

Preston Pipeline²

VOL 7 ISSUE 2 WINTER 2018

Preston School District

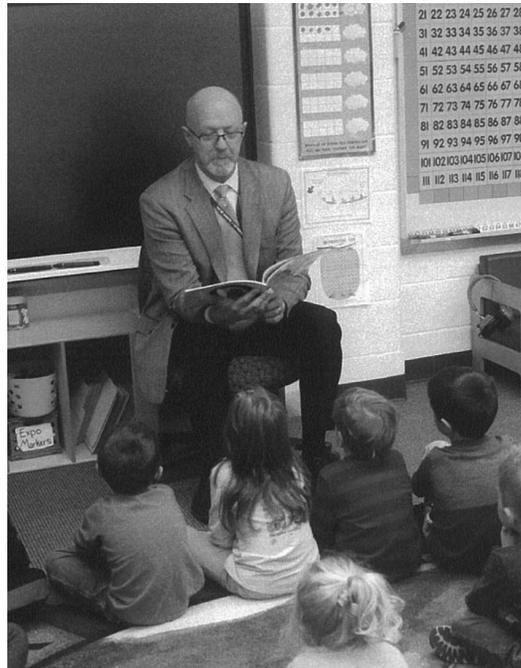
Roy Seitsinger; Superintendent, Sean Nugent; Board Chair

We are half way through the school year and our children and our schools are enjoying an outstanding year! Following a rigorous selection process, our new superintendent Dr. Seitsinger, assumed the helm of our district's program in July and our team hit the ground running. Our superintendent has made it his priority to get to know our entire staff, our children, leaders in Preston, key leaders in our region, and being present in our schools and community. The superintendent has begun to frame immediate, short term and long term priorities derived from his interactions with schools, citizens and the Board.

In November a new Board of Education (BoE) was established following the election of Cindy Luty, Charles Raymond, and Ed Gauthier to four year terms. One seat remained open so the BoE posted on various venues requesting interest in filling this open seat. We are pleased to inform you that, after a Board interview, Tom Turner will assume this open seat through 2019. We appreciate all of our government volunteers for the work they do each day for Preston.

At the December meeting the board elected the new officers for the coming year: Sean Nugent (Chair), Charles Raymond (Vice-Chair), and Deb Burke-Grabarek (Secretary). At this same meeting Dr. Seitsinger introduced a proposal to modify the current method of developing the district budget. The newly seated Board will work as a team with the superintendent to create the next district budget. The School Board Finance Subcommittee will also delve deeply into the line by line details.

With our new superintendent well engaged and a new BoE ready to go, we have begun to focus on three key initiatives, (a) the school districts 5-year capital plan, (b) a long-term strategic plan and (c) the 2018-2019 fiscal budget.



The 5-year capital plan was developed in conjunction with the Town's 5-year cycle and has been reviewed (three formal sessions) and approved by the Board of Finance (BoF). Voters will be able to review the plan at the town meeting held on January 25, 2018. The referendum vote is scheduled for February 6, 2018.

The strategic plan is critical to both near-term and long-term operational execution. The plan will ensure alignment on our district's mission, vision, and core values. These three pillars will ensure we are focused on the definitive action plan that drives our decision making in designing our student learning experiences and creating our budgets. Some of the key mission

priorities are shaping up to be, (a) safety and wellbeing, (b) community and relationships, (c) communication and branding, (d) district operations, (e) facilities, (f) curriculum and instruction, and (g) milestones/benchmarks/deliverables.

The BoE will hold a retreat in early February to address these important topics. Our goal is to create a strategic plan that is a "living document" that represents a dynamic frequently referenced plan that pursues long range strategies of improvement. Central to this work will be linking the long term planning of the strategic plan with year to year budget development. With the strategic plan in place we will work closely with the BoF and the Selectmen to align our efforts and do whatever we can to support the success of the Preston community.

We are excited to look to the future and see it full of opportunities. We welcome and encourage constructive input. We thank you for your continued support. Should you have any questions, suggestions or comments, please attend one of our monthly meetings at Preston Plains or contact either of us: Roy Seitsinger (860-949-0222) or Sean Nugent (860-625-3162).

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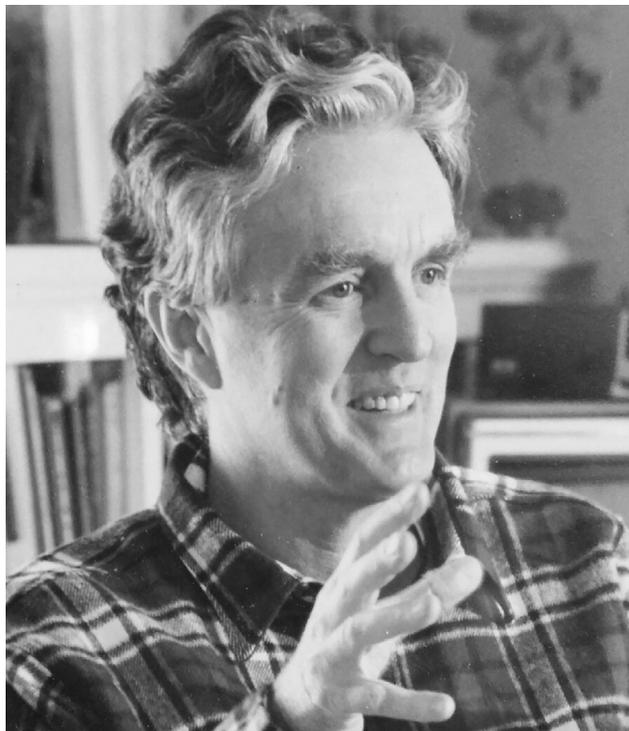
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David W. McKain

