

Fall 2024

Preston Pipeline²

VOL14 ISSUE 1



From the Desk of the First Selectwoman

by First Selectwoman Sandra Allyn Gauthier

Welcome to Fall 2024!

The preliminary designs for the first phase of the Poquetanuck Village Traffic Calming Plan and Heritage Trail have been presented for public input at multiple board meetings to include Board of Selectmen, Planning and Zoning Commission, and Conservation and Agricultural Commission. Almost all of those in attendance had supportive and positive comments and questions about the project and the many benefits it will bring to our community. A compilation of the questions and answers is being developed and will be shared on the Town website and Town FB page. Kathy Warzecha, Town Planner, is available to meet with anyone who couldn't attend the meetings to answer any questions or comments about this vital project.

The town is participating in a no-cost Rural Business Development Grant with The Greater Norwich Area Chamber of Commerce and Connecticut Main Street Center with eleven other towns. This grant will help survey, map, and inventory the historic buildings and assets as a region. It will also engage municipalities and small businesses to collaborate in planning and marketing to create a regional identity to drive economic development and sustainability efforts in the individual towns and as a region.

The Municipal Facilities, Building Needs and Assessment Advisory Group has been meeting for several months now. They have toured the Town Hall, Public Works Garage, Library, Senior Center and Preston Plains Middle

School and Preston Veterans' Memorial School. They discussed the tours and what stood out for each member. Key takeaways are that we have space and capacity issues, the buildings are aging, there are determinations that need to be made such as fix what we have, build new or add-on, sell and or repurpose existing buildings etc. The members were asked to bring their ideas and suggestions to its next meeting in October and the public is encouraged to attend and share their thoughts as well.

The Sustainable CT Advisory team has been diligently documenting the various projects that have been completed in the Town that fulfill aspects of the Sustainable CT Certification Program. They have submitted information in the following areas: Optimizing Equity, Conducting Health Impact Assessments, Improving Air Quality in Public Spaces, Improving Outdoor Access for All, Implementing an Affordable Housing Plan, Increasing Public Awareness and Efforts to End Homelessness, Supporting Redevelopment of Brownfield Sites, Engaging in Watershed Protection and Restoration, Developing an Open Space Plan, Creating a Natural Resource and Wildlife Inventory, Inventory Tourism and Cultural Assets, Support Arts and Creative Culture, Develop Agriculture-Friendly Practices, Implement Complete Streets, Participate in and Promote the C-Pace Program, Hold a Sustainability Event, Recycle Additional Materials, and Reduce and Compost Organic Waste. In addition, as previously discussed in the last issue, our Eastern Regional Tourism District member collaborated on updating the ctvisit.com website page for Preston which looks amazing!

Continued on page 5

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Preston School District

Roy Seitsinger; Superintendent

Dear Preston Learning Community,

I hope this version of the Pipeline finds you and your family safe and well and enjoying a peaceful early fall.

Welcome Back! We are celebrating the beginning of the new school year and a smooth opening. We were able to open in both schools and with a strong transportation staff even though we have had challenges in other areas of staffing that we continue to work on. We are working to find school psychologist support, custodians, and backup bus drivers. On a positive note, we have six different consultants funded substantially through grants that are working with the district in several areas, including finance, curriculum, equity, and student voice.

Thank you to our entire Preston Learning Community. A noteworthy portion of our success is due to the continued support of our entire community. We could not provide the quality education we have available without you. Thank you for all you do to support our schools and our community. Below are some highlights of our current and future plans.

There is a lot going on! We have accomplished much, and there is much more to do! Above all, we must move forward with assurance and clarity into a quickly changing future with one overriding purpose in mind—the care, wellness, and education of children.

Joint Strategic Plan: Our entire district is proud to be an integral part of the development of our unique and innovative joint strategic plan. The partnership between the district and the town is focused on preserving the very best of Preston and preparing for the future. At the District level, we are now initiating the task of creating the next level of detail that emphasizes specific immediate district priorities.

Budget: We are deeply grateful for the broad community support both the town and the school district received when the FY 25 budget was approved on the first vote. This year, there is much work to do, including approving a new updated capital improvement plan, adjusting financial policies, and making final adjustments to the municipal auditing process. We intend to start our budget work earlier and implement the next level of our new software, ClearGov, to create an even more robust budget development and communication process.

