

FREE

SHELTON *Life*

COMMUNITY & BUSINESS NEWS

APRIL 2018
VOLUME 25, ISSUE 1



Service to Community

APRIL ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

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SHELTON COMMUNITY & BUSINESS NEWS

Welcome from the Editor



Spring is finally coming after what seemed to be an endless winter. This issue of Shelton Life has several articles that we hope you enjoy. If anyone has a human interest story related to life in Shelton, please call us at 203-924-2521. We welcome any stories of our history. For instance, the article from Rob Novak on the Housatonic ice flow that smashed the new dam construction and flooded part of downtown Shelton. The river is a great resource that is sometime ignored. Note the article from our friends at HVA. Also, we thank our volunteer fireman for their service.

Fred Ruggio, Editor

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Fred Musante, Sr., (1922-2009)

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Dear Shelton Residents and Businesses:



Welcome to the Spring 2018 edition of the *Shelton Life* newsletter. In this edition, you will find many inspiring stories of neighbors helping neighbors, new business development, volunteerism, environmental remediation, school diversity, and we can never forget the treasure in our backyard – the Housatonic River.

For more than 135 years, a “high caliber” all-volunteer fire department has silently stood watch over our community. The city maintains four fire stations: Echo Hose Hook & Ladder Fire Company #1 (Downtown), Huntington Fire Company #3, Shelton Volunteer Fire Company #4 (Pine Rock Park), and the White Hills Voluntary Fire Company #5. In order for this elite force to maintain its watch, it needs citizens to fill its volunteer ranks. Right now, the department has a “Call for Volunteers”. Are you going to answer? If any person over the age of 16 believes they have the “right stuff” and wishes to join, I urge you to call 203-924-1555, ext. 1515.

As we enter spring, the river opens up to many residents, through outdoor activities such as hiking, boating, fishing and swimming. We encourage people to be mindful that they have the opportunity to support the river’s health by opting to reduce their use of harmful chemicals such as pesticides, fertilizers and other toxins that eventually make their way to our streams and rivers. Take the pledge, be “RiverSmart.”

Finally, members of our community strive to thrive economically and there is no better pace to view these endeavors than in the small businesses scattered throughout town. 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. And last but not least, hats off to our Shelton Life editorial team and community volunteers always striving for excellence.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Lauretti
Mayor, City of Shelton



Correction

In the December 2017 issue of Shelton Life referencing the Richard O. Belden Cultural Center, it stated Representative Belden served over 23 years as a Connecticut State Representative. It was actually over 32 years Representative Belden served. Again, thanks to his many years of service and dedication to making our city a better place to live.

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

© Michael Connelly, “The Closers”

“Springing” Into Programs at the Library

Submitted by Joan Stokes, Library Director

The Plumb Memorial Library is springing to life in every corner.

A lot of spring cleaning, sorting and moving within the library collection is being done. The goal is to celebrate and honor the Plumb Memorial as the architectural jewel of Shelton and have the most functional, well-run library possible. Hopefully in the coming months there will be many improvements and positive changes in the library.



A recent film discussion group

The library has added many new and exciting programs. For the adults, the library is offering sessions of gentle Tai Chi, history programs, community service programs and book talks during the day and at night.

During April, both the Plumb and the Huntington Branch will be participating in the statewide “Passport to Libraries” program. When you visit the participating libraries, you will get a stamp in your passport and a small gift at each location. At the end of the month, all participants will be placed in a drawing for a Visa gift card for adults for \$150 and a \$100 gift card for children. Information is available at the Circulation Desks.

On Saturday, May 5th, the library will be welcoming back the Valley Shakespeare Festival. They will be performing “Macbeth” in the beautiful Reading Room as part of their summer tour.

This summer the Friends of the Library will be sponsoring the donations of the beautiful gift baskets made by Nancy Wilmlink for all adult summer readers. Many thanks to her and all the Friends for all their hard work!



Kathleen McGowan, yoga instructor, teaching the Storytime Yoga class

Remember to visit the Friends Spring Book sale held in the downstairs meeting room on May 17- 20.

The teens have also been busy at Plumb! Recently, they had a “pizza judging” event. Teens sampled pizza from the area restaurants and decided which was their favorite. Many thanks to all the restaurants who donated the pies. Plans are taking place for the teen spring and summer events. These will include Spanish classes, improv classes, author talks, “Life As Art” classes and more.

The children’s department is always full of activity. In addition to story times, the library is offering monthly multicultural booktalks, spanish classes, homeschooling programs, and Storytime Yoga, along with an exciting program planned with the Huntington Branch for summer. Stop in at either library for all the details! ♦



Kathi Ducharme, Library Assistant, leading a group of teens in a scavenger hunt

Shelton's Fire Department Service to Community

*A message from Francis T. Jones III, Fire Chief,
Shelton Fire Department:*



As Fire Chief, I would like to introduce the Shelton Fire Department to our community.

The Shelton Fire Department has a proud history of serving our community and is comprised of some of the finest volunteer firefighters in the state. The men and women of

the Shelton Fire Department are highly trained, well equipped, extremely dedicated, and focused on service to their community.

Goal & Mission Statement

The goal of the Shelton Fire Department is to provide the highest level of life safety and property conservation to our community through fire education; fire prevention; suppression and rescue services.

Our mission is to perform life safety, incident stabilization and property conservation. The all-volunteer membership of the Shelton Fire Department is

committed to upholding a standard of excellence by building on a solid foundation of community spirit of dedicated neighbors helping neighbors.

For more than 135 years, your Shelton Firefighters comprised of the Echo Hose Hook and Ladder Fire Company #1, Huntington Fire Company #3, Shelton Volunteer Fire Company #4 (Pine Rock Park), and White Hills Voluntary Fire Company #5, have bravely and successfully confronted the hazards of Shelton's growing community. Through providing a broad spectrum of emergency and non-emergency services to our citizens, visitors, and businesses of our community in order to combat the perils associated with fires and other hazards.

"I am proud to represent such a dedicated service organization, and I am impressed on a daily basis with the professionalism, dedication, integrity, community spirit and resourcefulness of the men and women of our Shelton Fire Department.

Our department stands ready to assist you in your time of need, day or night, with dedicated neighbors helping neighbors providing service with respect, professionalism, empathy, and compassion. I encourage you all to consider becoming a member of our firefighting family of 'neighbors helping neighbors' by enlisting or supporting one of your neighborhood volunteer fire companies," stated Chief Jones. ♦

Call For Volunteers

The Shelton Fire Department is looking for eager men and women to join as a volunteer firefighter and help the community. If you or a family member from age 16 or older is interested in joining, please contact Ryan Mattioli as noted below.

Ryan Mattioli
Recruitment & Retention Officer
Shelton Fire Department
City of Shelton 203-924-1555 ext 1515
Huntington Fire Co. #3 • 203-929-1414
r.mattioli@cityofshelton.org



City of Shelton's Fire Marshal's Office Keeping the Community Safe

Fire marshals are responsible for enforcing, within their jurisdictions, provisions of law governing fire safety and fire prevention as well as provisions of codes, mainly the fire safety and fire prevention codes, promulgated under the law.

With regard to buildings and structures, fire marshals make the initial determination that buildings and structures comply with the pertinent codes, statutes, and regulations, except where the law or regulations expressly provide otherwise (Conn. Agency Regs. § 29-292-3e(b)). Their authority does not normally extend to state buildings.

The following are among the specific duties that fire marshals must perform:

- annually inspect all buildings and facilities of public service and occupancies, except one and two family dwellings, regulated by the state Fire Safety Code, and inspect other buildings upon receiving an authentic report that they pose a fire hazard that could endanger life (CGS § 29-305);
- where applicable, review plans for buildings and structures under their jurisdiction, to determine compliance with the fire safety code before the building permits are issued (CGS § 29-263);
- investigate the cause, origin, and circumstances of all fires that caused or threatened to cause property or personal damage or deaths (CGS §§ 29-302 & 29-303);
- certify that residential buildings subject to the fire safety code are equipped with code-compliant smoke detection and warning equipment before they are issued a certificate of occupancy (CGS § 292(b));
- upon receiving a complaint, inspect one and two family dwellings to ensure that statutory requirements on smoke detection and warning equipment are satisfied (CGS § 29-305);
- issue permits for keeping, selling, using, storing, procuring, or transporting explosives (CGS § 29-349(d) & (e));
- inspect dry cleaning and dry dyeing establishments



(L to R) Seated: Darlene Cooper, Chris Far, Standing: Kevin Lantowsky, Bob Albert, Fire Marshal James Tortora, Joe Kingston

at least once each year (CGS § 29-326);

- inspect, at least once each year, bulk storage tanks, equipment, and cargo tank vehicles at bulk storage installations used to store and transport liquefied petroleum gas and liquefied natural gas (CGS § 29-332);
- annually inspect storage plants, plant equipment, and cargo tank vehicles at such plants used to store and transport hazardous chemi-

- icals (CGS § 29-339);
- inspect fireworks and special effects display sites (CGS § 29-357);
- determine the appropriate amount of fire protection and fire extinguishing equipment required at amusement parks and carnivals and;
- the Shelton Open Burning Official issues open burning permits and enforces state and local open burning regulations (CGS § 29-143a);
- is responsible for fire prevention education and activities within the community.

Fire Marshals must be certified by the State Fire Marshal. To be initially certified, they must successfully complete a certification program prepared, conducted, or approved by the state fire marshal and Codes and Standards Committee.

To maintain certification, they must successfully complete at least 90 hours of approved training over a three-year period.

