

BITS & PIECES



FROM FRAN

**April & May 2023**

**Renters Rebate of Elderly and Totally Disabled Programs: (AKA Renters Rebate)**

April 1<sup>st</sup> is the first day that applications for the Renters Rebate Program will begin to be processed.

Participants in the program just 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 at the time of his/her death. Applicants filed under the disability provision must be accompanied by current proof of disability. The Claimant must have been a resident in Connecticut for a one-year period of time prior to filing an application.

Qualifying income guidelines for the calendar year 2022 must not exceed \$40,300.00 if unmarried, or \$49,100.00 if married or other. For married couples or other, unless legally separated, income from both husband and wife must be counted in establishing qualifying income, regardless of living arrangements. 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.

The applicant must provide proof of rent and utilities payments during the 2022 calendar year.

Individuals interested in making application for the Renters Rebate of Elderly and Totally Disabled Program are requested to contact the Senior Affairs Office at 860-887-5581 ext. 6. When leaving a message, please include your name and telephone number. The application filing period is April 1<sup>st</sup> through October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Café Program:**

The program is open to individuals who are 60 years of age and older. Persons who are younger than 60 are welcome but there will be a fee assessed for the meal rather than a suggested donation. A suggested donation of \$3.00 per meal for those individuals who have attained the age of 60 years and over is welcomed. Lunch is served at 11:30 a.m. at the Preston Senior Center, 42 Long Society Road.

April's menu:

April 3<sup>rd</sup>: Country Style Chicken, Buttermilk Mashed Potatoes, Corn w/Peppers & Onions, Pineapple Tidbits, Bread, Margarine and Beverage.

April 10<sup>th</sup>: Baked Ham, Glazed Sweet Potatoes, Cauliflower, Carrots, & Snap Peas, Diced Peaches, Bread, Margarine and Beverage.

April 17<sup>th</sup>: Meatballs Marinara, Lemon Parmesan Penne Pasta, Green & Waxed Beans, Pineapple Tidbits, Bread, Margarine and Beverage.

April 24<sup>th</sup>: Salisbury Steak w/gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables Medley, Mixed Fruit Cup, Bread, Margarine and Beverage.

Advance reservations are necessary and we cannot accommodate walk-ins. Please call the senior center at 860-889-0770 for additional information or to register for a meal. You do not need to be a Preston resident to participate in the TVCCA Café Program.



## PRESTON RESIDENT TROOPERS OFFICE

TROOPER KRIS FISHER ~ Kristofor.Fisher@ct.gov  
TROOPER SEAN BRESNAN ~ Sean.Bresnan@ct.gov

Troop E Routine Phone Line: (860) 848-6500



### Telltale signs of a scam...

- You receive an unexpected request
- There's a promise or threat
- There's a sense of urgency
- Payment is untraceable or unrecoverable
- Something seems off

### Common Scams

- Tax/IRS
- Debt collection scams
- Counterfeit check scams
- Advance fee scams
- Sweepstakes/Inheritance scams
- Recovery/refund scams
- Charity Scams

### Senior Scams

- Medicare/Social Security scams
- Home equity loan scams
- Grandparent scams
- Funeral/burial scams
- VA records/Assistance scams
- VA phishing attempts

### Ways to avoid scams

- Be vigilant
- Have a healthy skepticism
- If it sounds too good to be true, it almost certainly is.
- Beware of urgency
- If they're rushing you, they don't want you to do research
- Guard your money and data
- Consult with someone you trust
- Call the police and ask before giving information (860-848-6500)

