

# Preston Pipeline<sup>2</sup>

VOL 6 ISSUE 2 WINTER 2017

## Wonderful Gift Towards Preserving Preston's Past

The Mohegan Tribe Gives \$10,000 To The Preston Historical Society Towards Efforts To Help Restore and Maintain The Long Society Meeting House



Mike France; Tribal Council member, Bill Quidgeon; Tribal Council member, Joe Smith; Preston Historical Society President Linda Christensen; Tribal Council Chairman Kevin Brown; Tribal Member John Harris; Tribal Council Corresponding Secretary, Kathy Regan- Pyne; and First Selectman Bob Congdon.

“The Mohegan Tribe’s relationship with the Town of Preston dates back hundreds of years. As we recently celebrated the 85th anniversary of our own Tantaquidgeon Museum, it is fitting that we honor our longstanding past with our neighbors in Preston and aid in the restoration of one of their historical treasures—the Long Society Meetinghouse. With the future development of the Preston Riverwalk project by the Mohegan Tribe, we look forward to hundreds more years of friendship with our neighbors in Preston.”

– **Kevin Brown** “Red Eagle,” Chairman of the Mohegan Tribe

## News From The Preston Redevelopment Agency

In May of 2016, the Mohegan Tribe (MTGA) and the Preston Redevelopment Agency (PRA) reached agreement on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the development of the Preston Riverwalk property. The development project will be a high-quality, integrated mixed-use development suitable for the unique nature of the site. It is contemplated that this development will consist of entertainment, recreation, hotel, retail (including, without limitation, lifestyle center, restaurants, convenience), business, time share, senior housing, and similar and related uses. The MOU gave the Tribe and the Town 180 days to work through the details of a Purchase & Sale and Development Plan (known as a PDDA). In addition, the Tribe agreed to pay up to \$600,000 in legal and consulting fees for the Town during the negotiation period. The Tribe would set aside \$11 million to buy the hospital property, and that amount would be reduced to \$1

if key milestones are reached.

A Town Meeting was held on May 19th at Preston Veterans Memorial School and the attendees overwhelmingly approved the MOU. Since that meeting the two parties have been working diligently to finalize the PDDA. In November of 2016, a 90-day extension was agreed to which allowed both parties to continue working through the details associated with finalizing the PDDA. During this time it has been quiet as we work through the details and specifics. It is important for the residents of Preston to understand that the proposed PDDA will come back to the Town for discussion and approval.

On January 17th, the Mohegan Tribe presented a conceptual Master Plan to Preston’s Planning & Zoning Commission where attendees were provided an overview of the tribes early plans by Mr. Paul Tresnan (Director of Project

Continued on page 5

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\*See a tax professional for details about the deductibility of interest.



# Preston Historical Society

Preserving The Past for Future Generations

Please send any donations to Preston Historical Society, c/o Mark Christensen, 15 Amos Road, Preston, CT 06365.



## Update on Long Society Meetinghouse

Exterior painting of the Meetinghouse was completed as part of the grant from the 1772 Founda-

tion. It certainly helps brighten up the building. Our next step is the windows and sills which are in need of repair or replacement.

We have applied for a historic preservation matching grant from the 1772 Foundation and should know if we have eligible in the near future. This is only possible because of the generous donation from the Mohegan Tribe on Dec. 5, 2016 for \$10,000. In addition, we have received donations from both the Jewett City Savings Bank and the Preston Community Fund. Without the help of these local groups as well as donations from our community supporters, we would not be able to continue this renovation.

## The Norwich Westerly Railway

by Larry Green (Pipeline 9/1994)

*(With the current interest in the Norwich Hospital Property, I thought this article from the Sept. 1994 Pipeline would be interesting.)*

In 1905 Preston adopted a resolution to allow a trolley line that would carry freight and passengers. One line was to connect Norwich, Jewett City, Voluntown, Preston City and Groton. For some unknown reason only a Norwich to Westerly line was built.

The cars were heavy and more like railroad cars than trolleys. The weight, along with plush covered seats used during winter, made for a more comfortable ride. In summer, straw upholstered seats were used for the 38 minute ride.

One Preston stop was next to where Green Memorial Recreation Field is today. Connecticut Brass now exists in what was the old trolley barn. The huge doors on each end of the building were to allow the cars room to drive inside. This stop also allowed people to go a local amusement park.

Lincoln Park was owned by the trolley company and took up about 10 acres of land overlooking Hallville Pond. There were gravel walks, a dance pavilion, a dining room and a rustic theater for nightly vaudeville acts. Also, a merry-go-round, an outdoor bowling alley and boat rides were available. The park only had a short life, it opened in July of 1907 and closed in July of 1910.

Another stop was at the J.K. Hall farm on Preston Plains.

## Other interesting news:

We look forward to some musical events as well as speakers in the spring and summer. If you have any ideas, please contact us!

## Next Meeting

**The next meeting of the Preston Historical Society is scheduled for Wed., March 15, 2017 at 6:30 PM at the Preston Public Library.** Everyone is invited. Come out and check us out. Want to join or renew your membership? Please check out our website at [www.preston-ct.org](http://www.preston-ct.org) for information and an application.

Look for us on Facebook at Preston Connecticut Historical Society of Connecticut.

Many Preston residents left their horses at the farm and took the trolley. Children attended Wheeler School in North Stonington by using the line. Early in the morning, a "milk train" picked up cans of milk from the local farmers.

