

Preston Pipeline²

VOL 8 ISSUE 2 WINTER 2019

From the Desk of the First Selectman Bob Congdon



As we start the budget process, the Town is in a much better position this year than we were last year. The Town continues to maintain a positive fund balance of 15%. Last year we had a 6% reduction in our Grand List due to revaluation that created a mill rate increase. This year our Grand List had a positive increase of 7.1 million dollars or 1.65%.

However, we are facing huge unknowns at the State level where we have a new governor and a 2 billion dollar state budget deficit. We will not know Governor Lamont's priorities and his support for municipalities until he presents his first budget early in February. He has said that he does not want to increase the local property tax burden which is good news.

The Board of Selectmen is working on a long-range plan for the Town that covers municipal services, po-

lice and fire protection, public works and related efforts. The Board of Selectmen is also reviewing the advantages and disadvantages of continuing as we are with the First Selectman overseeing daily operation or other options such as hiring a Town Manager to oversee daily Town operations while the Board of Selectmen would continue to determine policy and planning. Public input and participation in these efforts will be critical.

In the years to come your town will see many changes. Next year we will have a new First Selectman and we will transfer ownership of the Preston Riverwalk property to the Mohegan Tribe. The development of Preston Riverwalk will create many positive opportunities for the Town. This is a perfect opportunity for younger members of Preston to get involved in shaping the future of our Town for generations to come.

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 Thursdays of each month at 6:30 pm or contact me at (860) 887-5581, or e-mail me at: Congdon@preston-ct.org.

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, 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 year's 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 over \$11,000 to Preston students.

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Preston School District

Roy Seitsinger; Superintendent

A message from: Preston Superintendent Dr. Roy Seitsinger and First Selectman Bob Congdon

Happy New Year! This year's budget season begins a bit calmer than in the recent past, at least from the state perspective. Last year the broader fiscal environment that we found ourselves in made the planning for and the implementation of the delivery of services more difficult for local municipalities. This year there is a different challenge. Although we do not have to deal with hold-backs and other interesting budget disruptions, we do have to wait for the State's new leadership to settle in.



Past State funding uncertainty and reductions or level funded aid presented huge challenges for municipalities to maintain the status quo. As our new Governor takes the reins and a state budget settles into place, we have decided to set our budget process back a month to allow as much lead time as possible for the state to provide their numbers to us. This will improve data accuracy and allow us to frame our budget projections precisely.

In addition to routine budget priorities, the Board of Education has determined that it is important to take a stand against the results of last year's state budget process and the manner in which the state determined and notified communities of their Minimum Budget Requirements (MBR) requirements. We hope to encourage the state to be forward-looking and provide the MBR numbers as early in our local budget process as possible.

It has become clear that municipalities and school districts must work collaboratively. We have already implemented this strategy to the benefit of all. We partner in coordinating services and costs for health insurance, electricity, diesel fuel, heating oil, workers comp, property and liability, accounting software, staff cross-training, snow removal, and effective and efficient planning for our changing weather and climate. Recently, we have coordinated advocacy for school safety zone designations at both of our schools. We have also continued to work on other school safety priorities with the use of appropriate signage that help clarify district policy. For

example, the use of PVMS walking track by the public is closed while school is in session to improve student safety.

As we stated last year, we can no longer rely on the State for funding or operate in separate silos. Motivated by this important realization, we continue to be committed to working together to prioritize the needs of the entire community by holistically

and strategically building a municipal and education budget that will provide the necessary services as efficiently and effectively as possible. As we have noted above, we already set the foundation for this work! For example, continuing using a single Director of Finance for both the General Government and the Board of Education. Tactically buying such things as insurance, fuel and electricity together has also reduced costs and increased efficiencies. Our broader strategy of pursuing the redevelopment of Preston Riverwalk and prudent community planning will provide financial resources that will go a long way to mitigate state funding uncertainty.

While we will not realize the financial benefits from the redevelopment of Preston Riverwalk for several years, we are acting now to put visionary plans in place. We must all work together during these complex and challenging time to ensure Preston continues to be a community for which we are all proud. Preston is a great place to live, to work, and to raise a family. As we go through the budget process, please be involved, share your thoughts, ideas and concerns. We will do our best to incorporate your vision, your voice, your hopes and your dreams into what we believe is the bright future of our community. When the opportunity arises make sure you go to the polling sites and vote. Thank you for all you do to make our great community what it is and what it will be! Have safe and warm winter season.

Dr. Roy Seitsinger (860) 889-6098
seitsingerr@prestonschools.org

Bob Congdon (860) 887-5581
congdon@preston-ct.org



Students in the Unified Club recently took part in "The Pumpkin Project", a clever idea originating with Preston's Conservation and Agricultural Commission (PCAC). Gary Piszczek, against all odds, managed to grow a bumper crop of pumpkins and squash for the students to paint under the direction of Diane Hansen and Nina Gentes. You may have enjoyed seeing the pumpkins displayed at school and at "Trunk or Treat". One of the many of PCAC's missions is to promote agriculture in Preston and there is no better way than to begin with our young people. Keep an eye out for our spring project coming up!



