



NORFOLK NOW

Volume VI Issue 1

From the Icebox of Connecticut

January 2008

VIEW FROM THE GREEN

2007 in Re-Verse

By Colleen Gundlach

From black bears to bog turtles,
From draughts to floods,
Two thousand and seven in Norfolk
Was a year of alteration and growth.

Greenwoods Theatre changed hands
After much turmoil and debate,
But should last for Infinity
With Dan Hincks' insight, talent and a lucky
break.

The Battell Wall came down,
Norfolk Tea & Trading closed.
The Farmers Market boomed
And Carnegie Hill continued to grow.

Chris Hanley, West Lowe, Marie Isabelle
Spent time in Mekele Blind School
Working, sharing and devoting their talents
To help these unfortunate souls.

Norfolk Now became nonprofit, out on its
own,
And welcomed Lindsey and Buk,
Frankie Polidoro, Adela Hubers, Heidi
Dunavant
To its family of neighbors and friends.

Jim Harrington was named Volunteer of the
Year
For all of his work and dedication,
While Scott Reeve and Geri B were the
Lions Club choice
For ambulance work outstanding.

Our teenagers spent a long night in the cold
In cardboard boxes, I'm told.
The money they raised has helped many
others
And the lesson of love has been learned

The Clean Energy Campaign turned the town
on to green.
With ten percent of residents registered
Norfolk became a Clean Energy Community
And even Botelle's going green.

continued on page 2

The Towering Signals

Norfolk's first cell phone tower goes on line

By John Funchion

Following six weeks of construction, the long awaited new cell phone tower, soaring 180 feet above the Norfolk skyline at Town Farm, came on line last month with its first tenant, Verizon, bringing much needed coverage for local residents.

After a March 13, 2007 approval by the Connecticut Siting Council, work finally began on the project in mid October, ending in late November. Built and owned by the Message Center Management Company (MCM), of Hartford, the new tower will be able to accommodate four more companies besides Verizon, including Cingular, which has already reserved its space for a platform on the tower. Other potential users are Nextel/Sprint, T-Mobile and All-Tel, a local Litchfield County operator.

Hans Fiedler, National Sales Manager for MCM, said it was his firm, along with Cingular, that approached the town a couple

of years ago about constructing the tower. Final approval followed several meetings and public hearings before construction could begin.

Norfolk First Selectman Sue Dyer said, "the only cost to the town was a \$100 fee for the town attorney, who drew up easement conditions." She added that "rental compensation for the town would be 30 percent of gross collected (by MCM) for the first ten years. After that it would jump to 40 percent. The remainder of the money would go to MCM to pay for construction costs."

The cost of building one of these towers,
continued on page 2



PHOTO BY LLOYD GARRISON

New Mountain in Shadow of Haystack

Sue Frisch treks around the base of 'Snowstack Mountain' on December 16. This mountain of snow began to form on Station Place in early December when Norfolk received 13 inches of snow. Several inches of sleet and ice added to its height the following week. Snowstack's much larger sibling, Haystack Mountain, can be seen towering in the background.



PHOTO BY BRUCE FRISCH

VIEW FROM THE GREEN

Continued from page 1

Counting became an obsession in town With vernal pools, natural resources and birds.

We hope all these numbers will help to improve Not impede life in our little burg.

That darn traffic light continues to shine On Ashpohtag and Route 44. Now it's the fish that are holding us up Even more than the state DOT.

Affordable housing is getting a start Thanks to Mark Burke, Lou Barbagallo and others

Who are working to help ensure in some part That our children can afford to stay here.

Carl Gundlach retired from the PZ & Wetlands And Barbara Tracey and Kevin O'Connor likewise

Will no longer register voters in the halls of the town, We'll miss them, no doubt about that.

The new Emergency Medical Services building Caused much discussion and interest in Norfolk

Now it along with the new fire truck Are sure to be the boast of the town.

A new town plan is in process that will hopefully be

A guide for a new day in town. We need to think of each other and our rights to our land As well as of the earth as a whole.

Now we look toward a new year with hope and with pride

In a town where nothing should be allowed to divide

We need to keep looking ahead with patience and respect

As we all work together to preserve and protect. ■

CELL TOWER

Continued from page 1

according to Fiedler, is usually between \$110,000 and \$120,000. In addition to the rental compensation, MCM will also be paying taxes to the town.

The completed tower itself is something to behold. It is eight feet wide at its base, tapering upward in four gigantic sections of various lengths to a width of one foot at the top of the six-sided, steel spire. Fiedler pointed out that "the spacing of those sections is calculated precisely to maintain the integrity of the tower." A ladder consisting of 70 steel arms leads to the Verizon platform. On any given windy day, the tall structure can sway a distance of six inches.

There are twelve antennae on the Verizon platform. Connected to these are twelve 190-foot coaxial cables, totaling 2,280 feet, running up inside the tower. These ultimately attach to the data/signal shed on the ground below. The cables consist of an inner one-half inch, hollow copper tube that transmits signals from the shed. The tube is surrounded by a plastic insulator, followed by another copper covering with an outer plastic sheath. These coaxial cables are constructed in such a way as to prevent any leakage of signals as they travel up to the antennae to be pushed out into the broader airways. Fiber optics will not be used in any of the cables.

Fiedler said that each company using the tower will be required to provide its own shed on the property. If fully utilized in the future, there could conceivably be five sheds surrounding the bottom of the tower.

Steel sections for the towering structure were manufactured by Valmont, Inc. of Texas. The current shed on the property was built by the CellXion Company of Bossier City, Louisiana. MCM itself hired several subcontractors and a dozen workers to do the electrical, concrete and site development work. An up-to-date cell phone usage map was used by MCM to determine proper placement of the tower. Between rental fees and portions of the gross income generated from lessees and taxes, the tower should prove to be a long-term economic benefit to Norfolk. ■

NORFOLK NOW

P.O. Box 702, Norfolk, CT 06058

Executive Editors

Veronica Burns, Lloyd Garrison, Colleen Gundlach, Shelley Harms, Lindsey Pizzica Rotolo, Rosanna Trestman

Issue Editor

Colleen Gundlach

News Editor

Bob Bumcrot

Contributing Editors

Dorothy Pam, Bob Pam, Francesca Tuchiano

Community News Editor

Lisa Bazzano

Calendar Editor

Katherine Pilbin

Staff Photographer

Adela Hubers

Design and Layout

Kevin Gundlach

Business Manager

Lindsey Pizzica Rotolo

Advertising Director

Heidi Dunavant

Subscriptions Manager

Bhatki Jackson

Distribution Manager

Frankie Polidoro

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HOW TO CONTACT NORFOLK NOW

Norfolk Now welcomes story ideas, but not unsolicited manuscripts. Please contact the issue editor with any suggestions or ideas before making a submission.

