

# SHELTON *Life*

# FREE

## COMMUNITY & BUSINESS NEWS

AUGUST 2022

VOLUME 28, ISSUE 2



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### AUGUST ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

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# SHELTON COMMUNITY & BUSINESS NEWS

## Greetings From the Mayor

### Welcome from the Editor



Welcome to our Summer edition of *Shelton Life*!

I find summer here in Connecticut especially pleasing with so many

things to do, especially right here in Shelton. I have been seriously training for a late July ascent to the top of Mt. Washington in New Hampshire at 6,288 feet, our tallest mountain east of the Mississippi River.

I recently went up a very difficult climb at Cobble Mountain, in Kent, Connecticut but I have been "rediscovering" the many wonderful hiking trails we have right here in Shelton.

One of my daughters actually introduced me to the Shelton Dog Park Loop to Reservoir Trail, something I have never done before. What a wonderful, deep woods and beautiful hike it was with some nice elevation.

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Front Cover: Best in Show  
John Hoffmann's 1929 Model A

### Shelton Life August 2022 Community & Business News

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#### In Memory

Fred Musante, Sr., (1922-2009)

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Dear Shelton Residents and Businesses:

On behalf of the City of Shelton, I wish to thank you for taking the time to read the *SheltonLife* Newsletter.

I would like to begin this greeting by stating unequivocally that Shelton is the envy of communities across the State of Connecticut. Over the last 30 years Shelton

has transformed itself from an industrial, blue-collar town to one that is more geared to an executive office existence. In fact, nearly 25,000 people commute into Shelton each day for work.

Each year, dozens of firms adopt Shelton as their preferred place to do business, and we are happy to welcome them to the community. Shelton has experienced Grand List growth each of the last 31 years. This year we topped \$6 billion and it is this yearly growth that allows the city to maintain a strong and stable tax base.

This past year Shelton faced revaluation and with it came record increases in residential and business property values. Fortunately, Shelton was able to offset tax increases by reducing the mill rate by 4.5 mills down to 17.47, providing residents one of the most affordable tax rates in the State of Connecticut.

We do not see things slowing down either as the city recently announced the relocation to Shelton of two major US firms: Bigelow Tea and Subway. Bigelow Tea agreed to purchase 25 acres of City owned land at a site known as the MAS property. This move garnered the city a \$5,000,000 grant from the State of Connecticut which will support the construction of Constitution Boulevard extension. Finally, Subway has announced that it will move its global headquarters to Shelton by the Spring of 2023. The firm will occupy 90,000 square feet at One Corporate Drive. Subway has been a staple of Connecticut for 50 years and we are very proud that they have chosen Shelton for its corporate headquarters.

I wish you all a safe and happy Summer.

Very truly yours,

Mark A. Lauretti  
Mayor, City of Shelton





# Shelton Buys Additional Open Space

*Reprinted with the kind permission of Brian Gioiele, Shelton Herald*

Although Shelton's booming business sector and downtown redevelopment, in which private investors have invested hundreds of millions of dollars, rightly dominate the headlines, the city is also home to thousands of acres of open space – more than 1,000 of which have been purchased by the city over the last three decades. This balanced community makes Shelton even more attractive.

"We've land banked close to 2,000 acres in the last 30 years," said Mayor Mark Lauretti. "We are creating flexibility for the city. This is why we do this."

Since the mid-1990s, under Lauretti's stewardship, the city has purchased more than 1,200 acres, according to data from the city's Conservation Office, at a cost of more than \$29 million.

"And it is all paid for," Lauretti stated.

Shelton's goal, as stated on the Conservation Commission website, is to preserve at least 15% of the land as permanently protected, locally-controlled open space - from city public open space properties to farmland protected by the purchase of development rights to Shelton Land Conservation Trust properties.

"Shelton continues to be served well by those who had forethought decades prior, to begin efforts to ensure that there would be land, both preserved and conserved, to benefit the community," said Conservation Commission Chair Tom Harbinson.

Harbinson added, in the early 1970s, there were not as many who saw the value in such planning efforts, mostly because there were still many open and undeveloped areas, but that was beginning to rapidly diminish.

An Open Space Plan was compiled and approved by the Planning & Zoning Commission and the Board of Aldermen. Harbinson said this open space road map outlined goals and concepts for how to achieve them.

"Working together, from both the planning perspective and the fiscal perspective, the benefits were seen by all parties, and the success we enjoy today came from that working together," Harbinson said.

Permanently protected open space exists, but there are also lands that function as open space but are not

permanently protected as such, Harbinson said.

"They all can provide wildlife habitats, and depending upon any funding to acquire them, opportunity for passive or active recreation," he added.

Shelton presently owns some 2,000 acres of public open space, which are open to the public from dawn to dusk for passive recreational activities. Some areas also have ball fields and playgrounds.

Lauretti said the city has also moved to purchase conservation easements on farmlands totaling 411 acres — a move that protects these lands from future development.

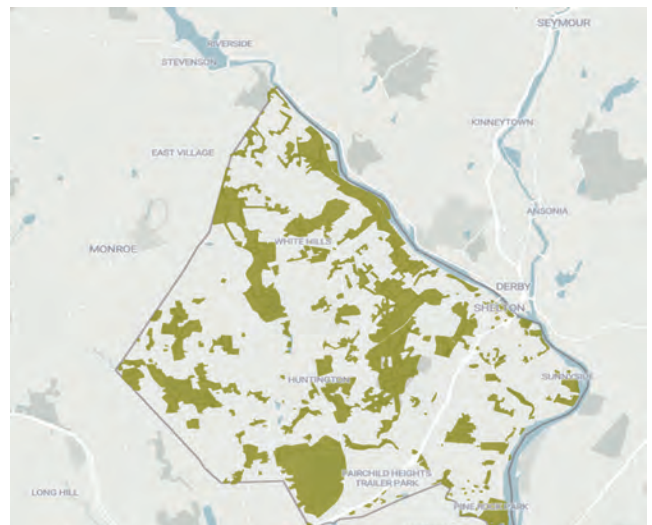
The city has acquired agricultural conservation easements over several properties in the White Hills area, including Jones Family Farms (Homestead Acres, Pumpkinseed Hill, and Valley Farm), Shelton Family Farm, Beardsley Organic Farm; Stockmal Woods; and Little Knoll.

These easements, which stand at some 313 acres and cost the city \$5.57 million, preclude housing developments but allow farming activities. The properties remain privately owned and are not normally open to the public except as advertised by the farmer.

"The city has been aggressive," Conservation Officer Teresa Gallagher said of open space purchases.

The first purchase under Lauretti was the Eklund property, for \$227,350 in 1995, followed in 1998 with some \$6.5 million spent on seven parcels — the

*continued on page 3*





Established in 1969, Valley Regional Adult Education (VRAE) was the first regional adult education agency in Connecticut providing educational services to the residents of Ansonia, Derby, Monroe, Seymour, and Shelton. Adults come to Valley Regional Adult Education to attend free academic programs or to take advantage of numerous enrichment classes offered in each Valley town.

These programs operate through each local school district for the benefit of its community residents:

**Academic Programming** is for obtaining your high school credentials or to learn and improve your English language skills. Academic classes are FREE to Valley residents. VRAE is open 12 months a year with day and evening classes. There is free parking. Their staff is friendly and caring, and their teachers and counselors are state-certified.

**Enrichment Programming** offers classes for adults in Arts & Crafts, Career & Work, Cooking,

Dance, Digital Photography, Fitness, Garden, Home, Mind & Body, Personal Development, Recreation, Technology, World Languages and more. Classes are held in local schools and studios or online.

At VRAE they are committed to developing a sense of community education in which local citizens, schools, agencies and businesses work together to address the educational needs of the Valley community. Their goal is to be a vital organization, responsible for creating an environment that continually fosters 100% engagement of students and staff through: \*Commitment \* Integrity \*Innovation and Creativity \*Quality.

**Call today at (203) 924-6551 to schedule a registration appointment for the following free Academic programs:**

- **Adult High School Diploma**
- **GED**
- **English as a Second Language**
- **Citizenship**

Also, Enrichment Programs will be offered with class listings available at [vrae.org](http://vrae.org).

Valley Regional Adult Education is located at 54 Grove Street, Shelton in the Richard O. Belden Cultural Center. ♦

### *Open Space, continued from page 2*

Mill Street "Gristmill Trail," Trap Falls, Birchbank Mountain, Means Brook, two more Shelton Lakes sites, and Old Kings Highway at Mill Street.

Nicholdale Farm was purchased during Lauretti's time, earlier than the Eklund land buy. Most of the money for the Nicholdale Farm purchase came from the city, but the land was deeded to the Land Trust.

Purchases continue to this day, with the acquisitions this past month of land on Pearmain Road — owned by the late Guy Beardsley.

The purpose of these purchases has been twofold, according to Gallagher — to extend greenway corridors such as Shelton Lakes, Means Brook and Far Mill River, plus for wildlife habitats and trails; and also, to aid in

keeping widespread housing development in check.

"The city reserves the right to own the land and use it for residents' needs, whether it is recreation or just preserve it for greenway corridors for the environment," Lauretti said, adding that in years past open space has been used for field space for sports teams and some 15 to 18 acres were used for the intermediate school complex.

"We want that balance," Gallagher added.

Gallagher said another benefit to open space acquisition is reducing long-term taxes. Keeping the number of housing developments in check, she said, helps reduce the demand for services and enrollment hikes in the schools. ♦

The City of Shelton, under the leadership of Mayor Mark Lauretti, has purchased more than 970 acres of open space and the development rights to another 300 acres at a cost of \$29 million over the past three decades. This map shows city-owned land classified as open space, Indian Well State Park, Land Trust properties (private open space), school properties, Aquarion, and state-owned properties (most of the latter two are permanently preserved as part of the Centennial Watershed State Forest).