Today many parts of the trolley bed still remain. Most of it is on private property and Northeast Utilities owns the right-of-way for its power lines that follow the bed in places... Another spot where the trolley bed is still visible is behind the Martin Building at the Norwich State Hospital. On Shewville road, heading from Rt. 2 and just before crossing Shewville Brook, is another section of the bed. A house was built on the bed on the right-hand side of the road. On the left side is Whitehall Park which belongs to the Town of Ledyard. Other sections go through Foxwoods Casino and head towards Westerly.

(Perhaps a bike path is in the future for some of these trolley trails.)

Below: Trolley Car Barn (courtesy of Dick Mansfield pictures) Norwich-Westerly Trolley in Poquetanuck 1910



# Preston Public Library

389 Route 2 (Across from Town Hall) Preston, CT 06365 • Phone 860.886.1010  
Find us online! [www.prestonlibrary.org](http://www.prestonlibrary.org) • Email us: [library@prestonlibrary.org](mailto:library@prestonlibrary.org)  
Hours: Monday 9-3 • Tuesday-Thursday 9-8 • Friday 9-5 • Saturday 9-1

## SERVICES:



Best Sellers/ Fiction & Non-fiction Books for all ages  
Audio books-cassette/MP3/CD/Playaways  
Videos & DVD • Interlibrary loan • Magazines  
Audiobooks from OneClickdigital  
(There's an App for that!)  
Online Catalog Reading groups  
Passes to area attractions • Reference services  
Computers for Internet Access (please check in at desk)  
Wireless Access for Laptops, Cellphones, etc.  
(please check in at desk)  
Preston Historical Society files



## ON-LINE DATABASES:

Consumer Reports w/  
Cars researchIT CT- free online resources  
Encyclopedia Britannica  
JobNow-Live, anytime, anywhere job assistance  
LearningExpress- Learning Center free for  
Preston residents with library cards



## CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS:

### Story Times

For children - Birth to five years old. Join us for stories, songs, fingerplays, and crafts. Tuesdays, 10 to 11 am and Wednesdays, 10 to 11 am.

## Holiday Hours & Closures:

Saturday, Feb 18th through Monday, Feb 20th - Closed  
Friday, April 14th through Sunday, April 16th - Closed  
Saturday, May 27th through Monday, May 29th - Closed

For the safety of our staff and patrons, the library follows the inclement weather policy of the Preston Schools.  
Thank you for your understanding.



## Storytime for Homeschoolers

Are you looking for an opportunity to socialize?

Fun for all!

Open to ages 6-12

Held in the Preston Library Meeting Room,

**Mondays from 1pm to 2pm!**

**It's Back!** Our friends at the Wheeler Library in North Stonington have included Preston Public Library in its Seed Lending Library program again this year.

What's a Seed Lending Library? Come to the library and "borrow" seeds for free! You may be asking, "How can you 'borrow' seeds?" The basic idea is that you plant the seeds, let some go to seed, and then return some of these next generation seeds for others to borrow.

Home gardeners are encouraged to save seeds from the "super easy" plants: tomatoes, lettuce, beans, peas and peppers, initially. As your skills and knowledge grow, it will become easier to save seeds from more difficult varieties.

Our intention is to grow more local seed for the benefit of the community. We're focusing on preserving varieties that have cultural significance or are rare or unusual while increasing food security and local resilience.

Wheeler Library will sponsor several talks on gardening and seed saving and everyone is welcome. A schedule is available at our library and on our website.

It's time to start thinking about those cool weather veggies, such as peas and lettuces. Stop by the library and borrow a pack of seeds or two to get you started.

## Yes! We have Income Tax Forms!

We have the Federal and State booklets and forms, and we can assist you in downloading and printing the various required Schedules and forms from the IRS website.

**Come on in and we'll help you out!  
Taxes are due April 18th- don't be late!**

Library Board of Trustees: Katherine Allingham, Patricia Bell, Janet Clancy, Debra Eddy  
Cecile Gerber, Ann Legler, Mary Jo Nugent Email: [prestonlibraryboard@gmail.com](mailto:prestonlibraryboard@gmail.com)

PRA Continued from the front page.

Management for MTGA.). The attendees were then afforded the opportunity to ask questions and to spend time looking more closely at the posters reflecting the plan.

On February 1st, the State Bond Commission approved ten million dollars (\$10m) to be used by the Town to complete the clean up of Preston Riverwalk. These monies are contingent upon the Tribe and the Town reaching agreement on the PDDA. Also on February 1st, Planning & Zoning ruled that the conceptual Master Plan was consistent with the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development. They have issued a letter to the PRA indicating such which allows the PRA to progress the action of making the tribes conceptual Master Plan the redevelopment plan for the site.

Negotiations are progressing with the intent of reaching agreement on PDDA in February. Once this happens, and following PRA approval of the PDDA, it will be presented to the Board of Selectman for their approval. They will also be asked to set the dates for a Town Meeting and Referendum. In addition, the PRA will hold two information sessions to go over the PDDA for those who are interested. Lastly, the PRA will also hold a Public Hearing on February 23rd at 7:30 pm at Town Hall to complete the process for making the conceptual Master Plan the new redevelopment plan for site.

Should you have any questions, suggestions or comments, please attend one of our meetings at Town Hall on the second or fourth Wednesdays of each month or contact our Chairman Sean Nugent at 860 917-6567 or Merrill Gerber at 860 887-7169.