Bond and Grant Projects Completed or in Process: In November 2023, the community approved reprioritizing existing bond funds for important capital improvements. Over the last year, we addressed security and infrastructure projects, with the final project scheduled for the holiday break. Thank you for keeping our district facilities functioning.

Continuous Transition: Last year, we welcomed our new Director of Student Services, Craig King, who began in October 2023. He has now stepped up to support our gifted students and provide backup to our school psychologists. Our middle school principal, Christopher Pickett, is entering his second year after a very successful first year.

Strikingly, about 42 of our 108 staff members have joined our district in the last few years. We honor those who have come before and are thrilled with our unique and talented new team members.

This year, we also welcome our new board members, who began their work in November 2023, to their first full year. We wish all our former team members and board members well in all their future endeavors.

After an impressive start, Dr. Nathan Quesnel is beginning his second year as Head of School at Norwich Free Academy. About two-thirds of our students choose to attend this secondary institution. Preston has maintained a 150-year-plus partnership that offers our students over 250-course selections and innovative programming.

Weather: We have all noticed that the intensity and irregularity of storms have increased. Every year, we ask our families to have a Foul Weather Plan in place. This year, it is never more important to have contingencies for transportation changes and weather impacts.

Endemic and Recovery: FLU, RSV, and COVID vaccines are being recommended this season.

Learning loss, mental health challenges, learning pace, and restructured schedules and resources remain crucial issues that need to be addressed for our learning community to recover. Teachers, administrators, paraeducators, and service providers have taken several steps to support student growth and recovery, including a new elementary reading and math

Continued on page 4

program, a new middle school schedule, and the development of an advanced math pathway.

Transportation: We have taken several steps to ensure we continue to provide steady, predictable transportation for our students and families. We will (1) continue to advertise for drivers, (2) immediately train any new drivers we can hire (Please note, it takes up to four months to train a driver after hire.), and (3) continue to assess the most efficient and effective ways to pick up and deliver our students safely.

Summer School: Our innovative partnership with Mystic Seaport is a boon for students and a fantastic learning opportunity for our entire summer school team. This program receives statewide recognition for its innovation and adds value to student learning and recovery over the summer. This year's summer program data showed important student academic retention and growth again!

Cybersecurity: Establishing a robust cybersecurity strategy is a current priority that has become a standard operating procedure. This strategy is crucial for securing a safe learning and work environment for our students, staff, and community. Our partnership with LEARN, our local Regional Educational Service Center, and state organizations like the Connecticut Intelligence Center (CTIC) and the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) will help us strengthen our practice and deepen our security strategies.

Artificial Intelligence (AI): AI is not a tangential topic. It is part of every aspect of our lives, including teaching and learning. Educators have initiated discussions and planning in the district and throughout southern Connecticut about the impact and management of artificial intelligence tools and operational aspects.

National Accreditation: This is the final year of our NAEYC national accreditation process. We are supporting our staff with materials, professional development, a new curriculum, instructional efforts, and a new writing curriculum. We will also look to establish new and innovative partnerships like the one we have set in motion with Mystic Seaport and the LEARN Collaborative. This includes strengthening our already positive collaboration with the town of Preston.

Participation and Communication: The district communicates in many ways: Facebook, Webpages, Blackboard Connect voice and text messages, newsletters, multiple public meetings, small group meetings, and PTO newsletters and messages, yet more can always be done. As we begin to develop our next strategic plan and budget, we will examine ways to focus and improve communication with all of our constituencies, including various surveys, focus groups, and specialized meetings. The established BoE Communication

Committee will be issuing various surveys on a myriad of topics, including an examination of grading practices.

Creating Classroom Space: The district is steadily growing, and instructional demands are transforming. We need to move administrative offices out of classroom spaces. We also need storage space. These demands lead us to search for additional office space. We are considering building, or purchasing modular offices or leasing office space in town. To continue offering appropriate learning spaces for students and staff, **we need to find an option before the end of the 24-25 school year.**

Consultancies: Over the next few years, we will plan to transition away from ESSER federal support. We will develop ways to sustain extremely valuable programs, such as our summer school partnership with Mystic Seaport and our technology support by LEARN. It bears repeating that part of our schools' transformation is driven by the American Rescue Plan: Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP: ESSER) funds that are earmarked for our district. The priority is Equity for all students. The five specific ARP: ESSER goals are designed to help us focus on sparking innovation to fuel the expected transformation and response to the challenges presented by the pandemic: (1) Learning Acceleration, Academic Renewal, and Student Enrichment, (2) Family and Community Connections, (3) Social, Emotional, and Mental Health of the Students and the Staff, (4) Strategic Use of Technology, Staff Development, and the Digital Divide, and (5) Building Safe and Healthy Schools.