The Fire Marshal's office is overseen by Fire Marshal James M. Tortora and his staff, which includes Deputy Fire Marshal Bob Albert; Deputy Fire Marshal Emeritus, Chris Far; Fire Safety Code Inspector's Kevin Lantowsky and Joe Kingston III; and Administrative Secretary Darlene Cooper. Fire Safety Code Inspector Lantowsky also serves as the Fire Prevention Coordinator and Housing Code Enforcement Officer. The Fire Marshal's office is located in City Hall. The office can be reached at (203) 924-1555 extension 1514. ♦

Be “RiverSmart!” Take the pledge!

By Jane Bakker, Housatonic Valley Association Communications Manager



Clean water starts with you! A few simple everyday choices and actions make the difference between pollution and protection. What are the threats and what can you do to protect our waterways?

The greatest threat...

The #1 threat to rivers today is polluted storm runoff from roads, parking lots, lawns, and roofs. This runoff contains pesticides and chemicals, sand, salt, oil and gas, fertilizer, soil from construction sites, litter and pet wastes.

We make the problem worse as we increase impervious surfaces such as paved roads and driveways and reduce riverfront vegetation.

The best way to protect the health of rivers, lakes and aquifers is to let nature take her course. Using less man-made everything – asphalt, chemicals, lawn mowers, for example – can help protect the natural land that surrounds our waterways.

“Buffers” help keep rivers clean and cool

While the practice is falling out of favor, some



Students put in buffer plants on the river bank.

homeowners and businesses still mow and fertilize their lawns down to the water’s edge allowing them an unobstructed view of the river or lake. While the view may be spectacular, this also provides an unobstructed path for fertilizer and pesticides to flow freely into that waterway. As more homeowners continue this process, the increase in chemicals and non-natural nutrients kills aquatic life due to diminished oxygen encouraging algae blooms and making recreation undesirable.

Planting trees and native vegetation would slow the runoff, stabilize the banks, discourage geese congregation, and provide shelter to wildlife and shade for aquatic life.

Go natural! Use non-chemical alternatives

Chemical fertilizers bombard grass and plants with more nutrients than they need. Natural fertilizers purchased from your local landscape supply – or even simple compost and grass clippings – are better balanced for the environment.

Pesticides are, essentially, poisons. What might keep cutworms off your tomato plants can also be killing the bugs that fish feed on in your local river (or worse, getting into the fish themselves). Cutting down on pesticides and using natural deterrents like wildflowers or herbs that draw the pesky bugs away from our garden are a better solution.

Commit to being “RiverSmart!” Take the pledge.

Any household, business or town can be part of the water pollution solution! The Housatonic Valley Association (HVA) and its partners have created the RiverSmart program to make it easy.

RiverSmart.org has lots of tips and resources. You can help spread the word by pledging to make a few simple changes that will make a huge impact – and

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Rain Garden

EPA photo

sharing the pledge with friends, family and co-workers. Just choose four actions from the list on the website which includes:

- Plant a rain garden –depressed beds, filled with water and drought tolerant native perennials and shrubs filter runoff.
- Water lawns and gardens less often – brown grass will turn green again.
- Have less lawn –shrubs and trees soak up water.
- Have less hard surfaces – use pervious materials such as gravel, paving stones or shells for patios and walkways.
- Reduce waste by recycling.
- Scoop up your pet’s waste and put it in the trash.
- Mow grass high and let the clippings fertilize your yard.
- Wash vehicles in a carwash or on the grass, not on the driveway.
- Use a rain barrel to collect water from your downspout and recycle it for watering your garden or house-plants.

Need a rain barrel? Here in Shelton, Aquarion Water Company offers discounts on barrels every spring. Call them or visit AquarionWater.com for details.



Just imagine the benefit of RiverSmart homes, businesses and town halls throughout the Housatonic River watershed. Each town participating in this project brings us a step closer to keeping our waterways, our drinking water and our wildlife healthy – today and for the next generation!

RiverSmart partners

RiverSmart is led cooperatively by Housatonic Valley Association, Pomperaug River Watershed

Coalition, Kent Land Trust, Weantinoge Heritage Land Trust, Rivers Alliance of Connecticut, and the Farmington River Watershed Association. The initiative was made possible through generous grant support from Connecticut Community Foundation, Ellen Knowles Harcourt Foundation, LUSH Cosmetics’ Charity Pot Program, Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments, the Merchants of New Preston Village, the City of Derby and Pitney Bowes. ♦

These creatures are counting on you to keep their water clean and safe.



Duane Raver USFWS photo



Don DeBold photo



Paddle anyone? The constant recycling of fresh water renews and sustains the natural environment – and our own spirit, too. So please take the pledge!



Be RiverSmart!

Find all the tools you need to make your home or business RiverSmart. Visit BeRiverSmart.org or call HVA at 860-672-6678.



The Ousatonic Dam Collapse of 1891 Flood Waters Cause Extensive Damage

The Ousatonic Dam and the connecting Shelton Canal were completed in 1870. The dam's construction was the catalyst that created downtown Shelton. Despite the dam's monumental impact, it was plagued by bad luck and problems in its early years.

In its original form, the Ousatonic Dam was a 686 foot long brick wall, holding back the millions of gallons of water of Lake Housatonic. A gatehouse at the top of the dam on the Shelton side controlled the water which flowed into the Shelton Canal, which literally turned the wheels of downtown's late 19th century industry. Excess water would tumble over the dam's 22' sheer drop into the river below. This sheer drop would prove to be a fatal structural flaw in 1891.

Construction of the Ousatonic Dam began in 1867. The dam was only 10 days from completion in October of 1869 when a freshet sent its east and middle sections tumbling into the Housatonic. Repairing the damage delayed the opening of the dam and attached canals for a year.

The local use of the term "freshet" requires some explanation. Prior to the building of the Stevenson Dam upriver, ice used to flow down the Housatonic from as far north as Massachusetts. This was a common, accepted occurrence back then, and people who lived along the river learned to expect it with the arrival of warmer March weather, or as in 1891 a January thaw, and/or heavy rain. The ice would often jam at the steep, narrow riverbank between Squantuck in Seymour and the opposite shore in Shelton. The ice would pile higher at the jam, creating an "ice dam", which would cause the water behind it to dramatically rise. Photographs exist showing such ice jams covering the railroad tracks north of Indian Well in Shelton. Finally, when the pres-



Rushing water and pounding ice caused the Ousatonic Dam to collapse on January 21, 1891.

sure would become too great, the dam would give way, causing a tremendous, destructive surge of water and ice to thunder down the Housatonic, plunge over the dam, and inundate the hearts of downtown Shelton and Derby.

Minor freshets and ice jams became more or less a common occurrence

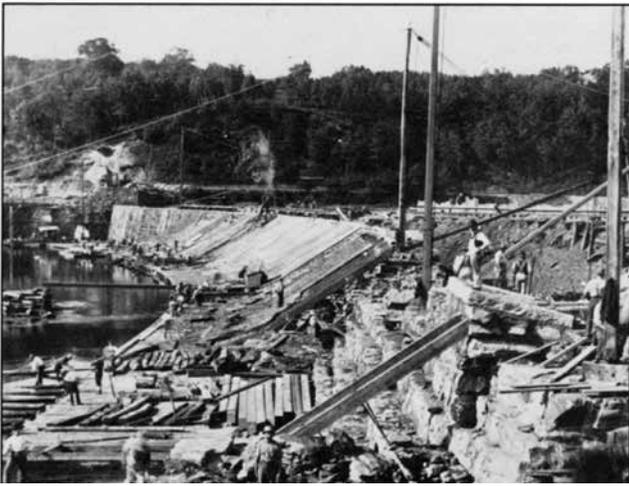
during freshet periods, and many of downtown Shelton's first residents even made it a spectator sport. On January 21, 1891, a crowd of people gathered on the pedestrian platform of the old red covered bridge, where the Derby-Shelton Bridge is today, during a freshet to watch the three-year old railroad trestle downriver tumble into the Housatonic. Buffeted by the freshet's large chunks of ice and swirling waters, it was obvious the bridge would not survive the evening. The old covered bridge was the best spot in the Valley to view the show.

Upriver, Edward Clark stood on the Shelton side near the dam, keeping a watchful eye on a measuring stick. Suddenly, the stick sank out of sight. Shortly after, the frantic sound of the factory gong at the Wilkinson Brothers Paper Mill, the northernmost factory on Canal Street, confirmed Mr. Clark's suspicions. The freshet's surge over the dam's sheer drop undermined its founda-



A torrent of water flows through the breach in the dam.

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Reconstruction of the dam began in March of 1891

tions. Part of the dam's wall pushed forward, while other sections collapsed entirely into the Housatonic River.

Another shockwave of water began cascading down the Housatonic, and the people on the covered bridge were in danger. Fortunately, the people on and near the covered bridge also knew what the frantic sounding of the Paper Mill gong meant. In an instant, the people on the covered bridge went from spectators to potential victims. Panicking, the crowd ran to higher ground, Howe Avenue on the Shelton side and Olivia Street on the Derby side. The local newspaper Ansonia Evening Sentinel reported "in about five minutes every home and saloon (near the river) was without an occupant." Ironically, despite the fact the covered bridge was the only of the three links between Derby and Shelton to survive the freshet, it was replaced later that year with an iron bridge.

The Sentinel further reported "It was apparent that no wall built by man could withstand...the water and terrible shocks of the heavy cakes of ice that came down the river. The waters were awful to behold as they came down...in one wild rush".