## Municipal Election Year 2017!

Now that we've completed an exciting - albeit interesting - presidential election cycle, it is time to begin to plan and prepare for our upcoming municipal elections this November. For Preston we have a number of positions that are available either for incumbents or new candidates to fill this year. The roles and/or boards or commissions which are to be filled (numbers in parentheses indicate the number of seats that need to be filled) are:

First Selectman (1), Selectman (2), Town Treasurer (1), Board of Assessment (1), Board of Education (4), Board of Finance (2), Board of Finance, Alternate (2), Planning & Zoning Commission (3), Planning & Zoning Commission, Alternate (1), Zoning Board of Appeals (2), and Zoning Board of Appeals, Alternate (2)

If you are a member of either the Republican or Democratic Town parties, those caucuses will be held in mid-July to endorse candidates for the above openings. If you a member of the Democratic party and wish to be more involved, please contact me. If you are a member of another party or unaffiliated, you can reach out to me or the Town Clerk to understand the process you need to follow.

Remember that our community is rich because the people who live here are willing to donate their time and effort. No community government works well without that type of commitment from its constituents. I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards, Sean Nugent

Chairman, Preston DTC s.t.nuge@gmail.com

## Friends of the Preston Public Library

**Join Us!**  
**Our next Meeting:**  
**Monday, March 30 • 3:30 pm**  
**Preston Public Library**

Friends of the Preston Public Library

## Book Sale

The Semi-Annual book sale will again take place at the Poquetanuck Firehouse, 87 Route 2A, Preston. The sale will be running towards the end of April. Look on the Library website for dates and times. There are thousands of gently used books in all types of genres including romance, cookbooks, and children's books. We also have a great selection of audio and video media. Saturday's sale will feature a special where you will be able to fill a bag for \$3. Donations will be accepted at the Donation Box in front of the library after March 6, or for large donations, call Linda at 860-887-5828.

**Donations will be accepted at the Donation Box in front of the library after March 6, or for large donations, call Linda at 860-887-5828.**

## Upcoming Programs

Coyotes in Connecticut – Come hear Paul Colburn (CT DEEP) talk about the coyote population in CT  
**Tues., Feb. 21 – 6:30 pm** – Poquetanuck Firehouse

Hands-On Gardening Workshop – Hosted by Hart's Greenhouse and Florist  
**Sat., March 25, 1:30 pm** – Poquetanuck Firehouse

Tea with Emily Dickinson – Enjoy Tea and enter the world of “The Belle of Amherst”. Tickets are available at the Preston Library or email LindaCh5@comcast.net  
Adults \$10, Children \$5.

**Sunday, April 2 – 2:30 pm – Preston City Cong. Church**

Social Security and You – James Burns from Dime Investment Services will help you make informed decisions about Social Security Benefit Options  
**Tues., April 18, 6:30 pm – Preston Public Library**  
(Call Library at 860-886-1010 to register)

It's Not Rocket Science, It's Beer - Tom Brown gives us a lighthearted introduction to Home brewing beer.  
**Tues., May 16, 6:30 pm – Preston Public Library**  
(Call Library at 860-886-1010 to register)

# State Legislative Update

## By State Representative Mike France

2017 has brought us a new legislative session with opportunities and potential to make great accomplishments for the residents of the Connecticut. I am honored to continue to serve you for another term as your State Representative. I will continue to serve on the General Assembly's Government Administration and Elections, Planning and Development, and Appropriations committees.

At this time two years ago, I met with local elected officials in each Town of the 42nd District, including the Preston Board of Selectmen, to learn what issues each Town would like to have resolved, I then submitting bill proposals that address each issue. This year, in addition to meeting with Government leaders, I met with the Boards of Education in Preston and Ledyard to hear about their issues and concerns. They each provided proposals for bills to reduce unfunded mandates or restore more local control of education. I appreciate the time and effort that each of your local elected officials invested in providing their recommendations.

Over the past several months, I have had the privilege of connecting with you through many events. In early October, I held two Town Hall Meetings at which I received many thoughtful suggestions for new legislation. I look forward to continued communication on legislative changes that need to be made to support our communities and the state.

Recently, I was pleased to welcome a new business and employment opportunity to our area: Naskart, an indoor kart racing and trampoline park opened New Year's Day on Sachatello Industrial Drive in Montville. I also took advantage of a break in the legislative session to show support and learn more about the vital social services and industries in our district. First, I joined other officials in supporting United Way by attending their "Live United" campaign launch. I was happy to help raise awareness of their latest efforts to advance the common good.

Next, I attended the State of Connecticut Office of Tourism's Listening Tour held at the Hilton Mystic, which provided stakeholders of the state's tourism industry with information on key marketing tools. I listened to a presentation given by Dr. Kevin A. Sabet, President and Co-Founder of Smart Approaches to Marijuana (SAM), on the legal issues, research, and medical implications of marijuana use. I visited Safe Futures in New London, which provides



safe houses and free services to victims of domestic violence using funds from federal, state and local governments, individual support, and grants. I was honored to speak at a Wreaths Across America ceremony held at St. Bernard's High School in Montville. Wreaths Across America encourages citizens across the country to remember our fallen U.S. veterans, appreciate those who serve, and teach our children the value of freedom.

