

**FREE**

# SHELTON *Life*

COMMUNITY & BUSINESS NEWS

JULY 2018  
VOLUME 25, ISSUE 2



## JULY ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

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# SHELTON COMMUNITY & BUSINESS NEWS

## Welcome from the Editor



This issue of Shelton Life is dedicated to the respect of Flag Day (June 14, 2018). Our Flag represents our United States history and is woven into our culture and deserves to be honored as such. We also give you an insight into the talented art work our City of Shelton School children completed this year, guided by our dedicated Art Teachers in the educational system. Enjoy this issue. We will see you again in the fall.

*Fred Ruggio, Editor*



Dear Shelton Residents and Businesses:

Welcome to the Summer 2018 Edition of our *Shelton Life* newsletter. In this edition we will explore many wonderful stories including historic dedications & celebrations, arts & education, along with a whole host of business and economic development news.

Of special note is the showcase of art projects created by children attending our Shelton Schools. Each year the Economic Development Commission and the Board of Education team up to hold an art contest, in which students can submit drawings, paintings, sculptures or photographs for consideration in the contest. Children attending Second Grade through our young adults from the Shelton High School, are able to display their talent and vision during this annual event.

The City's downtown has evolved over the decades. Once a heavy industrial focused economy, the downtown district is transforming into a retail trade/services economy with an influx of new businesses and a host of new housing opportunities being made available from local developers. Also of note, there is one manufacturing firm on Canal Street, Inline Plastics, that just celebrated their 50th year in business. Congratulations to the Orkisz family for their tremendous success and commitment to their employees and the City of Shelton (see page 3).

While perusing the newsletter please pay special attention to all of the many wonderful cultural, educational, environmental and family fun events that will be taking place throughout the summer. Your participation in these events helps to reinforce the strong bond of community.

Finally, members of our community strive to thrive economically and there is no better place to view these endeavors than in the small businesses scattered throughout town. Please take the time to read the many local business stories in this edition. Be inspired and patronize the small businesses in your community.

As in the past, please share this information with your family and friends to keep them informed of our activities. This edition will be posted on the city's website [www.cityofshelton.org](http://www.cityofshelton.org). And last but not least, hats off to our Shelton Life editorial team and community volunteers always striving for excellence. Have a great summer.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Lauretti  
Mayor, City of Shelton



## Shelton Life Community & Business News

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**The Balanced Plan for Shelton's Future**  
*Vision to See, Faith to Believe, Courage to Do...*

© Michael Connelly, "The Closers"

# Jones Family Farms Dedicates New Pavilion Philip Hubbell Jones

*Reprinted with the kind permission of the Shelton Herald, Aaron Berkowitz.*

Family, friends and admirers of a long-time Shelton farmer gathered at the Jones Family Farm for a celebration of the 100th anniversary of his birth and the ribbon cutting for an honorary pavilion.

Philip Hubbell

Jones, owner of Jones Family Farm, who passed away in 2015, would have been 100 this year. The family and staff at the farm decided that the best way to honor the late farmer would be via a party with all his loved ones



Gov. Dannel Malloy and Terry Jones

and a handcrafted pavilion that everyone could enjoy. The pavilion is composed of eastern white pine, white cedar, and solid black walnut, and all of the lumber used, except for the pegs, came from trees that were

planted by Jones himself. The pegs were from trees not planted by Jones but that were grown on the farm, according to Tom Harbinson, the facilities and hospital- ity manager at Jones Family Farm.

Steve Strong, who has a sawmill in eastern Connecticut, created the design and cut the timber before assembling the pavilion with the help of his team. More than 100 people came out for the celebration. Mayor Mark Lauretti, Gov. Dannel Malloy, and Jones's son Terry, who is part of the fifth generation of the



family to work on the farm, all made brief remarks before the ribbon-cutting ceremony commenced.

"Philip Jones epitomized America," said Lauretti. "He was so many things that America stands for and represents, and he lived his life that way, and served his community to the fullest."

The 10-sided pavil-

ion was closed off with 10 ribbons to be cut by his great-grandchildren. Two bald eagles were seen flying over the event shortly after the first ribbon was cut.

Terry Jones said he could feel his father's spirit at the event shortly after an original song was sung and dedicated to Philip. He honored his father by reciting a flurry of puns his father had stored in his desk before he died.

"Let's enjoy the journey of Philip from trees to pavilion," said Terry. "And if the party gets boring, just leaf."

Malloy said he had the pleasure of getting to know Philip Jones in his later years and said the Jones family is amazing.

"The meaning of this structure is that we're on this Earth a long enough time, and in Philip's case a very long time, to plant trees, change lives, to make a difference, and to have respect for one's life work represented by the timber and materials that we celebrate today. He would be embarrassed at all of these shenanigans and demonstrations, but I do think that he's somewhere looking down proud that he planted those trees so many years ago and that they survived so long and grew so big on this farm."

Philip Jones served as a state representative and was an active volunteer with many local nonprofit entities, such as the library, Scouts, land trust, and farm organizations. Terry Jones said the pavilion means everything to the family and is just one way that his father's legacy will live on. ♦

### Inline Plastics Celebrates its 50th Anniversary

On April 18, 2018 Inline Plastics in downtown Shelton celebrated 50 years in business. The celebration was held at their corporate headquarters located on Canal Street close to the Shelton Farm and Public Market. Mr. Tom Orkisz, the President and owner, welcomed the staff of the Shelton facility, the Board of Directors and Mayor Mark A. Lauretti.

Additional guests in attendance were Ben McGorty, State Representative for District 122, CT Senator Kevin Kelly, Paul Grimmer, President of the Shelton Economic Development Corporation, John Anglace, President of the Board of Aldermen, and Bill Purcell, President of the Valley Chamber of Commerce.

“Inline Plastics is a corporate leader in the industry. They are also a leader in our community and the city is



truly fortunate that they have made their home base in Shelton for 34 years,” commented Mayor Lauretti. “Inline Plastics is recognized by the City of Shelton for its corporate citizenship to the community. On behalf of the City of Shelton, congratulations on your 50th anniversary. The city wishes you continued success.”

The history of Inline Plastics begins in 1958.

Founded by brothers Rudolph and Gene Orkisz who immigrated from Poland, it was originally named the R&G Mold Pattern Company. The business started out of the basement of their home and then relocated to a facility in Bridgeport in 1968. The company continued to grow through the 1970s and 1980s. Through the 1970s the company expanded beyond simply making molds for other manufacturers when Rudy and Gene



(L to R) Inline Plastics President and owner Tom Orkisz, Mayor Mark Lauretti, Bill Purcell, President of Valley Chamber of Commerce



(L to R) Tom Orkisz and CT Senator Kevin Kelly

## BUSINESS NEWS



purchased their own thermoforming machine and began producing the finished plastic products themselves. This separate endeavor was named Inline Plastics Corporation. As more thermoforming and pressure-forming machines were purchased, multiple moves to larger facilities were required. By the early 1980s the tooling demands for Inline Plastics were occupying 100% of the resources of R & G Mold. At that point, the decision was made to cease creating molds for other companies, retire the R & G Mold name, and bring all tooling and mold-making operations under the banner of Inline Plastics.

Rudy took control of the company after Gene passed away in the 1970s and kept the ownership solely with the Orkisz family. Rudy's son, Tom, stepped into the President's position in the late 90s and oversaw the company's emergence into the next millennium with a focus on innovation, consumer safety and environmental responsibility. Tom remains in that position as President and Owner of Inline Plastics, leading this family-owned business into its next 50 years of prosperity.

Over the course of the last five decades, the company operated in the founder's homeland of Poland for a period of time and have expanded through North America with additional facilities in Utah and Georgia, as well as a newly-launched innovation center for R D & E in Milford, Connecticut.

Inline Plastics is currently known in the industry as the leading manufacturer of innovative, high quality, crystal clear, food packaging containers. The company transformed the marketplace with their Safe-T-Fresh® line, a tamper-resistant and tamper-evident product which utilizes their patented tear-strip technology, pro-

viding retailers and consumers with greater product protection. They continue to design and manufacture packaging solutions that keep food products safe, fresh, and enhance shelf merchandising. The company also offers the most complete line of automated equipment to load, close and label their containers. Inline continues to maintain a reputation as a product leader and innovator within the thermoforming industry, realizing almost 300% in growth in the last decade alone.

"My father would be amazed at what Inline has grown into. As Inline Plastics heads into our next 50 years, we foresee a very bright future," said Orkisz. "We are excited about the coming opportunities and are committed to creating mutually beneficial environments where our customers, our employees, and the communities where we do business all thrive."

As the company looks back on its 50 years of history, it does so with a discerning eye. One that appreciates the stability and long-standing community impact of its organization, learns from the lessons of past successes and failures, and commits to a future of continuous improvement, that will ultimately result in sustained growth and profitability. Inline Plastics is ready for the next 50 years!