Next issue editor: Rosanna Trestman
torosanna@comcast.net 491-9949

Community News: Lisa Bazzano
thebazzanos@sbcglobal.net 542-6847

Calendar: Katherine Pilbin
dpilbin@snet.net 542-5973

Advertising: Heidi Dunavant
norfolknowads@gmail.com 542-1771

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ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

LUIS A. MEDINA
medinalaw@comcast.net

DAVID S. TORREY
torreylaw@comcast.net

Both Norfolk Registrars of Voters to Step Down This Year

O'Connor and Tracey to retire in 2008

By Lindsey Pizzica Rotolo

Norfolk will lose both of its Registrars of Voters in 2008. Kevin O'Connor has faithfully served Norfolk's Democratic party for 40 years and will step down as registrar when his term ends in November 2008. Barbara Tracey has served as the Republican registrar for over 15 years and will retire from her position after the presidential primary in February.

"It has become more and more work the past few years," O'Connor said about his decision to resign. "Cities can better handle the increased responsibilities placed on registrars in recent years, but in a small town it's just too much work for two people."

"I think it will be hard for Kevin and me to not be at the polls on election days, but it's time to step down." Tracey commented. "The town is certainly going to miss Kevin. He really shouldered the bulk of the responsibility and was the registrar par excellence."

The registrar's job description is governed by Connecticut General Statutes. Their primary responsibilities are the preparation and

clarification of the official voting list and ensuring we have fair, accurate and efficient elections. They are required to attend meetings called by the Secretary of the State to keep up to date on new and pending legislation, as it is proposed and passed.

In addition to overseeing the elections, primaries and referenda, the registrars maintain the voter registration files, register voters, conduct an annual canvass of voters, make changes in voter demographics based on



PHOTO BY ANN DECERIO

Barbara Tracey and Kevin O'Connor have a combined 55 years of service to the town.

information received from sources such as the Department of Motor Vehicles, and remove those who have been convicted of a felony or have moved out of town. The registrars also process all local and statewide petitions.

The state used to allow the Town Clerk to handle some of these responsibilities, but that is not the case anymore. Serving as registrar has become

a part-time job, although more time is demanded of them during elections primaries or referendums.

Elections are particularly time consuming because the registrars are responsible for preparing the budget and the Town Hall building for elections, and training poll workers and election officials. Days prior to elections, the registrars prepare an official voter list of active and inactive voters, arrange for the set up and removal of all voting equipment and inspect and pre-test voting machines. The day of the election, they must supervise and assist all election officials and deal with voter inquiries.

Madeline Falk, O'Connor's assistant, will most likely get the Democratic Town Committee's endorsement for registrar after O'Connor's term ends in November. Donna Calder, Tracey's assistant, is also interested in taking over as registrar. Calder will probably be appointed to interim registrar upon Tracey's resignation in February. ■

In Memoriam — Kathryn Noles

Kathryn Noles was one of Norfolk Now's earliest volunteers and its longtime business manager. Shortly after being diagnosed with cancer in early 2005, she moved to Seattle in 2006 to be closer to her daughter, Rebekah, and her family. She died in Seattle on December 15 at age 61. She stayed in touch with her Norfolk friends by phone and e-mail until a few days before her death, and remained characteristically upbeat to the end. Ever thoughtful, she even got off a congratulatory card that arrived in Norfolk in time for Reg Whidden's 103rd birthday on December 18. She will be sorely missed. ■



Selectman's Corner
Web Site and Snow Plows

By Sue Dyer

The town's Web site is up and running as of December 20, 2007. The committee did a very nice job. The graphics are vivid and the photography is outstanding. So visit www.norfolkct.org to see for yourself.

Winter is here and we have already seen our share of snow. Last year approximately 24 inches fell for the entire year. This

year in December alone, we have received in excess of 14 inches, so it could be a long winter.

Remember, when you plow or have your driveway plowed, you cannot dump, shovel or pile snow onto any public roadway and you should not dump, shovel or pile snow on someone else's property unless you get permission.

Let's hope for a January thaw. ■

DID YOU KNOW? *The Eldridge Memorial Windows and Pulpit at the Church of Christ were commissioned by the five Eldridge daughters following the deaths of Rev. Joseph Eldridge in 1875 and his wife Sarah Battell Eldridge in 1878. The stained glass windows' design of leaves, flowers and fruits was executed by the Koniglich-Bayerische Hof-Glasmalerei in Munich, Germany. Installation of the windows had another happy result — the architect discovered and restored the church's original barrel-vaulted ceiling which had been covered by a false ceiling.*
—Havemeyer and Dance, "The Magnificent Battells"

Norfolk's November Weather

A fairly typical November for Norfolk

By Russell Russ

This is a summary of November's weather as recorded at Norfolk's National Weather Service Cooperative Weather Observer Station, Norfolk 2 SW, by the Great Mountain Forest Corporation.

The month's high temperature of 58 degrees was observed on November 22. The low temperature of 14 degrees was observed on November 24. The average temperature this month was 36.2 degrees, which was just 0.5 degrees below normal.

The total precipitation recorded for the month was 3.75 inches. This was 1.08 inches below normal. There were a few rumbles of thunder at the station on the morning of November 15. The total precipitation for 2007 through November is 41.95 inches. Comparing this to the last 75 years, we are now 5.96 inches below an average year. It has been a dry year, but not really all that record setting. At the current rate it could be among our top ten for least amount of yearly precipitation.

The month of November on average receives 8.2 inches of snow. This year we saw only 1.5 inches. The first real, measurable snowfall of this winter season came on the morning of November 20. Our snowfall total for the 2007 calendar year is nearing record levels for low snowfall totals. From January through November we have recorded just 44 inches of snow. At this point we are 34.6 inches below normal. If this continues, 2007 will easily be among the top five least snowy years that Norfolk has seen in the last 75.

The month started out just as October ended, on a warm note. Many trees were still loaded with leaves. Many people's leaf raking plans had to be put off for about two weeks until finally they started to fall. There were a number of big temperature swings during the month. On November 15 between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. the temperature dropped 13 degrees and by 3 p.m. it had dropped a total of 20 degrees. Another big temperature drop occurred between November 22 and 24 where we recorded our monthly high and low temperatures in a time span of just 36 hours. Thanksgiving was rain and snow free and quite warm, which made for good travel weather at one of the busiest travel times of the year. ■

Ken Musselman

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**Billion Dollar Company Mines
and Refines in Canaan**

**Specialty Minerals has been part
of local history since 1800s**

By Bob Bumcrot

Patrons of the Canaan Stop & Shop may have noticed the tall tower-like structures recently added to the large plant behind the store, and anyone who has traveled Lower Road in that town must have encountered the large trucks making endlessly-repeated short runs between the large quarry and the plant. Both the plant and the mine are now owned by Minerals Technologies, Incorporated (MTI), and operated by its divisions: Specialty Minerals and Minteq International.