The General Assembly is facing a significant budget shortfall in the 2017 Legislative Session. The State Comptroller announced that the state is currently headed towards a \$56.2 million deficit in the current fiscal year. The

projected budget deficit for the biennial budget, covering 2018 through 2020, is approximately \$3.5 billion. The Governor's budget will be submitted on February 8th. I encourage you to explore the incredible resources of the Legislative Office of Fiscal Analysis (OFA) ([www.cga.ct.gov/ofa](http://www.cga.ct.gov/ofa)) and Office of Legislative Research (OLR) ([www.cga.ct.gov/olr](http://www.cga.ct.gov/olr)) to keep up to date on state budget and legislative issues.

In addition to the ideas provided by local elected officials, I am reintroducing several bills that did not become law in the last session. These proposed bills will cover topics including state employee retirement and health care benefits, housing, municipal unemployment compensation, school budgets, tax relief, the Citizen's Election Program, local/small businesses and farms, child support, special education, and state and municipal government efficiency.

I am working to gather more support for these initiatives to make Connecticut a better place for families, students, homeowners, businesses and the workforce. To follow these pieces of legislation, you can register for Bill Tracking at the Connecticut General Assembly website, [www.cga.ct.gov](http://www.cga.ct.gov). Click on the menu item "Bill Info," then under "Find" select "Bill Tracking." Select the second option on the next page ("Access the Bill Tracking application for the General Public"), and then click the "Register" tab on the top right of the next page.

**As always, please feel free to keep in touch by emailing me at [Mike.France@housegop.ct.gov](mailto:Mike.France@housegop.ct.gov), liking my Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/RepFrance](http://www.facebook.com/RepFrance), or visiting my website at [www.RepFrance.com](http://www.RepFrance.com). You can also call my office at 1-800-842-1423.**

# Your Town Government - Town Debt

By Norman Gauthier

With the sale of the State Hospital property to the Mohegan Tribal Gaming Authority planned for the next year, we have had several questions about how it will affect Town debt, especially debt related to the clean-up of the property.

The Town currently has 5 active loans for a total of \$7,285,000. Fiscal year 2017 payments for principal and interest on these loans is \$801,074. We use loans, or municipal bonds, to finance capital purchases and expenses that have a multi-year life span; things like: building construction, major repairs, and motor vehicles (school buses, fire trucks, and public works equipment).

Our annual debt payments are only about 5% of the annual budget. Each loan is described below.

1. We still owe \$1,160,000 for the construction of the Preston Veterans Memorial School. This loan has 3 annual payments due and will be paid off in the year 2020.
2. Board of Education and General Government capital projects loan from 2005 has a balance of \$525,000. The final payment on this loan will also be made in 2020.
3. In 2013 a loan was used to fund various capital purchases and projects. The new Rescue Pumper and Tanker Trucks for the Fire Department, 3 new school buses, and 3 plow trucks were funded by that loan. The \$1,700,000 balance will be paid off in 2033.
4. In 2013 the Town used a loan to restart the stalled clean-up of the State Hospital Property. That bond has a balance due of \$1,900,000 and is being administered as a short-term note and should be paid off in 20 years. This loan will not be affected by the sale of the property. Even after the property is sold and developed, the Town will continue to be responsible for paying off this debt.
5. In 2013, the Town was granted a special \$2,000,000 loan from the State of Connecticut at 1.5% interest to be used for the clean-up of the State Hospital Property. This loan has principal and interest payments deferred for 5 years and has provisions for forgiveness if certain job creation criteria are met. The Town has not made any payments on this loan and according to the proposed agreement to sell the State Hospital property, the Town will be relieved of any repayment obligations regarding the loan. If the MTGA creates 200 full time jobs on the site, the loan will be forgiven; if not, the MTGA will pay off the loan.

A discussion of Town debt would be incomplete without mention of the \$912,000 due to a law firm for work performed during early negotiations with potential developers of the State Hospital property. As of this writing, this is not considered a Town debt because the Town has an agreement with the legal firm stipulating that the firm will not seek payment until and unless the Town sells the property. In addition, the agreement states that the legal costs will be paid solely from the proceeds of the sale of the property. It is not clear how the conflicting agreements will be resolved. How will the \$912,000 be paid from the proceeds of a \$1 sale?

After the MTGA takes ownership in about a year, the State Hospital property will begin to generate some property tax income for the Town. The first couple years will see little or no benefit but, after development and construction begins and tax abatements expire, tax revenues to the Town will be significant. By 2026, taxpayers could see their tax bill cut by at least 30%

**We welcome your questions and comments.  
Contact the author at [N.Gauthier@usa.net](mailto:N.Gauthier@usa.net)**

## Volunteer Opportunity

Preston Board of Finance, Alternate

Contact  
Chairman N. Gauthier at:  
[ngauthierBOF@preston-ct.org](mailto:ngauthierBOF@preston-ct.org)  
for more information.



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Email:  
[tracylyndesigns@comcast.net](mailto:tracylyndesigns@comcast.net)

# PRESTON PARKS & RECREATION

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### WINTERVAL:

#### A FIRE & ICE CELEBRATION

Everyone is asking if we are holding Fire & Ice again this year...the answer is yes, if the pond at the park freezes!! Enjoy a fun night of ice skating and keep warm and socialize around the fire. We are hoping the pond freezes in February so we can hold this event!! We will be closely watching the weather and monitoring the pond at the park. Check our website [www.preston-ct.org](http://www.preston-ct.org), school flyers, or Facebook for updates!!