Of note, recently more than 2500 solar panels were installed on the rooftop of the Shelton plant. These solar panels generate 1.2 million kWh of electric power annually, supplementing almost 15% of the energy needs for the facility.

For further information on Inline Plastics Corporation, visit [inlineplastics.com](http://inlineplastics.com). ♦

### Art Therapist Opens Practice in Shelton Blending of Creative Interventions and Theories of Psychology



Caitlin Iannucci

Conveniently located in historic downtown Shelton at 415 Howe Avenue, Suite 191, you can find a new business called Caitlin Iannucci, LPC, ATR, LLC.

The business opened at this location in March 2018. Caitlin Iannucci, a registered art therapist, licensed counselor, and lifelong artist, decided she wanted to relocate her existing business to downtown Shelton and found the perfect space in the Conti building.

Caitlin received a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Psychology from Albertus Magnus College in 2006 along with a Masters of Arts in Art Therapy in 2010. She is an adjunct professor in both the undergraduate and graduate art therapy programs at the college. Caitlin knew early on that she would like to employ artistic expression to ultimately facilitate healing. Her holistic, transformational, and mindfulness-based approach helps clients achieve their own healing.

Many people ask her, "What is art therapy?" Sometimes, people will follow up with a question such as, "Do I have to be an artist to benefit from art therapy?" Art therapy is a blending of creative interventions and theories of psychology. Caitlin

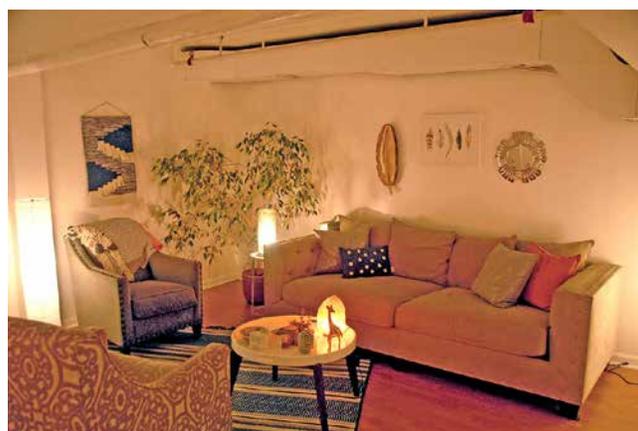
states that art therapy is different for everyone; she employs a tailored and nuanced approach to art therapy techniques, suited for the individual and what is to be achieved together. Sometimes it looks like art as therapy, and other times it is art in therapy. Clients have access to an art studio housing many different materials including, but certainly not limited to: sketching, pastels, watercolor, acrylic, oil, clay both fired and air dry, a pottery wheel, collage, fiber arts, photography, and various 3D materials. There may be times that Caitlin will help with a certain technique, but this is very different from art class. Art therapy is process-oriented and inquisitive. Questions asked by the therapist and client together yield helpful information that can be applied to goals and objectives in treatment. This is true art for healing. No experience with materials is necessary, only an openness to the expressive and powerful process of making art. Caitlin's specialties are grief and trauma, and she also treats depression and anxiety. She recently became a certified provider in Compassionate Bereavement Care by the MISS Foundation. This is truly a passion of hers.

Caitlin offers individual, family, and group sessions, as well as workshops. She works with children, adolescents, and adults. Details and updates on upcoming groups and more information about her practice can be found at [www.caitliniannucci.com](http://www.caitliniannucci.com)

Caitlin welcomes you to stop by. You can also call ahead for further information at (203) 794-7081. ♦



Caitlin Iannucci in her art therapy space



A comfortable environment for clients

LOCAL BUSINESSES

# Sterling Pool Moves To New Location Making a Splash in the South End

Sterling Pool first opened its doors on April of 1985 on Howe Avenue in downtown Shelton. The business remained at the location for over 33 years. In the fall of 2017 Sterling Pool moved to 495 River Road, Suite C.

Sterling Pool offers the very best in above ground and in-ground pools. Their employees are friendly and are there to help customers every step of the way. They do not use subcontractors and their service, mechanics, installers and sales staff have been with them for over 20 years.

Owners Diane and Bruce Hungerford have been running this business since 1980 and have successfully served thousands of customers. The store carries all of the finest products, accessories and supplies the swimming pool industry has to offer. Sterling Pool is licensed by the State of Connecticut to build and repair swimming pools.

Sterling Pool takes pride in their wide selection of quality products. All of the products they offer are from trusted brands: Hayward, Pentair, RayPak, Jandy, PoolLife, Polaris, Vyn-All, Poolmaster and more. If something is not in stock, they will be happy to have it to you within two to three business days.

Additional services offered are deck renewal, installations, liner replacements, maintenance, pool open-



ings, pool closings, leak detection, equipment repairs and water analysis.

Sterling Pool has been servicing and building pools for nearly 40 years. With the opportunity to expand and also to be able to stay in Shelton, the Hungerfords decided to relocate to a larger space with ample parking in the south end of the city.

The store is open from Monday through Friday from 10:00 AM until 6:00 PM and on Saturdays from 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM. You can call ahead at (203) 924-7755 or visit their website at [sterlingpool.net](http://sterlingpool.net) for further information. ♦



### Summer Activities at Shelton's Libraries All Ages are Invited

Stop in to the Plumb Memorial and Huntington Branch Libraries for a very exciting summer for all ages!

For the adults, the library is running their popular adult program sponsored by the Shelton Friends of the Library. Patrons can read their favorite authors and then take a chance on the beautiful summer baskets made by Nancy Wilmont of the Friends. The winners of the baskets will be drawn at a party at the end of the summer.

Teens at both Plumb and Huntington are invited to



Robin Ball (left) preparing for her improv classes at Plumb and Toddler Movement at Huntington and Maura Gualtiere preparing for her storytimes, homeschool programs and ESL programs.

stop in and check out some great books and then fill out a form for each hour they read. Every week during Summer Reading, there will be a drawing for gift cards from area stores. A grand prize will be chosen from all participants at the end of Summer Reading on Saturday, August 4th.

The library's school-age summer readers can register at either library for "Emoji a Summer at the Library". For every hour students read, the library will have a variety of summer prizes and incentives to encourage and entertain them. Special reading lists will be prepared by each of the library's Children's Librarians that include the newest and best books available and special programs throughout the summer.

The Rubber Ducky Reading Club for preschoolers at both libraries is a special summer program for preschoolers. Each child will receive a Rubber Ducky Reading Log with six preliteracy activities. When these are completed, the youngest readers will turn in their logs and get a yel-



Tom Simonetti, Artist Director of the Valley Shakespeare Festival, introducing "Macbeth" in our Main Reading Room

low rubber ducky and a new reading log. Each set of six completed activities will have different rewards.

There will be special programming throughout the summer that includes magic shows, animal programs, art classes, music entertainment, science programs, improv classes, Spanish classes and cooking demonstrations in addition to regular preschool story times. There is something for everyone all summer long! All the details are available at either library or [www.sheltonlibrarysystem.org](http://www.sheltonlibrarysystem.org).



Marissa Correia, best wishes!

And finally, the library staff wishes Marissa Correia, award-winning Children's Librarian at the Huntington Branch, all the best as she will be leaving this summer to go on maternity leave. Marissa's energy and enthusiasm will be missed. ♦

See page 30 for Correia baby update

## City of Shelton's Tree Warden

There are many different functions that a municipality oversees. The City of Shelton's Tree Warden plays an important role as well. The Tree Warden is responsible for trees alongside public roads and in public spaces, except for those on state property or under the jurisdiction



of a park commission. The Tree Warden's responsibilities include approving the planting, pruning or removal of trees under his authority.

Before the Tree Warden gets involved with any tree requests or complaints from homeowners, ownership of the trees must be confirmed. Contrary to what some homeowners believe, the City right of way is not the same throughout the City and neither do homeowners own all the land between their house and the road. The City right of way varies from property to property. (Note: on City Assessor maps, the pavement edge is depicted as a dashed line while the property line/City right of way is depicted by a solid line). It is for this reason that staff from the Engineering office must first verify, by field inspection and measurements, tree ownership prior to any tree requests being forwarded to the Tree Warden or before any homeowner plants, prunes or removes any trees that could be in the City right of way.

Connecticut state law, chapter 451, sec. 23-65 requires "any person, firm or corporation, other than a tree warden who removes, prunes, injures or defaces any shrub or ornamental or shade tree, within the limits of a public way or grounds, without legal right or written permission of the town tree warden, shall be fined not more than the appraised value of the shrub or tree and shall be liable civilly for damages."