A farewell full of "Love & Laughter" for Nancy Mignault at River Ridge Vineyard celebrating her twenty three years of service as Pastoral Associate and Director of Faith Formation at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Preston.

Preston Redevelopment Agency

By Sean Nugent & Merrill Gerber

In the last article, we talked about the remediation work you are seeing at the site. As mentioned previously, the bulk of the remediation is for the removal of the asphalt/ash-cinder roadways. CT-DEEP (Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection) require us to remove this material before they will sign off that the property is clean. This sign off is required before the property can be transferred to the Mohegan Tribe.

This work will require many months. A few pictures are provided showing some of the remediation work on the site.



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

Eleanor Miller Fine Art Studio



Art concerning nature, spirit and our surrounding environment.

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Sara Vegliante

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sara@sarasrealty.com



State Legislative Update

By State Representative Mike France



The state legislature has begun a new session, and with it, my third term as your representative in Hartford. Thank you for entrusting me with your voice at the Capitol over the past four years and for your support to continue that representation for another two years. I am eager to get to work and bring some necessary changes to help the Town of Preston, as well as the entire state, principally through reducing the burden of state government

on local municipalities.

After discussions with local leaders, constituents and various advocacy groups, I have authored a number of new legislative proposals, as well as re-introduced some that I have proposed during past legislative sessions. These bills would have a positive impact on Preston's schools and town services; I hope you will join me in supporting them through the legislative approval process.

This year I am introducing three bills related to the Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR) and its effect on Board of Education (BoE) budgets. The first would ensure that the holdback of Education Cost Share (ECS) grant funds by Governor Malloy last year are properly accounted for when calculating future MBR eligibility. This would also apply to any future action by the governor or the Legislature that reduces ECS grant funding after the start of a fiscal year.

A second bill would redefine MBR as only the town appropriation and not include ECS grant funding, which will simplify the MBR calculation and eliminate the MBR issue caused by the holdbacks. The final bill would allow an MBR reduction due to reductions in certain special education costs. This will ease some of the financial burdens on the town budget and help our schools invest education funds on local priorities for their students.

Other bills that I am reintroducing this year regarding budget issues are:

- To provide local Boards of Finance greater oversight and control over non-educational expenses in the Board of Education budgets.
- To enhance the oversight and transparency of the Board of Education and its budget through improved annual audits.
- To require the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to reimburse towns for the costs of educating non-resident children.

To better provide the opportunity for our children to have the future of their choice, I have resubmitted a proposal to create a bridge program for public high school students to more easily transition to a technical high school. If a student determines that their future is better supported by the education provided in a technical high school after completing their freshman or sophomore year in a public school, they should be allowed

the opportunity to transfer and follow an education path that better suits them.

Finally, given recent news reports concerning the lack of general civics knowledge of students on college campuses, I have proposed legislation to require that graduating high school students pass the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Naturalization Exam. Several states have already instituted a civics exam graduation requirement. I believe that it is important for high school graduates in Connecticut to demonstrate equivalent knowledge to that of new citizens and ensure they are well-versed on the structure of government in our Republic and the freedoms that are guaranteed.

The following three proposed bills are designed to improve local governance and ensure taxpayer funds are protected.

- Ensure that municipalities are reimbursed for any unemployment benefits paid to an individual if, upon appeal, it is determined that the individual has no claim to such benefits and payments were made in error.
- Require that municipal charters and home rule ordinances are reviewed at least every ten years and to allow the town to make minor and technical revisions without having to complete the lengthy and costly charter revision process.
- Require that individuals elected to Boards of Finance be not only electors, as is presently mandated by law, but also taxpayers of the municipality.

To provide an avenue for patients to ensure they receive proper care, I am proposing to require the Office of the Health Care Advocate and the Department of Public Health to develop a plan to establish Patient Advocates in each hospital in Connecticut. This means that if you are a patient in a Connecticut hospital and you have concerns about your medical care that are not being addressed, there will be someone you can contact to ensure that your wishes are properly carried out and that your insurance benefits are being properly utilized.

The Office of Legislative Research (OLR) releases a report every year detailing the issues that they anticipate will have a major impact on the legislative session ahead. This year, OLR expects that we will address issues related to Connecticut's aging population, school security (including the prevention of sexual assault and harassment), home foreclosure prevention, an increase in the creation of manufacturing jobs, promoting renewable energy, the bear hunting season, reducing plastics pollution, regulating alcohol, consolidating community colleges, Medicaid eligibility, crumbling foundations, recreational marijuana, minimum wage, paid family and medical leave, regulating tobacco and e-cigarettes, transportation funding, expanding gambling and veteran's aid and benefits.

