

Preston Pipeline²

VOL 9 ISSUE 3 SPRING 2020

A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU WHO ARE WORKING DURING THIS PANDEMIC!

From the Desk of the First Selectwoman

by First Selectwoman Sandra Allyn Gauthier

Since the last edition of our Preston Pipeline, our world has dramatically changed because of the Coronavirus. Our current state is one of uncertainty in many ways and I can't think of one aspect of our lives that hasn't been impacted by this virus and pandemic. However, we are resilient and strong. We will find ways to stay connected even though for now we need to do this differently in order to minimize the spread and reduce our risk of exposure for the protection of all.

The BOS has been discussing that when we first started our budget workshops we were in a different place. I had hoped this year's budget would be one that focused on strategic planning, analysis and building for the future- as I believe under normal circumstances our budget is a reflection of our values, our hopes and what we want to accomplish. At the start of this year's budget cycle, each department manager was asked to examine their actual costs, look for cost efficiencies, "wants versus needs" as well as forecasting needs out over the next several years. This was a prudent process and each person submitted what they felt was necessary and reasonable at that time.

Now, the world is different and we have been confronted with difficult decisions especially with such financial uncertainty. This comes with the realization that some of the decisions made will make it so we can't accomplish what we had hoped we would. We also don't want to be too short term oriented as this will impact our longer term goals and strategic thinking- adjustments can still be made along the way as is deemed necessary. With all of these things in mind while trying to balance the needs of all - taxpayers, services and programs provided to residents, employees and the ability to at least maintain most operations and services - adjustments were made by looking at actuals which are not necessarily indicative of the future as well as what could be decreased and put on hold.



As I write this, we are in the process of finalizing the budget numbers to be submitted to the BOF. Although our budget adoption process will most likely be different this year because of the Coronavirus and Executive Orders, the appropriate Boards will continue to keep you updated on those changes as well as how public comment and participation can still happen.

Lastly, I would like to inform you of the Tax Deferral program that was adopted by the Town of Preston under Executive Order 7S. During the period of March 10, 2020, the date that the Governor declared the public health and civil preparedness emergency, through and including

July 1, 2020, municipalities participating in the Deferment Program shall offer to eligible taxpayers, businesses, non-profits, and residents a deferment by ninety (90) days of any taxes on real property, personal property or motor vehicles, or municipal water, sewer and electric rates, charges or assessments for such tax, rate, charge, or assessment from that time that it became due and payable.

Also, the BOS approved to extend eligibility for the deferment program to all categories of taxpayers without a certification or application required. If you have any questions on the Tax Deferral Program, please call Jill Keith or the Tax Collector Office at 860-887-5581 ext. 111.

Please stay safe. I am certainly hoping that our next Preston Pipeline edition is published during better, healthier, more normal times.

As always, feel free to share your ideas, suggestions and concerns by calling me at 860-887-5581 ext. 105.

I look forward to hearing from you!

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Preston School District

Roy Seitsinger; Superintendent

Where to begin! During the unprecedented national and international emergency generated in response to COVID-19 schools across the state, the country, and the world shut down. We receive a myriad of communications every day about our state-wide response to the virus. The uncertainty of our times and the challenges of trying to respond in the moment as well as plan ahead are daunting. Preston Public Schools has stepped up and leaned into the transformational effort and has achieved 100% connectivity to families and an average of a 95% participation rate on our virtual platform. There is more to do on many fronts, but these statistics indicate a strong start. Needless to say, COVID-19's impact on schools and our learning community has been disruptive, challenging, eye-opening, and transformational. Things will likely not return to the way they were and establishing our community-wide "new normal" will have its own trials for years to come.

APPRECIATION! We began our distance-learning efforts by noting that, **We are not unemployed: We are redeployed.** We thank all the parents and caregivers who have become co-teachers and partners in our transition to virtual instruction by working closely with teachers, para-educators, and administrators. Your in-home efforts are deeply appreciated. We thank our teachers, para-educators, and administrators for transforming instruction. We thank all of the meals distribution team who hand out up to 350 meals a day to families in need. To date, we have shared well over 6,000 meals. We thank our buildings and grounds team, our transportation department for cleaning, disinfecting, delivering, and generally keeping the district at the ready. We appreciate the community of Preston for standing by our entire organization.