#### KID'S FISHING DERBY

Join us for our 5th annual Kid's Fishing Derby! Registration starts at 9:30 am, fishing will begin at 10:00 am! Children will compete to catch the shortest fish and the longest fish of the day! Trophies will be awarded to the winners of each age category (ages 3-6, 7-10, 11-14)

When: Sunday, May 21, 2017

Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Ages: 3 - 14

Where: Maple Lane Farms  
(57 Northwest Corner Road)

Fee: FREE to Preston residents



#### PRESTON PALOOZA

Parks & Recreation and Preston Veterans Memorial School PTO will be holding our 4th Annual Preston Palooza on Thursday, June 1st!!! Save the date!! Tickets will go on sale in April...purchase your tickets in advance and save \$\$\$. Last year was big but this year will be even bigger!! Brand new last year was bubble soccer and pony rides — and we are happy to report, they will be back again. Stay tuned for more details and to see what new things we have planned for this year!!

Sponsors are needed!! We have sponsorship opportunities available at the bronze (\$100), silver (\$300), gold (\$500), and platinum (\$1000) levels. Please contact Preston Parks & Recreation to discuss sponsorship opportunities!!



## ADULT PICK UP SPORTS

#### MEN'S BASKETBALL

Join your Preston neighbors and friends for weekly pick up basketball games

Dates: Wednesdays: Ongoing - May 31, 2017  
(Basketball will not meet on 3/22 or 4/12)

Time: 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Location: Preston Plains Middle School Gym

Ages: 18+

Fee: \$20 per person for the year



#### CO-ED VOLLEYBALL

Bump, set and spike...come and enjoy an evening volleyball

Dates: Wednesdays: Ongoing - May 31, 2017  
(Volleyball will not meet on 4/12)

Time: 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Location: Preston Veterans Memorial School Gym

Ages: 16+

Fee: \$20 per person for the year

## ADULT PROGRAMS

### YOGA BASICS

For beginners & experienced students. Practice includes a variety of foundational postures (standing, seated and on the floor) that focus on balance and alignment. Breathing techniques, yoga philosophy, meditation and deep relaxation are woven into each class. Modifications are offered to optimize each individual's experience. Please wear comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat, 2 blocks, and a blanket.



Instructor: Sandra Hartnett

Session #3: Mondays: February 6 - March 20, 2017  
(no class on February 20)

Session #4: Mondays: April 3 - May 8, 2017

Session #5: Mondays: May 15 - June 26, 2017

Time: 5:15 - 6:15 pm

Location: Preston Veterans Memorial School Gym

Fee: \$50; 6 week session

### YOGA BASICS

For students with some yoga experience. This class encourages each student to honor their own level of ability. You will be guided through a practice of meditation and breath work, holding and exploring postures. Modifications are offered as needed. This experience will encourage improved balance, increase flexibility, strengthen and tone muscles and stress relief. Please bring: yoga mat, blanket, and 2 yoga blocks.



Instructor: Sandra Hartnett

Session #3: Mondays: February 6 - March 20, 2017  
(no class on February 20)

Session #4: Mondays: April 3 - May 8, 2017

Session #5: Mondays: May 15 - June 26, 2017

Time: 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Location: Preston Veterans Memorial School Gym

Fee: \$50; 6 week session

### ZUMBA

Are you ready to party yourself into shape? Forget the workout and just lose yourself in the music. This class requires no previous dance experience and is effective for all levels of fitness abilities. Zumba features exotic rhythms set to high energy Latin and international beats. Ditch the workout and join the Zumba party.



Instructor: Sharon Brouillard

Session #4: Thursdays: March 16 - April 27, 2017  
(no class on April 13)

Session #5: Thursdays: May 4 - June 8, 2017

Time: 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Location: Preston Plains Middle School

Fee: \$41 for session or \$10 fee per class for walk-ins

### INTRO TO KNITTING & CROCHETING

Knitting & crocheting is fun for all and easy to learn. The basics of knitting and crocheting will be explored. Learn various stitches and techniques. A material fee is included in the registration fee.

Instructor: Rachel Brink

Dates: Mondays: March 6 - March 28, 2017

Time: 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Location: Preston Plains Middle School Library

Fee: \$38 per person (4 week session)



## SENIOR PROGRAMS

### CHAIR YOGA

A complete yoga practice using the support of a chair. Breathing techniques, yoga philosophy, meditation and deep relaxation are woven into each class. In this fun and informative class students will take home tools for mindfulness and relaxation as well as movements for energizing and stretching the body. This class is appropriate for all ages and abilities.

Instructor: Sandra Hartnett

Session #3: Mondays: February 6 - March 20, 2017  
(no class on February 20)

Session #4: Mondays: April 3 - May 8, 2017

Time: 10:00 - 11:00 am

Location: Preston Public Library Meeting Room

Fee: \$30 per session (6 week session)

### COMING SOON...

### SENIOR BUS TRIPS!!

Check out our website  
[www.preston-ct.org](http://www.preston-ct.org) or stop by our  
office for more information!!



## ENGRAVED BRICK FUNDRAISER

Here is your chance to become a permanent part of Preston! Your purchase of an engraved brick will help renovate the amphitheater and fund summer concerts at the park.

Engraved bricks offer a great opportunity to leave a lasting impression on our community. Specifically, it's a personalized brick that can be customized with: your name, (memorial to) names of loved ones, a business or corporate name, or a message of your choice. The bricks will be placed in the Amphitheater at Preston Community Park.

