

NINA RITSON

NORFOLK NOW

Volume VI Issue 4

From the Icebox of Connecticut

April 2008

VIEW FROM THE GREEN

Unprecedented Opportunity in Norfolk

By Colleen Gundlach

It is likely that the 43 families living in Norfolk at the time of its incorporation back in 1758 would be very pleased to see our town 250 years later. At their first town meeting, on December 12, 1758, residents had much organizing to do.

Today, we as voters agonize over the choices we are presented at election time, but these early townsmen had "thirty town offices to be filled from among the 44 voters present," according to James H. Potter in his "History, Church of Christ, Norfolk." Imagine, 44 voters present at a town meeting, and only 43 families in town. Those early settlers put us to shame in terms of performing their civic duty. Potter goes on to report that, in addition to the usual offices that we moderns discuss at voting time, the early Norfolk town meetings had to appoint such positions as fence viewers, thything men, leather sealers, and a person "to procure the preaching of ye Gospel in said Norfolk."

Eighty-six years later, in December of 1844, a Norfolk town meeting appointed Amos Pettibone, Michael F. Mills and Darius Phelps to deliver a Centennial Address to the people of Norfolk. This event celebrated the centennial of the town's settlement in 1744, rather than its incorporation in 1758.

Of the bicentennial celebration in 1944 we have a bit more information. The committee consisted of Edward C. Farrington, Seth G. Brown, Phillip E. Curtiss, George J. Dyer, Michael W. Dillon, Rev. James H. Potter, Abel I. Smith, and Robbins B. Stoeckel. Their charge was to organize a two day event to commemorate Norfolk's incorporation. According to the program of the bicentennial celebration, a community-wide party was held on Village Green on Saturday, July 5, 1944, with a band concert and "an address by Mr. Edward R. Stevens, a member of one of Norfolk's oldest families and a devoted historian of the town."

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Ashpohtag Road Home Invaded

All three suspects face criminal charges

By Lindsey Pizzica Rotolo

Two young men broke into the home of Thomas Wilkeson, Harrison Conway and Chrystal Marshall at 314 Ashpohtag Road shortly after 3 p.m. on Tuesday, March 25.

Raymond Santana, 21, of Bronx, New York and Jesse Diaz, 19, of Winsted, walked into the house wearing hooded sweatshirts and masks and assaulted Wilkeson with a gun. Wilkeson, who was home with his girlfriend, Marshall, struggled with the two men and ended up with the gun, which he soon realized was inoperable.

Santana and Diaz fled the scene on foot to their car parked on Roughland Road where Eric Castillo, 19, of Winsted waited for them in the vehicle.

Wilkeson chased the men down in Marshall's car and made impact on Roughland Road. Marshall's car flipped over and Wilkeson, Diaz and Castillo were injured in the accident. Santana fled the scene on foot and was not found by police despite a two-day

wide scale search involving canine units and helicopters.

Santana finally turned himself in to the Waterbury Police Department two days after the incident and faced criminal charges in Bantam Superior Court on March 28, including felony home invasion, first-degree burglary and robbery, second-degree assault with a firearm, larceny and conspiracy to commit all of the above charges. He is being held on a \$750,000 bond.

Diaz's charges include felony home invasion, first-degree burglary and robbery and second-degree assault. He is being held on a \$600,000 bond and will appear in Litchfield Superior Court on April 8.

Castillo faces criminal charges of first-degree burglary and robbery and is being charged as an accessory and conspirator to home invasion, despite claiming he didn't know what Santana and Diaz were doing in the Wilkeson home. He is being held on a \$400,000 bond and will appear in Litchfield Superior Court on April 15.

According to his roommates, Wilkeson is doing well and recovering at his parents' home in North Norfolk. ■

Renewable Energy Plant Proposed for Canaan Valley

Plant will use animal waste to produce green electricity

By John Funchion

Construction of a proposed \$14.3 million, three megawatt, manure to methane energy renewal plant in Canaan valley in the near future will have minimal effect on the environment, milk production and Norfolk's rural character. That is the view of Bob Jacquier of Laurelbrook Farm, when he states, "from a community viewpoint, there will be little day to day change here at our farm. We are just adding two digesters which will be more environmentally friendly for all of us."

A digestate liquid storage tank, already in *continued on page 2*



PHOTO BY JOHN FUNCHION

Bob Jacquier of Laurelbrook Farm.

ENERGY*Continued from page 1*

place, holding 2.5 million gallons of liquid manure, will feed both digesters, which will hold 960,000 gallons each. These digesters will process approximately 55,000 gallons of manure per day.

Methane gas generated from the manure of 2,000 cows from three farms in the valley would create enough electricity to power 3,000 homes. Jacquier says, "the additional benefit will be a value added, sanitized soil product which will become a high quality natural fertilizer." He added, "some of the manure will go to the cow pot production at the Freund farm." Cow pots are biodegradable pots for plants that are composed of cow manure. The process for making cow pots was developed by Matthew Freund of Freund's Farm.

Five years in the planning, this proposed renewable energy plant received a boost when the Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC) on January 30 approved a proposal known as Project 100, created by the Connecticut General Assembly to produce some 100 megawatts of electricity from 11 different renewable sources around the state. Essentially, the state is guaranteeing a long term contract to purchase electricity generated from this proposed manure plant.

The plant would be developed by Clearview Power, LLC, of Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The biomass project is made up of a consortium of three farms in the Canaan Valley: Laurelbrook Farm, Elm Knoll Farm and Freund's Farm, Inc. It is also known as Clearview East Canaan Energy, LLC and has met DPUC criteria. According to the state, the plan must be implemented by July 1, 2008.

Jacquier indicated that the plant would probably be located near the digestate tank across the fields of Laurelbrook Farm at the base of Canaan Mountain, nearly one half mile from Route 44. He said it would be one of "the better places to handle any odor." With proper design, it would easily blend into the environmental foliage of the surrounding landscape.

Perry Gardner, a retired engineer and project manager for the consortium said, "We need all the alternative and innovative ideas we can get today. This would be a very good project." He did, however, question the feasibility of the July 1 implementation date.

Dave Jacquier of Elm Knoll Farm said, "essentially the company would be 'renting' the manure from us for the methane then we get the residual, no-weed seed, clean manure back for a perfect and natural fertilizer. The rent worth of the manure would be about 8 to 17 cents per thousand gallons to move it. This

is a source of income for us." Initial designs call for the manure to be moved through a piping system connecting all three farms.