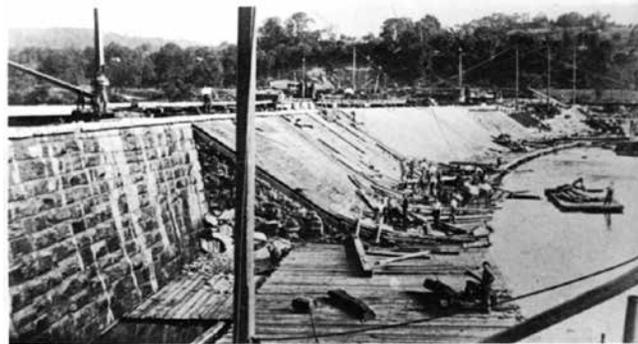
Restrained for 21 years behind the dam, the river unleashed its fury upon Shelton and Derby that evening. Water surged into the Shelton Canal and completely flooded the lower floors of factories which had just been evacuated. The wooden canal gatehouse at the dam was destroyed. The Shelton Dock, on Wharf Street where the Commodore Hull Bridge crosses today, was completely covered with water and at least one building there was destroyed.

The freshet caused more than \$100,000 in physical damage, equal to over \$2.5 million today. The costs

associated with severing one of the few railroad links between Fairfield and New Haven counties, combined with the temporary loss of the "cheap water power" Shelton factories enjoyed from Ousatonic Dam, have never been calculated.

Repairs to the railroad bridge began almost immediately, with a temporary bridge restoring service before a permanent replacement was constructed. The dam repairs had to wait until the weather warmed and the river calmed in March, and lasted until October of 1891. A nearby hillside near Park Avenue in Derby provided the stone needed to plug the 150-foot side breach. The scars in the hill caused by quarrying the granite for the dam repairs are visible from the Shelton side of the river.

Once the wall was rebuilt, a sloping apron construct-



The straight face of the original dam can be seen in the left side of the photo. The sloping apron was added to the dam after repairing the breach.

ed of heavy wood timber was installed. The apron's purpose was to eliminate the dam's sheer drop in favor of the water running down a hill. The water pressure was thus deflected downriver, rather than at the dam's foundation as was the case in 1891. The wood apron lasted until 1952, when it was replaced by the concrete apron which still exists today.

Whether constructed of wood or concrete, the sloping apron has preserved the Ousatonic Dam for 127 years since its reconstruction. Even the floods of 1955 did not raise any serious concerns that the dam would burst again. Although the canals are no longer used for industrial purposes, and much of the Shelton canal is now underground, the Ousatonic Dam continues to provide hydroelectric power for the region.

Robert Novak Jr. is the City of Shelton's Municipal Historian. Portions of this article are from a "Hometown History" column he wrote for the Huntington Herald newspaper on January 24, 1996. ♦

SHELTON COMMUNITY & BUSINESS NEWS

COMMUNITY NEWS



Community Service Opportunities for April 2018 *Outdoor Conservation Projects*

High School students: To receive Shelton High School community service credit, bring your SHS form to the event and ask an event leader to sign it. Be sure to fill out portions of the form ahead of time (name, date, location...). Forms are available from SHS.

<p>Saturday, April 7, 12:30 pm – 4:00 pm</p> <p>Tuesday, April 10, 2:00 pm – 5:30 pm</p> <p>(Raindate Thursday, April 12, 2:00 – 5:30 pm)</p> 	<p>Spring Break 2018 Trail Work Parties: Crews will be improving the historic Paugussett “Blue Dot” Trail in the Poet Section of the White Hills. This is tiring and dirty work, but rewarding as the trail is converted from an ankle-twister to a pleasant walk. See sheltontrailscom.blogspot.com for details and updates.</p>
<p>Saturday, April 14, 8:30 am</p>	<p>Regular Trails Work Party. See sheltontrailscom.blogspot.com for details and updates.</p>
<p>Saturday, April 21, 8:00 am – 2 pm</p> 	<p>Housatonic River Cleanup at Sunnyside Boat Launch. Organizers give boat rides up the river to drop off volunteers. See housatonicrivercleanup.org for more information or the Housatonic River Clean Up, Inc. Facebook page, which is updated more frequently. Participants eligible for free Clean Sweep 2018 patches.</p>
<p>Sunday, April 22 EARTH DAY, 1:00 pm</p> 	<p>Clean Sweep at Shelton Lakes The Anti-Litter Committee is sponsoring a cleanup of the trails and roadways at Shelton Lakes. Meet at the Shelton Ave. trailhead parking area under the powerlines. Participants eligible for free Clean Sweep 2018 patches. Bags and gloves provided. See DontTrashShelton.org for more about Clean Sweep.</p>
<p>Saturday, April 28, 8:30 am</p>	<p>Regular Trails Work Party. See sheltontrailscom.blogspot.com for details and updates.</p>

For more information, contact Shelton’s Natural Resource Manager at conservation@cityofshelton.org.

LOCAL BUSINESSES

The Ice Cream Shoppe The Tradition Continues

The Ice Cream Shoppe, located at 59 Bridgeport Avenue, has been making fresh, homemade ice cream for the Shelton community for over 45 years. Since opening in 1971, Dan Turro & Don North worked hard to provide premium ice cream with over 30 flavors available daily. Flavors vary from classics like mint chocolate chip and black raspberry to custom creations like playdough and caramel coconut cookie as well as rich, creamy soft serve in vanilla and chocolate. Certainly there is something for everyone's palate.

The Ice Cream Shoppe is a very busy place. In addition to scoops of ice cream, their freezers are filled with cakes and novelties ready to grab and go every day from your next celebration or just to bring home and enjoy. Ice cream cakes and pies are a popular choice. They come in all sizes from a mini size up to a size large enough to feed 50 people. If you order ahead, you can customize your ice cream flavors and decorations.

The Ice Cream Shoppe has been very generous over the years to the Shelton community, including offering free programs to the local scouts and libraries. Recently, Don North accepted on behalf of The Ice Cream Shoppe the "From the Heart" award from the Lower Naugatuck Valley Boys & Girls Club. This award recognizes individuals and organizations who go above and beyond in supporting the Boys & Girls Club by contrib-

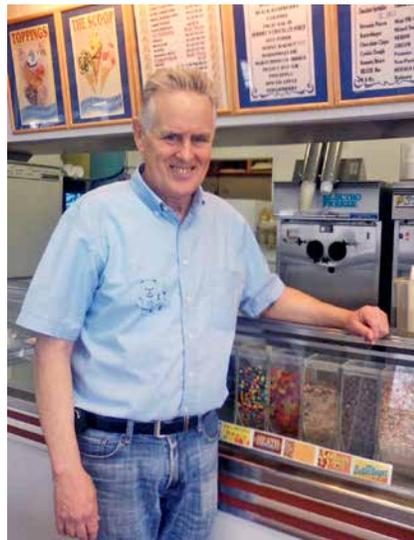


uting in a way that directly impacts the club's children.

The Ice Cream Shoppe is open EVERYDAY, all year...except Thanksgiving Day & Christmas Day. Stop by any day and you will find Dan and Don's children, Christy & Andy, carrying on the tradition of making fresh, homemade ice cream that customers from Shelton, Connecticut and beyond enjoy!! You can follow the fun on their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/icecreamshoppe/ and hear first when they're whipping up special batches of their delicious ice cream! You can also call ahead at (203) 924-2615. ♦



Christy (Turro) Chiaramonte and Andy North, the next generation.



Don North



Mayor Vincent Tisi (left) and Dan Turro

One Smart Dog Turning Puppies Into Well-Behaved Pets

Located in the south end of Shelton at 865 River Road, One Smart Dog opened its doors on January 2, 2016.



One Smart Dog
Training the Family Dog

Pet Dog Trainers, a certified member of the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants, and a member

of the Pet Professional Guild. Dawn is also a certified AKC and therapy dog evaluator and a former Animal Control Officer. To say Dawn is a dog lover is an understatement.

Providing the most effective, helpful solutions to her clients' dog training needs, Dawn enthusiastically pursues ongoing education and professional growth by attending seminars and conferences yearly and keeping current on all up-to-date information in the dog training industry. She has been featured in the *New Haven Register*, the *Connecticut Post*, and has been a guest on the show *Pet Talk* with Lauren Collier, News Channel 12. Dawn lives with her husband, Patrick, inspiration dog Manny and her rescue dog Carbo, both brindle and white Boston Terriers. Her goal is to help families with dogs live a rewarding life together.

On staff at One Smart Dog is Kim Wisniewski, Head Trainer and Stephanie Buehler, Group Class Instructor.

continued on next page



Dawn & her two Boston Terriers Carbo & Manny

One Smart Dog is a southern Connecticut dog training service that prides themselves in turning puppies into well-behaved, friendly pets that are a pleasure to live with and be around. They offer private in-home dog training, puppy training, group dog training classes, and behavior consultations.

Dawn is the owner and head trainer of One Smart Dog. Based in the south end of Shelton, she is a Certified Professional Dog Trainer – (CPDT-KA) and a Certified Associate Dog Behavior Consultant (ACDBC). Dawn has been training dogs for 10 years. She is a professional member of the Association of



LOCAL BUSINESSES

Moderno Barbershop Opens in White Hills

Located at 194 Leavenworth Road, Unit E in the White Hills Shopping Plaza, Moderno Barbershop opened its doors on June 28, 2017. “The opportunity to start a business in Shelton was too good to pass by,” stated owner Joe Dema.

Barbering has been in our family for many generations, dating back to Albania, a small country in Europe, where many generations of family have worked as barbers and have owned barbershops. Proudly born and raised in the United States of America, we continue this form of art. We started off in Monroe at Franks Unisex owned by family and have worked our way around the area including Newtown, Trumbull and then finally Shelton. After working in Shelton and appreciating the people of Shelton, Joe knew this was the place one day he would own a shop. “Shelton is a classic American town with some of the hardest working, friendly, family-oriented people and that’s what made his decision easy. They are very excited to be here and to see what the future holds.