DAVID W. MCKAIN died peacefully on December 27, 2017, forty two years to the day that he and Margaret Gibson married in 1975 and four and one half hours before his eightieth birthday. He passed away in the presence of his wife and son and daughter, following 11 years of Alzheimer's disease, a period of illness marked, as was the whole of his life, by grace, kindness, humor, and a deep love for his family.



David was a poet, a non-fiction writer, and a Professor of English at the University of Connecticut, teaching at the Avery Point and Storrs campuses for thirty years, retiring in 1993 as Professor Emeritus. In Storrs, he was the head of the Creative Writing Program. In 1983 he was honored by the Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award. His books include the memoir *Spellbound: Growing Up in God's Country* and three collections of poems: *In Touch*, *The Common Life*, and *Spirit Bodies*. He was the editor for *The Whole Earth: Essays in Appreciation, Anger, and Hope* (1972) and *Christianity: Some Non-Christian Appraisals* (1964), anthologies that were ahead of their time.

David earned his B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. at the University of Connecticut. Before teaching at UCONN, he worked in New York for Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, and for McGraw Hill, for whom he was the first Editor of the McGraw Hill Paperbacks Series. He was also Writer-in-Residence at Phillips Academy/Andover, at the University of Pittsburg at Bradford, and at Virginia Commonwealth University. As a young man he worked as a park ranger in Big Sur and in San Francisco's City Lights bookstore at a time when Buddhism began to flourish in San Francisco. As a writer, he was honored with numerous awards, and he received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and The Connecticut Commission for the Arts. *Spellbound* was the winner of the Associated Writing Programs Award for Creative Non-fiction and was nominated for the National Book Award, the PEN award, and the Pulitzer Prize.

David is survived by his beloved wife of 42 years, Margaret Gibson; his children Joshua McKain (and his wife Amy and grandchildren Henry and Lucy) and Megan McKain (and her husband Brad Jenkins and grandchildren Isabelle, Rachel, and Aneka), as well as by his first wife Sharon McKain and his cousins Nancy and Howard Jonas, Susie and Ken

Steiner, Doug and Ruth McKain, and Diane McKain.

The son of Charles and Ida (Crawford) McKain and the nephew of Walter and Elizabeth McKain, David was born in Punxatawney, PA, December 28, 1937. He grew up in Bradford, PA, the subject of his memoir, coming to Connecticut to go to the University of Connecticut on a freshman basketball scholarship, moving here as a resident in 1965. He lived for a time in Noank, CT, moving to Preston in 1972, where he built his own house in the woods of Preston CT while on sabbatical, reading books on how to build your own house at night and getting up in the morning and doing it. He met poet Margaret Gibson at Yaddo in Saratoga Springs in June, 1975,

and they married in December of that year.

David was an avid walker and hiker, a book collector and genealogist, a builder of stone walls, a yard-sale and antiques shop explorer, and also a passionate participant in the civil rights and peace movements. As an advocate for the environment, he helped to found the Conservation Commission in Preston, CT and served on the Board of Avalonia Land Conservancy.

During his long illness with Alzheimer's, David continued to be cheered and loved by his close family and friends. Our family is grateful to and wishes to acknowledge the love given to David and us by the wonderful caregivers and nurses and staff at Chestnut Cottage (at The Elms) and at Royal Westerly (formerly the Westerly Nursing Home.) At Royal Westerly so many care-givers became part of our family, too.

Writers and thinkers who guided David's life were many and wide-ranging. He might perhaps cite as particularly influential the poet William Blake and the Roman stoic Marcus Aurelius. While he was an intellectual, David loved the ordinary wisdom, kindness, and skills of working men and women. He received letters throughout his later years from grateful former students. He was a man of clear vision and well-articulated values, and he had a keen sense of social justice. As keen was his appetite for the simple joys and delights of life. He wanted a full life—and he had one.

Family will gather at David and Margaret's home in Preston for a private memorial service in February and again for a celebration of David's life in June.



Preston Historical Society

Preserving The Past for Future Generations

Saturday, April 21: Connecticut's Earliest European Settlers; Recent finds from Glastonbury and Windsor



Dr. Brian Jones, CT State Archaeologist

During the past three years, archaeologists and public field school participants have unearthed clues about Connecticut's early colonial past at three archeological sites. The first was undertaken after the unexpected discovery of a buried house cellar within the original John Mason home lot within the Pequot War-era Windsor Palisade. The second site is a large buried farm complex associated with Lt. John Hollister of Glastonbury, dating between 1650 and 1715. The third is the homestead of Francis Stiles, later owned by the Ellsworth family of Windsor.

