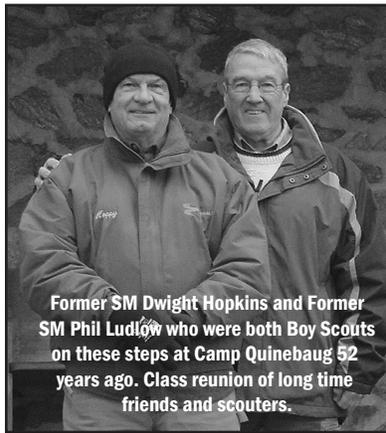


Photo right: Troop 75 Movie Night 2015 at Hidden Acres Family Campground (Old Camp Quinebaug) Hosted by owner's Bill and Priscilla Migliaccio

The Rest of The Story....

52 years ago two boy scouts sat of the dining Hall steps of Camp Quinebaug. Dwight Hopkins as a First Class scout, in Troop 75, under the leadership of ASM Robert Lyman. Both Bob and Dwight remember camping in the mess hall the year after the camp Q was sold by Eastern Conn Council for their NEW Scout Camp "June Norcross Webster Scout Reservation (JNWSR)" in Ashford Ct. At the same time Phillip Ludlow a staff member at Camp Q and member of troop 14 in Norwich arrived to remove last minute items from under the mess hall. Dwight and Phil did not each other at the time. The two groups met and had conversation.



Former SM Dwight Hopkins and Former SM Phil Ludlow who were both Boy Scouts on these steps at Camp Quinebaug 52 years ago. Class reunion of long time friends and scouters.

Dwight continued in Troop 75 for several years to become a Life scout. Phil spent one year on staff at JNWSR before being enlisted into the USAF in Jan 1965.

In 1988 Dwight and Phil met up again as Dwight moved his son David and the webelos from Pack 75 into Troop 75. (Phil Ludlow was the SM at the time.) In 1992 Phil Ludlow retired as SM of 75 and Dwight

Hopkins became the new Troop 75 Scoutmaster. Phil became the Troop Chairman.

In 2000 Dwight resigned as Scoutmaster and Phil continued being Troop Chairman until 2008. Dwight is still registered as ASM of Troop 75. Phil has been a committee member by his side. Phil's Son Wess, presently SM of Troop 75, was an Eagle Scout in 1986. Dwight's Son David an Eagle Scout 1995 and Grand -Son Gabe Hopkins Gray an Eagle Scout in 2015 both climb the scouting ladder under Dwight and Phil's guidance.

Dwight Hopkins and Phil Ludlow have been involved in Boy Scout Troop 75 for a combined volunteer service total of 77 years. Their Families have become life long friends and have shared many wonderful times together. As 2015 turns to 2016 Dwight and Phil continue in their service to the Preston Scouting program as they help guide Troop 75's new Scoutmaster and their grand Children down a path of Scouting ideals, respect and understanding for the future.

Preston Community Fund Awards \$4,900 to Preston Organizations

The Preston Community Fund recently awarded \$4,900 in grants to four Preston organizations which support the social and cultural needs of the citizens of Preston.

The Preston Historical Society received \$3,000 to help with renovations being made to the Long Society Meetinghouse. Troop 75 was awarded \$400 to assist new scouts with expenses to attend summer camp and to help with costs for their High Adventure trip to Mt. Washington, New Hampshire.

The Preston Pipeline will use \$500 to help with production costs of the quarterly town newsletter/magazine, and the Two Can Food Pantry located at Preston City Congregational Church received \$1,000 to help provide much needed food items to local families in need.



Gale Ennis, right, presents the Preston Historical Society with a check that will help in the renovation of the Long Society Meetinghouse.

The Preston Community Fund is managed by local residents David Paige, Gale Ennis, Merrill Gerber, Phil Ludlow, and David Swercewski. Applications for 2016 can be found on the Town of Preston website.

About the Preston Community Fund

The Preston Community Fund is a non-profit private foundation established in 1991 with a \$100,000 contribution made by the former American Ref-fuel Corporation for the exclusive purpose of supporting the social and cultural needs of the citizens and organizations of Preston, and to develop innovative and imaginative programs, projects and services in cooperation with existing and future Preston 501(C)(3) non-profit organizations and/or 501(C) (3) non-profit organizations located outside the Town of Preston provided designated funds are specifically used for the exclusive benefit of Preston citizens, organizations, programs, projects or services.

Fish n Chips Begin Feb. 12th For Lent

St. James Episcopal Church (Poquetanuck) at 95 Route 2A in Preston will be cooking up their traditional Lenten **Fish and Chip fellowship dinners from 3:30 to 7:00 p.m. every Friday during Lent, February 12 through March 18.**

This is their 51st year of offering fresh cod fish (baked or fried) along with their Famous Coleslaw, French Fries, and delicious homemade desserts.

Family style dining at affordable family-friendly prices and preschool children eat for FREE.

Please call ahead 860-889-0150 for takeout and for more information.

Lu-Macs LOTTO!
PACKAGE STORE Open Sundays 10-5
 352 Rt 2 • Preston, CT

Warehouse Priced Wine, Beer and Liquors

**Vodkas • Scotches • Gins • Beers
 Whiskeys • Wines Buy Local!**

HOT TODDY!!!

- 3 ounces dark rum (or to suit taste)
- 4 tablespoons liquid honey
- 3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1/2 piece lemon rind
- 1/16 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg
- 1 -4 inch cinnamon stick (whole)
- 6 -8 ounces boiling water

DIRECTIONS: To a large heavy duty cup or glass, add rum, honey, lemon juice, 1/2 lemon rind, and nutmeg. Stand cinnamon stick in the cup. Pour the boiling water and stir well to blend. Adjust honey to suit your sweetness and adjust lemon juice to suit your taste. Sip slowly and enjoy.

FLEMING'S FEED

353 Route 165,
 Preston, CT
 860-889-7536

Open 7 Days • WE'RE LOCAL!

786 Route 1,
 Stonington, CT
 860-535-3181

4th Annual Irvine Family Fund Month

"Shop at Fleming's all month to help support a local family"



\$2 automatically donated to the family with any purchase of 10+ lb cat food, 20+ lb dog food, 20+ lb wild bird seed!

**Stock up now for a good cause!
 Cash donations welcome!**

Many of you probably know Rob, Melissa, and their three young girls. For those of you who don't, they are a local family who have been hit with a traumatizing disease, ALS, aka Lou Gehrig's Disease. The battle is constant and on-going. With physical struggle, emotional turmoil, and monetary hardships, anything that we can do as a community to help support this family is greatly appreciated.

Please consider shopping with Fleming's this month to help us reach our fundraising goal in our **4th Annual Irvine Family Fund Month**. For more information on the Irvine family, visit: facebook.com/weloverobirvine

**Farmer's Delight
 Cherry Flavored
 Wild Bird Seed
 20lb \$7.99**

**Nyjer Seed
 20lb \$21.99**

Fleming's Coupon. Exp. 1/31/16



**Black Oil
 Sunflower
 Seed
 \$19.99**

50 Pounds Limit 5 Bags

Fleming's Coupon. Exp. 1/31/16.

PRESTON RESIDENTS ONLY!

\$9.99

**20lb. Propane Tank Refill
 New Tank with
 fill \$39.99**



Fleming's Coupon. Exp. 1/31/16. Not to be combined with any other offer.