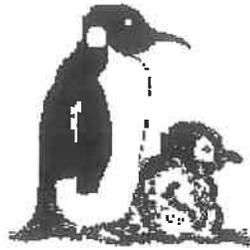


BITS & PIECES



FROM FRAN

**April & May 2021**

**Pop-Up Drive-Thru Food Pantry:**

Our Pop-Up Drive-Thru Food distribution will continue on Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. at the Preston Senior Center, 42 Long Society Road. (Weather permitting.)

We are fortunate to be the recipients of the generosity of United Community & Family Services, Gemma E Moran United Way/Labor Food Bank, AFL-CIO and a team of wonderful volunteers. They include: First Selectwoman Sandra Allyn-Gauthier, Leigh Pappas, Cathy Brosnan and Amy Brosnan who endure the crummy cold, windy, wet weather to ensure that people facing food insecurity were helped. Whether it's the loaning of equipment, design/distribution of flyers, packing bags of food or being welcoming ambassadors, these individuals worked tirelessly representing the Town of Preston. Our program couldn't survive without the support of volunteers.

**Renter's Rebate of Elderly and Totally Disabled Program:**

The Renter's Rebate Program includes the following requirements for participation:

1. The claimant must have resided in Connecticut for a one-year period of time prior to filling an application.
2. Claimant, or spouse, if domiciled together, must have been 65 years of age by the end of the calendar year preceding the filing period; or be 50 years

of age or older and the surviving spouse of a renter, who at the time of his/her death, had qualified and was entitled to tax relief. Persons under 65 years of age who are receiving Social Security or disability benefits deemed comparable by the Secretary of OPM are also eligible (applications filed under the disability provision must be accompanied by current proof of disability).

3. Qualifying income is considered wages, bonuses, commissions, gratuities and fees; self-employment net income; gross Social Security benefits, Federal Supplemental Security income, dividends, interest, annuities; IRA distributions, Black Lung payments; Green Thumb payments; interest resulting from gifts received; Lottery winnings; net rental income, pensions, Railroad Retirement; severance pay, Unemployment Compensation, Workers Compensation, Alimony, etc.
4. The qualifying income guidelines for the calendar year 2020 must not exceed \$45,800.00 for a married couple and \$37, 600.00 for unmarried individuals.
5. The applicant must provide proof of rent and utilities payments during the 2020 calendar year.

Individuals interested in making application for the Renters Rebate of Elderly and Totally Disabled Programs are requested to contact the Senior Affairs Office at 860-887-5581 ext. 6. The application filing period is April 1<sup>st</sup> through October 1<sup>st</sup>.

The COVID-19 restrictions continue to remain in place. Possibly in the near future, face-to-face appointments will again be offered. Until there is an official lifting of those restrictions, I ask that those individuals interested in applying for the Renters Rebate program contact the office, make arrangement to drop off your documents in the Blue Drop Box in the front of the Preston Town Hall, 389 Route 2 (include your name and telephone number on the items) and I will contact you by phone to finalize your application.

## **Reminders for Energy Assistance 2020-2021 Season:**

March 31, 2021 is the Deadline for fuel authorizations or deliveries.

May 3, 2021 is the last day that a household can apply to establish its eligibility for benefits unless the household is utility heated and has a shut-off notice for its primary source of heat.

May 14, 2021 is the last day that a utility heated household with a shut-off notice for its primary heat can apply to establish its eligibility for benefits.

May 31<sup>st</sup> is the last day to submit deliverable fuel bills.

## **Do You Need Help Paying Rent due to COVID-19?**

The UniteCT statewide rental assistance program will accept applications beginning March 15, 2021: The new emergency rental and utilities assistance program will be open for applications starting at 8a.m. on Monday, March 15, 2021. The program may cover up to 12 months of rent & some utility payments. The assistance is available to anyone with a household income at or below 80% of AMI who has experienced a financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information and to apply on line, visit: [www.bit.ly/UniteCT](http://www.bit.ly/UniteCT). You can also call 1-844-UniteCT (1-844-864-8328) for more information. Tenants and landlords may apply. If the application for assistance is approved, payments will be made directly to the landlord.

The Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) provides assistance to eligible applicants who are currently experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness. To apply, call 2-1-1 and ask about the Homelessness Prevention Program. The requirements include a Notice to Quit, household income at or below 50%U AMI, risk of homelessness, and affordable rent.

Undocumented migrants may also apply for rental assistance by contacting the Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants (CIRI) at 203-612-5464 or [rentalassist@cirict.org](mailto:rentalassist@cirict.org). Information provided by Connecticut Fair Housing Center, 60 Popieluszko Court, Hartford, CT 06106.

# PRESTON PARKS & RECREATION'S EASTER COLORING CONTEST!!



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Age \_\_\_\_\_

Adult \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address or Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

# Happy Easter!



# PRESTON PARKS & RECREATION

389 Route 2 ~ Preston, CT 06365 ~ 860-887-5581 X113 ~ [www.preston-ct.org](http://www.preston-ct.org) ~ Email: [recreation@preston-ct.org](mailto:recreation@preston-ct.org)

## 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. Chair yoga classes are targeted for ages 60+ but classes are open to all adults and abilities. Fee: \$38 per session (6 weeks).

### Online Class

Mondays: April 12 - May 17

Time: 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Location: Online via Zoom

### In Person Class

Fridays: April 16 - May 21

Time: 1:00 - 2:00 pm

Location: Preston Public Library Outside Grass

## PRESTON CLEAN UP WEEKEND

In celebration of Earth Day on Thursday, April 22, Preston Parks & Recreation and Preston Conservation & Agricultural Commission are holding Preston Clean Up Weekend on Saturday, April 17 & Sunday, April 18!!

It's free to participate!! This is a great event for individuals, families, friends and neighbors to get involved in their community and help clean up and beautify Preston.

We are asking people to register online at [www.preston-ct.org](http://www.preston-ct.org) to help clean up the 90+ roads in Preston. People can sign up for a specific road or two!! If certain roads are "full"...we ask you consider signing up to help clean up another road in town.

Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resource Recovery Authority (SCRRA) is donating the use of supplies (reflective vests, garbage bags, and pickers) for our clean up weekend. Supplies may be picked up at Preston Town Hall on Thursday, April 15 during the hours of 10:00 - 11:00 am or 4:30 - 6:30 pm. If those hours do not work for you, please contact the Parks & Recreation office to make other pick up arrangements. People are asked to return the reflective vests and pickers after Clean Up Weekend. People can leave bags of trash on the sides of the roads for Public Works to pick up the following week.

## COMMUNITY YARD SALE

Time to clean out your closets and garage!! We are hosting a Community Yard Sale on Saturday, March 15 from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm.

OPTIONS!! WE GOT THEM!!! Host a yard sale at your residence or purchase a spot at Preston Plains Middle School. If you choose to host the yard sale at your residence, the Town of Preston requires all persons hosting a yard sale to obtain a permit. The cost of the permit is \$2.00. Sign up online and Preston Parks & Recreation staff will do the paperwork for you! Last day to register and be included on the map is April 25th.

If you choose to purchase a 15 x 15 spot at Preston Plains Middle School, the fee is \$15.00.

## EASTER COLORING CONTEST DETAILS!!

Open to all...from ages 1 - 113!! Submit your entries by Thursday, April 1, 2021 at 4:30 pm.

Entries can be mailed to Preston Parks & Recreation (389 Route 2, Preston) or dropped off at Preston Town Hall and left in the blue drop box.

Adult Contest ~ Winner will receive a (\$15) Sweet Grass Creamery Gift Card