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Cover photo by: Alisha T. Clark

Upcoming Events

Summer Concert Series

DB Kinney "90's rock hits" July 11th

Floydian Trip "Pink Floyd tribute" July 18th

What it Is "party horn band" July 25th

Katie Perkins Band "country rock band" August 1st

> Brian and Brad "acoustic" August 8th

> Shorebreak "Indie Rock" August 15th

Time: 6:30pm - Locations: TBA



Deep River News

Spring 2024

Carol Jones, First Selectwoman John R. Kollmer, Designer & Editor Tina Accetta, Advertising Printed by Essex Printing

To submit articles or ads, contact the Selectman's Office 860-526-6020 option 1 or selectasst2@deepriverct.us

News from the Selectman's Office

These last few months have been exciting, challenging and of course an education. No matter what kind of day I am experiencing, I am so appreciative of this opportunity to serve you in the capacity as your First Selectman. Thank you to all who have stopped in to speak with me, sent an email, made a call or stopped me on the street or at Adams, to say hello. I truly love to hear from everyone, good or bad, so that we can continue to keep Deep River a great place to live and play. Thank you for your patience as I bring myself up to speed on all the job demands.

My weekly "From the Desk of the First Selectman' news has received such wonderful feedback. I appreciate that it is getting read and really do enjoy hearing comments or suggestions. If you have not yet signed up for the town's email blasts, it is easy to do, just head to the towns web page and click on the upper right link "subscribe to news'.

Over the months, I have given a recap of my weeks' activities and meetings every Friday. Since all of those articles are archived on the web site, I will take this time to speak to more general things.

Recently a request for proposal (RFP) went out for three digital signs that the town would like to have installed at 1. the entrance to Devitt; 2. at the corner of Union and Elm and 3. near Plattwood Park. An RFP was also sent out for spring paving for several streets around town. Curbing will be done in house as the town owns a curbing box.

Due to the high volume of rainfall that fell these last couple of months, the public works department has many more targeted areas that they will be addressing this spring and summer. The Selectman's office made a running list as things came up this past winter, but feel free to call Tina (860-526-6020) if you want to confirm your issue is on our list. We will do our best to try to address them all.

The delivery of the new playground equipment at Devitt Field is eminent. Our goal was to have it installed prior to Little League's Opening Day, but due to delivery delays, I am not sure at this writing if we will be able to achieve that; however, fingers crossed. The Public Works crew is currently performing all of the

prep work which includes taking down the old swing set, clearing brush, cutting tree limbs that are hanging over the fence, taking away old rotted edging, and working with the neighbor, replacing fence pieces. I am excited about upgrading this playground since securing the grant and the playground design was something that I worked on when I was the P & R Director.

One of the things we love about Deep River, is that it is walkable. We have miles of sidewalks. With the arrival of spring, we will see more people out and about. Please remember, that our speed limit is 30mph in the downtown area and less on some of our side roads. The biggest complaint I have heard is about speeding. Please slow down. Always stop for pedestrians in crosswalks; we see this as an issue especially in front of the library and bank. It takes effort from each of us to help make our community safe, so please do your part and drive slowly and watch out for walkers and bicycles.

Check out the community calendar for upcoming events from local groups and organizations, businesses, as well as, our Commissions and Boards. If your group has any news items to share, please send them to me and I will try to include them on my weekly email blast. P & R did ask that I remind everyone that they will be holding their Music and Arts Festival, "Route 154 Fest", the weekend of June 22nd. Mark your calendars.

Remember to shop locally. Support our area restaurants, shops and businesses. They have chosen to call Deep River home, so please make them your first stop when you are out and about or planning a project or event that can utilize their services.

My love of history has always led me to be curious when I see a place that has been named after someone. The questions arise, who were they? and why this place? With that explanation, I am introducing a new segment: "Did you know?"

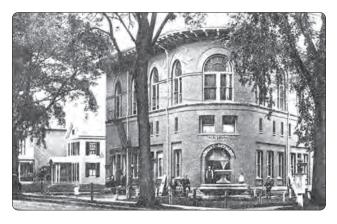
Did you Know?

Did you know that Devitt Field is named after Dr. Frederick William Devitt? He was born on October 13, 1872 in Onondaga Hill, located in Onondaga County, New York. His father was Reverand Frederick Devitt and his mother Eleanor Nesbitt Cassidy. He married

News from the Selectman's Office, cont.

Hattie G. Joy in Deep River in October 1899. Dr. Devitt died in September 1931 and his wife in March 1937. They are both buried at Fountain Hill Cemetery.

In a photo from 1893, when the 'new' town hall was built, we can see Dr. Devitt's house which served as both his residence and medical office, as the first house beyond the Town Hall. Today, Veteran's Way and Walgreen's parking lot fill this space. In the second photo, (post 1906) we can see a closer look at Dr. Devitt's house.

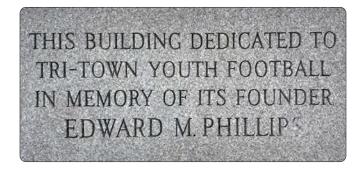


Dr. Devitt had purchased a house for his daughter, Hattie. Later, Dr. Devitt bequeathed to the town, land including a house at Main and Southworth Streets. The town had the house taken down and created the town-owned ballfield now known as Devitt Field in memory of the good doctor. The house occupied the area where the fenced in Little League field (Devitt "A") is today.

What else do we see at Devitt Field? Have you ever noticed the big granite baseball monument at the park entrance? That was erected as a tribute to the late John George Desmond (1907-1942), who served as secretary and treasurer of the now defunct Middlesex County Baseball League. This was an independent league that began in 1905 and had at its inception 4 teams, Chester, Deep River, Essex and Old Saybrook. The league was in existence until 1952 when the league had 8 teams; Deep River, East Hampton, Essex, Higganum, Middletown, Moodus, Portland and Old Saybrook.

The presence of goal posts near the "B" field easily reveals the football history at Devitt. The Tri-Town youth football league called the field home for many years.

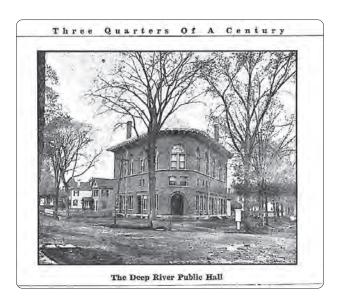
On the pavilion near the snack shack window towards the "B" field, have you ever noticed the dedication to Edward Phillips? Mr. Phillips was instrumental in establishing the youth football league in the Tri-Town area. He and his wife Carol resided in the house they purchased in 1963 until their passing. It was there that they raised 5 children, all of whom loved sports.



Now you know....

To learn more about the history of Deep River, please visit the Deep River Historical Society or check out one of the many books on our history from the Deep River Public Library.

Carol Jones, First Selectwoman





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Town Clerk's Office

News from the Town Clerk

Subscribe to News! Would you like to have Town announcements as well as board agendas and minutes emailed to you? Simply go to our Town Website www. deepriverct.us and click on "Subscribe to News" in the top right corner. Fill out the form and submit, then be sure to reply to the link sent to you. It's as simple as that!

Dog Licensing Begins June 1st!

Why license your dog?

- 1. Even if it's unlikely, dogs do get out and can get hurt or even stolen. Licensing your dog helps us to reunite you quickly.
- 2. This nominal fee helps support the hundreds of stray, neglected and abandoned pets in our state.
- 3. It's the law! If you have a dog, you are required by law to have him or her licensed in your town of residence. We will send license renewal postcards to registered dog owners to begin renewal on June 1st. (Sorry but we can't issue licenses before that date). These renewals can be done in person or by mail but all dog licenses MUST be renewed by June 30, 2024 to avoid paying a late fee. PLEASE NOTE: Your dog's rabies vaccine must be in effect on or after July 1, 2024 in order to be licensed. Please call your vet now to be sure your dog is protected.

Spring means Fishing- the DEEP Hunting and Trapping Guide and Fishing Guide are available both online at https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-CT-Outdoor-Guides and at the Town Clerk's office. Hunting and Fishing licenses are also available online at https://ct.aspirafocus.com/internetsales and at the Town Clerk's office.

Deep River's Food Scrap Program continues at the Transfer Station! To participate, you must purchase bpi compostable bags available at Amazon or Home Depot.

Town Stickers for 2023-2024 are available at the Town Clerk's office or, new this spring, by mail. Please send a copy of your current motor vehicle registration showing Deep River as the tax town and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Deep River Town Hall, Town Clerk, 174 Main Street, Deep River, CT 06417

PLEASE NOTE: Motor vehicle registration is required when requesting a Town sticker.

- Transfer Station stickers are for <u>residents only</u> and allow use of the Transfer Station <u>only</u>.
- Parks stickers are for residents and property owners and are required for use of Plattwood Park and the Town Landing.

New Trade Name Filings

Upsie Daisy	Michele B. Tackett	11/01/2023
Metro Fuel Injection	Grant Garrett	11/06/2023
The Art Buyer	Shannon Duggan	11/08/2023
MP2 Energy NE LLC	Shell Energy Solutions Retail Svcs.	12/20/2023
Casula Lawn & Property Care	Sean Casula	02/05/2024

Town Clerk's Office, cont.

Marriages

10/15/2023
10/21/2023
10/21/2023
10/21/2023
10/22/2023
10/27/2023
10/29/2023
11/18/2023
11/18/2023
12/14/2023
12/16/2023
12/30/2023
01/06/2024

Local Boards and Commissions Vacancies

Community Health Committee	term to expire 12-01-2024
Conservation Inland Wetlands Commission:	
Alternate	term to expire 12-01-2026
Design Advisory Board (3)	term to expire 12-01-2025
Design Advisory Board (1)	term to expire 12-01-2024
*Library Board of Trustees	term to expire 11-18-2025
Municipal Ethics Commission Alternate	term to expire 12-01-2027
Parks & Recreation Commission (2)	term to expire 12-01-2026
Parks & Recreation Commission (1)	term to expire 12-01-2025
Planning & Zoning Commission Regular	term to expire 12-01-2025
Planning & Zoning Commission Alternate (1)	term to expire 12-01-2025
Planning & Zoning Commission Alternate (1)	term to expire 12-01-2026
Veterans Green Monument Committee	term to expire 12-01-2025
Zoning Board of Appeals- Alternate	term to expire 12-01-2026

^{*}Denotes an elected position. Appointments to these positions will end at the next Municipal Election on November 4, 2025.

Regional Agencies

CATV Advisory Council District V Long Island Sound Council

Updated 03/05/2024

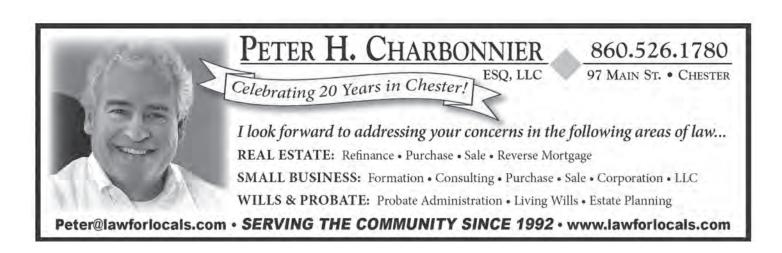
Town Clerk's Office, cont.