And most importantly, we thank our students who are redesigning school on the fly and are being flexible and patient with the adults as we navigate this new world. We especially acknowledge our youngest students who may not know school well and who may never know school as adults once did. Their new normal may just become their only normal.

BUDGET: Below, you will find a summation of our district efforts to construct an operational budget for the FY 21 school year. It begins with an innovative practice (Modified Zero-Based Budgeting) and ends with recommendations for the future and tucked in between are the fantastic efforts of our staff and learning community to respond to COVID-19 and care for our young learners.

The Board of Education's Finance Committee completed a rigorous modified Zero-Based Budgeting (ZBB) review process in late February. This process included building the budget from the ground up, starting with affirming the number and needs of our students. The Finance Committee took certain acceptable risks, and reductions were made in specific areas. The Committee also noted the four drivers of the budget, which are tuitions, healthcare, contract obligations, and to a lesser extent, administration.

After the Finance Committee completed its work, it submitted the recommended budget to the Board of Education (BoE). The BoE had approximately a month to review the budget. During that period, schools were closed, and the BoE had to implement a virtual meeting strategy. After review during the preceding month and the virtual meeting held on April 9, 2020, the Board of Education voted unanimously to move the FY 21 budget forward to the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectman simultaneously with an **increase of 4.8%** over



the FY 20 budget. This action was predicated upon Executive Order 7R direction of Governor Lamont, where in part, he identified the Board of Selectman as the arbiter for establishing the FY 21 budget without an in-person voting process. Tuition costs drive the FY 21 Board of Education budget along with healthcare increases, and various contracted agreements with no new positions or programs.

To this point, the school district remains in full compliance with state directives and has received clearance from our auditors on a yearly basis. The district has complied with all state requirements, including those of the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) and the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE). As part of the FY 21 budget implementation, the town and district will be working on implementing a new town, and district financial software called **Infinite Visions**. It is a tremendous amount of work for both the town and the district, but working as a team, we are accomplishing this vital task.

WHAT IS NEXT: State of Connecticut Commissioner of Education Cardona noted in a recent phone communication that *there are no surpluses in education*. **Equity, Access, Health, and Wellbeing** assurances are in greater need now than ever before, and a reduction in staff or programming charged with assuring these tasks would not comport with other recovery strategies such as bailouts of small business and corporations. Sometimes it is forgotten that schools provide stability, safety, mental health care, food, and shelter, as well as academics. **Schools are not part of the problem; they are part of the solution. We are part of the solution!**

The district is not adding any new staff or programming next year. This means that if there are any substantial reductions to the request made by the Board of Education, they will affect current staffing and programming. **We propose that it would be ill-considered to reduce staffing for the coming year for reasons of equity, child safety, staff safety, and access to quality instruction.** The needed response to the COVID-19 impact must include school at full operation, not only in response to the academic needs of our students but also in consideration of their physical health and social-emotional needs. As one of the largest employers in the town, keeping everyone fully employed is also a benefit to our economy and our community. The district will be at the forefront of our community recovery. Traditional responses to these unprecedented economic challenges will not suffice, and staffing must be made available for a safe and coordinated reopening.

There is support from the federal and state government in the offering. The federal **CARES Act** and from the more traditional response lines via FEMA will provide funding in various areas that, although it has not arrived yet, indicates some relief and support.

We trust the leadership of this community, who continue to serve the town so well, to make the best decisions available. We thank them for their hard work and determination to do what is the most sound, safe, timely, and fiscally prudent but, at the same time not delimiting to our care and service to our children. **We will get through this together. There will be brighter days!**

We are proud to be a vibrant part of the Preston community; if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Central Office for additional information. Thank you for all of your continued support and invested partnership in our future.

The Friends of The Preston Public Library

Amid this COVID-19 global pandemic, The Friends of the Preston Public Library hope you, your family and friends are healthy, sheltered in place during these absolutely unprecedented, wild, chaotic, and terrifying times.