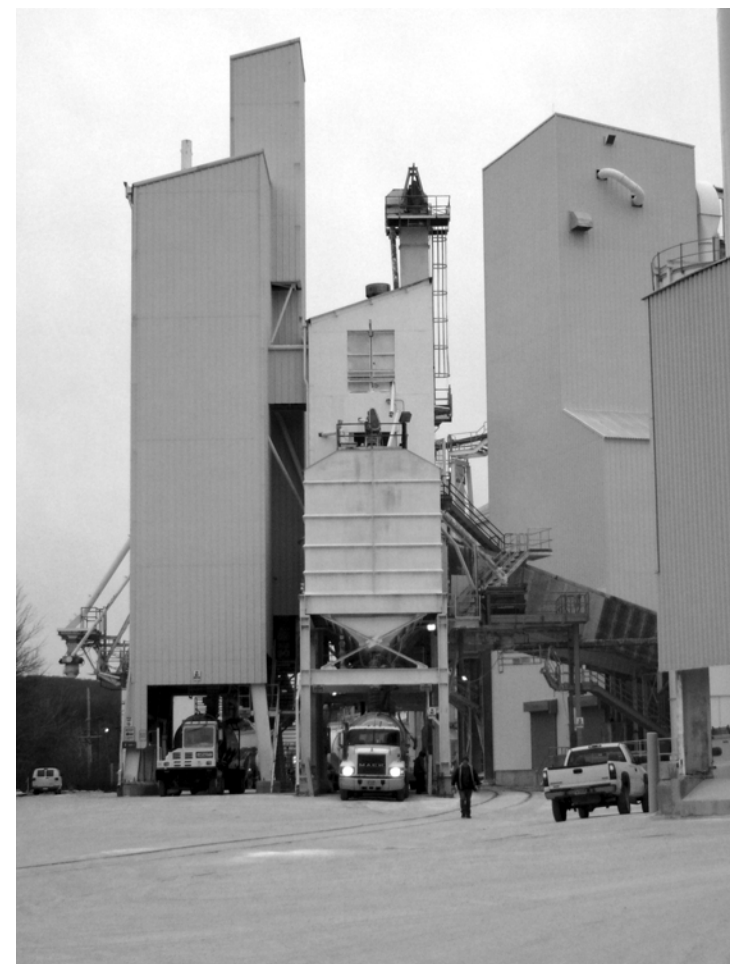
The Canaan facilities are part of a large complex of plants, mines, research centers and offices in North and South America, Western Europe, Turkey, South Africa, Thailand, Indonesia, China, Korea, Japan and Australia. In 2006, net sales were over one billion dollars and there were 2,809 employees. The local plants and mine have over 120 workers.

The mine, which yields an excellent grade of metamorphosed limestone, has been in operation since the mid-nineteenth century. It was likely the source of limestone for the Beckley blast furnace in Canaan, now preserved as an industrial monument. At the beginning of the 20th century, several small operations were consolidated into the New England Lime Company (NELC), which employed a number of Norfolk residents, some for decades. The company was sold to Pfizer in 1960 and spun off in 1992 as Specialty Minerals and Minteq.

The open pit at the mine is presently about 1800 feet wide and 200 feet deep. There are about 200 more feet of good stone below the current floor, which steps up in a series of five "benches" along the side of Canaan Mountain. About once every other week the mine supervisor selects an area for a "shot," in which a quantity of material is blasted from the wall of a bench. "It's a relatively small shot," said plant manager Mark Lambert of Barkhamsted. "We always try to do it on a calm day." Large pieces are first broken up before being loaded into large mine trucks and transported to the

on-site crushers from which the road trucks are loaded for the short journey to the plant.

In the Specialty Minerals operation, the stone is further crushed into two grades. The coarser grade, like cornmeal, is shipped to manufacturers of sheet rock, floor tile and other materials. The finer grade, like face powder, is used for products such as joint compound. In response to increasing business, a new crushing machine has been



Trucks load up from the storage towers at the Minteq International facility in Canaan.

installed and is scheduled to begin operation this January. "This is the largest crusher in the entire company," said technology manager Greg Mitchell, a Norfolk resident with a degree in chemical engineering from Clarkson University. An employee of 27 years, Mitchell has also worked in Wisconsin and China.

The high quality of the raw material allows the plant to quickly supply crushed stone in a range of shades from blinding white to gray. Some material is shipped by truck and some is

loaded directly into tank cars from the tall towers behind Stop & Shop. "We can do 'just in time' deliveries—in hours, not days," said Human Resources Manager Katherine Hall. Hall and husband Timothy, Norfolk residents, have two children in Botelle School.

During World War II NELC began extracting pure magnesium from the dolomite (limestone) rock, using the Pidgeon process (sometimes spelled pigeon), in which raw dolomite and ferrosilicon are heated in retort furnaces in sixteen-foot sealed tubes from which magnesium vapor is condensed. Although it was a carefully guarded secret at the time, this was a vital part of the Manhattan Project, for the first atomic bomb. NELC was later awarded an "E flag" pennant by the War Department for superior performance in the war effort. The four-by-eight-foot flag is still displayed in the plant lounge. In the 1950s, the operation was converted to calcium production.

The Minteq division extracts pure calcium. "This is the only facility in the world where calcium is extracted in this way," said Mitchell. Some of the mineral is shipped to other plants that make automobile batteries and to mills where it is used as a reducing agent for rare earth metals. But much of it goes right across Daisy Hill Road to a separate, newer facility where Minteq manufactures metallurgical wire from calcium and other materials. This is used in steel and other metal mills that employ "lance technology," in which materials are injected directly into molten metal by feeding it in 3/4-inch wire form through a specially-designed lance injector. The wire is shipped to the mills in large spools.

MTI was cited by Business Ethics Magazine in both 2003 and 2004 as one of America's 100 most ethical companies. In the 1950s, while the federal government was running part of the plant, some PCB and mercury contamination was found in the vacuum system of a pump room. "The room was sealed as best as they could," said Lambert. "No PCB was found in the ground water. It is still monitored several times a year. The employees at that time were tested, and there have been no issues."