The following is the procedure for tree requests/complaints:

1. Contact the Tree Warden Office at 203-924-1555 extension 1509 to file a request to verify if a tree is on City or private property. The homeowner is required to mark the tree with a ribbon or another object to make it obvious to City personnel which tree is in question. Note: if the tree is in electrical wires along the main line, contact The United Illuminating Company's customer service at 1-800-722-5584. The Tree Warden does not handle any trees that are in wires.
2. The City of Shelton Engineering Department determines ownership (City or private).
3. If the tree is on City property, the City of Shelton Tree Warden and homeowner are notified. If the tree is on private property, the homeowner is notified.
4. The Tree Warden assesses and prioritizes the tree request/complaint through inspection and other considerations.

Note: If a homeowner wants to cut a tree on private property that is within 100 feet of any stream, river, lake or wetlands, the homeowner may need to get a permit from Inland Wetlands. Contact Inland Wetlands at 203-924-1555 extension 1512.

The City of Shelton's Tree Warden, Dean Cawthra, can be reached at 203-924-1555 #1509. ♦

### Reducing Flood Risks Also Helps Fish and Wildlife

By Jane Bakker, Housatonic Valley Association Communications Manager

Did you know that the Housatonic River watershed spans three states, 83 towns, and 1,948 square miles and that within the watershed, there are thousands of points where roadways, driveways, and trails cross rivers and streams? In these locations the road is carried by culverts and bridges.

You may not be aware that culverts are under roadways you travel or how important they are to reduce flood damage and provide passage for fish and wildlife. Culverts are tubes or tunnels, usually made of concrete or metal which allow water to flow beneath roadways keeping them high and dry.



Blocked culvert prevents fish from swimming upstream.

However, many of them are too small, prone to blockage, and are in disrepair. They are barriers to fish and wildlife passage, and can cause flooding and interfere with emergency response. They are also expensive for towns to maintain. The good news is that the same design principles that ensure safe passage for fish and wildlife make for safer, flood resilient crossings that require less maintenance. Fixing these problematic culverts is a real win-win for communities and the environment.

To survive, fish and animals such as muskrat, mink, otter, frogs, stream salamanders, turtles, and snakes, need to move freely in and along rivers and streams to access their habitats, escape threats



and find food and mates. They navigate through culverts under roads. Canada geese are known to hurry

goslings through the culverts. Barn swallows build nests in them. Raccoon, red fox, white-tailed deer, mallard duck, chipmunk, beaver and black bear all use culverts to travel along streams and rivers.

Good culverts also make it easier for animals to avoid roads and the direct threat of being struck and killed by a vehicle. They also lessen the danger of people being injured when they try to avoid hitting an animal on the road.

#### Poor Culverts

Sub-standard crossings which act as wildlife barriers can also lead to loss or degradation of habitat, loss of genetic diversity, alter wildlife ecological processes, isolate and fragment populations and reduce access to vital habitats.

One type is a perched culvert which has an outlet drop that is a physical barrier to fish swimming upstream. These culverts were either improperly installed to begin with or were created over time by excessive scouring and erosion from storms and high flows.



PHOTO BY  
QUELLEN BROWN

The increased amount of rain in the last century has created another problem for culverts. During heavy rains, huge volumes of water fill the systems quickly and can overwhelm the culverts.

The water then backs up on the upstream side causing localized flooding and may overflow across the roadway, increasing erosion that can wash out

## COMMUNITY NEWS

the culvert. Sediment and debris from upstream may cause additional failures downstream and flood other roads. Even small-scale flooding at undersized culverts can degrade water quality, erode stream banks, block access to habitat for aquatic organisms, and damage private and municipal property. Culverts that were an adequate size when they were installed years ago may now be prone to flooding and failure.



Perched culverts are impossible for fish to navigate.

A well-designed crossing provides a size suitable for handling flows such as an open-arch or an open-bottomed culvert, is greater than the stream width to maintain dry banks for wildlife passage, has water depth and velocity to match conditions of the natural stream channel upstream, has a natural river bottom to create good conditions for stream-dwelling



As culverts deteriorate, they can pose a road problem. This is a washout on Route 125 in Cornwall Bridge last year. CT Post photo

animals and creates no noticeable change in the river. Effective crossings include bridges, open bottom arches and culverts that span, and are sunk into, the streambed.

### HVA Assesses Culverts

The Housatonic Valley Association

found that 58 percent of non-bridge road stream crossings it assessed in the watershed in Connecticut are moderate to poor barriers for fish and wildlife movement. The University of Connecticut indicates

that 27 percent of these same structures would fail in a flood causing water to flow over the road and possibly damaging it.

HVA launched this initiative of assessing culverts in the Berkshires several years ago and expanded it into Connecticut in 2015 in northwest Connecticut in the towns of Canaan, Colebrook, Cornwall, Kent, Norfolk, Salisbury and Sharon.

We are continuing this work in five other watershed towns – Oxford, Seymour, Washington and Roxbury as well as Dover, New York.

Working with town public works departments, this data can help prioritize culvert replacements as towns upgrade their needs.



A well-designed crossing

HVA's goal is to expand this project to other communities such as Shelton and Derby in the future. For more information, call 860-672-6678 or visit [hvatoday.org](http://hvatoday.org).

*See Next Page*



The Housatonic Valley Association (HVA) works to protect the natural character and environmental health of communities throughout the Housatonic River Watershed including Shelton. To learn more, please visit [hvatoday.org](http://hvatoday.org) and sign up for updates. Also follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

### About the Housatonic Valley Association Clean Water for Life!

Housatonic Valley Association (HVA) protects the natural character and environmental health of the entire Housatonic Watershed for this and future generations.

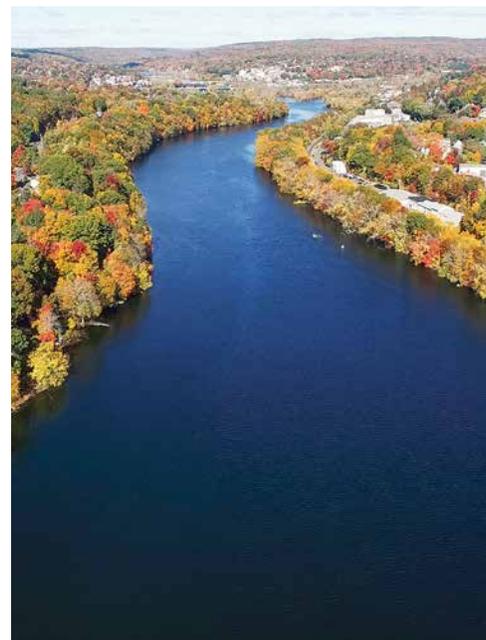
HVA is a tri-state nonprofit citizen's environmental group, working to conserve the natural character, environmental health and the economies of the region by protecting and restoring its land and waters...for today and for future generations.

HVA's common-sense solutions balance important economic and environmental needs allowing for smart growth that protects water quality and encourages open space, wetland habitats, recreation areas and scenic vistas.

HVA monitors water quality, adds sections to the Housatonic RiverBelt Greenway (linking preserved space along the Housatonic River with hiking and biking trails), and uses computer mapping to help towns measure the impact and benefits of land use and development.

In addition to its Cornwall Bridge office, HVA has offices in Stockbridge, Massachusetts and Wassaic, New York.

**Note:** HVA has been a regular contributor to the *Shelton Life* for over 10 years. On behalf of the editors, we thank them for their outstanding work. For further information or if you would like to support HVA, visit [hvatoday.org](http://hvatoday.org).



### Howe Market and Deli Opens in Downtown

On March 1, 2018 Howe Market and Deli opened its doors in downtown Shelton at 464 Howe Avenue next to Subway. With development occurring and people moving back to the downtown area, owners Samir and Rashmi Patel, thought the time to open a market was now.

Howe Market and Deli offers a variety of items such as Boars Head cold cuts and cheeses. Howe Market also carries produce, fruits, milk, eggs and bread along with a full line of groceries and household products.

Stop in and pick up a fresh sandwich or cup of coffee. If you need a bag of ice, Howe Market has it !

The store is open seven days a week from Monday to Saturday 6:00 AM until 8:00 PM and on Sunday from 7:00 AM until 6:00 PM. You can call ahead at (203) 538-5746. ♦

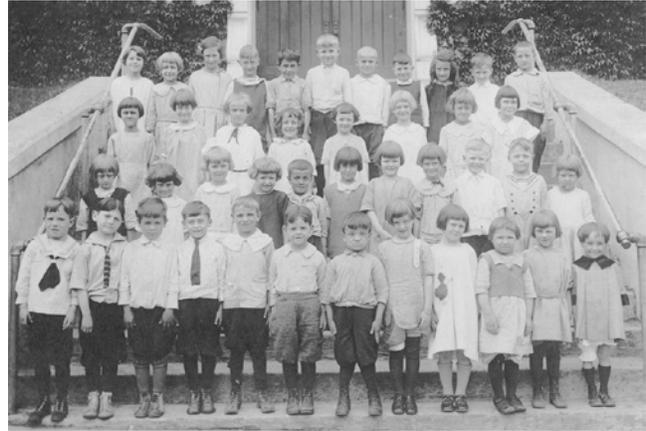


Owner Samir Patel

### Shelton History Center Celebrating Shelton's Past



Howe Avenue and Trolley



Commodore Hull School first grade 1924



Pine Rock Grocery and Pine Rock Auto Sales



Joseph Hull House River Road

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Open Door Days Second Sundays, July 8\*, August 12th, September 9th, 1:00-4:00 p.m.** Guided tours of the Brownson House, interpreted to illustrate Shelton life in 1913. \*Make-your-own ice cream hosted by teens for teens on July 8.