Join Dr. Brian Jones, Connecticut's State Archaeologist who led these excavations, and discover what these recent archaeological explorations in Windsor and Glastonbury tell us about Connecticut's earliest European settlers, and how modern radar-based surveys are helping to find these long-forgotten sites.

The Preston Historical Society is sponsoring this program at Long Society Meetinghouse, 45 Long Society Road, Preston, on Saturday, April 21 at 1 pm. A \$5 donation is requested.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Preston Historical Society is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 7, 2018** at 6 pm at Preston Public Library, Route 2. 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 facebook.com/prestonhistoricalsociety/

Preston Historical Society Membership Application 2018

\$5 Senior/Student \$10 Single membership \$15 Family membership \$100 Life Membership

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Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

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Preston Public Library

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Find us online! www.prestonlibrary.org • Email us: library@prestonlibrary.org

Hours: Monday 9-3 • Tuesday-Thursday 9-8 • Friday 9-5 • Saturday 9-1

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Reference services

Computers for Internet Access (please check in at desk)

Wireless Access for Laptops, Cellphones, etc.

(please check in at desk)

Preston Historical Society files

ON-LINE DATABASES:

Consumer Reports w/ Cars

researchIT CT- free online resources

Encyclopedia Britannica

JobNow-Live, anytime, anywhere job assistance

LearningExpress- Learning Center **free for**

Preston residents with library cards

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS:

Story Times

For children – Birth to five years old. Join us for stories, songs, fingerplays, and crafts. Tuesdays, 10 to 11 am and Wednesdays, 10 to 11 am.

Holiday Hours & Closures:

Saturday, Feb 17th through Monday, Feb 19th – Closed

Friday, March 30th through Sunday, April 1st – Closed

Saturday, May 26th through Monday, May 28th – 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.

The Board of Trustees is currently

accepting applications for 2 (two) vacancies.

Please use Board email for further information.

Income Tax Forms!

Federal and State booklets and forms will be made available as we receive them. We can assist you in downloading and printing the various required Schedules and forms from the IRS website. Come on in and we'll help you out! Taxes are due April 17th- don't be late!

What can your library card do for you? In addition to borrowing materials in all public libraries in Connecticut- your card will give you access to the following databases:

Now that Christmas is over, is it time to shop for some practical home items? Time for a new car? Or a new washing machine? How can you tell the best one out there? **Consumer Reports** has rated them! And as a library patron, you can access the Consumer Reports database online, or here at the library, for free. The link is available at our website. Look at the right column, under the heading, "Online Services." There will be a link for Consumer Reports, right under the Consumer Reports logo. We also have the monthly magazines and annual buying guides available for check-out!



Are you getting ready to take the SAT or ACT for College? Want to join the Military and need to study up for the ASVAB to ensure you get the rating you prefer? Need to brush up on an hour of Microsoft Excel?

Before you invest in expensive study guides, try **LearningExpress Library!** LearningExpress is an online resource center that provides a wide variety of options in either career preparation, or test preparation. The link for LearningExpress is located on the library webpage on the right hand column, under the heading "Online Services."

The Preston Public Library is a collection point for: "Box Tops for Education" to support the Preston Veterans Memorial School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). There is a box available at the Circulation desk to place your box tops in.

The Preston Library is now a collection point for ColorCycle!



Library Board of Trustees: Katherine Allingham, Patricia Bell, Kelly Ennis-Davis, Ann Legler, Mary Jo Nugent

Email: prestonlibraryboard@gmail.com

Cynthia Carano Memorial Scholarship

Applications for this year's Cynthia Carano Memorial Scholarship are now available. If you, or someone you know, is a high school senior graduating from NFA, St. Bernard High School, Ledyard High School's Agri-Science program, Ledyard High School regular program, the Marine Science Magnet High School of SE CT, the Science and Technology Magnet High School of SE CT, Ella Grasso Technical High School, or Norwich Regional Technical High School, please visit the guidance departments at any of the aforementioned high schools and ask for a copy of this years' application. Please contact Gale Ennis with any questions at gale.ennis@yahoo.com.

The award was established in 2009 after the unexpected passing of beloved Preston teacher Cynthia Carano, an educator in the town for over 20 years. The award is given annually to a Preston graduating high school senior continuing on to a 2 or 4 year accredited institution. Since its inception, the scholarship committee has awarded \$8,500 to Preston students.



Window Dedication; Nov. 9, 2017 - Dedication of the New Windows at Long Society Meetinghouse. Representatives from the Preston Historical Society, Mohegan Tribe, 1772 Foundation, Jewett City Savings Bank, and local citizens and officials.