The shop is open on Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM until 6:00 PM and Saturday from 8:00 AM until 3:00 PM. You can call ahead at (203) 402-4061. ♦



Barbers, Joe and Anthony, are excited to offer the latest styles and barbering techniques.



Dog, continued from pg. 11

The facility is over 2,400 square feet, fully-matted and conveniently located right on Route 110 just one mile north of the Merritt Parkway. Immediate service areas include Shelton, Milford, Orange, Stratford, Monroe, Trumbull, Fairfield as well as surrounding New Haven and Fairfield counties.

All different classes are offered from “Puppy Pre-K” to “Mind your Manners” along with private “in-home” Training Sessions. For further information you can call

203-209-3712 or visit their website at onesmartdog.ct.com.

NOTE: Dawn Lowery was one of three Valley business-women honored for launching entrepreneurial talents by the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce’s annual Women in Networking (“WIN”) Entrepreneurial grant program. The WIN grant is a named-fund with the Valley Community Foundation. The three women recognized shared a total of \$3,000 in grants and scholarships for their businesses and to continue their education. ♦

Luna E'Clips Celebrating Their 20th Year in Business

Luna E'clips Hair Salon in Huntington Plaza is celebrating their 20th year in business! The salon is owned and operated by Julianne Hoha of Shelton and managed by Theresa Adams.

Julianne had worked at this same Shelton salon for the previous owner, while attending college for paralegal research, graduating college and also raising a family in Shelton.

After starting out in the legal corporate world, it didn't take long for Julianne to realize she wasn't cut out to be a "Perry Mason" type. She disliked the corporate commute and still has nightmares of the horrible dreaded "no exit zone" of the Merritt Parkway. The time spent away from home and her little children was lonely. Corporate work was not for her.

The owner of that same salon from years gone by decided to sell the salon and an opportunity opened up. Did Julianne wish to purchase it? Absolutely yes!

"Going to college gave me the knowledge and courage to purchase a business. You need to know computers, advertising, finance and accounting. Owning a business is like having another child. You put



in amazingly long hours. Whether you are physically present at the salon or not, it is always on your mind. What is the weather? Do we need to reschedule appointments to allow for inclement weather?," stated Julianne.

Hair is Important!

Looking good is vital. The salon rebooks in advance of every storm so clients are home safe and sound with amazing hair. The business even gets a wish list every holiday for special upgrades!

Julianne believes the success of the salon over the past 20 years has been the ability to learn and listen. Their clients have 100% of their attention.

The salon has been a winner of the Best of Fairfield County Hair Salons 2001 through 2008.

Luna E'clips Salon is a Redken Ambassador from 5th Ave New York City. Hiring the best staff members who train consistently and perfect their skill is key with

styles current and fresh. Clients receive full consultations on hair color and haircuts every time they sit in their chairs. Do they want a brand new look every single time they come in for styling? The salon can provide that. Do they want

continued next page



Willow & Ivy Boutique Fashion and Accessories



At the busy intersection of Howe Avenue and White Street, you may notice brightly-lit stars in the corner storefront.

This storefront, located at 500 Howe Avenue, is now home to Willow & Ivy, a women's boutique, offering the newest trends in women's clothing.

Owner, Judy Rockwell, is excited to bring this store to Shelton. Look good, feel great! Willow & Ivy has the clothing, accessories and gifts you crave!

No pressure selling is Judy's motto. Just feel free to browse or try on any of the outfits in the store. Customers can also shop online and order different outfits of choice at WillowAndIvystop.com.

Stop in or shop online and discover Willow & Ivy!

The store is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Fridays from 11:00 AM until 6:00 PM; Thursday from Noon until 8:00 PM and Saturdays from 10: 00 AM until 4:00 PM. You can reach the store at (203) 712-7534 or their facebook page at willowandivystop.com. ♦

Luna, continued from pg. 13

to look classic in the style they are comfortable with? They can accommodate that also! Some clients come every week for a wash and set and some for the entire 20 years! Luna E'clips staff are all senior stylists that are expert in full service with permanent waves, highlights and lowlights, formal and bridal updos, permanent and semi-permanent non ammonia Redken Hair Color. In addition, Redken 5th Ave. for men Color Camo Brew is their Men's line that takes only 10 minutes from start to finish! This is perfect for the lunch hour appointment crowd.

"When you have staff members who are creative, you let them shine. It is, and always will be, an honor

to have worked with these amazing stylists. I thank them everyday for a job well done and express my gratitude for their trust and friendship, stated Julianne."

Luna E'Clips is located in the Huntington Plaza on the Huntington Green and has something for everyone and every budget. You can call the salon at (203) 929-3477 or visit their website at www.lunaclipshair-salon.com. for further information or to arrange a consultation.

Gift certificates are also available.

Facebook: Luna Eclips Hair Salon

Web: <https://www.LunaEclipsHairSalon.com> ♦

Stockmal Trail at Willis Woods New Trail Added in 2018

Shelton gained another mile of hiking trail in early 2018 with the creation of Stockmal Trail in the White Hills.

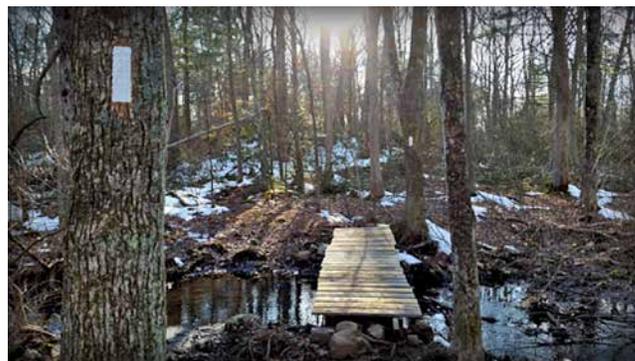
The new trail, which is marked with white blazes on trees, crosses private property and was made possible by a joint effort between the Stockmal family, City of Shelton, Shelton Land Conservation Trust, and Trails Committee volunteers, with funding from the State of Connecticut Open Space and Watershed Grant Program. The new trail brings the total mileage of blazed hiking trails up to 27 miles.

Because the trail crosses private property, hikers are urged to stay on the official white-blazed trail and not go exploring off-trail. Hikers should also wear bright colors during archery hunting season.

The trailhead is located on the north side of Leavenworth Road (Rt 110) just west of Nicholdale Road, across the highway from the Land Trust's popular Nicholdale Farm hiking trails. The first half of the trail crosses the Land Trust's rocky George Willis Woods property (33 acres). Red blazes mark a short side trail that climbs up the steep ledge, where there are seasonal views

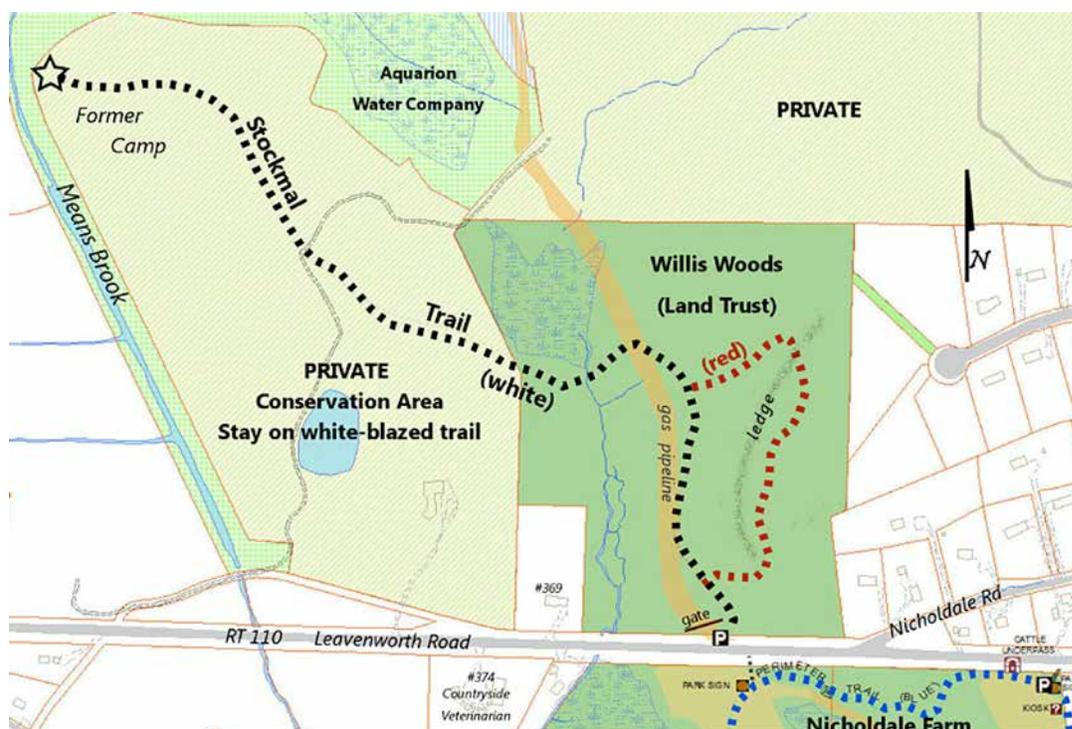
of Jones Family Farms Candy Cane Hill.

After crossing a stream via a bridge, the white-blazed Stockmal Trail soon passes into the Stockmal property (40 acres) and the terrain becomes much easier. The Stockmal property was protected in the year 2000 under an agreement between the Stockmal family and the City of Shelton, with funding from the



State of Connecticut. The agreement prevents the property from ever being subdivided or developed, and allows for a public hiking trail, but kept the land in the Stockmal family. Preservation of the property was a priority due to its location along the banks of Means Brook, a public drinking water supply.