I look forward to a busy and productive session and will continue to report to you at our 'Town Meetings' and through the Preston Pipeline. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these or other issues, please reach out to me at Mike.France@housegop.ct.gov or 1-800-842-1423.

Notes From Avalonia Land Conservancy

Left, Right, Left, Right...

By Bob Chapin

In our last Pipeline article, we talked about the health benefits of getting out in Nature. Well, the reports of these benefits just keep on coming. A wonderful recent article in Mother Nature News summarized the many benefits of walking, with data from many sources:

- Researchers at Harvard finally finished a 15 year-long study which showed that for weight control, it's how long and how far you walk, not how briskly or how fast. Folks who walked more gained less weight, and the more they walked, the less weight they gained.
- A study in the British Journal of Sports Medicine this year looked at the habits of more than 50,000 people, and found that walking at a regular or brisk pace correlated with reduced all-cause mortality, heart disease, or the chances of dying from cancer.
- Another study, this one from the American Cancer Society and their long-term monitoring Cancer Prevention Study II, evaluated more than 140,000 Americans and found that moderate to brisk walking led to reduced rates of breast cancer, colon cancer, heart disease, and diabetes.
- It might seem counter-intuitive, but walking is also good for arthritis. It helps lubricate the joints, strengthens the muscles around them, and helps ease existing joint pain.
- A California State Univ. study was smaller (37 people), but they found that when people were asked to walk different lengths of time and record their mood, the investigators found that walking more correlated with a better mood afterwards.



of Scotland) have started prescribing walks for their patients to counteract depression, reduce blood pressure, and to forestall the infirmities of old age. The key thing for this program is to get out in nature and get away from computer/phone screens or engine noise. This doesn't replace traditional medical practice, of course, but it's being used to set a healthier baseline for their patients. So not

only is there a health effect large enough to be found by the blunt tool of epidemiological studies, but the awareness of these benefits has seeped into current medical practice in a more formal way.

The good news is that we have plenty of opportunities to get out and get moving here in Preston and in nearby towns. From the Avalonia's Preston Nature Preserve on Krug Rd to Bluff Point State Park in Groton to the many miles of trails in Patchaug State Forest in nearby Voluntown, there are SO many ways to get you and the kids outside. And starting this regularly when the kids are young will get them into habits which will benefit them all their lives.

Avalonia is our local land conservancy, led and run by volunteers. We're always looking for folks interested in lending a hand. To learn more about Avalonia and their many accomplishments, you can look up their website (avalonialandconservancy.org), or contact me (bobchapin@99main.com) or Margaret Gibson (gibsonbrokencup@yahoo.com), and we'd love to talk with you.

This brings me to the main point for this issue, which is that general practitioners in Shetland (the county up at the top

Happy trails!!



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PRESTON PARKS & RECREATION

COMMUNITY EVENTS

COMMUNITY YARD SALE

Time to clean out your closets and garage!!

Preston Parks & Recreation is hosting a Community Yard Sale from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm.

OPTIONS!! WE GOT THEM!!!

Host a yard sale at your residence or purchase a spot at Preston Plains Middle School.

If you choose to host the yard sale at your residence, the Town of Preston requires all persons hosting a yard sale to obtain a permit. The cost of the permit is \$2.00. Sign up online and Preston Parks & Recreation staff will do the paperwork for you!

If you choose to purchase a 15 x 15 spot at Preston Plains Middle School, the fee is \$15.00. Minimum of 8 people needed.

Last day to register and be included on the map is April 25th.

Register online at: www.preston-ct.org



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 5, 2019

Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Ages: 3 - 14

Where: Maple Lane Farms (57 Northwest Corner Road)

Preston Residents Fee: FREE with advanced registration!!

Must register by online by April 30th!!

\$5.00 for all on-site registrations for Preston residents.

Non-residents fee: \$5.00 for advanced online registration and \$10 for on-site registrations



PRESTON PALOOZA

Preston Parks & Recreation and Preston Veterans Memorial School PTO are once again co-sponsoring Preston Palooza!! The 6th annual Preston Palooza will be held on Wednesday June 5th, 2019 from 4:30 - 7:30 pm at Preston Veterans Memorial School.

COMPANY SPONSORS NEEDED!! Please contact Preston Parks & Recreation if you are interested in sponsoring this great community event!!

Diamond Sponsor: \$5000 – EVENT SPONSER!!

Platinum Sponsor: \$2000

– Sponsor the meltdown, rock wall or the surprise!!!