**Adventures in History August 6th – 10th, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** An enrichment program for children ages 7-12 to introduce them to historical concepts while having old fashioned fun! History lessons disguised as nature crafts, building activities, and forgotten games foster an appreciation for the past. Limited registration.

**'Celebrations' Autumn Tea Saturday, September 29th, 2:00-4:00 p.m.** Fancy sweet and savory finger foods served on delightfully decorated tables. Held at Huntington Congregational Church.

**Shelton Reading Circle, Second Tuesdays, July 10th, August 14th, September 11th, 6:30-8:00 p.m.**

In general, we discuss books that have a historical theme, including classics, poetry, biographies, etc. Held at Huntington Branch Library.

**Teen Time Travelers Alternate Fridays June 29th, July 13th and 27th, August 10th and 24th, September 7th and 21st, 4:30-6:00 p.m.** Students 13-18 learn about behind-the-scenes museum operations while completing community service hours and having fun. Further information can be provided by calling 203-925-1803 or [www.sheltonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.sheltonhistoricalsociety.org)

### Valley Community Foundation Signs Affiliation Agreement

The Valley Community Foundation held their Annual Meeting on May 22, 2018 at Racebrook Country Club with donors, grantees, public officials and community-minded citizens in attendance.

CEO and President of the Valley Community Foundation (VCF), Sharon Closius, shared 2017 year-end results. The valley community's endowment grew to \$25 million in assets and over 180 funds. VCF received \$2 million in gifts and awarded \$1.7 million in grants to non-profits serving the five valley towns.

Ms. Closius also reported that 2018 marked VCF's sixth consecutive year participating in The Great Give® as a sponsoring partner. The 36-hour community-wide online giving event raised more than \$1.7 million overall for the greater New Haven region and more than \$350,000 in contributions and prize money for VCF's five valley towns.

However, of particular note, was the newly-signed Affiliation Agreement between the Valley Community Foundation and The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven (TCF). The signing, which officially happened on May 18, 2018, marked the fourth such formal Agreement between the two permanent community endowments. Unlike previous Agreements this Agreement will govern the relationship over the next 10 years with annual renewal opportunities. As with previous Agreements, TCF will continue to provide back-office support to VCF and annually distribute the equivalent of 90% of its Gates Fund value to VCF (historically more than \$1.1 million) as a way of carrying out TCF's philanthropic objectives in the five valley towns served by both foundations. The Gates Fund was established by Derby brothers, Frank and Ross Gates, more than half a century ago at TCF for the benefit of the Valley.

"The Foundation's work in the Lower Naugatuck Valley has been a major part of what we do for more than six decades, and it will continue to be so in



the future as we honor the intent of the Gates brothers in perpetuity," says William W. Ginsberg, President and CEO of The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven. "The creation of VCF 14 years ago was a very deliberate step by TCF and Valley



Sharon Closius, CEO and President, Valley Community Foundation and Will Ginsberg, President and CEO, The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven sign Affiliation Agreement on May 18th

community leaders to tap the powerful community spirit in the Lower Naugatuck Valley in a new way that could build a permanent philanthropic resource for that community. From our perspective, VCF is a Valley community success story that validates both our original reasons for creating VCF and our generous support for it since 2004. We look forward to a continued partnership of close strategic and operational alignment that can build a stronger community for all."

"This latest Affiliation Agreement underscores the strength and bond of the relationship between VCF and TCF and has been instrumental in making it possible for us to grow and build community philanthropy for the Valley," said Closius, who thanked The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, fundholders and nonprofits for VCF's success. "The journey has not been ours alone." ♦

LOCAL BUSINESSES

# Piccolo's Sunnyside Deli and Catering Moves to 425 River Road

Previously located at 415 River Road, Piccolo's Sunnyside Deli and Catering recently moved to a larger space offering a roomy area to accommodate dining inside along with convenient and ample parking.

Owner Jay Obied decided the opportunity to move to 425 River Road to a bigger space and remain in Shelton within walking distance of their previous location would be a good decision. The community has been loyal to Piccolo's, and Jay is proud to continue to offer the same fresh, high quality and affordable food.

Piccolo's deli offerings attract lunchtime visitors with its kid-friendly vibe and is a great spot for families to grab breakfast and lunch.

There is a varied menu of many different choices for breakfast and lunch. Daily specials are offered along with homemade soups. They use top quality Boar's Head meats and the breakfast sandwiches leave you plenty satisfied.

The deli is open Monday through Friday from 6:00 AM until 3:00 PM and on Saturdays from 7:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Piccolo's also delivers to businesses within the city. Catering for up to 150 people is offered with menus consisting of a variety of foods along with competitive prices to meet everyone's taste and pocketbook.

Grab something to eat or just stop in and say hello! For further information you can visit their new website at [piccolosunnysidedeli.com](http://piccolosunnysidedeli.com) or call ahead at (203) 924-5790. ♦



Owner Jay Obied and Chef Nick (rear) with prep staff

## 2018 MUSIC UNDER THE STARS Summer Concert Series

Presented by the Shelton Parks and Recreation Dept.

- June 20 Old School – Classic Rock
- June 27 The Navels – Rock
- July 3 7:15 PM Parrotbeach – Jimmy Buffet  
Riverwalk followed by fireworks  
RAINDATE is Thursday, July 5
- July 11 Alpaca Gnomes – Rock
- July 18 Bernadettes – Motown/R&B
- July 25 6:00 PM – Lynn Lewis and Friends  
(Children's show)  
7:00 PM – Mia and the Riff – R & B and Soul

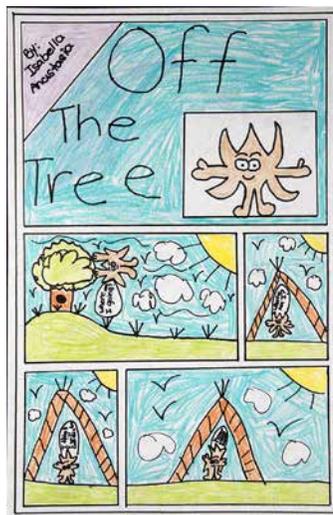
- August 1 Highland Rovers – Irish/Rock
  - August 8 Gunsmoke – Classic Country
  - August 15 Terrapin – Grateful Dead
  - August 22 Midnight Rodeo – New Country
  - August 29 Little Big Band – Big Band Swing
- Music Under the Stars is held on the Huntington Green. The concerts start at 7:00 PM unless otherwise noted. **The concert scheduled for July 3 will be held in downtown Shelton prior to the fireworks.** Rain dates are the following evening except July 3rd.

# Student Art Contest Winners

## Burgeoning Artists Showcase Talents



**\$100 1st Place, Grades 2-4**  
Yulianna De Grandi, Grade 4  
Long Hill School



**\$75 2nd Place, Grades 2-4**  
Isabella Anastasia, Grade 4  
Long Hill School



**\$50 3rd Place, Grades 2-4**  
Kylie Azary-Campos, Grade 2  
Elizabeth Shelton School



**\$25 Honorable Mention, Grades 2-4**  
Isaiah McManus, Grade 2  
Long Hill School



**\$25 Honorable Mention, Grades 2-4**  
Nicole Zotova, Grade 3  
Sunnyside School



**\$25 Honorable Mention, Grades 2-4**  
Emma Sollenne, Grade 2  
Elizabeth Shelton School



**\$25 Honorable Mention, Grades 2-4**  
Ryan Dahdal, Grade 2  
Long Hill School



**\$25 Honorable Mention, Grades 2-4**  
Giancarlo Rubio, Grade 4  
Elizabeth Shelton School

## SCHOOL NEWS

The Shelton Public Schools Art Department has enthusiastically participated in an art contest sponsored by the city's Economic Development Commission (EDC) which highlights the work of the schools' talented students. In its eleventh year, this collaboration between the EDC and the Board of Education has become an integral part of the Art Department's curriculum with over 100 submissions. Students from 2nd grade to high school submit artwork they have worked on in their art classes. It continues to be a terrific effort by all who participate and everyone deserves to be congratulated.