### Grandparent/Family scam

- A scammer will contact you and claim to be from a courthouse, police department, marshal service, bail bondsman, probation/parole
- They will utilize a fake phone number application
- They will claim a loved one has been involved in some sort of incident in which your family member has been arrested. (motor vehicle crash, fight, DUI etc.)
- They will tell you that you need to get a specific amount of CASH for your family member or loved one to get out of jail
- Often they will put another scammer on the phone and have them play the part of your family member
- When you withdrawal requested money from your bank they will instruct you to not tell the bank for the reason of the withdrawal and to only say it is for an emergency.
- They will request you package the money up in a box or manila envelope and tell you to put the family members name and a fake "case number" on it only.
- They will have you call them back when the money is packaged up and tell you that they are sending a "courier" to retrieve the package with the money inside.
- This will most likely be a rideshare person (Uber, Lyft etc.)
- The "courier" will then deliver the package to the scammers at a random location
- After the initial package is delivered, the scammer will call back and tell you that your family member is being held on higher charges and they will need additional money.
- Once this money is delivered it is almost impossible to get back as they quickly transfer the money to another party involved in the scam

### How do they get this info?

- Scammers will often look up elderly residents in the towns in which they are focusing on.
- When they find an elderly person, they will conduct research to find out family members names and locations where they reside to obtain specific facts in which makes the scam seem real (*A Google search of a name will provide all information necessary*)
- If the scammers feel you are apprehensive, they will push but eventually give up and move on. **TIME IS MONEY!**

### If you've been scammed...

- Report it! Call Troop E (860) 848-6500
- Contact all banks/credit companies you use, request to flag your accounts
- Contact a credit bureau (TransUnion, Experien)
- Contact Social Security. Report your identity might have been stolen

# PRESTON PARKS & RECREATION

389 Route 2, Preston CT 06365 • Phone: (860) 887-5581 x113 • Email: recreation@preston-ct.org

## SENIOR/ADULT BUS TRIPS - - in conjunction with Preston Senior Affairs

\*\* All trips will depart & return to Preston Plains Middle School. Transportation will be via Town of Preston Senior Bus \*\*

### INTO THE WOODS @ Bradley Playhouse

**DATE:** Sunday, April 30, 2023

**DEPARTURE TIME:** 10:00 AM

**FEE:** \$27 per person

Join Preston Parks & Recreation as we travel to Bradley Playhouse in Putnam to see INTO THE WOODS. Join Cinderella, Jack, Little Red, Rapunzel, and all your favorite fairy tale characters in a magical mashup of epic proportions! See what happens after happily ever after in this touching musical tour de force. The Brothers Grimm hit the stage with an epic fairytale about wishes, family and the choices we make. James Lapine and Stephen Sondheim take everyone's favorite storybook characters and bring them together for a timeless, yet relevant, piece... and a rare modern classic. The Tony Award-winning book and score are both enchanting and touching. The story follows a Baker and his wife, who wish to have a child; Cinderella, who wishes to attend the King's Festival; and Jack, who wishes his cow would give milk. When the Baker and his wife learn that they cannot have a child because of a Witch's curse, the two set off on a journey to break the curse. Everyone's wish is granted, but the consequences of their actions return to haunt them later with disastrous results.

Showtime is 2:00 pm. First stop of the day will be Soleil Bakery, which is only 5 minutes past Putnam and then we will arrive in Putnam with plenty of time to stroll through the stores in downtown Putnam or grab a bite to eat for lunch, all is within walking distance of Bradley Playhouse.

*Please note: INTO THE WOODS has been assigned a rating of PG-13 by MTI (Musical Theatre International). It is worth noting that the characters and stories that are familiar to most audiences through Disney productions, will not be represented in this version. The musical focuses on the original Brothers Grimm versions of the stories which tend to be "darker" and less "happy ending" focused.*

**REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.PRESTON-CT.ORG**

### NUTS by Tom Topor @ Bradley Playhouse

**DATE:** Sunday, June 4, 2023

**DEPARTURE TIME:** 10:00 AM

**FEE:** \$23 per person

Join Preston Parks & Recreation as we travel to Bradley Playhouse in Putnam to see NUTS by Tom Topor. A Broadway hit, Nuts has been called the best courtroom melodrama since Witness for the Prosecution and The Caine Mutiny Court Martial. Set in a courtroom in New York's Bellevue Hospital, the story follows a high-priced call girl incarcerated on a charge for killing a violent "john". The State, represented by a court-appointed psychiatrist and an aggressive prosecutor, says Claudia Faith Draper is unfit to stand trial. As testimony from experts, physicians, and her parents unfolds, with her psyche and childhood dissected, she proves to the judge that she isn't "nuts" and stands legally sane at trial for manslaughter.