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State Legislative Update

By State Representative Mike France

During the 2017 Legislative Session, we achieved the passage of several noteworthy pieces of legislation. Many of these went into effect on January 1st, including efforts to prevent prescription opioid abuse, ensure honors and benefits for veterans, reduce student costs, and provide support for children in need. Of course, our attention was largely focused on the lengthy budget process which concluded during a Special Session on January 8th with the restoration of funding to the Medicare Savings Program pending the approval of the Governor.



get, while revenue for 2019 is projected to also be \$147 million behind. As of this report, those revenue shortfalls have grown to \$260 million and \$283 million, respectively. We are coming into the 2018 session with a projected deficit of \$224 million. Unfortunately, my concerns about the budget that was passed have come to fruition – it did not solve our state's perpetual fiscal crisis as many had hoped.

The 2018 Legislative Session

This year's "short" session officially begins on February 7th and will conclude in early May. Though it will focus primarily on budget-related concerns, it also allows consideration of other pieces of legislation. The Office of Legislative Research has released a report listing all the important issues they anticipate being debated in 2018. These issues could impact a wide range of citizens, from seniors to students to business owners. A few examples include:

2017 Recap

I am proud that many pieces of legislation which I worked hard on and fully supported have become laws, including:

- The prevention of prescription opioid diversion and abuse.
- Creation of a municipal option property tax exemption for veterans.
- Protection for veterans and armed forces members' personal information.
- Relief of education mandates.
- Regulation of cell site simulator device usage by law enforcement.
- Strengthened protections against domestic violence.
- Stronger laws against human trafficking.
- Greater transparency over the Department of Transportation's spending of state money.

As you likely already know, after a very long and challenging budget planning process, House and Senate leaders from both parties negotiated a compromise budget agreement in October 2017. It was passed with veto-proof majorities on October 26th and became law with the governor's signature on October 31st.

I sincerely appreciate the hard work and dedication of legislative leaders in both the House and Senate and the positive negotiations that took place. The approved budget makes structural changes that are a step in the right direction, including spending and bonding caps that will become Constitutional amendments due to the three-fifths majority approval. However, I am concerned that future legislatures will find ways to circumvent these important structural changes just like they have done in the past. In addition, this budget increases overall state spending that had to be offset by taxes and taking revenue that was designated for other purposes. For these reasons, I did not vote in favor of that budget. The bipartisan budget passed in September, which I did support, did not do any of these things.

Already Facing a 2018 Budget Deficit

By mid-November 2017, just after the governor signed the Fiscal Year 2018 – 2019 biennial budget on October 31st, the consensus revenue forecast indicated that 2018 revenue was already \$178 million below assumed levels in the bud-

- Improving training of senior center staff.
- Expanding requirements for coaches to receive concussion-related training.
- Limiting crumb rubber (recycled tire crumbs) use on turf fields and playgrounds.
- Boosting tourism and the state's business climate.
- Improving electric company storm responses.
- Establishing a bear hunting season.
- Refining the state's bottle bill.
- Updating the state's tax code to reflect federal changes.
- Regulating biological products (medicines manufactured from living organisms).
- Consolidating the state's 12 regional community-technical colleges into a single entity: "Community College of Connecticut."
- Incentivizing the creation and rehabilitation of affordable housing.
- Implementing a Special Education Predictable Cost Cooperative.
- Expanding family and medical leave.
- Limiting law enforcement's use of drones without a warrant and prohibiting arming of drones.
- Implementing highway tolls, raising motor vehicle fees and expanding transportation oversight by creating a new state-wide transportation authority.

Please follow me on Facebook at www.facebook.com/RepFrance or sign up for my e-newsletters on my website at www.RepFrance.com to receive notifications of upcoming quarterly town hall meeting dates. I enjoy meeting with you and discussing the issues you want addressed by the Legislature this year. Please also feel free to contact me anytime via email at Mike.France@housegop.ct.gov or phone at 1-800-842-1423. As your representative and voice at the Capitol, your opinion is of the utmost value to me. Thank you and I wish you and your loved ones a happy, healthy and prosperous 2018.

PRESTON PARKS & RECREATION

Preston Parks & Recreation now offers online registration for your convenience!!



Don't have a computer? That's okay, registration forms will still be available at the Parks & Recreation office!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

KID'S FISHING DERBY

Back by popular demand...join us for our annual Kid's Fishing Derby!

Check in/on-site Registration starts at 9:30 am, fishing will begin at 10:00!

Children will compete to catch the shortest fish and the longest fish of the day!

Trophies will be awarded to the winners of each age category.

When: Sunday, May 6, 2018

Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Ages: 3 - 14

Where: Maple Lane Farms

(57 Northwest Corner Road)

Preston Residents Fee: FREE to Preston residents with advanced registration!! Must register by online by Thursday, May 3rd!! \$5.00 for all on-site registrations for Preston residents

****Please note the new registration process/fees for this year's kids fishing derby.**



PRESTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

The Parks & Recreation Commission is comprised of eleven volunteer members; appointed by the Board of Selectmen per Ordinance, Town Minutes, Book 9, p. 77, February 1968: Amendment, Town Minutes, Book 10, pp 161-163, May 1996.

The Parks & Recreation Commission meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at the Preston Town Hall in the Conference Room at 7:00 p.m. October through February. Meetings during March through September are at 7:30 p.m. There is no regular scheduled meeting in December. Public comment is welcomed at all regular meetings.