Gold Sponsor: \$1000

– Sponsor the gigantic inflatable obstacle course(s), pony rides, petting zoo

Silver Sponsor: \$500

– Sponsor bubble soccer, inflatable super slide, dunk tank, DJ, dart soccer, inflatable obstacle course, photo booth or the walking characters

Bronze Sponsor: \$300 -

– Sponsor inflatable kids bounce house, inflatable toddler bounce house, henna, entertainer

Copper Sponsor: \$150

– co-sponsor a station (popcorn, cotton candy, sno cones, face painting, plinko, etc.)

ADULT PROGRAMS

YOGA

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 20 - April 4, 2019
(no class on March 13)

Session #5 ~ Wednesdays: April 17 - May 22, 2019

Time: 5:15 – 6:15 pm

Location: Preston Public Library Meeting Room

Ages: 16+

Fee: \$60 per session (6 weeks)

CORE DE FORCE

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.

Instructor: Cindy Stolaronek

Session #4 ~ Mondays: March 4 - April 8, 2019

Session #5 ~ Mondays: April 22 - June 6, 2019

(no class on May 27)

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

CARDIO CONDITIONING

Cardio conditioning is a series of explosive, dynamic drills to get you in the best shape of your life! Bring an exercise mat.

Instructor: Cindy Stolaronek

Session #4 ~ Wednesdays: February 27 - April 3, 2019

Session #5 ~ Wednesdays: April 24 - May 29, 2019

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

Core De Force & Cardio Conditioning CLASS SPECIAL!

Sign up for both classes in a session and pay only \$65!!

Register online www.preston-ct.org

CRUSH IT AT KARAOKE

Looking for more ways to express yourself musically? Or maybe you're just now thinking of learning to sing...either way this is the ultimate karaoke experience. We'll focus on finding your best voice, how to choose a song, presentation and much more. All in a casual, supportive atmosphere. No experience or natural ability required. Just bring a desire to build confidence, and your sense of fun! Plus the title of a song you'd like to focus on. Class will include at least two field trips to local karaoke spots. Class will be held at 14 Route 117 (building across the street from the park entrance)



Dates: Mondays: March 4 - April 8, 2019

Time: 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Ages: 16+

Fee: \$69 per person for 6 week session

PRESTON PARKS & RECREATION

389 Route 2 ~ Preston, CT 06365 ~ 860-887-5581 X113 ~ www.preston-ct.org ~ Email: recreation@preston-ct.org

ADULT SPORTS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Join your Preston neighbors & friends for pick up basketball games

Dates: Thursdays: October 4, 2018 – May 30, 2019

(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: 03/07/19, 04/18/19, 05/09/19 or 05/23/19)

Time: 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Location: Preston Plains Middle School Gym

Ages: 18+

Fee: \$30 per person for the year



CO-ED VOLLEYBALL

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

Dates: Tuesdays: October 2, 2018 – May 28, 2019

(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: 02/19/19, 03/26/19, or 04/16/19)

Time: 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Location: Preston Plains Middle School Gym

Ages: 16+

Fee: \$30 per person for the year



SAVE \$10.00 per person for Men's Basketball or Co-Ed Volleyball when you register online!! www.preston-ct.org

SENIOR PROGRAMS

TAI CHI AND QIGONG BASICS

Come experience how gentle movement and an understanding of Chi (energy in the body) can lead to better balance, better health and an increased sense of well being. We will learn the things that are similar and the things that are different between TaiChi and Qigong. We will experience Qigong by practicing slow movements that engage the whole body. We will learn some basic stances and movements that are common in most forms of TaiChi. Come enjoy an introduction that will offer you new skills and introduce you to a new way of thinking of movement.

Dates: Wednesdays: February 13 - March 13, 2019
(no class on February 18)

Time: 5:00 - 6:00 pm

Location: Preston Public Library Meeting Room

Ages: 50+

Fee: \$25.00 (5 week session)

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 11 - April 15, 2019

Session #5 ~ Mondays: April 29 - June 10, 2019
(no class ~ May 27)

Time: 9:30 am – 10:30 am

Location: Preston Public Library Meeting Room

Ages: 60+

Fee: \$36 per session (6 week session)



COMING SOON...SENIOR SWIM!!

Call the Parks & Recreation office for more info!!

SENIOR BUS TRIPS

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

Experience the spectacular production of The Phantom Of The Opera – one of the most talked about Theatre events of the year! This life-changing show comes to Providence Performing Arts Center on Wednesday March 27th 2019, bringing the critically acclaimed story to the stage and creating a world like no other! Escape from the routine of your usual Wednesday and find yourself totally immersed. A hit from day one, there's a reason The Phantom Of The Opera has been the Theatre show on everyone's lips – you've never seen anything quite like this! Make sure you catch The Phantom of The Opera while it's in Providence – tickets will sell out quickly and you won't want to miss this unforgettable show! School bus will depart and return to Preston Veterans Memorial School.

Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2019

Time: 5:10 pm – 10:55 pm

Ages: 50+

Fee: \$50.00 per person

Registration deadline: March 1st or until ticket sell out



DINNER IN A COUNTRY VILLAGE

Join us as we travel to Sturbridge Village to enjoy a unique opportunity to prepare and eat a meal as early New Englanders did. Participants gather in the Parsonage, where costumed interpreters oversee the preparations, but the guests do the roasting, baking, and mulling. Roast meat using a tin reflector oven, fire a brick bake oven, and mull spiced cider over the hearth before sitting down to enjoy the delicious results, all by candlelight. This is a hands on participatory event. You will be leaning, bending, and doing the cooking. School bus will depart and return to Preston Veterans Memorial School



MENU (Subject to change): Pounded Cheese on Common Crackers, Mulled Cider, Gourd Soup, Hot Slaw, Roasted Carrots, Potatoes Escalloped, Roasted Stuffed Chicken, Cranberry Sauce, Scots Collops, Pear Pie with Custard, Buttered Biscuits, Trifle, Tea

Evening limited to 14 participants. Register early.

Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2019

Time: 1:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Ages: 50+

Fee: \$75.00 per person

Registration deadline: March 1st

ELTON JOHN TRIBUTE

Join us as we travel by coach bus to see the Elton John Tribute at the Log Cabin, Holyoke, MA. Enjoy the beautiful view overlooking Mt Tom at the elegant Log Cabin Banquet Facility. Greg Ransom has performed his Elton John Tribute all over the world. Package Includes: TWO fresh steamed LOBSTERS or PRIME RIB at the FAMOUS LOG CABIN, Baked Potato & Corn, Dessert, Coffee or Tea. Matinee show "Elton John Tribute". Meal, taxes and gratuities. Coach bus will depart and return to Preston Veterans Memorial School.

Date: Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Time: 9:15 AM – 5:00 PM

Ages: 50+

Fee: \$87.00 per person

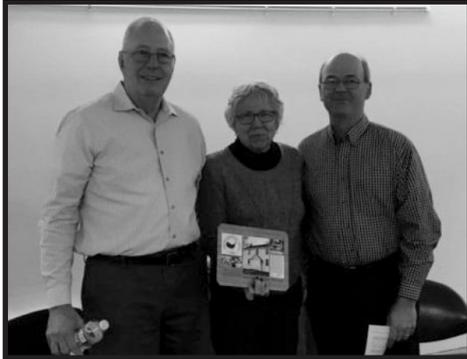
Registration deadline: July 1st



Preston Historical Society

Preserving The Past for Future Generations

With Gratitude and Thanks



At the December Meeting, 1st Selectman Robert Congdon and Selectman Lynwood Carey joined us to honor Linda Christensen and Donna Bowles. A plaque was presented to Linda; unfortunately, Donna was unable to be there. Linda Christensen and Donna Bowles have dedicated over 2 decades of service to the Preston Historical Society. Serving as President, Vice President, Secretary and Director. During their tenure; PHS purchased, obtained funding for and began restoration of the Long Society Meeting House. As well, they wrote quarterly articles for the Preston Pipeline, were part of many, many fundraisers including the Silent Auction, Community Yard Sale, Music Festival, and Antique Appraisal. They assisted with many programs including Walking Weekend, History tours with the school children, 325th Anniversary of Preston, cemetery clean-ups and genealogy. Donna and Linda have resigned as president and vice president of the PHS. Thankfully they will remain as active members. PHS is truly thankful for all their hard work, time, sacrifice and dedication.

Executive Board- In October the PHS elected our executive board. The new slate of officers are; President-Bridget Park; Secretary-Jan Clancy; Treasurer-Mark Christensen, Directors-Sandra Bouffard, Mary Ann Melgey and Mike Clancy. Thank you to the members for stepping forward to fill these positions

Next Meeting-April 4th at 6:30pm

at Old Library

Address-389 Rt. 2, Preston, CT 06365

Email- prestoncthistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Website- www.preston-ct.org

Facebook- facebook.com/prestonhistoricalsocietyct

On the Edge of History

Long Society Meeting House-Where are we in the renovation project? With warmer weather just around the corner, we look forward to fulfilling the front step addition and a new flag pole with lights. Work will be done to replace deteriorated beams which support the floors. Thank you to all who have supported this big undertaking. We look forward to hosting events at LSMH in the near future. LSMH Chairman-Mark Christensen, Flag Pole Chariman-Mike Clancy

Cultivating Cemeteries- Did you know our town has over 30 cemeteries? Many of which will be lost to time and nature, losing the valuable information they hold. In order to facilitate their care, we are working on an updated map with GPS coordinates and a searchable list of the cemeteries. In the spring, we will have work parties to clean up the cemeteries. If you have a cemetery on your property, please let us know its current state and if visitors are welcome.