The trail comes to an end at the site of an old Scout camp overlooking Means Brook. Bob and Marcella Stockmal fostered the camp on their property
continued on next page



Attention Shelton Property Owners! State Funds Available for Property Rehabilitation

The City of Shelton Community Development Office has funding available from a prior year's Small Cities Block Grant, from the State of Connecticut.

These funds will be used toward the continuation of the Shelton Residential Rehabilitation Program and will be offered to qualifying Shelton property owners as 0% interest rehabilitation loans.

The program is designed to benefit low and moderate-income occupants and property owners, as designated by State and Federal guidelines.

The purpose of the program is to assist Shelton property owners in making renovations to their homes by eliminating code violations and unsafe conditions, increasing energy efficiency, and improving the general appearance of their property. Eligible projects include roofing and window replacements, electrical and plumbing upgrades and ADA accessibility modifications. Code violations (fire codes, building



codes, and unsafe conditions) are attended to first.

Maximum lending amount is \$25,000 per unit. The 0% deferred loan is paid back to the City at the refinancing or sale of the home, transfer of title, or upon death of the homeowner. Occupant income levels must fall between household size categories and income limits established by HUD.

All taxes must be paid up to date prior to applying.

Call the Shelton Community Development Office at 203-924-1555, Ext. 1374 to discuss eligibility requirements and to provide you with additional information, an application package, and to add your name to the waiting list.

The City of Shelton's Housing Rehabilitation Program is sponsored by the State of Connecticut Department of Economic & Community Development, working in collaboration with the Department of Housing and Urban Development. ♦



Trail, continued from pg. 15
ty several decades ago, along with a network of camp hiking trails. Bob Stockmal was a landscape architect and one of the founding members of the Shelton

Land Conservation Trust. He was known for his use of plantings indigenous to the area, for his efforts to eradicate invasive plants on Land Trust properties.

On the opposite side of Means Brook, along the Monroe town line, is a city open space property known as "Trombetta Woods" (32 acres). There is no public access from Shelton to this property, so it is hoped a brook crossing can be made and Stockmal Trail extended into Trombetta Woods. The river is prone to major floods, however, so it's not yet clear whether a crossing is feasible.

Stockmal Trail is maintained by the Shelton Trails Committee, along with most other hiking trails in Shelton. The Committee holds regular work parties on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month. To learn more or to view trail maps, visit sheltonconservation.org and select "trails" from the menu bar. To add your name to the Trails Committee email list, contact Val Gosset at sheltontrailscommittee@gmail.com and ask to be added to the list. ♦

Enhancing Cultural Diversity in Shelton Public Schools

The beauty of the world lies in the diversity of its people and the Shelton Public School System is taking great pride in recognizing, accepting, respecting and celebrating cultural diversity in many ways. The following two articles feature an exchange of information between second grade students in a Shelton elementary school and second grade students in a school in Japan. Shelton High School is the other school who is participating in an exchange with a Chinese "sister" school. Both schools have come to realize the same conclusion from their experience... it is not our differences that divide us but our lack of ability to recognize and celebrate those differences. In working on these projects they hope to be the change that encourages others to do the same.

Long Hill Elementary School

Theresa Manus is the art teacher at Long Hill School. She consistently seeks out ways to address, educate and excite the students she teaches each day. She looks for opportunities to incorporate lessons that match grade level curriculum and state standards. She is presently pursuing an advanced degree in administrative education and as part of her internship focused on the diversity piece of school culture. While attending a conference at CAEA (Connecticut Art Education Association) she established a rela-

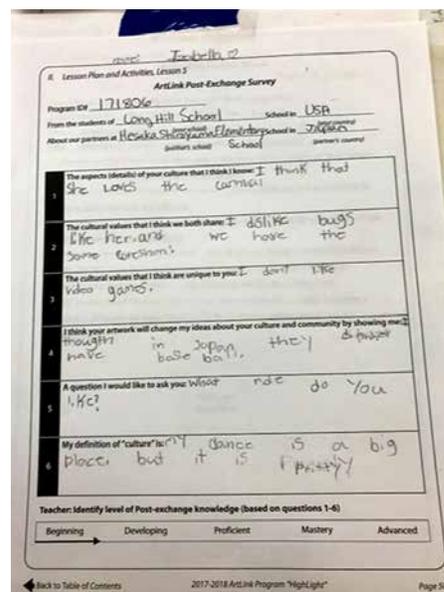


Long Hill Students with their self portraits

tionship with Creative Connections, a company from Norwalk, CT. Creative Connections is an international cultural educational organization that creates and facilitates innovative arts-based exchanges between classrooms in the USA and their peers around

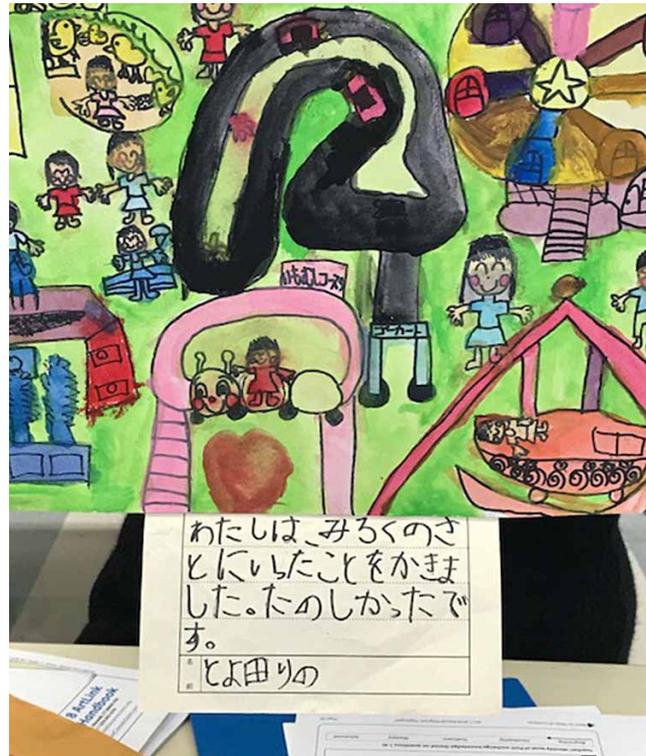
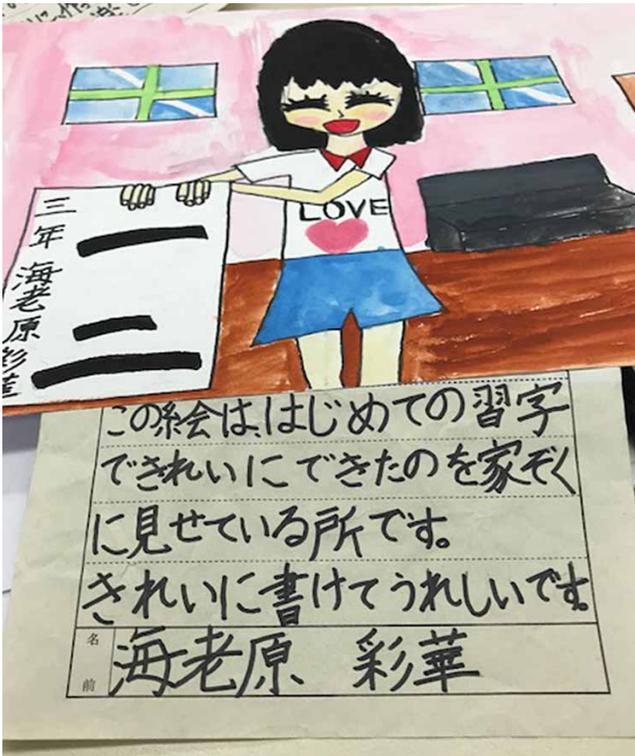
the world to promote appreciation for other cultures, customs and traditions. They happened to have a school in Hiroshima, Japan whose second grade had no pairing so they offered Manus free access to this program if she could pair up with the class. There is usually a cost of \$600 to join, so the creative teacher jumped at the opportunity upon approval of the school administrator.

Although the program provided lesson plans, response forms and examples of work, Manus set the stage by reading the book, *It's Okay to Be Different* by Todd Parr to the children. After discussing students' physical and character differences they made a rough draft of themselves using mirrors to guide their drawings. To complete their self-portrait, they painted paper the tone of their skin by mixing various colors to get the perfect blend. They then continued to use mirrors and sketches to guide their final copy which was a collage of cut and glued paper. After creating the artwork, the second-grade teachers, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Falanga, Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Zarella worked with their students to draft a



Sample info from Shelton second grader

SCHOOL NEWS



Samples of 2nd grade Japanese student work

letter to their Japanese pals telling them about themselves and their artwork. Lastly, the special teachers, Mr. Beloin (PE), Mrs. Demko (Media Specialist) and Mrs. Adams (Music) assisted Manus in working with the students to complete the Artist Description Sheets as required by Creative Connections.

Creative Connections, upon receiving the students' work, translated everything into Japanese and sent it off to the partner school in Japan. They also translated the Japanese students' work into English and sent them to Long Hill second graders. The children are now in the process of reviewing their Asian pals' work and sending feedback online and the partners will reciprocate. The focus of the feedback includes comparing the cultures and knowledge learned about each. Additionally, if time allows, Manus would like to send video clips having students each ask one question they are curious about.

One of the second-grade teachers, Joann Allen, fully supported the program by stating that "Even though the students are a world apart, they really loved seeing both the English and Japanese version

of their writing as well as how much in common they had with their pals (i.e. going to school, family events, games and cartoons)."

Andrea D'Aiuto, Principal of Long Hill School, further commented with enthusiastic praise: "This project was a great way to get the students to start thinking about how our society values being different, special and unique. Our second graders were so excited to complete their self-portraits and write to their pen-pals. They were even more excited to receive their pen-pal letters and learn about their new friends from another continent."