Members:

Antonio Farinha, Chairman
Daniel Coley, Vice Chairman
Paul LoPresti, Treasurer
David Przygoda
Gary Deveau
Tom Turner
David Verhasselt
Patricia Jankowski
Lance Reed
Roberta Charpentier (Alternate)
Nathaniel Koniecko (Alternate)

PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

BALLET/CREATIVE DANCE



Class will introduce students to the basic ballet positions and also include creative movement.

Instructor: Lana Davison

Dates: Tuesdays: March 13 - May 5, 2018

(no class on April 17)

Time: 4:30 - 5:15 pm

Ages: 3 & 4

Location: Preston Veterans Memorial School

Fee: \$50.00 per child for 8 weeks of dance classes!!

TINY TYKES SOCCER

Preston Parks & Recreation has teamed up with Challenger Soccer Academy!! TinyTykes is a new and exciting program that teaches basic soccer skills while developing strength, balance, coordination, listening skills and teamwork. The curriculum has been developed by soccer experts, ensuring a positive soccer experience for your child!



Dates: Fridays: May 4, 11, 18 & 25

Time: 10:00 - 10:45 am

Ages: 3 & 4

Location: Preston Community Park

Fee: \$62.00 per child (price includes ball & uniform)

ADULT SPORTS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Join your Preston neighbors and friends for weekly pick up basketball games

Dates: Thursdays: October 5, 2017 - May 31, 2018

(Men's Basketball does not meet on holidays, half days, school vacations, or snow days/early dismissals during winter. So, basketball will NOT meet on the following days: 11/23/17, 12/07/17, 12/28/17, 3/22/17, or 4/19/17)

Time: 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Location: Preston Plains Middle School Gym

Ages: 18+

Fee: \$20 per person for the year



CO-ED VOLLEYBALL

Bump, set and spike...come and enjoy an evening volleyball fun

Dates: Tuesdays: October 3, 2017 - May 29, 2018

(Volleyball does not meet on holidays, half days, school vacations, or snow days/early dismissals during winter. So, volleyball will NOT meet on the following days: 11/07/17, 12/26/17, 4/17/18, or 05/15/18)

Time: 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Location: Preston Veterans Memorial School Gym

Ages: 16+

Fee: \$20 per person for the year



BANDS WANTED!!

Outdoor Summer Concerts

Please contact Preston Parks & Recreation if you are in a band and would be interested in playing at the park this summer or if you have a suggestion for a band you'd like to see perform this summer.

Email: recreation@preston-ct.org

ADULT PROGRAMS

YOGA BASICS

Practice includes a variety of foundational postures (standing, seated and on the floor) that focus on balance and alignment. Breathing techniques, yoga philosophy, meditation and deep relaxation are woven into each class. Modifications are offered to optimize each individual's experience.

Please bring: yoga mat, blanket, and 2 yoga blocks.

Instructor: Sandra Hartnett

Session #4 ~ Mondays: March 12 - April 16, 2018

Session #5 ~ Mondays: April 23 - June 4, 2018
(no class on May 28)

Time: 5:15 - 6:15 pm

Location: Preston Public Library Meeting Room

Ages: 16+

Fee: \$60 per session (6 weeks)



BEYOND BASICS

For students with some yoga experience. This class encourages each student to honor their own level of ability. You will be guided through a practice of meditation and breath work, holding and exploring postures. Modifications are offered as needed. This experience will encourage improved balance, increase flexibility, strengthen and tone muscles and stress relief. Please bring: yoga mat, blanket, and 2 yoga blocks.

Instructor: Sandra Hartnett

Session #4 ~ Wednesdays: February 28 - April 4, 2018

Session #5 ~ Wednesdays: April 18 - May 23, 2018

Time: 5:15 - 6:15 pm

Location: Preston Public Library Meeting Room

Ages: 16+

Fee: \$60 per session (6 weeks)

CORE DE FORCE LIVE

CORE DE FORCE LIVE is an empowering, core-focused workout that combines authentic Boxing, Kickboxing, and Muay Thai moves, explosive power moves and interval training. Ready to get into killer shape? It starts with one punch! Bring an exercise mat.

Dates: Tuesdays: March 6 - April 10
(no class on November 7)

Time: 6:00 - 6:50 pm

Location: Preston Plains Middle School

Ages: 16+

Fee: \$37 per person for 6 week session
or \$10 per class for walk-ins

FREE CORE DE FORCE TRY IT OUT CLASS

on Tuesday, February 27th!! Class starts at 6:00 pm. This class is FREE but please register online so we have a head count of how many people will be attending!! Bring an exercise mat with you.

INTRO TO KNITTING & CROCHETING

Knitting and crocheting is fun for all and easy to learn. The basics of knitting and crocheting will be explored in this class. Learn various stitches and techniques with instructor Rachel Brink. Bring #5 needles and a medium weight yarn.