Once we can begin to feel the usual “freedom” we all know and love, we have a couple of Friends’ programs that will be rescheduled due to the pandemic (eg. “Spring Stars: Tips and Tricks for Observing the Night Sky” at Mystic Seaport Treworgy Planetarium in Mystic, and “Fashion in Fiction: A delightful show-and-tell on the clothing of Regency England as reflected in Jane Austin’s fiction”), so please keep your eyes and ears open to learn of the new dates in the coming weeks. Also, we’d like to give you a list of “Ten Ways To Stay Positive During the Coronavirus Pandemic”. When we can all connect again, we sure look forward to seeing your smiling face at the Library soon.

Ten Ways To Stay Positive During the Coronavirus Pandemic:

- 1. Limit your intake.** You could watch 24-hour news channels, listen to dire warnings on the radio, or visit countless websites and be bombarded with the angst of the moment. Instead, choose a single news source and decide how much limited time you’ll spend with it each day. Then stick to your plan.
- 2. Look to the past.** Get hope from your past resilience. You have likely endured other unforeseen major life disrupters like 9/11, major hurricanes, or the financial meltdown of 2008. You made it through! And you are stronger because of it. Know that you will get through this. Remind yourself of your strength on a regular basis.
- 3. Watch a good Movie or Video.** Thanks to the huge popularity of YouTube, there are thousands of videos that can help you take your mind off current events, if only for a short interval of time. Watch a Movie Masterpiece like an old Alfred Hitchcock film, or find a comedy to view whenever things feel gloomy.
- 4. Look after your neighbors.** You may be at low risk of severe consequences from the virus, but it may not be the same for your neighbors whose immune systems are compromised. The act of checking in on them (keeping six feet apart and wearing your face mask, of course) will not only make them feel good, it will make you feel good and remind you that there are others for whom this predicament is even more stressful.
- 5. Support your favorite local business.** Maybe you’re heeding the social distancing advice and aren’t eager to sit in a crowded restaurant right now. And others feel the same way. Those empty seats aren’t helping that restaurant owner to pay her staff or keep the restaurant in business. Buy a gift card to help the business owner now, and prepay for a wonderful meal you can have to celebrate when this pandemic is behind us.
- 6. Send cards and gifts in the mail.** It may not be wise to drop in on your loved ones with some fresh-baked goodies, so send them a card or gift in the mail. Unexpected treats can be a huge pick-me-up in times of stress. This is especially valuable to the elderly who are living in nursing homes. Many facilities have closed their doors to all visitors, making residents feel even more isolated and vulnerable.
- 7. Take advantage of found time.** Use this quality time with your family. It allows us to form that deeper connection that is so important in a time like this. Exercise as much as you can, and don’t forget to take a walk around the neighborhood.
- 8. Share positive news and practice random acts of kindness.** Leave an envelope with a little note or gift for the Amazon or grocery store delivery person who drops of your supplies outside your door. Your kindness doesn’t require a monetary outlay. Comment on a friend or family member’s Facebook post. Send a snail-mail note of appreciation to a friend or family member. Break out in song with your neighbors to honor our dedicated healthcare workers. Thank the custodians in your building or workplace for their efforts to keep things safe. Think of those who could benefit from your thoughtfulness and generosity, then act.
- 9. Find everything you can to laugh about.** Humor is the cure for everything. It may even help you get through the Coronavirus.
- 10. Take a daily inventory.** Close your day, every day, with a positive acknowledgement of something you accomplished, learned or are grateful for. It will help dilute some of the negativity you’ve absorbed and remind you that not everything that’s happening right now is bad or depressing.

Preston Redevelopment Agency (PRA)

Sean Nugent & Merrill Gerber

As the citizens of Preston are aware, the remediation clean up we've described in previous articles is currently on hold. Working with our contractors, we have determined that additional funds are needed to complete the clean-up to a residential standard requested by the Tribe. The major contaminant requiring remediation is spent ash/cinder materials from the former coal power plants that are now under roads, sidewalks, parking lots, grassy areas adjacent to the roads, and utility trenches.