Showtime is 2:00 pm. First stop of the day will be Soleil Bakery, which is only 5 minutes past Putnam and then we will arrive in Putnam with plenty of time to stroll through the stores in downtown Putnam or grab a bite to eat for lunch, all is within walking distance of Bradley Playhouse

### RAIL EXPLORERS

**DATE:** Friday, June 16, 2023

**DEPARTURE TIME:** 12:45 PM

**FEE:** \$42 per person

Join Preston Parks & Recreation as we ride the rails with Rail Explorers USA. The Rail Explorers: Rhode Island Division is presented by the Newport and Narragansett Bay Railroad. Enjoy an unforgettable scenic ride along historic Aquidneck Island and spectacular Narragansett Bay. We will be doing The Southern Circuit tour, which is a 6 mile round trip (3 miles out, 3 miles back) between Portsmouth Grove Station and Bayside Station, our exclusive waterfront picnic area. During your experience on the rails, you will traverse through the coastal woodlands of Aquidneck Island before a brief stop at Bayside Station, which boasts incredible water views over Narragansett Bay.

Bring a small cooler with snacks and drinks to enjoy at their private bayside picnic area as you watch the boats go by on the bay, before riding back to the station. We will riding in quad explorer cars.

## PRESTON PARKS & RECREATION • REGISTRATION FORM • APRIL 2023

Name #1:

Name #2:

Phone Number:

Home Address:

Email Address:

Emergency Contact Name:

Phone Number:

**Please register me for the following programs:**

Bus Trip: Into the Woods

Bus Trip: Nuts by Tom Topor

Bus Trip: Rail Explorers

Yard Sale: May 6

Host of my residence (  Start Time  End Time )

Spot at Preston Plains Middle School

Yard Sale: October 7

Host of my residence (  Start Time  End Time )

Spot at Preston Plains Middle School

I am in proper health and have the approval of my physician to participate in the above listed activity. I have a clear understanding of the risks and hazards inherent in this activity. I agree to hold harmless the Town of Preston, Preston Parks & Recreation and their employees/volunteers for any injury incurred due to my participation in this program. In the event that I become incapacitated while participating, Preston Parks & Recreation staff and/or volunteer coordinators may authorize emergency medical treatment as deemed necessary by attending medical personnel. \$20 fee will be charged for any returned checks.

Signature

Date

Total Fee Enclosed



2023-2024

# Citizens' Guide to the Budget Process



Dear Preston Residents:

As we enter yet another budget season, our goal to provide current services and plan for the future while maintaining a responsible approach to financial decisions is what will guide the Board of Education and Selectmen through this process.

We invite the public to join in the budget process. Detailed budgets are being built and the Board of Education committee level and at the Board of Selectmen department level. Those meetings are currently being held. The meetings are open to the public and we invite you to participate in this development early.

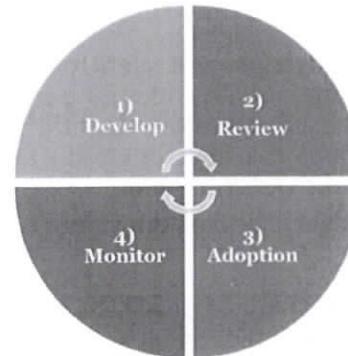
As this process moves forward there will be Board of Finance budget workshops in March. Key budget dates have been set as follows:

- ★ **Budget Public Hearing** ★  
Thursday, April 27, 2023
- ★ **Budget Town Meeting** ★  
Thursday, May 11, 2023
- ★ **Budget Referendum** ★  
Thursday, May 25, 2023

Please check the school district and town websites for budget workshop dates, meeting locations and any changes to the calendar. We look forward to seeing you and providing you with information on the budget proposals!