"It's a good place to work," said Ryan Fredsall, an assistant supervisor in both divisions. "It's a strong company with good benefits, doing an important job." Fredsall, who grew up in Colebrook where his grandfather owned a sawmill, now lives in Norfolk. ■

PHOTO BY BOB BUMCROT

Planning Continues for Mixed Affordable Housing Development

By Bob Bumcrot

Plans for a housing development cluster on property along Old Colony Road, first presented by Mark Burke to the Norfolk Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) in February of 2007, continue to advance. P&Z is considering modifications to current zoning regulations that, while not aimed solely at this project, would permit it to go forward. Burke has formed a cooperative venture with partners Dennis Fisher and Alan Groningstater and the Foundation for Norfolk Living, chaired by Lou Barbagallo, whose aim is the promotion of affordable housing in town.

The 44-acre property, owned by Burke, lies between Old Colony Road and Haystack Mountain State Park. It abuts the Town Garage property on one side, an unused parcel taken by the town for nonpayment of taxes on another, and one private residence.

Once basic landscaping and crushing of discarded rock and cement chunks are completed, houses could be erected along an unpaved road that was built through the property by previous owners. The road passes through a number of attractive sections not visible from the road.

Current plans, prepared by landscape architects and planners Fererro Hixon Associates of Farmington, call for 22 separate houses on small lots in two clusters, leaving over 80 percent of the land as open space. The houses will be connected to both the town water and town sewer systems. The road will be maintained by a housing authority to be formed of the owners of the new homes. A common storage barn will also be constructed. Six houses are to be offered to families with income between 80 and 120 percent of the Norfolk median income, that is, between \$52,000 and \$78,000 per year.

The other 16 houses will be offered at market rates. While the six affordable houses would look like the others and would be mixed among them, there would be some differences inside in order to hold down the cost.

"We are going to need something like this mix of affordable and market-rate houses to make it work financially," said Burke, "but we are not wedded to these particular plans. Now is the time for anyone with serious objections or suggestions to come forward. They can talk to me, to Lou or to P&Z," he said. ■



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Honoring Norfolk's Current Military Men



The son of Marilyn and Jim Harrington, brother of Jessica and Rebecca, Sgt. Matthew Harrington, age 27, is an Airborne Ranger with the 82nd Airborne Division, Special Operations. He has been in the military for three years. Matt is pictured here with his parents on his return from his first tour of duty in Afghanistan. He was subsequently deployed to Iraq, to return on December 4, but his tour has been extended to March, 2008.

Four families share their insights

By Linda Childs

Lest we forget, as we sing the seasonal songs of "good will to men" and the new year turns, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan grind into their fifth and seventh years, respectively.

For almost 200,000 American families, these have been months and years of worry and sacrifice, as sons and daughters, husbands and wives, mothers and fathers are sent away to places most of us only know about from the evening news. Among those whose children have gone off to war are four Norfolk families. We honor their commitment and their sacrifice, as we lift our voices in prayers for "peace on earth" before another new year grows old. ■



The son of Celia and Tom McGowan, Master Sgt. Thommy McGowan II, age 35, has served in the Air Force for 17 years. With the 17th Airlift Squadron, he is redeploying to Iraq the day after Christmas. This is his fourth tour on the front lines. He has four children, one brother, Matthew, of New Hartford and one sister, Catherine, of Norfolk. A close look at this photo reveals a small stuffed animal in Thommy's right hand (it's a moose!). His mom says that it goes with him on all his missions, and that "it shows a softer side of some of the men and women who are serving our country".

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IS2 James (Jamie) Stotler, Jr., age 35, son of Sandy and Jim Stotler and brother of Jill Hall and Jared Stotler, was called back to active duty from the Naval Reserve two months ago. Until his recall, he taught history and coached soccer in Portland, Connecticut, where he lives with his wife and fellow teacher, Michelle Gustafson. He arrived in Iraq the first week of December and is stationed at the Basrah Air Station with the Multi National Division-South East, as a United States liaison with the British military. The throne in the photo is in Al Faw Palace in Baghdad's Green Zone, headquarters of Multi National Corps-Iraq.



Sgt. Chris Goodall, pictured with his mom on his return from Iraq in November, is the son of Pat and George Dyer, brother of Karen. At 24 years old, he has been in the Army for four years and is presently stationed at Fort Campbell, Tennessee, where he lives with his wife, Crystal and their 20 month-old son. He has already served one tour in Iraq, and in March of 2008 he will be deployed to Afghanistan.



It's Only Natural Deer Hunting in Full Swing in Norfolk Woodlands

By Lindsey Pizzica Rotolo

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Wildlife Division completes an aerial study once every three years to determine the size of the deer population in Connecticut. The most recent study was completed in February of 2007, and determined that the state's deer population is stable or slightly decreasing, having fully recovered from a sharp decline in the 1990s.

Other studies, including harvest data, deer hunter surveys, deer-vehicle collisions and homeowners' complaints all reach the same conclusion, that the deer population is stable.

The DEP's study last winter also determined deer densities throughout the state. Zone Two, which consists of Norfolk, Colebrook, Hartland, Granby, Winchester,

Barkhamsted, Goshen, Torrington, New Hartford, Canton, Harwinton and Burlington, has the lowest deer density in the state, with just 3.6 deer per square mile. Zone 11, which covers most of Fairfield County, has the highest density in the state at 29.4 deer per square mile.

Jim Bascetta owns Jim's Bait & Tackle in North Canaan, a local check-in station for deer hunters. "We were up 25 deer over last year during rifle/shotgun season, which is pretty significant. All the deer brought in here were very healthy, some weighing over two hundred pounds."

Bascetta believes the low deer density in Litchfield County compared to elsewhere in Connecticut has to do with the greater concentration of predators and hunters here. "Other places in the state just don't have the wide open land we have here and nobody has a bigger coyote population."

The Wildlife Division also completed a survey of farmers in northwestern Connecticut last winter to further assess the status of the deer population. Half of the farmers in Zone One, which consists of Salisbury, North Canaan, Canaan, Sharon, Cornwall, Kent, Warren and Litchfield, believe the deer population is increasing. The majority of farmers in these towns agree the current hunting season should be expanded and 85 percent of farmers in Zone One allow hunting on their properties.

Meanwhile, in Zone Two (which includes Norfolk), only 15 percent of farmers believe the deer herd is increasing, 70 percent believe

the hunting season is adequate and just 30 percent allow hunting on their land.

An examination of the location of state lands that allow hunting may provide the explanation for the discrepancy between the farmers' assessment of the deer populations in zones one and two. Half of the 44 state-owned areas in Connecticut that allow hunting are located in Zone Two, while Zone One has just 12 state-owned hunting areas.

Norfolk resident Ted Marolda has been hunting the Norfolk and Colebrook woods for over thirty years, and began noticing a change in the deer population about five years ago.