Since last fall, we held a number of meetings and discussions with the State and the Tribe to secure the additional funding needed to complete the clean up of the property. The CT General Assembly approved a new bond package in mid-March of this year that included our request for \$7 million to finish the clean up at the site. The final clean up is estimated at \$9 million which includes a previously approved forgivable \$2 million

loan the Town secured from the State previously. Governor Lamont signed the bond package on March 13th. We now await approval of the \$7 million at a future Bond Commission Meeting. No date has been set for this yet. Until then, we remain quiet at the site.

With the return of warmer weather we have seen an increase of illegal activities (trespassing, motor bikes, etc.) at the site. We are working with the Town and our Troopers to address this. Should you observe these activities we ask that you call the State Troopers office immediately.

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.

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Notes from Avalonia: Birds in Spring

By Bob Chapin

First, to help keep us from going absolutely crazy during the pandemic, let me remind you that all Avalonia properties remain open. We simply request that you continue to observe the social distancing and good hygiene practices you use elsewhere, and please protect all the wild animals living on these preserves by keeping any pets on a leash. We have the Preston Nature Preserve here in town, or you can go to Avalonia.org and look under "Our Preserves" to get maps of all our preserves and their trails. All of this is free, but we would ask you to consider a donation, or join the organization as a way of showing support. Joining is easily done online at Avalonia.org. Thanks for your support, and stay safe!!

OK, with that out of the way, let's pick up where we left off, shall we?

The resident Canada Goose flocks have had a relatively easy time of it this year, with as little snow as we had, so their foraging was comparatively easy. From February through April they were busy establishing mating pairs (which last for the life of the couple) and finding and establishing territories for their nests: shallow depressions surrounded by as much grass and detritus as the female can gather from her place on the nest. 4-5 eggs are laid in April or May, and the female warms them for 28 days until they hatch. The chicks take a day to "find their feet", and then they are self-sustaining, feeding and pretty much taking care of themselves, though they stay with the family unit for protection (and probably training) until next winter.

Our woodland and winter feeder birds are also having a busy spring. The Chickadees court and build nests and establish and defend their nesting territories in May and June. A high, clear "Fee-bee" song in late winter is the sign that the male has started the territorial process. Chickadees are cavity nesters, scooping holes out of rotted wood 4-15 feet off the ground. They will also readily accept human-provided bird boxes. Eggs are laid, one a day, for 5-6 days, and the female incubates them for about 12 days, with the male bringing her food and feeding her. The babies are in the nest, being fed by both parents, for 15-16 days until they can fly on their own. Once fledged, they follow the parents around for a couple of weeks, asking for more food, until the parents slowly reduce the amount they feed the young, who then disperse to forage on their own.

The Tufted Titmouse follows a similar schedule. Late Winter and Spring bring an increase in singing from the males, which indicates the start of the season of courtship and de-



fining and defending territories. Once paired, the male and the female forage close together, keeping in touch by calling softly to each other. To strengthen their pair-bond, the birds will often feed each other, an activity that continues during nest-building and egg incubation. Titmice nest in existing tree cavities, with the female doing most of the material collection and nest-building. 4-8 eggs are laid, one per day. With the last egg comes incubation, done mostly by the female, and for about 2 weeks. Then young are

in the nest for 17-18 days, being fed by both parents. Indeed, the job of the male during this whole nesting-incubation-nestling phase is to diligently find food for himself and his mate and the chicks. The female will join in the big job of finding and delivering food to the always-hungry baby chicks. When the young fledge and can fly, they leave the nest, but continue to follow the parents around for up to 4 weeks, and often stay with the parents as part of the winter feeding flock. The young do leave their parents come the following spring, when they start to pair off with a new mate.

The white-breasted Nuthatch is the other bird whose winter habits we reviewed earlier. You'll recall that these are the black and white birds which go up or down the tree, head-first, with equal ease and energy. The male and the female stay together year-round, and do not migrate, so unlike the other birds here, they defend a local territory all year, from 25-40 acres in size. The territory is smaller during the nesting and chick-rearing times.