## The Budget Process



- 1) **Develop** (December-early March):
  - ⇒ The school departments submit budget requests to the Superintendent and the town department submit budget requests to the First Selectperson.
  - ⇒ The Superintendent review the requests with the Board of Education Finance Committee, the First Selectperson review the requests with the Board of Selectmen.
  - ⇒ Both the Board of Education and Board of Selectmen hold budget workshops to review, deliberate and approve a proposed budget.
- 2) **Review** (March-April):
  - ⇒ The Boards of Education and Selectmen present their budgets to the Board of Finance.
  - ⇒ The Board of Finance holds budget workshops and a Public Hearing to gather citizen input.
  - ⇒ The Board of Finance deliberates and recommends a proposed budget to Public Hearing.
- 3) **Adoption** (May):
  - ⇒ Town Budget Meeting held on proposed budget.
  - ⇒ Budget Referendum.
  - ⇒ Board of Finance adopts approved budget and establishes the mill rate.
- 4) **Monitor**: The Boards of Education, Finance and Selectmen monitor the approved budgets throughout the fiscal year.



# 2023-2024 Citizens' Guide to the Budget Process



## UNDERSTANDING THE BUDGET

The annual budget process refers to the proposed plan of expenditures and revenues for a given fiscal year, starting each July 1st and ending the following June 30th, for the town's main operating fund which is also known as the General Fund.

The town budget is broken down into two categories:

Revenue (Income)	Expenditures (Spending)
◆ Property taxes	◆ Education
◆ Investment income	◆ Public Safety
◆ Licenses, fees and permits	◆ Public Works
◆ Federal grants	◆ Recreation
◆ State and local grants	◆ Administration
	◆ Finance
	◆ Health and Social Services
	◆ Land Use
	◆ Boards and Commissions
	◆ Debt Service

The General Fund budget process requires the involvement of many stakeholders in order to develop a responsible budget that provides essential services without imposing excessive costs.

Once complete, the annual budget serves as a policy document that prioritizes the quality and level of services that the town will provide. Likewise, it is a financial plan that authorizes how resources are spent.

The budget process benefits from public input. All meetings and hearings are open to the public and citizens are encouraged to attend.



## The Town's 'Household' Budget

Your Household	➔	The Town
Income	➔	Revenue
Expense, spending	➔	Expenditures
Taxes	➔	Mandates, required services
Savings account	➔	Fund balance, contingency
Utilities, food, gas	➔	Utilities, gas, salaries, benefits
Maintenance projects	➔	Capital projects
Phone, cable, internet	➔	Technology, replacement equipment
Mortgage, rent, loans	➔	Debt Service, bonds

## SIGN UP FOR CITIZEN ALERTS

**If we can't reach you, we can't alert you!**

<https://www.preston-ct.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=645>

We will provide alerts for important budget activities to those who are signed up.



**Food Distribution:**

As a reminder, we WILL be holding the food distribution on **FRIDAY, APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup> from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.** at the Preston Senior Center, 42 Long Society Road (we are aware that the Town Hall will be closed but, we have chosen to continue with our regular distribution plans as the first Friday of the month). As of this date and until further notice, participants will no longer be required to wear face coverings/masks when participating in the event, per United Community and Family Services.

Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup> will be the next scheduled date for the program from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.. We anticipate more service providers will be in attendance making information available for energy assistance, health issues, dental programs, etc.

**My Favorite Sayings:**

It's better to be respected than liked.

Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day.

Just be foolish enough to speak the truth and others will seek your wisdom.

Swallow your pride occasionally....it's non-fattening.

Room for improvement is the largest room in the world.

Beauty may fade; good nature never does.

Make allowances for your friends' imperfections as readily as you do for your own.

**Preston Public Library Event:**

April 13<sup>th</sup>: Light Pollution 201 with Geoff McLean, NASA Solar Systems Ambassador at 5:30 p.m., Preston Public Library, 389 Route 2. Learn what light pollution is and how you can help stop it; for ages 8 years and up. Register at 860-886-1010 or [prestonlibraryprograms@gmail.com](mailto:prestonlibraryprograms@gmail.com).