Moving on: Working through the challenges and opportunities noted above, we will remain focused on our instructional priorities. This year, we are: (a) Starting the next steps in our innovative strategic plan. (b) Examining options regarding the new Connecticut law that allows the Board of Education to establish 2% non-lapsing accounts to manage voter-approved funds. (c) Finalizing the NAEYC accreditation process for our PreK program. (d) Continuing to develop outdoor education and other instructional strategies to enhance learning for our students, (e) Final approval of our Increasing Educator Diversity Plan, and (f) Creating more classroom and program space for our growing student population by exploring options for the central office location.

A final note: The Future is Now and the Future is Known: We need to think about the future and how to transform policy and practice to help prepare our students for what they will face. Within certain parameters, we can predict what students need over the next five years: They need to develop strong bodies, hearts, and minds so that they can succeed in a swiftly changing world.

We are so grateful for everyone in our learning communi-

Continued from cover page: From the Desk of the First Selectwoman

Please check it out and refer your family, friends, and neighbors to give it a click! We are anticipating Preston will achieve the Sustainable CT Bronze Award but will update once all the action items have been approved and the official designation is certified. Many thanks to all for the great activities, events and accomplishments happening in Preston!

We continually update our Town Website and Town Facebook page. I hope you find these resources helpful. Also, our TOWN OF PRESTON ALERT PROGRAM is a community notification system that delivers information directly from Town Officials to you - please register or update your profile on our website today!

As always, feel free to share your ideas, suggestions, and concerns by joining us at our BOS meetings or calling me at 860-887-5581 ext. 105.

I look forward to hearing from you! Please stay safe!

Continued from cover page 4: Preston Schools

ty's flexibility, dedication, commitment, kinship, and care. In many unprecedented and creative ways, our community is responding. It is a reflection of its people that Preston has prioritized relationships and come out stronger financially, programmatically, and as a learning community.

With humility, humanity, honor, patience, perseverance, kindness, and the reminder that we all need each other to move forward into a hopeful, optimistic, dynamic future, we will do more than succeed; We Will Transform.

Thank you. It is an honor to serve you. With the most profound thanks and respect for your support and sacrifices, I wish you well for the fall and with anticipation of a successful new school year.

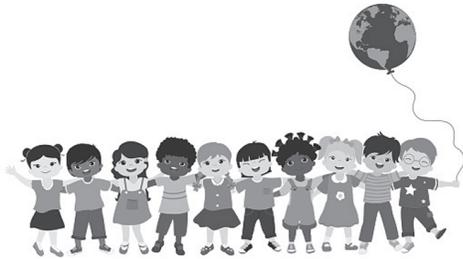
Happy Safe and Warm Fall!

With warm regards,

Roy M. Seitsinger, Jr., Ph.D.

Superintendent

Man (and woman) is not affected by events, but by the view, he (she) takes of them. Epictetus



PVMS Child Find PreKindergarten Screening

This is for families that have concerns regarding the development of their 3 or 4 year old child(ren).

When: January 16, 2025 (by appointment only)

Where: Preston Veterans' Memorial School, 325 Shetucket Turnpike, Preston, CT

Please call (860) 887-3113

Birth Certificate
and

Proofs of Residency (cut and paste the url below) are required at screening.

<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1677077762/prestonschoolsorg/v0sxfhrxesulc3zibwur/ResidencyCheckList.pdf>

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Thank you for all your hard work this
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The Benefits of Volunteering

Bob Chapin; Avalonia Preston Town Committee Chair

"The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well." Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Sheesh... OK, Mr. Emerson may be way too dour for my taste, but there is a kernel of truth to at least the last part of his quote there.