One characteristic behavior of a pair of Nuthatches is mate feeding, where a male will retrieve a morsel of food he had stored away previously, and will bring it to his mate, and places it gently in her open bill. Nuthatches spend the winter in existing tree cavities, and they will choose larger cavities to build their nest in. 5-10 eggs are laid, one per day, in May or June. The female does most of the egg incubation and staying with the chicks after hatching, while the male forages for food for the growing family, often storing bits of food in bark or crevices near the nest for later retrieval. The young will continue to receive food from the parents for a couple of weeks after their first flight. Surprisingly, the family group stays together well after the adults stop feeding the young, often into the Fall or Winter. Like the Canada Goose, adult Nuthatches have a complete molt in the late summer, before settling in to preparing for the winter.

Remember, walking in the woods is really good for your health. Just be virus-aware, and treat the preserves with care. Thanks, and have fun!!



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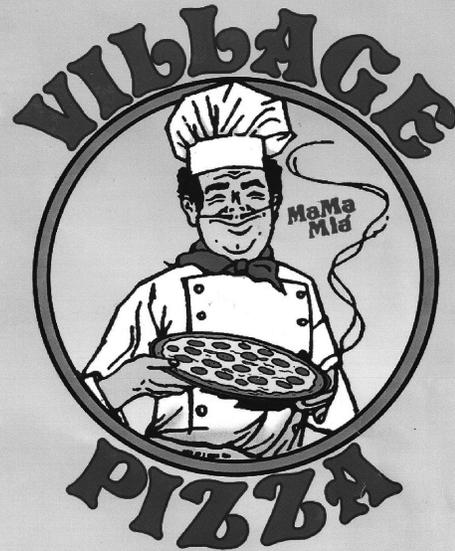
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THANK YOU



Preston Historical Society

Address-123 Parks. Rd., Preston, CT 06365 Email- prestoncthistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Website- www.preston-ct.org Facebook- facebook.com/prestonhistoricalsocietyct/

The Preston Historical Society would like to send our best wishes to all in our community and thank the many people who have put their own health in danger to serve. We hope and pray that by the time this article reaches your home, we are well on our way to recovery and our lives return to normal.

Historic Artillery Restoration Projects



Have you driven by the Old Library and thought something looked different, but you just couldn't put your finger on what it was? Then you have noticed the recently restored mortars and cannonballs by Mr. Greg Webster, of Voluntown. Mr. Webster is a retired State Trooper with a fondness for American Military history. He even participates in military reenactments. In his own words from Facebook, "I am interested in restoring historic artillery pieces often found on Town Greens, Historical Societies, or cemeteries. I have found several around Eastern Connecticut that needed some TLC, so I have volunteered to bring them back to nice looking shape."

Thank you to Mr. Webster for the fine job you did and to the Town of Preston for reimbursing the restoration supply cost. To view more of Greg Webster restoration project go to his Facebook page; <https://www.facebook.com/H.A.R.P.byGreg/>

Living History-Covid-19: Since March, all of our lives have been impacted and changed in ways we would have not conceived of before Covid-19 was known. The

spring of 2020 will be remembered by all of us. Consider recording your experience for future generation. By writing in a journal, creating a scrapbook with newspaper clippings and pictures, making a list of things you would typically do, but can't, making a list of creative ways people are doing things or record how the country has come together to help each other. These are just some suggestions. I believe our grandchildren will thank us.

Long Society Meeting House: Dan Coffey and his wife, Dottie, of "Atlantic Exterminating" completed the two-part task of treating the Long Society Meetinghouse for termites and insects on March 24, 2020. The task was started in July 2019 while part of the floor was removed for structural repairs by Mark Holdridge Restorations, LLC, of Preston. This provided the access required for spraying the underside of the building. The recent treatment required a trench to be dug around the exterior of the foundation after which a termiticide/insecticide was applied.

In March, the Public Works Dept. of Preston cleaned and removed the overgrown brush from the right front stone-wall at the Long Society Meeting House. It looks much nicer. Thank you

Calling all who are trained!!!

Now is the perfect time to help preserve Preston's digital history while staying home and staying safe. All work, all time, big or small is truly appreciated. If you'd like to see what documents have been digitized, go to <https://ctcollections.org/> Please call Linda at 860-887-5828 or email LindaCh5@comcast.net. We'd love your help!!!!