"There just aren't as many deer as there used to be," Marolda said. "We didn't necessarily always get a deer during hunting sea-

son, but we would see them all the time. Now, we'll walk through miles of woods and not see a single sign of them. It's hard to say for sure what caused the drop off in the population, but predators must be a major factor."

While some people consider hunting inhumane, it is important to consider the large role hunters play in habitat protection and wildlife conservation. Over 80 percent of the budget of most state wildlife agencies comes from the purchase of hunting licenses, tags, permits and excise taxes, so aside from keeping species from becoming overpopulated, hunters are the biggest financial contributors to the agencies that protect and care for our wildlife.

When asked what draws him into the woods every year, a local hunter said, "For me, it starts with tradition. I've been hunting with my dad since I was a kid. That's our activity together. The best part of hunting is being in nature. It's a kind of meditation being out in the woods keeping perfectly still, relying on your instincts. Nothing else can compete with that."

Hikers and other outdoor enthusiasts should be aware that hunting season isn't just the last two weeks of November. Bow hunting season begins in mid-September and runs through late December. Deer shotgun and rifle season takes place during the last two weeks of November and muzzleloader season is the first two weeks of December, but landowners are free to hunt on private lands from November 1 through the end of December. ■

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JANUARY 2008

Green Model Home In the Works

Torrington house offers green efficiency

By Veronica Burns

The public perception of building a green house, one that is energy-efficient and uses materials that are kind to the environment, is that it costs a lot of green. But that notion is now being challenged. A 2,550 square foot home, recently begun in Torrington, will use construction and materials that are environmentally friendly, yet will have a sticker price in the same range as its neighboring houses.

In a project that combines marketing with social conscience, members of the Home Builders Association of Northwest Connecticut, the Litchfield County Board of Realtors and T&M Building Company of Torrington formed a Green Committee last summer, with the goal of making more green buildings available to the real estate market. This project, the group's first, is being funded by T&M, and they are also building the home. "We decided early on," says Andrea Becker-Abbott, who chairs the committee, "to prove that you could build a green home in line with the costs of other comparable houses." On the practical side, T&M president Greg Ugalde

says "we can't price green built homes out of the market. We need to offer alternatives."

Located in Torrington Chase, a new subdivision, the house will be compliant with the Green Home Guidelines issued by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), specifically seven guiding princi-



PHOTO COURTESY OF T&M BUILDERS

The Torrington house will have a similar exterior, but the inside will have many environmentally friendly features.

ples, which include the areas of energy and water efficiency, indoor environmental quality and resource efficiency. "This will be a

well-rounded green house," promises Steve Temkin, a T&M executive who is supervising the construction. "You can always go greener, but we are focusing on those seven areas and we do not want to go crazy with the price." Norfolk realtor Carl Gundlach of Sullivan Real Estate, who is also a committee member, thinks this is a win-win situation. "People are starting to pay attention to the fact that we have been wasting a lot for a long time. With

this house, I would expect the home owner to see some long-term beneficial savings."

The colonial style house will be heated with natural gas, vented directly from the furnace to an outside wall, eliminating the need for a chimney. An on-demand water heater will be installed, as will flooring that is bamboo rather than hardwood, but which costs about the same. Bamboo is more sustainable since it regenerates in a short period of time as compared to forest stock.

Lighting, windows and appliances will be Energy Star rated. "I love the idea of using an occupancy sensor in a room," says Temkin, "as soon as you leave, the light will automatically shut off."

The toilets will be dual flush, using less water when flushing liquids. It's claimed that this system alone can save a family of four some 6,000 gallons of water a year. Showerheads will be low flow and there will be no wood burning stoves here. Instead, a gas-burning fireplace behind sealed glass will be in the living room. Along with the house comes a user's manual, to help the owner obtain maximum efficiency with all the bells and whistles.

Since educating the public about the availability of green products in the building industry is also an important part of the committee's goal, students from Thomaston High School's Media Center will be documenting the construction from start to finish, and will be airing it on public access television.

The project is turning out to be a learning experience for all involved. "It's like a pilot program," says Ugalde, "the building associations are relying on us for feedback." Gundlach also sees an interesting opportunity. "There's a lot of new technology out there," he says, "this gives us a chance to see how well it does - how it works for the builders and how well it holds up in the long run."

The home, due to be completed next spring, is expected to sell in the upper \$300,000 range. ■

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Notable/Venerable Trees Branch Out

Natural Resources Inventory cataloging old and unusual trees

By Elizabeth Potter

Two years ago, the Inlands/Wetlands Conservation Commission (Wetlands Commission) appointed a subcommittee known as the Natural Resources Inventory, whose purpose is to catalog all of Norfolk's habitat. The Notable/Venerable Tree Project is a part of that inventory. Led by Elizabeth (Pebble) Potter and Stan Civco, the group has been scouring the woodlands of Norfolk in search of old and/or venerable trees. Notable trees are unique by reason of size, and venerable trees are those that are old and still living. They may look as though they have been through a lot in their times.

To qualify, a tree should be either of extraordinary size (diameter, height, spread) or obviously very old or of historic interest.

Considering that Norfolk has been noted for its greenwoods and forests, it seems likely that there are more trees in town that could be identified as notable/venerable, and members of the project are interested in finding more of them.

Residents who believe they may know where there is a notable or venerable tree should contact either Potter at 542-5448 or Civco at 542-5423.

To qualify, a tree should be either of extraordinary size (diameter, height, spread) or obviously very old or of historic interest. Notable trees are often found near where old boundaries intersect. Sometimes trees were left in a field for shade for animals, or were planted near houses where both shade and beauty were desired.

Trees grow well in Norfolk and some trees that are not native trees thrive here. The group is interested in finding all kinds of trees, native and non-native.

If a tree meets the criteria for notable/venerable status it will then be listed in the Natural Resources Inventory report, which is expected to be made available next year.

To be nominated, a tree must be located in Norfolk. Nominations may be made by calling Civco or Potter. Also, photos and descriptions of the nominee trees may also be sent to Venerable Trees, P.O. Box 27, Norfolk 06058.