Our lives in the 20th and 21st centuries are a juggling act: there's the job(s) we do to make ends meet and support the family, there's supporting the kids and being there for them...and for the better part of the 20 years that my wife and I had kids at home, those two things right there were the focus of most of our waking hours.

But as the kids got into high school, we branched out a bit, and realized that volunteering for causes that we cared about felt good for all of us. For one thing, it got the kids to stop thinking only about themselves and helped them experience the broader world. It showed them that volunteering provided some intangible but real benefits: they contributed to the broader good and as a bonus, got improved self-esteem and self-confidence.

I started thinking about this whole issue when I realized that Avalonia is one of those organizations which runs mostly on volunteers. This is a common "business model". For example, the Town of Preston, like all the towns in the state, is a participatory democracy in that most of the Town's activities involve citizen volunteers working on Committees for the Town (go to the Town's web page, and click on "Community" on the top right to see a full list of ways you can get involved in Town committees). And then there are groups not necessarily driven by town government, which can include food banks, literacy programs, arts organizations, youth support organizations, cultural advocacy groups like art museums and local landmarks or historical houses, pet shelters and animal rescue organizations, land conservancies, etc., etc. All of these rely on volunteers to achieve their goals and to generate the community impact they strive for. Mystic Seaport Museum, where I volunteer 2-3 days per week, has several times more volunteers than paid staff, and absolutely couldn't function without the volunteers. Similarly, Avalonia Land Conservancy (a distinctly non-governmental group) has just a few paid staff; the vast majority of the work is done by volunteers.

So if volunteers are such a critical part of so many organizations, that might suggest that there must be something in it for the volunteers, too.... the recipient organization must not be the only one benefitting from all this time and love. Sure enough, there is a big literature out there on the benefits of volunteering.

The first pro tip is to find an organization whose mission or goals you support. If you care about what they're doing, you'll want

to help. And you'll get plenty of return on that time investment:

- 1) Especially for older adults or retirees, staying active yields measurable improvements in physical and emotional health. Volunteers report better physical health, lower blood pressure (from a 2013 study), and some studies are finding an increase in health-span (the number of healthy years we live): a 1999 study found that people who volunteer for two or more organizations had a 63% lower mortality rate than non-volunteers.
- 2) Volunteering provides a sense of purpose and increases self-esteem. This happens for all ages of volunteers. And this leads to
- 3) Something called the "helper's high": the improved mood that comes from knowing you have made a positive difference in the world. A 2008 study from the London School of Economics found that people who volunteered every month had a significantly greater chance of being "very happy", and the more they volunteered, the happier they were. This connects back to the "sense of purpose" mentioned above.
- 4) If you volunteer for an organization whose mission resonates with you, you will automatically meet others who share the same values that you do. This broader social circle helps bolster our psychological and emotional resilience by reducing feelings of loneliness...really important for the social species that we are. This, in turn, leads to lower rates of depression and anxiety, which is particularly useful for early teens and retirees. This effect of volunteering on fighting the effects of depression or anxiety comes up again and again in the research.

If you're a retiree like me, you get to choose the days you wish to work and the amount of time you want to give. And I can testify that it feels awesome to get to the end of a day and realize that I just made a pretty big difference in a small part of the world. AND I could feel happy doing it (take that, Ralph Waldo, you old sourpuss!).

Avalonia is indeed always welcoming to new members and families, and (hint, hint) we could really use more members to help us steward and care for all the new parcels of land we keep receiving. You can check out our website (<https://Avalonia.org>), or contact me directly if you have questions or comments (bobchapin@access.net).

I've really had to control my desire to throw a dozen different quotes into this article about living a purposeful life, or pithy observations on giving to others..... so I won't feel too bad in closing with something from one of my favorite authors ever, Mark Twain, who said "The two most important days in life are the day you are born, and the day you find out why."

Cub Pack and Troop 75 News



Above right: St. James Cub Pack visits Preston Corn Maze.



Left: St. James Cub Pack Helps Preston Clear Eagle scout trail at park.