## Valley Community Foundation Scholarships Established to Help Others

Whether supporting animal shelters, helping senior citizens, funding scholarships for students, or just wanting to lend someone a helping hand, Shelton residents have always been generous to others. Proof of that generosity was made evident — once again — by the number of new charitable Valley Community Foundation (VCF) funds and scholarships created in 2021 by current and former residents.

Since 2004, the staff, board of directors, and other volunteers at VCF, have worked tirelessly to foster local philanthropy and support Valley non-profits and organizations. Today, VCF has more than \$36 million in manageable assets and each year provides about \$2 million in grants and scholarships to schools, Valley non-profits and other eligible organizations.

Last year, out of the 16 new funds established at VCF by Valley residents, five were created by either former or current Shelton residents to support Shelton organizations or students attending Shelton High School. Sharon Closius, President and CEO of VCF, said despite the pandemic and its very negative impact on the region, the Valley has been more generous than ever before.

“As one of the jewels of our beloved Valley, Shelton received a great deal of support from our funders in 2021,” Ms. Closius said. “Those funds will be there to boost Shelton forever. It never ceases to amaze me just how generous people in our region are, and how much they love our Valley.”

The five new VCF Shelton funds are:

### Barry and Josephine Lifrieri Fund, this donor



advised fund was established by the Shelton couple to support area theater/arts programs, animal shelters and senior services.

### Kate Marks Brilliant Female Fund, established by the



Shelton businesswoman, Kate Marks, owner of Marks of Design jewelry store. Her fund helps women of all ages with starting a business, going to school, or just getting through hard times.

### Luke Moseley Aviation Scholarship Fund, estab-



lished by former Shelton resident, Bob Moseley, to honor his late father. It supports Shelton High graduates seeking careers as pilots or aviation mechanics.

### Anne M. and Vincent J. Zak Memorial Scholarship.



Each year, one scholarship will benefit a Shelton High graduate pursuing a career in nursing, and a second scholarship will help a student furthering their education in machining, manufacturing, and other trade. ♦

### Margaret Ann Kofarago Thomas Memorial



Scholarship Fund, established by her husband, Fred, and daughters, Alyse and Jodi, to honor her life and career as a nurse. The scholarship supports Shelton High graduates seeking nursing careers.



#### About the Valley Community Foundation

VCF works in close partnership with The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven to promote philanthropy in Ansonia, Derby, Oxford, Seymour, and Shelton. If you want to learn more about funds at VCF or how to establish a fund or scholarship, please call 203-751-9162, or go to VCF's website: [www.valleyfoundation.org](http://www.valleyfoundation.org).



### GreenJuice RX Opens at 415 Howe Avenue

Local sisters Leslie Cerrato and Ellen DeMotses have a passion for holistic health, and a new way to share it with the community. GreenJuiceRX opened in the Conti Building, located at 415 Howe Avenue, in March, hoping to fill a need. "We saw an influx of lifestyle sickness," Leslie explained, "and we knew we could help."

Leslie has been "juicing" for over a decade, a process that involves extracting nutrients from raw fruits and vegetables. GreenJuiceRX does this with a state-of-the-art, hydraulic cold press. Compared to the at-home style of juicing, which utilizes a blender, the



Leslie Cerrato



Ellen DeMotses

cold press retains more vitamins and delivers the perfect drink every time. But for Leslie, it's the ingredients that really matter. "Our fruits and vegetables are sourced from local farms and the herbs from organic herb farms in Oregon and Vermont," she said.

Leslie and her husband Sal partnered with Ellen, whose holistic health business, Soul, had been operating virtually for years. The opportunity to bring her teas, tinctures, herbal blends, and creams to her customers at GreenJuiceRX was one she had been waiting for. "Online is great, but it's limited," she explains, "I like to really get to know our customers, and to learn about what it is they need." The addition of Soul Holistic makes GreenJuiceRX a one-stop shop for holistic health.

For the novice juicer, the idea can be intimidating, but Leslie has you covered. Everything on the menu (labeled "Daily Prescriptions") is customizable. The Energy Boost, made with apples (green for the juice pros, sweeter red for the newbies), carrots, beets, and lemons is



particularly delicious and truly lives up to its name.

While the sisters say they've seen a boost in natural products and healing, there weren't many local options for holistic, healthy juices. The Conti building proved to be the perfect location. "It really is like a big family," Leslie said, "We just love this community." Ellen, who has an extensive education in Chinese Medicine, Aromatic Studies, and Auriculotherapy, is hoping to expand Soul to offer classes.

While their approaches may be different, the sisters agree: holistic medicine and juicing are powerful wellness tools, and GreenJuiceRX in the Conti Building has everything you need to set you on your own personal, holistic health journey.

They are open Monday - Friday, 7:30 am - 4:00 pm, Saturdays, 8:00 am - 4:00pm, and Sundays from 8:00 am - 2:00 pm. Visit GreenJuice RX online at [GreenJuiceRX.com](http://GreenJuiceRX.com) and Soul at [SoulHolisticHealth.com](http://SoulHolisticHealth.com). ♦

## COMMUNITY NEWS

## 2022 Shelton Farmers Market Celebrating Its 29th Year

The Shelton Farmers Market opened on Saturday, May 28th and will stay open RAIN OR SHINE until Saturday, October 29th.

Since 1993, farmers have offered fresh locally produced vegetables, herbs, flowers, eggs, baked goods, soaps, wool products and many other items to purchase.

The market located at 100 Canal Street near the Veterans Memorial Park in downtown encourages you to bring the kids and sign them up for Valley Sprouts, a fun way to learn about food, growing plants and farming. Also offered throughout the season will be live music and fun events for the whole family.

This will be the first year a Farm-to-Table dinner will be held. The dinner will take place at Caloroso Eatery and Bar, 100 Center Street, on August 22nd. All ingredients will be provided by the market vendors and tickets will be available for purchase at the Farmers' Market. Some of the vendors at this year's market will be:

East Village Farm, LLC.	Laurel Glen Farm
Oronoque Farms	Lilus Customized Catering
Emalyn Sweets, LLC.	The Healing Herb Garden
Red Clover Farm	

The Shelton Farmers' Market and the Valley Sprouts Program are made possible with the help of a grant from the Valley Community Foundation. The market is fortunate as well to have the following sponsors: Amici's Restaurant, C & C Family Automotive, Fairview Tree Farm, New York Life, Olives and Oil Pizzeria, American Legion Post 10466 and Wesley Chapel.

Help make this a successful and nutritious season. Come meet the people who grow your food! For further information you can visit [sheltonctfarmersmarket.com](http://sheltonctfarmersmarket.com) and/or follow Shelton, CT Farmers Market on Facebook.

The Farmers Market is open every Saturday from 9:00 AM until 12 Noon.

**Note:** The National Farmers Market Week this year is being celebrated from August 7th to August 13th. ♦





### Market Place Kitchen Bar

Market Place located at 811 Bridgeport Avenue in Shelton is bringing inventive, seasonally inspired cuisine and craft cocktails to the Valley. The Shelton location is the eighth for Market Place owner Eli Hawley, with existing locations in Newtown, Woodbury, Avon, Litchfield, Danbury, and Brookfield. District Manager Matt Anderson says the decision to open a Shelton location was an easy one. "We're looking to fill a local need for quality, organic, everything-from-scratch, food that is affordable," he explains. "Shelton also continues to bring in new businesses and is a business-friendly community."

The stunning remodel of what was once Ruby Tuesday restaurant was done by Shelton architect Joe Gluse, who used reclaimed wood from local farms, and from the Ruby Tuesday itself, in the renovation. Anderson describes the atmosphere as inviting. "All are welcome here," he states, gesturing to one of two outdoor patios separated from the restaurant by a gorgeous garage-door style wall.

The menu, which carries on Market Place's commitment to American, farm-to-table style cuisine, using the freshest ingredients, is dictated by the season and available produce. "Nothing on our menu is frozen, and everything is made in-house," Anderson explains. Market Place partners with numerous local farms throughout the year, including Shelton farms, Laurel Glen and Stone Gardens, changing the menu seasonally to reflect what is available.

In-house pastry chef Patrice Lovell and Executive



(Left) District Manager Matt Anderson and Executive Chef Matt DeLongis

Chef Matt DeLongis combine a variety of culinary influences with nods to Asian, Mexican, and Italian cuisine, always making sure to offer gluten-free, vegetarian, and vegan options.

The restaurant is open Monday through Thursday from 11:30 AM until 9:30 PM, Friday and Saturday from 11:30 AM until 10:30 PM and on Sundays from 11:30 AM until 9:30 PM. You can call ahead at (203) 538-5524. ♦





## LOCAL BUSINESSES



Oleynik Dental was founded by Dr. Joseph W. Oleynik D.M.D , F.A.G.D who still resides at his home in Shelton at the age of 98! Upon receiving his D.M.D degree from Tufts University School of Dental Medicine, Dr. Joe returned to Shelton to begin private practice in 1953. The original office was located on Howe Avenue (above Amici's Restaurant); however, after a few years, Dr. Joe decided that the office needed to expand its space and moved the office to its current location at 74 Wooster Street (one block from the Plumb Memorial Library). Dr. Joe's caring personality and strong commitment to his patients contributed to the early success of the practice and remain the cornerstones of the office today.

Dr. Joe's son, Ken, was interested in pursuing a dental career at a very young age. He was frequently at the office as a child. You can find a classic photo of him sitting in the dental chair proudly holding his toothbrush when he was just three years old. Dr. Ken completed his undergraduate studies at Tufts University and received his dental degree from The University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine. After graduating from UConn Dental, Dr. Ken began private practice with his father.

In 2005, Dr. Ken achieved the highest honor in the Academy of General Dentistry - Mastership (MAGD). This honor is attained by less than 5% of dentists and requires more than 1,100 hours of continuing education. This accomplishment demonstrates Dr. Ken's focus on providing the best care for his patients. Dr. Ken is a member of the American Dental Association, Connecticut State Dental Association, and the Academy of General Dentistry. He is also a Fellow of the Pierre Fauchard Academy. This international honorary dental organization seeks to "recognize and grow leaders in the dental profession, their communities and society."