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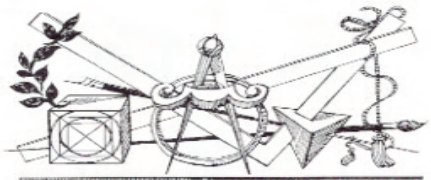
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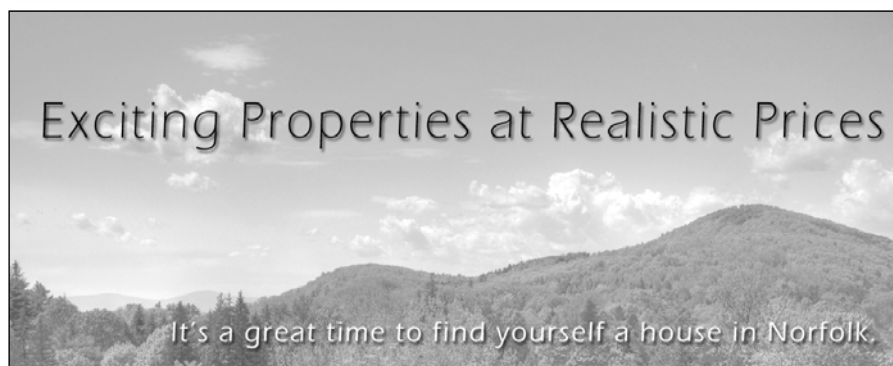
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New Advertising Director Appointed for Norfolk Now

Volunteer position finally filled after long search

By Lloyd Garrison

The job of advertising director, so critical to the financial health of Norfolk Now, is now in the hands of Heidi Dunavant, who also handles sales and marketing for Dayjams, a Litchfield firm that runs 21 day camps across the United States for young rock music enthusiasts.

When Dunavant first saw the notice in Norfolk Now that David Taylor, the paper's first and only ad director was stepping down, she was interested in the job, but held back. "I thought someone else would snatch it up," she recalls.

No one did, and the volunteer position was filled temporarily by Lindsey Rotolo, the paper's business manager who is also an executive editor.

"When the notice appeared again," Dunavant says, "I thought that this was something I could do." After a meeting



Norfolk Now's new Ad Director Heidi Dunavant and her daughter, Greta.

with Rotolo to go over spreadsheets and billing procedures, she signed on.

In many respects, her experience in business and public service should serve her well in her new assignment. A graduate of Southern Connecticut State University with a degree in business writing and a minor in political science, she interned in Hartford with the Senate Appropriations Committee, and later worked for a term on the staff of Senator John Kissel.

Dunavant and her husband, Seth, a guitarist and recording engineer, moved into their house on Laurel Way three years ago. The couple has a daughter, Greta, who is seven months old.

The Dunavants were drawn to Norfolk from Seymour, Connecticut, because they liked the country setting and access to good schools.

"It is the perfect small town," says Dunavant of Norfolk, which reminds her of her upbringing in Oxford, Connecticut. "There wasn't a single stop light when I was growing up in Oxford, which has seen a lot of development since then." ■

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Semiquincentennial Activities Progressing

2008 to be epic year in Norfolk

By Bob Bumcrot

The town-appointed 250th Anniversary Committee, which already has achieved and implemented a variety of plans, continues vigorously, with twenty meetings scheduled during 2008. Together with activities proposed by the library and the historical society, 2008 will be a year of celebration.

Commemorative polo shirts, tee shirts and hats with phrases such as "Norfolk, est. 1758" will soon go on sale at the Norfolk Corner Store and perhaps other locations.

An art auction is to be held at Infinity Hall in the Greenwoods Building in March.

May 2, 2008 will feature "What's It Worth?" a two-hour evaluation of antiques and curiosities by an appraiser from Skinner. The famous Boston auction house that, since 1995, has done many appraisals for the popular Public Broadcasting System television program "Antiques Road Show." Participants can have their highboys, Colt 45s, tellurians, Twain autographs, or anything else, evaluated for \$25 per item. They can, alternatively, just watch the action for a mere \$10.

At a date to be determined, a time capsule prepared by the Botelle School sixth grade class is to be placed beneath an appropriate marker near the Revolutionary War monument at Buttermilk Falls.

Musical groups in the big August 2nd

NORFOLK NOW

parade will include a marching band, a fife and drum corps and bagpipers. Look also for the Connecticut Wheelmen on their old-fashioned big wheel bicycles. And be prepared to cheer the floats on various themes presented by many Norfolk organizations. If any group has not yet sent in the application for a float, antique car, drag racer, skateboard, pom-pom group, morris dance or whatever, they should be sure to do so soon, even if the description has to say "in planning process."

Apparently, His Grace Edward Fitzalan-Howard, 18th Duke of Norfolk has not yet been invited to the celebrations. Since he is the Premier Duke in the peerage of England as well as Earl Marshal and Hereditary Marshal, the request for the honor of his presence will no doubt soon be issued by our own highest town officials. ■

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Church of Christ Receives Grant for Tiffany Windows

Money will be used for exterior protection

The Community Foundation of Northwest Connecticut has awarded Church of Christ, Congregational in Norfolk a grant of up to \$4000 to increase the protection and visibility of the Tiffany stained glass windows in the Battell Chapel. The five windows depict natural scenes and were installed in the chapel in 1929. They are considered among the finest examples of Louis Comfort Tiffany's work and attract many visitors to the area.

The new exterior covers that will be purchased with the grant will permit viewing the windows, which face Litchfield Road (Route 272), from outside the chapel and the church plans to provide interior lighting so that the windows can be seen at night as well. "We are delighted that the Community Foundation of Northwest Connecticut has awarded us this grant," said Pastor Erick Olsen. "We hope to complete the work on the windows in time for Norfolk's 250th birthday celebration this summer. I want to thank Shelley Harms, who put the grant application together, and Sue Dyer and Ann Havemeyer, who wrote letters of support from the town and the historical society."

According to Heather Thomson, a member of the church's "Dare to Dream" capital campaign committee, the grant request is part of a larger capital campaign to improve the physical plant of the property. The church has so far raised \$365,000 in pledges toward increased safety measures, enhanced handicapped access, and maintenance of buildings that are used for worship, concerts and meeting space by community organizations.

For more information, or to contribute to the capital campaign, visit Battell Chapel, call 542-5721, or go to the church's website at www.norfolkctucc.org. ■



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHURCH OF CHRIST, NORFOLK

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1/4 Page	5" x 3 1/4"	\$40.00	\$228.00	\$408.00
1/3 Page	7 1/2" x 3 1/4"	\$52.00	\$296.00	\$530.00
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The Art of Promoting Discreet
Economic Development

Shoestring Antiques has been
going strong since 1993

By Robert Pam

At a recent public meeting on revising the town plan, there was considerable talk about encouraging more home-based enterprises to help boost Norfolk's economic development. In fact, there are numerous such businesses already tucked away in Norfolk homes, and one of them, Shoestring Antiques, has been around for 14 years.

Shoestring Antiques operates out of the home of Ronald and Susan Sloan on Route 44 across from Botelle School. It is a perfect example of discreet economic development in that it is operated out of the home of the owners, is located just on the outskirts of downtown Norfolk, and is a magnet for customers from surrounding areas.