Chairman-Bridget Park-prestoncthistoricalsociety@gmail.com, 860-710-1316

Stepping Forward- I would like to Thank the members of the PHS for placing their trust in me to help lead the PHS. The history of our town is long and full of wonderful people and stories. With your help we will continue to record each of our histories for a long time to come. I look forward to sharing this journey with many of you.

Humbly, Bridget Park, President



Digitizing Archives?

What does it mean to Digitize Archives?

The historical documents and photographs which the PHS have are being scanned and the data entered into searchable fields. The scanned images will be organized so anyone can search through the images. We'd love to have you join us! Help us save these documents and create a searchable database. Chairman-Linda Christensen, Call or email at 860-887-5828, LindaCh5@comcast.net

Elections, Political Parties and Candidates

Nick Vegliante, Chairman of the Democratic Town Committee, and **Norman Gauthier**, Chairman of the Republican Town Committee, discuss the role of town political committees.

Decisions made by our town's government have a lasting impact on you and your family. Preston offers many opportunities for those who want their voices to be heard when those decisions are being made. Rather than read in the papers about what happened in town, you can be one of those who makes the decisions which affect your day-to-day lives. If you are interested in what happens in our town and want to help direct its future, now is the perfect time to get involved.

In November of this year, as in each odd-numbered year, Preston voters will elect leaders for our town government. You will be asked to select a First Selectman, two other Selectmen, a Town Clerk & Tax Collector, Town Treasurer, and members for the Board of Finance, Board of Education, Planning & Zoning Commission, Board of Assessment Appeals, and Zoning Board of Appeals. These are the town officials who represent you and make decisions on your behalf. Their decisions have a direct impact on the quality of life here in Preston; sometimes more impact than actions by state or federal officials. You have the opportunity to run for any of these offices or be one of those who selects the candidates for such offices.

The primary mission of the Republican and Democratic town committees is to seek out, designate, and help elect qualified candidates for public office.

During the next few weeks, the town's political committees will begin the task of identifying which offices will be up for election in November and then finding the best people available to be candidates for those positions. The first criterion for any candidate is a willingness to serve, and the second is having competence for the selected position.

The Democratic and Republican town committees need and deserve the support of every Preston voter. First, become a member of the party that best represents your views on how town government should function. It's easy; you can do it on-line at voterregistration.ct.gov or

visit the Town Clerk or Registrar of Voters and tell them that you wish to enroll in a party. They will help you do it and in a few minutes you will be eligible to vote in your party's caucus. If you aren't sure which party you would like to join, attend a Democratic or Republican town committee meeting, or both. Generally, the Republican Town Committee meets every third Monday in the lower level of Town Hall and the Democratic Town Committee meets the fourth Monday of every month in the same location. Come by, ask questions and meet the members – you may be surprised at the diversity of opinions represented at each committee. Both political parties encourage voter participation and support a broad range of membership.

Second, become a member of your party's town committee. Becoming a town committee member is an easy way to get involved in state, regional and local politics. Doing so gives you influence over who ultimately gets selected to make decisions for you.

Third, offer to serve on a town board or commission. Let your town committee know that you are willing to devote some time for service to your neighbors. Most boards or commissions meet only once a month. Between elections, openings for appointment to these positions can pop up unexpectedly and town committees need a list of people ready to step in and help. Whether appointed or elected, by serving on a board or commission you will be able to share your ideas for improving town government. In the news we often read about the actions and decisions of Town boards and commissions. You can be part of that decision making process by taking part in town government and you will help make Preston a better place to live.

Most importantly, keep yourself informed and vote every chance you get. Do your part to influence the future of the Town. The decisions you make today in choosing town leaders, approving referenda, or voting at town meetings will determine what kind of town we leave for our children and future generations.

For more information about your political party's town committee contact:

Democrat Nicholas Vegliante, npvdtc@gmail.com or Republican Norman Gauthier, N.Gauthier@usa.net

Preston Public Library

389 Route 2 (Across from Town Hall) Preston, CT 06365 • Phone 860.886.1010

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

SERVICES:

Best Sellers/ Fiction & Non-fiction
Books for all ages
Audio books-cassette/MP3/CD/Playaways
Videos & DVD Interlibrary loan Magazines
Audiobooks and E-books from RBdigital, also
E-books available from SimplyE
(There's an App for that!)
Online Catalog
Reading groups
Passes to area attractions
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. Thursdays 10 a.m.-11 a.m. Lap Baby and Toddler group for birth to 2 years old.

Holiday Hours & Closures:

Holiday Hours & Closures:

Saturday, Feb 16th through Monday, Feb 18th – Closed
Friday, Apr 19th through Sunday, April 21st – Closed
Saturday, May 25th through Monday, May 27th – Closed

For the safety of our staff and patrons, the library follows the inclement weather policy of the Preston Schools. All cancellations are announced on WFSB channel 3. Thank you for your understanding.

DID YOU KNOW...

that The Preston Public Library accepts Food for Fines?