Manus was overwhelmed by the support and great success of this project as the students connected learning across the curriculum expanding their knowledge of world cultures. It was so fulfilling for her to collaborate and utilize trending educational resources of interest to design lessons. She summed up the project by stating "it was like the stars aligned to create a masterpiece of appreciation and understanding that we are all different, yet all the same though quite unique".

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SHELTON COMMUNITY & BUSINESS NEWS

SCHOOL NEWS

Shanghai Sister School Comes to SHS

One cold winter day a group of thirty students and two teachers from Jian Ping School in Shanghai, China, disembarked from the coach bus eager to experience a typical “American” high school day at Shelton High School. The match of this sister school combo was arranged by Garrick Yau, co-owner of EPE, a Westchester New York company that promotes sister school arrangements between China and the USA. This match is the first with a school in Connecticut and was formed by the relationship of Yau and Dr. Clouet who formerly worked in the New York school system.

Upon their arrival, the group from Jian Ping were greeted by Dr. Smith, Headmaster, Dr. Clouet, Superintendent of Schools, and the SHS student escorts. They then assembled for a gift exchange, enjoyed some refreshments and learned about the day’s schedule they’d follow. Then students were paired off with their escorts to attend classes, enjoy the lunch variety offered in the cafeteria and even experience a whole school evacuation because of a fire alarm going off. The group, although curious, a bit anxious, but filled with excitement, couldn’t wait for their American adventure to begin. Neither could the

SHS escorts, especially Louise Kim as she explained: “I signed up for this experience full of excitement. I had never met a student my age that did not attend

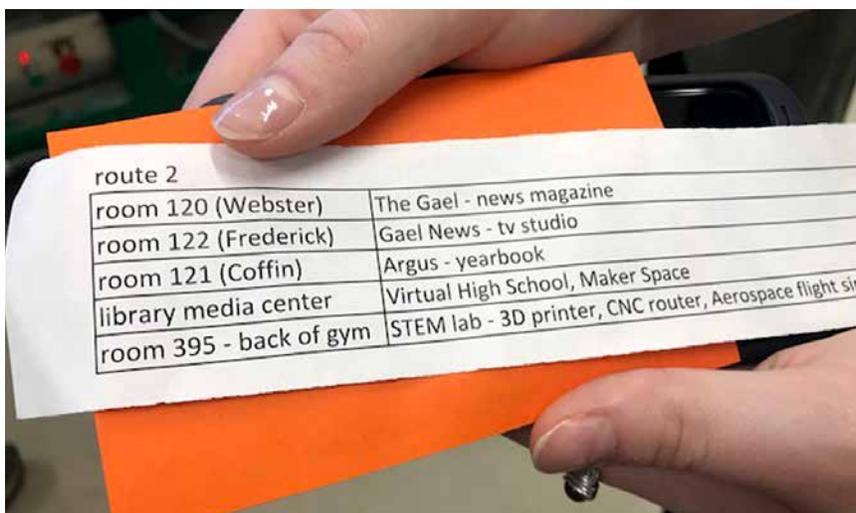


(L to R) Jim Hill (Social Studies Dept Chair), Garrick Yau (Co-Owner of EPE Group); Chaperones from Jian Ping High School; Dr. Smith, Dr. Clouet and Mark Holden (BOE)

school in America. When the students arrived, I could genuinely see how fascinated they were about coming to an American high school. My shadow, Albert, was very shy in the beginning but soon opened up and started conversations. He told me that Shelton High School was ‘very beautiful’ and was especially captivated by our STEM lab. As the day went on, we got to know each other better and could chat about the differences between student life in China and America. We soon learned that our cultures were very different but our likes very similar. He found it cool that we (at SHS) are offered so many different languages to take because he learned only English as a core subject. I was shocked to learn about the length of his school day and that instead of switching classes, the teachers came to them...”

It didn’t take long for the visiting students and the escorting students to realize that they had much

continued on next page



Sample schedule students followed during school day

SCHOOL NEWS



Dr. Smith and Dr. Clouet receiving a silk screen scroll from teachers of Jian Ping High School - this was created by the students

in common as far as being typical teens, especially cell phones, music and movies. Some of the classes were the same but shared different labels for example Jian Ping has Shop and Shelton has STEM and both also had a Media studio where morning announcements were made and video production classes are created. Shelton High students couldn't believe that the students at Jian Ping attend school from 7 a.m. to about 5 p.m. and typically have about five hours of homework nightly. Their downtime is about an hour and a half or so in which they eat and spend time on the computer, cell phone or gaming. At their Shanghai school there are no after school activities, sports or extracurricular offerings and the kids noted their school "is very old but also has a lot of stairs"!

Next on the agenda is a planned trip during April vacation to visit Jian Ping in China by Dr. Smith, Dr. Clouet and James Hill, Shelton High School's social studies curriculum leader. At that time, presentations will be given by Dr. Smith and Mr. Hill on AP classes, STEM and curriculum. Dr. Clouet will also address the group and help to finalize the partnership between the "sister schools". All funding for this program is being paid for by a grant from China and the EPE group. Looking ahead to next year, it is hopeful that in the next academic year students from Shelton High School will have an opportunity to tour China and share in Jian Ping's culture and school lifestyle.

Caitlyn Kelley, another SHS escort, thoughtfully responded to this exchange by explaining that this experience had a wonderful impact on her in the

following way: "It's a comforting feeling when you begin to realize that people aren't as different as they were once perceived to be. I'm sure everyone that day felt the same way---amazed and quite nervous, actually, to meet someone we never thought we could. The kindness and immense understanding of the students from Jianping High School really struck a chord with kids here at Shelton High given the opportunity to allow one of them to shadow us for the day. It was an enlightening, warming experience, presumably the first of many more to come."

Dr. Smith also shared her thoughts commenting "it was a wonderful experience having staff and students from Jian Ping High School in Shanghai spend the day at Shelton High School. Our students realized that although we're in different continents, students are very similar. I look forward to our upcoming trip to China so that I can share what a Shelton High School STEM experience looks like with our Chinese colleagues".

Perhaps American screenwriter, director and producer Robert Alan Aurthur, summed it up best..." Cultural differences should not separate us from each other, but rather cultural diversity brings a collective strength that can benefit all of humanity. Intercultural dialogue is the best guarantee of a more peaceful, just and sustainable world".

Shelton Public Schools are already paving the way to make this sustainable, peaceful world a reality. ♦



China pal with SHS escort and BOE member (L to R) Lexi Klimaszewski, Michael Yu and Kathy Yolish

Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments Oversees Study of Transportation in the Valley



Excerpts reprinted with the kind permission of the Valley Independent Sentinel.org

Naugatuck Valley residents have the opportunity to provide input to a major transportation planning study being conducted by the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG). The study is assessing alternative transit modes within the Route 8 / Waterbury branch rail line corridors and developing transit-supportive land use plans in and around rail stations and transit hubs located between Naugatuck and Shelton.

The study team comprised of several consulting firms, incorporated information and data on the existing conditions within the corridor into an initial round of charrette presentations in November and December 2017. The five follow up charrettes were held in March of this year and early April and gave stakeholders, local officials and residents the opportunity to provide feedback on preliminary study recommendations. The Study Team will be presenting preliminary “model” concepts based on the input from the first round of charrettes. Each charrette focused on that community’s transit hub.

“Direct input from the communities is crucial at this point in the study,” said Mark Nielsen, NVCOG Assistant Director. “The vision of local residents and officials will play a major role in the recommendations for how areas around transit hubs are developed and how they will look in the future.”

Public input gathered at these events will also be integrated into study recommendations that will be provided to the state Department of Transportation, with a goal of incorporating improvements in the corridor into the department’s capital plan. In addition, this recommendation will be provided to area municipalities and the region’s state legislative delegation. Working toward developing a strategy and plan for implementing preferred options, the study is scheduled to be completed in late 2018.

A project website has been developed at: www.rt8corridorstudy.com. Interested persons can contact the study team through the “Contact Us” page which lists several ways the public can contact the Team to offer comment or ask questions. An email address has also been established to contact the Team: rt8corridorstudy@nvcog.org.

Also, Naugatuck Valley residents who cannot attend any of the presentations are encouraged to provide study input via a brief online visual preference survey, which can be found here :

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Route8visualpreferencesurvey>.

The Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG) is a forum for chief elected officials to discuss issues of common concern and to develop programs to address them on a regional level. ♦



2018 Shelton Clean Sweep

April 21-April 29

An Earth Day celebration

Join our efforts to clean Shelton's public spaces and waterways by putting litter in its place. The location, date and time is at your discretion. Bags, gloves, and removal of the collected litter available. Work alone, organize a group effort, or join one of the following cleanup events:



Housatonic River Cleanup: Saturday, April 21, 2018, 8 am to 2 pm. Go to the Sunnyside Boat Launch anytime during that time window. Boaters will take volunteers up and down the river to collect litter (low tide is the easiest time for litter cleanup). Organized by Housatonic River Clean-up Inc.

Shelton Lakes Cleanup: Sunday, April 22 (Earth Day) at 1:00 pm. Meet at the Shelton Ave hiker lot where the powerlines cross (west of Nells Rock Road). Organized by the Shelton Anti-Litter Committee.

High School Community Service forms can be signed at both events.