The store, which takes up three rooms of the Sloan home, is crowded with items ranging from attractive secretaries and hand-carved bed frames to small decorative pieces. Those with special interests may find lead soldiers, comics, jewelry and coins.

Ask the Sloans why they are in this field,

and they might say they can't stand to waste something that could be reused, or they may talk about the beauty of some of the things they sell. Their strategy has been to earn a modest return on pieces they like and that they can carry. But they might just as easily say that it allows Ronald Sloan, an accomplished artist, to pursue his work. Ronald Sloan describes his approach as making enough to cover his expenses. "You can't eat the whole elephant," he says.

The sources for their inventory may be local residents with full attics, barns and basements, or flea markets and other dealers. Their customers include some from Norfolk, but also former customers of their previous antique business in Torrington, fans of Ronald Sloan's work as an artist, and travelers on Route 44 who see the Shoestring sign and the few items the Sloans display near the road.

Sloan remembers when there were six or seven antique dealers in town, and a merchants association. Most are now closed and there is no association. Shoestring succeeds in part because of its low overhead. The Sloans left Torrington when their rent rose too high, and came here not only because they love Norfolk, but also to combine home and

work in a space they owned. They supplement the local market by selling on e-Bay for themselves and as an agent for others who lack their expertise. But, like any business of this kind, in the end it depends on their eye for interesting pieces, the value they offer customers, and the amount of traffic passing through the store. The Sloans say that winter or summer, fair weather or foul, offer no clues to a day's activity. Both welcome visitors, whether they come looking for art, or to chat, buy presents or decorate a choice spot in their home.

Ronald Sloan is a painter who has shown in a wide variety of shows, galleries and museums. He paints both representational in a raw, primitivist style (see his website: raw-work.com), and abstract works at scales from several feet to smaller than two inches square. A confirmed recycler, any parts of an acquisition that don't meet his sales standards may become a model ship or tank, or part of a three-dimensional art object. His home is also his studio, art library and gallery.

He is easily recognizable in town by his substantial beard. His past life as a teacher shows in his easy conversation and ready laugh. He and his wife contribute to making Norfolk the interesting and somewhat offbeat place it is. In this town where yard sales are major attractions and social opportunities, it's hard to imagine anyone not wanting to drop in for a look at the Shoestring stock. ■

What a Difference a Year Makes



PHOTOS BY LLOYD GARRISON

In the February, 2007 issue of Norfolk Now, there is a picture of Station Place with only a dusting of snow on the ground, which is all we received in December and January combined last year. Here, workers dig out from under some of the nearly 14 inches of snow that fell in Norfolk this December.



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Briefly...

Another Norfolk Drug Bust

Acting on a tip, state police stopped a car on Route 44 in Norfolk driven by Karen Nejaime, who was on probation following last year's drug bust at 10 Ashpohtag Road, and charged her with numerous drug offenses, including possession of crack cocaine. Bail was set at \$150,000...

A Norfolk Startup in Winsted

Norfolk's Edmond Tremblay has launched the Winchester Coffee House on the site of the defunct Café 64 in Winsted, serving organic free trade Nicaraguan coffee and Harney teas...

Norfolk at the Movies

Edie and Dave Hofstatter of Greenwoods Road West, who have previously been cast as extras in "The Departed" and "Aquarium", have appeared in another major film project as extras in "For One More Day," an Oprah Winfrey Presents production that premiered on December 9 on ABC...

End Of an Era

Two respected retailers in the area are folding. After 45 years of providing clothing of all kinds to many Norfolk customers, Bob Drucker has finally closed the doors of Bob's Clothing & Shoes in Canaan. A few doors up from the Warner Theater in Torrington, Spino's Mens Wear, which was founded in 1979 and provided many a rental tuxedo for Norfolk proms and weddings, will give way in February to a new brew café...

NVFD to the Rescue

Norfolk's volunteer firefighters drew thanks and praise from Botelle head custodian Leo Colwell after preventing a 500-gallon spill out of a home heating oil delivery truck from fouling the brook behind the school...

Paul Newman's Own

The American Mural Project, which aims to mount the largest piece of indoor artwork in the U.S. in an empty Winsted mill, received a big boost with a \$500,000 grant from Newman's Own Foundation, which described the mural as exemplifying "the aspirations of all Americans..."

Larry Leifert Gets Behind Paul Newman

In turn, Paul Newman, 83 this month, got an important boost from Norfolk's Larry Leifert, who was his engine chief when Newman swept the field in the GT1 event at the North American Road Racing Championship Runoffs at Lime Rock...

Vote For a Float

The Norfolk Lions Club has voted to sponsor a float at the town's 250th anniversary parade in August and also staff a food stand on the Village Green...

—Compiled by Lloyd Garrison

January Calendar

TOWN GOVERNMENT

Selectmen meet at the Town Hall, first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Wetlands Agency meets at the Town Hall, the first Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Planning & Zoning meets at Town Hall, the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.

Board of Finance meets at Town Hall, the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Regional Board of Education meets the second and fourth Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in the library at Regional #7 High School.

Economic Development Commission meets at Town Hall on the first Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m.

Recreation Department meets the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Norfolk Sewer District meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Spaghetti Dinner, sponsored by the Norfolk Lions Club to benefit the Meadowbrook Gazebo Fund, will be held on January 26 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Botelle School. Adults \$7. Children \$3.

Women's open night basketball will take place Monday evening from 7 to 8:45 p.m. at the Botelle School gym. All skill levels welcome. For more information please contact Sarah Kasacek at 542-5849.

Preschool playgroup meets on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at Battell Chapel for preschoolers and their caregivers.

Send submissions to Katherine Pilbin,
dpilbin@snet.net.
Deadline is the 15th of the month.

LIBRARY EVENTS

Library closed on January 1 in observance of New Years Day.

Fireside Friday on January 4 from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Library Associates will hold an open meeting on January 8 at 12 p.m..

Fireside Friday on January 11 from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Concert with John Lehmann-Haupt on January 12 at 4 p.m.

Fireside Friday on January 18 from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Poetry with Taylor Mali on January 19 at 4 p.m.

Library closed on January 21 in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

Book Discussion on January 22 at 6:30 p.m.

Fireside Friday on January 25 from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Performance Workshop with Ginger Grace on January 26 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Town on the Same Page kick-off party on January 27 at 4 p.m.

Corner Club with Mark Kimball on January 30 at 3:20 p.m.

BOTELLE SCHOOL

PTO meets January 2 at 7 p.m.

Eliot Bailen, song writing residency, from January 7 through 11.

Guest from Hartford visiting the fifth grade on January 8.