Below: Troop Life scout, Cameron Maskaly, successfully completes a three bridge Eagle project for Local Tri-Town Trails



Cub Pack and Troop 75 News



PCVFC Scouts of Troop 75 Hold Court of Honor as Scouts were awarded over 35 badges from the 2024 High adventure trip.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS AND SALES FOR TROOP 75

Appreciate your support for the Troop 75 60th year Anniversary! Wow 60 years with one sponsor!
 God bless our first responders,
 From CC Phil Ludlow. For questions call 860-861-1487 or email psluddy@aol.com

PRESTON BOY SCOUT TROOP 75
 Pancake Breakfast We are Back 😊



Serving: Pancakes, Sausage, Syrup, Coffee, Juice, Milk &

PRESTON PACK 75 BAKE SALE FUNDRAISER

Where: Saint James Episcopal Church Preston CT
 When: Saturday November 2, 2024
 Time: 7:00 AM – 11:00
 Tickets: Adults \$9.00---Senior \$7.00---
 Children (11 and Under) \$7.00
 Advance Tickets Available by Contacting Any Boy Scout
 OR Tickets Can Be Purchased @ the Door.

Troop 75
 Pancake Breakfast
 Saint James Church Preston CT
 Saturday November 2, 2024 7-11 AM
 Adults \$9.00 Senior/Child \$7.00



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 Item 0120 \$16 Pet
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Note: In some cases to expedite your order, you may receive a kit with similar packaging to the ones pictured.

November 16th Anniversary Service & Reception

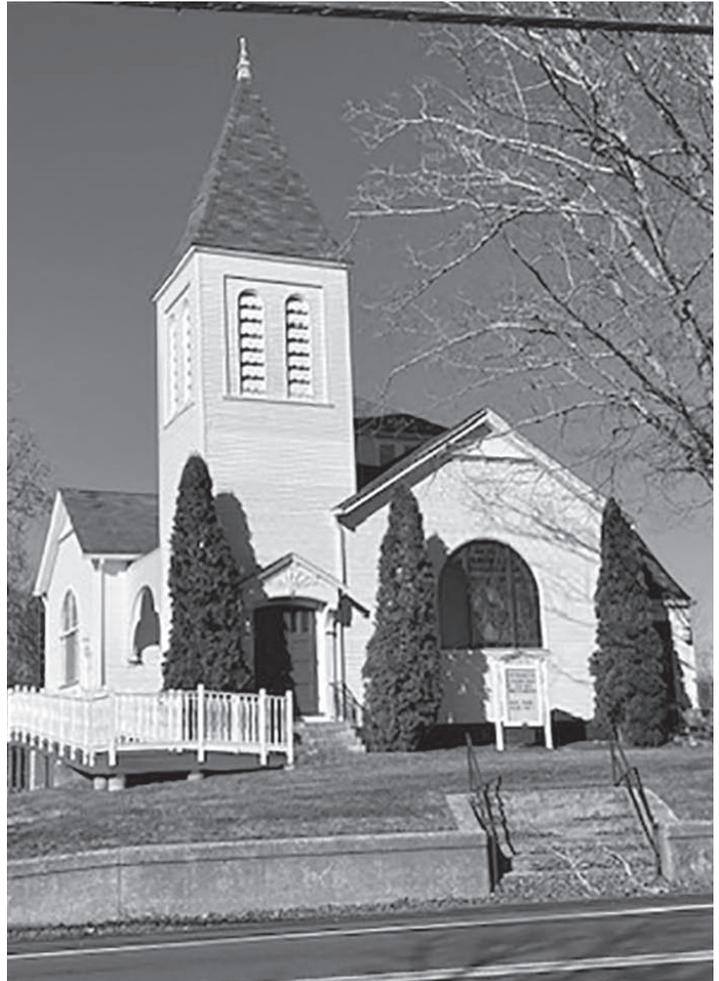
On the 325th Anniversary, a special Service will be held to honor and give thanks for our long history. There will be guest speakers and special music for this wonderful event. Afterwards, a reception will be held.

The 325th Anniversary Committee is truly thankful to the volunteers!

Committee members are Cliff Ally; Stella Dawley; Pat Marino, Chair; Lisa Van Alst; Bob Vescovi, Rev. Stan White; Donna Young

Preston City Congregational Church
Address-321 Route 164, Preston, CT,
Email- pccc@snet.net

Website-<https://www.prestoncitycongregational.org/>
Facebook page-[facebook.com/PrestonCityChurch](https://www.facebook.com/PrestonCityChurch)



Preston City Congregational Church



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Pastor Thomas C. Burke, Jr.