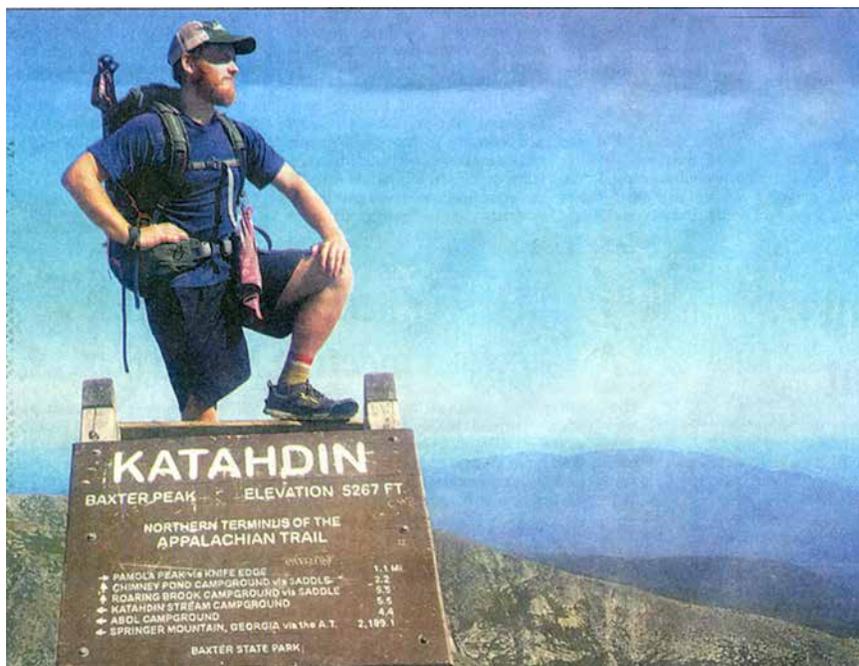
Free custom iron-on patches to all participants. The 2018 patch features the Hope Lake dam. For more information, register your clean-up plans, or request patches, please visit:

www.DontTrashShelton.org.

With your help we CAN make a difference...

Sponsored by the Shelton Anti-Litter Committee. Our mission is to create awareness of the litter problem in Shelton...clean up our streets, public recreation areas, waterways, hiking trails, and school grounds.

Resident Hikes Appalachian Trail 2,200 Miles From Georgia to Maine



Nick Shigo posing on top of the Katahdin sign after completing the 2,200 mile trek.

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

One resident said after hiking for five months and more than 2,000 miles from Georgia to Maine, he feels as if he can overcome any challenge life throws his way.

After graduating from UCONN with a degree in Journalism in the spring of 2016, Shelton native Nick Shigo said he was almost ready to embark on what he anticipated to be the most difficult challenge in his 23 years of life.

Before setting out on his 2,189-mile hike along the Appalachian Trail (AT) on March 31, 2017, Shigo said he spent the year leading up to his departure date saving money to be able to afford the equipment required for his journey.

Before he purchased any equipment, Shigo said, he spent much of his free time reading and watching product reviews, as well as speaking with other through-hikers with experience on the trail.

He said packing for the hike proved to be a task

within itself and a learning experience for future hikes.

“There were probably only three or four things that stayed consistent throughout my entire trip,” said Shigo. “You can do as much research as you want. You can go on many smaller hikes as you want, but 2,200 miles is a long time, and most days that I was trying to make miles, I was hiking about 20. There’s no kind of preparation that gets you ready for that.”

“I had a sleeping bag that I thought was a really nice sleeping bag and it was, but as I hiked the weather got warmer, so I really didn’t need that one as much. I ended up buying a newer, lighter sleeping bag and sent my old one home.”

“I had my backpack, for the short weekend hikes that I did, and it was fine, but after hiking that amount of time on the AT with a backpack, the small annoyances of it became much more pronounced. I knew it didn’t fit right. My shoulders hurt. My hips hurt, so I had to get a new backpack.”

Jumping Right In

One year after graduating from college, the day had finally come for Shigo to head out and begin the hike he had been preparing for both physically and financially.

Shigo has been backpacking since he was 13 or 14 years old with the Boy Scouts, but he said this was by far the longest trip he’s done.

“I did an 80-mile hike in New Mexico with Boy Scouts, and 100-mile hike in New York as part of a college orientation program, and a bunch of overnights or couple of days as part of a summer camp for a few years, but none of those compared to this experience.”

Surprisingly, Shigo said he did very little mental

continued next page

COMMUNITY NEWS

preparation for his trip. "I trained a bit to get ready for the physical test, but I really just jumped right in," said Shigo.

He explained that organization was essential in being able to complete the hike, more than in all his previous experiences. "I spent a lot of time planning out food and how I would schedule drops from my parents with food supplies that would last me about five or six days of hiking," said Shigo. "It was a lot of paying attention to detail and planning how much hiking I could get done in a span of days."

Shigo said he's always described himself as an "outdoorsman," and explained that his decision to hike the Appalachian Trail was supported by his family, but some people he spoke with thought he was crazy. "The support from my family and friends meant everything to me," said Shigo. "Some people didn't really understand why I would want to do this, but I just did."

On March 31, Shigo began his longest hike to date at the base of Springer Mountain in Georgia, and admittedly had no idea what to expect in his journey to come.

A Test Of Commitment Came Early

Reflecting back on his experience, Shigo said he entered the hike knowing it would be difficult, but he had no idea how much of a test of will the journey would be for him.

Within his first few weeks on the trail, he said he began to understand just how long a road he had ahead of him.

"I realized pretty quickly that my previous assumptions of the trail were a little far from the mark. I had to re-evaluate my plans a bit, but it was just kind of something I wanted to do and wasn't just something I would stop doing until I finished."

"There was one point on the trail that I seriously thought, 'I made a mistake with this,' and 'This was a bad idea' and 'I shouldn't be here.' But that was pretty early on in the trail. I think everyone kind of goes through that within the first week or so."

Shigo elaborated on the tough time he experienced earlier in his hike and said it is where his new life mantra came to pass.

"It's not as bad as Tray Mountain," Shigo said



The trail to the top of Katahdin

jokingly, explaining he used the saying to prove he could overcome most challenges he encountered because he completed the 4,430-foot hike up to the mountain peak in Georgia. "I got stuck on top of this mountain, a week after I started the trail. It started snowing on me, I had been having some muscle problems because I had overextended myself the first couple of days on the trail and I was really sore. The combination of the snow, the weather and the fact I wasn't making as many miles as I anticipated really weighed on me at that time."

In an effort to snap out of his negative headspace at the time, Shigo said he stopped at a shelter on top of Tray Mountain, called his mother and had a "moment there." "She talked me down and said 'hunker down, wait it out and then tomorrow keep going.' And that's what I did, and that honestly served as my mantra for the rest of the trail. I became confident that if I could overcome that, then I could overcome pretty much anything."

The Trail Is A 'Weird Microcosm'

"It's a very solo endeavor in that you have to hike this trail and you have to get yourself from Georgia to Maine, but if at any given time there could be a couple thousand people hiking the same 2,200 miles," said Shigo. "We see all of the same things and hike all of the same miles, but everyone has their own experiences and interpretation of it. You'll spend days hiking with the same people, some people spend almost the entire hike together, and sometimes you end up hiking alone at your own pace."

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Nick Shigo and his dog Zoe enjoy hiking Shelton's many trails.

Trail, continued from pg. 24

Shigo explained that although he wouldn't describe his journey along the Appalachian Trail as "enjoyable" there was plenty of scenery that made the hike well worth his troubles.

"Despite all of that, I think it was 100% worth it," said Shigo. "You slog through muddy sections, rainy weather, rocky climbs, but every time you get through that, there's a beautiful mountain view of forest to walk through. These are the things that make the trail worth it."

During his 151-day hike, Shigo did his best to document his experience via a blog that included photos and detailed descriptions of his trip and interactions with other hikers. He said he felt frustrated when he saw some people's response to what he was sharing on <https://nickshigo.com>

"At a lot of times when I would talk about what I was doing, people would say things like, 'that's really cool that you can take a vacation like that,' and after a few weeks on the trail I realized that this wasn't a vacation at all – I'm working hard: this is difficult."

Life On The Road For Five Months

After life on the road for five months, Shigo said, he dearly missed home-cooked meals, as his diet consisted of anything but that during his hike. "Most of my trail diet consisted of instant oatmeal, instant breakfast shakes and Pop-Tarts for breakfast...a tortilla wrap with peanut butter and dried fruit for lunch – with lots of snacks during the course of the day to keep my energy up," said Shigo. "My dinners usually

consisted of some kind of instant noodles and tuna packets for extra protein. It's not exactly five-course meals, but it gives you what you need."

Shigo said periodically he went into the nearest town, where he would shower, do laundry and get his food package to hold him over for his next few days of hiking, "I fell behind at one point, but after a while I got onto a schedule," said Shigo.

While hiking, Shigo said he encountered wild ponies, plenty of deer and even a family of black bears. "You see so many that you just learn to accept that in most cases, if you leave them alone, they'll leave you alone," said Shigo.

Five Months Of Hard Work Rewarded

After reaching the Peak of Katahdin Mountain in Maine on Aug. 28, which completed his hike of the Appalachian Trail, Shigo said he was excited to get home.

"The first thing I did when I got home was shower," said Shigo enthusiastically. "Not that I hadn't done that during the trail – it was just nice to be in the comfort of my own shower for as long as I wanted. I also ate a lot of really good home-cooked food."

While looking back on his hiking experience, Shigo said, he loves the feeling of putting himself against insurmountable odds.

He advises anyone thinking of hiking the Appalachian Trail to be ready for a challenging experience. "You have to realize that there's only so much you can prepare for. So much will change on the trail, so much will happen that you just can't anticipate, and you just need to be ready to roll with that. You need to be ready to completely change your area of thinking and what you're doing, because if something's not working, there's no point in forcing it."

Shigo says he wants to hike the last 100 miles of the trail because he was in the mind-set of "I just want to finish this," rather than enjoying the scenery. He said he hasn't decided on where his next adventure will take him, but he's in no rush to commit just yet.