Board of Education meets on January 9 at 7 p.m.

Concert for Eliot Bailen's song writing on January 11.

Winter Concert on January 14 at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

School Closed on January 21 in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

Board of Education meets on January 23 at 7 p.m.

Roaring Brook visits second grade class January 23.

Fourth Grade to the Noah Webster House on January 24.

Roaring Brook visits the third grade on January 28.

Letters

Targeted by the Turtle Police

Times sure are a'changin'. The folks who cause our taxes to go up are at it again. The property that has been approved by the Wetlands Commissions and Zoning Boards of two towns as a site to build a golf club are being attacked by the turtle police now. I guess the metallic taste in that pot of turtle soup must have been that radio transponder.

Has anyone done a study to see if the habitat is good for humans to possibly live there?

Just to set the record straight, there has never been any proposal before either town to build any housing on this property. If and when it is proposed, the two towns and their elected representatives to zoning and wetlands as well as local boards of health will review the proposal and make decisions based on facts.

Sensible people among us need to voice

their opinions more often. I hear rumors about splitting the Conservation and Wetlands Commission into two entities. Why? So people will have one more step to climb, one more hoop to jump through, not to mention more expense, when they want to make decisions concerning their property? The Inland Wetlands / Conservation Commission has been working fine for forty some years and should not be changed now.

Unfortunately for the people who want to build a world-class golf club in our little quiet town, they have some wealthy neighbors who want to push their own opinion about the project and disregard the elected officials of Canaan and Norfolk. They should consider spending their money feeding and housing the homeless instead of paying the lawyers.

Carl Gundlach

The writer is the recently retired Land Use Administrator and former three-term Selectman for the Town of Norfolk.

SIGN THAT CHECK OR SIMPLY SIGN UP

Norfolk Now is a not-for-profit publication that depends on your support. Tax-deductible donations can be mailed to P.O. Box 702, Norfolk CT 06058.

Norfolk Students to Play in Honor Band

Three Norfolk students were chosen to play in honor bands after auditions in Bristol on November 17. Serena Sinclair, percussion, and Elise Wignall, violin, will play in the Northern Region High School Concert Festival in New Britain on January 18, and Daniel Torrey, euphonium, will play in the Northern Region Youth Honor Band concert in Canton on February 1. More information is available on the Connecticut Music Educators Association Web site, www.cmea.org.

Republican Caucus

Notice is given that there will be a caucus of all enrolled Republican electors of the Town of Norfolk on January 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Norfolk Town Hall to endorse candidates for the Republican Town Committee.

Fireside Fridays at Norfolk Library

During the cold months from January through March, the Norfolk Library Associates will host weekly "Fireside Friday" gatherings before the fireplace in the Great Hall of the library to enjoy refreshments and conversation. The meetings will be held from 3 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. Mary Ann McGourty, Rita Freedman and Margaret O'Malley are spearheading the planning and would welcome any suggestions for the focus for any given Friday. For example, the January 11 get together will feature the first of a series of discussions about selected issues of The New Yorker magazine, to be led by Francesca Turchiano. Suggestions to date include: a repeat recital of the musical trio of Linda Bell, Nan Frost and Sarah Garrison, needlework, conversations about scientific subjects in the New York times, poetry reading and games such as Bridge, Mah Jong and Backgammon.

Send submissions to Lisa Bazzano,
thebazzanos@sbcglobal.net.
Deadline is the 15th of the month.



Norfolk After School Program

Registration forms for the Norfolk After School Program (NAS) will be available January 2, in the office of Botelle School or at the Corner Store. The NAS is a program developed by the Botelle Parent Teachers Organization (PTO) with the objective of providing children with interesting, educational, and creative after school activities at an affordable price. This year's classes will begin January 23, with courses such as indoor soccer or art lesson for older children. For younger children, Tumble Fun will be offered. The fee is \$30 per class for six weeks. Classes meet once a week from 3:15 p.m. until 4:15 p.m. For more information contact Tina Olsen at 542-3994.

Food Banks in Need

With the rising cost of fuel and electricity, local food banks have seen a rise in demand. They are in need of donations, such as canned soups, fruits and vegetables, peanut butter, boxes of cereal, and personal hygiene products. Donations may be dropped off at the Open Door Soup Kitchen on Main Street in Winsted. Please check expiration dates before dropping off donations.

Second Grade Class Gives of Itself

Botelle School's second grade class took a unique approach to gift giving this holiday season. In lieu of a grab bag with each other they decided to participate in the International Heifer Project. The children learned that a \$20 donation could purchase a flock of chicks, which would produce eggs for food or to sell. They found that the funds they raise could change the lives of a needy family somewhere in the world, and provide them with the resources they need to become self-reliant. Students used their own funds for their grab bag gifts. The small class of 16 students has raised \$500 to date. If you would like to help this class reach their goal of purchasing a whole heifer, donations can be made to: Mrs. Ramsey's second grade class in care of Botelle School, 128 Greenwood Road East, Norfolk, Connecticut 06058

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Norfolk Then . . .

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1860:
BEING BISSEXTILE, OR LEAP YEAR, AND TILL JULY 4TH, THE
EIGHTY-FOURTH OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE.
Calculated for the Horizon and Meridian of Waterbury, Conn.,
but will serve for any of the adjoining States without
any essential variation.
CONTAINING
The Rising and Setting of the Sun—Moon's Rising, Setting and Southing, and
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Rising, Setting, and Southing of the Planets, and some of the principal
Fixed Stars—together with all else necessary to such a composition.
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Colon, County, and State Statistics,
&c., &c.
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32
SHEPARD & DEWELL,
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The undersigned would respectfully announce to the
citizens of Norfolk and vicinity, that their late purchases in
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ble stock of goods now offered to the public, which consists
of a seasonable assortment of
DRY GOODS, GROCERIES,
PORK, LARD,
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in the retail trade; and also, a good assortment of
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Oil for man and beast. Also, Liniments, Pills, Bitters,
too numerous to here enumerate, and good to cure and al-
leviate all diseases, which they are determined shall be sold
at very reduced prices for cash.
Almost every kind of produce will be taken in exchange
at prices that shall compete with any other establishment
within these precincts.
The public is hereby specially invited to give us a call
before they make their purchases elsewhere.
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Norfolk, January 1, 1860.

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If you think January sales are a phenomenon of our times, read this advertisement in the Norfolk Almanac, published annually from 1856 to 1860 in the tradition of the Farmer's Almanac. Shepard & Dewell billed itself as a Cheap Cash Store, offering an assortment of household goods and popular medicines such as Merchant's Gargling Oil for man and beast. I wonder which 19th century beasts gargled.

—Ann Havemeyer

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