The categories for the awards are broken down as follows: Grades 2-4; 5-6; 7-8; 9-12 2Dimensional and 9-12 3Dimensional. The prizes awarded are \$100 – first place; \$75 – second place; \$50 – third place; and \$25 for five honorable mention prizes.

Judging took place in May 2018 with judges consisting of art teachers, local artists, a photographer, and the Chairman of the EDC. The awards will be presented at the Board of Education meeting. ♦



**\$100 1st Place, Grades 5-6**  
Maja Shallow, Grade 6  
Perry Hill School



**\$75 2nd Place, Grades 5-6**  
Paul Pavliouk, Grade 6  
Perry Hill School



**\$50 3rd Place, Grades 5-6**  
Aallyah Durango, Grade 5  
Perry Hill School



**\$25 Honorable Mention, Grades 5-6**  
Tessa Kovarcz, Grade 5  
Perry Hill School



**\$25 Honorable Mention, Grades 5-6**  
Ava Vojtek, Grade 6  
Perry Hill School



**\$25 Honorable Mention  
Grades 5-6**  
Sophia Kostour, Grade 5  
Perry Hill School



**\$25 Honorable Mention  
Grades 5-6**  
Devin Reed, Grade 5  
Perry Hill School



**\$25 Honorable Mention  
Grades 5-6**  
Christina Reillo, Grade 6  
Perry Hill School

# SHELTON COMMUNITY & BUSINESS NEWS

## SCHOOL NEWS



**\$100 1st Place, Grades 7-8**  
Anna Jaiani, Grade 8 - SIS



**\$75 2nd Place, Grades 7-8**  
Weronika Appel, Grade 7 - SIS



**\$50 3rd Place, Grades 7-8**  
Kaitlin Csech, Grade 8 - SIS



**\$25 Honorable Mention**  
Grades 7-8  
Gianna Loughman, Grade 8 - SIS



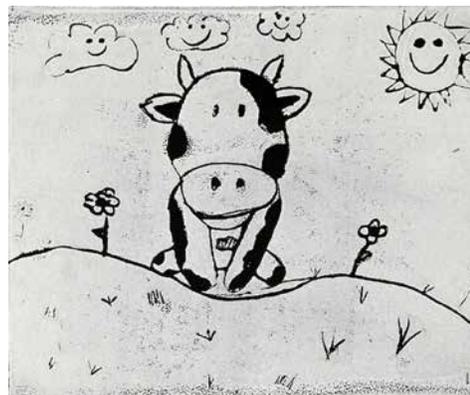
**\$25 Honorable Mention**  
Grades 7-8  
Savanah Connolly  
Grade 7 - SIS



**\$25 Honorable Mention Grades 7-8**  
Aida Ouloul, Grade 8 - SIS



**\$25 Honorable Mention Grades 7-8**  
Audrey Kozak, Grade 7 - SIS



**\$25 Honorable Mention, Grades 7-8**  
Erin Kovarczi, Grade 7 - SIS

Grades 7 - 8

SCHOOL NEWS



**\$100 1st Place, Grades 9-12**  
Avery Battaglino, Grade 10 - SHS



**\$75 2nd Place, Grades 9-12**  
Olivia Adcox, Grade 12 - SHS



**\$50 3rd Place, Grades 9-12**  
Emily Lam, Grade 12 - SHS



**\$25 Honorable Mention, Grades 9-12**  
Jesse Lisi, Grade 10 - SHS



**\$25 Honorable Mention  
Grades 9-12**  
Hannah White, Grade 10 - SHS



**\$25 Honorable Mention  
Grades 9-12**  
Magdalena Martins  
Grade 10 - SHS



**\$25 Honorable Mention, Grades 9-12**  
Kerriane Wuensch, Grade 10 - SHS



**\$25 Honorable Mention, Grades 9-12**  
Casey An, Grade 9 - SHS

Grades 9 – 12 2Ddimensional

# SHELTON COMMUNITY & BUSINESS NEWS

## SCHOOL NEWS

### Grades 9 – 12 3Dimensional



**\$100 1st Place, Grades 9-12**  
Cora Welsh, Grade 10 - SHS



**\$75 2nd Place, Grades 9-12**  
Nicholas Henkel, Grade 11 - SHS



**\$50 3rd Place, Grades 9-12**  
Robert Marcinauskis, Grade 10 - SHS



**\$25 Honorable Mention**  
Grades 9-12  
Madelyn Andrews, Grade 12 - SHS



**\$25 Honorable Mention**  
Grades 9-12  
Brianna Carattini, Grade 11 - SHS



**\$25 Honorable Mention, Grades 9-12**  
Julie Turner, Grade 12 - SHS



**\$25 Honorable Mention, Grades 9-12**  
Mikayla Castro, Grade 12 - SHS



**\$25 Honorable Mention**  
Grades 9-12  
Dmitri Nichio, Grade 11 - SHS

## Shelton's Trails Committee In Search of Trail Monitors

After some brutal winter snowstorms, the Shelton Trails Committee made good progress clearing Shelton Trails, when a recent storm abruptly knocked them back a few notches. With some 26 miles of trails within Shelton city limits, the Trails Committee said it is hard to keep up.

Half the battle is determining which trails need attention and whether it is clipping, weed-whacking or chainsaw work that is called for.

If you would like to help, consider being a Trail Monitor. Trail Monitors routinely walk a designated section of trail and report issues to the Trails Committee. Light maintenance, such as clearing the trail of small debris and clipping back encroaching vegetation is also appreciated.

Quite a few people have already volunteered to be Trail Monitors since they instituted the program last year. Here is a list of the trails still in need of Monitors:

### Shelton Trails:

- \* Gristmill Trail (Mill Street)
- \* Birchbank Trails
- \* Boehm Pond Trails (Far Mill Street)
- \* Bluff Walk at Riverview Park
- \* Beech Tree Road (path to pond)
- \* Turkey Trot Trail (white loop north of Route 108)
- \* Oak Valley Trail (white loop north of Route 108)
- \* Dog Paw Path (near Dog Park)
- \* Blue/white Oak Valley Connector (near Route 108)



### Paugussett Blue Dot Trail

(This trail is managed by the Connecticut Forest and Park Association ("CFPA"), which designates volunteer Trail managers to maintain the trail with the assistance of the Shelton Trails Committee. Trail Monitors would report to the appropriate Trail Manager.)

- \* Monroe border to Thoreau Drive
- \* Poet Path section (Thoreau Drive to Princess Wenonah Drive)
- \* Birchbank (Round Hill Road to "The Boulders")
- \* Indian Well ("The Boulders" to Indian Well Road)

- \* Indian Well Road to Mayflower Lane
- \* Shelton Avenue to Oak Valley Road (Eklund Garden)
- \* Oak Valley Road to Buddington Road

You can find more information about the Trail Monitor program on the Shelton Trails Blog. For questions or to volunteer to monitor a specific trail, email [conservation@cityofshelton.org](mailto:conservation@cityofshelton.org). ♦



The Shelton Trails Committee is an official subcommittee of the Shelton Conservation Commission, established in the mid-1990's to create and maintain hiking trails on City open space.

### The Poet Path A Section of the Paugussett Trail

Hikers following the blue “dots” of the Paugussett Trail between Birchbank Mountain in Shelton and Webb Mountain Park in Monroe come to a little-used part of the trail known as the Poet Path. This half-mile-long section is separated from other parts of the Paugussett Trail by short road walks on either end along Okenuck Way and Thoreau Drive. Over the years, the steep hillside and poor footing have discouraged most people from ever using the trail. In 2018, trail volunteers set out to remedy this problem by creating a better Poet Path, one that would attract neighborhood walkers and build a stronger connection between the popular hiking destinations at Birchbank Mountain and Webb Mountain Park.



During the Shelton High School spring break, two crews of students began digging 700 feet of trail into the side of the hill. The goal was to eliminate an aggravating cross slope that could twist ankles and cause a slip when the trail was slick with fresh leaves or snow. “Benching” a trail is hard work, but the results are enjoyed for decades.

The next step was to give the path a focal point. The Poet Path is named for its location in the so-called “Poet Section” of the White Hills, where the streets are named after poets. In keeping with this theme, artwork dedicated to five of these poets was stationed along the Poet Path. Longfellow, Dickinson, Thoreau, Frost, and Bryant each found a home along the trail.

The final step was improving the steep trail entrance from Princess Wenonah Drive, which gains



New level tread

one hundred feet in elevation as the trail climbs directly up the hill between houses. Fresh leaves in the fall made this hill treacherous, and erosion was becoming a problem. The new path zig-zags up the hill at a more reasonable grade, with occasional steps where needed at the trail switchbacks.