He added "We have to be efficient. If we can't make it with milk, then we have to find alternatives. If for some reason we weren't wanted in the valley when our ability to produce milk wore out, then we would always do something else."

One of the reasons why the proposed biomass plant has met the criteria of the DPUC is

Methane gas generated from the manure of 2,000 cows from three farms in the valley would create enough electricity to power 3,000 homes.

the success of dairy farmers in other states who found that turning manure into energy prevented forced selling of their land to developers. DPUC spokesman, Beryl Lyons said that the biomass plant will be added to New England's electric transmission system grid.

Members of the consortium, along with other local and state officials will be visiting two farms in Wisconsin shortly to learn more about successful biomass renewable energy projects. ■

VIEW FROM THE GREEN*Continued from page 1*

On Sunday, special services at the "usual church hours" were held at all three Norfolk churches. Seems quite tame by today's standards.

Not so in the summer of 2008. This year we will see a completely unprecedented celebration in Norfolk's history. Never before has the town opened itself up to so much activity and fellowship at one time. The celebration planned by the 250th anniversary committee is expected to attract not only Norfolkiens, but many "outsiders" as well. Norfolk will be bustling and active all summer. What an amazing opportunity to promote our town.

With the influx of people, our merchants and other businesses have the opportunity to let people know they are here. From stores in the center of town to landscapers, to real estate agents, artists, and every other trade, Norfolk people have a chance to show off their talents. In addition, visitors will be able to experience the things that make our residents love the town, including, but not limited to, cultural venues such as the Norfolk Library and Yale Music School as well as a block party that will bring neighbors and friends together for what is sure to be a joyful celebration.

Take a look at page four of this issue where we have listed all planned 250th anniversary activities of which we at Norfolk Now have been made aware. It's not too late to add to that list. Make your plans now. It's our chance to shine and to show the world why Norfolk is the number one small town in Connecticut. ■

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

Linda Childs, Dorothy Pam,
Bob Pam, Francesca Tuchiano

Community News Editor

Lisa Bazzano

Calendar Editor

Katherine Pilbin

Staff Photographers

Bruce Frisch, Adela Hubers, Carol Stein

Design and Layout

Kevin Gundlach

Business Manager

Lindsey Pizzica Rotolo

Advertising

Charlie Yard - *Marketing Manager*
Katherine Pilbin - *Accounts Manager*

Subscriptions Manager

Bhatki Jackson

Norfolk Now takes no editorial positions and all views expressed are those of the writer.

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:

Lindsey Pizzica Rotolo
lindseylauren@yahoo.com 542-5006

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

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

Advertising:

Charlie Yard 542-6077
charleyard@aol.com
Katherine Pilbin 542-5973
dpilbin@snet.net

Deadline for ads and items for Calendar and Community News is the 15th of the month.

Getting To The Nuts And Bolts of Norfolk

Town plan meeting focuses on infrastructure

By *Veronica Burns*

About 25 people, mostly members of town commissions and services, met on March 20 at Town Hall to continue the process of creating a town plan. Under the able tutelage of the plan consultant, Glenn Chalder of Planimetrics, topics ranged from sewers to sidewalks. The goal of the evening, said Chalder, should be that the group not become focused on “the management or operation of any individual facility. It’s really about the physical needs of the different situations in town.”

First up was a discussion about community facilities and Town Hall, specifically whether or not people think that it provides adequate space. Aside from a lack of parking, most felt that the building was sufficient, with the possibility of using the basement if more office space were needed in the next few years. Because there is the availability of land next door to the town hall facility, Chalder said he did not see any “crisis” looming in the next 20 years. “There may be growing pains,” he predicted, but the town has a good basis and can approach things in a measured fashion.

First Selectman Sue Dyer warned that the public works department was “cramped” and in need of overhaul. This was something that should be done “sooner rather than later,” said Dyer, “within the next two years.” Currently located on two acres in town, the only other site suggested for a new public works building was Town Farm, a total of 180 acres that spill into Colebrook. However, as was revealed in the ensuing discussion, the Town Farm site comes with specific problems, not the least of which is the fact that it is environmentally suspect, having once been a landfill. Planning and Zoning commissioner Betsy Little suggested that an assessment of the site might be in order.

Board of Education chairman Kate Johnson gave a summary statement on Botelle Elementary School, a “well-maintained” building, which has recently had updated windows and energy-efficient lighting installed.

Johnson pointed out that the school building also provides a community function, since many town meetings have been held there as well as after-school activities such as basketball. “The school also serves as an emergency shelter,” said Johnson. “We’ve got room for beds and showers. We also have an emergency generator.”

For Johnson, the main issue is the future rather than the present. “We are looking at projected declining enrollment,” she said, “We are starting to see that it might be happening,” though she added that she did not think the numbers would decline as much as the state is projecting. “We’ve been rated the number one small town in Connecticut,” Johnson said, “and I think people do move here for that reason.”

Regionalization could have an impact and there is also “very preliminary discussion” with Colebrook about collaboration on numbers, which could also impact Botelle. Overall, however, the school building was deemed to have the potential to accommodate more students within the next 10 years, especially with the “relief valve” of a covered skating rink, which could be used for extra classroom space if needed.

On the subject of our roads, Norfolk, according to Chalder, has more road miles per capita than the neighboring towns of Torrington and Winsted. From an engineering point of view, apparently many of Norfolk’s roads were never properly built. As a result, drainage problems are common. Dyer said that as of now, “we basically maintain our roads.” At a suggestion of state involvement, the audience was told that if the state were to build our roads they would “all be wider, straighter and flatter” and clearly lacking in quaintness.

Issues concerning emergency vehicles, bridges and the subsequent public or private costs of road maintenance were also discussed. In terms of road maintenance strate-

gies, Chalder suggested that “the cheapest method is to do a little maintenance each year to bring roads back and try not to let them get to the point where you have to rebuild. But this is definitely a challenge for any community.”

Toward the end of the session, Ron Zanobi spoke about Norfolk’s sewer system, which was established in 1897 and is one of the smallest in Connecticut. “A lot of the pipes we have in the ground today were put there in 1897,” said Zanobi, and because of that the



PHOTO BY COLLEEN GUNDLACH

Norfolk’s Public Works Department is outgrowing its cramped facility on Old Colony Road.

system has a lot of water infiltration problems. The plant capacity is around 350,000 gallons a day but could handle more. Zanobi said the plant, which was built in the 1970s, “probably needs an upgrade.” Ongoing work in the area includes replacing some of the older pipes as well as employing a newer method of relining pipes.