Preston Historical Society Meetings for 2020

Wed. June 3rd @ 6:30pm at Old Town Library

Wed. Aug. 5th @ 6:30pm at Long Society Meeting House

Sun. Oct. 4th @ 1pm at Long Society Meeting House

Annual Meeting

Wed. Dec. 2nd @ 6:30pm at Preston Public Library

Cookie Swap

Address-123 Parks. Rd., Preston, CT 06365

Email- prestoncthistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Website- www.preston-ct.org **Facebook-** facebook.com/prestonhistoricalsocietyct/

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

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the Library will be closed to the Public according to Governor Lamont's lockdown orders.

Starting May 4, patrons may request books by sending their requests to 389prestonreads@gmail.com

Staff will check books out and leave them for patrons. We will call you when your "book order" is ready!

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Encyclopedia Britannica

JobNow-Live, anytime, anywhere
job assistance

LearningExpress- Learning Center free for
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Preston Historical Society files

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Help Us Document this Historic Time!

Preston Public Library and the Preston Historical Society are looking for patrons to document their pandemic experience:

send your essay or picture (pdf) of how you spent the lockdown to: 389prestonreads@gmail.com.

Thank you!

Children's Corner



Do you have children younger than 3 or older than 5? Preston Public Library is hoping to expand the programs and services offered to all children. Please feel free to contact staff via email @ 389prestonreads@gmail.com with your requests and suggestions. We are open to community input, and will do our very best to meet the needs of Preston's youngest citizens



Remember: You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back and relax, all you need is a book.

~Dr. Seuss

The Library Board of Trustees is currently accepting applications for 2(two) vacancies.

Please use Board email for further information.

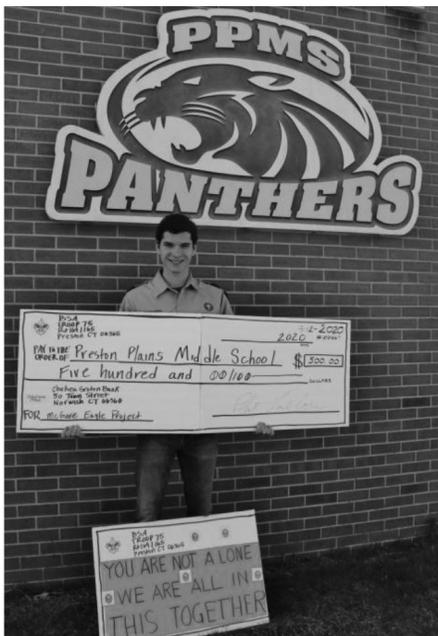
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Email: prestonlibraryboard@gmail.com

Under Coach Ludlow and Robins Preston Middle School Girls Basketball team went undefeated to win the Regional Middle School Championship



Boy Scouts helping their community during this COVID-19 pandemic



Above: Recently **Cory Converse**, as his Boy Scout Eagle Project, distributed 57 backpacks to male and female Veterans across the State of Conn. Cory in conjunction with the Preston VFW Post 9452 the New London Homeless Hospitality Center and "Freedom is not Free" Foundation of Fairfield distributed 57 furnished backpacks. Included in the backpacks were fully approved essentials such as flashlights, gloves, hats, soap, wipes, tooth brushes ETC ETC. Cory, due to COVID-19 restrictions had to meet the Freedom is not Free organization in the Westbrook Mall parking lot to keep social distancing in tact. This community service came at a critical time during our Pandemic. It was said of Cory's project: "These Backpacks will be appreciated by those who fought for us and find themselves having to fight for what they Need today".

Left: Preston Scout Donates money back Preston school COVID-19 Lunch program. **Dylan McGuire** who just completed his Eagle Scout Service project (Construction of a 340 meter Track at the Middle School) had \$500.00 of his funds remaining after all expenses were paid. Dylan in a kind jester donated his funds back to the Preston school system Lunch program in an effort to feed the children of Preston in this uncertain time of COVID-19 Pandemic. This program provides meals from 9:00 to 1:00 every week day for Preston Children from K through 12 at the Preston Plans Middle School. Thanks to the many dedicated volunteers who face this challenge every day.