The trailhead is located at #34 Princess Wenonah Drive, a short road walk from Birchbank Mountain. The open space corridor is very narrow along the Poet Path, and hikers are asked to stay on the trail, leash their dogs, and respect the neighboring homes. This is especially true as the trail approaches Thoreau Drive and crosses private property under a pedestrian easement.

*continued next page*



“It’s not what you look at that matters, it’s what you see.”  
~ Henry David Thoreau



The Paugussett Trail is clearly marked with blue blazes painted on trees. Where the trail is forced to follow a road, the blazes are painted on telephone poles and curbs. When there are two blazes of the same color, the higher blaze indicates the direction of a turn the hiker should look for. Northbound hikers exiting the Poet Path turn right onto Thoreau Drive and follow the road for 0.3 mile, then turn left and descend between houses to arrive quickly at a brook that marks the boundary of Webb Mountain Park and the Town of Monroe.

The Poet Path improvements were a cooperative effort between the City of Shelton, the Shelton Land Conservation Trust, and the Connecticut Forest and Park Association (CFPA), and were made possible with volunteers from Shelton High School. For more information about Shelton's trail system, including trail maps, guided hikes, and work parties, visit [sheltontrailscom.blogspot.com](http://sheltontrailscom.blogspot.com). ♦

## YSB's "Youth Speaks Out" Contest

In early April, the Shelton Youth Service Bureau, together with the Community Alert Program, delivers flyers to students in grades K-8 inviting them to participate in the annual Youth Speaks Out contest. The contest's main goal is to spark conversation between parents and children and their teachers about issues that are important to youth and families. The children are asked to express themselves through age appropriate mediums: coloring contest for students in grades K-1; drawing contest for 2nd and 3rd grade students; and an essay contest for students in grades 4-8.

This year, the coloring and drawing contest topic was "I am a good listener". The essay contest participants were asked to choose one of two topics: (1) What does it mean to be a "good listener?" Why is it important? and (2) Why is it important for young people to develop self-discipline skills? What does it mean and how will it affect your future? Hundreds of entries were collected by the deadline, May 1, and were reviewed by our judges. The winners were recognized at the Community Awards Ceremony held at Perry Hill School on May 24. Winners received a framed certificate and a monetary award and were

congratulated by both Mayor Mark Lauretti and by Dr. Christopher Clouet, Superintendent of Schools. The winners are as follows:

### Youth Speaks Out Coloring Contest

- 1st place – Corinne Cortinhas, Kindergarten, Mohegan School
- 2nd place – Jason Bobes, 1st grade, Booth Hill School
- 3rd place – Bennett Feineigle, Kindergarten, Elizabeth Shelton School

### Youth Speaks Out Drawing Contest

- 1st place – Nadia Cal, 3rd grade, Holy Trinity Catholic Academy
- 2nd place – Bella Blanchet, 3rd grade, Long Hill School
- 3rd place – Paul Montcastle, 3rd grade, Holy Trinity Catholic Academy

### Youth Speaks Out Essay Contest

- 1st place – Sadie Balocca, 5th grade, Perry Hill School
- 2nd place – Eliza Rollinson, 6th grade, Perry Hill School
- 3rd place – Zachary Haywood, 6th grade, Perry Hill School ♦

### Derby-Shelton Bridge

*Contributed by Rob Novak, Shelton Historian*

As illustrated in the last issue of Shelton Life, on January 21, 1891, a crowd of people gathered on the pedestrian platform of the old covered bridge between Derby and Shelton to watch the railroad bridge downstream tumble into the Housatonic River during a damaging flood. They got more than they bargained for. Believing the covered bridge they were standing on would also collapse into the swirling waters, the crowd panicked, and made a mad dash toward the shore.

In retrospect, they needn't have worried. By the end of the flood, the old covered bridge was the only artificial link spanning the river still standing. The railroad bridge had indeed collapsed, and the Ousatonic Dam was breached. Considering the history of local bridges over the Housatonic, perhaps their fears were justified.



The last covered bridge between Shelton and Derby c.1891

The first covered bridge between Derby and Huntington, as Shelton was called then, was constructed in 1790. Called the Leavenworth Bridge, the location was just above Indian Well Brook, which was the farthest the ships of the time could navigate inland from the Long Island Sound. The bridge connected to the Woodbury Turnpike on the Derby side, and the White Hills Road which led to Monroe and Newtown on the Huntington side. A bustling nautical community, featuring wharves, shipbuilding, stores



Derby-Shelton Covered Bridge built in 1885

and hostelries developed on both sides of the bridge. The Huntington side was known as Leavenworth Landing. Farmers and merchants wishing to sell inland agricultural products in exchange for wares arriving by ship could shave at least a day or two by trading on the Housatonic River, rather than journeying all the way to New Haven.

For a variety of reasons, the area's nautical heyday passed by the end of the War of 1812. The Leavenworth Bridge was maintained, though winter and spring floods would often knock it out of commission until it was repaired. When the bridge was inoperable, the Leavenworth family maintained a ferry in its place. Finally, in 1830, the bridge was deemed irreparable.

In 1839, two Derby men, Donald Judson and Philo Bassett, bought the rights to extract tolls from the Leavenworth Bridge. By this time, the Leavenworth Landing area had declined and was rapidly turning into a ghost town. However, a brand-new manufacturing village called Birmingham was being created from scratch just across the river. Judson and Bassett rebuilt the Leavenworth Bridge, now called "Judson's Bridge", as a covered toll bridge where the Derby-Shelton bridge is today.

Judson's Bridge was destroyed in a particularly nasty ice freshet on February 10, 1857, when the river rose 22' 3" over its banks. Samuel Orcutt's 1880 "History of Derby" states, "As the waters rose with its

*continued next page*

## COMMUNITY NEWS

ponderous load of ice, the bridge was raised bodily two feet from its piers, and there it remained for hours (until 1 AM)...Slowly and gracefully at first it moved down without a break about (300 feet), then yielding in the center, forming a half moon circle it parted, the eastern half swinging near the Birmingham shore, while the western portion took the current, looking like a train of cars with lights burning but no passengers, going with railroad speed down the river upon the swift and angry waters. The moon shining brightly upon the glistening ice afforded a most magnificent spectacle to its beholders...”.

A new bridge was built at the same place as the first the following summer. Called the “Huntington Bridge”, it was also covered and charged tolls.

There was talk of Derby and Huntington purchasing the toll rights, and building a free bridge to stimulate development on the Huntington side. However, by 1857, construction of the Ousatonic Dam seemed imminent, and that project’s proponents wanted no part of a free bridge between Derby and Huntington. They reasoned that a free bridge would stimulate real estate development on the Huntington side, effectively creating a suburb of Birmingham. The dam’s purpose was to provide unlimited water power via a canal to factory sites along the river. These future factory sites, located where today’s Canal Street is today, were large farms in 1857, which could be easily bought, and controlled, by the dam company. If the farms were subdivided into smaller real estate parcels, they would be difficult if not impossible, and expensive to reconstitute into factory sites.

Delayed by the Civil War, the Ousatonic Dam was completed in 1870 by the Ousatonic Water Company. Behind the dam, the water began to rise, forming Lake Housatonic. Historic landmarks, including much of Leavenworth Landing and the Leavenworth Bridge site, sank forever under the lake’s waters.

The manufacturing village on the Huntington side took off like a Western boom town, and by the end of the 1870s had been named Shelton, after Edward N. Shelton, the Water Company’s president. The Huntington Bridge’s importance was only magnified by the fact that Shelton has more jobs than people, while the Birmingham section of Derby had more people than jobs in the late nineteenth century. Only one year after the dam was

completed, the bridge owners constructed a pedestrian walkway – the same walkway the crowd ran from when they mistakenly thought the bridge was going to collapse in 1891 – to accommodate the increased foot traffic.

Nevertheless, now backed by the Ousatonic Water Company, Derby and Shelton successfully pressured the bridge owners to sell it in 1875, eliminating the toll and stimulating further development in Shelton.

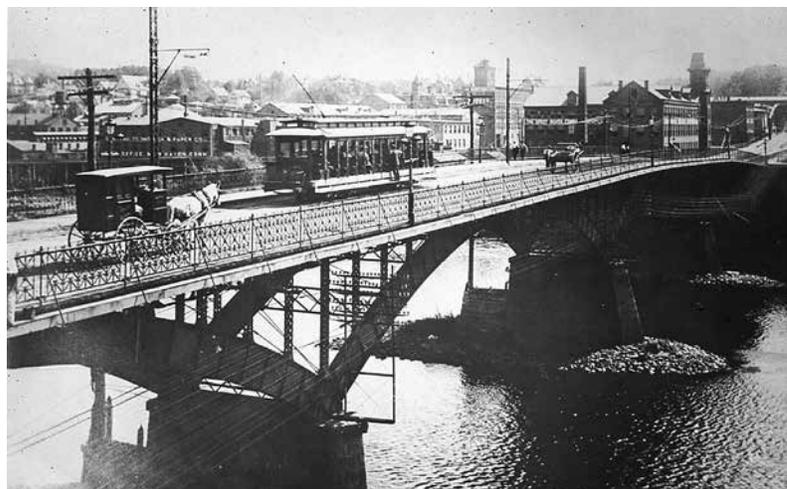


The Steel Bridge replaced the covered bridge c.1895

Plans were already in the works to replace the covered bridge when the 1891 freshet destroyed the Ousatonic Dam and railroad bridge. Its red paint faded, the bridge appeared to be an increasingly pastoral relic as manufacturing communities developed at a breakneck pace on both sides of the river. Despite surviving the flood, by the end of 1891, the bridge was gone, replaced by an iron span.