It may seem hard to believe, but Chalder thinks many communities would have “sewer-envy” of Norfolk because the town has this system in place. “Norfolk is so fortunate,” he said. “We have a tool at our disposal that a lot of other places do not have. The challenge is that we have issues relating to infiltration and the system is over 100 years old. But it’s better than not having it.” Zanobi would welcome new hookups and said that in terms of any new development hooking into the main, he would expect the burden of that cost to be on the developer.

Connectivity in town was also discussed. Many attendees urged the creation of more sidewalks to connect the school, Meadowbrook, City Meadow and the Green, a system that all felt would benefit both residents and businesses. ■

ADVERTISING IN
NORFOLK NOW
GETS RESULTS

Save the Date

Norfolk's Semiquincentennial Celebration Gears Up

The entire town is gearing up for summer-long festivities to celebrate Norfolk's 250th anniversary. Many people are working on their plans for a float or a costume. Others are working on tours, concerts, or fundraisers.

In anticipation of many booked calendars, below is a listing of activities that have been planned thus far for the big celebration. Be sure to mark your calendar so you won't miss your favorites. All events planned by the town's 250th committee on August 1 and 2 are free to the public, with the exception of food, beverages and bingo.

May 2 – Antiques appraisal fundraiser to help defray the costs of the celebration will be held at the Blackberry River Inn, from 7 to 9 p.m. The Skinner Auction House will appraise your antiques, but it is limited to 50 items, so register early at norfolkct.org.

May 26 to October 12 (Saturdays and Sundays) – "A Common Thread: Two Centuries of Costumes and Textiles in Norfolk," special exhibition at the Norfolk Historical Museum.

July 5 – "A Walk Through Norfolk's Industrial Past," led by Richard Byrne, sponsored by the Norfolk Historical Society.

July 19 – Historic House Tour, featuring some of Norfolk's oldest 18th century homes, sponsored by the Norfolk Historical Society.

July 30 – "The Battells of Norfolk: A Musical Mission," a slide presentation by Ann Havemeyer at Battell House.

August 1 – Block Party in Norfolk center. Highlights include:

A puppet show by Puppettude, a youth puppet troupe from St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Torrington.

Square dancing, called by Cliff Brodeur

Stilt walking instruction by Arden Mason, with child-size stilts to be provided.

Street Jester Karl Saliter, sponsored by the Norfolk Children's Foundation

Bingo sponsored by the Norfolk Volunteer Fire Department

Food Booths

Gala fireworks display

August 1 – Norfolk Historical Museum Open House, hosted by figures from Norfolk's past.

August 2 – "Norfolk Through the Years" parade, kicking off at 4 p.m. at intersection of Laurel Way and Maple Avenue. Will conclude at Mountain Road. The Northwestern Regional 7 band, a bagpipe band, a fife and drum band, a stagecoach, floats, and antique vehicles will parade through town to celebrate. A contest will be held for the best floats. Miniature yard weathervanes by Norfolk artisan John Thew of Garret Thew Studios will be awarded as prizes and presented by "Mark Twain" to the winners. Go to norfolkct.org to register to be in the parade.

Following the parade, old time games will be held at the ball field, and pony rides, stagecoach rides and food booths will entice everyone to stay and enjoy the early evening hours.

The U.S. Coast Guard Band, sponsored by the Yale Summer School of Music, will present a free concert in the Music Shed at 7:30 p.m.

A handmade quilt featuring scenes of Norfolk's past will be raffled. Quilt will be on display beginning in June.

Anniversary shirts and hats will be available for purchase at Corner Store.

August 30 – "Stone City", a walk through Norfolk's history will be led by Richard Byrne, sponsored by the Norfolk Historical Society.

September 27 – "A Walk to Stoney Lonesome" led by Richard Byrne, sponsored by the Norfolk Historical Society.

October 4 – 250th Anniversary Costume Ball, sponsored by the Norfolk Historical Society.

Rockin' Robin



Robin Yuran, co-director of The Norfolk Library, relaxes in her new rocking chair, courtesy of the Norfolk Lions Club. The Lions sold tickets to help fund their \$1500 donation to the Meadowbrook Gazebo Fund. Yuran purchased the lucky winning ticket, number 37.

Revaluation of Property Underway

**Norfolk's tax assessor to
make on-site visits**

Now that the 2007 Grand List has been completed, Norfolk's tax assessor, Barbara Bigos, is busy analyzing recent Norfolk sales and creating a model by which all properties will be revalued for the October 1, 2008 Grand List. The assessor will personally visit all properties this spring and summer to check the new preliminary values for accuracy.

Bigos will pay special attention to the quality of the land for each parcel. If necessary, she will ask for an interior inspection of the home, but in many cases an exterior inspection will be sufficient.

Homeowners will receive their new values next November and will have ample opportunity to meet with the assessor to question and understand the process. Property owners will be receiving mailed information from the assessor's office. In addition, public workshops and private meetings will be offered to discuss specific properties.

"An Informational Guide to Norfolk's 2008 Revaluation" flyer contains further information about the process, and is available at Town Hall. ■

From the court room to the riding stable

Norfolk Couple Practices Law and Conservation Together

By Bob Bumcrot

In 1980, Mary (Molly) Ackerly was assigned by Shipman & Goodwin, her Hartford law firm, to take a young job applicant named J. Michael Sconyers to lunch. They liked each other from the start, began dating in 1986 and got married on January 2, 1988, thereby avoiding the 1987 marriage tax penalty. "My wife's a tax lawyer," explained Sconyers.

Sconyers, a former Marine pilot, was soon assigned to Shipman & Goodwin's Lakeville office with fellow Marine retirees Frank Dooley and Stuyvie Bears. "You know the only difference between the Boy Scouts and the Marines?" he joked. "The Boy Scouts have adult leadership." As a Marine, for a year beginning in October, 1967 Sconyers flew close air support missions in "Hueys," slang for the UH-1E helicopters popularized by many Vietnam movies. He logged 980 "red ink" hours of combat flying, took five rounds of direct hits, one air burst and one lightning strike and was awarded 38 Strike Flight Air Medals.

The son of a military officer, Sconyers spent his first five years in occupied Germany. He grew up in Virginia except for, "four wonderful years," attending 5th through 7th grade in Japan.