\$50 for a 4x8 brick (3 lines of engraving)  
\$100 for a 8 x 8 brick (6 lines of engraving)

Engraved Brick Fundraiser Order Forms are available on our website [www.preston-ct.org](http://www.preston-ct.org) or at the Preston Parks & Recreation office!!

Deadline to order bricks: February 28, 2017!!



## SUMMER CONCERTS IN THE PARK

Preston Parks & Recreation is looking to expand our Music in the Park series this summer...

If you are in a band, know of a local band, have a suggestion for a band...please contact the Parks & Recreation office with suggestions by phone at 860-889-2482 x113 or email [prestonrec@hotmail.com](mailto:prestonrec@hotmail.com)



## EMPLOYMENT

Preston Parks & Recreation is looking for applicants for:

\*\* Summer Camp Counselors

Summer camp counselors will work at our six week day camp which runs Monday - Friday. Camp counselor applicants must be 16 years of age or older. All applications are due by April 28, 2017. Applications and job descriptions are available online at [www.preston-ct.org](http://www.preston-ct.org). Applications may be mailed to Preston Parks & Recreation, 389 Route 2, Preston, CT 06365.

No emailed or faxed applications will be accepted.



## NEW PROGRAM IDEAS??

Have a new program idea? Are you interested in sharing a special talent of yours and instructing a class?

We are looking for instructors. Contact Preston Parks & Recreation by phone at 860-889-2482 x113 or email [prestonrec@hotmail.com](mailto:prestonrec@hotmail.com)



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# Meet State Senator Heather Somers

By Norman Gauthier

State Senator Heather Somers was sworn in as a member of the Connecticut State Senate on January 4th. She represents the 18th district that includes the Town of Preston, as well as Griswold, Groton, North Stonington, Plainfield, Preston, Sterling, Stonington, and Voluntown. This interview was conducted by Preston Pipeline contributor Norman Gauthier.



State Senator  
Heather Somers

**Norman Gauthier:** First, I want to congratulate you on your election to be the Preston's State Senator. What does it feel like to win election to an office as important as State Senator?

**Heather Somers:** I am deeply honored by the trust the citizens of the 18th District have given me. I am committed to continue earning that honor every day that I serve. It was inspiring and overwhelming to walk the halls of the Capitol on my first day with family and supporters. It was a moment I will treasure always.

**NG:** What have you done since the election to get ready to go to Hartford?

**HS:** Over the past two months, I have met with municipal, community, and business leaders in the towns that I represent. I met with the Preston Board of Selectmen on December 8th. We had a good discussion of issues facing Preston and how I can help at the state level. Based on those meetings and input from several constituents, I have proposed over 20 pieces of legislation for consideration during this session. I have also met with small business owners and regional employers to hear about legislative issues important to the economic growth of the region.

**NG:** During the campaign, you spent a lot of time and energy going door-to-door talking to voters, including two days at the Preston Transfer Station. What do you think that the voters expect from you?

**HS:** I believe the voters expect me to be true to my word, listen, be informed and act to help make everyone's life better. My goal is to change the direction of the state through policies that are fair and grounded in common sense. I sit on the Economic Competitiveness Commission that evaluates the economic landscape of our state, state policies and opportunities; the result of this committee's research depicts a stagnant economy, population loss, jobs being lost, increasing debt, and massive pension liabilities. All of these issues need attention. This session is the first since 1893 that has the State Senate evenly divided among

Democrats and Republicans so it will require every elected representative to be flexible and ready to work together to meet the challenges.

**NG:** You served several years as Mayor of Groton. How will that experience help you, and us, in Hartford?

**HS:** Representing and acting for people at the local level is a valuable asset to bring to Hartford. My years serving in town hall required attention to what is important to taxpayers but also the gives me the ability to identify arbitrary decisions that, in Hartford, can have a devastating impact on working people. I believe legislators think they are doing the right thing when they enact legislation but there are many examples when

the impact to towns and its citizens are not properly considered. For example, when state funds are cut to municipalities with the claim that the act "did not raise taxes", it is only fooling themselves because that cost is handed down to municipal leaders who have nowhere to go except to raise property taxes to provide the same services. I have also spent nearly a decade as a town Councilor so I have an intimate knowledge and understanding of education funding and the challenges that come with providing a high-quality education while approving a budget that citizens can afford.

**NG:** What are your committee assignments?

**HS:** I have been assigned to five important legislative committees. I am Co-Chair of the Public Health Committee; Vice Chair of Environment, Education and Higher Education Committees, and I am a member of the Appropriation Committee. In addition to my committee responsibilities, I have been chosen to serve as Majority Whip for the Republican Caucus.

**NG:** How can Preston residents contact you?

**HS:** I invite citizens to contact me with comments and concerns about legislative issues because I believe that communication with you makes me a better senator. I will be hosting Town Hall Meetings where residents are welcome to meet with me to directly express their opinions and concerns. We have scheduled our first in Preston with Representative Mike France on February 16, 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Preston Public Library. I hope to see you there.

**My office phone is: 800-842-1421;  
email me at: Heather.Somers@cga.ct.gov**

# Successful?...

By Cheryl Roberts and Lennie Spencer

In the Preston Pipeline article that we published in October of 2016, approximately two weeks prior to November's election, we emphasized being "ready to vote." Regardless of whether you read that article or not, and prepared properly to vote, we believe we had an extremely successful day at the polls in November. Our election turnout was nearly 82%, slightly higher than the state average of nearly 77%. We processed 64 Election Day Registrations as well as activated 27 additional voters on the inactive list so that they could vote. These 91 voters made up 3.6% of the total number of voters that voted in Preston. We find that a success and we hope you do as well. Additionally, we believe that our setup in the basement of the Town Hall was the best we've ever done and we believe that it kept the lines to the minimum. Again, we hope that you see that as a success as well.