After serving as a general dentist for 59 years, Dr. Joe retired from the practice in 2012 at the age of 88 leaving the practice in the capable hands of Dr. Ken. The core values of the office remain unchanged with a focus on providing the highest quality care.

## Serving the Shelton Community for Almost 70 Years



(L to R) Ryan Oleynik, Dr. Joseph Oleynik, and Dr. Kenneth Oleynik

"Reaching out and serving the needs of the Shelton community is part of these core values", states Dr. Ken. One ongoing community service initiative he offers is to make mouthguards for athletes at Shelton High School at no cost. Also, educating patients on preventive measures is part of every office visit.

Patients have been coming to the office for care for generations. "What makes our office so special is that we truly get to know our patients and everyone is treated like part of our family" says Dr. Ken. This sentiment is echoed by both the staff and patients as well.

The Oleynik family is certainly well represented at the office. Dr. Ken's wife, Joann, is the office director. They have two children who have assisted at the office for years. Colleen graduated from Tufts Dental in 2021 and is currently practicing in Massachusetts, and Ryan is a second-year student at UCONN Dental with future plans to work with his father in Shelton. The dental legacy continues!

Oleynik Dental is always welcoming new patients. For more information you can call the office at (203) 924 - 4731 as well as visit their website [oleynik-dental.com](http://oleynik-dental.com). ♦

### The Wonder of Estuaries

By Jane Bakker, Housatonic Valley Association Special Projects Manager



Housatonic River Estuary

Estuaries are beautiful places with beaches, marshes, grasses and streams. The Housatonic River Estuary is no exception. It starts at the Derby Dam and is bordered by Shelton and five other towns. They are Derby, Ansonia, Orange, Stratford and Milford.

An estuary is where the river meets the sea. The Housatonic River Estuary is the mixing area where fresh water from the Housatonic River meets salt water from Long Island Sound. This fresh and salt water mixing creates a unique environment that supports an abundance of plants and animals and becomes a special feeding, breeding and nursery area. Estuaries like this one are among the most productive ecosystems on Earth.

#### Activities in estuaries

Estuaries are popular destinations for fishing, boating, birding and hiking with miles of beaches, flowing grasses, marshes, creeks and streams. This salty freshwater mix is where life begins and is the nursing grounds for 75 percent of the fish we catch. Estuaries are lined with marshes and sea grasses that filter water flowing to the ocean and act as a buffer protecting us from coastal storms.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA) works closely with coastal states to manage the National Estuarine Research Reserve System of 28 protected areas along the nation's coasts. These valuable reserves are living laboratories for scientists and exciting, hands-on classrooms for students and teachers. At the reserves, scientists study sea level rise, water pollution, erosion, and impacts of human develop-

ment. These studies provide strong scientific knowledge to help us create healthy, productive estuaries.

#### Fish in the Housatonic Estuary

Some of the fish found in the Housatonic River Estuary include striped bass, brown trout, blue fish, white perch, large and small mouth bass, sea bass, scup/porgy, winter flounder and fluke (aka summer flounder).

**Brown trout** is stocked in the Naugatuck and move down into the estuary to feed on small minnow or killfish and will travel back and forth from fresh to salt water.



**Striped bass** prefer living near coastlines and will travel up into the estuary, some as far as the Stevenson Dam. These powerful fish can handle strong surf and are most active at sunrise and sunset.



**White perch** are open water fish and in certain areas, such as Lake Housatonic, they are now land locked. They feed on insects, smaller fish and midge larvae.



**Sea bass** are confined to salt water and travel close to shore in depths of a few feet. They prefer rocky bottoms and feed on crabs, lobsters, shrimp, mollusks, small fish and squid.



The Department of Environmental Protection (DEEP) has been stocking the estuary with trout



## COMMUNITY NEWS

and sturgeon. Salmon is stocked upstream in the Naugatuck Valley. They hatch in fresh water, migrate to the ocean, then return to fresh water to reproduce. Most sturgeons are bottom-feeders, that migrate upstream to spawn, but spend most of their lives feeding in river deltas and estuaries.

Barriers to fish migration threaten these fish and HVA and its partners are working together to remove barriers, enlarge culverts and restore free flowing habitat to help these species survive.

You'll also see shellfish including crabs, clams and oysters. The Housatonic oyster beds are Connecticut's major producers of seed oysters. And you'll spot plovers, herons, bald eagles, sandpipers, mergansers, peregrine falcons and ospreys.

### Invasive Species

Invasive species are unwanted guests that move in and stay. These relative newcomers often don't have natural predators so they can outcompete native species and take over the home turf. Some of the aliens you might see in the Housatonic River Estuary are:

#### Green crab



It can seriously disturb the balanced food-web, feeding on bivalves, shellfish, and even other crab species. The economic impact can devastate shellfish industries.

#### Asian Shore Crab



Rocky intertidal crab; will consume juvenile mussels and oysters, snails, algae, and barnacles.

#### Dead Man's Finger



This invasive forms extensive beds in shallow bays and harbors; called "oyster or scallop thief" because they grow around oysters or scallops, become buoyant and drift off with shellfish attached.

#### Phragmites



There are two genetic strains of phragmites, one of which has been around for thousands of years. The other—phragmites australis—is the invasive strain and forms huge monocultures that exclude native species. It chokes out native grasses, sedges and flowering plants and eliminates habitat for wildlife.



#### Chinese Mitten Crab

An Asian native, this crab has been found in the Housatonic River Estuary between Milford and Stratford. About the size of a human palm, they resemble spiders with dense patches of hair on their claws. Their main food is fish eggs of native fish which could bring a demise to salmon, trout and sturgeon in the estuary and that would allow undesirable species to return and water quality could deteriorate.

#### Estuary enemy #1: polluted runoff

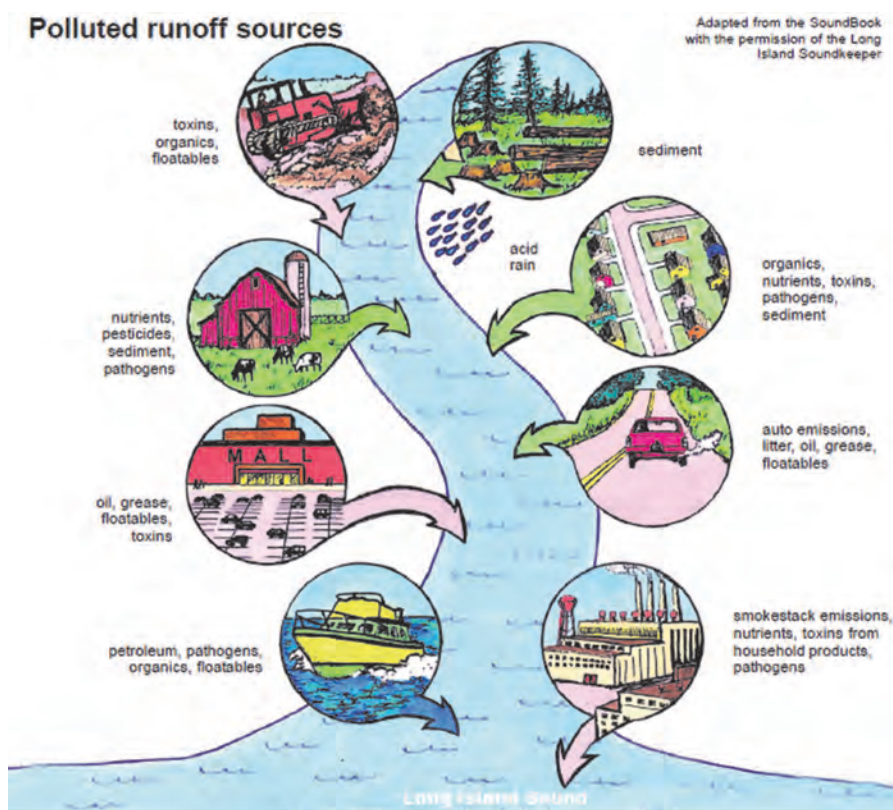
Natural runoff from rainfall or melted snow moves over and through the ground throughout the watershed, picking up oil and grease, salt and sand, fertilizers and pesticides and other pollutants and carrying them into waterways that eventually drain into the estuary.

The main culprits are increasing parking lots and roads, storm drains, human and animal waste, chemicals dumped down the drain, pesticides and herbicides, boat waste, boat wakes that cause sediment disturbance, floatable debris, shoreline development, bank erosion, lawns with no buffering shrubs or tall grasses, loose leaves and yard clippings.

What can you do?

- Make sure your septic system is working properly and pumped every two or three years.
- Pave less.
- Don't pour household chemicals down your drain.
- Maintain native shrubs, trees and plants between your lawn and the river.
- Mulch leaves and yard waste onto a compost area.
- Use less fertilizer and pesticides on your lawn.
- Replace undersized culverts.
- Wash your car on the lawn using vegetable soap.

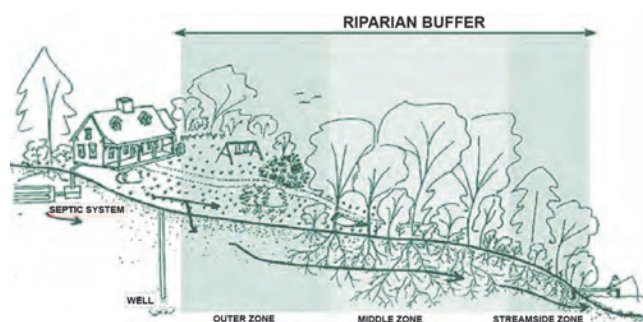
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*HVA, continued from page 10*

- Avoid spills of boat oil.
- Properly dispose of pet waste.
- Don't litter.
- Never dump garbage, animal waste oil, toxic chemicals or anything into your area storm drain.