Although born in southern Connecticut, Ackerly's Norfolk roots are deeper. As a child, she summered at the family cabin on Doolittle Lake. Long before, her mother went to a summer camp said to have been run by Alfredo Guido Taylor's maiden aunts.

Ackerly learned to ride horses from her father, who had been a cavalry officer in

World War II. She resumed riding about ten years ago, inspiring Sconyers to take up the sport as well. They can be seen riding at Rustling Wind Stables on Canaan Mountain nearly every Saturday.

When Ackerly was campaigning, by bicycle, for Norfolk Judge of Probate, some long-term residents seemed doubtful about the length of her residence in Norfolk. She easily dispelled these doubts. One old-timer was heard to say, "Why I caddied for her grandfather when I was a kid!" She served as Judge of Probate from 1987 to 1995. She is a past president of the Norfolk Library Board of Trustees and currently sits on the board of the Foundation for Norfolk Living.

By 1987, six months after moving into the second floor of what is now Turi Rostad's studio on Norfolk's Village Green, Sconyers was asked by Kevin O'Connor to serve as an alternate on the Board of Finance. He has been on the board ever since, for many years as its chairman. "We're bean counters," he said. "But it's fun making the town run. There is a lot of breadth and depth of experience on the board." Recently, he and other members of the Board of Finance played an important role in preparing for the bond issue to finance the Botelle School windows project and the emergency services building.



PHOTO BY CAROL STEIN

Long-time Norfolk residents Michael Sconyers and Molly Ackerly are lawyers and conservationists.

In 1991, Ackerly started her own firm, Ackerly & Brown, in Litchfield. For two years, Connecticut Magazine's "Super Lawyers" issue has listed her under the Trusts and Estates specialty. Sconyers joined the firm in 1995, and they continue to practice law together.

The couple's dedication to environmental preservation begins to be seen in the land around their home near Litchfield Road, the former stable along the private lane leading to the house that Alfredo Taylor built for himself. Ackerly's love of nature and conservation stems mainly from her early visits to the area. She was raised in New Canaan but has lived here full time for 41 years. Sconyers' love of the land grows out of a family history of dirt farming in Mississippi. Their three acre stand of wild blueberry bushes in Norfolk are carefully and laboriously maintained. "We find the 'Weed Wrench' tool to be invaluable," Ackerly said. "We're nuts about native plants. You can find some unusual ones in the meadow next to the blueberries." In 1982, Ackerly helped to found the Norfolk Land Trust. She was on the board of the Connecticut Nature Conservancy for ten years until her time limit was reached in 2005. Now Sconyers sits on the board.

Deer and bobcat are frequently seen on their land, but the most extraordinary event was the appearance, a few winters back, of a large number of "snow rollers" in the meadow. These are natural snowballs, some ten to twelve inches in diameter, formed by a rare combination of wind and snow conditions. The occurrence is sufficiently unusual to be included in the University of Kansas "weird weather phenomena" Web site. They made photographs of scores of the rollers with clearly visible paths made during their formation. "That's one reason why I love living here," said Ackerly. "We visit the city sometimes, but I'm always glad to get back." ■

WINETASTING & AUCTION
Sponsored by the Church of Christ Congregational, Norfolk

Saturday, April 26, 2008
6-9 PM at the Blackberry River Inn, Norfolk

\$25/per person (must be 21 or over)

Come spend a spring evening with friends sampling wine (and beer) and bidding on fabulous auction items such as: travel to vacation homes, artwork, jewelry, weekend destinations, gift baskets, carriage rides, concerts, and many other novelties!

For more information call the church office: 860-542-5721
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Letters

Turtle-Bitten

Like most locals, I am excited about the spring opening of Infinity Hall as a music venue and restaurant in the old Apple House building.

It is interesting to note, however, that this ambitious enterprise, with its proposed 200 concerts a year (and the accompanying traffic, noise, parking problems and who knows what else) which could radically change the character of downtown Norfolk, is sailing right into town with little or no comment or review. In the meantime, the snake (bog turtle)-bit golf course in a bucolic setting four miles from the center of town has been met with fierce resistance from adjoiners and abutters and like-minded citizens.

Michael Kelly

Illusions

On Thursday, March 27, 2008, The Republican American headline story stated "Norfolk residents ponder rural town's shattered tranquility." Having written the story about the traumatic December 24 home invasion and robbery in South Norfolk, and overseen the establishment of a reward fund with the encouragement of Greg Naylor, our state trooper, I am sad to report that pondering the local impact of drugs and crime by Norfolkiens seems illusory. Only one household added to the reward fund, and they were newcomers who mentioned how moved they were by a town that cared about its neighbors.

Francesca Turchiano

MILESTONES

Born. A baby girl, Sophia Louise, on March 7th, 7 lbs., 13 oz., to John and Lisa Bazzano. Sophia is the little sister to Stephen, Colin and J.P.

Born. A baby girl, Rose Glynda, on January 31, 7 lbs., 10 oz., to John and Suzanne Bourdeaux. She joins big brother Jack.

Corrections

In the March issue of Norfolk Now, the types of plastic accepted for recycling at the transfer station were incorrectly stated. Type 1 and 2 plastics are accepted. Type 3 is not. They also accept polyethylene terephthalate (pete) plastics. We regret any misunderstanding this may have caused.

The March issue of Norfolk Now incorrectly identified the co-chairmen of the Norfolk 250th Anniversary Committee. Sandy Evans and Beth Podhajecki are the leaders of this group.



Selectman's Corner

Don't Forget to File Your Taxes to Receive Stimulus Money

By Sue Dyer

In order to receive the government's stimulus money, everyone must file a 2007 tax return. I know not everyone files, but it's very easy. Contact the selectmen's office at 542-5829 and we'll assist you in preparing the 2007 tax form so that you can get the stimulus monies the government is offering.

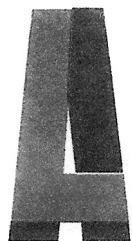
We want to remind everyone that the 250th Anniversary Committee is having a fund raiser on Friday, May 2. Ayreslea Denny has gotten an antique appraiser to come to Norfolk to appraise our treasures. The fee is \$25 for each item and if you only want to attend without bringing an item for appraisal, you can do so for \$10. The evening should be a lot of fun and could make us all want to hurry home to see what hidden treasures we may have

hiding in our own homes. Space is limited, so contact Ayreslea Denny at 542-5025 or visit the 250th Anniversary Committee on our website at norfolkct.org.

The budget season is upon us and the Board of Finance is working hard. They will be presenting the budget at a public hearing on Monday, April 28 at 7 p.m. in the Hall of Flags at Botelle School.