Helping to restock the Food Pantry located at Preston City Congregational Church allows you to help the hungry while clearing yourself of late fees. Bring nonperishable, unexpired food items to the library and, in exchange, you will pay off your fines!

For every food item you bring in, \$1 worth of fines will be forgiven. Please note - food donations cannot be used for lost or damaged material fees. You may make multiple donations; you may also make donations even if you don't have any fines!

• And that overdue fines stop accruing at \$5.00 per item? And if you have lost an item, you can purchase an equivalent item (hardback book if it was hardback or paperback if the book was in paperback format) or the library can order a replacement for you to pay for? When lost items are replaced, the fines are forgiven! Come in and talk with us! We can work something out, so you can use your library privileges again!

Come in and Check-Out our Seed Library!

The 2019 Seeds have started to arrive.

We've got seeds for cool weather vegetables!

Think spring!!!

Income Tax Forms!

We have Federal and State 1040 booklets and forms. 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 15th- don't be late!

The Board of Trustees is currently accepting applications for 2(two) vacancies. Please use Board email for further information.

Library Board of Trustees: Katherine Allingham, Patricia Bell, Kelly Ennis-Davis, Ann Legler, Mary Jo Nugent
Email: prestonlibraryboard@gmail.com

The Friends of The Preston Public Library

Book Lovers! The Friends of the Preston Library would like to welcome all interested readers to join our Book Club. We meet at 1 pm on the third Wednesday of the month in the Library Community Room. **Our next book discussion will be Feb. 20 and we'll be discussing Tess Gerritsen's Playing with Fire.** Our March book will be Pearl Buck's The Good Earth on March 20. Books are available at the library.

The next meeting of the Friends of the Preston Library is scheduled for Monday, March 25 at 3:30 pm in the Library Community Room. New members are always welcome.

Ribbon Bow-making Class

Michael's
Where Creativity Happens®

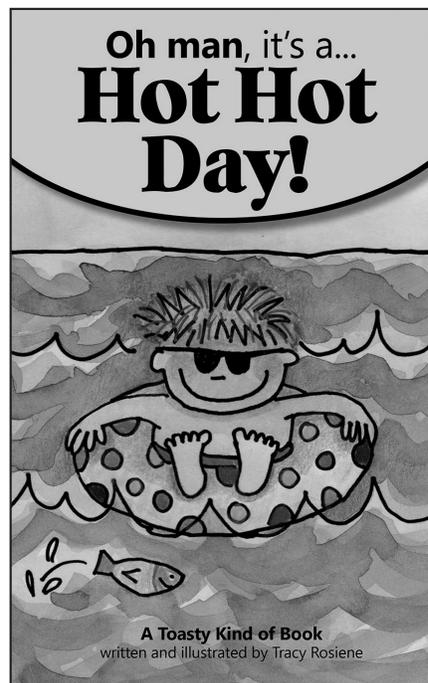
Join the Friends as they welcome an expert from Michaels Craft Waterford Store to improve your bow-making skills. Adding a bow to your gift-giving just got easier! Making a beautiful bow is a very useful skill for almost any occasion. **Tuesday, March 26 at 6:00 pm in the Preston Public Library Community Room. Ribbon and materials provided. Limited Seating please call the library at 860-886-1010 to register.**

Fisher Cats in Connecticut



Come hear all about our Fisher Cat population sponsored by the Friends of the Preston Public Library. Mr. Paul Colburn, with CT DEEP, will focus on the history of the fisher in Connecticut, give an overview of the fisher habitat, diet, behavior and reproduction. He will also provide practical recommendations for optimum coexistence with our fisher population. Fisher artifacts will be shared with the audience. **This free program will take place at the Poquetanuck Firehouse, 87 Route 2A, Preston, on Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at 6 pm.**

Now out on Amazon! In the middle of winter... it will get you thinking about summer with your little ones!



Sweet Little Story Books

©2018 Tracy Rosiene
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Also on Amazon are all of my other books. They all feature a variety of children with easily remembered verse. Search: Rosiene

Did you know that Norwich Regional Adult Education offers FREE classes for Preston residents age 17 & older?

Whether it's obtaining a high school diploma, learning English as a Second Language, or Citizenship Preparation, NRAE has a multitude of programs available to help you take the next step to your future.

There are 4 different programs available for the pursuit of a high school diploma: The first program is called the Adult High School Credit Diploma Program, and allows adults to gain credits towards finishing their high school diploma by attending day or evening classes.

Just want a GED®? NRAE offers GED® Test Preparation, and Pre-GED®/ABE/Academic Prep classes. Lastly, the National External Diploma Program is recommended for adults who are highly motivated & self-directed, have occupational skills, and have acquired life skill experience. Please call 860.823.4299 for more info.