Dates: Mondays: March 5 - 27

Time: 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Location: Preston Plains Middle School

Ages: 16+

Fee: \$26 per person (4 weeks)



CHAIR YOGA

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

Instructor: Sandra Hartnett

Session #4 ~ Mondays: March 12 - April 16, 2018

Session #5 ~ Mondays: April 23 - June 4, 2018 (no class ~ May 28)

Time: 9:30 - 10:30 am

Location: Preston Public Library Meeting Room

Ages: 60+

Fee: \$36 per session (6 weeks)



PAINT PARTY CLASSES

Join us for four weeks of painting classes with The Drunken Palette. Each class will be step-by-step, how to create your own masterpieces that. You will take home a canvas painting after each class.

All materials included in price.

Dates: Fridays: March 16 - April 13 (no class ~ March 30)

Time: 10:00 - 11:00 am

Location: Preston Public Library Meeting Room

Ages: 60+

Preston Residents Fee: \$65 per person for 4 weeks or \$25 per class
Non-Residents: \$103 per person for 4 weeks or \$30 per class



ZENTANGLE

Zentangle® is an easy to learn method of creating beautiful images. NO ARTISTIC ABILITY REQUIRED! Each design is broken down into step-by-step instructions. Learn to relax (the "Zen" part) while creating beautiful, repetitive design work (the "tangle" part). Students will create beautiful designs while discovering a new way to relax and enjoy what happens on the paper. \$10 material fee to be paid to instructor on the day of class.

Instructor: Carol Dunn

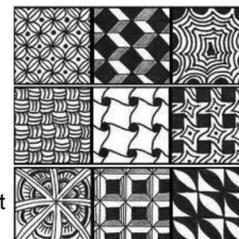
Dates: Wednesday, March 21 & Wednesday, April 4

Time: 12:00 - 3:00 pm

Location: Preston Public Library Meeting Room

Ages: 60+

Preston Residents Fee: \$35 for both classes or \$20 per class
Non-Residents: \$55 per person for both classes or \$30 per class



MEN'S 60+ BASKETBALL

Join your Preston neighbors and friends for weekly open gym time. Shooting around, pick up games, etc.

Dates: Thursdays: March 29—May 10
(no basketball on April 19)

Time: 5:00 pm - 6:15 pm

Location: Preston Plains Middle School Gym

Ages: 60+

Fee: \$6 per person



Like us on
Facebook

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

Delaney Phelps' Essay Is Going On To National Contest!



Each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars sponsors a national essay contest for middle school students known as the Patriot's Pen. This year, Delaney Phelps, 7th grade student at Preston Plains Middle School, won first place in the contest out of all entries submitted by Connecticut students. Delaney's essay addressed the theme "America's Gift to My Generation," specifically delineating why she considers the United States Constitution to be "a lasting gift to my generation and a treasure for those to come."

Patriot's Pen entries are judged by the local VFW post, then at the district or regional level, and ultimately at the state level. Delaney's essay will now be considered on the national level with entries from other state winners; a national winner will be announced in March. Last year, over 120,000 students participated in the national contest. We are quite proud of Delaney!

Submitted by Dr. Ivy K. Davis-Tomczuk,
Preston Plains Middle School Principal



Cleansing Fire to Burn Again in March



On March 1st, the Ceremonial Cleansing Fire will once again be lit at 10:06 a.m.

From left to right: Brian Quidgeon, Vice Chairman Council of Elders Charlie (TWO BEARS) Strickland, Tom Epps, Kevin Zig, Renee Hughes, John Robert Hughes and Matthew Hughes.

Eric Maynard is missing from this picture.

Editors note: Think about stopping by and saying hi to the Mohegans who watch and tend this fire. They are so nice and very willing to talk to you about the significance of the ceremony.

Historical Society's Silent Auction A Success!



9 am, Sunday November 19, 2017: It was raining outside, kind of cold, raw. But inside was entirely different. Festive holiday lights – the first of the season – festooned the wooden rafters. A beautiful Christmas tree, a roomful of tables to arrange, and more than 100 donated items to carry in and display. The Preston Historical Society's 1st Annual Silent Auction was about to happen!

And what a high-spirited day it was! At least 150 people joined us at the Restaurant at River Ridge in Griswold for an afternoon of friendship and a lot of laughing. A special shout-out goes to the Restaurant's manager, Bill Corazzelli, for his experienced and conscientious help. Another big shout-out goes to Mark & Amanda Phelps for their social media expertise and always helpful perspective.