There has been some concern from residents living on our dirt roads about people taking their dogs for a walk. A reminder that your dog should be on a leash and under your control so that you and your pet do not interfere with passing motorists or with other pets that live on those roads.

If you are a veteran, a senior or disabled there might be tax relief programs available to you. Contact the office of the Assessor at 542-5287.



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Jim Hotchkiss Chosen as Norfolk's Volunteer of the Year

**From zoning to photography
and everything in between**

By Colleen Gundlach

Jim Hotchkiss is a person who unpretentiously goes about helping out wherever he can, but self-effacingly says, "My wife deserves the award. She put up with all the meetings." And meetings there have been, for many years.

In recognition of more than 35 years of dedicated service, Hotchkiss has been named Norfolk's Volunteer of the Year for 2008. Beginning with his election to the Zoning Board of Appeals in the 1970's, he has continued a lifetime of volunteerism that included a stint on the Planning and Zoning Commission, as a deacon and member of the Business Committee at the Church of Christ, Norfolk, and as President of the Norfolk Center Cemetery Association for 13 years. But he didn't stop there.

Hotchkiss earned his Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification and served the Norfolk Ambulance for many years, as well as having been treasurer of the Norfolk Fire Department and a member of the Norfolk Lions Club. He was an integral part of the Botelle School Renovation Committee many years ago when the school board was struggling to bring the school building into compliance with fire codes.

A retired supervisor for the Southern New England Telephone Company where he was employed for 36 years, Hotchkiss grew up in Norfolk on a road that used to be known as Mills Street, but is now West Side Road, until the flood of 1955 took away half of his family's house. His father built a new home on Lovers' Lane, where Hotchkiss lived until his retirement. Married to the former Karen Jacobsen for 40 years, the couple has two children, Kathy and Ronnie, and four grandchildren.

Since his retirement, Hotchkiss has continued to be an active volunteer. He drives the senior citizens' bus two days a week, and has been a tenant representative at Meadowbrook

since moving there. He has also been a driving force in raising funds for the Meadowbrook Gazebo Fund, which he reports should be reaching their goal very shortly.

Perhaps his most recognizable achievement in the past year can be found on the 2008 town calendars that were sold to raise funds for the gazebo. He is the artist who photographed all of the breathtaking pictures of Norfolk scenes that appear on the calendar. What started as a hobby, taking photographs for Meadowbrook, has grown to include a permanent exhibit of his work. The second



PHOTO BY COLLEEN GUNDLACH

Volunteer of the Year Jim Hotchkiss and some of his photographs of Norfolk.

floor hallway at Meadowbrook is lined with beautiful photographs of Norfolk taken by Hotchkiss and donated to the senior housing complex for the enjoyment of its residents and the community.

The Norfolk Community Service Award (Volunteer of the Year) is presented each year by the Norfolk Republican Town Committee to an outstanding Norfolk resident who exemplifies the true meaning of volunteerism. Past recipients have included Sid Toomey, Sandy Evans, Bob Peterson, Ted Hinman, Barbara Tracey, Ann DeCervo, Paul Hosch, Turi Rostad, Leo Colwell, Jr., Carl Gundlach, Marc Tonan, Lou Barbagallo, and Jim Harrington.

Hotchkiss will be honored at a dinner on Saturday, May 10, 2008, at 6 p.m. at Botelle School. Tickets are \$8 for children and seniors and \$10 for adults, and may be purchased at the door or reserved by calling 542-6054. ■

Norfolk's February Weather

Second wettest February in last 77 years

By Russell Russ

This is a summary of February'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 54 degrees was observed on February 18. The low temperature of one degree below zero was observed on February 29. The average temperature this month was 24.8 degrees. This was 3.5 degrees above the normal February average, but by no means record setting.

February's normal monthly total precipitation amount is 3.74 inches. The total precipitation recorded this February was 9.85 inches, a whopping 6.11 inches above normal. Now this was record setting. It was the second highest February precipitation amount in the last 77 years. Only 1981 with 11.70 inches recorded more February precipitation.

Two thunderstorms were observed at the station this month, a small one during the morning of February 5 and a larger one that produced a burst of hail during the evening of February 6.

The month's two biggest rainmakers dumped large amounts of rain over short periods of time. During a roughly 20 hour long period from 6 a.m. February 6 to 2 a.m. February 7 we recorded 2.13 inches of precipitation. And, during a roughly 22 hour long period from 6 p.m. February 12 to 4 p.m. February 13 we recorded 3.38 inches of precipitation.

February's snowfall total was 25.9 inches, which was 4.3 inches above normal. The largest snowstorm this month was on February 22 when we received 8.2 inches of snow. Many open areas around town lost their snow cover for periods of time, but at the weather station we have now had a constant snow cover since the beginning of December. The snow cover at the station this month ranged from a low of 5 inches to a maximum of 17 inches.

An often-asked question concerning this weather column is why are these weather summaries always two months old? The reason for the two month lag is that Norfolk Now must have its articles in by the second or third week of the month and at that time you obviously cannot have a complete month's worth of data. So, to read about a certain month you must wait until the end of the following month when the article is published. ■

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Out and About

On the Set of "The Vicious Kind"

By Lindsey Pizzica Rotolo

The powerful light of the full moon on the spring equinox was not bright enough for filming an outdoor scene of "The Vicious Kind," the Lee Krieger film currently being shot in and around Norfolk. The lights on the set were blinding, transforming the end of Laurel Way into a seeming attraction at Disney World. Even with the bright lights, constant hum of the generator and ongoing commotion, nobody in the neighborhood seemed to mind. Producer Tim Harms commented, "We paper the neighborhood to let everyone know what's going on and what our schedule is, but I am surprised nobody's complained."

Harms was also surprised to see 15 to 20 children appear on the set one day bearing plates of cookies. Brittany Snow, one of the actors on the film, has a lot of young fans after her role as Meg Pryor on the television series, "American Dreams," so the kids at the day care center across the street were excited to meet her. "We were in the middle of shooting when they stopped by," Harms said, "but Brittany and two of the other lead actors on the film, Alex Frost and J.K. Simmons, greeted them after the scene wrapped."

Snow plays Emma in the film, the girlfriend of Peter Sinclair, played by Alex Frost. The two other lead roles, Donald and Caleb Sinclair, an estranged father and son, are played by J.K. Simmons and Adam Scott.