"That's half the fun," said Shigo. Nick Shigo shared this photo on his blog that shows the moment he completed the nearly 2,200 hike. "Every through-hiker needs to take a picture of themselves on top of the Katahdin sign," he said "so here is mine." ♦

Update on the Shelton History Center

By Martin Coughlin, President

Several years ago the Board of the Shelton Historical Society decided to formalize the strategy of the History Center for the next decade. With a three-year grant from the Valley Community Foundation, they analyzed each part of the center's activities from restoration to office operations to long-term financial planning. In 2017, the initial phase of the plan was completed: restoring six rooms on the Brownson House to the way they were in the early 1900s.

The second phase of the plan is now being implemented: assessing and inventorying all of the collections. To fund this project, grants have been received. Eventually, the goal is to identify, photograph and document every piece of furniture or clothing the center collected over four-plus decades.



to support the operating budget, the Board rents out the back of the House as an apartment. It is the goal to raise sufficient funds so that the endowment will replace the need to lease the apartment. When this is accomplished, the area can be restored for usable space for adult and children's programs. With a continued commitment to the Society, these goals are within reach and will fulfill the mission of preserving Shelton's rich history for generations to come.

Membership in the Shelton Historical Society is greatly appreciated. If you are interested in becoming a member to support their mission and programs or become a volunteer, please contact them at (203) 925-1803 or by email at shdirector@gmail.com. Yearly individual memberships costs \$20; for a family \$30 and a business membership \$100.

www.sheltonhistoricalsociety.org ♦



The Brownson House got a new roof in 2016.

The Board also is pursuing the feasibility and cost of restoring the front/side porch that was on the Brownson House in the early 1900s. With funding from a grant, an architect was commissioned to draw up plans and submit estimated costs to build the porch. The Restoration Committee is reviewing the drawings and will submit their recommendation to the full Board.

The third phase of the plan is to insure the financial security of the organization as well as to complete the restoration of the Brownson House. In order

UPCOMING EVENTS

Teen Time Travelers (for history-minded students 8th grade thru high school) meet every other Friday, 4:30 - 6:00 PM ~ April 6, April 20, May 4, May 18, June 1, June 15, June 29 etc.

Shelton Reading Circle: meets monthly on the 2nd Tuesday at the Huntington Branch Library, 6:30 - 8:00 PM, April 10, May 8, June 12

Give Greater online fundraiser ~ May 1 and 2. Tours of the newly interpreted Brownson House given on Tuesday, May 1 with each donation between 10:00 - 4:00 PM

2nd and 3rd grade school trips - various dates in May and June

CT Open House Day ~ June 9, 2018. Free admission to many attractions in Connecticut including the Shelton History Center 12:00 - 4:00 PM

Father's Day Vintage Vehicles Antique and Classic Car Show ~ June 17, 10:00 - 2:00 PM

Adventures in History, Aug 6 - 10 ~ an enrichment program for boys and girls, ages 7-12.

Further information can be provided by calling 203-925-1803 or www.sheltonhistoricalsociety.org

Shelton's Canal Street A Construction Boom in the Making

During 2017 the City of Shelton, through the Shelton Economic Development Corporation, has managed the downtown economic development program in an effective and diligent manner. Over the past 12 months two major properties were demolished, while two other vacant parcels were brought to the final stages of successful environmental remediation, and road reconstruction activities continued along a major section of Canal Street.

Paul Grimmer, President of the Shelton Economic Development Corporation, at the organization's Annual Meeting this past December described 2017 as the "Year to Prepare", while 2018 is set to become a "Year of Great Transformation."

In fact, multiple activities will be taking place on Canal Street throughout this year, including various extensions of the Housatonic Riverwalk, creation of new public parking at the former Chromium Process site, construction of River Side Commercial Center at the former Rolfite factory, construction of 68 units of multi-tiered residential housing at River Breeze Commons, the renovation of 48 residential units at the Canal Bridge Lofts and the final reconstruction of 750 linear feet of roadway along Canal Street.

While these developments may have gone unnoticed by the majority of the Shelton population, no one should lose sight of the intrinsic value of these public and private investments. For instance, The Veterans Memorial Park, located along the Housatonic River is such a beautiful addition to downtown, and it is free for all to enjoy.



Since 1996, the City of Shelton has invested \$8.5 million into the reconstruction of Canal Street. This local investment has leveraged over \$15 million from regional, state and federal agencies in support of the Shelton community and that has generated in excess of \$84 million in private investment along the riverfront. In summary, the City's grand list is realizing over \$750,000 per year in real estate taxes from these developments. By 2019, that figure is estimated to increase to over \$1 million and by 2020 it is projected to increase

COMMUNITY NEWS

even further, nearing \$1.5 million per year.

These efforts that the City has put forth may have begun along the riverfront, however, it has spread to downtown proper. There is a vibrancy that has not been seen or felt in a very long time. It definitely has a pulse, and it is beating strong.

There are currently four new developments proposed along Howe Avenue and Center Street, two of which have already been approved, and one proposal which is currently winding its way through the Planning & Zoning Commission. Soon, these new construction projects will become visible to all, and the fabric of downtown will be forever changed.



Figure 1: Vision of Downtown as presented to the Shelton Planning & Zoning Commission by Milone and MacBroom.

It has taken many decades of hard work and patient guidance from our city leaders, but Shelton's downtown is on the cusp of realizing the vision that so many people have strived to achieve.

Get ready, because change is coming!

For additional information on the Canal Street reconstruction project, please visit the Shelton Economic Development Corporation's website at sheltonedc.com. ♦

Announcements

Congratulations to Shelton Businesses Being Named to the Hartford Business Journal's Best Places to Work in Connecticut 2018

**Barnum Financial Group
Benchmark at Split Rock
CDW
SaiSystems International, Inc.**

About this award: The best places to work in Connecticut program was created by the Hartford Business Journal and Best Companies Group to identify and recognize best places to work in Connecticut. The program is managed by Best Companies Group, a third-party research firm that manages similar programs all over the United States and in Canada. The Best Places to Work in Connecticut program was open to all public or privately-held organizations, either for-profit or not-for-profit. To be eligible for consideration, companies must have a total of 15 or more employees working in the state. Companies with headquarters in another state, but with 15 or more employees working in Connecticut, were eligible.

Participation in this program required organizations to go through a workplace assessment process, which including surveying their employees, as well as taking an inventory of the company benefits, policies and offerings. For further information regarding this process, visit bestcompaniesgroup.com.

Cover Photo Members of Huntington Fire Company #3



Firefighters pose before their van asking for volunteers to join the Shelton Fire Department.

(L to R) Captain Donald Zak, Jordan McCarty, Matt Richard, Matt Murphy, Hannah Murphy, Marc Connolly, Kelley Geffert, Recruitment Officer Ryan Mattioli, Robert Cummings (back row), Scott Goldin

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

A 6th grade Extreme Recess will be held on Friday, April 6; a 6th grade Extreme Recess will be held on Friday, April 20; and a 7th grade Extreme Recess will be held on Friday, April 27, from 7:30pm-9:00pm, at the Shelton Community Center. Cost is \$5. Space is limited. Register by emailing d.kopec@cityofshelton.org

A Youth Awards Night is scheduled Thursday, May 24. For more information, please call the Shelton Youth Service Bureau at 203-924-7614.

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"

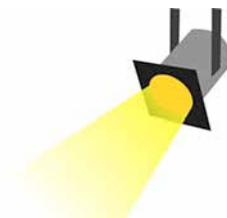
Aug. 11 – "Despicable Me 3"

Aug. 18 – "Leap"

Aug. 25 – "Sherlock Gnomes"

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.



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

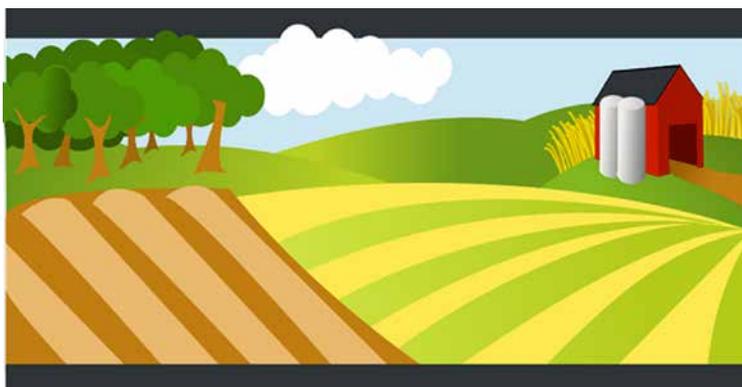
Congressman Jim Himes
(Bridgeport office) (866) 453-0028

U.S. SENATORS

Senator Richard Blumenthal
(Bridgeport office) (203) 330-0598

Senator Chris Murphy
(Hartford office) (860) 549-8463

Shelton Farmers Market 2018 Season Opens May 5th*



Located Downtown at The Farmers Market Building at the Rivewalk, 100 Canal Street, the Shelton Farmers Market offers fresh veggies, meats, baked goods, cheese, eggs, wine, hand-made items and all-natural dog treats. This is a producer-only market according to CT DOAG regulations so you will buy directly from the farmer/producer. The market accepts cash, credit and debit, SNAP, EBT and Farmers Market WIC FMNP. Yearly membership in the market will give you additional benefits at the Saturday markets.

Some participants in the market this season will be:

- Stone Gardens Farm
- Stone Gardens Cut Flowers
- Laurel Glen Farm
- Oronoque Farms Bakery
- Jones Family Farm
- East Village Farm
- George Hall Farm
- Grassy Hill Farm
- Waterview Farm
- The Little Dog Laughed

*Every Saturday from May to November 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Wednesdays from June to October 3:00 PM to 6:30 PM

For further information visit www.sheltonctfarmersmarket.com.