Worship at 9:30 A.M..
Sundsy School 9:15 A.M.

Christmas Holiday Bazaar!
November 23rd
9 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Jean Miller Memorial
Cookie sale
December 21st 9 A.M.-1 P.M.

Christmas Eve services
December 24, 4 & 7 P.M.

Check us out on FACEBOOK!

For more information, check out our website:
[prestonscitycongregational.org](http://www.prestoncitycongregational.org)

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News From The Preston City Congregational Church Two Can Food Pantry



The pantry is now open on the
3rd Wednesday of each month
from 10 'til noon.

We welcome all sorts of canned goods.
Always needed: tuna, soups, cereals, cranberry
sauce, stuffing, gravy, canned veggies...
we thank you for your generosity!

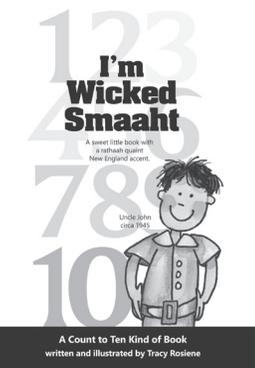
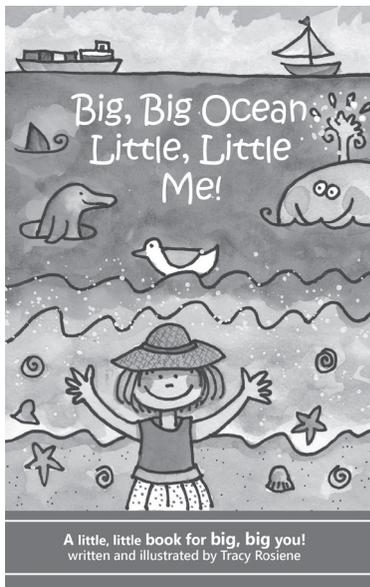
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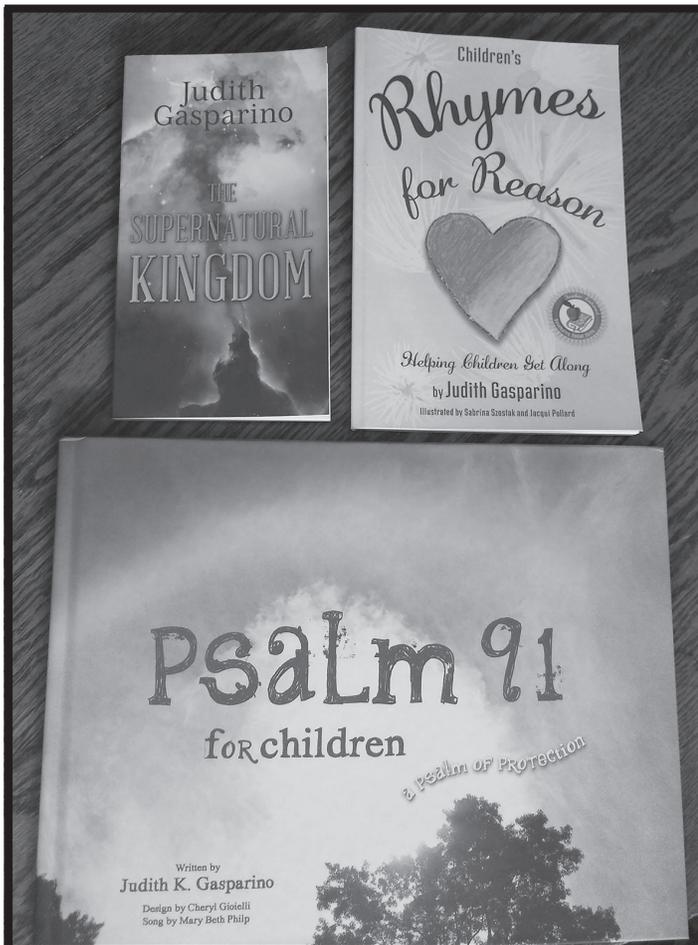
Located in Flemings Center



Troop 75 News: Summertime Memories

Preston Scout Troop 75 successfully completed their Hiking High Adventure, through the Great Smoky Mountains, near Gatlinburg Tenn.

The Scouts visited Washington DC on the way home to Preston.