The set is not open to the general public,

but people occasionally stop by, most wondering about the possibility of being an extra. The producers will not be using any locals as extras due to Screen Actors Guild (SAG) regulations. The first 30 extras hired on a movie set must be registered SAG actors and none of the scenes in the film will require more than twenty extras.

Eleven of the 22 days of shooting took place at a private home on Laurel Way, which served as the home of the Sinclairs, the fictional family depicted in "The Vicious Kind." That location wrapped on March 22. Upcoming scenes will be filmed at an apartment in the Royal Arcanum Building, the Norfolk Curling Club, a construction site on Sunset Ridge Road, the bowling alley in Torrington, Billy Ray's in Winsted, a diner in Wethersfield and a motel, the location of which has yet to be determined.

All of the filming locations were scouted by Candleridge Entertainment, a Los Angeles based Production Company headed by Ryan Horton, Dallas Dickinson and Lindsay Lanzillotta. Lanzillotta previously worked

with Krieger on a pilot he directed called "The Wilton." Krieger gave Candleridge a copy of "The Vicious Kind" script last spring. "We were immediately interested in picking up the project," Lanzillotta said. "Lee is an amazing writer. It's rare not to make any changes to a screenplay, but we actually haven't changed a thing."

Neil LaBute and Ryan Horton are the executive producers of the film. LaBute, a writer, director and playwright, has worked on such films as "In the Company of Men," "Your Friends and Neighbors," and "Nurse Betty." Horton formed Candleridge Entertainment in the fall of 2006 with Dallas Dickinson.

Krieger's exemplary writing skills were proven during the filming of the outdoor scene in Norfolk on March 21. He has a true gift for dialogue and the acting was excellent. "The script is so strong and the actors really get the material," Dickinson commented. "They're nailing every scene."

"The Vicious Kind" will wrap on April 10, but Norfolk residents will have to wait until 2009 to see their town featured in the finished product. ■



PHOTO BY ALDO LANZILLOTTA

Members of the film crew set up equipment in preparation for the filming of a scene.



PHOTO BY ALDO LANZILLOTTA

Cast and crew of "The Vicious Kind" taking a break from filming inside a house on Laurel Way. From left to right: Lindsay Lanzillotta (Producer), Adam Scott (Actor), J.K. Simmons (Actor), Brittany Snow (Actress), Alex Frost (Actor), Dallas Dickinson (Producer).

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Rare trip offered aboard the "Berkshire Flyer"

Housatonic Railroad, Reborn in 1983, Continues To Operate

By Bob Bumcrot

The Central New England Railway that ran through Norfolk from 1899 to 1927, is no more, but the Housatonic Railroad to which it connected in Canaan is alive and well after a period of dormancy.

One of the first railroads in the Northeast, the Housatonic (Association of American Railroads HRRC) was chartered in 1836, under the misspelled name "Ousatonic," to carry passengers as well as goods from the many industries in the Housatonic valley.

The directors decided to take advantage of the ferry service from Long Island and in 1837 began laying track northward from Bridgeport. In the interest of rapid progress, much of the work was done to light specifications, which has continued to plague railroad management to this day. The line reached New Milford in February, 1840, and Canaan in December, 1841. Within the next ten years, the line went into Massachusetts and connected with the Western Railroad.

For many years the Housatonic offered some of the best passenger accommodations in New England. It was also a successful freight operator, carrying limestone, iron, marble, coal, tobacco, milk and ice among a host of products.

As with most railroads, there have been throughout its existence a complex, continuing tangle of mergers, acquisitions, leases and partnerships. Much of this activity has been carefully delineated in the vast literature of railroad history. In 1892, the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad leased the Housatonic, forming the Berkshire Division, which operated until 1962. A 1935 schedule shows regular services to Bridgeport, State Line, Harlem River, Oak Point and Pittsfield. There was also local service offered every day except Sunday from Canaan to Norfolk and Millerton, "as required." Schedules from 1950, and 1962 show decreasing local services, no longer including Millerton or Norfolk,

and by 1965 almost nothing remained. In 1969 the New Haven was merged into Penn Central. The last passenger train ran over the route on April 30, 1971, the day before Amtrak took over. By 1974, the section between New Milford and Canaan was abandoned. It was bought by the State of Connecticut in 1976.

John Hanlon, Jr. of Sheffield is an industrial engineer, long fascinated by railroads, who used to build armored cars for heads of state around the world. In June, 1983 he chartered a new Housatonic Railroad, leasing the 34 mile stretch of abandoned track.

Until 1989, the line was used only for

tourist excursions between Canaan and Cornwall Bridge. Freight service began in 1990, with the Becton Dickinson (BD) plant in Canaan as its first customer. (See the BD article in the March, 2008, issue, p. 3.) There are now 121 miles of track, used almost exclusively for freight service, running from Pittsfield to Berkshire Junction (south of Brookfield) from where it runs east to Derby-Shelton and west to Beacon, New York.

Lumber arrives every day in Pittsfield and is hauled to the railroad-owned distribution center on a 40-acre tract in Hawleyville. In addition, the company serves, among others, a paper mill, a plastics manufacturer, a pharmaceutical company, two food manufacturers, a waste disposal firm, a printing company and crushed limestone shipped in covered hoppers. (See the Specialty Minerals article in the January, 2008, issue, p. 5.) The regular schedule dispatches four trains a day, Monday through Friday, and one on Sunday. Additional trains are added as needed. A non-stop trip from Pittsfield to Danbury would take about five hours.

"Pound for pound we are more efficient than trucks," said general manager Robert A. Bass of Colebrook, who has been in railroading for 29 years. "We expect to compete even more, especially on bulk shipping, as the price of fuel continues to rise." The company headquarters are located on the corner of Main and Railroad Streets in Canaan, where the company relocated some time after the October 13, 2001, fire that destroyed Canaan Union Station.

Across Route 7 from Geer Village in Canaan, the Housatonic houses its rail yard, engine house and repair shop. The company owns and maintains nine locomotives, most of which were built in the 1960s by EMD, the Electro-Motive Diesel division of General Motors. The locomotives were largely obtained from Conrail. Several locomotives can be found in the rail yard, including number 3600, formerly CR 2250, a beautifully maintained EMD Model GP35, built in November, 1964. "We build parts ourselves and reconstruct old equipment right here—both as a savings and because good parts are hard to find, said Bass. I do all the electrical work. I'm now replacing a lot of the original wiring on number 3601 in the shop."