**You can protect your river estuary with a three-zone buffer system.**



### Streamside Zone

From the water to the top of the bank. Protects the bank and offers habitat. The best buffer has mature forest but large shrubs may be a better choice

where trees have collapsed a bank. Let it grow and let it go for the best protection.

### Middle Zone

From the top of the bank inland. Protects stream water quality and offers habitat. Varies in width depending on size of stream and the soil type, slope and use of nearby land. The best buffer has trees, shrubs and perennial ground plants. It can accommodate some clearing for recreational use.

### Outer Zone

Includes the yard, garden, or woods between your home and the rest of the buffer. Traps sediment. Play areas, gardens, compost piles and other common residential activities are suitable here. ♦



### The Housatonic Valley Association

(HVA) works to protect the natural character and environmental health of communities throughout the Housatonic River Watershed including Shelton. To learn more, please visit [hvatoday.org](http://hvatoday.org) and sign up for updates. Also follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.



## LOCAL BUSINESSES

Hartin Ballabani enjoys being part of downtown revitalization so much so that he has just opened his second restaurant.

Chaplin, located on the corner of Howe Avenue and Center Street in Bridge Street Commons II, has joined the restaurant scene in downtown Shelton. "I am so excited to finally be open," said Ballabani, well known throughout downtown for his first restaurant,



cocktail list which will focus mostly on Prohibition-era cocktails such as Negroni, the Chaplin Manhattan, Sazerac, bee's knees, martinis and plenty of other craft cocktails, he said.

The 1,600-square-foot establishment will also include an outdoor patio, which is covered and heated, with plenty of seating.



Owner Hartin Ballabani

Tacomida, which is tucked into the corner of Bridge Street Commons I.

"We're happy that we are here on this corner," he added. "We're hoping that with this location, people will come to experience something that we feel is awesome but also highlight our other restaurant."

Ballabani said Chaplin will feature "a seasonally driven menu" with a focus on hand-cut, dry aged steaks, a raw bar with fresh oysters and clams, classic favorites like linguini and clams, steak tartare, or the Chaplin burger - served on a brioche bun with caramelized onions, black garlic and Taleggio cheese.

"But the menu is not steak house driven, we see the steaks as a perk to the menu," he said. "You can certainly get a quality piece of steak, but we want the overall menu and experience to be the main driver here."

The new restaurant also will feature wines from small vineyard producers mainly based in the U.S. but also will include favorites from around the world, he said.

"The bartenders will be serving up drinks from our



"We are committed to downtown Shelton," Ballabani said. "If we did not believe in it, we would have passed this all up and left. We are here, no matter what issues are, whatever the growing pains are, we are so happy to be here."

The restaurant is open Monday through Thursday and on Sundays from 4:00 PM until 10:00 PM. On Friday and Saturdays, the restaurant opens from 4:00 PM until 11:00 PM. You can call ahead at (203) 538-5045 or visit their website at [chapindowntown.com](http://chapindowntown.com).

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### Exploring Shelton's Trails

Submitted by Teresa Gallagher, Natural Resource Manager

It took a pandemic for many residents to discover that Shelton has a first class trail system. There are 31 miles of trails to choose from, ranging in difficulty from the handicapped-accessible Shelton Lakes Recreation Path, to the Paugussett Trail where hikers must use their hands to scramble across a section called "the Boulders." Mountain bikes are popular at Shelton Lakes, and leashed dogs are allowed on all trails.

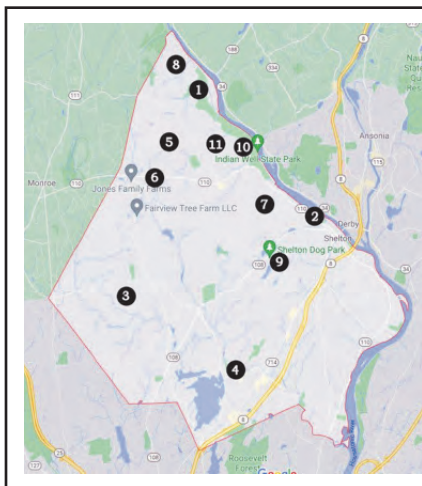
During the pandemic, trail usage soared and the Rec Path near the Dog Park became overcrowded. Yet many other trails in Shelton remained relatively quiet because people didn't know about them. The Trails Committee encouraged people to explore some of these lesser known trails with various trail games, including the ongoing Shelton Trails Letterboxing Challenge. The goal of this challenge is to visit every named trail in Shelton and find a hidden container that contains a rubber stamp for that trail.

from the Shelton Lakes Greenway to East Village in Monroe. While hiking the rugged "Burritt's Rocks" section above the Housatonic River between Indian Well State Park and Birchbank Mountain, one can pretend they are on the Appalachian Trail in Cornwall Bridge. This trail can be backpacked, with legal camping at Webb Mountain in Monroe.

A number of moderate to easy walking trails are located throughout the city. The Means Brook Greenway includes easy trails through Nicholdale Farm, Willis Woods, and the Pearmain Preserve. Boehm Pond's trails bring hikers to an active beaver pond. The loop trails at Birchbank Mountain and Indian Well State Park give hikers a good workout as they head up the river bluff to scenic overlooks of the Housatonic River. Gristmill Trail provides access to the scenic Far Mill River. French's Hill, located off of East Village Road, is the newest addition to the

trail system, skirting farmland and old stone walls.

All of Shelton's trails except for the Rec Path and Basil Brook Bypass are marked with painted blazes on trees. The color and type of blazing give important information to the trail user. Each trail is assigned a color, which is



1. Birchbank Mountain trail system (4 miles)
2. A. The Bluff Walk at Riverview Park (0.6 mile)  
B. Shelton Canal & Locks (0.25 mile)
3. Boehm Pond trail system (1.2 mile)
4. Gristmill Trail (0.3 mi.)
5. Little Pond Trail (0.1 mi.)
6. Means Brook Greenway (Nicholdale Farm, Willis Woods) (3.0 miles+)
7. Paugussett Trail (Shelton Lakes to Monroe) (12.9 mi.)
8. The Poet Path (0.5 mi. section of the Paugussett Trail)
9. Shelton Lakes Greenway (11-mile trail system)
10. Tahmore Preserve & Indian Well State Park (2 miles +)
11. French's Hill (1.4 mile loop)

The easiest and most popular trail is the Shelton Lakes Recreation Path, more commonly called "the Rec Path." From Pine Lake on Shelton Avenue, the trail extends for four miles through the Shelton Lakes Greenway, passing three reservoirs and the Dog Park before arriving at Lane Street and Huntington Center. Connecting with this Rec Path are a number of moderate trails including three primary loops: Turkey Trot Trail (white), Oak Valley Trail (red), and Nells Rock Trail (white).

The most challenging of our trails is the blue-blazed Paugussett Trail, which runs for thirteen miles

shown on trail maps. For example, the Paugussett Trail is sky blue while Oak Valley Trail is red. When there are two offset blazes of the same color on a tree, that means you should be alert for a turn in the trail. The highest blaze indicates the direction of the turn.

Trail users are responsible for being prepared for the elements and natural hazards such as poison ivy or uneven terrain, and for referencing the official trail maps, which can be downloaded at [sheltonconservation.org/trails](http://sheltonconservation.org/trails). Apps such as AllTrails can be useful at times, but can also be inaccurate and lead people onto



## COMMUNITY NEWS



rogue paths that are not official trails and may be dangerously steep or closed for habitat regeneration. Trail users can find their current location on the trail or navigate to a parking area using Shelton's custom Google Map of the trail system. See [sheltonconservation.org/trails](http://sheltonconservation.org/trails) to find a link to the map.

Shelton's trails are maintained by volunteers with the Shelton Trails Committee, the Connecticut Forest and Park Association (CFPA), and the Shelton Land Conservation Trust. Work parties are held twice a month and additional hands make light work. Visit [sheltonconservation.org/trails](http://sheltonconservation.org/trails) for more information.

### Letterboxing Shelton's Trails

There are dozens of letterboxes hidden along the trails in Shelton just waiting to be found. Each letterbox contains a hand-carved rubber stamp. A tiny piece of folk art improbably resting behind a mossy tree or rock. To start collecting these images, all you need is a set of clues, an ink pad, and a sense of adventure.



Letterboxing began in the high moors of England, where Victorian gentlemen traded clues in smokey taverns, challenging each other to trek through the wilds and leave their calling cards in a designated spot. Custom designed rubber stamps eventually replaced the use of calling cards. A Smithsonian article published in 1998 brought the pastime to America, where hand-carved stamps became

avored. There are now thousands of letterboxes hidden across Connecticut.

Clues are posted on websites such as [atlasquest.com](http://atlasquest.com) and [letterboxing.org](http://letterboxing.org), searchable by location. Many clues read like directions, but others are more cryptic and some are even in the form of puzzles.

Letterboxers carry a personal logbook into which they stamp the images from the letterboxes they have found. They also carry a "signature stamp" used to represent themselves. Some people use their real names, while others go by creative trail names.

When you find a letterbox, you'll use the rubber stamp found inside the letterbox to mark your personal logbook. Then you'll use your signature stamp to mark the letterbox logbook, if there is one. Back home, you might want to log your find online and report any problems to the letterbox owner.



"Exploring new places" is the number one reason people say they like to go letterboxing. The Shelton Trails Committee has created a letterboxing challenge to encourage people to visit each of Shelton's named trails. Somewhere along each trail is a hidden rubber stamp with the name of that trail. If you can collect all twenty stamps, you will have hiked most of our trail system and may find some new favorite trails. Start by downloading a clue packet at [sheltonconservation.org/trails](http://sheltonconservation.org/trails), or pick up a preprinted packet and maps at City Hall or the Community Center. This challenge was designed for people who have never letterboxed before, but participants will still need to read the clues carefully and study the trail maps to tackle this challenge. ♦

Shelton  
Going Green

### Shelton Historical Society's Father's Day Car Show



Over 1,000 people enjoyed Father's Day admiring over 100 classic cars at the Shelton Historical Society's Vintage Vehicles Antique & Classic Car Show. Held each year on the shady grounds of the Shelton History Center, 70 Ripton Road, this annual event has attracted car enthusiasts and their families from all around the area for over 15 years. Cars from every decade of the 20th century delighted the crowd and included Ford Model A's and Thunderbirds; Chevrolet Bel-Airs, Corvettes, and Camaros; tractors; a 1951 Divco milk truck and a Bridgeport-built Locomobile Vanderbilt Cup race car.