SPECIAL OFFER FOR PRESTON RESIDENTS

Three exciting books for children!!

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Helping Children Get Along**

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**Psalm 91 for Children,
A Psalm of Protection
Includes a musical CD.**

Originally listed at \$18
now \$12.

The Supernatural Kingdom
Listed at \$8
now \$4

All prices include tax and fees.

**Please call or text author Judy Gasparino
at 860-608-2485 for more details.**



Preston Historical Society

EST. 1964

Address-123 Parks. Rd., Preston, CT 06365 Email- prestoncthistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Website- www.preston-ct.org Facebook- facebook.com/prestonhistoricalsocietyct/

Hallville Mill



Mill workers, judging by the clothing, probably the late 1800's. No names listed. Note the man on the bike on the right, the boys with their dogs. Anyone know any of these people?
(Picture contributed by H. Stauble)



The Hallville Bunch (1922)



Hallville Mill - 1940's



Hallville workers - 1915

Preston Historical Society Membership Application – 2024-2025

Please Circle: \$10 – Senior(55+)/Student \$20 – Single membership \$25 – Family membership

\$125 - Lifetime membership _____ Donation

Please make checks payable to PHS. Remit to Mark Christensen, Treasurer

15 Amos Rd, Preston, CT 06365

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Town: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

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Preserving the Past for Future Generations



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Hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays Fridays 10:00 am- 4:00 pm • Thursdays 10:00 am – 7:00 pm
Saturdays 10:00 am – 2:00 pm • Closed Sundays, Mondays

Website: <https://prestonpubliclibrary.org> Facebook: Preston Public Library-CT Instagram: prestonlibraryct

Upcoming Programs and Events

Saturday November 9th at 12:00 pm **Holiday Harvest: Celebrating the Holiday Table with** **Klassic Kreations**

Celebrate the holiday season with a lovely eye-catching three table display. Topics covered include how to construct a fun, colorful buffet, tablescaping techniques 101, healthful recipe handouts, easy wine and spirit batch recommendations. Get Board Certified with a Cheeseboard primer and easy entertaining ideas. Samplings of chocolate, Harvest Bark, a festive mocktail beverage and more. Fun poetry and trivia quiz too! For ages 18 and up; limit: 25. Register online at <https://prestonpubliclibrary.org>.

Thursday, November 21st at 1:00 pm **HealthTalks with UNCAS Health: Fall Prevention**

Did you know that falls are a leading cause of injury among older adults? And a leading cause of injury-related death for this segment of our population? Professionals from UNCAS Health will present fall prevention strategies and show participants how they can stay safe. For ages 18 and up; limit: 25. Register online at <https://prestonpubliclibrary.org>.

Thursday, December 5th, 5:30 pm **Holiday Centerpiece Workshop** **with Kim Hargrave of** **Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center**

Complete your holiday decor this year with a beautiful centerpiece made with fresh evergreens, florals, and embellishments. Kim Hargrave of Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center will lead this workshop: participants will learn techniques and tips that create a memorable holiday decoration to celebrate the season!

For teens and adults ages 14 and up: limit 10. Please register online at <https://prestonpubliclibrary.org>.

Wednesday December 11th 10:30 am **Jazz Concert: Preston Plains Middle School Jazz Band**

Celebrate the holiday season with Preston Plains Middle School Jazz Band as they perform favorite songs! This concert is free and open to all ages! No registration required.

Children's Corner

Saturday, November 16th 11:00 am-1:00 pm **Stop-In Craft: Thanksgiving Turkeys**

Come into the Library and create a Thanksgiving Turkey to celebrate the season of gratitude! For all ages and abilities: no registration required. While supplies last.

Saturday, November 30th 11:00 am-1:00 pm **Budding Builders Clinic**

Challenge your engineering skills each month in this stop-in activity! Each month different building materials will be available for participants to create interesting designs from their imagination. For all ages. No registration required.

Tuesday, December 10th 11:00 am-11:30 am **Holiday Story Time for Toddlers**

Holiday fun for 2 to 3 year-olds and their caregivers! Stories, finger plays, songs, and crafts!
Register online at <https://prestonpubliclibrary.org>.

Wednesday, December 11th 11:00 am-11:30 am **Holiday Story Time for 3 to 5 Year Olds**

Celebrate the Holidays with favorite picture books: Stories, songs, finger plays, and crafts! For 3 to 5 year-olds. Register online at <https://prestonpubliclibrary.org>.