Inside the cavernous building, a welder can be found reconstructing a shovel for an excavator or a machinist turning a large replacement pin for a train-mounted dump truck. An inspection of locomotive 3601 will reveal the giant V-16 engine that drives a DC generator, with attached alternator for the cooling fans,



PHOTO BY BOB BUMCROT

Engine 3600 in the shop.

that feeds the 600-volt traction motors, one for each two-wheel set, two sets for each truck and two trucks for the locomotive.

Leo Robellard, along with Signal Engineer Bill Bryce, maintains all the signals and signs along the line. "We carry out increasingly thorough inspections every month, every quarter, every year, every four years and every ten years," said Robellard. "We are very careful."

John Hanlon, Jr., the lathe operator, has been a machinist "since I was a kid," he said. "Sure, I do administrative stuff, but it's important to be an integrated company." This spirit seems to run through the more than thirty employees of the Housatonic. "Train crews, trackmen and shop workers are all dedicated, highly skilled people," added Bass.

The only Norfolk resident currently employed by the Housatonic is Kevin Lass, who has been in railroading for over twenty years, ten at this company. "I love my work," he said. "Been with five different railroads around the country. On a short line like this we still do a lot of work by hand." The four-man crew can pull 500 spikes a day using crowbars. Lass uses a spike maul to pound four spikes per tie into a section of track being assembled on a flat car in the Canaan yard. When complete, it will be put in as a replacement at a busy crossing, reducing the time that traffic has to be diverted for construction. "Twenty years ago I used to have a maul in each hand, driving right and left. Not now."

On May 17, 2008, a rare mileage excursion on the "Berkshire Flyer" will be open to the public. It will depart at 10:30 a.m. from the Berkshire Scenic Railway Museum's headquarters at the restored Lenox Station in Lenox, Mass., head north to Pittsfield, turn around at the CPX yard limit, then will head south to Canaan and return to Lenox at 6 p.m. For more information and to order tickets visit the Massachusetts Bay Railroad Enthusiasts at www.massbayrre.org. ■



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High Speed Internet Voids Likely to Remain

One for the "cons" list

By *Lindsey Pizzica Rotolo*

A recurring complaint at town plan meetings over the past few months addresses the problem of voids in high speed internet access throughout Norfolk. Unless the towns in northwestern Connecticut or local internet providers invest millions of dollars in infrastructure, there is little to be done to rectify the situation, although new technology and federal grant money could be the light at the end of the tunnel.

Adam Cormier, a spokesperson for communications giant AT&T, says cost is a big factor in determining expansion of their high speed coverage areas, but assures those in rural areas that AT&T is committed to exploring more options. "We currently offer coverage in 90 percent of Connecticut and are continuing to investigate ways to cover the remaining 10 percent. It took 130 years to get phone lines installed across the entire state of Connecticut. This sort of expansion doesn't happen overnight."

AT&T offers two high speed options in addition to dial-up service, satellite dish connections and digital subscriber lines (DSL). DSL technology is delivered over existing telephone wires via a dedicated connection directly from the phone company's central office or remote terminal.

One of the limitations with DSL service is that the connection speed slows down the further you are from the phone company's office.

In Norfolk, the connection speed is only optimal within a two mile radius of the phone building on Greenwoods Road West and the installation of remote terminals is cost prohibitive. While it is possible to have DSL service outside that radius, it is not in AT&T's best interest to deliver a substandard version of their product.

Comcast provides high speed internet access in parts of Norfolk through cable lines that are a shared bandwidth. Unlike DSL, which is a dedicated line to your home or office, cable internet access can be slowed down depending on how many people in your neighborhood are online at the same time. The installation cost of cable lines is roughly \$900 to \$1,000 per household, which again leaves the company with little incentive for construction in sparsely populated areas.

DirecTV and HughesNet provide high speed internet access in town through satellite dishes. While the connection speed is much faster than dial-up, satellite connections require a clear view of the southern sky, which isn't achievable in dense forest and low lying areas. If the southern view is obstructed, the connection speed may only be slightly faster than dial-up service.

Another option for a faster internet connection is mobile broadband cards, which can be inserted directly into your computer and obtain an internet connection through cell phone towers. These cards can be purchased from your cell phone provider and work wherever you receive a strong signal on your cell phone.

This may be the best option for residents of South Norfolk, who live in the largest high speed void in town. With the installation of the new cell phone tower next to town farm, many Verizon customers now have a strong enough signal to obtain a higher internet connection speed.

Edward Zyszkowski, a New Marlborough, Massachusetts resident is the Chief Executive Officer of Steeplechase and Berkshire Broadband, companies that use a new technology to bring high speed internet connections to communities. This technology is a hybrid of fiber optic systems and wireless fidelity (wifi) and has been installed in communities of varying size across the country.

"The problem with bringing this technology into our area is dealing with town governments as opposed to counties or states. It's far easier for a state government to make headway with utility companies than town officials, who don't own the telephone poles," Zyszkowski said.

Local governments are becoming more proactive though, thanks to federal grant money. Zyszkowski referenced the town of Alma, Missouri, population 399, which recently obtained the best high speed technology in the world through a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Division.

Rural Development's Broadband Access Loan Program has granted 56 loans totaling \$868 million dollars since 2002. Locally, Mid-Hudson Cablevision, Inc. received a \$5.2 million dollar loan from the division to provide high speed internet access to over 7,000 subscribers. With the expansion of programs such as these, high speed internet access for all Norfolk residents may someday be on everyone's "pros" list. ■

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April Calendar

TOWN GOVERNMENT

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

Wetlands Agency meets at 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 of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the library at Regional #7 High School.

Botelle Board of Education meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at Botelle.

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

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

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

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Norfolk/Colebrook Garden Club will meet on April 17 at 4 p.m. at the Colebrook Community Center. The speaker will be Roxann Lovell from Aerie Mountain Garden Center.

Norfolk's Annual Clean-up Day will be held on April 19. Please meet on the town green at 9 a.m. Gloves are suggested. Trash bags will be provided.

"Spiritual Homecoming," a parish mission, will be held from April 20 through 23 at Immaculate Conception Church in Norfolk and Saint Joseph's Church in Canaan. The theme is "God's Unconditional Love". All are welcome to attend. For a complete schedule and information please call 824-7078.

Wine Tasting and Auction will be held on April 26 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Blackberry River Inn sponsored by the Church of Christ Congregational. Please call 542-5721 for more information.

Women's Open Night Basketball will take place each Monday evening from 7-8:45 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.