Attendees enjoyed voting for their favorites, tours and activities in the historic buildings on site, and a wide variety of food choices. A small entrance fee is charged along with a registration fee for entering a vehicle. All proceeds benefit the Shelton Historical Society.

The Shelton Historical Society, a private 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization, has preserved the circa 1822 Brownson House, the one-room 1872 Trap Falls School, the circa 1860 Wilson Barn, and three additional outbuildings on its one-acre site.

Shelton History Center is one of over 130 places participating in the Summer at the Museum 2022 program (CTsummermuseums.com) welcoming children under 18 to visit for free (by appointment) until September 5.

Shelton Historical Society welcomes new members and volunteers to help fulfill its mission to preserve

elements of the community's history in order to create lasting and meaningful connections between Shelton's past, present, and future generations. To visit, join, volunteer, or donate, please visit [shelton-history.org](http://shelton-history.org) or call (203) 925-1803. ♦





## COMMUNITY NEWS

A few of the wide variety of antique and classic cars that were on display at the Shelton History Center on Father's Day included a Porsche Spider, a Packard, Thunderbirds, convertibles and hot rods of all kinds.





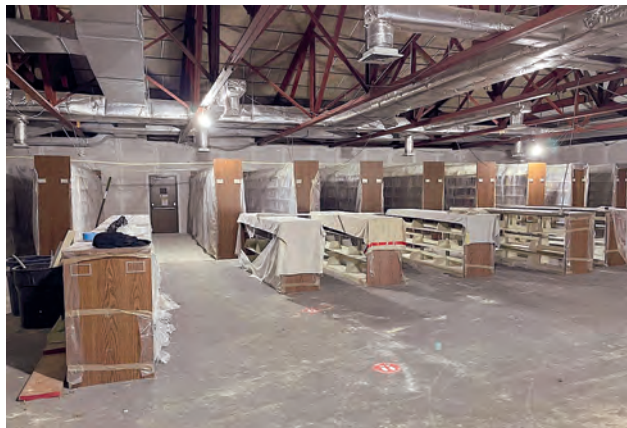
# Plumb Memorial and Huntington Branch Libraries

*"The Only Constant in Life Is Change."- Heraclitus*

You don't need to be an ancient Greek philosopher to know that no truer words have ever been spoken – especially in the Shelton Library system. Work has been ongoing updating renovating and improving both the Plumb Memorial Library and the Huntington Branch.

At the Huntington Branch, the new window project is complete, and it has increased the natural light throughout the building. Plans are to install new carpets next year.

At Plumb Memorial Library, Phase Four of the renovation of the main floor of the Adult section is well underway. Not only is a new HVAC system being installed, but new ceilings, walls, floors and furniture will complete the project.



The overhaul and updating of the entire Plumb Library have been five years in the making, and simply would not have been accomplished without the Library Board of Directors making it happen. Along with the Friends of the Library, the City of Shelton and the staff at Plumb, they have been unceasing in their efforts to restore the "jewel of Shelton." Led by Jim Geissler, Library Board Chairman, the project has been overseen by Library Board member, Stephen Bellis. The other members of the Library Board that have been involved with the project include Julie Blakeman, Jean Cayer, Louis Dagostine and Aleta Miner.

The Library Board and the staff at Plumb thank the public for all their patience and good wishes as the Library Board and staff have undertaken this herculean

task. The excitement the library's patrons have shown and their understanding as some services have been cut back or curtailed, has been truly appreciated by everyone at Plumb. It has been a longtime in coming, but the results should be outstanding.

Once this renovation is completed the library staff can get back to doing what they do best – offering services and programs to the public in the library's beautiful meeting room. "In the works" are summer reading programs for all ages at both libraries, computer and Tai Chi classes, story times, craft programs, technology help, author events, book talks, cooking classes, movie programs for all ages– the list goes on and on.

Some of the positives learned over the past few years will help to improve library service as well. The "Make and Take" crafts have been popular with both adults and children, the library's curbside pickup and streaming services will remain and have proven that there are a variety of ways to provide education, information and entertainment for the public.

The Friends of the Library are always looking for new members, and now is the perfect time to join. They will continue to have their ongoing book and media sale in the Plumb Library's Reading Room and at the Huntington Branch and hope to plan their annual book sale once the renovation is complete. Please stop in or visit [sheltonlibrarysystem.org](http://sheltonlibrarysystem.org) to join the Friends of the Library.

Staff welcomes you to visit both libraries to see all the changes that have taken place. Suggestions are also welcome. ♦





## Shelton Housing Rehabilitation Program Supports Affordable Housing

The City of Shelton, through the Community Development Office, has operated the Shelton Housing Rehabilitation program since the mid-1980. Depending upon funding availability, the program provides property owners a deferred loan of up to \$25,000 to support the rehabilitation of homes occupied by individuals and families of low-to moderate-income.

The program was first established through the State of Connecticut's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, also known as the Small Cities Program, which provided funding and technical support for projects that achieve local community and economic development objectives, such as the housing rehabilitation program. The last Small Cities Grant received by the city in support of the housing rehabilitation program was received 25 years ago. Since then, Shelton has operated the program through program income. The program income is the repayment of the deferred loans paid back to the program by previous applicants. This program method ensures the continuation of the housing rehabilitation program in perpetuity.

The Shelton Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) has entered into an agreement with the City of Shelton to serve as the Program Administrator of the city's Community Development Block Grant program and Housing Rehabilitation program. The SEDC will continue to work closely with the city's Community Development Office.

Funds under this program are used toward the continuation of the Shelton Residential Rehabilitation Program and are offered to qualifying Shelton property owners as 0% interest rehabilitation loans. The program, designed to benefit low-to-moderate-income occupants and property owners, has designated State and Federal guidelines. As an example, a family of four making less than \$83,120 would qualify for the program.

Some examples of assistance may be eliminating code violations and unsafe conditions, increasing energy efficiency, and improving the general appearance of their property. Eligible projects include roofing and window replacements, electrical and plumbing upgrades and ADA accessibility modifica-



tions. Code violations (fire codes, building codes and unsafe conditions) are attended to first.

The maximum lending amount is \$25,000 per unit. The 0% deferred loan is paid back to the City of Shelton at the refinancing or sale of the home, transfer of title, or upon death of the homeowner. Occupant income levels must fall between household size categories and income limits established by HUD. All taxes must be paid up to date prior to applying.

Individuals interested in applying for the program may contact Charlene DeFilippo at 203.924.1555, ext. 374 or Aleta Miner of the Shelton Economic Development Corporation at 203.924.2521. Individuals may also download the Housing Rehabilitation Application & Guidelines at [sheltonedc.com/notices](http://sheltonedc.com/notices). ♦





### **"The EDC Chairman Steps Out to Visit"**

**By Bing Carbone**

## **White Hills Distillery**

This is a new Shelton Life series where I will be stepping out to talk to some of the most interesting people in the City of Shelton. I wanted to learn about their history, their perspective on life, what motivates them, and take away something we all can learn from them. My first article begins with Dan Beardsley a "farmer" as he humbly calls himself in the White Hills section of Shelton and owner of the White Hills Distillery.

I met Dan on a beautiful sunny May afternoon where we walked the farm soil as the apple and peach trees were in full blossom. I was fascinated; you see, gardening has been part of my life history as well, and to sit down with a "legendary" family member from a historical business right here in Shelton, let's just say, I was mesmerized. Here is my talk with Dan...



Owner Dan Beardsley

**Bing - Dan, tell me what you do and why you do it?**

**Dan** - First and foremost, I am a farmer or a grower here in Shelton. We have about 12,000 apple trees and 400 peach trees on this farm. The farm used to be a dairy farm all through our history until our barn burned down in 1973.

I pursued my education as an environmental scientist and that became my whole career; however, I started seeing some of the family property getting sold off. I talked to my father about that and I said, "Dad, this is a family farm, we have been here since 1849 and let's keep it a family farm." He agreed, so we came up with a way to get some income from this farm while I maintained my regular job. That is how we came up with the cider mill and orchard.

My grandfather and great grandfather have always had apple trees on the farm along with a cider press but

it was just a little side business until we decided to make it front and center.

My Dad and I had a deal. If after three years we did not turn a profit, with no debt whatsoever, he said he was going to develop the entire farm (commercially) and sell it off.

So off we went and opened in 1999. It started out pretty slow and by the end of the third year we were just going to be shy of breaking even. However, I convinced my Dad into letting us stay open until Christmas instead of Thanksgiving and during that last year, low and behold, we met our threshold for breakeven! We have been off and running since then and have had growth every year except for one.

My Dad, David S. Beardsley, is 87-years old and grew up in Shelton. He works every day out on the farm and orchard and last year picked almost 95% of the apples on the farm by hand. He was truly a one-man machine!

**Bing - Tell me about Guy Beardsley.**

**Dan** - Guy Beardsley passed away in November of last year, and Guy was my uncle and Dad's brother. Both Guy and David Beardsley ran two different businesses. Guy had a vegetable farm next to the store specializing in garlic and organic vegetables.

My great grandfather started the farm in 1849 and started it as a dairy farm. (Dan is now the 4th generation working and running the farm).

**Bing - What is your title at the farm family business?**

**Dan** - I am "just a farmer."

**Bing - How did this whole distillery concept and business come into play?**

**Dan** - It was during prohibition that my great grandfather, Clark Beardsley, had a little moonshining business going (or so the story goes). He made apple brandy and



## LOCAL BUSINESSES



Dan Beardsley gives Bing Carbone a tour of the orchard corn whiskey. He would put the whiskey in milk bottles painted white and bring them on his milk route to sell.