Welcome New Residents & Property Owners

Albert W. Redway, III	469 Winthrop Road	10/30/2023
Megan Barnes & Gregory Pomerleau	111 Rattling Valley Road	11/13/2023
Donna E. Braha	92 Main Street, Unit #401	11/15/2023
Cade Ziegler	77 Scenic View Drive, Unit #2 11/16/2023	
Dylan R. & Samantha M. Swistak	60 Elm Street	11/20/2023
Patrick Pryor	92 Main Street, Unit #204	12/14/2023
Kenneth Carangelo	11 Prospect Hill	2/18/2023
Natalie Coe	7 Merriwold Lane	12/19/2023
Elizabeth B. Weinstein	46 Meadow Woods Road	12/21/2023
Donald R. & Janet Sampson	55 Prospect Street	12/29/2023
Thomas J. Rodgers & Deanna R. Knudsen	69 Glen Grove Road	01/03/2024
David & Wendy North	30 River Lane	01/19/2024
Matthew Steven & Mary Colleen Belz	Westbrook Road	01/25/2024
Allison B. Sloane	110 West Main Street	01/31/2024
April & Maria Lucarelli	391 Main Street, Unit #401	01/31/2024

Passings

Patricia C. Anderson	10/24/2023	Frances Phinney	12/28/2023
Joyce A. Malcarne	10/26/2023	Evelyn A. Vecchitto	12/30/2023
Cleon L. Springer	10/27/2023	Kenneth Bates	01/08/2024
Robert Rayner	11/02/2023	Dennis S. Costello	01/13/2024
Mary S. Larsen	12/13/2023	Robin E. Marcino	01/16/2024
Phillip W. Louthain	12/21/2023	Lynn J. Evans	02/03/2024
Delia Lynch	12/23/2023	Nancy G. Lee	02/18/2024
Shelby S. Evans	12/24/2023	Matthew C. Sheriden	02/18/2024
John V. Mislick	12/26/2023		



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- Differences in repair estimates are common.
 A lower estimate may not include all necessary work. If you're not sure why one estimate is different from another you've received, please ask us.
- You are not required by law to obtain more than one estimate or appraisal.

YOUR CAR, YOUR CHOICE

Deep River - SustainableCT

2023 was the year of Food Scraps in Deep River! 122,600 POUNDS was collected!

Deep River was awarded a grant from DEEP (Department of Energy and Environmental Protection) to pilot food scrap collection at the transfer station. Once the program started in February of last year, our town was quickly held up as a success story. Every month we kept thousands of pounds of food scraps out of the trash and reduced the waste hauled off to landfills in other states. Keep up the good work! It saves the town money and reduces carbon emissions in the landfills. (See the accompanying page showing the measurable impact on the environment of food scrap composting.)

While the grant has expired, food scrap collection will continue at the transfer station. PLEASE NOTE:

- You do not have to use a bag to drop off your food scraps! You can dump the scraps directly from your home collection container into the large collection container.
- If you are using bags, they should be **Bpi compostable bags**. They can be found locally but if you are having trouble, you can also find them at Home Depot and on Amazon (Amazon.com: bpi compostable bags).
- If you still have some of the 'free' green bags that you were given as part of the Pilot program, feel free to use those.
- Please do not use black bags of any size! Only compostable.



Food Scraps at School

The Tri-town Sustainable teams collaborated to raise funds and qualify for a matching grant from Sustainable CT to implement food scrap collection at all the Re-

gion 4 schools. Chester, Deep River and Essex Elementary schools were the first to get on board. In January of this year, Valley Regional High School and John Winthrop Middle School students began to separate their food scraps for composting. In the first month at Valley 1,075 pounds of food waste were kept out of the trash. Well done students!

Thin Plastic Recycling

We began recycling thin plastics in February 2023. You may have noticed the NexTrex bins at the transfer station, Adams, the Library and Town Hall. A team of dedicated volunteers has been collecting from those

bins twice a week and delivering the loads to Big Y and Stop and Shop.

Truckloads of thin film plastic are collected every week!

In a year we have delivered 2,548.4 pounds of thin plastic. That is over a ton of plastic material diverted from the landfill. For participating in and meeting the NexTrex Community Challenge (twice!) we have earned two benches made from recycled plastic We are working on where to install them around town for all to enjoy. THANK YOU sustainable volunteers and participating neighbors!

Confused what qualifies as thin film plastic?

It is so much more than the bag and it can be confusing! Many, many products come wrapped, protected and delivered in thin plastics. Plastic films labeled with #2 or #4 recycling symbol (polyethylene films), Bread Bags, Ziploc and other resealable food storage bags, dry cleaning bags, newspaper sleeves, product wrap (around items like paper towels, toilet paper and water bottles), air pillows & bubble wrap, retail bags, plastic shipping envelopes, ice bags, produce bags and more!

Please Note:

Below are some of the items that confuse people most or get inappropriately included in the bins:

Rules of Thumb:

- If it stretches when you pull on it, you can recycle it.
- If it tears like paper, throw it out.
- If it is shiny or makes a crunchy/crinkly sound in your hand, throw it out.

For a complete list and FAQs go to the Sustainable Deep River webpage (https:// www.deepriverct.us/deep-river-sustainable-ct-committee) and click on "Thin Plastics Recycling community challenge."

Deep River - SustainableCT, cont.

Coming Soon:

Textile recycling at the transfer station

For more information about any of the above topics and the latest updates on our work: Find us online: www. deepriverct.us/deep-river-sustainable-ct-committee Email us: sustainabledeepriver@gmail.com Follow us on Facebook and Instagram

If you are enthusiastic about the work we do to better our community, consider joining us. We meet the second Thursday of the month at 7:00pm, Town Hall.



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Black garbage bag







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Deep River Fire Department



The Deep River Fire Department had a busier year in 2023, responding to 196 emergency calls. This call volume is up about 12% as compared to our ten-year average and notes a steady rise in volume over the past five years. Our members

have put in a total of over 1,400 work hours responding to these calls for help. In addition, throughout 2023 our members put in 1,200+ training hours to maintain and build competency in fire and rescue operations. In addition to those training hours, the DRFD had 4 senior members and 4 junior members complete Emergency Medical Response (EMR) training and 5 members complete their EMR refresher training. We also had one of our junior members who recently transitioned to senior membership complete Firefighter 1 training and two members are currently in Firefighter 1 training. All this extra training is in addition to our weekly drills. We are proud and fortunate to have such devoted members in our volunteer fire department.

As you might recall, the town funded an Emergency Services Study, also known as a "needs assessment" to be completed by a third party. The study was finalized last year and posted to the town website here: https://www.deepriverct.us/sites/g/files/vyhlif2996/f/uploads/needs_assessment_-_final_-_2023.pdf.

Following the recommendations of the Emergency Service Study regarding the existing firehouse, the town engaged with an architect and engineer to move forward with updating drawings and site plans for a new firehouse. A set of adjusted drawings has been delivered to the selectmen and fire commissioners for review. The current fire headquarters was built in 1961 according to the equipment, apparatus, and the needs of the department at that time. As noted in the study, the current building structure and infrastructure has significantly deteriorated and equipment specifications and needs of the department are well beyond the capability of the building.

Consistent with the needs assessment, the department ordered a new tanker truck last year. To help offset the cost of replacement to the town, Deep River Fire Department Incorporated has turned over \$125,000 to

the Town of Deep River. The current tanker is 35 years old and poses numerous issues including reliability and maintenance costs. In addition, the current tanker does not meet current safety standards for fire apparatus. The Department earned the funds to support this purchase through fund raisers and the generosity of donations received from our Deep River citizens. The chassis has been delivered to Spencer Manufacturing to begin the long process of construction.

The Deep River Fire Department officers and members wish to thank you for your continued support and hope to see you at our upcoming events!

Please add the following dates to your calendars.

- April 21st Community Breakfast
- May 4th Spaghetti Dinner hosted by DRFD and DRES PTO
- September 8th Automotive Extravaganza Car Show at Devitt's Field. Rain date Sept. 22nd.



Deep River Junior Ancient Fife and Drum Corps



The Deep River Junior Ancients Board of Directors would like to thank and congratulate our talented musicians and our fantastic color guard for their hard work and dedication during the 2023 marching season. They had many great and new performance opportunities in the last marching season. The Board of directors would also like to thank our instructors; Scott Greenstreet, Terry Malcarne and Aaron Beard for all their hard work and dedication that they put into our members, beginners and advanced, each year to keep the corps sounding and looking good.

In the blink of an eye the 2024 marching season is upon us, our first performance of the season will be in the Mystic St. Patrick's Day Parade. This event is a favorite of the Corps, not only because of the spirit and joyous feeling from the bystanders but also because of the beauty of the scenery. Following the first parade of the season, The Deep River Junior Ancients have the opportunity to participate in the Deep River Elementary School's Day of the Arts working with the third graders. They will have a small group of 6-8 members attending this event, who will be doing a small performance, giving a background on Fife and Drum history and teaching the students some different marching maneuvers. The students will also have the opportunity to try out the instruments and have a hands on experience with what being a member of the corps is like.

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Deep River Historical Society



The Festival of Trees broke records this year. We had 18 trees and the largest attendance in the 10-year existence of the event. Thank you to everyone who came out and supported the event.

Congratulations to all of our winners which were pub-

lished on our Facebook page and to the Deep River Elementary School PTO for winning Best of Show. The addition of musical groups each night was very special. Our Junior Docents were instrumental in helping organize a toy exhibit to inspire our youth. It was an exceptional way to kick off the holiday season.



There has been a lot of activity on our grounds this winter as we upgraded our electrical system. This was done to support the new upgrades to our security system funded with ARPA support. Most of these changes will be unseen by our visitors. What you will notice is the motion-controlled lighting on the exterior of the stone house and the carriage house when you enter the driveway. Work is finally underway on our handicap ramp donated by one of our members and the work supported by another donor. We hope to have this operational for the opening of our new exhibit in June.

Anne O'Brien from the CT Historical Society presented a fascinating talk called Tories, Spies and Traitors: Divided Loyalty in Revolutionary Connecticut on March 7th in the Carriage House. This is the first of several talks the Society has planned for 2024. On March 26th DRHS will be hosting the Deep River Elementary School sixth grade class for their annual field trip. This year we are so proud to say that our junior docents, John Voitans and Brayden Palumbo will be presenters to their peers on this trip. We will showcase information on the Charter Oak, the Underground Railroad and Our Deep River and the factories that drew their power from the river.

As part of our continuing renovations and financial planning, the Trustees of the Historical Society are considering potential renovations and repurposing of the Carriage House. Consequently, DRHS will not accept any more rentals for the Carriage House and/or grounds for

the foreseeable future. We will honor all reservations in 2024 that were made before January 18, 2024. We wish to thank Liza Thayer for her dedicated, reliable, accurate, and client-oriented work in scheduling the rentals over the past year and in assisting the renters.