" Remember you are not alone; we are all in this together."

A Legislative Update from Rep. Mike France

We find ourselves living in interesting times. As I write this legislative update in mid-May, we find our economy starting to open up in Connecticut and we are experiencing a steady decline in hospitalizations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, both positive and hopeful signs for our future.



This certainly has been quite a year so far, with the world pandemic causing businesses determined to be “non-essential” to temporarily close, schools to transition to online instruction, cancelling of the legislative session and essentially slowing the entire world down to a snail’s pace.

It is in these moments when we all can take a little bit of time to slow down, refocus on our families and think conscientiously about our next moves and evaluate what is truly important in our lives. Considering the recent turmoil, those next moves are more important than ever and we must work together to make sure we move forward safely with family, in our community and certainly statewide and nationally.

At the state level, getting back to work in the legislature will be an interesting endeavor, and is certainly unprecedented in recent memory. The regular session ended “Sine Die” on time May 6 per the Constitution. There is the possibility of a Special Session to deal with the budget issues that may arise due to the reduced business activity we have experienced. While responding to the pandemic, the governor enacted a number of Executive Orders that have and continue to alter how the state operates. As those measures expire and new policies and guidelines are implemented it’s important that we remain mindful of the long-term effects.

To “flatten the curve” of the virus and reduce the strain to the healthcare system, businesses were closed or drastically modified, and we stayed home to limit exposure to ourselves and others. Those measures appear to have helped and thankfully much of Connecticut, while severely impacted,

wasn’t hit as hard as New York City and some other locations around the country. Still, those business closures, layoffs, reduced work hours for tens of thousands of people, and reduced travel for work and pleasure mean state revenue is less than anticipated. Tax receipts are down almost across the board which seriously impacts the General Fund. As of May 7, the governor and his team projected deficits of nearly \$1 billion for the fiscal year that ends June 30 and more than \$2 billion per year for the next several years.

Likewise, it’s important that the decisions being made don’t unnecessarily harm the fragile business economy. When the governor announced the projected annual deficits, he also provided options to fill the gap, including canceling about \$100 million in previously approved tax cuts, rescinding the expiration of a 10% surcharge on the corporation tax set to sunset this year and spending a large part of the Budget Reserve Fund (Rainy Day Fund), among other ideas.

With states reopening and the businesses community getting back in operation, we’re able to restart the economy but it’s going to take time before things get back to anything we might consider as “normal.” However, I remain steadfast in hope about our ability to rebound and come back stronger than ever. Allowing businesses to implement safety protocols that protect customers and employees without further limiting their ability to provide services and earn a living will help the transition and kick start our state economy.

Connecticut has always been comprised of women and men full of good old-fashioned Yankee ingenuity who refuse to let a setback stop them and I’m confident we will come out of this crisis stronger than ever.

Take care.

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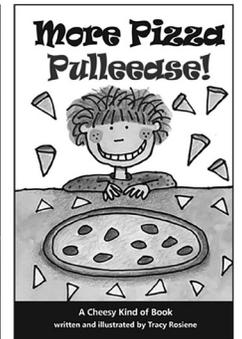
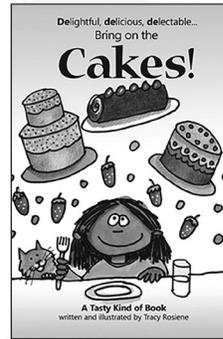
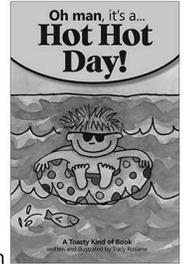
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News From The Preston City Congregational Church Two Can Food Pantry



Thank you to the many people who have offered food and financial contributions to the food pantry.

Your generosity will go a long way toward helping others during this unfortunate time.

We appreciate your kindness, and so do those on the receiving end.

(The Toucan Food Pantry Crew)

Preston City Congregational Church

Reverend Stanley E. White, Minister



Where Friends Become Family

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