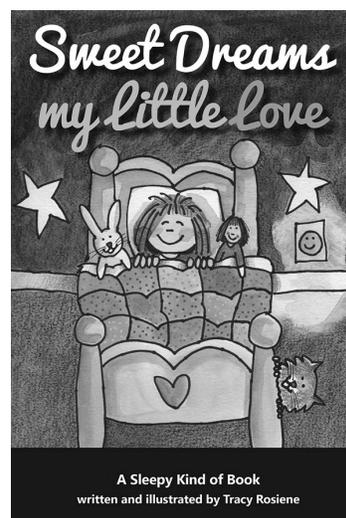
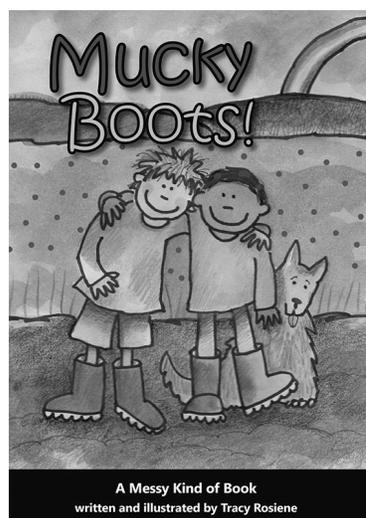
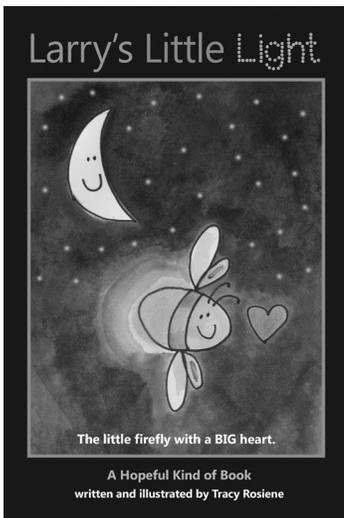
We are so very grateful to the local businesses, artisans, artists and individuals who donated items: their generosity was just "mind-blowing", as we used to say back in the day,

and because of them the Long Society Meetinghouse will continue to benefit from ongoing, very necessary repairs.

Finally, we want to thank the PHS's intrepid Treasurer, Mark Christensen. We don't have enough space to list everything he did, but let's just say he spent a whole lot of extra hours to enable the Silent Auction transactions and keep everything straight for us. Because of his careful accounting, we can report with confidence a very successful event: after expenses, we netted nearly \$ 4,100!

Many people have requested a second Silent Auction in 2018, and we'd love to comply. But a production like this needs more volunteers. We've learned from the experience this year, and think we can break down the tasks so we all have fun in putting it together. Join us!

Your Silent Auction Fundraising Committee, Donna Bowles, Mary Jo Nugent, Linda & Mark Christensen, Phyllis Malone



Above: Books written and illustrated by Tracy Rosiene. Now Available on Amazon and Barnes and Noble! I rarely would use space in the Pipeline to promote my works. But people asked me to! Best wishes! Tracy.

Friends of The Preston Public Library

Upcoming Programs

March 20, 6:30 pm - Who's Hooting in Your Backyard – A representative from Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center will share information about these interesting birds.

April 17, 6:30 pm – Tame Your Paper Clutter **Kristin MacRae**, Organizing and Efficiency expert is back with tips on creating systems for all the paper that enters your spaces. There is a suggested donation of \$5.

All programs require pre-registration – Call the library at 860-886-1010.

Friends of the
Preston Public Library
Join Us
Our next Meeting:
Monday, March 19
3:30 pm
Preston Public Library

Our **Annual Book Sale** is coming up in the spring. **It will take place the week of April 9 at the Poquetanuck Firehouse.** Specific dates and times will be publicized. Please note that the donation box will open up at the beginning of March. If you have large donations, please call Linda at 860-887-5828.

Would you like to join our group?

We'd love your support and help.
Membership applications can be found at the library or at <http://www.prestonlibrary.org/friends/>

Thank You! Great work!

These 3 bridges were provided by Russ Green and were installed on the spillways of the skating pond at the park in Poquetanuck just this week, after Russ had seen some kids playing around the open spillways and afraid they may fall and hit their heads!

Submitted by: John Wolinski



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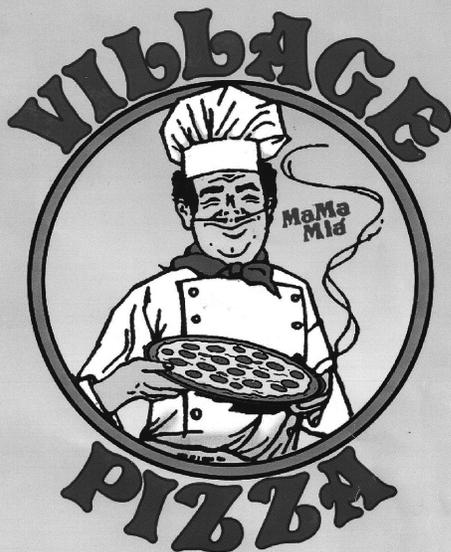
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Join Us This Sunday!

Join us on
Sunday morning;
9 & 10:30am

Soup & Chili Supper
February 24th
4-6 p.m.

Adults: \$10.00
Children 12 & under: \$5.00
No take-outs

News From The Preston City Congregational Church Two Can Food Pantry



The past few months have been very busy at the Food Pantry. In addition to our regular distribution items, more than 100 families received turkeys or hams, and the “fixin’s in November and December.

We have been fortunate to provide cat and dog food because of a generous donor. And because of other generous donors, we were able to provide many families with warm hats, mittens, and scarves.

Members of Preston churches, St Catherine’s, St James, and Preston City Congregational continue to collect and donate hundreds of items monthly.