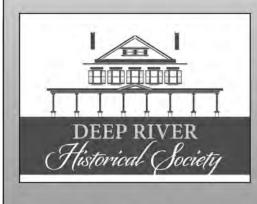
Our decision to temporarily close the Carriage House was not an easy one and is a part of our attempt to create a sustainable income to reliably cover operational costs in future years. Did you know that DRHS is not run or funded by the town or any government agency? Or that if DRHS did nothing at all, no programs or activities, it would still cost us over thirty thousand a year just for the utilities, etc. that keep the collections safely housed? Please support us by becoming a member (for whom our events are free) or making a donation as a non-member when you attend one of our events. Even better, please make a generous donation to help us keep our organization and the town treasures operational: https://deepriverhistoricalsociety.org/support/

Surprise Grant!

The Community Foundation of Middlesex County in conjunction with area businesses sponsor pop up grants under their program Good People Doing Good Things. Robin Deming, an employee of Whelen Engineering nominated DRHS for a pop-up grant and we were chosen. The announcement came Feb 9th. From Vice President Thayer Talbot of CMFC. Thank you to both the Community foundation of Middlesex County and Whelen Engineering for this grant of \$250.00.

Watch For Details of Our Summer Opening!

We are planning an exciting new exhibit that will open in early June. In 1906, President Teddy Roosevelt launched the Great White Fleet on an 18-month tour of the world. Imagine our surprise when we came across a trunk full of swords, in the Stone House attic, that had been collected on that tour. How did they get here? Why are they here? From our records we can determine they arrived in Deep River in June 1962. AND HAVE NOT SEEN THE LIGHT OF DAY FOR SIXTY YEARS! Hope you will stop by to see this amazing collection. Follow us on Facebook and our website for details about opening day.



Make Some History!

Join the Deep River Historical Society and help celebrate our town's extraordinary stories, treasures, people, and ongoing legacy.

Become a member, or gift a membership.

Learn more at www.deepriverhistoricalsociety.org

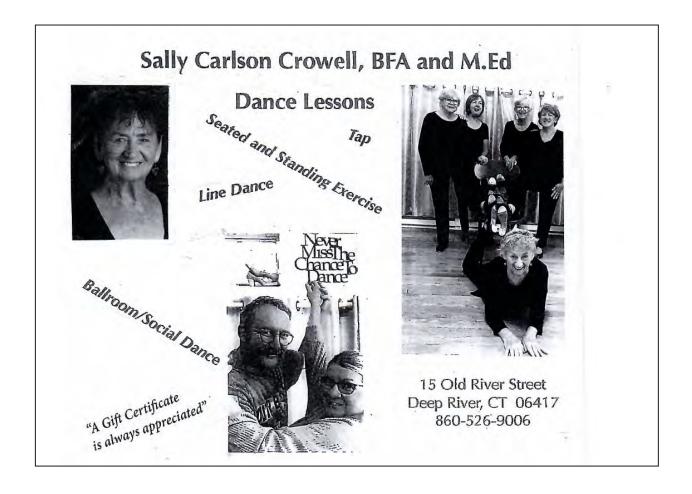
Coming June 2nd - September 21st

The Lost Swords of the Great White Fleet

Collected during the world tour of Teddy Roosevelt's steam-powered navy (1907-1909), nearly fifty swords ended up in our attic 100 years later. They are now on public display for the first time ever!

...and don't miss the Annual
DRHS Strawberry Social
Sunday, June 9th, 1:00pm-3:30
Join your neighbors and dig in

to support our mission!



Deep River Elementary School

Greetings from Deep River Elementary School! We have hit the home stretch of the school year moving into the final trimester with a number of exciting events coming up.

In March, students presented their science fair projects to the school community. This year also saw the return of the invention convention with students in the upper grades competing to represent the school at the state level. For both, this gives students the opportunity to work through the scientific process and experiment with a topic of their choice. At the time of this article we have not yet selected the winners but please be on the lookout for more information on the winners! Later in the month, on March 25th, the school also welcomed in parents and community members to present during our annual Day of the Arts. Students participated in workshops throughout the day focused on a variety of artistic domains and viewed a school wide demonstration in the afternoon. March was highlighted by the DRES staff's Tip-A-Teacher event. This event featured the teachers and staff of DRES serving as wait staff at Marker 37. It was a great opportunity for all to support two worthy causes while enjoying a delicious meal and some friendly service from the DRES teachers and staff. In early April a number of students participated in our second annual DRES talent show showcasing their variety of special talents for the school community.

Throughout the spring students will continue expanding their learning beyond the classroom with each grade level taking part in a field trip sponsored by the Connecticut Audubon Society with funding from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County. This programming entitled "Science in Nature" allows students to participate in a hands-on experience at locations throughout the shoreline region. The sixth graders will also be headed out on the sound via Project Oceanology to explore the sea.

Our wonderful PTO will have a number of events planned for the springtime as well. Much of what we are able to do as a school beyond our educational programming is supported by the PTO and their fundraising efforts!

In the recent rankings by the U.S. News and World Report Deep River Elementary school was ranked #77 out of 825 elementary schools in the state of Connecticut. This puts us in the top 10% of schools in the state. This is an indication of the importance of education in the Deep River community.

We deeply appreciate the community as they support our work as a school to provide an enriching elementary school education to the children of Deep River that prepares them for the world ahead.







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Assessor's Office

The Assessor's Office administers many programs that are available to our residents. If you feel you qualify for any of the following programs, please contact our Office at (860) 526-6029 or visit the Town website at www.deepriverct.us for additional information.

- 1. Veterans: If you are a veteran of any war period so declared in the Connecticut General Statutes, you may be entitled to an exemption. You must provide an original or certified copy of your Honorable Discharge or similar document to the Deep River Town Clerk. The dates of eligibility change often, so contact the Assessor's office to make sure you qualify. Filing Deadline: September 30, 2024 for the 2024 Grand List.
- 2. Veterans with less than honorable discharge: Section 12-91(19) as amended by P.A. 18-47. Veterans with other than honorable discharge having a qualifying condition, which means a diagnosis of post traumatic distress disorder or traumatic brain injury, or a military sexual trauma experience may be entitled to an exemption. The veteran cannot have been discharged under dishonorable or for bad conduct conditions. Proof must be submitted from the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs.
- 3. Additional Veterans' Exemption: If you receive a veteran's exemption you or your spouse may be eligible for an additional reduction in taxes for the next assessment year. This program has income requirements. As determined by the Office of Policy and Management, the income limit, including Social Security is \$43,800 for single persons and \$53,400 for married couples. Filing Period: February through October 1, 2024.
- 4. Active-Duty Military and Active-Duty National Guard: If you have 90 days or more cumulative service during a designated war period you may be entitled to an exemption. You must provide a letter stating active-duty status, filed annually by September 30th with the Town Clerk. If you have a vehicle, you may also be entitled to an exemption of that vehicle. Contact our office for more information regarding a vehicle exemption.
- 5. Leased Vehicle Exemptions: Active-Duty Military/ National Guard and Veterans may be entitled to a refund of taxes for a leased vehicle. Either the Active-Duty Military Vehicle form or the Veterans Leased Vehicle form is required to be filed with the assessor. Filing Deadline: Not later than the thirty-first day of December following the assessment year during which such tax was paid.
- 6. Disabled Veterans: Veterans claiming disability exemptions must submit proof from the Veterans' Administration to the Assessor during the assessment period

- stating the percentage of disability in order to receive the proper amount of exemption. A subsequent filing is required only when there is a change in the percentage of disability. Filing Deadline: You may file until the Board of Assessment Appeals completes its duties.
- 7. Non-Resident Active-Duty Military: A non-resident active-duty military service person stationed in Connecticut on military orders may be eligible to an exemption of all personal property listed in the "Service Members Civil Relief Act" including motor vehicles owned by the service member and/or spouse.
- 8. 100% Totally Disabled: Under certain circumstances, residents who are receiving permanent disability benefits under the Federal Old Age Survivors and Disability Insurance Program or certain other qualifying programs may be entitled to receive a \$1,000 property exemption off your assessment upon submission of qualifying proof and the application to the Assessor. Filing Deadline: Filed until the completion of the Assessor's Duties; Signing of the Grand List.
- 9. Blind: If you or your spouse is legally blind you may be entitled to a \$3,000 exemption off your assessment. A Certificate of Blindness from a licensed physician or a Certificate of Blindness from State of Connecticut Board of Education and Services for the Blind is required. Filing Deadline: File until the signing of the Grand List.
- 10. Elderly or Disabled Exemption Program: If you are a resident and the owner of the property and you or your spouse is 65 or older by December 31, 2023 or considered to be permanently disabled, you may be eligible for a reduction in taxes. The income requirements as determined by the Office of Policy and Management cannot exceed \$43,800 for single persons and \$53,400 for married couples including Social Security. Contact the Assessor's office if you believe you may qualify. Filing Period: February through May 15, 2024.
- 11. Local Option Elderly of Disabled Exemption Program: The Town provides an additional credit for qualifying applicants. The maximum allowable income for this program is \$55,000. Homeowners must also be current on their property taxes as of the date of application and be a resident of Deep River for 5 years or more preceding the year of credit in order to be eligible. Filing Period: February through May 15, 2024.
- 12. Solar Exemptions: Connecticut General Statutes 12-81(56), (57), (62), and (63) allow for an exemption on certain renewable energy systems. An initial application is required to be filed with the Assessor's Office by November 1st of the assessment year to which the owner first claims the exemption. Failure to file such an ap-

Assessor's Office. cont.

plication in the manner and form as provided by such Assessor within the time limit prescribed shall constitute a waiver of the right to such exemption for such assessment year.

13. Tax - Exempt Organization: Connecticut General Statutes §12-81(7), (10), (11), and (16) require the filing of a Tax-Exempt Return seeking property tax exempt status. Please contact the Assessor's Office for additional information.

Additional Information:

Did you Register a Vehicle AFTER October 1, 2023? If so, you will receive a Supplemental Bill payable in January 2025 for the new or replacement vehicle that was registered after October 1, 2023.

Did you get RID of a car AFTER October 1, 2023 AND have not transferred the plates? If you no longer have your vehicle and have canceled the plates, please contact our Office or visit the Town website for a listing of documentation needed to remove or adjust your current vehicle assessment.

If the Assessor's Office does not receive proper documentation, it will result in a 12-month bill due July 2024.

Address Changes for Real Estate and Personal Property—It is important that you report your address change to EI—THER the Assessor's or Tax Collector's Office. Motor Vehicle mailing addresses are generated from your registration with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and can only be updated through the DMV.

Information on all properties is available on the Deep River website www.deepriverct.us and continues to be available in the Assessor's Office. For any questions concerning various assessment exemptions and benefits available to qualified taxpayers, please feel free to contact the Assessor's Office at 860-526-6029.