The effects of the iron bridge were seen immediately. The new bridge could handle heavier traffic.

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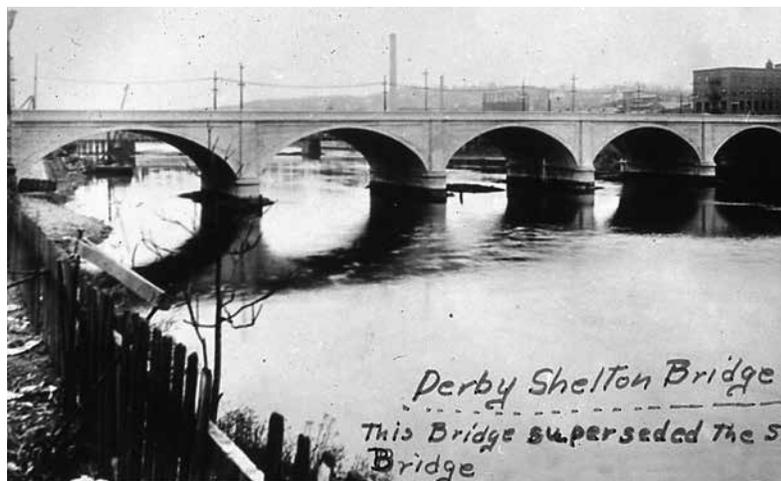
Derby-Shelton Steel Bridge

# SHELTON COMMUNITY & BUSINESS NEWS

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### *Bridge, continued from pg. 24*

The Shelton trolley line was immediately connected to the Derby-Ansonia trolley line, allowing inter-city commuting. The Bridgeport trolley line was connected along the Shelton side in 1899, and New Haven and Waterbury on the Derby side in the early twentieth century.



Derby-Shelton Concrete Bridge opened in 1918 and is still in use today.

The wider bridge and trolley traffic were a boon to the local economy. But with the heavier traffic came new problems. Being made of steel, the bridge vibrated considerably when trolleys passed, unnerving horses and pedestrians alike. And as time went on, the steel tended to rust. The increased demand motorized trucks and automobiles placed on the bridge as the twentieth century progressed, also took its toll. Less than twenty years after it was built, many had lost faith in the new bridge and began petitioning the State of Connecticut for a replacement.

Construction of a temporary bridge, right next to the steel bridge, began in late 1916, and was completed in late November. It is interesting to note that the State was still concerned with the winter and spring freshets even as late as 1916, and ordered the steel bridge to remain standing over the winter in case the temporary bridge was destroyed. It is interesting to note that about a year later work would begin on the Stevenson Dam upstream, which would eliminate the damaging ice floods which had caused so much havoc to every previous bridge across the Housatonic.

The steel bridge closed to traffic forever on December 7, 1916, only 25 years after it was built. Actual demolition of the steel bridge began in March 1917. Construction of the new Derby-Shelton Bridge

took considerably longer since it was made of concrete. Finally, on September 26, 1918 the temporary bridge (which was at least as unpopular as the steel bridge) was closed to traffic, and a portion of the new bridge was opened to traffic.

The entire Derby-Shelton Bridge was opened to traffic on November 25, 1918. It is interesting to note that the bridge replacement project began before America entered World War I, and did not finish until after the war was over. Several servicemen returning to Shelton after the war noted the new bridge was a bit startling. The total cost of the bridge was \$269,662 (almost \$4.5 million in today's dollars), of which Shelton and Derby contributed just under \$15,000 each.

Like its steel predecessor, the new concrete bridge was designed to carry trolley tracks. Unlike its predecessor, however, the concrete absorbed heavy vibrations, rather than magnified them. The trolleys are long gone, with their rails buried deep under the bridge's pavement. But the concrete continues to absorb the vibrations from heavily laden trucks and countless automobiles.

The reinforced concrete was also designed to withstand the Housatonic River floods, and it is interesting to note that a number of similar concrete bridges



Derby-Shelton Bridge 1979

along the Naugatuck River were destroyed or required replacement after the 1955 Floods. After a century of service, the Derby-Shelton Bridge has stood longer than any of its predecessors dating back to 1790, and indeed is one of the oldest bridges in the region. And with a proposed realignment of its travel lanes and sidewalks, the bridge will likely continue at least well into the 21st century. ♦

LOCAL BUSINESSES

# Rita's Italian Ice Delivering Cool Treats and Happiness

Rita's Italian Ice at 781 River Road in Shelton is entering its third summer season. Owner Dan Onofrio stated this is his third store and his decision to open it in Shelton has been great. Having grown up in Derby, Dan added it feels good to contribute and participate in the Valley community.

Dan and his wife Andrea became familiar with Rita's while living in Pennsylvania. Dan said he remembers coming home from work one day and seeing a line wrapped around one of the Rita's in Chalfont, Pennsylvania. When he got home, he told his wife "We have to check this place out!" So they did just that. It was the store's "First Day of Spring" event, where they give away a free Italian ice to celebrate the start of the spring season.

It wasn't long after that the Onofrio's were relocated back to Connecticut where Dan's long-time friend and now business partner, Dominick Boanno, mentioned the Rita's in West Haven. After some discussion they decided to look into purchasing a franchise.

With the addition of another investor, long-time friend and Shelton resident, Kevin Kellogg, they opened their first location in Bridgeport in the spring of 2008. They are celebrating their 10th season. They also purchased the West Haven store a few years ago and have locations in the Bridgeport Arena at Harbor Yard.

If you've been to Rita's, you know they serve Ice,



Custard and Happiness. They employ close to 50 Treat Teamers throughout their operations not only to make and deliver cool treats, but most importantly to serve up some happiness. It can be expensive for families to go out these days so Dan thinks of a visit to Rita's as a "20 to 30-minute vacation." Dan added "For a few dollars you can get a nice cool treat. Plus, who doesn't love dessert!"



Owner Dan Onofrio with two of his Treat Teamers

There are now over 600 Rita's franchises across the country, serving up a variety of flavors, including over 60 Italian Ice flavors all made fresh every day with real fruit. It's not just about the ice as their old fashioned frozen custard is thick and creamy. One way to have a Rita's is combining the Italian Ice with the Frozen Custard flavor of your choice. One of their most popular combinations is the Gelati (a layer of frozen custard on the bottom, a layer of Italian ice and a dollop of custard on top). Then the more sophisticate enthusiast can also mix them, blend them and drink them – all various combinations of the Ice and Custard.

They also offer catering from casual picnics to corporate events and weddings. "Rita's on the Road" is booming. The Shelton Rita's is open all year round seven days a week throughout the spring, summer and fall with reduced hours during the cooler months.

For further information you can visit their website at [www.ritasice.com](http://www.ritasice.com) or call (203) 499-9187. ♦



### Shelton's Downtown Redevelopment Summer 2018 Update

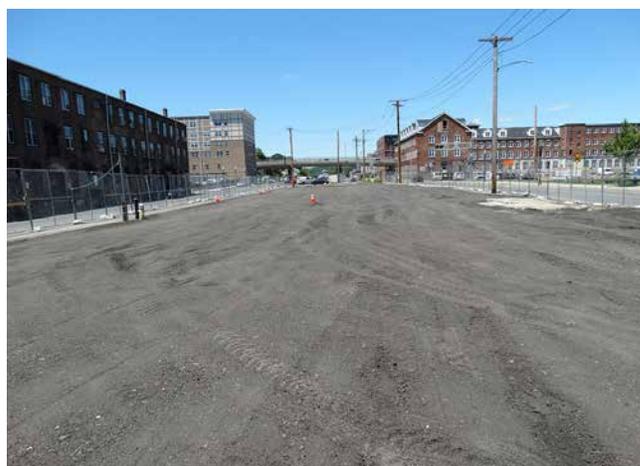
The City of Shelton, through the Shelton Economic Development Corporation, has been actively moving forward with the redevelopment activities along Canal Street. Current activities include the environmental remediation of the former Chromium Process Facility at 113 West Canal Street, soil remediation activities at 223 Canal Street and the reconstruction of Canal Street from Avalon Bay Apartments to the Wooster Street intersection.