Joanne Eisenhard, the Democratic Registrar of Voters decided not to run for a second term and just recently finished her term from her election in November 2014 (more on that at the end of the article). Joanne and Len worked very hard over the past two years, diligently searching for any error they might find in order to have the electronic records in the Connecticut Voter Registration System (CVRS) match our town's paper records. Yet again, we believe we were successful as



we had minimal errors detected during our checkers verifying voters in preparation for voting in November. Yet again, we trust that you too recognize that success.

With regard to our processing of registrations, the means by which residents can register to vote as well as change their voter registration has changed dramatically. In recognition of that, even the Secretary of the State's (SOTS) office has eliminated Saturday in-person voter registration sessions. We here in Preston have seen the shift to Online Voter Registration (OLVR) or

using the state's Motor Voter Registration (MVR) process. In 2015, Preston had 27 new voter registrations via OLVR and 9 voters modified their voter registrations via OLVR. In 2016 (MVR was started in late summer/early fall of 2016), Preston had 227 OLVRs/MVRs for new voter registrations and 84 voters modified their voter registrations via OLVR/MVR. That's an overall 1200% increase. Again, another success!

We are presently planning on our largest annual canvass yet. The most prevalent reason for someone to receive a "canvass" (confirmation of voting residence (CVR)) letter from us is because the voter is identified in the United States Postal Service National Change of Address (NCOA) database. Anyone who is a registered voter in Preston and appears in that database as having moved out of town will receive a

Continued on Page 14

## Want "Top Dollar" For Your Preston Home?

### ***Experts Say: Start planning for it 60 to 90 days before you sell.***

**Preston(CT)** – A recent interview with Jan Mallett or Raveis Real Estate revealed several helpful tips for anyone who is thinking of selling their Preston home.

"Most owners think their homes will sell quickly. Everyone thinks that their home is special and will bring top dollar fast. In fact a lot of all new listings that go on the market eventually expire with the home still unsold."

If you're going to sell your house in the next six months, there are some things you can do now that will help you get top dollar for your home when you do sell it.

There's a free report available that shows you the things that buyers most look for in a home, and how to make your house irresistible to buyers.

You'll learn

- Why buyers love model homes and how to make your house show like one.
- A little-known designer's secret that could net you \$500 to \$1,000 more when you sell your home.
- How to sell your house in as little as 24 hours – without ever putting it "on the market."
- Three things you can do to get your house on a buyer's "must see" list.

Mallett has compiled a free report that she calls *How to Sell Your House for Top Dollar – Fast!* This report details several specific ways to prepare your house for sale and how to make your house irresistible to buyers. Jan says the information in this report is the secret to her success in selling homes so quickly, and the reason she can guarantee to sell any house in less than 90 days.

To get a copy of this free report, *How to Sell Your House for Top Dollar – Fast!* just call 888-456-8545 x899 for a free recorded message. There's no cost or obligation and your report will be mailed today!

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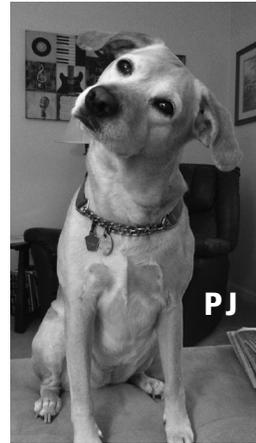
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At the 2016 meeting of the Connecticut Association of Land Surveyors (CALs), Preston's own Susan Mattern was honored to receive the "2016 Connecticut Land Surveyor of the Year Award" by President Jeff McDougal (pictured). A heartfelt "thank you" is posted on Susan's Facebook page and another on the CALs website.

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## It's not too late to date a farm!

In the crazy world of "Farm Dating", the Preston Conservation and Agricultural Commission (PCAC) is looking to save our farmland and promote agriculture in our Town by matching the crop, the land, the animal, and the farmer or landowner to achieve this goal. We have had some success and plan to continue our matchmaking. Your match could be as simple as a garden for yourself or many acres to plant and harvest corn. You may need a place to keep your horse or you may have a whole herd of cows in need of a new field. Whatever the idea or need, we can help!



Georgia Priest, 5 years old, doing her part to save Preston farmland.

Over the summer, we hope you enjoyed all of the farm related paintings posted about town. There was a dancing Holstein, a purple duck/goose, chicken, barn with Town of Preston Seal, "Moo" Holstein cow pattern, "Preston Here I Come" rooster, horse, tractor, sunflower, "A Day at the Farm" red barn, musical sheep, unicorn (what?), tan sheep, a brown and white cow, chick, a girl and a boy pig and a "Be Unified" painting announcing the group re-

sponsible for all of the creativity. This spring, we hope once again to involve the young people of the "Unified Club" in this important project. A couple members of PCAC got together with a few Preston residents recently and painted more boards to be posted once spring arrives! One of the artists was just 5 years old! She already cares about keeping farms in Preston!

If you would like to be part of this very important project, either by creating a painting or by dating a farm, please contact any member of the Preston Conservation and Agricultural Commission by calling Town Hall at (860)887-5581, Extension 118.