Robin L. O'Loughlin, CCMA- Town Assessor Milly Salafia, Assistant Assessor

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CLOSED TUESDAYS

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
8:00-3:00
Saturday, Sunday
10:00-4:00

Deep River Parks and Recreation

As we head into the spring and summer, Deep River Parks and Recreation is busy planning for the upcoming seasons. Here are some of the programs that will be starting soon:

Adult Programs:

Co-ed Over 21 Volleyball

Location: Valley Regional High School Day: Wednesday Nights until Jun 5th

Time: 6:45pm-9:15pm

Cost: Free and no registration necessary

Over 40 Pickleball League

Monday Night Pickleball

Start: April 15th -June 3rd (no program May 27th)

Time: 6:00-8:00pm

Location: Deep River Elementary School

Cost: \$25

Tuesday Night Pickleball

Start: April 16th -June 4th

Time: 6:30-8:30pm

Location: Deep River Elementary School

Cost: \$30

Women's Spring Hiking Club

Date: April 25th-May 16th Time: 5:00pm-6:30pm

Location: TBA Cost: \$45

Youth Programs:

Fishing Derby

Date: May 11th

Time: 7:00am-9:30am Location: Plattwood Park

Ages: 5-15

Cost: \$5.00 per angler or \$10.00 per family

Buddy Track

Date: April 24th, May 1st & May 8th

Time: 5:00pm-6:30pm

Location: Valley Regional High School

Ages: Unique leaners 5 and up

Youth Summer Camp

Date: June 24th-August 9th (No camp July 4th & 5th) Time: 8:30am- 3:30pm (Pre-camp 8:00am-8:30am

for additional fee)

Location: DRES, Plattwood Park & Field Trip Ages: entering 1st grade to entering 7th grade

Cost: \$160 (week 2- \$96)

Programs for All:

New York City Bus Trip

Choose between "The Wiz", "A Beautiful Noise" or

just a bus ride into NYC Day: April 28, 2024 Time: 9:00am- 9:00pm

Cost: \$195 Show & Bus

\$70 Bus Only

Age: Children under 4 are not permitted in the the-

aters

2024 Summer Concert Series

July 11 – DB Kinney - 90's rock hits

July 18 – Floydian Trip – Pink Floyd tribute

July 25 - What it Is - party horn band

Aug 1 – Katie Perkins Band – country rock band

Aug 8 – Brian and Brad – acoustic Aug 15 – Shorebreak – Indie Rock

Time: 6:30pm Locations: TBA

For more information on these programs, please visit https://www.deepriverct.us/parks-and-recreationnews

Even though it was cold and gray, we had a fun time this winter.

The annual Holiday Stroll and the Holiday Light Parade was held on Saturday, December 2nd. It was amazing to watch as all different types of vehicles from passenger cars to military transport to cranes were lit up as they cruised down Main Street. But the fun did not stop there; merchant specials, music performed by the Connecticut Yuletide Carolers, the tree lighting ceremony, photo opportunities, a visit from Santa and

Deep River Parks and Recreation, cont.

Mrs. Claus (who arrived by fire truck), a fire juggler, fun contests and games, local vendors, a food truck, hot chocolate and our annual scavenger hunt for the "Moose on the Loose", rounded out the day's events. Thank you to the DRES PTO for running games in the auditorium!

Youth Basketball just wrapped up. This program gave children from kindergarten to twelfth grade an opportunity to hone their skills, play and have fun. We want to thank all our volunteers and parents for making this such a fun experience for our youth.

The over 40 pickleball league is growing. We added another night of play and it filled up instantly. We had such a demand that we are continuing to offer two nights of pickleball at the Deep River Elementary School this spring.

The Winter Hike through Canfield Woods was very well attended. Led by naturalist and teacher, Ann Courcy, it was a great day to get out in the fresh air!

We are currently preparing for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Devitt's Field. It will have already taken place by the time of this publication. The Parks & Recreation Commission stuffs and spreads over 1000 eggs for children ages pre-school to 6th grade.

In other P & R news:

The parks are now all 'smoke free'. There is a ban on the use of all tobacco products, vaping products like e-cigarettes, and cannabis products from town parks.

Good News!

The grant that was awarded to the town to upgrade our playground equipment at both the parks and the elementary school is being spent! The DRES playground equipment has been installed and the kids are having a great time playing on it. The playground equipment for Devitt Field has been ordered; with anticipation that all work there can be completed and ready by mid-April.

Please remember that dogs are not allowed in the parks from March 8th through November 1st. Dogs are not allowed on the beach or on the ballfields.

No household trash should be disposed of at the parks.

Friendly reminder- Park use forms are required to be filled out by **residents and non-residents** if you would like to reserve exclusive use of a park area. Plan ahead as your application may have to be presented to the full Commission for a vote. A refundable security deposit is required of all users. Insurance might also be required.

We continue to experience vandalism at the parks, so please help us by being the eyes and ears when you are out enjoying these lovely town assets. Often times, the vandalism is done by non-residents. If you see something, please report it immediately so that we can take action to resolve it in a timely manner. Thank you.

Are you looking for a way to get involved and give back? Please consider joining Parks and Recreation. We need your help in order to continue to offer these great programs and events. Please consider volunteering to help on a particular event or to help with multiple events. Your time commitment can be whatever works best for you. Call the office or send a text to 860-526-6036 and we can come up with a plan that works for you.



The camp welcomes children entering 1st grade through 6th grade

Dates: Monday, 6/24 - 8/9

Cost: \$160.00 wk.

Camp runs M-F 8:30-3:30. Early care from 8:00-8:30 can be arranged.

Indoor and outdoor games, art and crafts, swimming and field trips

The schedule of camp field trips is as follows:

Week 1: 6/24-6/28 - CT River Museum

Week 2: 7/1-7/3 - No field trip

Week3: 7/8-7/12- Connecticut Sun Basketball

Week 4: 7/15-7/19 - Old Saybrook Mini Golf

Week 5: 7/22-7/26 - Pandemonium Rainforest Project

Week 6: 7/29-8/2 - Hammonassett State Park

Week 7: 8/5-8/9 -Foam Party at Plattwood Party

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Winthrop Cemetery Association

Spring is the busy season here at Winthrop Cemetery. The board of directors met on Tuesday, March 12 to plan upcoming events and upgrades to the cemetery. They are as follows:

Our annual membership meeting will be held on Thursday, April 25, at 6 pm at the Winthrop Baptist Church

The 50th Annual volunteer work day will be on Saturday, May 11, 2024, from 9am to 12pm. Rain Date May 18. Coffee and refreshments will be available. All volunteers are asked to bring garden tools, rakes, shovels, hand clippers and especially backpack leaf blowers. All volunteers are greatly appreciated! It is a fabulous chance to join others in making the "west side," of Deep River look great, just as they did, on the first clean-up day in 1974.

Valley Warriors in the Community will return in May to help finish the clean up process.

Memorial Day Parade to the cemetery will take place on Sunday, May 26. Thought to be one of the oldest parades, in the State of Connecticut, we'd love to see more residents turn out, to salute our veterans. If you are a veteran and would like to participate, please call our board chairman Richard Nagot 860 526-5270.

We are looking forward to a few changes at the historic cemetery starting with the cemetery entrance, under the direction of our Vice President, George Atwood. Aging shrubs will be replaced with grass and flowering plants. The town will be upgrading the soggy west driveway, for better access for funerals and guests.

Notice the addition of flowering plum trees that were given to the Winthrop Cemetery by Doris Heft Kurze on the occasion of her 100th birthday. They will honor her two departed sons, John R. Kurze Jr. and Philip W. Kurze. Both men we original volunteers 50 years ago. Doris did not live to see them bloom but we hope you will enjoy them.

The Winthrop Cemetery Board would like to acknowledge the excellent service to the cemetery, despite our rocks, of Russell (Russ) Rankin, who recently retired as "the digger of graves." We appreciate you Russ and thank you for your attention to detail.

For those who are curious, the Winthrop Cemetery was originally called the "West Yard," and was laid out by the proprietors of Sayville now Winthrop, under the rule of the King of England. It is a non-denominational burial ground, owned by The Town of Deep River, offering cemetery lots by calling the agent, Kathy Schultz at 860 526-2161.

Respectfully submitted:

Kathleen K. Schultz, President



American Legion Post 61 Ibell-Jacobson-Smith

Recent world news reports leave us all feeling a little unsteady. However, for so many Americans, we live a good and prosperous life compared to the rest of the world. Thank heavens that our founding fathers had the foresight to see flourishing possibilities for us as individuals as well as for our nation. Currently, there are almost 200 individuals living in Deep River who served to defend this country when we might be threatened. There were many people before us who also answered the call. Some individuals sacrificed their future full health, or happiness, and some others did not return at all. This year, 2024, Memorial Day will fall on Monday, 27 May. Our Deep River Parade and Memorial Day ceremony will start at 0900 from Devitts Field. It is hoped that any active duty US Military person or veteran will march with us, or meet us on the Veterans Green (across from Adams Supermarket). No uniform is necessary, no affiliation or membership, is necessary, and you do not have to RSVP. Post 61 members will be delighted to see others marching with us. If you can not march, please meet us on the GREEN. Commander Bill Burdick will be sending out a letter to all veterans to join us. We apologize in advance if we did not have your address and you were mistakenly overlooked. Please telephone him at 860-322-7600 or call Vice Commander Richard Nagot at 860-304-5569 with questions. (If there is a weather issue, please check the Deep River Town Facebook site as well as our own about any change or cancellation.)

Despite the John Winthrop Middle School situation, somehow miracle worker Ms. Rebecca Ingersoll of the JWMS Staff is planning a special pre- Memorial Day event for us. Please call us to confirm since the date has to be flexible at the time of this writing. There will be an e-mail to Post 61 members.

Unfortunately, other outside inconveniences have interfered with a few projects we were hoping to have completed. Sadly, we had no VRHS student-contestants again for the High School Oratorical Contest. Our VRHS students were often "THE WINNERS" in the past. However, the contest did take place at the Connecticut State Police Academy in Meriden on 2 March. A local Post 61 member served as a judge which was nice for him because he met other people who served in similar ways to himself.

Fortunately, there are other miracle workers among us. Special thanks go to Patti Unan, Jonathan Layton, Pat Czepiel, R. Nagot, and Mike Joia for help and success with various projects great and small. Many adults and students living in Deep River serve in volunteer capacities. Every DR Fire Department member deserves recognition for

their willingness to save our town, our homes, and our lives. Several are Post 61 members/military veterans as well. Their talents and skills are vital to this town. Most of these people go unnoticed. Yet these are the true royals of our day. A BIG THANK YOU to those who do serve. Although Memorial Day is for remembering those who fought heartily, the sacrifices of the rest must be given some deep respectful thought too.

Eileen Richard, Adjutant Post 61

American Legion Post #61 Arts & Essay Contest

American Legion Post #61 held its annual Veteran's Day Arts & Essay Awards ceremony at Deep River Elementary school on Friday, November 10. There was one big change to this years award ceremony. Rather than giving out gift certificates from local businesses, we decided to give all winners cash awards. We would like to thank The Nest, Day NCI Pizza and Celebrations for all their donations over the years. Now the winners:

Kindergarten students were asked to draw an American Flag flying on a hillside.

3rd Place: Rene Choquette 2nd Place: Larkin Recchia 1st Place: Zoe Steeves

1st and 2nd grade students were asked to draw the Dough Boy in front of the elementary school.

3rd Place: Sofia Macas2nd Place: Evelyn Desrosiers1st Place: Charlotte Farrell

3rd and 4th grade students were asked to write a 100-word essay on why freedom is not free!

3rd Place: Shaelyn Whaley 2nd Place: Asher Erkkila 1st Place: Lea Cohen

5th and 6th grade students were asked to write a 200-word essay on why freedom is not free!

3rd Place: Amelia Herrera-Mulhern 2nd Place: Andrew MacLeary 1st Place: Georgie Woltovich

We would like to thank all the students who entered the contest – especially the winners!

Richard Nagot, Child and Youth Officer

Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions

The Deep River Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission (CIWC) holds Regular Meetings on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall. The CIWC is composed of eight volunteers who work in cooperation with the town's Wetlands Enforcement Officer. There is currently one Alternate Member vacancy on the CIWC; residents are encouraged to inquire. New members are welcome and needed.

What do we do?

In Connecticut, the Inland Wetlands and Water-courses Act (1972) requires municipalities to regulate activities affecting inland wetlands and watercourses. Accordingly, every Connecticut town maintains an inland wetlands agency to implement and enforce the law. Wetlands are important features of our landscape; they improve water quality, reduce flooding, and provide habitat for plants and wildlife.

What is regulated activity? Generally speaking, regulated activity is any activity (such as grading, excavating, or filling) that occurs within a wetland or watercourse, or within the upland review area – all areas within 100 feet of a wetland or watercourse. With certain exceptions, a permit is required to carry out actions deemed regulated activities. Inland wetland soil maps can be helpful guides for identifying regulated areas, but each site is evaluated on a case-by-case basis, and it may be necessary for consultation with a certified soil scientist to identify and delineate wetlands. Wetlands are not always obvious. Two common examples of regulated activities often reviewed by the CIWC are: new decks or outbuildings that involve excavation, and footprint additions to existing residential homes that involve excavation and grading. The CIWC Regulations provide a detailed definition of regulated activities, and the Wetlands Enforcement Officer can be contacted to determine if a wetlands permit is required for a proposed activity.

Conservation

Additionally, Deep River maintains a Conservation Commission in combination with its Inland Wetlands

Commission. The Conservation facet of CIWC is concerned with the conservation of our town's natural resources. The Conservation Commission has no regulatory capacity but can perform functions such as: providing recommendations on land use, inventorying natural resources, and managing and acquiring open space.

We are excited to announce a recent open space acquisition on Rattling Valley Road that will become part of the adjacent Canfield Woods Nature Preserve. The 2.5-acre parcel extends Canfield Woods northward, enhancing public access and furthering the protection of forest resources, water quality, and wildlife habitat. The Deep River Land Trust worked hard to lead the initiative to acquire this connecting piece working closely with the Planning and Zoning Commission and the CIWC. The property was acquired with multiple funding sources, the majority of funds contributed by the Town of Deep River's Open Space Fund. Additional funding was provided by the Deep River Land Trust, The CT River Gateway Commission, and the Mary Janvrin & Natalie Janvrin Wiggins Fund for Birds, Other Animals, and Nature at the Community Foundation of Middlesex County.

Resources and Information

Regulations, applications, agendas, minutes, and additional resources can be found on the town CIWC webhttps://www.deepriverct.us/conservation-andinland-wetlands-commission. The webpage contains a link to the CT ECO Advanced Map Viewer, which is a mapping tool that can help identify inland wetland soils and identify the presence of Natural Diversity Database (NDDB) areas that indicate the presence of state-threatened or endangered species or natural communities. Additionally, CT DEEP maintains a website that aims to help citizens understand the importance of wetlands and the inland wetlands permitting process: https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Water/Inland-Wetlands/ Inland-Wetlands-Citizen-Information. The Wetlands Enforcement Officer can be reached by phone at 860-526-6020 (ext 221).

Tri-Town Youth Services

Tri-Town Youth Services Welcomes New Director



I have been telling people, "It's like coming full circle, ish." That is how I describe becoming the Executive Director for Tri-Town Youth Services, noting that I had

interviewed for the position way back in the Fall of 1990, when I had no business even applying for the position. At that time the only experience I had working with youth in any capacity was coaching and officiating sports. For the next 32-plus years, as I was working in various youth development roles, directors Gail Onofrio Beck and Allison Abramson were busy building Tri-Town Youth Services into a dynamic and invaluable community resource.

When Allison started a new position in April 2023 and her replacement left after only four months to take a position with the state, I stepped down from the Board of Directors to serve as the interim director. From the start I was being encouraged by numerous people to consider becoming the full-time director. Additional staff departures eventually prompted me to stay on, and I was appointed by the board in January. I don't know if that is being called, pulled or pushed, but ultimately it felt right: This is my community. I have lived in one of the three towns my entire life. I have served in several civic roles, know many of the key stakeholders, and remain committed to fostering the development and well-being of all children.

Like many non-profits, we face funding and staffing challenges, yet I remain optimistic about our ability to meet them. Youth Service Bureaus have always had to be nimble to adjust to the changing landscape of community needs and resource allocations. Even with recent departures our remaining staff have worked diligently and creatively to maintain most of the programming that has been in place for several years. Change is inevitable and we will adapt and persevere. We may have some new faces and a reconfigured menu of services, but we will continue to be a potent and reliable resource for our youth, families and community partners.

To learn more, visit our website: www.tritownys.org where you can also sign up for our weekly newsletter. For questions, to share ideas or volunteer with Tri-Town Youth Services please call: 860-526-3600 or email: info@ttysb.org

Rob Bibbiani, Director





Deep River Garden Club

Mission-driven pollinators are bustling about, and so are



Deep River Garden Club members! We hope you've noticed new daffodil bulbs planted around town, including 500 at the base of Hemlock Drive to greet those exiting Route 9 S, and 75 planted at the new median garden across from the Fire Department.

DRGC is welcoming spring with several new aspects to our small but mighty club, including:

- 1. A new logo!
- 2. A new website: www.deeprivergardenclub.org. Check it out!
- 3. A new Free Seed Library!

Housed next to the new rain garden installation behind the Deep River Public Library, you'll notice a cute little house resembling the little free book libraries you see around. Same idea, but this one is for seeds! DRGC member Roberta Sciacca and her husband John built the Free Seed Library using recycled materials. It houses a variety of donated seeds organized by type and is available to our community members FREE of cost. DRGC has provided paper envelopes and pencils if you only need a few seeds from a pack, and we are encouraging community members to donate extra seeds they've purchased or seeds they've saved from their own plants! We are excited to support a resilient community, and hope that you find this a useful resource.

We have other town beautification plans in the works as well as fun and enriching programs for our members. Last month, DRGC members visited the new Bittersweet Bistro in Killingworth for an informative "tea talk" and a sampling of farm-grown wellness teas accompanied by tea sandwiches and sweets. As we head into warmer weather, we'll be working to prepare the town gardens for Memorial Day and the beloved Deep River Ancient Muster. Join us to help beautify our town (while having fun!)

Digging deeper,

Nicole Desrosiers & Sarah Layton, Co-Presidents

Stay in touch! Follow us on Facebook (Deep River Garden Club) and Instagram (@deeprivergardenclub).

Questions? Email drgardenclub@gmail.com

Connecticut Coastal Academy

Pam Potemri, the owner and Executive Director of The Connecticut Coastal Academy, lives and breathes positivity. Coming from a background of teachers and school administrators, and having worked her way up through the ranks as a special education teacher in Barrington, Rhode Island, Dr. Potemri has extensive knowledge in school administration. She has neurodiversity in her family background, and wanted to give hope to families, understanding from a parent perspective as well as a school administrator, the realities of finding good special education for their children. Dr. Potemri opened her own special education school in Essex right before the pandemic hit in 2019. The current location of the school is the old Citizen's Bank building in Deep River that was taken over by the Academy in November of 2023. Since then, the fully accredited private clinical day school has attracted students from all over the state of Connecticut with a recent referral from Rhode Island. Students range from grade 6 to the age of 22. Staffing is done by word of mouth as has been the case with recruitment of students. Dr. Potemri's reputation is solid in the work she has done in the past and in the present at the Connecticut Coastal Academy. Programming is curriculum based depending on individual student's public-school curriculum. In addition, Dr. Potemri purchased the Tamarack Lodge in Voluntown and runs a culinary program there that includes food services at the event and banquet facility. She also has other programs that give real world experience while getting a high school education such as a partnership with The Homebuilders Institute PACT Program. Teaching kids how to have healthy relationships and a safe place to land is the main mission of the school. Dr. Potemri says, "Compassion goes a long way." For more information about the Connecticut Coastal Academy please visit. https://ctcoastalacademy.org/

Deep River Land Trust

As you welcome the spring blooms that have started showing you might feel your gardens beckoning, but if you decide to wander past your own plantings the Deep River Land Trusts many properties and trails await. Since it was founded in 1975, the land trust has preserved more than 230 acres in town. This year our board and members have already had a busy season working to continue to preserve and protect our town's natural resources.

Want to help us? Trail Tuesdays will be back in the end of May! Last year we developed a connected trail system at our Rattling Valley Ridge Property with Robert Butter-



worth (Chief Trail Steward) as the leader of the trail crew. We invite passionate individuals to join the volunteer group on Tuesdays at 5:30. Whether you are a seasoned hiker or new to exploring our local trails, help from volunteers like you is invaluable in ensuring our trails remain accessible and enjoyable for the whole community.

Photo of Patrick Liddle and Robert Butterworth on a property walk gathering litter as they go photo credit Georgia Male

Sweet success! For the second consecutive year Deep River Land Trust collaborated with Incarnation Centers Bushy

Hill Nature Center Sugar Shack to make maple syrup from tree sap collected from various Deep River properties. Volunteers including lead organizers Patrick Liddle and Robert Malchiodi attended the wood fired evaporator diligently for weeks to make this season's syrup which will be available by donation at future land trust events. While our many members were boiling, they simultaneously



hosted various educational workshops for locals about the process of making syrup. Photo of Deep River Land Trust maple syrup photo credit Patrick Liddle

Please share a thank you to all our educators. Your donations to the land trust will not only satisfy your sweet tooth but also contribute to the preservation of our natural landscapes.

Think globally, hike locally and keep an eye out for our upcoming Adams Hometown Market round up fundraiser set to kick off in April! Every time you shop you can choose to round up your purchase to the nearest dollar at checkout, with the funds directly benefiting the Deep River Land Trust. It's a simple yet impactful way to support our conservation endeavors while stocking up on essentials for your home.

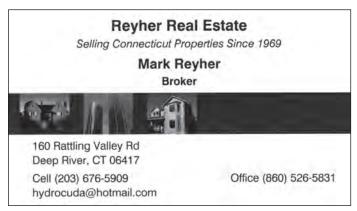


Scan the QR code to visit the membership page of the Deep River Land Trust website.

A friendly reminder to all our existing members, membership renewals are due in April. Your continued support is crucial in sustaining our

conservation and educational efforts throughout the year. For those who haven't joined yet we welcome you to become part of our community. We are a nonprofit conservation organization that seeks to protect and preserve open space land in Deep River for the use and enjoyment of Deep River residents and visitors. Membership dues, donation details and Trail Tuesday information, can be found on our website www.deepriverlandtust.org







Membership Form

Join the Deep River Land Trust! Membership is open to all—individuals, families, and organizations interested in supporting our mission. Individual, Family, Contributing, Sustaining, and Guardian Membership lasts one calendar year, starting in April in honor of Earth Day. Please renew your membership by April 22 each year. Lifetime membership does not need to be renewed each year. Membership benefits include receipt of the Annual Newsletter, attendance at Annual Meetings, and participation in special Land Trust activities; Membership responsibilities include exercising your right to vote in Board elections and voting on motions set before the entire DRLT membership.