He would sell the “milk and moonshine”. However, the story goes that one day he was delivering his white painted bottles with the moonshine in downtown Shelton and dropped one on the sidewalk. Well, it smashed open and the Chief of Police was standing right there...so every week thereafter he had to bring an extra bottle down for the Chief in order to continue on with his route. I’m not sure how true that whole story is but it’s kind of fun to tell.

Anyway, he was a moonshiner, he distilled and when I was a kid growing up, his still was in one of the rafters here in the barn. And it was a big giant copper still with cooling pipes, and I remember asking my father about it.

He told me about prohibition, and great grandpa, and his business of moonshine, and it just kind of stuck in my mind so when I retired from my full-time career (unrelated to the farm) to become a full-time farmer, the business was a little too slow for me in the off season. I thought maybe I’ll start a hard cidery. But then there were a lot of hard cideries around, and some very good ones here in Connecticut so I wanted to do something a little different.

I wanted to try a distillery. When I first had the idea, there were no laws in Connecticut allowing farms to have a distillery. It was considered manufacturing in terms of zoning.

I was visiting some farm distilleries in New York State and was talking to a gentleman that allowed his farm to distill whiskey, and he suggested I talked to my local government officials. When I returned, I reached out to State Representatives Jason Perillo and Ben McGorty, and

I started the conversation with “Here is an opportunity for a brand spanking new revenue stream for the State of Connecticut.” I then explained all the benefits I thought this business could bring to the city, to the farm, to the people (customers) and so forth. They liked the idea, and they were able to get a bill passed into law to allow us to create the distillery on our property. In fact, they got it through in just a couple of months, and I wasn’t even ready to go into business at that point. I needed to budget first, as a lot of other things needed to fall into place, including the federal permit. Anyway, that’s how we kind of got going here.

**Bing - Tell me about your products, innovation and process used to make them.**

**Dan -** Ok, well, I love bourbon, so that was always going to be one of my spirits that we were going to make. We also have rum and gin, rye whiskey, vodka, apple brandy, various local fruit-infused creations and a few other products.

I like to use all the local farms here in Shelton for many of our products all within a mile as the crow flies. For example, I will start with the Strawberry Vodkas. We work with the Jones family (Jones Family Farms). We get the strawberries at the height of ripeness in June. My mother helps me clean and hull them, we put them in our vodka, we let it infuse for however long it takes, with strawberries it is 48-hours. We then filter out the strawberries and end up with a beautiful fresh strawberry-flavored vodka.

The next season that comes along is blueberry season using perfectly ripened blueberries from Jones as well. The process is the same thing with blueberries; however, we found out if you smash the blueberries to get the juice out, it gives the vodka a sour flavor. So, we leave the blueberries whole to infuse which has to infuse longer, closer to a week, to get that blueberry color and flavor into the vodka.

After that we move into cucumber season and we make a cucumber and mint infused vodka. The cucumbers come from Stone Gardens Farm on Saw Mill City Road. The mint comes from my girlfriend’s farm in Easton.

Then later into summer we also have Stone Gardens grow watermelons for us so we can make a watermelon moonshine. We call it “Melon Head Shine” (...laughter...) sticking with the name of the melonheads, an old Shelton legend.

These fruit infused vodkas make for some great summertime drinks!

Later in the season (mid-September), we also make an

*continued on page 21*

# SHELTON COMMUNITY & BUSINESS NEWS

## LOCAL BUSINESSES

### *Distillery, continued from pg. 20*

apple pie moonshine once we start pressing cider using fresh pressed juice and the same spices as we put in our famous apple pies. We also make a honey moonshine with honey also harvested on the farm from the bee keepers we use to pollinate the trees.

We also offer a fireball moonshine and, for Christmas, we have a candy-cane moonshine.

### **Bing - What is your biggest challenge in running the business?**

**Dan** - Well, one that I never thought would happen, which is bigger than the monstrous task of paperwork, was finding glass bottles to package our product (with supply chain shortages). The company that makes the bottles I chose is from Arkansas which has shut down. I was able to find a similar bottle in Columbia (the country) so I had to import pallets of bottles increasing my expenses tremendously - then they ran out. Now I found another bottle that is a little bit different from the original bottles which I import from Germany. So...that has been challenging. (I can get the original bottle I started with from China which would be less expensive, but for personal reasons I choose not to.)

### **Bing - Dan, how many employees do you have and how have they been trained?**

**Dan** - I really have just one full-time employee, Julie. My girlfriend, Donna Cioffi, manages the tasting room at the distillery, and I have four friends that I took to Kentucky to be trained as executive bourbon stewards. It is basically a 10-hour long day where you learn everything about bourbon, you taste a variety of bourbons, you learn about the difference and intricacies in each type of bourbon, you learn how to make it followed by a very difficult test that you have to pass. I believe we are the only five "executive-certified" bourbon stewards here in the State of Connecticut.

I have found a lot of people know a tremendous amount about whiskeys and bourbons. One gentleman I was talking to asked me at what temperature I add my corn when I am mashing, basically cooking the grains. He then asked at what temperature do I add the enzyme, and I am thinking to myself, "Wow, this guy, he's really into the nitty gritty here on the manufacturing process." It turns out he was from a whiskey magazine (writer) and wants to do a special tasting for his magazine. It is fun, you meet a lot of interesting people.

### **Bing - How do you advertise/market the business?**

**Dan** - Most of it is word of mouth along with foot



The distillery

traffic throughout the year especially during apple picking season.

### **Bing - What do you personally attribute your success to?**

**Dan** - There is no one single answer but I would say our location here in Shelton, amongst this little agricultural pocket in this part of town which I think is just an amazing group of farmers. (Dan went on to name all the farms and farmers by first name and the products they sell.)

### **Bing - In my plastics business competition is fierce. We don't talk to each other. You seem to have quite a different arrangement amongst all the farmers in this area? How does that work?**

**Dan** - We are all friends. When I am working in my peach orchards, Freddy Monahan (Stone Gardens Farm) might be picking his corn so we will share - I give him some peaches and he gives me some corn. None of us step on each other's toes and far as what we grow.... Jones' does sell cider and apples but they were doing that long before we started doing that here at Beardsley. They have such a great following...we are all friends.

### **Bing - Dan, tell me a bit more about your visions, your goals for the farm and the distillery business.**

**Dan** - Well, I know this is going to sound strange coming from a business owner, but I really don't want this business to get too busy. I want to be able to pay my employees well, to put out an amazing product or one that I think is amazing, I want people to love it and enjoy it as much as I do; and, I want to be able to go on a vacation as well.

I do not currently retail my spirits other than here



## LOCAL BUSINESSES

at the farm despite a lot of offers. That would require additional employees, more equipment, and more of my time. I want this to be a fun happy place to come to and work at. When it is fun and happy, it really doesn't seem like work.

I will say my cider mill and apple business has grown so much that it's a lot of work adding a lot of anxiety during the season to make sure everything goes well. So I am hoping that if the distillery does grow, it is a slow and steady growth - something we can manage.

**Bing - Dan what gets you out of bed in the morning? What excites you?**

**Dan** - I just want to be happy. That is my number one motivation in life. This idea of a distillery came from my great grandfather and once I decided to pick it up and run with it, I just want people to love my stuff, and that's what I work at.

**Bing - What advice do you have for the person just starting out in their own business?**

**Dan** - I would say the first thing is to figure out the exact direction you want to go in. Mine was distillery. Make sure you can fund it properly to start. That was a pretty big hurdle for me. I just wasn't prepared for the capital investment and the time necessary before you had product to sell. For example, when you make bourbon, you have to put it in a barrel for four years. So that's four years of capital outlay and no income. Also, make sure your city (officials and residents) is happy with what you are trying to do. The City of Shelton, has been fantastic to the farmers, and they were almost rooting for me to get this going.

**Bing - You mentioned the City of Shelton just now, how has Shelton changed over the years you have been here a long time from a farmer's perspective?**

**Dan** - Well, one of the first things I see is a lot of new residential developments, and I am super happy with the way that Shelton is directing business along the Bridgeport Avenue corridor. I think that is helping to keep our taxes low which is very important. It's one of the reasons people want to move here. Shelton is also pursuing open space purchases to try and control the land use - all that makes Shelton...a really great place to live.

**Bing - In closing is there anything you feel I need to know or that we haven't discussed?**

**Dan** - Actually, there is one thing, which is basically one of my biggest hurdles in both of my businesses and that is just working with customers. There are so many different kinds of people and personalities which at times can

make it difficult to keep people happy. I always want to make everybody happy, and I have learned that you just can't—so that is piece of advice Mr. Jones first gave me when we got into this retail business. "Don't fret the one person that is complaining the loudest," he said. But that is difficult for me.

**Bing - Ok Dan, this has been a great talk we've had. In closing, I have 7 last questions for you. Ready?**

**Dan**- Ready!

**1. What superpower would you like to have?**

*The ability to foresee the future.*

**2. If you were stranded on an island, which two items would you like to have with you?**

*Bacon (to the chagrin of my girlfriend who is vegan) and a knife, I suppose.*

**3. If you could travel any place on Earth, where would you go?** *Australia*

**4. If you did not have to work, what would you do?**

*WORK, yes, I'd work.*

**5. What is your greatest fear as an entrepreneur?**

*The customers are not going to be happy with my products.*

**6. Looking back, what things would you have done differently in terms of the business, or anything in life for that matter?**

*Hmmm.... well, I would have liked to have children, that didn't work out. That's probably my biggest disappointment. As far as the business goes, I am really pretty happy with the way everything is going.... maybe, hired somebody full time to have more help besides doing it all myself.*

**7. Lastly, white clam pizza or sausage and mushroom?** *Sausage and mushroom*

**Bing - Dan, thank you for your time.**

White Hills Distillery is located at 278 Leavenworth Road (Route 110), Building B and can be reached at 475.269.5085. For further information you can go to [www.whitehillsdistillery.com](http://www.whitehillsdistillery.com). ♦

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### Shelton: A Caring and Connected Community That Strives to Make a Difference

Giving is not only about making donations but rather it's about making a difference. And this was so apparent on June 8, 2022 as the 40th Annual Shelton High School Awards Ceremony took place.