#### Chromium Process

The Chromium Process redevelopment effort has been challenging. Demolition of the existing building, removal of contaminated debris, installation of an environmental control barrier and bringing the property up to grade for the creation of much needed public parking has taken nearly two years to complete.

The City partnered with the State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development and the US EPA to support the clean up and redevelopment of the site. The site, which will hold 68 parking spaces, will be available for public use by the end of the summer.

*continued on next page*



The Many Environmental Remediation Phases of the Chromium Process Project.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### 223 Canal Street

The property at 223 Canal Street has a typical industrial history. Originally home to the Wilkinson Button Factory dating back to early 1900's the property contained multiple structures that were used for a variety of industrial and manufacturing activities which included the use of heavy metals. The property has been fully demolished and the site was cleared of all building materials and debris. A site investigation of the soil was then conducted to rule out or confirm soil contamination. As is typical for these properties along the riverfront, it was determined that there were small pockets of petroleum hydrocarbon contaminants and a large area of lead contamination which was confined to one area of the property.

A plan to extract and dispose of the the contaminated soils was determined to be the most effective treatment of the property. It is anticipated that this effort will conclude by the Fall of 2018, which will enable the property to be converted to its next use, as a 68-unit apartment soon to be known as River Breeze Apartments.



223 Canal Street Demolition & Soil Remediation Project

### Canal Street Reconstruction

As the city and its partner developers have reclaimed the riverfront for public reuse, Canal Street has been fully reconstructed with underground electric utilities, decorative street lighting, new sidewalks with brick pavers and of course a new road surface. Approximately two-thirds of the one-mile road has now been reconstructed.

Most recently, the city completed the reconstruction of another 550 linear feet of roadway between the Avalon Bay Apartments and the Wooster Street intersection at Canal Street. This effort has led us to the conclusion of Phase IV of the Canal Street Reconstruction Program and to the initiation of the fifth and final phase of this program.

Currently, the Shelton Economic Development Corporation is seeking an engineering firm to complete the engineering of the final 750 linear feet of roadway along Canal Street and an additional 400 linear feet along Wooster Street. The selection of an engineering firm is expected to conclude by summer. The newly proposed roadway will include new road surfaces, sidewalks with decorative pavers, aesthetic street lighting and underground electric utilities.

Additionally, the City of Shelton is eager to reopen the railroad crossing at Wooster Street which will improve traffic flow and provide greater access to the public open spaces along the Housatonic River.

*continued on page 29*

# SHELTON COMMUNITY & BUSINESS NEWS

## COMMUNITY NEWS



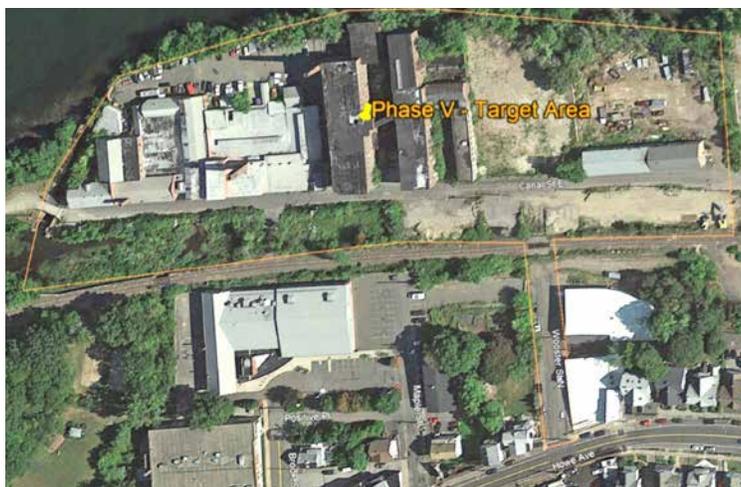
Canal Street Reconstruction looking North from Avalon Bay Apartments

*Update, continued from pg. 28*

### Next Steps

For close to three decades, the City of Shelton and the Shelton Economic Development Corporation have been methodically working toward the reclamation of every property along Canal Street and the Housatonic River. Together, through the leadership of Mayor Mark Lauretti, this team has effected positive environmental and economic changes. These changes can be measured in multiple ways; numbers of citizens utilizing the public open spaces at Veterans Memorial Park, the number of new residential developments in downtown, the number of acres cleaned and placed back into use, or the amount of taxes generated through these investments. The positive impacts are significant, meaningful and long lasting.

Over the next few years, the city will focus much of its time and effort on the four remaining properties located in the northern end of Canal Street. Preliminary development proposals show the potential for the creation of 160 housing units, 23,000 square feet of retail and 25,000 square feet office space. ♦



### Acknowledging our Partners



Department of Economic and  
Community Development



# Community Calendar

## PARKS & RECREATION

### Community Center Hours:

Monday-Friday 6:30 am - 9:30 pm

Saturday 7:30 am - 3:30 pm

### Pool Hours:

Monday-Friday 6:00 am - 8:45 pm

Sunday 8:00 am - 3:30 pm

Saturday 7:30 am - 3:30 pm

## LEAGUES

A number of adult and youth leagues are offered throughout the year. Leagues include baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball, volleyball, and more!

The pool at the community center is open year round for residents and non-residents. Adult and children's classes are available.

## RENTALS

The community center offers a number of rooms for meetings, parties, clubs, and more! Along with the community center, the White Hills Civic Club, the War Memorial, and city fields are available for rent.

Information/Cancellation Hotline 203-331-4120.

## SHELTON SENIOR CENTER

Shelton Senior Center Direct Line: (203) 924-9324. Come join the center, be a member and receive a monthly newsletter. Daily activities for everyone. Transportation for senior members to the center is available through "Valley Transit" (Monday, Wednesday and Friday). Ever thought of being a volunteer? If interested, please contact Doreen at the center for the lunch program.

## SHELTON LIBRARY SYSTEM

### Plumb Memorial Library

65 Wooster St. 203-924-9461

### Huntington Branch Library

In the Community Center,  
41 Church St. 203-926-0111

## SHELTON YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU

Safe Sitter classes (for 11-14 year olds) are scheduled Friday, July 13, and Wednesday, August 15, from 10:00 AM-4:00 PM at Plumb Memorial Library. The cost of the class is \$25. Space is limited. Register by emailing [d.kopec@cityofshelton.org](mailto:d.kopec@cityofshelton.org)

The Shelton Youth Service Bureau will be sponsoring Free Family Movie Nights again this summer. The summer schedule is as follows:

July 21 – "Wonder"

July 28 – "Coco"

Aug. 4 – "Peter Rabbit"

Aug. 11 – "Despicable Me 3"

Aug. 18 – "Leap"

Aug. 25 – "Sherlock Gnomes"

### YSB Spotlight on Youth Nomination

If you know a Shelton student who has volunteered time, energy or talents – above and beyond what they have to do for school – nominate that student for Spotlight on Youth. Forms are available at the libraries or call the Youth Service Bureau 203-924-7614

## CONGRATULATIONS



On June 5th, Huntington Branch Children's Librarian Marissa Correia and her husband welcomed Ivy Shea Correia into the world! Mother and baby are doing great! Congratulations to the Correia family.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Shelton City Hall (203) 924-1555

Shelton Board of Education  
(203) 924-1023

Shelton Community Center  
(203) 925-8422

Shelton Highways and Bridges  
(203) 924-9277

Shelton Animal Control  
(203) 924-2501

Shelton Libraries:

Plumb Library (203) 924-1580

Branch Library (203) 926-0111

Shelton Police Dept. (203) 924-1544

Shelton Probate Court  
(203) 924-8462

Shelton Registrar of Voters  
(203) 924-2533

### 1ST WARD ALDERMEN

Anthony Simonetti (203) 926-0922

David Gidwani (203) 450-8223

### 2ND WARD ALDERMEN

Stan Kudej (203) 924-2403

Eric McPherson (203) 924-5862

### 3rd WARD ALDERMEN

John Anglace (203) 929-1515

Cris Balamaci (203) 450-0227

### 4th WARD ALDERMEN

Noreen McGorty (203) 926-1638

Jim Capra (203) 925-0758

### STATE LEGISLATORS

State Senator Kevin Kelly

(860) 240-8826

State Representative Ben McGorty

(800) 842-1423

State Representative Jason Perillo

(800) 842-1423

### CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATION

Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro

(New Haven office) (203) 562-3718

Congressman Jim Himes

(Bridgeport office) (866) 453-0028

### U.S. SENATORS

Senator Richard Blumenthal

(Bridgeport office) (203) 330-0598

Senator Chris Murphy

(Hartford office) (860) 549-8463

# Annual Flag Day Picnic – June 8, 2018

## Business Networking Honoring Our Veterans and Flag



American Legion Post 16 salutes our Flag.