APB! APB! 2 of the signs the Unified Kids did have disappeared! The musical sheep located at 99 Krug Road (Henry Gonsowski's farm) and the pink pig with the bow and tutu located at the intersection of Ross Road and Mattern Road need to be found! Please contact the Town Hall with information pertaining to their whereabouts!!!!!!

Continued from Page 11

CVR from our office. Additionally, should we have reasonable suspicion to believe that a registered voter has moved out of town, we will send said voter a CVR. Reasonable suspicion could be that a voter is listed at an address now owned by someone else and a different family name is more recently in the database at that address. Another reason is noting that a registered voter has not voted in any election in the last four years, including the last two Presidential elections. We have in our office a list of over 150 such registered voters in Preston. All of the voters on that list, in addition to those that show up on the NCOA database list will receive a CVR.

Should you receive a CVR and you continue to live in Preston and desire to remain on the voter registration list, please simply complete, sign, and return the received letter in the Town of Preston addressed, stamped envelope requesting to remain a registered voter and you will NOT be removed from the voter registration list.

As we've always tried to do, we continue to request that everyone use the online means available to them to register to vote, to change their voter registration, or to lookup their voter registration status. Online voter registrations make light work in aiding us in keeping errors out of our data. Additionally, in doing so, you should not have any surprises when you announce your street name, house number, and your name to our checkers for any election.

As we said earlier, Joanne Eisenhard did not run for a second term. Cheryl Roberts was elected in November 2016 as the Democratic ROV. Lennie Spencer was elected to a second term as Republican ROV. We want to thank Joanne for all of her help and support these past two years and to thank her for accepting to work as Deputy ROV for Cheryl. Cheryl comes into the ROV office as a seasoned poll worker as well as having served as Deputy ROV here in Preston for several years. Our office is going to continue running very smoothly.

Should you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please call us at the Registrars of Voters' office at 860-887-5581, extension 116. Additionally, you may contact us by e-mail at: registrar@preston-ct.org.

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Minister

Reverend Thomas J. Flynn  
Associate Minister

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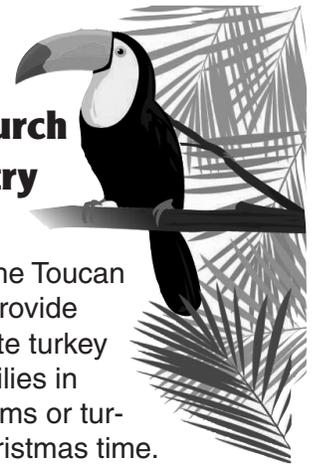
Check it out: go to the church website and click on the webstream icon!

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For more information, check out our website: [prestoncitycongregational.org](http://prestoncitycongregational.org) • Check us out on FACEBOOK!

**321 Route 164 • Preston, CT**  
**860.887.4647 or 860.886.7200**

## News From The Preston City Congregational Church Two Can Food Pantry



**Thanks to all of you, our friends and neighbors,** the Toucan Food Pantry was able to provide the ingredients for complete turkey dinners to almost 100 families in November, and holiday hams or turkeys to 116 families at Christmas time. Grants from the Community Fund, Jewett City Savings Bank, and PCCC, in addition to many gifts from generous individuals, have allowed us to fill our shelves for future monthly distributions, which take place the 3rd Wednesday of each month, 9 to 12 and 3 to 5. We wish you all could witness the pleasure your donations give to our families and individuals in need.

**Thanks again from Stella, Harriet, Betsy, Dwight, Judy and Bob.**

# News From Troop 75



First photo left: Boy Scouts of Troop 75 participate in Annual Food Drive. Members of Troop 75 and Pack 75 collected 2,452 items and assisted the PCCC Food Pantry to stock shelves for Thanksgiving. Special Thanks to Food Pantry Staff.

Troop 75 Mr. Merrill Gerber was present to help the scouts and leader this year. Merrill help start the Scouting for Food campaign in the year 1992. Merrill served as Council Chairman from 1998 until 2011 and has been vital to the program's success. Merrill who has now been involved in the scouting program for 40 years is the Troops source of inspiration toward helping other through hard work and community involvement.



Second photo left: Recently Boy Scout Troop 75 held its 15 Annual Thanksgiving in the woods. This event has been held at the Benjamin property, located on Branch Hill Rd., here in Preston since its inception. While preparing for this annual event, which served 83 Scouts and their family members, Scoutmaster Wes Ludlow and several scouts and leaders presented Wayne Benjamin a memorial Plaque in honor of his Dad (Winthrop Benjamin) to be placed near a Memorial tree which was planted by the scouts last year shortly after Winthrop's passing. The Benjamin Family has been giving permission for troop 75 to camp on their Tree Farm Property since 1981. We have been blessed to have this Family as our scouting friends.



Third photo left: Troop 75 ends year with successful tree and wreath sales project. Members of the troop celebrated by having their annual Christmas party at the Eagles nest. Shown above members of the troop.

Photo below: Troop 75, end of the year, Movie night was held at Hidden Acres Family Campgrounds. 12 scouts and 5 leaders slept out in the old Boy Scout Camp Quinebaug Mess Hall (now activity center at Hidden Acres). Special thanks to Bill and Priscilla Migliaccio for their hospitality. Troop 75 now enters year 52 with Preston City Firehouse as its sponsor. Thank you to all the leaders and people of Preston for supporting Troop 75.

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 Up to \$2.29 value.  
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 Limit 1 per household.



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