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Individual	Family	Contributing	Sustaining	Guardian	Lifetime
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Deep River Planning & Zoning

Over the last year, the Deep River Planning & Zoning Commission (PZC), led by an Ad-Hoc Committee formed by Chairman Tony Bolduc and headed by Commissioner Marian Staye, have been working through the process of updating the Town's 10-year Master Plan, known as the Plan of Conservation & Development (PoCD). This Plan, which was last updated in 2015, will help set the direction for the government and community of Deep River for the next decade. While State Law requires that the Plan address a number of key issues such as housing, transportation, economic growth, and public infrastructure, the process of actually developing the Plan is meant to be locally led. The Deep River PoCD Committee includes representatives from the Economic Development Commission, Conservation & Inland Wetlands Commissions, Deep River Land Trust, PZC, Sustainable Deep River Committee, and members of the public.

Following a community survey (via SurveyMonkey) aboutbroadgoals of Deep Riverresidents, the Committee has been having monthly in-depth conversations about the particular topics that will comprise the PoCD. These conversations are informal, and seek to answer a few questions, including: What progress have we made over the last year? What are some things that we hope to accomplish? What concerns do we have about changing conditions in town? While the discussion and historical context are critical elements of the Plan's consideration, these conversations have resulted in both Goal statements and specific Recommendations for action. Thus far, the Committee has developed draft goals and recommendations for the topics of Housing, Natural Resources Conservation, Transportation & Infrastructure, and Economic Development. Still to be discussed are issues of Community Facilities & Resources and Climate Change & Resilience.

Once all topics are discussed and have developed draft recommendations, the Committee will then engage the general public in order to gain input and feedback for the proposed Plan. This feedback will be in the form of both informal public information sessions and more formal Public Hearings. The Commission will seek to adopt the PoCD update later this calendar year.

Ultimately, the PoCD will inform such future decisions as zoning regulation changes, town investments in sidewalks, sewer lines, open space expenditures, and other large-scale projects.

Please contact the land use office at zoning@ deepriverct.us or 860-526-6030 for any questions about this Plan, or any other Planning & Zoning matters. One member of the iconoclastic Zoning Enforcement team, including Zoe Chatfield, Manuel Medina, and John Guszkowski will be happy to assist.





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Registrars of Voters

Greetings from the Deep River Registrars of Voters, Elizabeth Lori Gregan and Michael Harris. As you know, and as we just experienced for the presidential preference primary, there have been changes made to the way we vote in Connecticut. This is a reminder about those changes and how they will affect the November election.

In the 2023 legislative session, the General Assembly authorized in-person early voting for elections held after April 1, 2024. Under this schedule, the first election utilizing early voting was the Presidential Preference Primary (PPP) held on April 2, 2024.

Early voting is the opportunity for voters to cast their ballots prior to election day. This can take many forms, depending on the state, such as allowing in-person early voting, no-excuse absentee voting, or all-mail voting. The length of the early voting period in Connecticut depends on the type of election; 14 days for general elections, 7 days for most primaries and 4 days for special elections and PPPs.

Early voting takes place in the Town Hall between the hours of 10 AM and 6 PM. The election day voting remains in the library Community Room.

The presidential and general election in November will have early voting October 21 to November 3. Election day is on November 5. There will be signage in front of Town Hall on days of early voting indicating it as the early voting location, as well as provisions for curbside voting. Inside early voting is in the small conference room. Unlike absentee ballots, with early voting you do not have the opportunity to change your vote after it is cast.

Under the new law, a person must appear at an early voting location when it is open, identify themselves just as if they were voting in person on election day (e.g., showing adequate identification or signing an affidavit attesting to his or her identity), and declare under oath that he or she has not previously voted in the election.

We thank you for your support and your commitment to our democracy by getting out and voting during this year's election season. Additional information is always available on the town website or by contacting us.

Elizabeth Lori Gregan & Michael G. Harris Registars of Voters, 860-526-6059

Deep River Congregational Church

Deep River Congregational Church has been a flurry of joy, activities, and planning.

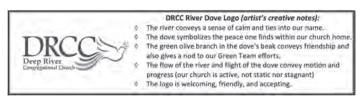
DRCC invites the community to welcome its new co-pastor Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Caronna. Pastor Cheryl was ordained in 2013 as a minister in the United Church of Christ. She holds a Master of Divinity degree from Andover Newton Theological School and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Hartford Seminary.

Pastor Cheryl completed her student pastor internship at Deep River Congregational Church, then served as Pastor of the First Congregational Church of Canterbury before returning to DRCC in January 2024 to become its co-pastor with Rev. Timothy Haut.

Since 2019, Pastor Cheryl has also served as Chaplain for the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Company. Her husband Jim is her biggest support and sidekick on all her ministerial endeavors, and great joy is found in family time with grandchildren and nephews. She is quoted as saying, "I believe in the Holy Trinity, the freedom of one's spirit, that fellowship is vital to the health of the congregation and the power of a good potluck supper." Join us for Sunday worship or one of DRCC's many events to meet our beloved new co-pastor!

DRCC launched a beautiful new website in February! The new site has the same web address: deeprivercc.org with a new look and feel. It is user friendly and offers easy access to DRCC's Livestream Services, Archived Videos, downloadable forms, and an enhanced online giving portal. Its responsive design renders well on all platforms (desktop, tablet, cell phone). A lot of work and tremendous team effort made this happen.

DRCC's new logo made its formal debut with the launch of the new website. The DRCC River Dove image was designed and gifted to DRCC by church member Christopher Karam (local artist and creative director for a CT-based company).



DRCC held its annual "Souper Bowl" Sunday and Chili Cook-off in February. The Sunday School collected coins in soup pots for DRCC's annual fundraiser to benefit the Shoreline Soup Kitchen. In the Chili Cook-off, bragging rights were earned by 3 winning teams this year: Jon Hardy's

"Blame It on the Dog" came in first in the meat category. There was a tie in the meatless chili category: Bethany Gates Parks & Harry Gates' "Team Butternut" and Heather & Tori Mudge's "Team Veggie-Tables."

DRCC's Midnight Run relief mission brought food, clothing, blankets, and personal care items to the homeless poor in New York City on Saturday, February 24. This latenight relief effort creates a forum for trust and understanding. That human exchange, rather than the exchange of goods, is the heart of the Midnight Run mission.

The season of Easter was early this year! During Lent, DRCC held two potluck suppers with great food and fellowship! On Palm Sunday, DRCC's Sunday School created "Resurrection Eggs" and held an Egg Hunt for the children. For Easter Sunday, March 31, Deep River Congregational Church planned 3 Easter services: 6:30am outdoor Sunrise Service at Fountain Hill, early Easter worship service at 8:30am, and 10:00am full Easter service (live streamed at deeprivercc.org). An Easter Fellowship "coffee hour" was held at the church from 9-10am.



Pastor Timothy Haut presents DRCC's new co-pastor, Rev. Dr. Cheryl Caronna, with a meeting gavel as church members enjoy the welcome.







Winners of DRCC's 2024 "Souper Bowl" Chili cook-off (pictured l-r): Jon and Claudia Hardy "Blame it on the Dog", Bethany Gates Park "Team Butternut", Tori and Heather Mudge "Team Veggie-Tables".

Community Health Committee

The Community Health Committee (CHC) would like to thank everyone who donated to our Annual Appeal Drive, which helps support those with food insecurity. We also provide emergency assistance with fuel and temporary housing. Our community is amazing, and we are grateful and appreciative for the support.

Currently, we are providing food to approximately 70 families a month through the food pantry at the Tri-Town Building. Our backpack program supports 14 kids weekly. Our committee works with the elementary school's social worker to ensure that students who might otherwise face food insecurity on the weekends do not go without.

The Deep River Food Pantry is located at 56 High Street and is open Tuesdays from 9:00-12:00pm and on Thursdays from 1:00-4:00pm or by appointment.



Non-perishable food donations may be made at any time by leaving donations at the Tri-town building, or Deep River Town Hall. You may also order online and have items shipped directly to the Town Hall (174 Main Street) through Amazon. Gift cards are also appreciated.

We want to thank our community partners who have supported the food pantry and the goals of CHC. A heartfelt shout out to our local civic groups and Deep River Elementary School students who raised money and collected food items for us, as well as all that made donations to the holiday toy drive.

Adams Hometown Market has supported us with the annual round up program, as well as keeping our "seasonal wrapped" food donation box in the register area. We THANK YOU for thinking of us while shopping and we want to thank all of Adams staff for their continued support in encouraging shoppers to "FILL THE BOX".

We are working on a grant for a commercial refrigerator, which will enable us to accept and provide perishable items in the future. This will give us the opportunity to expand food donations for our residents in need. Currently we have 1 small refrigerator available for storage.

The food pantry is available free to any Deep River resident. If you require other assistance, please make an appointment to meet with our Social Services Director, Rosie Bininger, at 860-526-6033

If you are interested in becoming involved, even if it is only an hour a month, please reach out to a committee member or attend a meeting. Information can be found on the town website, www.deepriverct.us

We are a wonderful small town that has neighbors in need. Thank you for your continued donations and support.

Currently, the committee has 8 members with 1 vacancy. The members are: Tracy Woodcock, Chairperson, Lori Gregan, Vice Chair, Betsy Scholfield, Secretary, Jackie Calamari, Treasurer; Dave Blifford, Nancy Howard, Joyce Berardis and Nancy McGee. The committee meets the first Tuesday evening of the month, 8 times a year. We would like to hear any new fundraising ideas.

Our mailing address is: "Community Health Committee" c/o Deep River Town Hall, 174 Main Street; checks can be made payable to "Community Health Fund"

Betsy Scholfield, Secretary

Dry Pants Model Yacht Club

May 4th and 5th Dry Pants Model Yacht Club is hosting two radio control sailboat regattas at Plattwood Pond; Dragon Flite 95 Spring/Fall Series and CR-914 New England Spring Regatta. Radio control sailboat sailors from across New England and the Hudson Valley will be in attendance. Both regattas are fun and spectator friendly. Everyone is welcome. The regattas consist of multiple races from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm depending on the conditions.

Saturday, May 4th is the first year and the initial portion of our Dragon Flite 95 Spring/ Fall, class points series. DF 95 sailors competing in both the Spring and Fall regattas accumulate points for United States National DF 95 class rankings. Sunday, May 5th is the Annual CR-914 New England Spring Regatta. This is the 18th year that the Dry Pants Model Yacht Club has hosted this main-stay CR- 914 class event.

CR-914 is a long-standing, active class, with fleets across the US. It is a beautiful looking 36-inch scale version of AMERICA's Cup monohull. Experts and beginners are equally competitive, as class rules are such that boats are equally matched. Thus, race results are determined primarily by sailing skill.

Dragon Flite 95 is a recently designed class (of similar size to the CR-914), featuring many design features found on today's full size racing yachts. The modern design calls for different sailing skills and techniques. Like the CR-914, DF 95 class rules keep boats evenly matched, with racing outcomes determined by the sailor.

Dry Pants Model Yacht Club sails at Plattwood Pond 10:30 am to 1:30 pm every Wednesday and Sunday. Everyone is welcome to watch and/or try their hand. There is always an available boat to try.

More information: Visit Dry Pants Model Yacht Club website: DPMYC.org or Commodore Bill Dempsey at lighthouse-print@sbcglobal.net.

Jack Evans Regatta Chairmen





Deep River 60 Club

The Deep River 60 Club was founded in 1975. They meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month; no meetings are held in January or during the summer. Meetings are held at the Ambulance Barn on RT 80. There is a business meeting, socialization, and refreshments that are of interest to its members.

Activities include entertainment, games, projects, dining out, as well as many other activities.

All senior citizens, who are 60 years or older, are invited to join. The Club's activities are funded by dues, fund-raising activities, and donations.

For more information call 860-767-2302 and leave a message on the machine with contact information.











The Nest Coffee House

It's finally spring here in beautiful Deep River. It never gets old hearing the peepers chorus around town at night. Soon we'll all be out on the river, in the town parks and enjoying those long summer days!

Just a year ago The Nest Coffee House opened its new Gathering Space in the former tattoo parlor expanding our programs that provide opportunities for neurodiverse young adults to find their peers, try new things, take chances and fly. So many invested in The Nest and we are beyond grateful. This winter we welcomed Jacques Pepin to demonstrate crepe making for a crew of young folks. We travelled on the Valley Railroad's Holiday Train in a sensory accommodating car and wrapped up the season with our annual Nest Night at Red House as well as recipients of Deep River Elementary's Tip a Teacher Night at Marker 37. Every customer, donor, sponsor and volunteer has helped build this wonderful nest!

Have you seen our vintage food trailer out and about yet? This sweet little trailer is a sleek 4' x 8' and full of retro charm. Our inaugural event was the DR Easter Egg Hunt and we will be at DR Summer Concerts this summer too. If you have an event and would like some sweet treats and amazing coffee, we're here for you! There is no better way to see our mission in action than being around our cozy food trailer with our young adults at the helm. Many thanks to NBC, Over Above and One Look Signs for making it real!

Our new Artists' Nest Program is giving neurodiverse emerging artists opportunities to learn from local artist mentors so that they can take their art to the next level. We are welcoming new interns from local schools and enjoying having their youthful energy and enthusiasm to remind us of the power of inclusion and compassion. Finally, our Gatherings Program is soaring to new heights with a llama hike, birdwatching with Essex Land Trust and Lego night (with the help of local folks who donated their Legos to us) and more.

We are excited to bring our Lantern Illuminations Celebration back for its 5th year on May 18th - mark your calendars now! Our eco friendly lanterns will once again be created by hand from those ages 1-100+. Adorned with art, messages of inspiration, inclusion, kindness

and all the good vibes we can harness together. This year, the lanterns will stay out of the wind and water and create a kaleidoscope of color lighting the way for people of all abilities. As a bonus folks will be bringing their lanterns home this year to let them shine all year long. Check out our website for all the details at www. alittlecompassion.org and join us. Neurodiverse young people ages 2-30 are free (as always).

Lastly, you may have heard the news that I am retiring at the end of May. It's been my dream come true to create The Nest and A Little Compassion. I have stretched and grown along with so many young adults and every part of me is so grateful. We'll be welcoming a new Executive Director soon and I'll still be here as a volunteer supporting the organization in every way I can. This little nonprofit with a big mission has more to do – I invite you all to be a part of ushering in this new chapter as Compassion Creators, donors, volunteers, customers and ambassadors. It's this community that built this Nest and can ensure it remains strong. Every cup of coffee, Doggie Bark, donation and kind word matters!

For more details on what we've got brewing, visit The Nest, on Facebook or Instagram, or our website www. thenestcoffeehouse.org. Our journey of inclusion and compassion continues.

All the Best,

Jane Moen, Executive Director



Deep River Public Library



Let's Talk Books

Wednesday afternoon club: Join us on the third Wednesday of each month @ 1:15 pm to discuss the book of the month. The library has copies available for book club.

Digital Media:

The Palace Project

Enjoy ebooks, audio books and additional digital content for free. Look for the above app on our home page.



Hoopla is a digital streaming service for library users to instantly download digital movies and more with your library card.

Transparent Language Online, Learn a language at your own speed, up to 100 languages available.

MyHeritage Library Edition, This is a popular genealogical subscription service, supported by the Deep River Public Library. We also offer a <u>limited</u> version of **Ancestry.com**, supported by the Connecticut State Library.

The Deep River Public Library is exploring establishing an Interest Group for experienced and beginner genealogy researchers. This self-directed group could meet monthly at the Library, develop goals and initiatives and suggest invited speakers. If you have any interest in joining please email: deepriverpubliclibrary@gmail.com

Upcoming Programs:

Dream Journey, 10:30am - 1:00pm

Join Grace Erhart and Dale Litalien, Level 3 Dream Teachers in the Robert Moss School of Active Dreaming, for a new workshop, Dream Journey! Listen to the beat of the drum and use your imagination to journey into your past, the future, or fantasy. Wear loose, comfortable clothes and bring a yoga mat or blanket. Registration is required.

Homemade Tortillas with Roasted Cauliflower Tacos; April 17, 6:30 pm via Zoom

Join a Registered Dietitian with Food Explorers for an hour of guided instruction as we learn how to make Homemade Tortillas with Roasted Cauliflower Tacos! This class is open to adults, teens/tweens and families that love to cook to-

gether. Registration is required to receive the list of ingredients and Zoom meeting link. Visit our calendar to register.

Beginner Dungeons & Dragons, April 5 & 19; 3:30pm

Calling all young adventurers! Join the Young Adventurer's Guild for interactive storytelling fun! This program is designed specifically with young adventurers in mind, by introducing the basics of Dungeons & Dragons (D&D) in a simplified, engaging, and age-appropriate format. Our aim is to foster creativity, teamwork, critical thinking, and basic math skills, all within the captivating realms of fantasy. Designed for ages 8-12. Registration is required. This is a two-part program. On April 5, we will learn to play, design a character, and meet your adventuring party. On April 19, we will play. Prepare to embark on an exciting quest!

Video Gaming with Nintendo Switch, April 12 & 26; 3:30pm

Play Minecraft or MarioKart on our game system. Kids Card Making Workshop; April 20, 10:30 am:

Drop in to the library and make a card for someone you love!

Children's Department News

We host two drop-in story times! Join us on Thursday or Friday morning at 10:30 am for books, music and movement, and social time! Crafts are available to make at the library or take home!

Have you checked out a Launchpad yet?

Our launchpads are tablets with pre-loaded games that make the most of your child, teen, or adult screen time. There is no internet access, and the content is educational. Brush up on math, reading, STEM concepts, even coding! Check one out today!

Want to join our email list? Send your request to Miss Elaine: drplchildrensdept@gmail.com

Check out our monthly website calendar, Facebook Events page, or LinkTree to see what's on offer and to register for programs at:

https://deepriverlibrary.accountsupport.com/ All of our programs are free, unless noted, and open to the public.

Friends of the Deep River Library

Welcome Spring from the Friends of the Deep River Public Library!

As the trees begin to leaf out, the birds start singing and flowers bloom, don't forget to visit our beautiful library. We are excited to announce the purchase of a private, portable, noise reducing meeting room nook for the library. The library was in need of a quiet space for meetings of 2 people, and the Friends (because of YOUR SUPPORT) answered the call! This will help with those that meet for tutoring, or a one-on-one meeting. The nook can be reserved for up to 2 hours, reach out to our circulation desk to reserve your spot TODAY!

The library has a beautiful new Tiffany-style lamp in the front room, casting perfect light for reading, and a much-needed new sofa will be arriving soon, from a generous donor in our community.

The Friends were thrilled to receive a beautiful donation of a Victorian Doll house, with many furnishings earlier this year. It still needs a bit of finishing, so we have formed a Doll House subcommittee to work on it, building furniture, designing tiny rooms etc. If you might have any interest in helping, please reach out to us via email at friendsofthedeepriverlibrary@gmail. com. It is small, with many moving parts, so we are looking for older teenagers, adults, or retirees to help complete the house, and make a new home!

We are happy to announce our annual, (missed a few due to Covid) PSYCHIC EVENT is back April 21st with Christine Crowley of Mystics by the Sea at the Richard H. Smith Deep River Town Hall Auditorium. Doors will open at 12:30! You can register through the QR code below or stop in at the library to get your tickets.

Keep an eye on your mailboxes as you will be receiving our annual Spring appeal letter. We THANK YOU for always being so generous and supportive of our beautiful Library. Remember your donations go to: programs, season tickets to museums, aquariums, zoos, etc. and fill needs in our library to help improve your experience. Remember to look out for the summer reading

program, sponsored by the Friends of the Deep River Public Library. This inclusive program is fun for all ages!

BECOME OUR FRIEND! Join us for our monthly gatherings on the last Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm at the Deep River Public Library. We can't wait to meet you!

Friends of the Library

Scan Here for Christine Crowley Tickets





Deep River PTO



A Warm Welcome

Welcome to 2024! We're super excited about what we've been working on to support the students and teachers at Deep River Elementary School.

Oceans, shirts, and trees...oh my!

Our ocean theme has been a huge hit this year and our wonderful art teacher, Ms. Diana Dewolfe-Carfi is leading the charge. Together she worked with the students to create our 2023-2024 T-shirt design featuring sea life.

Once again Mr. LeQuire at VRHS and his students partnered with ours to help bring this vision to life. It was an incredible opportunity for students to see the complete process from idea all the way through fruition.

This year's shirts turned out BEAUTIFUL. Our students wear these shirts throughout the year on special days, whole school assemblies, field day and more! We are so thankful for our local business sponsors who made this possible:

Pondside Kitchens and Hearth, Enviro Tech Septic Services, Deep River Employees Union, Howard Tree Service, Madison Auto Body "The Professionals", Machine Repair, Monoflo Septic Tank Co., Annabella Lashes, Bushy Hill Day Camp, Celebrations, E Squared, Hope Preschool, Nailed Right LLC, New England Lawn And Tick, New England Machine Company, Olsen's Sanitation Co., Paul Giroux Landscaping, Pequot Sherwood Day Camp, Riverstone Landscaping, and Walter Septic Services.

Speaking of the ocean and Ms. Carfi, did you happen to make your way to the Deep River Historical Society during the Festival of Trees in December? Once again, she knocked it way out of the park by inspiring our students. Each student created an ornament, and all were featured on our DRES Tree. Our tree won Best of Show! While the Festival of Trees was only a few short days, we were able to (gently) transport it to the elementary school to display for a few more weeks. These ornaments will become a part of our display when the art room is turned into an underwater world!

Funding Experiences

This school year, the PTO has brought forth an initiative to help fund items or experiences that our students might not have access to and will enhance their education. Because our Fall and Winter fundraising efforts were so successful, we were able to fund 5 grants for the 2nd half of the school

year! Our PTO board reviewed and approved Buildzi STEM activities, books for incoming Kindergarteners, walking field trip to Pandemonium, multicultural literature and supporting the 6th graders in their world water crisis fundraising for Call to Care Uganda. All of these experiences would not be possible without the support of YOU. We are so thankful for this wonderful community.