Saturday, December 14th 11:00 am-1:00 pm **Stop-In Craft: Holiday Ornaments**

Come into the Library and create lovely holiday ornaments. For all ages and abilities; no registration required. While supplies last.

Lego Club: Thursday November 7th **5:30 pm-6:30 pm**

Enjoy some after-school fun at our active Lego Club! Due to popular demand now a 2 hour session! We have lots of Legos, snacks, and Lego books to inspire your creations! For ages 5 to 12 years old. No registration required.

Volunteers Needed

The Library is always looking for volunteers to help out with small projects at the Library! Examples of projects included cutting out crafts, shelf-reading, and other projects depending on skill. Great for school community service hours if you're a teen! For more information call us at (860) 886-1010.



friends of the
**Preston
Public Library**

Fall Book Sale

**Saturday, November 9th &
Sunday, November 10th:
Both Days: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm**

The Friends of the Preston Public Library will host their second book sale of the year!

This sale will be held at the Library: come in for some great deals on gently used books, DVDs, and other materials!

Donations accepted starting October 8th at the Library.

For more information call (860) 886-1010.

Volunteers Needed

Are you interested in volunteering at the Book Sale or at a Friends event? Call the Library at (860) 886-1010 for mor information!

Let's Be Friends!

The Friends of the Preston Public Library are seeking new members! Interested in learning more about the Friends? Consider a membership and joining a great group of folks who help the Library grow through advocacy and fundraising! For more information call us at (860) 886-1010 or visit the Library for information and an application.

We love our Friends!



A Fall 2024 Release

Draw Me without Boundaries

By Margaret Gibson

Powerful love between a grandmother and a granddaughter animates the voices in this poignant series of inner monologues set against the backdrop of global climate crisis and the COVID pandemic. Margaret Gibson's *Draw Me without Boundaries* lays bare the integrity and depth of inquiry it takes to make life and death choices in a broken world. This luminous book—innovative, suspenseful, deeply moving—reflects in conjoined poetry and prose the profound issues of our time.

Order your copy of

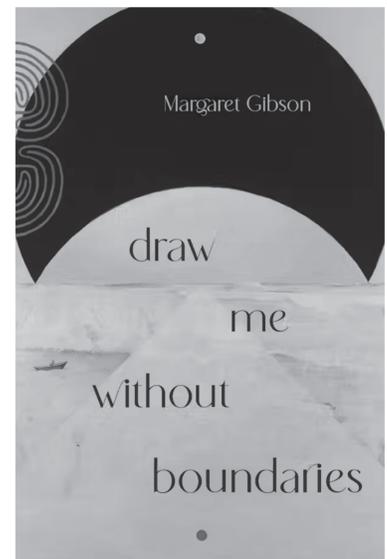
Draw Me without Boundaries

"*Draw Me without Boundaries* is a fluid and eloquent meditation that embodies the wisdom of a life lived with wonder and with ethical attention and consideration. Everything we might hope for in a book from

Margaret Gibson, these brilliantly lyrical monologues and her dramatic throughlines, as intimate as they are archetypal, invite comparison to Virginia Woolf's *The Waves*."—Paula Closson Buck

"In these intimate, truth-telling poems, Gibson has conjured two lives out of the air and made them indelible. I greatly admire the range, depth, and subtle strangeness in the thrilling counterpoint of their voices, which sing as they investigate youth and age, love and loss, and their last days together on a wounded earth."—Chase Twichell

"Expanding her mastery as a lyric and meditative writer, Gibson has given us a remarkable book, full of gratitude for what is here and goes on (in all its infinite manifestations) and regret for what is always being lost."—Robert Cording



July 2024
126 pages, 6 x 9 in.
Paperback \$22.95
Ebook \$9.95
Poetry

MARGARET GIBSON, the poet laureate of Connecticut from 2019 to 2022, is the author of fourteen collections of poems, including *The Vigil*, a finalist for the National Book Award. Her honors include the Lamont Poetry Selection, the Melville Kane Award, and two Connecticut Book Awards. She is the editor of *Waking Up to the Earth: Connecticut Poets in a Time of Global Climate Crisis*.

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