A Kind, Thoughtful Donation

Kindergartener Madysen Lent got a Wal-Mart gift card as one of her Christmas gifts. When asked her what she wanted to do with it, she said “ I want to buy food for people that don’t have any food”. So that’s what the Lents did. Her mom reached out to see where they could donate food locally and support the community.

Madysen was taken to Wal-Mart and she picked out all sorts of food items and then dropped it off at the Preston Two Can Food Pantry. Her parents couldn’t be more proud of her. They have been teaching her to be kind, caring, and respectful.

For her 6th birthday in October, instead of collecting gifts from her friends she collected pet supplies to donate to Friday’s Rescue Foundation in Groton. That was a suggestion from her mother and father, but she was more than willing and excited to do it. The food donation was 100% her idea. And we are sure it isn’t the last kind act she will want to do!

Madysen is a kindergartener at Preston Veterans and is 6.



“ Why Boy Scouts in Preston Ct.?” 75 years of service 1943 - 2018

By Robby Roark, Troop Historian

General Facts: Troop 75 Preston Ct. Established March 31, 1943 sponsored by Saint James' Episcopal Church. Charter signatures indicate: Scoutmaster Benjamin Miller, Asst. Scoutmaster Rev. Clinton R. Jones, Chairman George H. Peck and Clarence Spicer. The troop has recorded Eagle Scouts as far back as 1927 (as Adult members) and Eagle Boy Scouts that begins in the 1960's. The Troop has broken service (around 1959) but in 1963 begins its affiliation with the Preston City Firehouse as its sponsor. In 2018 the Boy Scouts will have served the Preston community for 53 years with, its now, sponsor and 75 years in total.

Today Troop 75 Preston has 63 Eagle Scouts on record. This file only shows Eagle scouts recorded from 1968 – 2018. There may have been others prior to 1968. Troop 75 community service to the Preston community is endless. We can list Eagle Scout Service projects BUT that is only a small part of how this Troop has affected the town of Preston.

Eagle Projects at community Parks: Baseball concession stand, Baseball playscape, Baseball bleachers, Baseball flagpole, Baseball outfield fence, 2 Hiking trails (blue dot), Dog walking trail, playground pavilion shelter, Dower Downs park renovation and swing set, 4 Park benches and a Baseball Field Announcing stand.

Eagle projects for local churches: Three (3) large storage buildings (1 at SJC and 2 at PCCC), sidewalk to front of St. James, community Historic maze at St. James, Two (2) children playscapes, Restoration of utility room, stone wall property separation project between St. James and Father David Cannon home, Prayer Path at Preston City Cong. Church and clean-up and restoration of the First St. James Church cemetery on Spicer Hill in Ledyard.

Eagle projects for local charity organizations: Two (2) complete turkey dinners at local soup kitchen, Three (3) baking projects for former State Hospital, Project jacket's for the Saint Vincent DePaul center, Built an announcing Stand at Sheldon Field in Griswold, Organized American Cancer relay for Life at Montville High School, 8 X 10 storage shed for the Griswold Youth Center and painting exterior of old church in Griswold.

Eagle projects for town of Preston: Litter pick up days, Paper Drive, Clearing and maintained local hiking trails, Fire prevention indicator sign, Hiking shelters in State forest, Hiking Bridge access to state park, Local blood drives, local food bank drives, 9-11 7fund drives to help local families, Work projects to support local youth camps, projects to establish hiking trails for the Connecticut hiking organization, restoration of three (3) local cemeteries, Bone Marrow drive, Construction of Fairs registration building, two Landscape gardens at Preston City firehouse , Organized Food Drive at Poquatanuck Vol. Fire Company, Built a Storage building at the Preston City Library, Made a Scouting Museum at Preston City Firehouse, Built Green House for the Senior Housing Facility and a Fireman's Memorial at the Preston City Firehouse.

Troop 75 has touched the lives of many in our community. The Troop for the last 53 years has had an enrollment of approximately 1,100 Scouts. The Troop has generally had at least 10 registered, and involved, adults (yearly) on record supporting this community youth organization. The Troop has been a “National Boy Scouts of America Quality Service Unit” since 1981 by demonstrating it has adult trained leadership, Boy Scout advancement and posting an activity schedule that keeps up with council guidelines (at least 10 campouts a year and community service). It has been recognized for its excellence in the Mohegan District, Eastern Connecticut and State Region.

Troop 75 presently has 28 registered scouts and 14 adult leaders. They have been on 23 High Adventure trips throughout the United States and have attended 3 National Jamborees as a visiting unit. They have visited or camped in many National Parks, hiked hundreds of miles, canoed many rivers, tied thousands of knots, build thousands of camp fires and enjoyed the scouting adventure as a Preston family Community together. The Troop's adult leadership has taken these young men into the future with pride and will never forget its Firehouse sponsor, local Church's or the Town of Preston's support.

This is WHY Boy Scouts are in Preston Connecticut and special to our community.

Win a \$25 Gift Certificate to Village Pizza!

What is the first thing you do when spring arrives?

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 or mail to:
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