In addition to academics, keep an eye out in the coming weeks for NRAE's upcoming enrichment classes beginning in March. These 5-week classes

will include Culinary, Cake Decorating, Wineglass Painting, Flower arranging, Computer, Personal Finance, Self-defense, Spanish, Career development, among many others.

It's a great way to get a group of friends together to learn a new craft or skill. Registration notices will be posted in the coming weeks. Be sure to sign up quickly.

By Sam Chinigo
Marketing & Communications Manager
Norwich Regional Adult Education

Preston City Congregational Church

Reverend Stanley E. White, Minister



Join Us This Sunday!

9 & 10:30 A.M. worship
8:45 A.M. Sunday School
for ages 3 – high school
Call to register your child.
It's a great program!

**Did you know you can watch
our Sunday service on
the web at 9 am?**

Go to:
prestoncitycongregational.org
and click on the webstream icon.
However, for optimum viewing,
join us in person!

**Ash Wednesday
worship service
with communion,
March 6th at 7 pm.**

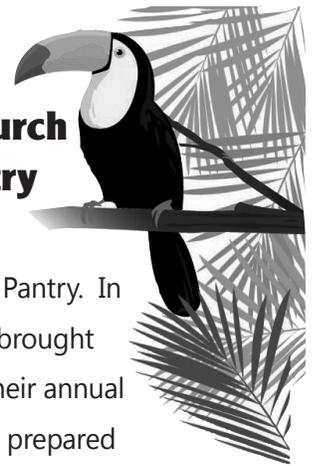
**SAVE THE DATE...
Meatloaf Supper
April 27th**

**Where
Friends
Become
Family**

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

321 Route 164 • Preston, CT
860.887.4647 or 860.886.7200

News From The Preston City Congregational Church Two Can Food Pantry



The past three months were very busy at the PCCC Food Pantry. In November, the Boy Scouts brought hundreds of food items in their annual collection around town. We prepared bags for Thanksgiving and Christmas distribution, giving over 100 families turkeys (with the "fixins") for Thanksgiving, and either hams or turkeys for their Christmas dinners.

We are so grateful for the many donations of funds and food items from our generous townspeople.

Our community's churches, St Catherine's, St James, and Preston City Congregational, all collect donations for the pantry. You can also find donation boxes at the town hall, the library, and the Jewett City Savings Bank. So many area families thank you for your continued support.

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PrestonCityFire.com to apply
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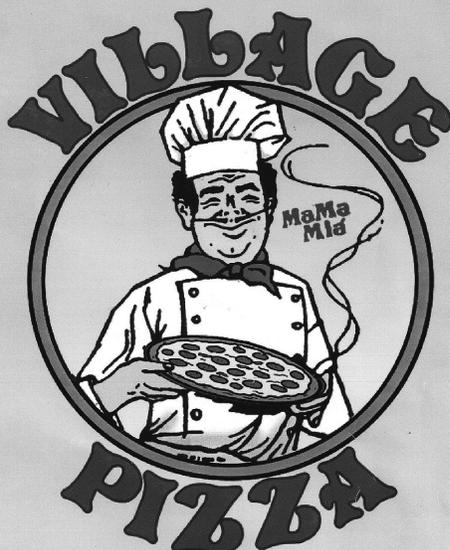
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It's Soooo Good!

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Preston CT (860) 887-1930

Win a \$25 Gift Certificate to Village Pizza!

How do you get ready for Spring?

Email your answer to: tracylyndesigns@comcast.net
or mail to:
Tracy Lyn Designs, 211 Rte. 164 Preston, CT 06365

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

Warehouse Priced Wine, Beer and Liquors

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

DARK 'N' STORMY
2 oz dark rum
4 oz ginger beer
.5 oz lime juice
Lime wedge

In a Collins glass filled with ice, add rum and lime juice. Top with ginger beer. Stir and garnish with a lime wedge.

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Open 7 Days • We're LOCAL!

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COUPON

Bulk Seasoned Firewood \$49/yard

We Deliver!

Nut Coal

50lbs
\$6.99 each
\$329/ton

Feather Friend Favorite Bird Seed
20lb
\$7.99

Coupon. Exp. 2/24/19

COUPON

COUPON

COUPON

Free 11oz suet cake with any \$30+ purchase from our wild bird department (a \$1.25 value). One per household. Coupon. Exp. 2/24/19



Free treat or toy with any \$30+ purchase from our pet department (up to a \$4.99 value). One per household. Coupon. Exp. 2/24/19

Black Oil Sunflower
50lbs
\$19.99 each



Propane
20lb Refill
\$9.99
New 20lb Tank with fill
\$42.99



Coupon. Exp. 2/24/19

When winter hits, Fleming's Feed has what you need - ice melts, rock salt, sand, shovels, gloves, and more!

Attention!

Please be sure to sign up for our brand new **Fleming's Loyalty Program** to earn rewards every time you shop! See store for details.