This program is held to recognize the young talents and academic achievements of those who have made an immense contribution to both their school and community. According to School Board Chair Kathy Yolish, "The qualities and attributes the students exhibited will not only help them in furthering their life goals, but also highlights



BOE members Diana Meyer, Patti Moonan and Lorraine Rossner with scholarship recipients Xioman Santos Colin and Isabella Silva

the success of the Shelton school system".

Approximately 250 students were recognized at the event held in the Percy Kingsley Auditorium and a total of \$540,000 in scholarships were distributed along with department awards and underclassmen college book awards. The awards presented not only recognized those students who performed exceptionally well in the academics but also honored those who excelled in sports, performing arts, visual arts and active participation in social and community activities.

One hundred forty four seniors shared in monetary gifts ranging from \$110 to \$20,000. Additionally, a \$120,000 Naval ROTC National Scholarship was awarded to one student covering full tuition and fees for four academic years of NROTC preparatory study. This will lead to a commission as an officer in the United States Navy. A \$200,000 gift was awarded by the Evans Scholarship Foundation in memory of Chick Evans to a graduating senior who had a strong record as a golf caddie, excellent academics, outstanding character and has been accepted to one of the scholarship foundation's participating colleges.

Superintendent Ken Saranich commented that the "Shelton High School Senior Awards Night is a true reflection of the caring and connected Shelton community. It is a great tribute to our seniors and only possible from the very generous donors".

Erik Martire, Chair and Department Head of the SHS Guidance team added that "these scholarships come from alumni, staff  
*continued on next page*



## SCHOOL NEWS



Dylan Camp receiving a scholarship from Board Chair Kathy Yolish



Emily Cacchillo receiving a scholarship from Kathy Yolish in honor of her Aunt Sophie "Auntie Moe" Gazer

members, relatives of former students and staff, past and current school board members and several school, community, and civic organizations. It's an awesome display of the value that people place on education, and it's amazing to be able to recognize our students for all that they've done and plan to do. We are so grateful for the generosity of the Shelton and extended Shelton commu-

nity - without their generosity the students would not get this opportunity to help assist in their higher education costs." There is no doubt that Shelton is a generous and caring city and one that always strives to make a difference in the lives of their community membership. The Annual SHS Awards and Scholarship Night certainly proves this statement to be true. ♦

### Mission:

The Mission of the Shelton Public Schools, an ever-changing valley community based on traditions, is to nurture and prepare all of our students to become capable, confident and well-prepared global citizens that can adapt and thrive in a rapidly changing society through a school system distinguished by accomplished milestones along a pathway of learning and growth.

### Theory of Action:

If the Shelton Public Schools Community effectively teaches, guides, and prepares our students through a series of milestones, that are designed to provide opportunities for our students to demonstrate their abilities in areas we feel are crucial to their preparation for their life's journey, such as critical thinking and problem solving, creativity and innovation, flexibility and adaptability, initiative and self-direction, collaboration and empathy.

Then the students will grow into capable adults, confident and well-prepared to adapt and thrive in the rapidly changing global society.

### Graduation 2022 - Anything is Possible

Although the weather delayed the Shelton High School graduating class of 2022 to a day later, the students walked onto the grounds of Finn Stadium ready to face the journey ahead in hopes of finding their true purpose and potential. And after having spent about 2,340 days in a classroom—approximately 14,625 hours (including 1/2 day kindergarten), the grads were ready to take on the next chapter of their life. The underlying theme of the night was a connection to their award winning production of Seussical—that there are endless possibilities and anything is possible. The students were encouraged to take on the challenge after having survived a few years of Covid and virtual learning and suffering difficulties and heartbreaks. But once a Gael, always a Gael, and they will endure and survive. As Principal Kathy Riddle stated, “The SHS Class of 2022 has certainly left an indelible mark on our school and community. They have achieved much success not only in their academics but in athletics, the arts, and so many other facets in our community.



We are so proud of them.”

Guidance Department Chair, Erik Martire, added that “Shelton High School’s Class of 2022 is a resilient group of students. They’ve been through a lot over the past two years, and they have adapted. Graduates

are pursuing higher education and skilled trades much like any other year, and I’m especially excited for this group to start a new chapter.”

Additionally, Martire provided a wealth of information by sharing the following graduation stats:

- SHS graduated 289 students in the Class of 2022
- 69% of the graduates report they are enrolling in a four year college/ university
- 18-19% of the grads will enroll in a two year community college
- Approximately 10 students will begin a path to construction/ vocational trades
- Five students will enlist in the military or ROTC
- About 10-20 students will enter the workforce or take a gap year before college



Honor student, Jeremy Oko, walking up the ramp ready to receive his diploma



Superintendent of Schools Ken Saranich speaking to grads and telling them “Anything is Possible”



## SCHOOL NEWS



Director of Curriculum Kristen Santilli giving her nephew Sal Perry his diploma

Further information included the following special honors of recognition:

- 30 of the graduates applied for and qualified for a Diploma with Distinction. To qualify for this, students needed to be in the top 20% of their class by their weighted GPS/ Class Rank; earn 2.0 credits over the total graduation minimum or 27.2+ this year; earn no grade lower than a C throughout high school; be an active member of two or more school clubs/ sports/ organizations; and maintain a strong character with no school suspensions.
- Six of the graduates met with qualifications for the Seal of BiLiteracy as part of their diploma. To do this, students needed to demonstrate proficiency in two languages and then either earn a 3 or higher on an AP World Language Exam, or by meeting proficiency in one of several other language assessments approved by the American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).
- SHS offers 20 Advanced Placement Courses (AP) in addition to college dual enrollment courses from UConn, Southern Ct State University and Housatonic Community College. These courses enable students to earn actual college credits before starting their college journey and also is a cost saving endeavor.
- This year, SHS had 290 students take 450 exams for this program but results/ stats will not be available until mid-July.
- Some SHS students finished high school having completed 10-12 classes along with multiple dual enrollment classes, resulting in 1/2 + completed college semester.



Group of happy grads

Graduates from the Class of 2022 are certainly credited with their college acceptances and attendance at the schools listed below:

- Cornell, Georgia Tech, Northeastern, Brandeis, NYU, Arizona State, Ithaca, Florida State, Ohio State, Penn State, UConn, Sacred Heart, Quinnipiac, Full Sail, Clark, Villanova, URI, Maine, Marist, Manhattan College, Vermont, Roger Williams, University of Hartford, University of New Haven, Manhattanville, Marquette, Indiana University, Hofstra, Coastal Carolina, Central Connecticut State University, East Conn, Southern Connecticut, Western Connecticut, Housatonic Community College, Gateway Community College, Lincoln Tech, University of San Diego, University of Texas Austin, University of North Texas, Bryant College, Leslie College, Albertus Magnus, Bridgeport University, WPI, Cal Riverside, Tampa, RPI, Vassar, Iona, UMass, University of Arizona, West Virginia, Syracuse University, and University of South Carolina.

Upon reading these graduation facts it is so apparent that these students of the Class of 2022 know the possibilities are endless and are taking full advantage of what they are capable of accomplishing. Superintendent Saranich called this graduation “a crowning event” and one the community can certainly be proud of—celebrating the successes of our students as well as the success of the educational system of Shelton Public Schools. ♦

### The Bare Slate “No Experience Needed”

The Bare Slate opened in August 2020 and recently relocated to 90 Huntington Street, Unit #1.

As a family-owned and operated business, Molly and Robert Davies wanted to provide a fun, learning and interactive experience for their customers. What sets The Bare Slate apart from the rest is their ability to customize their customers' needs.

No experience needed ~ If you are looking for something new and exciting to do, come on down to The Bare Slate to create a unique décor piece or wood sign while enjoying time with friends, family or even making it a “date night”. Public and private art classes and workshops are available.

Upon arrival to your class their instructors will greet you and will have available all the necessary supplies at your worktable. The instructors will guide you through all the steps from sanding and distressing, assembly, painting and staining wood until the finished product – your own custom piece. All skill levels are welcome!

The Bare Slate offers different options:

- Private Events
- Kids Parties
- Backyard Games
- DIY@ Home Kits
- Make it for Me
- Virtual Workshops

The Bare Slate is open from 5:00 PM until 10:00 PM – Tuesday through Friday, Saturday and Sundays from 10:00 AM until 5:00 PM and closed on Monday. For more information visit [www.thebareslate.com](http://www.thebareslate.com). ♦



Owners Robert and Molly Davies







# EXCHANGE

THE NATIONAL EXCHANGE CLUB

## Working Together to Serve the Community Since 1960

Despite April showers, the Exchange Club of Shelton pulled off a luau-themed Mini Golf Tournament raising more than \$10,000. How did they do that? Indoors! The Club hired a company out of Rhode Island who magically rolled out 18 holes of Mini Golf complete with bridges, tunnels and light houses! The catered affair held at the Ansonia Club of the Boys and Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley included many chances to win. Guests didn't have to golf well to win raffle prizes, 50/50's or door prizes. It is the Exchange Club's way of bringing the FUN into FUNdraising!

What is an Exchange Club? The name Exchange Club comes from a group of businessmen who got together at the beginning of the 20th century to exchange ideas with each other. The Exchange Club of Shelton is one of 35 clubs in Connecticut. There are over 1,000 members in Connecticut alone with clubs in every state of the nation. Each state has child abuse centers and parenting skill centers which were built and funded by the National Exchange Club and clubs around the country.



Tom Turner and Chuck Kniffin, members of the Exchange Club of Shelton, at the Luau-Themed Mini Golf.