All caregivers are welcome to join our meetings offered both in person and virtually on the second Thursday of each month. Hope to see you there!

If you're interested in being featured on next year's T-shirt, please reach out to the PTO at the email address below for more information.

Kyra Beta (President) Christine Hanford (Vice President) Lori Sanfratello (Treasurer) Katelyn Ely (Secretary)









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SOLD • Listed at: \$548,000



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260 MIDDLESEX AVENUE CHESTER
SOLD • Listed at: \$1,350,000



11 DEEP HOLLOW ROAD CHESTER

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"Tim is everything you want in a REALTOR®. He is the consummate professional, thorough to a fault, and willing to go the extra mile at every turn. I had a complex property – a quirky old house with some "history." Tim faced every challenge with a solution oriented approach. He kept calm and carried on until we got to the finish line. He was always easy to work with even when the circumstances were not. I give great thanks to Tim and 5+ stars." – Diane Patrone, 12/7/2022

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Kirtland Commons

Spring is around the corner and the Deep River Housing Authority is starting to prepare for the change in seasons. We continue to have our usual activities—BINGO, Chair Yoga, Ceramics, Paper Crafting, Trivia, and Book Club. Chair Yoga is a tremendous success thanks to the wonderful teachers at Aspen Yoga! We love to see our local seniors join us for class on Monday and Wednesday mornings. We are brainstorming more activities to add to our calendars as warmer days approach, and we can do more outside. We have begun planning the lineup for our "2024 Summer Concert Series" that takes place at Kirtland every Wednesday evening in July and August. We also plan on purchasing tickets to the Ivoryton Playhouse and other local theaters as productions are released.

In February, we celebrated an incredible milestone when our resident Alys "Dody" Albrecht turned 100 years



old!! We turned our dining room into a "Roaring 20's Speakeasy" and residents, staff, friends, and family dressed up for the celebration! Pasta

Vita provided Dody's favorite meal of Shrimp Scampi for the luncheon and we enjoyed delicious cupcakes from Higher Grounds in East Haddam for dessert.

First Selectwoman, Carol Jones stopped by to present Dody with a Proclamation from the Town of Deep River as well as a Proclamation from the State of Connecticut; she was crowned "Queen of the Valley"! Kirtland Commons prides itself in the small family we have built here, and we love to gather to celebrate one another!



If you are a senior in the Deep River area and would like to stay up to date with our programs and activities, follow us on Facebook or you can reach out to Liza at lizathayer@deepriverha.org

Fountain Hill Cemetery



Welcome Spring! It has been a productive winter at Fountain Hill Cemetery. The mild conditions have allowed staff to work on our foundations and

monuments. We have also enjoyed the many walkers who visit daily. That was the intent of our "Founding Fathers," to create a space where visitors and families could walk and enjoy the beauty of nature. But visitors need to remember, this is still a cemetery, and they need to be respectful, especially those with four-legged companions. There have been a number of incidents and complaints concerning dogs not being on a leash which ended in injuries to both visitors and pets. There are still people not picking up after their pets. There are many cemeteries who ban pets for this reason. The Board of Directors of Fountain Hill Cemetery prefer to continue to support our mission of creating a "parklike" setting for ALL to enjoy. However, if these complaints continue, the Board of Directors will have no choice but to ban pets from the cemetery.

Please BE CONSIDERATE of others. Thank you to the majority of visitors who follow the rules. Feel free to contact Rich Forristall if you witness any activity that concerns you. Spring inevitably brings mud so please remember to park on paved surfaces, NOT on the grass. Let's work together to make Fountain Hill Cemetery a safe place for all to enjoy.





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Deep River Meetings on Television and Online

Stay informed about Town government by watching <u>Board of Selectmen</u> meetings and <u>Board of Finance</u> meetings Sunday evenings at 6:00 on <u>Comcast channels 19 & 1070</u>, or <u>Frontier TV channel 6089. Board of Selectmen</u> meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month and recorded for broadcast on the following two Sunday evenings. Themonthly <u>Board of Finance</u> meeting is held on the fourth Tuesday and broadcast with the Board of Selectmen's meeting on the following Sundays.

You can also view meetings **online** by going to the Deep River web site (www.deepriverct.us). On the homepage under "*Quick Links*" select "View meetings online." On the link you can select meetings by date.

Occasionally, other town meetings are also broadcast such as Special Town Meetings and Public Hearings. Planning and Zoning Meetings are also posted.

Broadcasts are sponsored by the Deep River Taxpayers Association to make municipal business and discussions available to a wider audience of citizens.



Board & Commission Meetings

Board of Assessment Appeals

March and September Date & times to be announced. Chairperson: Darlene Pollock

Conservation & Inland Wetlands Commission

2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Chairperson: Tanner Steeves

Community Health Committee

1st Tuesday of most months at 7:00 p.m. Chairperson: Tracy Woodcock

Deep River Elementary School Board of Education

3rd Thursday of each odd numbered month (except for July) at 7:00 p.m. at the elementary school. Joint meetings with other Region 4 boards during even-numbered months at Valley Regional High School
Chairperson: Patricia Maikowski

Deep River Sustainable CT Committee

2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Chairperson: Sara Conner

Design Advisory Board

4th Thursday of each month (as needed) at 6:30 p.m. Chairperson: Daniel Batt

Economic Development Commission

3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Chairperson: Allison B. Sloane

Board of Finance

4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Chairperson: George Eckenroth

Board of Fire Commissioners

1st Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Fire House Chairperson: David Berardis

Library Board of Trustees

2nd Monday of each month (except for July) at 7 p.m. at the Library. Chairperson: Linda Hall

Municipal Ethics Commission

1st Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Chairperson: Joan Defilippo

Parks & Recreation Commission

2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Chairperson: Christopher Marra

Planning & Zoning Commission

3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Hearings may be scheduled separately. Chairperson: Anthony Bolduc

Regional 4 Board of Education

1st Thursday of each month, except July and August. Meetings are at 7:30 p.m. at Valley Regional High School Chairperson: Kate Sandman

Board of Selectmen

2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Water Pollution Control Authority

1st Monday of each month. Meetings are at 7:30 p.m. at the Treatment Plant. Chairperson: Ted Mackenzie

Zoning Board of Appeals

3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. (as needed)
Chairperson: Jerome Ackerman

Note:

If a scheduled meeting falls on a legal holiday, check with board or commission for rescheduled date.

Index of Services & Facilities

Ambulance Association

284 West Elm Street 860-526-6043 (non-emergency)

Animal Control

Caroline Fountain
174 Main Street
860-767-4340 ext. 160
860-526-6020 option 1 (non-emergency)
selectman@deepriverct.us

Assessor's Office

174 Main Street 860-526-6029

assessor@deepriverct.us Tues.-Wed. 9am-4pm, Thurs. 9am-6:30pm Closed Mon. & Fri. & every day 12pm-1pm

Building Department

174 Main Street 860-526-6025 buildingdept@deepriverct.us Mon. & Wed. 8am-12pm & 1pm-3pm

Connecticut River Area Health District

445 Boston Post Road, Suite 7 Old Saybrook, CT 06475 860-661-3300 Mon.-Wed. 7:30am-4pm, Thurs. 7am-7pm, Fri. 7:30am-12pm

Conservation & Inland Wetlands

174 Main Street 860-526-0082 Mon. 9am -11am & Wed. 9am-12pm

Deep River Congregational Church

1 Church Street 860-526-5045 Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9:00am-2:00pm

Deep River Elementary School

12 River Street 860-526-5319 School Nurse ext. 1 www.reg4.k12.ct.us

Deep River Post Office

225 Main Street 860-526-5970

Fair Housing Officer

174 Main Street 860-526-6020

Fire Department

57 Union Street 860-526-6042 (non-emergency) Winthrop Station 409 Winthrop Road

860-526-6041 (non-emergency) info@deepriverfd.com

Fire Marshal

174 Main Street 860-526-6020 option 1 (non-emergency)

Fountain Hill Cemetery

57 High Street, P.O. Box 263 860-526-4752

John Winthrop Middle School

1 Winthrop Road 860-526-9546 www.reg4.k12.ct.us

Kirtland Commons Housing Authority

Joann Hourigan 60 Main Street 860-526-5119

Land Trust

P.O. Box 101 drlandtrust@gmail.com

Parks & Recreation

56 High Street 860-526-6036 parkandrec@deepriverct.us

Planning & Zoning

174 Main Street 860-526-6030 zoning@deepriverct.us Mon. & Wed. 9am-12pm

Public Library

150 Main Street 860-526-6039 sjrooney@biblio.org Mon. 1-8, Wed. 1:00pm-8pm, Tues., Thurs, Fri. 10am-6pm, Sat. 10am-2pm,

Public Works Department

206 Winthrop Road 860-526-6032 Mon.-Fri. 7am-3:30pm

Regional District #4 Superintendents Office

1 Winthrop Road 860-526-2417 x1 jbryan@reg4.k12.ct.us www.reg4.k12.ct.us

Registrars of Voters

By Appointment Only 860-526-6059 drregistrars@deepriverct.us

Resident Trooper's Office

174 Main Street 860-526-6027 (non-emergency) police@deepriverct.us

Selectman's Office

174 Main Street 860-526-6020 option 1 selectman@deepriverct.us Mon.-Wed. 8am-4pm Thurs. 8am-6:30pm Fri. 8am-12pm

Social Services

56 High Street 860-526-6033 drsocialservices@deepriverct.us Tues., 9am-12:00pm, Thurs.,1pm-4pm and by appointment

Tax Collector

174 Main Street 860-526-6028 taxcollector@deepriverct.us Tuesday-Wednesday 9am-4pm & Thurs. 9am-6:30pm Open 5 days a week - July & January (Closed daily 12pm-1pm)

Town Clerk

174 Main Street 860-526-6024 townclerk@deepriverct.us Mon.-Wed. 9am-4pm, Thurs. 9am-6:30pm Fri. 9am-12pm

Town Historian

Richard Kalapos 860-526-3254 By Appointment Only

Transfer Station

220 Winthrop Road 860-526-6047 Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun. 8am-4pm

Tri-Town Youth Services

56 High Street 860-526-3600 ttysb@aol.com

Troop F - State Police

315 Spencer Plain Road Westbrook, CT 860-399-2100 (non-emergency)

Valley Regional High School

256 Kelsey Hill Road 860-526-5328 www.reg4.k12.ct.us

Visiting Nurses of Lower Valley

61 Main Street Centerbrook, CT 860-767-0186 Mon.-Fri. 9am-4pm

Water Pollution Control Authority

99 Winter Avenue 860-526-6044 plewis@deepriverwpca.com Mon.-Fri. 8am-4pm

Winthrop Cemetery Association

Route 80, Winthrop Road 860-526-2161

Zoning Office

174 main Street 860-526-6030 zoning@deepriverct.us Mon. & Wed. 9am-12pm

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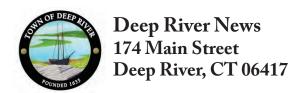
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