NORFOLK LIBRARY

Concert: Prego-Viszmeg Duo on April 5 at 5 p.m.

Art Reception for Rita Mathews on April 6 from 4 to 6 p.m.

Concert: Trilium Trio on April 11 at 3:30 p.m.

Red Cross CPR Class on April 12 from 10 to 1:30 p.m.

Poetry Duet on April 13 at 5 p.m.

Red Cross Babysitting Class on April 27 from 12 to 7 p.m.

BOTELLE SCHOOL

2008-2009 Pre-Kindergarten Registration. Parents of children born on or before January 1, 2005 should call the Botelle School Office to be placed on the mailing list to receive upcoming information about enrolling in the program. Call 542-5286 for details.

PTO will meet on April 2 at 7 p.m.

Fifth Grade to The Connecticut Historical Society, April 2.

Roaring Brook to visit on April 8 for the kindergarten and second grade classes.

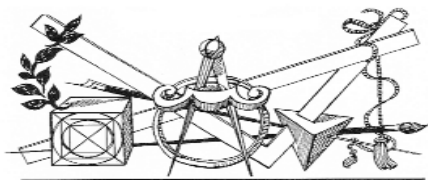
Roaring Brook to visit on April 11 for the first grade class.

Good News Assembly on April 11 at 10 a.m.

April Vacation. School will be closed from April 14 through 18.

Teacher In-Service on April 21. School will be closed.

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



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April 19 is Norfolk Clean-Up Day

Norfolk's annual Clean-up Day will be held on Saturday, April 19. Willing participants should meet with Community Association volunteers at 9 a.m. on Town Green to help clean up our town in preparation for Earth Day. Gloves are advised and trash bags will be provided. Many hands make light work. See you there.

Wine Tasting and Auction

The Church of Christ Congregational will host a wine tasting and auction on Saturday, April 26, 2008, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Blackberry River Inn. Donation is \$25/per person and attendees must be 21 years of age or older. This is an opportunity to spend a spring evening with friends sampling wine and beer, and bidding on fabulous auction items such as travel to vacation homes, artwork, jewelry, weekend destinations, gift baskets, carriage rides, concerts and many other novelties. Please call the church office for more information at 542-5721.

Girl Scouts Spaghetti Dinner

The Norfolk Girl Scouts will be holding a spaghetti dinner fund raiser on April 26 from 5 to 7 p.m. in Klauer Hall at the Church of the Immaculate Conception. Dinner of spaghetti, salad, rolls and dessert will be served. The fee is \$7 for adults and \$4 for children under 12 and seniors. A family won't be charged more than \$25.

Red Cross Babysitting Course

On Sunday, April 27, the Norfolk Library Associates will be sponsoring a Charter Oak Red Cross Babysitting Certification Course for boys and girls ages 11 through 15. This intensive and professionally-run course will be given from noon to 6:30 pm in the Norfolk Library. The Library Associates will be underwriting the bulk of expenses for this program, asking that each participant contribute up to \$25 and make a 10-hour service commitment to the library over the coming year. Children interested in signing up for the course should call Lisa Bazzano at 542-6847 before Sunday, April 20.

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



Animal Control Officer to Hold Rabies Clinic

A rabies vaccination clinic will be held on Saturday, May 3 at the Norfolk Fire House from noon to 2 p.m. The clinic will be open to all area residents, for a fee of \$15 cash. No checks will be accepted. Bring proof of prior rabies inoculations, if any. Animal Control Officer Glen Wheeler asks that all cats be transported in crates and all dogs to be on a leash.

Talent Show Postponed

The Lions Club Talent Show that had been planned for this spring has been postponed until the fall, awaiting the completion of Infinity Hall.

Foster Baby Shower for the McCurdy's

Jessica, Brian, Wyatt, Eli and Forrest have become a foster family! They will be caring for babies in need of a temporary home. Currently, they have adorable seven month old twins, a boy and a girl. Everyone is invited to a Foster Baby Shower to help them "gear up." Please bring diapers, outfits and other baby equipment to Battell Chapel on April 6 at 11:45 a.m. Refreshments provided. Hosted by the Church of Christ Missions and Hospitality Committees.

Peter Pan will be at Botelle School

The awesome Bruce Connelly is coming back, directing more than 40 fourth, fifth and sixth graders in Peter Pan. This drama project is made possible by the Battell Stoeckel Associates. Performances will be April 10 at 6:30 p.m. and April 11 at 10 a.m.

Lions Club Pancake Breakfast

The Lions Club will be serving a pancake breakfast on Sunday, April 6 from 8 to 11:30 a.m. at Botelle School. In addition to pancakes, the menu will include bacon, eggs, sausage, juice and coffee. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for children.

Land Navigation Course

The Norfolk Land Trust will be holding a navigation workshop on Sunday, April 5, beginning at 1:30 p.m. Those attending should meet first in the Norfolk Library to run through compass, map and global positioning skills before heading outside to put this knowledge to work.

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GETS RESULTS

Norfolk Now Wins Grant For Anniversary Edition

Norfolk Now has been awarded a \$3,500 grant to help produce a special literary issue to mark the town's 250th anniversary celebration on August 1.

The award was announced by Guy Rovezzi, president of the Torrington-based

Community Foundation of Northwest Connecticut. "The funding was made possible by a collaborative grant to the foundation by the Connecticut Humanities Council," said Rovezzi.

In addition to highlighting events taking place during the two-day celebration period, the special edition is expected to feature the writings of many well known authors, musicians and artists, some of whose works go back to the 1700s. ■

Norfolk Then . . .



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This year (2008) is not the first time Hollywood has come to Norfolk. In 1945 Alfred Hitchcock filmed a scene from "Spellbound" in the Doolittle Woods. The movie starred Ingrid Bergman as Dr. Constance Peterson in the story of a psychiatrist trying to unlock the repressed memories of murder suspect John Ballantine, played by Gregory Peck. In an effort to jog his memory, she takes him on a skiing trip after which they do "psychotherapy" in a cabin in the remote woods. It was this Doolittle cabin that brought

the cast and crew to Norfolk. Catering was by the Norfolk Culinary Institute, founded earlier that same year by Julia Childs. She and her chefs, pictured here, prepared a special meal for the last day of filming. Hitchcock, his big name stars, and the whole crew became violently ill with food poisoning, and sadly N.C.I. had to close its doors. The scene was cut from the film. April Fools!

—Ann Havemeyer

NORFOLK NOW

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