The Exchange Club of Shelton, established in 1960, currently consisting of 25 members both men and women, has supported a wide variety of organizations with a strong focus on youth programs. The Club provides resources to many nonprofit organizations in the

Valley/Greater Valley Area and participates in many community activities.

This past June, the Exchange Club of Shelton recognized Shelton police officer, John Staples, for his contribution to the community in particular establishing positive relationships with Shelton's youth and business owners. In the fall the Exchange Club will recognize an outstanding fireman from the community which event is known as "Connecticut's Bravest".



Officer John Staples

At a club meeting you may find a guest speaker from one of the charities the Exchange Club supports or plans to support to understand how their charity helps the community. Two particular charities the Exchange Club is proud of supporting is HELP for Kids and Home for the Brave.

For those that attend the Derby-Shelton Memorial Parade, you might notice members of the Exchange Club of Shelton handing out flags promoting Americanism. Usually, over 5,000 flags are given out.

The Exchange Club of Shelton is open to the public and welcomes new members! Meetings are held twice a month, the first Wednesday and third Thursday, at 7:00 PM at Wellington's Restaurant in Shelton except for the summer months of July and August. Anyone who is interested in learning more about the Exchange Club can contact Chuck Kniffin at 203-944-7333 or Rob VanEgghen at 203-560-6862. ♦

### Shelton Gift Boutique Opens at 480 Howe Avenue

Shelton Gift Boutique opened on Howe Avenue on April 1st, but for local magician Bryan Lizotte, the idea was born long before, in the most magical place on earth, naturally. "The idea for this really all started in Disney World," Bryan explained, "When I bought a ring with a playing card on it. After a few months, it turned my finger green and I realized, hey, I could make these myself."

The custom rings, which are still for sale in Shelton Gift Boutique, were the catalyst for Bryan's custom-design business, which brought Bryan to local craft fairs and raised the need for a year-round showcase for local talent. Currently boasting 38 vendors (and counting!) the Shelton Gift Boutique has something for everyone: pottery, jewelry, home décor, resin and shell art, crocheted items, skincare, jams, dog treats, bath products, and more. Featuring several Shelton artists as well as artisans from as far as Plainfield, the shelves are filled with beautiful, hand-made, local products.

Bryan is thrilled with his location at 480 Howe Avenue, and it seems the community is, too. "We get a lot of foot traffic, but it's also becoming a destination," Bryan explained. Customers as far as the Outer Banks have come to Shelton Gift Boutique in search of unique, handmade, custom, or local items. Bryan is as enthusiastic about his customers as he is about his community, so it isn't just the handmade gift items they're returning for.



When Bryan noticed that customers really enjoyed the coffee he served on Memorial Day, he integrated that into the store's daily offerings. His evening hours are for the customers heading to and from dinner at one of the many restaurants downtown. There is even a



Owner Bryan Lizotte

water bowl outside the door and free treats for four-legged visitors. For those who prefer to shop online, Bryan hosts Facebook Lives each Thursday at 7:00pm, which not only gives his vendors an opportunity to introduce themselves and share their craft but allows customers to purchase or order products.



Beginning July 8th, Shelton Gift Boutique began hosting outdoor music with local musicians on the sidewalk and hopes to include artisan workshops in the near future. He is also working to create a community of downtown businesses that can meet to support each other and discuss issues and events.

Shelton Gift Boutique is open Tuesday and Wednesday from 10:00am-6:00pm, Thursday - Saturday from 10:00am to 8:00pm, and Sundays from 11:00am - 3:00pm. You can visit them online at [SheltonGiftBoutique.com](http://SheltonGiftBoutique.com), or find them on Facebook. ♦



# Community Calendar

## PARKS & RECREATION

### Community Center Hours:

Monday-Friday 6:30 am - 9:30 pm

Saturday 7:30 am - 3:30 pm

### Pool Hours:

Monday-Friday 6:00 am - 8:45 pm

Sunday 8:00 am - 3:30 pm

Saturday 7:30 am - 3:30 pm

Information is posted on the city website: [www.cityofshelton.org](http://www.cityofshelton.org).

Information/Cancellation Hotline  
203-331-4120 • 41 Church Street

## SHELTON SENIOR CENTER

The Center provides a wide range of social, educational, health, financial, and recreational programs for residents 55 years of age and older. The Center sponsors parties, BBQ's, special events, day/overnight trips and casino trips.

Transportation to the Center is provided for Shelton residents (FREE MWF) including free shopping bus to local stores for members on Wednesdays. For more information regarding any of these programs, please call the Center at (203) 924-9324.

## SHELTON YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU

The Youth Service Bureau was established in 1988 by the City of Shelton for the purpose of developing, planning and coordinating services for the youth of the city and their families. The Youth Service Bureau works cooperatively with the schools, police, youth, parents and other community resources to encourage our youth to strive for their full potential. The Bureau provides programs for both youth and parents on issues of importance in today's society. It also provides information and referrals for parents and youth in need. For more information, please call the Youth Service Bureau at 203-924-7614 or email: [SYSB@cityofshelton.org](mailto:SYSB@cityofshelton.org)

## SHELTON LIBRARY SYSTEM Plumb Memorial Library

65 Wooster St. 203-924-9461

### Huntington Branch Library

In the Community Center,  
41 Church St. 203-926-0111

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Shelton City Hall (203) 924-1555  
Shelton Board of Education  
(203) 924-1023  
Shelton Community Center  
(203) 925-8422  
Shelton Highways and Bridges  
(203) 924-9277  
Shelton Animal Control  
(203) 924-2501  
Shelton Libraries:  
Plumb Library (203) 924-1580  
Branch Library (203) 926-0111  
Shelton Police Dept. (203) 924-1544  
Shelton Probate Court  
(203) 924-8462  
Shelton Registrar of Voters  
(203) 924-2533

### 1ST WARD ALDERMEN

Anthony Simonetti (203) 926-0922  
Porter C. McKinnon  
[portermckinnon32@gmail.com](mailto:portermckinnon32@gmail.com)

### 2ND WARD ALDERMEN

Eric McPherson (203) 924-5862  
Michele B. Bialek (203) 645-0735

### 3rd WARD ALDERMEN

John Anglace (203) 929-1515  
Cris Balamaci (203) 922-1639

### 4th WARD ALDERMEN

Lorenzo Durante (203) 623-3060  
Bernie Simons (203) 925-8499

### STATE LEGISLATORS

State Senator Kevin Kelly  
(860) 240-8826  
State Representative Ben McGorty  
(800) 842-1423  
State Representative Jason Perillo  
(800) 842-1423

### CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATION

Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro  
(New Haven office) (203) 562-3718  
Congressman Jim Himes  
(Bridgeport office) (866) 453-0028

### U.S. SENATORS

Senator Richard Blumenthal  
(Bridgeport office) (203) 330-0598  
Senator Chris Murphy  
(Hartford office) (860) 549-8463

*Welcome, continued from page 1*

I also enjoy bicycling from Shelton down to the shoreline into Stratford Lordship area and then Seaside Park in Bridgeport. Heading down is not so bad because Shelton is roughly 300'- 400' feet about sea level. Bicycling back to Shelton is a whole other story with constant uphill pedaling.

I've been an avid gardener all my life and I love driving around Shelton and seeing the resident home landscapes, flower beds and vegetables gardens, so it was a thrill to meet Dan Beardsley a few months ago at the Beardsley Farm/White Hills Distillery. I've taken on the task of interviewing one person for each Shelton Life publication here and going forward. I hope each article will make you smile and learn something when you hear their story. My take away from Dan Beardsley, was perhaps, not take yourself too seriously and remember that you've really got to enjoy and appreciate those little moments in life.

I made a promise to myself years ago that no matter how hot and humid it might get during our Connecticut "Shelton Life" summers, I will not ever complain about it.

Cheers to the rest of the summer. Take in all the beauty and activity our great City of Shelton has to offer. ♦

# SHELTON COMMUNITY & BUSINESS NEWS

Shelton Economic  
Development Commission  
c/o City Hall  
54 Hill Street  
Shelton, Connecticut 06484

Presorted  
Standard Mail  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Graphic Image  
06460

ECRWSS

## POSTAL CUSTOMER

### Free Outdoor Movie Nights! 2022



**Space Jam  
A New Legacy**  
7/23

**Luca**  
7/30



**Encanto**  
8/6

Sponsored by the City of Shelton  
Youth Service Bureau  
203-924-7614  
At The Veterans' Memorial Park  
Canal Street, Shelton CT  
July 23rd - Aug 20th  
movies start at dusk



**Sing 2**  
8/13



**Boss Baby 2**  
8/20

Bring your family, blankets,  
favorite movie snacks and bug spray!  
Snacks will be available.  
Please refer to the  
Shelton Youth Service Bureau  
Facebook for cancellations.

**No Alcohol Allowed**



**Bonus Movie**  
**Oct 22nd!**  
**Nightmare Before**  
**Christmas**

### 2022 MUSIC UNDER THE STARS SUMMER CONCERT SERIES



PRESENTED BY  
THE SHELTON PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

DATE	BAND	MUSIC STYLE
June 22	Anthem	Reggae
July 1	<b>DOWNTOWN FIREWORKS*</b> Darik & The Funbags	Rock
July 6	Backbeat Lynn Lewis & Friends	Motown, Soul R&B (6:00 Children's Show)
July 13	Alpaca Gnomes	Rock
July 20	Shameless	Rock
July 27	Gunsmoke	Classic Country
August 3	Orchard Hill Band	Classic Rock
August 10	Highland Rovers	Irish Kick
August 17	The Bernadettes	Dance
August 24	The Navels	Rock
August 31	Little Big Band	Big Band Swing

FREE Evenings of Great Live Music on the Huntington Green.  
Every Wednesday June 22 - August 31 at 7:00 PM  
Rain date is the following evening.

\*Except Friday July 1 at the Shelton Veterans Riverwalk Park Downtown.  
Fireworks rain date is Saturday July 2nd.

CALL 203-331-4120 IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER